

then, in the back row of this House, the gentleman who occupied the seat of the Prime Minister, a man for whom I had a tremendous affection and endearment, along with the then leader of the opposition, the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), who together gave a new and "wet behind the ears" member a compliment on that speech. I refer, of course, to the late Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson.

• (2020)

To me, tonight there is both a sense of continuity and discontinuity in this respect because I think we all realize, regardless of party affiliation and what we may feel as individuals in the sense of our philosophy, that there is in this House not only a sense of continuity, not only the fact that the business of government goes on, but also there are those tragic moments when we realize that men who have served their country, perhaps at the expense of their health and welfare, are no longer with us. It was my privilege not merely to have expressed the sentiments I did in the address in reply in 1967, our centennial year, but to have done it in the presence of the Right Hon. Lester Pearson whom we all think about with such fondness and such affection tonight.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jamieson: So I wish very much to compliment the mover and seconder, because this ritual, if it can be called that, is rather important. It not only emphasizes the importance of the so-called individual Member of Parliament, the Member of Parliament who does not occupy either the treasury benches or the front or second-row benches of the opposition; it symbolizes, it seems to me, the importance of the ordinary Member of Parliament, a man who is here because the people of his constituency have sent him here.

That is one of the things that is important about being the mover and seconder of the address in reply. The second thing is that traditionally the role has always been given to new members of this House. That, to me, too is something that is quite important because it illustrates that while there is a continuity in this House, it is not a moribund cure-all. It is tradition, if you wish, that new members of this House in this way can, and have the opportunity to do so, speak out on behalf of their constituencies. This, of course, is another aspect about moving and seconding the address in reply which is important. There is the fact that it polarizes, more than any other event in the whole parliamentary spectrum, the right and the duty of the individual Member of Parliament to speak out for the people whom he represents and to talk about his constituency.

Mr. Alexander: Right. That is what we want from you.

Mr. Jamieson: Believe me, there is no argument between myself and the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander).

Mr. Lawrence: In that regard.

Mr. Jamieson: In that regard. Incidentally, in any other regard.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Address—Mr. Jamieson

Mr. Alexander: You got carried away there.

Mr. Jamieson: I will explain. However, I want to say something to the hon. member opposite. I am sorry, but I do not know his constituency.

An hon. Member: Northumberland-Durham.

Mr. Jamieson: I wish that, coming from the minor leagues, he would spend a little time learning what the batting order is in this House before he starts trying to be the star of the show, because it will not work in that way.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: You are getting nasty now.

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, the usual word from the opposition when one hits a raw nerve is that one is being "nasty". The fact of the matter is that the hon. member has succeeded in the first two or three days of this league in batting out on each occasion. I simply suggest he learn a little first.

An hon. Member: You do not learn by sitting here, either.

Mr. Jamieson: I want to speak in a non-partisan sense. Members will understand, of course, that I am always non-partisan in these matters. The hon. member for Northumberland-Durham (Mr. Lawrence) and a number of his colleagues would be wise to heed, as I did, the advice of the right hon. member for Prince Albert. I remember it well because it made so much sense, as do so many of the things he says.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jamieson: The right hon. member for Prince Albert told me when I entered this House, having had a close association with him in the broadcasting field for many years before that, "If you have any sense at all, you will sit and listen and keep your mouth shut until you know what it is all about". That has not happened, I fear, in the last two or three days in respect of many recruits of the party opposite. However, that is aside from the point.

Mr. Alexander: That is right. Get on with the job.

Mr. Jamieson: It is not my intention to spend the limited time I have talking about the past.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jamieson: Thank you very much. I really appreciate the fact that many of these gentlemen are contributing to what we call in the media a clack. When everything is dead on your side, you hire those on the other side to start the applause.

Mr. Paproski: We wanted to make sure that you look good this evening.

Mr. Jamieson: Thank you very much. At least I am doing better with my dieting program than you are. Mr. Speaker, I am not really worried about the political balance of this House, but I am disturbed that the hon.