

Tributes to Mr. Léon-J. Raymond

tortuous paths of parliamentary manners and mores. Under his guidance I have tried, as other members have tried, to understand the workings of parliamentary practice and procedures. I have observed the Clerk of the House in action at the table. As a result I have come to appreciate that a Clerk of the House of Commons must, in a sense, be a biblical paragon with the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job, the agility of David and the survival qualities of Jonah.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. MacEachen: The Parliamentary Companion of 100 years ago described the Clerk of the Commons House of Parliament as one who holds an office of great trust and importance. The Canadian parliament has been particularly gifted in its choice of clerks, and Mr. Raymond has followed in the tradition of such names as Bourinot and Beauchesne. Perhaps, on this particular day, it would not be inappropriate for the Clerk to hear one last citation from Beauchesne, his favourite authority. I quote from Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, fourth edition, 1958, as follows:

—a thousand... questions have to be solved by the Clerk who may be consulted at any time by the Speaker and the leader of the house. In the midst of a debate, questions of order of all descriptions may be raised and the Clerk must be ready to supply authorities for a decision—

During a crisis, when the government and the opposition are using all the strategy possible under the rules of the house, the leaders are in continuous consultation with the Clerk with respect to their motions and amendments. A wrong interpretation of the rules may then lead to the most dangerous miscalculations, and the Clerk has to be very sure of his ground when he thus advises the men whose political future must be decided on the floor of the house.

I am sure Mr. Beauchesne was not simply attempting to justify his own status when he maintained that the Clerk's executive duties are absorbing and keep him busy the whole year round. He comments as follows:

If a member of the house loses his railway transportation card during the summer, as it sometimes happens, the Clerk has to issue another one under a new number and send out forty three notices to the railway companies.

In conclusion, I am sure the house would wish the retiring Clerk many years of pleasant contemplation and other restful pursuits in his well earned retirement. We hope, as well, that from time to time he will take advantage of his entrée to this house so we may still benefit from his guidance and experience.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to multiply words, but as one who has enjoyed Mr. Raymond's friendship for the 22 years since he first entered parliament I wish to express my own appreciation of the tremendous contribution he has made to the House of Commons of Canada. The things that have been said by those who have already spoken have been said with deep sincerity, they have been said on behalf of all of us, and they are all true. Mr. Raymond has been a true friend to all members of the House of Commons. He has exercised his responsibilities with that care, integrity and impartiality that are so necessary to the important office that he has held for the past 18 years.

Not only has he been a friend to us all; not only has he worked diligently; we have known that his feeling for parliament has been like that of his distinguished predecessors. We are happy to associate his name with those of Bourinot and Beauchesne on this historic occasion.

● (11:30 a.m.)

I happen to remember Mr. Raymond's first speech as a member of the House of Commons. I remember it because I was following him in the debate that day, and I recall the thoughtfulness of his address to us on that occasion. I went to the library this morning to look it up again. My memory of it was correct; it was a thoughtful speech on the problems facing the world and on the various problems facing Canada, economic and social, as well as the need to build a united country on the basis of our two founding races.

Although it was made many years ago, the thoughts contained in this speech are still very timely. There is one paragraph in it which I should like to put on record again at this time. It is to be found at page 70 of *Hansard* for March 19, 1946, at which time the House of Commons was debating the address in reply to the speech from the throne. As I say, Mr. Raymond had dealt with various problems which were facing the world and facing Canada. He had built up quite a picture of the difficulties which had to be met. Then he said this:

The following statement may appear rather childish, Mr. Speaker, but I am convinced that all our problems can be solved provided we base their consideration on a spirit of mutual trust. However, this sentiment can only be awakened, nurtured and matured provided justice and charity govern the consideration of all these problems.

When Mr. Raymond uttered those words he had no notion, of course, that a few years