

*Election of Speaker*

pointed out by the leader of the C.C.F. party (Mr. Coldwell), that this house is now a house of minorities. By force of circumstance one of the minorities now sits at the Speaker's right, and we realize that it will be difficult for him to see the members of this group, occasionally perhaps mistaking them for members of the government. But we draw attention, Mr. Raymond, to the fact that it would be desirable for the Speaker, when he is elected, to get an extra long-range lens in the right side of his glasses so he can see the members of this group when they rise and recognize that they do have a right to speak.

Mr. Raymond, in all seriousness we do feel that in Mr. Michener a good choice has been made—one which will uphold the great traditions that have been built around the Speakers of the British parliaments and we wish for him a period of happy and fruitful presidency over this chamber. We will, to a man, give him the best support of which we are capable, always remembering that the rules are here to be obeyed and we shall obey them.

**The Clerk of the House** declared the motion carried in the affirmative, *nemine contradicente*, and Roland Michener, Esquire, member for the electoral district of St. Paul's, duly elected to the chair of the house.

Mr. Michener was conducted from his seat in the house to the Speaker's chair by Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker and Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. members of the House of Commons, in the time-honoured formula, I beg to return my humble acknowledgments to the House of Commons for the great honour you have been pleased to confer upon me in electing me unanimously as your Speaker.

Being conscious of the responsibilities of that office and of my own inexperience, I am doubly grateful for the gracious and encouraging words in which my nomination has been proposed by the right hon. Prime Minister and the right hon. Leader of the Opposition, and supported by the leaders of the C.C.F. and Social Credit groups.

My aim will be to understand and interpret the will and the moods of the house; to secure the transaction of public business in an orderly manner; to protect the minority; to enable every member to express his opinions within the limits necessary to preserve decorum; to prevent unnecessary waste of time, and above all to be non-partisan and impartial in my decisions. If my service to this house is to contribute to the projection

[Mr. Low.]

of its great traditions, it will come about only because of the sympathetic support, advice and co-operation of every member.

We all expect the cross-fire, the vigorous cross-fire of debate. My only request is that you give me time to try my wings before you start shooting in this direction.

(Translation):

May I say to my French-speaking colleagues how I wish I could answer them in their own beautiful tongue every time they rise to address me. However, in spite of all my willingness—of which I should like to assure them at this time—it may be that, during the first few months of my probation period in the chair, I will have to use the language I understand best.

I do toil and take pains, but alas, I am poorest in my basic knowledge of your tongue.

Nevertheless let me assure you that I love your tongue and respect the equal status of the two official languages.

Once again I thank the members of the house for the great honour they have been pleased to confer upon me.

(Text):

SITTING SUSPENDED

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, might I suggest that the sitting be suspended until three o'clock this day.

At 11.50 a.m. the sitting was suspended until 3 p.m. this day.

SITTING RESUMED

The house resumed at three o'clock.

**OPENING OF THE SESSION**

**Mr. Speaker** read a communication from the Governor General's secretary announcing that Her Majesty the Queen would proceed to the Senate chamber at three o'clock on this day, for the purpose of formally opening the session of the dominion parliament.

A message was delivered by Major C. R. Lamoureux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker:

It is the pleasure of Her Majesty the Queen that this honourable house attend her immediately in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the house went up to the Senate chamber.

Then the Hon. Roland Michener, Speaker of the House of Commons, said:

May it please Your Majesty:

The House of Commons have elected me their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.