

mentioned by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). I am rising to support the nomination of Doctor Fauteux because I believe he will bring honour to himself and, I hope, add to the dignity of this chamber in the years to come. I support him, not because he chose his ancestors carefully, but rather because I think he is eminently suitable for the office.

The high office to which he has now been nominated is one which concerns the whole membership of the house. Perhaps I have a rather strong sense of history, because I once taught it for a number of years. When we went to the senate chamber this morning my mind recalled that occasion when a Speaker of the English House of Commons, during the reign of Charles I, when the King violated the Commons chamber, informed him when he came to wreck his vengeance upon a small minority in that house that he had no knowledge of their whereabouts, and that he could not tell the King other than he was told by the House of Commons to tell.

It seems to me that the Speaker of the House is the guardian of the privileges of the house, and of those of individual members. I would hope that in this parliament, one which is quite different in its make-up from parliaments we have had since I have been here in the last ten years, Mr. Speaker will always remember that the fortunes of the government must not take precedence over the rights of individual members, or other parties in the house. I am sure that the nominee for this very high office, one who is to be the first Commoner of Canada, will remember this during his tenure of office; so that when the time comes for him to lay down his cares of office we may regard him with the same esteem and respect as we did the Speaker of the house who retired from that position at the end of the last parliament.

Mr. SOLON E. LOW (Peace River): Doctor Beauchesne, speaking for the minority group in this section of the house, I wish to associate myself with other hon. members who have spoken in supporting the nomination of the hon. member for St. Mary (Mr. Fauteux) to this high and important office.

I have not had the pleasure of knowing Doctor Fauteux prior to this morning and therefore I am not able to speak with any authority or any knowledge about his background or his ancestry, but having had ten years' experience in the provincial legislature I have had impressed upon me the importance of his office and have gained some knowledge of the onerous duties which devolve upon him.

I sympathize with him in the duties that he will have to perform, and I hope that sympathy will be carried into action by myself and all who are with me in this organization to give him full support in seeing to it that the best traditions of this house are observed. I trust, Doctor Beauchesne, that the new Speaker—I am anticipating his election—will also keep in mind the best traditions of true democracy and watch over and observe and preserve the rights of the minorities in this chamber as well as those of the majority.

I wish to assure the Speaker-elect that we will at all times give him every support in the carrying out of the heavy duties that will devolve upon him and I assure him, and the other members of this house, that we will always stand ready to observe the rules and to do that which will assist in the carrying out of the business of this house with dispatch. I take great pleasure in supporting the nomination of the hon. member for St. Mary.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I had not anticipated that it would be either necessary or desirable to say any word in reply to the remarks that might be made by the different speakers at this time, but my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bracken) has taken me to task for having intimated to the public in advance of this morning's sitting the name of the person it was intended to nominate as Speaker of the house. My hon. friend has said that that was not the correct practice to follow and he has taken exception to it. May I say to my hon. friend that if he will look through the records of this parliament from the days of confederation up to the present time he will find that the practice I have adopted has been the one that has been followed by all previous prime ministers. Far from limiting or restricting in any way the privileges of the members of the house in making their own choice, the action taken, which has permitted them to know in advance the name of the individual whose name is likely to be placed in nomination, gives to all hon. members an opportunity which otherwise they would not have until the last moment, namely, to decide in their own minds some time in advance whether the choice of the government is one they wish to approve or oppose. Hon. members would have resented it very strongly if I had changed that practice and had given to them and to others no intimation in advance as to the one whom the government had in mind to nominate for the position of Speaker. I wish to make it clear that, far from being censured for departing