

the government of Canada. This fine painting by an excellent Canadian artist will forever honour and grace the walls of this august building.

I would like now to call on our guest of honour, the Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson, former prime minister.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Stanfield, Mr. Diefenbaker and ladies and gentlemen, I must begin by thanking the Prime Minister for his very kind and generous words, and for unveiling me. I thank him also for being here with us this evening. I think of him, however, not always as a prime minister but as a man who used to be my parliamentary secretary when I was prime minister, and whom I had on duty three days a week. Those were the days when the rosters were informal and unofficial.

I should also like to thank Mr. Stanfield for his courteous and friendly observations, which were balanced eloquently by caution and generosity. But I should have told him in advance that he really had nothing to worry about; that is, it is possible for him to praise me if he so desires, because I have forever left politics, at least Canadian politics. Indeed one commentator was unkind enough some time ago to say that nothing became my political life like the leaving of it.

It is a great and rather intimidating pleasure to be on this platform with my successor and predecessor. But I am delighted and honoured to have on this platform my predecessor, Mr. Diefenbaker, with whom I have been associated a long time. Our association seems to become friendlier and more intimate now as the days go by. I have not yet come across him walking in Rockcliffe park, because I probably get up a little earlier than he does. I want to tell him how sorry I was not to have been able to be present two weeks ago, for reasons about which he knows, when a similar ceremony was held to honour him as a prime minister. It would have been rather nice, as I believe he indicated himself, if we had been able to hang together. I think perhaps we ought both to congratulate ourselves that, if we have not done so yet, at least we have not hanged separately.

This of course is my first hanging. I have been at other ceremonies of this kind here, but this is the first time I have been hanged myself. I should like you to know that the condemned man enjoyed a hearty breakfast this morning. My sense of pleasure and honour in being here is increased by the fact

that I see around me so many of my old parliamentary colleagues and friends.

I do not know whether I should comment on the picture. I am of course a well known art critic. I might say that as you go around the halls and look at the other pictures of prime ministers you might say that this is sort of half way between the sober and sedate of the past and the swinger of the present. Between the sober and the swinger you have the sloucher. But I assure you, this is the way I wanted it done and this is the way the artist—and I should like to pay my tribute to him—insisted it should be done. He wanted to paint me not as Cromwell was painted, not warped, but wrinkled and old. He caught me in that easy pose where I am preparing to do what comes naturally—perhaps going out and rake the leaves, which is much better than being raked over the coals.

In referring to the costume and the picture generally, I might say that this was done by design on my part, as well as on the part of the artist. This reminds me of an American lady journalist—and when I tell you what she said you will agree that she was no lady—who once wrote a column about me. After giving space to my intelligence, achievement and character she ended up by saying, "As for his clothes, they look as if he speaks to them each morning before he goes to the office, and says 'if you want to come with me, hang on'". This is the reason I was very careful to wear a short black coat and striped trousers this evening.

[*Translation*]

As the French say: C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas bon.

[*English*]

And I like it this way. It is customary on occasions like this also to say that the artist did wonderfully well considering the material he had to work on. I should like to put it this way: The artist had magnificent material and made the most of it. Anyway, if I do not perhaps in that picture look like a prime minister should, there are those who will say today that perhaps I was only a prime minister by accident. Mr. Diefenbaker would say, happily, I became the prime minister by accident.

Let me say that I like this picture and I want to add my thanks to the artist. I wish he could have been here with us today.

I am going to conclude my remarks by doing something which I think is right on an occasion like this. I am going to quote some