

*Election of Speaker*

● (0120)

**Mr. Speaker:** May I ask that all Hon. Members who have not yet voted and who intend to do so, to please do so shortly.

Order, please. Before I instruct the Clerk to proceed with the counting of this ballot, since I suspect there will not be an opportunity later, whatever one thinks of the process, this has been a parliamentary day of enormous significance. Would you please join me in thanking the Clerk and his staff for what they have done.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** I think it is also appropriate to point out that one of our Clerks is leaving us. The Province of Ontario has made an extraordinarily wise choice in their selection.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** I would love to know what you are going to tell them about all of this.

I now instruct the Clerk to count the ballots once I have cast mine.

SITTING SUSPENDED

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The sitting is suspended to the ringing of the bells.

At 1.30 a.m. the sitting was suspended.

SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 1.48 a.m.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is my duty to inform the House that John Fraser, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of Vancouver South, has been duly elected Speaker of this House.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** It is now my privilege, honour and pleasure to invite the Hon. Member to take the Chair.

● (0200)

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The Hon. John W. Bosley, having vacated the chair, and the Mace having been laid under the Table, conducted Mr. Fraser from his seat in the House to the chair.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, let me begin by repeating most sincerely the first words traditionally uttered by a newly-elected Speaker: Hon. Members, I beg to return my humble acknowledgements to the House for the honour which you have been pleased to confer upon me by choosing me to be your Speaker.

[Translation]

Thank you for your confidence. On behalf of this House, I would also like to thank those Hon. Members who stood for election. Despite all that has been said of the difficulties and problems associated with the Chair, this election has shown that there are in our ranks very able Members who are ready to serve this House and this country.

[English]

Also, the House will allow me, I know, to express a special personal regard and thanks on behalf of all Hon. Members to our retiring Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[Translation]

**Mr. Speaker:** This has been a historic vote. For the first time, Members of the House of Commons have elected their Speaker by secret ballot. The process may have changed but one thing is still the same—the Speaker remains the servant of the House and receives his authority from the Hon. Members. The Speaker cannot serve the House without the good will and co-operation of all Members. This has always been a fact. Co-operation and good will will remain essential for all Members including members of the Cabinet and honourable leaders of opposition parties.

When I speak of good will and co-operation, I speak from my own experience. I sat in this House during 14 years as a private Member in the Opposition, as a Minister and as a Government backbencher. This experience will no doubt be useful in my new responsibilities as Speaker of this House.

[English]

The process for the choice of Speaker has changed. We hope that this reform means in a real way more participation by all Hon. Members of the House in the selection of the Speaker. As I say, the process of selection has changed but the necessity for the co-operation and good will of all Members remains.

I have been privileged to be a Member of this House for some years. Along with Hon. Members, I have witnessed this House at its best and sometimes at its worst. However, we are imperfect, at least at times, but the ideal must always be our objective and despite frustrations, sometimes anger and misunderstandings, we must together strive to do our best in the interests of this democratic institution which we cherish.

Hon. Members have been raised in the Canadian tradition of frankness and plain speaking and it is only natural that this tradition finds its expression in outspoken debate. This is not a Chamber for the timid. It is a place where strong opinion, strongly felt, should be heard, but it is also a place for clarity of thought, for tolerance of the views of others and for the most conscientious effort to act in the public interest even if that may not always accord with personal preference. This requires a forum in which each Hon. Member not only has the opportunity for full expression but also the responsibility to listen to the words of others. This demands a high degree of