

*Election of Speaker*

of impartiality, objectivity, a sense of proportion and fairness which I believe make him eminently suitable for the high office of Speaker of this house. In that office he will be the guardian of the rights and privileges of the house and of all the hon. members of the house in accordance with the historical and valued traditions of our parliamentary system inherited from the mother of parliaments at Westminster.

His functions, of course, will also include presiding over the deliberations of the house, not always the easiest responsibility to discharge and one requiring both judicial fairness and impartial firmness.

Perhaps the qualities that are required for a Speaker of the House of Commons were never better described than by the Greek philosopher Socrates when, referring to the qualities that are required for a judge, he said, "four things belong to a judge; to hear courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly and to decide impartially." I believe the hon. member for Mount Royal has these qualities to a very unusual degree; therefore I take great pleasure in moving, seconded by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Chevrier):

That Alan A. Macnaughton, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Mount Royal, do take the chair of this house as Speaker.

(Translation):

**Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Raymond, it gives me great pleasure to second the motion of the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) for the nomination of Mr. Alan Macnaughton, member for Mount Royal, as Speaker of this house.

As the Prime Minister pointed out a while ago, we have known Mr. Macnaughton for many years. In fact, not only do we know him for his qualities as member of the House of Commons, but more particularly for the talent he has shown as chairman of the public accounts committee.

As I recall, the task of that committee was both difficult and delicate, and when the then prime minister suggested that Mr. Macnaughton be appointed chairman of that committee, I must tell the house that each and every one of us entertained some misgivings as to the manner in which both the members and the chairman of the said committee would behave. However, Mr. Macnaughton discharged his duties in brilliant fashion and also with a sense of fairness to all members regardless of their political affiliation.

I am pleased, therefore, to second the motion of the Prime Minister and wish to add that Mr. Macnaughton, who already has the required qualifications, will show wisdom, intelligence, patience and calm in the performance of his important functions.

[Mr. Pearson.]

(Text):

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Raymond, my first words as Leader of the Opposition will be in full agreement with what the Prime Minister has said regarding the qualifications of Mr. Macnaughton. I am sure this will not be one of those occasions that will be taken as a precedent for the days ahead, in that my first words are of agreement with the leader of the government. As he said, the Speaker of the House of Commons has a high and exalted position, one revered in the history and the traditions of British parliamentary government and, as the Prime Minister has said, a position that commands high qualities, knowledge of parliament and its traditions, recognition of the rights of minorities and the preservation of the ancient privileges of parliament. He needs tact and, as one British Speaker said, the ability to hear when it is appropriate to do so and not to see when it is appropriate not to see. In other words he needs to have that tact which maintains the traditional atmosphere of parliament, which maintains decorum in the thrust of debate, and above all assures that of which the famed Speaker of the British House of Commons, Mr. Lowther, has said:

The House of Commons is not a public meeting, a conference or a convention, where opposition can be stifled by disturbance or silenced by shouting. History records many instances of the failure of representative assemblies to listen to the voice of reason and to be overborne by concerted and prearranged, or even spontaneous, noise and violence.

In other words, if this and all other parliaments are to be effective there must be that co-operation among hon. members to assure that the institution shall be preserved as a deliberative body wherein free speech is the right, not the privilege, of every hon. member of the house.

The Speaker is the custodian of the rights of parliament. He has great rights and great privileges. In the United Kingdom he enjoys freedom from income tax. That is one of the rights that we have not brought to this country for the Speaker, but in these 60 days of decision the Speaker who is chosen may live in hope that this will be included in the promised beneficence of those who now hold office.

Mr. Clerk, I noted in the remarks of the Prime Minister that he did not make any reference to bringing about that of which he spoke on a number of occasions, the permanence of the Speaker, making it possible even under our system for a Speaker to have that authority which comes through permanence. In that connection I would point out that in 1957 I endeavoured to take a step in that direction, but it was not effective. The Prime