

*Appointment of Committees*

**Mr. A. C. Casselman (Grenville-Dundas):** Mr. Speaker, I must admit I am taken completely by surprise. I had not been officially informed of this. In the long time that I have been in the House of Commons I have learned to appreciate the responsibilities that accompany positions of this kind because for a period of 20 years I was the whip of the opposition. I would ask my leader if he would allow his motion to stand until such time as I can have an opportunity to look into it.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, at the request of the hon. gentleman the motion will stand.

Motion stands.

**SUPPLY**

## APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, a similar situation prevails today as prevailed in 1949 in the second session of parliament. In the second session of that year a portion of supply had been voted. When the new parliament began its sittings on September 15 in that year the Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent, then prime minister, moved that the house resolve itself at its next sitting into a committee to consider of a supply to be granted to His Majesty.

A similar situation prevails today because supply will run out at the end of this month. I move, seconded by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming):

That this house will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a committee to consider of a supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

This can be done only with consent.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion by unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

**WAYS AND MEANS**

## APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Again by unanimous consent I move, seconded by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming):

That this house will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a committee to consider of the ways and means for raising the supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

**THE LATE DR. WILLIAM GOURLAY BLAIR**

## TRIBUTE TO LATE MEMBER FOR LANARK

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, very often during sessions of parliament the members of this house are called upon to say words of commendation of hon. members who having served have passed on, and these occasions arising from time to time serve as unhappy reminders of the shortness of life. The election had been over only a few days when Dr. William Gourlay Blair passed away. He was born in Lanark county, Ontario, the county which he represented in the House of Commons, on January 13, 1890. He attended Perth collegiate and subsequently Queen's University, where he graduated as a medical doctor. He went overseas early in the first war and served as a captain in the Canadian Army Medical Corps. Following the war he maintained a continuing interest in the militia forces of the country and became a lieutenant colonel in the militia.

He was first elected to the House of Commons in the election of 1945 and re-elected in all subsequent elections. I think it will be generally agreed that he was hard working, capable and able and devoted himself both in the house and in committee with zeal and capacity. He was the spokesman of this party on the subject of health and welfare. He will be remembered, however, by members of all political parties for the infinite care that he took whenever any member of this house was stricken in any way with illness. He became, as it were, the unofficial medical officer of parliament, and he continued an interest in the afflicted member's condition throughout the period of the illness.

I think one of the most touching descriptions of him appeared in the *Ottawa Journal* a day or so after his passing. I think these words, if said of us, would constitute a magnificent epitaph:

Dr. Blair, that good and gentle man, carried to the House of Commons a spirit of tolerant understanding that made no political battle bitter or any disagreement harmful to friendship.

His memory will be revered. A great and truly magnanimous spirit has passed on. His death is a loss to parliament; it is a loss to the country and it is a loss to this party in which, had he lived a little longer, the opportunity for greater service would have been accorded to him. The house will join with me, I am sure, when I express the heartfelt sympathy of every one of us to the members of the family, to his widow and to his son and daughter. He served his generation well. His memory will be revered.