

the government, much of it justified, about speeches from the government side being less than specific, I am bound to say that the speeches from the Progressive Conservative benches have been even less specific.

If it is specifics the House is looking for, I suggest all members, including those of my own party, are obliged to present them. I am quite sure that Canadians want parliament to get on with the job, and if no single party has a mandate—and indeed no single party has—then surely parliament itself has a mandate. We, as members of the House of Commons, are under a strong obligation, if not to put partisan advantage aside, because that would be unrealistic, at least to contain it within limits so that we may in the coming weeks and months pass some solid legislation.

I think a party indecently anxious to get into power does neither itself nor the Canadian people a service, if I may presume to say so. I detect a faint resemblance between the behaviour of members on the Conservative benches in this House and members who sat on the Liberal benches in 1958 and repeatedly asked the government of the day to move aside and let them do the job. No party won this election, and certainly the Conservative party did not win it. I think all of us are obliged to bear that in mind. Mr. Speaker, it may be naïve and presumptuous of me, as a new member, to hope that recriminations and exceedingly political gamesmanship can take a back seat for the next weeks and months—but I do.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Maurice Dupras (Labelle): Mr. Speaker, it is always with pride that I address this House on behalf of the constituents of Labelle to whom I want to pay homage and express my gratitude for the confidence they showed me October 30 last in reelecting me as their member and representative in the House of Commons.

[English]

Before I go any further, I should like to extend my congratulations to the preceding speaker, the hon. member for Toronto-Lakeshore (Mr. Grier) who was making his maiden speech. I should like him to know that in spite of the fact I may not agree with the whole substance of his speech, I thought he acquitted himself beautifully in his maiden speech.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Dupras: First, your Honour, I should like to join with the previous speakers who paid tribute to the Speaker upon his unanimous re-election. Several members before me recalled his great qualities and his sense of humour and at the risk of embarrassing him, I should like to express my admiration and the high esteem in which I hold him, that are inspired by his ability and his fair-mindedness.

Those congratulations that are offered every day to him are a tribute to the voters of his constituency of Stormont-Dundas, for the wise choice they made in re-electing him for the fifth time.

The Address—Mr. Dupras

Their pride is only natural considering, Mr. Speaker, that they are represented here by one of the most prestigious figures in the history of the House.

I wish to pay tribute also to the gentleman who was elected Chairman of the Committees of the Whole, the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave), a choice which already meets with the approval of all four parties. It is also fitting to emphasize the altruism his party displayed in depriving itself of the services of such an excellent member.

Mr. Speaker, may I also be allowed to extend my best wishes to the Deputy Chairman and Assistant Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole (Messrs. Laniel and Boulanger). Of course their task is fraught with responsibilities and they will have to rely on the co-operation of all hon. members.

Like the previous speakers, I should like to pay tribute to the movers of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne (Messrs. Blais and Blaker) who showed much self-assurance and eloquence in the discharge of their duty.

I should like to congratulate also all the new members, be they of this party or of any other, on their election and I wish them a fruitful and constructive career in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I should also like to congratulate the lady members of the House. I cannot help saying how much their presence improves the look of this august assembly, and if those ladies should follow the example of the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis) I am convinced that they will serve with distinction.

As for the members of the opposition parties, I consider that it is only fair to let them assert their right to represent their electors in the House with as much energy, aggressiveness and loyalty as we do as government members.

• (2030)

[English]

However, some of the new members on the opposite side lost no time in showing by their contributions and their behaviour that they believe the quality of their contributions and the value of their interventions is measured here in terms of decibels.

Mr. Rose: That is not very nice.

Mr. Dupras: Unfortunately, some of these members even had comments to make regarding our front row. Perhaps I, too, could make some comments on the front row facing me, a row which may be called a row of broken dreams. As you know, Mr. Speaker, no less than five members in this row were turned down, were denied at one time or another the leadership of their party at five different conventions; so it seems that the electors failed to recognize their hidden talents. Some of these ex would-be leaders have shown already in their interventions how wise their party members were to deny them the leadership of the party.

In the short two years that I have been a member of this House, I have learned very quickly to become greatly involved in the activities here and I have developed a deep