

*Election of Speaker*

country, that of having in turn an English speaking and a French speaking member as Speaker of this house.

The Prime Minister's idea of proposing the appointment of a French speaking member from a province other than Quebec is indeed an excellent one, to which I, as a French speaking member from Quebec, am happy to subscribe. By electing Mr. Lambert, the house will give conclusive evidence that in Canada, whatever his language or religion, a Canadian is at home in all ten provinces and can aim at the highest offices.

Mr. Lambert is a capable parliamentarian and a well-known lawyer. His high sense of duty and the respect he bears to the constitutional function of this House of Commons in the life of the nation have brought unto him a reputation of high honour.

For all those reasons, it gives me pleasure to second the Prime Minister's motion.

(Text):

**Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Raymond, we on this side support with pleasure the nomination that has been made to the house by the Prime Minister, seconded by the Minister of Transport, of Mr. Lambert, the member for Edmonton West, as the Speaker of our house.

We do so for more than one reason. One is that when it is possible—and it has nearly always been possible throughout our history—the nomination of the Speaker should be supported by all hon. members of the house. The Prime Minister has mentioned the desirability, in certain circumstances in the future, of arranging for permanency in the office of Speaker. I agree that if we could make arrangements in future which would provide for continuity in the holding of this very important office, having regard to our tradition that it should be held alternately by French speaking and English speaking Canadians, it might be a desirable thing to do.

We on this side support this nomination of one who has served his country with gallantry in war and distinction in peace, who has now had some years of experience in the house and who has the great advantage of being perfectly familiar with both of Canada's official languages.

The office of Speaker, as the Prime Minister has pointed out, is the foundation of our parliamentary institutions. He is the protector of our rights and our traditions; a protection which as we know, and as has already been mentioned this morning, was in the early days against a king, but in modern days it is protection against any effort, if effort is ever made, to violate our rules, our privileges and our rights; protection especially of the

rights of the minority in this house—and in the circumstances of today, that includes all parties.

The office requires, to the highest possible degree, as the Prime Minister has emphasized, qualities of wisdom and patience, of firmness and tact, with an unswerving regard for complete fairness and a total impartiality in presiding over the deliberations of this house. It is the duty of every hon. member of the house to support the Speaker as he displays these qualities in the discharge of his duties.

It gives me, as one member of this house, the greatest possible pleasure to join the Prime Minister in the tribute he has paid to the speaker of the last parliament who has shown these qualities to an exceptional degree.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Pearson:** He displayed these qualities while he was speaker in a way which gained our support, our respect and indeed our affection. He has deserved well of his party, of this house, and indeed of his country. We hope and believe that the hon. member of the house who has been nominated to succeed him will display those qualities in the same way and receive, as he will deserve, the support of all hon. members of the house.

**Mr. Robert Thompson (Red Deer):** Mr. Raymond, on behalf of the Social Credit members and myself, it is my pleasure to associate ourselves with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in the support of Mr. Marcel Lambert as Speaker of this twenty fifth parliament. While Mr. Lambert is not a personal acquaintance of long standing, I feel confident that he will uphold the traditions of this most important office in a manner befitting the dignity and responsibility which the position offers to him.

Mr. Lambert follows in the footsteps of a man who, through the very high standard with which he carried out his duties in the last parliament, gained the respect and admiration of every hon. member. I say this with a certain amount of pride because the former speaker is a native of my own city and we are proud of the record of achievement in public service that has been established by him and by his father before him.

I am confident that as an Albertan Mr. Lambert will prove his ability and good judgment and fairness. Mr. Lambert's military record, his academic achievements and his parliamentary experience have given him a background which fits him well into these new responsibilities.

While election campaigns often bring expressions and statements which may not be compatible with the position of neutrality