

To the Minister of National Defence the member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Chambers).

To the Minister of Agriculture the member for Brant-Haldimand (Mr. Charlton), the member for Provencher (Mr. Jorgenson).

To the Minister of Fisheries the member for Gaspé (Mr. English).

To the Minister of Veterans Affairs the member for Saskatoon (Mr. Jones).

To the Minister of National Revenue the member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert).

To the Minister of Trade and Commerce the member for Halifax (Mr. Morris).

To the Minister of Public Works the member for Quebec East (Mr. Tassé).

To the Minister of Labour the member for Essex South (Mr. Thrasher).

As parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister, in succession to Mr. Martineau, I am very pleased to announce the appointment of the member for St. Hyacinthe-Bagot (Mr. Ricard). He will become one of my assistants along with the member for Peel (Mr. Pallett), the chief whip.

INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister) presented the following message from His Excellency the Governor General:

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an order in council appointing the Hon. Donald Methuen Fleming, Minister of Finance, the Hon. Leon Balcer, Minister of Transport, the Hon. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Veterans Affairs, and the Hon. Ellen Louks Fairclough, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of chapter 143 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1952, intitled: An Act respecting the House of Commons.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister) moved:

That a special committee be appointed to prepare and report with all convenient speed the lists of members to compose the standing committees of this house under standing order 65. The said committee to be composed of Messrs. Balcer, Churchill, Habel, Pallett and Peters.

Motion agreed to.

(Translation):

HOUSE OF COMMONS

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Churchill, that Mr. Paul Martineau, member for the constituency of Pontiac-Temiscamingue, be appointed chairman of committees of the whole house.

(Text):

I wish to add in that connection, sir, that I propose the name of Mr. Martineau, a young man with a distinguished record of war service and of public service, a member of the bar, a student of the rules and one who I think the house will agree has been fair and reasonable in his relations with the members generally in the house and who will be able to discharge the duties of deputy speaker with honour to himself and in keeping with the traditions of this chamber.

(Translation):

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the opposition I am pleased to support the recommendation which the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) just made to the house.

I am certain that, thanks to his past experience as parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister, the hon. member for Pontiac-Temiscamingue (Mr. Martineau) will be able to perform his new duties with efficiency. I hope he will also be able to interpret the standing orders of this house in the same spirit of objectivity, humanity and fairness as you have always shown, Mr. Speaker, when giving rulings from time to time.

On behalf of the opposition and of all those who sit with us in this house, I offer the hon. member for Pontiac-Temiscamingue my warmest congratulations and my best wishes in the exercise of his new duties.

(Text):

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, the posts of deputy speaker and chairman of committees are important ones and we think that changes should not be made in any light fashion. It has been the custom over the years in the House of Commons at the beginning of a parliament to elect a speaker and deputy speaker. It has been the custom also that the occupants of these important positions remain in those positions during the life of the parliament. There is another custom and it is that, in the event the government should be successful in a coming election and the administration is returned, the person who occupied the position of deputy speaker usually moves to the position of speaker.

I do not know if the government feels that it cannot face the electorate in a confident manner and is therefore changing the person occupying this position at this time. We do think however that it is more in keeping with the impartiality of this position if the person who holds the position maintains it through the life of a parliament and the government does not—as appears to be the case in this parliament—merely use it as a stepping stone