

Opening of the Session

member for the electoral district of Brantford, duly elected to the chair of the house.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald was conducted from his seat in the house to the Speaker's chair by Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent and Right Hon. C. D. Howe.

Mr. Speaker: Gentlemen of the House of Commons, may I express to the house my humble acknowledgment of the great honour which you have conferred upon me by choosing me to be your Speaker.

Messieurs de la Chambre des communes, je désire remercier tous les membres de la Chambre du grand honneur qu'il leur a plu de me conférer. Je suis vraiment honoré d'avoir été choisi comme votre Orateur.

The unanimity of approval with which my name was received by the members on both sides of the house, and the all too flattering references made to me, are deeply appreciated and will ever be cherished in my memory. But above all, they will serve to remind me of my great obligations to you who have entrusted so much to me.

It is true, as some hon. members have mentioned, that the experience which I gained as Deputy Speaker in the last parliament will be of assistance to me in solving the problems which will arise in this parliament. May I, however, remind hon. members that any little success I had in carrying out the duties of Deputy Speaker was due entirely to the assistance, advice and co-operation which I received at all times from all hon. members.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons, Messieurs de la Chambre des communes: You have entrusted to me the honour, the rights, the privileges and the prerogatives of the Commons. I assure you I shall endeavour to be worthy of this great trust and at all times to be fair and impartial as between parties and as between members, and with your co-operation I shall strive to maintain order and decorum in this house, whose servant I am.

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to be the first to have the privilege of addressing you in that capacity. On this occasion I do so merely to suggest to you that you declare the sitting of this house suspended until three o'clock this afternoon.

Motion agreed to.

At 12.37 p.m. the sitting was suspended until 3 p.m. this day.

The house resumed at three o'clock.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

Mr. Speaker read a communication from the Governor General's secretary, announc-

ing that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate chamber at three p.m. on this day, for the purpose of formally opening the session of the dominion parliament.

A message was delivered by Major C. R. Lamoureux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly the house went up to the Senate chamber. Then the Hon. W. Ross Macdonald, Speaker of the House of Commons, said:

May it please Your Excellency,

The House of Commons have elected me their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

If in the performance of those duties I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am, and who through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their King and country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Excellency's person at all reasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favourable consideration.

The Honourable the Speaker of the Senate, addressing the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Commons, then said:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to assure you that your words and actions will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

Then His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to open parliament by a speech from the throne.

And the house being returned to the Commons chamber:

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to report that, the house having attended on His Excellency the Governor General in the Senate chamber, I informed His Excellency that the choice of Speaker had fallen upon me, and, in your names, and on your behalf, I made the usual claim for your privileges, which His Excellency was pleased to confirm to you.

VACANCIES

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that since the general election held on June 27, 1949, communications have been received from several members notifying the chief electoral officer, in accordance with chapter 145, section 2, of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, that the following vacancies have occurred in the representation, viz.:

Of Hon. Ernest Bertrand, member for the electoral district of Laurier, conse-