

ence in its proceedings. The office of Speaker, as the Prime Minister has intimated, is an important one. It is not only important, but it is an old and honourable one; its history goes back for generations in our parliamentary life. Formerly the primary duty of Mr. Speaker was to protect the rights and privileges of the House of Commons as against the crown; that is to say, that is its historical background. This duty, however, is more or less obsolete in this twentieth century, because the privileges of the commons are now universally recognized. To-day the duties of the Speaker are primarily judicial in character. They are not executive; they do not partake of the administrative, except with respect to the internal economy of the house. Mr. Speaker has first of all to preside over the deliberations of this house. He must maintain the decorum and dignity of the house. He must protect the membership of the house from insult and indignity both within the house and without. Above everything else, in his judicial capacity he must maintain an equal balance among all the parties in this house. Briefly these are what I conceive to be the functions of Mr. Speaker.

The hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Glen) who has been nominated by the Prime Minister, in my opinion possesses these qualities in a high degree. He has had, I believe, a long and honourable career in his profession, which must have brought him into contact with conditions and situations which would give him an insight into what judicial conduct really means. As the Prime Minister has intimated, he has had also a long and extensive experience in this house. I believe he possesses the qualifications necessary to make a competent Speaker to preside over our deliberations. What we in this part of the chamber desire to impress upon him is this, that we in common with other parties shall be treated with that even-handed British justice which is so essential to the carrying on harmoniously of the deliberations of this house. If he conforms to the best traditions of his office, as I believe he will, we shall do our utmost to assist him in maintaining the dignities, the liberties and the privileges of the house. Personally I wish the hon. member for Marquette well.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Doctor Beauchesne, it is perhaps hardly necessary for us to say much after what has been said by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Hanson). We in our group support the nomination of the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Glen). The leader of the opposition has suggested that

one of the old-time functions of a speaker was to protect the commons against the crown. I suppose that function is largely obsolete, but we believe that an important function of the speaker to-day is to have a sense of impartiality and to protect the minorities against the government. That may be highly necessary in a house of this composition. From our knowledge of the hon. member for Marquette through the years we are assured that he will recognize the high responsibility that will rest upon him as speaker, and we wish him every success in his new office.

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): Doctor Beauchesne, the members of my group feel that if the reputation which was so well established by the Speaker who occupied the chair in the last parliament is maintained by the hon. gentleman who is now to take the chair we shall be fully satisfied. We realize that the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Glen) has been nominated by the same right hon. gentleman who nominated his predecessor; we therefore expect that the same wisdom has been exercised in this selection as in the case of the former Speaker. The hon. member for Marquette has established a reputation for geniality and good nature among the members which has caused him to be well liked. At the same time he has the poise and dignity which cause men generally to respect him. We feel that these are qualities which are required in one holding the position of Speaker of this house, and I do not doubt for one moment either the hon. gentleman's disposition or his ability at all times to be fair in his judgments and impartial in his decisions. Therefore, Doctor Beauchesne, our group will support this motion.

The Clerk of the House declared the motion carried in the affirmative, *nemine contradicente*, and Hon. James Allison Glen, member for the electoral district of Marquette, duly elected to the chair of the house.

Hon. Mr. Glen was conducted from his seat in the house to the Speaker's chair by Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King and Right Hon. Ernest Lapointe.

Mr. SPEAKER-ELECT said: Gentlemen of the House of Commons, I beg to return my humble acknowledgments to the house for the great honour you have been pleased to confer upon me by unanimously choosing me to be your Speaker.

The unanimity which has been expressed from all sides of the house of my appointment to the high office of Speaker of this House of Commons imposes upon me duties so grave