

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, July 7, 1967

The house met at 11 a.m.

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TRIBUTES ON RETIREMENT OF MR. LÉON-J.
RAYMOND AS CLERK

[Translation]

Hon. Paul Martin (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Clerk of the house is discharging his duties for the last time today as he is retiring.

I have no doubt that all the members of the house will join with me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Raymond for the outstanding and learned way in which he has performed his duties since his appointment to that important post in 1949.

He served his country for many a year, first as member of parliament and then, for 18 years, as Clerk of the house.

Allow me to express, in the absence of the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson), our personal gratitude for his constant courtesy and untiring attention to administrative matters which are of such importance for the debates of the house.

[English]

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize that Mr. Raymond has served his country for a long time with great distinction; first, as many of us recall, as a distinguished member of this house and then, as we all know, for 18 years as Clerk of the House of Commons. The Prime Minister would like to have been here today to express his personal gratitude for the great contribution made by Mr. Raymond. It is my privilege in his absence to thank Mr. Raymond for his courteous attention to all of us and for the remarkable way in which, through his great knowledge of our rules and procedures, he has enabled us to carry out more efficiently the responsibilities entrusted to us by the people of Canada.

• (11:10 a.m.)

It is now my privilege to move a resolution, to be seconded by the right hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker), which I am sure will meet with acceptance by all the

members of this house. I move, seconded by the right hon. Leader of the Opposition:

That the members of this house, desiring to record their deep appreciation of the long and distinguished services rendered by Mr. Léon-J. Raymond, Esquire, O.B.E., as Clerk of the House of Commons, and acknowledging the dignity and profound learning with which he graced his office, designate him as honorary officer of the House of Commons with an entrée to the chamber and a seat at the table on ceremonial occasions.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, this is an opportunity for all of us to pay tribute to one whose contribution to parliament has meant so much. Mr. Raymond has been the friend of all the members of this house.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I recall when he first came into the House of Commons as a member in 1945, and was re-elected in 1949. I remember his first days as Clerk of the House of Commons. I have recollections of the courtesy and innate modesty that have characterized him throughout, but I recall in particular the occasion in 1950 when as a member of the Canadian parliamentary delegation to the Empire Parliamentary Association meetings I visited Australia and New Zealand.

Mr. Raymond knows parliament both as a member and as a most distinguished Clerk. He has shown reverence for this institution, realizing at all times that unless the dignities and proprieties are maintained the institution cannot maintain the greatness of its traditions. The rules were his constant companions. He was guided at all times by the principle that while rules have to be made to maintain the operations of the house, they should not be interpreted in such a way as to curtail the rights of members.

As a student not only of parliament but of the law I am proud and happy to join in the resolution moved by the Acting Prime Minister. We shall hope that in the days ahead Mr. Raymond will enjoy health and happiness and that we will see him back on ceremonial occasions, filling with that dignity that has always been his a position that has added lustre to the parliament he has served.