

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, August 29, 1966

[Translation]

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

STATEMENT BY MR. SPEAKER RESPECTING
CALLING OF HOUSE

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have the honour to inform the house that by virtue of a resolution passed by the house on Thursday, July 14, 1966, *Votes and Proceedings* page 782, dealing with the adjournment of the house, I caused to be published in an extra edition of the Canada Gazette dated August 22, 1966 a notice calling the house to meet this day, which is as follows:

[Translation]

After consultation with the Government, I am satisfied that the public interest requires that the House of Commons, which was adjourned on Thursday, July 14, 1966, until Wednesday, October 5, 1966, should meet at an earlier time. In pursuance to the order of the House of Commons passed Thursday, July 14, 1966, I hereby give notice that the House of Commons shall meet on Monday, August 29, 1966, at 2.30 o'clock p.m., and transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time.

Given under my hand and seal at Ottawa this 22nd day of August, 1966.

Lucien Lamoureux,
Speaker,
House of Commons,
Canada.

[English]

In addition, on the same date I sent a telegram to each member of the house containing the substance of the notice.

VACANCIES

Mr. Speaker: I also have the honour to inform the house that during the adjournment of the house I received communications advising that vacancies have occurred in the representation:

Of Mr. Chesley William Carter, member for the electoral district of Burin-Burgeo, by reason of being summoned to the Senate.

Of Mr. Charles Ronald McKay Granger, member for the electoral district of Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador, by resignation.

I have accordingly issued my warrants to the chief electoral officer to make out new writs of election for the said electoral districts, respectively.

PRIVILEGE

MR. GRÉGOIRE—REQUEST FOR CHANGE
OF SEAT IN CHAMBER

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege which may interest hon. members, that is my decision to sit as an independent, and to ask you to designate another seat for me in the house. This does not mean that I am no longer an ardent Créditiste; far from it. Whenever the discussion will turn to social credit, I will always be ready to co-operate with my former leader and colleagues for whom I still have the highest regard.

The main reason for the change, Mr. Speaker, is that I have decided to favour the independence of Quebec. My choice has nothing to do with the contacts I may have had with English speaking citizens I may have met in Ottawa. On the contrary, I think that during the five years I have been sitting in this house, I have made friends among all groups of members, an honour I consider all mine. Consequently, it is not a question of individuals but one of system and constitution.

To reassure everyone, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I will work toward independence by democratic means as long as we live in the confederation as it now exists.

I will urge my fellow-citizens of Quebec to live as good and honest Canadian citizens, respectful of Canadian laws as long as we have a Canadian confederation. I will disapprove acts of violence and terrorism, but I will devote from now on all my energy to convince democratically Quebec citizens that their best interest is to get out of confederation as it now exists.

Mr. Speaker, I have not taken without due reflection my decision to fight for the independence of Quebec. When I arrived in Ottawa in 1962, I had the conviction that Canada was a country where good understanding would prevail if French Canadians could make themselves understood and if everyone would understand and co-operate.

Gradually and almost against my will, I became more and more convinced, after coming into contact with the facts, that the future