

Mr. CURRIE: Yes.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Prime Minister exercised his right of reply in closing the debate; perhaps I was remiss in not so advising the House.

Mr. CURRIE: According to the rules of the House, I understand that every member is supposed to be heard, even though the person who made the motion has been heard the second time. Unfortunately, I did not catch your eye, Mr. Speaker.

I have no desire to make any lengthy remarks on this subject, but I wish to state my objection to the motion, if no one else will oppose it except myself. It is true that it has been the custom to appoint a member from Quebec to the position either of Speaker or of Deputy Speaker, but there are other members in the House outside the province of Quebec who have a knowledge of the French language, and I think that some steps should have been taken to appoint one of those members. Moreover, if the province of Quebec is desirous of being represented in the person of the Deputy Speaker, the constitutional practice should have been followed, one of the members of the Opposition should have resigned and allowed a supporter of this Government to take his seat and the Deputy Speakership. That is customary and the constitutional usage; the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the House are chosen by the majority in the House. They represent the views of the majority of the House and have done so from the time of Onslow. The constitutional practice followed in England whereby occasionally a Speaker is chosen without regard to politics has not been followed in this Parliament. I sat in the House during the last session and I have not forgotten the opposition of the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Boivin) to the Military Service Act and to the attempts on the part of members on this side of the House to send aid to the soldiers in the trenches. After listening to the addresses of the leader of the Opposition so far this session, I cannot help thinking that, like the Bourbons, he never forgets and he never forgives. He had to bring in a lot of talk about reciprocity and that sort of thing. He has forgotten that when he was the leader of the Government this country was known to the outside world as a few acres of snow. To-day Canada has a place in the sun, and that place in the sun has been given to us by those men who have so nobly fought for Canada and the Empire in the trenches. What will the whole world say if this House appoints this man as

Deputy Speaker—which no doubt, has been arranged to be done?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must ask the hon. gentleman in referring to another member to refer to him as an "hon. member."

Mr. CURRIE: All right, I will refer to the hon. member for Shefford. If this House elects him Deputy Speaker, we shall be electing a man who represents all that a majority of the people of this country voted against during the last election. I feel deeply on this question. I would almost say that it was a slap in the face for the soldiers in the trenches and of the electors who voted for this Government to appoint a member of this House to the position of Deputy Speaker who has opposed everything that the soldiers voted for and that this Government represents—that is all.

Motion agreed to.

JOINT COMMITTEES.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that a message had been received from the Senate acquainting this House that the Hon. Messieurs Bostock, Boyer, Dennis, Douglas, Godbout, Gordon, Laird, Landry, McHugh, McLennan, Poirier, Power, P.C., Richardson, Taylor (New Westminster), and Webster, have been appointed a committee to assist his Honour the Speaker in the direction of the Library of Parliament, so far as the interests of the Senate are concerned, and to act on behalf of the Senate as members of a joint committee of both Houses on the said Library.

Also a message acquainting this House that the Hon. Messieurs Crosby, Dennis, Dessaulles, DeVeber, Domville, Donnelly, Farrell, Forget, Legris, McCall, McLean, Pope, Prince, Ratz, Robertson, P. C., Sharpe, Talbot, Taylor (Leeds) Thibaudeau, Todd and White, have been appointed a committee to superintend the printing of the Senate during the present session, and to act on behalf of the Senate as members of a joint committee of both Houses on the subject of the printing of Parliament.

And also a message acquainting this House that the Hon. Messieurs Landry, Taylor (Leeds), Thompson and Watson, have been appointed a committee to assist his Honour the Speaker in the direction of the restaurant of Parliament, so far as the interests of the Senate are concerned, and to act on behalf of the Senate as members of a joint committee of both Houses on the said restaurant.