

*Election of Speaker*

time I have had the privilege of seconding the nomination of the hon. member for Stormont-Dundas to the high office of Speaker. I said in 1968 that the choice was a happy one, and I repeat that the choice of the hon. member for Stormont-Dundas to be Speaker of the House of Commons is a very happy choice.

As the Prime Minister has reminded us, I think it was seven years ago less two weeks, on January 18, 1966, that the hon. member was first elected as Speaker after serving for three years as Deputy Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition at that time, my distinguished colleague, the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), noted that as Deputy Speaker Mr. Lamoureux, had "discharged his responsibilities with tact, with wisdom, with humour, and above all with a sense of impartiality to which I am very happy to pay my tribute." Those words of the right hon. member for Prince Albert were true then and they certainly remain true today. Throughout long and sometimes difficult sessions the hon. member for Stormont-Dundas has displayed in the Chair qualities that we have all grown to respect and admire.

[Translation]

The duties of the Speaker of this House are difficult and essential. He must be an impartial referee of the debates in this House. He is also the protector of the rights and privileges of hon. members and more so of parliament itself. For all these reasons, the Speaker of the House has to be a dedicated man, a man respectful of parliamentary traditions, a man devoted to freedom.

[English]

I would not want this occasion to pass without reiterating my very strong feeling that this House needs and deserves a permanent Speaker. I have urged this before and I shall certainly be doing so again. It is my profound conviction that Mr. Lamoureux will exercise his judgment and his independence of mind just as he has in the past during the very interesting conditions which we will be facing here, particularly during the next few weeks. So, Sir, it is a great pleasure and honour to second the nomination by the right hon. Prime Minister.

[Translation]

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Fraser, on behalf of all my colleagues and myself, it is a real pleasure for me to second the nomination of Mr. Lucien Lamoureux as Speaker of the House.

[English]

Mr. Fraser, every time I hear praises sung for a person who is still with us I sympathize with him in the discomfort which he must feel. I merely want to say that all of us in the New Democratic Party have learned not only to admire and respect the way in which Mr. Lamoureux has presided over this chamber but have learned to have a very deep affection for him and for his very charming wife, particularly for the way both of them have lent dignity, humour and decency not only to events in this chamber but also in their functions as heads of the House of Commons outside the chamber.

It seems to me, Mr. Fraser, that Mr. Lamoureux can approach his job in this parliament with an ease of mind. This parliament is bound to be well behaved. There will

[Mr. Stanfield.]

not be any wrangling. There will not be any attempt to play politics.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lewis:** Every member of the House will see to it that the functions of this parliament are carried on with an ease that will make the life of the Speaker even more pleasant, I hope, than it was during the last two parliaments. We welcome the nomination, and with pleasure and deep admiration look forward to the presidency of Mr. Lamoureux over this chamber.

[Translation]

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Fraser, my colleagues and myself take great pleasure in joining the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) as well as the leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Lewis), to approve the suggestion that the Hon. Lucien Lamoureux be re-elected as Speaker of this House.

You will notice, Mr. Fraser, that since the last session we have moved in this House. Indeed, we are getting closer and closer to the power.

Of course, it is primarily important that our Speaker be very qualified, and we all know that the Hon. Lucien Lamoureux has always been so. Without reducing in any way the value of previous Speakers I knew in this House, that is about six of them at least, I believe that the hon. Lucien Lamoureux is probably the most qualified one to reach agreements and listen to the claims of hon. members of any party.

If it is advisable to recall a minister to order, the Speaker does not hesitate to do so and this with great impartiality. The Speaker's job is not easy: he must try to do justice to all hon. members but Mr. Lamoureux has always managed to do so with remarkable tact. Of course there were controversies because we are all humans, not angles, no more so than the Speaker himself. Yet agreement and understanding are always possible and I think that the Speaker in the House, resorting to humour or a little rigidity depending upon the moment's needs, has rendered wonderful services to the House, this Canadian democratic institution which enables hon. members to express their electors' will.

Mr. Fraser, we are very pleased to second the right hon. Prime Minister's proposal that the Hon. Lucien Lamoureux be again appointed Speaker of the House of Commons.

[English]

**The Clerk of the House** declared the motion carried in the affirmative, *nemine contradicente*, and Lucien Lamoureux, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Stormont-Dundas, duly elected to the Chair of the House.

Mr. Lamoureux was conducted from his seat in the House to the Speaker's chair by Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau and Hon. Robert L. Stanfield.

• (1100)

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. members, I beg to return my humble acknowledgements to the House for the great honour you