

Election of Speaker

Lamoureux to chair the debates and proceedings of the House of Commons, in the years to come.

It is a heavy responsibility to take over the Speaker's chair. I deeply regret the departure of hon. Mr. Macnaughton who was undoubtedly one of the greatest Speakers of the house of Commons of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Caouette: As a matter of fact, our discussions were presided over with tact and diplomacy. At that time, Mr. Lamoureux, who was acting as Deputy Speaker of the House, acquired knowledge that enabled him to become an efficient Deputy Speaker during the two and a half years he was called upon to chair, for instance, the committee of the whole House of Commons, and each time he acted as Deputy Speaker.

We all knew Mr. Lamoureux's undeniable qualities, his sense of justice and fairness. The Speaker does not indulge in political partisanship, he is above political parties. Therefore, in the full sense of the word, we will support the new Speaker, Mr. Lamoureux. We will co-operate with him, as his job will not be an easy one in this new Parliament.

In fact, probably for the first time in the history of Canada, we have a Parliament made up of various elements: left-wingers, right-wingers and centralists. It will therefore be rather difficult to manage. In my opinion, Mr. Lamoureux has the tact needed to preside over all discussions taking place in such a situation.

Mr. Raymond, we are very pleased to support the proposal made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson).

Mr. Lamoureux can be assured of our co-operation. We ask him to be in the future as fair as he has been in the past; if the past is the guarantee for the future, we can be confident of having a very good Speaker in the person of Mr. Lamoureux.

[*English*]

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Raymond, it is with pleasure, on behalf of our party and myself personally, that I join with the leaders of the other opposition parties in giving wholehearted support to the nomination made by the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) and seconded by the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Favreau).

Those of us who watched Mr. Lamoureux during the last parliament, particularly as Deputy Speaker, I think are virtually in

[Mr. Caouette.]

unanimous agreement that he performed his work well. I believe that it is logical that he should now be named Speaker of this twenty seventh parliament. Perhaps the twenty sixth parliament will be known as the parliament which, under the leadership of the former Speaker, Mr. Macnaughton, brought in the revised rules and procedures. We are grateful for the work that Mr. Macnaughton carried on and to which he gave leadership.

I believe this parliament will have as its responsibility the implementation and refining of those rules. Because of this there is a particular responsibility upon Mr. Lamoureux. His experience and his familiarity with these new rules and procedures I think make it reasonable that he should be the one to chair this chamber during this parliament.

I believe that further remarks are redundant as far as the importance of maintaining the authority and the rights of the Speaker as they relate to the preservation of our parliamentary procedure. We want you, Mr. Raymond, to know that we give our support to Mr. Lamoureux, that we will co-operate with him and that we will share, so far as it is possible, that responsibility of making sure this parliament functions effectively and well.

● (11:50 a.m.)

[*Translation*]

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Raymond, although compliments have been addressed to Mr. Lamoureux to the extent where it proved embarrassing for him, and in spite of my own desire not to prolong these proceedings unduly, it still behooves me to say a few words as the only member in the house at the present time in the unique position of having held the post of Speaker and later become a member of the Opposition.

We all know what qualities are required of the Speaker. I shall not give that list for in so doing, I should probably be repeating what was said about me in 1962, which I found most embarrassing at that time.

[*English*]

Now, Mr. Raymond, I do not wish to prolong these proceedings. We have heard today, and very many of us have heard on similar occasions in the past, the qualifications and requirements for that most privileged post, the Speakership of this House. It is not a mere passive role; it is a most challenging role. I know that many people share my opinion that the Speaker of the House is not merely a gate-keeper; he is an active officer of this House. It is true that he is the servant of this House,