

*House Leader Change Announced*

Canada in 1967. I am sure I express the appreciation and gratitude of all of us to Mr. Montgomery, who has informed the executive of the C.P.A. of his availability. That offer demonstrates just why we hold him in such affection and believe that although retiring from one position, he will yet be available to serve Canada in years to come.

On behalf of this group, sir, I add our expression of good will and our wishes for his good health and his opportunity to serve Canada for many years ahead.

**Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, it is a genuine pleasure to be able to say a few words in support of the remarks made by the Prime Minister and representatives of the other parties with regard to our respected and beloved fellow worker in the House of Commons, Mr. Montgomery. In the few short years it has been my privilege to be a member of the house I have come to appreciate in a very special way his constant and continual friendly helpfulness. This applies not only to his official responsibilities, but has been carried over so many times beyond the normal call of duty to little things that he was under no obligation to do. I think this is one of the reasons those of us who have come to know him on that basis refer to him affectionately as "Monty." We regard him as more than just a fellow worker and friend. We regard him as what he truly is, a devoted and dedicated public servant and citizen of Canada.

On behalf of myself personally as well as the other members of our group may I say that he is certainly worthy of all the kindly words that have been uttered, and the brevity of my remarks in no way reflects the depth of our appreciation for him. We appreciate the fact that he is going to continue to be with us. We join in the remarks that have just been made with regard to the tremendous contribution he has made to the commonwealth parliamentary association, and we are indeed pleased that in serving that important organization he will continue to be with us.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, we gladly endorse the words spoken by the Prime Minister regarding an exemplary official, Mr. Montgomery, who has always performed his duties with tact and complete devotion.

We, members of the Ralliement Crétiste, also wish to Mr. Montgomery many years of

good health and happiness outside the House of Commons. We are sorry to see him go, but we extend to him our best wishes for the future.

[*Text*]

**Mr. Speaker:** There are a few occasions on which the Speaker is permitted to utter some pleasant words and this is one of them, inasmuch as the recipient of all these tributes cannot speak for himself, nor can the Clerk, the second clerk assistant or at this moment the Deputy Speaker or the deputy chairman of committees. Perhaps hon. members would allow me to say that since occupying this exalted and privileged position I have had the utmost loyalty from Mr. Montgomery, together with great efficiency of service and kindness. We regret that circumstances of health and one or two other reasons force him to take this decision, but we hope that his well earned leave and rest will be very pleasant and that he will enjoy many years of leisure and even co-operative effort in regard to certain government activities.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT  
HOUSE LEADERSHIP

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** I should like to make an announcement which may be of interest to the house. Some weeks ago the Minister of Justice, the house leader on this side, indicated to me his desire to be relieved from the functions of house leader because of the responsibilities he was bearing as Minister of Justice and leader of the party in Quebec. He made known his desire in this matter in the House of Commons as well. At that time I asked him if he would remain in his position as house leader until the summer recess.

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

**Mr. Pearson:** I think it is fairly clear now that there is not going to be a summer recess, at least not this summer. I have therefore acceded to the request of the Minister of Justice to be relieved of his functions as house leader, and I have asked the President of the Privy Council to take on the functions of house leader for the remainder of this session.

NEWSPAPER SPECULATION AS TO EARLY  
ELECTION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. According to