

... This matter could be dealt with by the Committee on Procedure. I hope that consideration of this matter will be undertaken very soon. Sincerely yours, Lucien Lamoureux.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest, that the Committee on Procedure and Organization introduce as soon as possible in this House a resolution to provide that the Canadian flag be displayed in the House of Commons, where and as determined by the Speaker. Such resolution will be passed without any debate and we shall always be pleased, after it being passed, to quote with pride:

[*English*]

Pledge of allegiance to the Canadian flag.

To my flag and to the country it represents, I pledge respect and loyalty.

Wave with pride from sea to sea and within your folds, keep us ever united.

Be for all a symbol of love, freedom and justice.

God keep our flag.

God protect our Canada.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, in all the legislative assemblies I have visited and that surely you have visited also, the flag of this country occupied a place of honour. Like several of my colleagues I hope that before the 8th anniversary of the proclamation of the Canadian flag the committee on procedure and organization will have introduced a resolution to that effect.

Since the members of that committee will be appointed very soon and so they will keep in mind my suggestion I would like on behalf of my voters in the constituency of Gaspé and on my personal behalf to unfold for the first time in this House the national flag of Canada with the hope that on February 15 next, the members of this House will approve unanimously the resolution to the effect that our flag be placed permanently in this House and in committee rooms.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member knows that it is irregular to unfold even the Canadian flag at this time.

[*English*]

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, as I rise on this first occasion to address the House in the throne speech debate I want to add my congratulations to those which have been heaped upon Your Honour by hon. members on all sides of the House. This is a double pleasure for me because, as you know, Sir, your constituency of Stormont-Dundas borders mine, and the distinguished townships of Matilda and Mountain which are in my constituency look to your city of Cornwall as their capital. I am naturally pleased, as well, to see the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave) appointed Deputy Speaker. I have known him only a short time, but his reputation preceded him because other members of the House have told me of his wisdom, of his moderation and reason. I am satisfied that during the life of this parliament that will become apparent to all of us.

• (1630)

I do not have to address you, Sir on the subject of the beauties of Grenville-Carleton, the worth of its people and the variety of problems that face them, because as a distinguished member of the bar of Ontario, particularly

The Address—Mr. Baker

eastern Ontario, for many years, all these matters will be familiar to you.

I am perhaps unique in this House in that I have very many distinguished hon. members as constituents of mine. I met today at lunch, for instance, the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Foster), who tells me he lives there. I notice things are rather quiet in the constituency, so I imagine he is behaving himself. The minister of urban affairs is a constituent of mine; he lives along the Rideau River. On behalf of all those who live along the Rideau River in my constituency I would remind him that as the river goes by his door he has a great job of work in cleaning up that mess in order that it can be enjoyed by him and all others. The hon. member for Kamloops-Cariboo (Mr. Marchand) and the hon. member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Poulin) are constituents of mine. I am pleased to say that on the street on which I live in Parkwood Hills there lives the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) and the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow). In fact, on many occasions prior to entering this House I have pushed the car of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre out of the snow. When I hear of that organic understanding, I wonder if my action was wise.

I want to say that I thoroughly enjoyed the performance, and I must call it that, which took place in the House on Tuesday night by the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Jamieson). I must confess I did not learn very much about economic expansion in this country, but I enjoyed his speech because it was laced with wit and wisdom. If any hon. member is prepared to move a motion that he be granted an Oscar for that performance, I am prepared to second the motion. For all of the good fun, there was one significant statement that lingered with me when I left the chamber. That was his statement about the right and, indeed, the duty of a member of this House to speak for the people he represents and for his constituency. So, Mr. Speaker, I should like to speak about these matters for a few moments.

In the southern part of my riding along the St. Lawrence there is an industrial belt, the prosperity of which depends to a great extent on the actions that are to be taken in this House by the government in fields of taxation, economic expansion and the national economy generally. In between that area there is a large urban area to the north; there is an agricultural community that suffers all the problems of marketing and diminishing income that plague the agricultural community everywhere in Canada. In addition to that, it was beset this year by weather problems of an adverse nature and it did, I am sorry to say, suffer from the inadequacies of remedies that this government and the present minister's predecessor were prepared to recommend to assist the farmers who were in need.

Throughout the whole area there are small businessmen in small towns who are waging their own war of attrition against shopping centres, chain stores and other huge operations, and only time will tell how they can fight that battle and whether or not it will be won.

In terms of influence, whether in Prescott, Nepean or along the Rideau River which I mentioned, the overriding influence on the lives of the majority of people in my