

cannot take the place that it should in the preservation of our country.

If parliament is accepted as being the essence of our democracy, the position of Speaker is indeed the cornerstone. I am most happy to join on this occasion in expressing not only the hope but a deep assurance that on the basis of the experience we have had in previous parliaments, the prerogatives and greatness of our past will have in him a protector, as well as a protector of the privileges and traditions of this institution. Above all, we shall have the assurance that the minorities shall have their rights.

I believe it is particularly important at this time that a man such as the hon. gentleman should be Speaker; for if there is an acceptance, as I hope there will be, of the principle that there shall be no appeals from the Speaker's rulings, the responsibility that will rest on his shoulders will be manifestly greater than that which rested on the shoulders of the many distinguished Speakers who have occupied that position.

It is in that spirit, as one who has a deep affection for everything for which parliament stands, that I believe, if this House accepts the motion that has been made we will be taking a forward step toward the maintenance of those things that are greater than life itself, the preservation of our freedom.

I never get over the novelty of this place. Today we have seen again the formalities of the past. There are those who would abolish these, but to me they are of the essence of the British tradition of political and parliamentary democracy.

Mr. Herridge: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: To this has been added the contribution of those of the French race. This is the very foundation of parliament as we know it. It was on the basis of the leadership given by one of French origin, applying the principles of English democracy to the problems of his day and generation, that confederation was achieved. Let us preserve those traditions. Let us maintain what is great in our country. In doing that we will make doubly sure that the future of our country will be greater than its past.

It is in that spirit that I, on behalf of my colleagues in the opposition, join in the motion that has been made. We look forward to the term of service of Mr. Lamoureux with the expectation that, in the days ahead, all those principles and qualities to which the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Favreau) referred will be embodied in the new Speaker.

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Election of Speaker

Indeed, I am reminded of the words which were spoken at one time of a great British Speaker, Mr. Speaker Lowther, when it was said:

The office of Speaker does not demand rare qualities. It demands common qualities in a rare degree.
● (11:40 a.m.)

I think Mr. Lamoureux possesses those qualities.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Raymond, in our parliamentary system the ability and impartiality of its presiding officer is an essential prerequisite to an effective and efficient parliament. The Speaker of the House of Commons must have a wide knowledge of the rules and a deep understanding of the traditions and procedures of this house. He must also have the impartiality which will give to every member, wherever he or she may sit, the assurance that they will enjoy the rights and privileges to which they are entitled, in order that they may speak for the people who have sent them here.

The members of the New Democratic party feel that those qualifications are possessed in full measure by Mr. Lucien Lamoureux, the member for Stormont, who has been nominated by the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) and the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Favreau).

During the last parliament Mr. Lamoureux acted as Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees of the Whole. Those of us who had the privilege of sitting in that parliament were impressed with his knowledge of the rules, his ability to interpret them fairly, and his capacity for making clear and explicit judgments and reaching fair decisions. The fact that he has complete mastery of both the French and English languages makes him eminently suited to preside over this house.

On behalf of the New Democratic party I should like to say that we support wholeheartedly the nomination of the member for Stormont. We pledge him our support in making this parliament as effective as any parliament that has ever sat in this chamber, and we wish him well as he assumes the heavy responsibilities of this office.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Raymond, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I am happy to join with the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) and the leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Douglas) on the appointment of Mr.