

Of the gentlemen who came to call on me at Laurier House, all are present on this platform tonight. I should like my first words to be words of very sincere thanks to each of them in turn.

First of all may I say to you Dr. MacDiarmid how deeply I appreciate the expression of your personal friendship and your fine loyalty, not less to our party than to myself. By your generous act, you and those who have been associated with you, have made possible my return to Parliament and not only that but my being in the House of Commons when the new Parliament opens its proceedings, as it will on the 23rd of next month. To me, as the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, I believe I may say to Parliament itself that is a very great service, one for which I thank you not only personally, but in the name of the Government itself. You, Ladies and Gentlemen, ~~have~~ know Dr. MacDiarmid so well and have known him all his life, and who in the two wartime elections have returned him to Parliament as your representative will not be surprised at the public spirit which he has shown in being willing to forego continuing to be your member in the House of Commons, that I may have that honour in his stead. May I say that, recalling as I do, in the five years of our close association in the House of Commons, the Doctor's unfailing loyalty and support, the many generous expressions