

*House of Commons*

Chevrier) and the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Argue) for the co-operation they have shown throughout the session.

I suppose we sometimes think that many harsh words are said across the floor of the house, words that are very rude and which perhaps we regret—I am speaking for members on both sides, now, not only for those who happen to support the government. It may be of some comfort and encouragement to hon. members if I tell them that some weeks ago one of the representatives here from another commonwealth country told me he believed that the Canadian House of Commons was the most polite democratic assembly in the world, and he said the debates were in far better temper and conducted in an atmosphere of far more friendliness than in any other democratic parliament. That may or may not be true. However, I have great confidence in his judgment.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, it is very true that there has been a very good spirit in the house throughout the session. I think we shall all go back to our homes in different parts of Canada tonight, tomorrow or next week feeling that we have made many new friends during this session and that we have renewed old friendships, and this is the spirit in which a democratic country is best governed. For my part I should like to express thanks to the members of both the opposition parties.

**Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier):** Mr. Speaker, when the leader of the house caught your eye a moment ago I was also rising and for a similar purpose: to express our thanks to the house leader for the manner in which he has conducted the business of this house during the session. I want to express our thanks to him for his co-operation and for his understanding, because at all times I have found that co-operation has existed to the highest degree. He has fulfilled the task which the government has given to him with competence and efficiency and it is appreciated on this side of the house.

I should not like to see the house prorogue without at the same time expressing on behalf of the official opposition our thanks to you, Mr. Speaker, for the manner in which you have presided over our deliberations. I had occasion to say this at a previous session and I am only too pleased on this occasion to repeat that you have shown fairness and equity in your capacity as Speaker of this house, and those of us who sit on the opposition benches appreciate it to the fullest extent.

*(Translation):*

Mr. Speaker, I feel I should say something with regard to the Deputy Speaker of the House (Mr. Sevigny). The way in which he

[Mr. Green.]

has acquitted himself of his duties as such came as no surprise to us. He has done so not only with competence but also with great courtesy, following thereby in the footsteps of his distinguished father. I am pleased to express our thanks to him.

I would also like to avail myself of this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the leader of the house.

*(Text):*

**Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia):** It would appear in order for me at this time to apply for membership of this newly established mutual admiration society. I am pleased to agree with the remarks that have been made as to the very fine co-operation we have received from the leader of the house in arranging the business during this session. To many of us he is a friend of long standing, and it is a pleasure to work with him in his new capacity. We have been fortunate in the person who has been the leader of the house in previous years, but I do not think we have ever had a better relationship, better understanding and closer working relationship than we have had with the present house leader.

I realize that from time to time members in various quarters of the house may have been impatient about the length of the speeches and the length of the session, but in relation to the work which has been done, this session has been one of the shortest in the history of Canada. It has been a session in which we have passed the largest number of estimates, and we have also passed a great many bills. I think the government and its members have given a spirited defence of the legislation which they have presented, and in the tradition of the opposition we think we have presented constructive criticism, constructive alternatives and, when necessary, firm opposition against certain acts and certain legislation.

I also wish to agree most wholeheartedly with the remarks which have been made about Your Honour. We in this group are closer to you, at least geographically, than any other party in the house and I think that has been a real advantage for us. We have come to know Your Honour better and to realize your very good qualities. I said in the last parliament that you had proceeded fairly and had meted out the rules in an equitable manner to all members. I want to say on behalf of the C.C.F. group that you have maintained in our minds the great prestige that you had in the last parliament and we look forward to a continuance of this very fine relationship for the good of the Canadian nation in the years ahead.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to delay the house. I shall simply say that the