

process; in essence, a figurehead who has security of tenure no matter how the political winds may shift.

Our view of independence, on the other hand, is that of a Speaker who is one among equals. He has earned his way into the House of Commons through election as a member of Parliament and then, through the confidence of his parliamentary peers, is chosen to serve them as the arbiter of their interests. Through this process we endorse our Speaker with the substance of independence, and I commend the Prime Minister (Mr. Clark) for accepting the principle that a member who has had the confidence of the House of Commons as its impartial presiding officer may continue to enjoy that confidence regardless of party affiliation.

[Translation]

My colleagues of the official opposition also join me in supporting the motion respecting the election of the hon. member for Sudbury to the Chair of the House and we can assure him of our support and co-operation.

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Dr. Koester, I am pleased to give the support of our party to that motion.

● (1115)

[English]

I add immediately in this context, Dr. Koester, that under this motion—one which I am sure will be carried unanimously—we shall be reappointing the hon. member for Sudbury (Mr. Jerome) to perform in the present Parliament the duties he so ably carried out for us in the last. I would only add this to what the Prime Minister (Mr. Clark) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Trudeau) have said—incidentally, it was interesting to note that the Leader of the Opposition has taken a new-found interest in the fate of the opposition—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: —I understand the hon. member for Sudbury has just returned from a visit to China, and therefore he will understand me better than most when I say that the coming Parliament will be one in which we shall be living in interesting times. A man or a woman—in this case, a man—of a judicious nature, fair-mindedness and tough-mindedness is required, and my colleagues and I cannot think of anyone who better fits the bill than does the hon. member for Sudbury.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Fabien Roy (Beauce): Dr. Koester, I am very happy to join the mover and the seconder as well as the leader of the New Democratic Party in supporting the motion now before us. I think the selection of the hon. member for Sudbury (Mr. Jerome) as Speaker of this House is a very wise one. His experience and competence are known not only in this House but also outside of it. And I think that the way he ran the business of the House of Commons in recent years is a sign of his impartiality and his intention that the business of the

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House be carried out in an orderly and dignified fashion. I am convinced his experience will be very useful to the House, and his role is to consider as well that there are also minorities in this House. There are four political parties sitting here with avowed responsibilities. That is why we rely on the co-operation and impartiality of the Speaker so all members on both sides of the House can be heard and represent their fellow citizens and carry out the role they have been assigned under their mandate.

Dr. Koester, I want to assure him of my support and that of all my colleagues so he may indeed carry out that task with dignity and impartiality.

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Dr. Koester, I think that the Social Credit Party of Canada having been given the floor it might be agreed that other members participate at this point in the debate and join the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Clark) as well as the right hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Trudeau) as well as the Leader of the New Democratic Party and my good friend the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Roy) in supporting this nomination with great pleasure.

● (1120)

[English]

The Clerk of the House declared the motion carried in the affirmative, *nemine contradicente*, and James Jerome, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Sudbury, duly elected to the Chair of the House.

Mr. Jerome was conducted from his seat in the House to the Speaker's chair by right hon. Joe Clark and right hon. P. E. Trudeau.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members, I beg to return my humble acknowledgements to the House for the great honour you have been pleased to confer on me by choosing me to be your Speaker.

It is hard to believe that it is a little more than five years ago that I first spoke those unfamiliar words, and in doing so I reflected at that time on the tradition that those words involve. I then said, not considering myself at that time to be much of a traditionalist, that in examining traditions those which persist seem always to have an intrinsic value to them which far outweighs their mere ceremonial significance, and that language with which an elected Speaker humbly returns acknowledgements for such a great honour is accurate in every way and significant, just as the tradition of resisting, once chosen by the House, taking on this obligation.

That has as its roots the traditions of the very speakership itself which, even in its terminology, seems to be obscure in meaning because the one thing the Speaker is never seen to do is to speak in the House or, at least, not very often, to the delight of the members, I am sure.

Going back to the early traditions of this great responsibility, initially having to go, on behalf of Parliament, to appear