

*Election of Speaker*

Mr. Beaudoin, who has just been re-elected for the second time, is still one of the younger members of this house. Born in 1912, he has already a distinguished record in public life. In 1947 he was a Canadian delegate to the United Nations General Assembly in New York. From September 1949 until he became Deputy Speaker in 1952 he was Deputy Chairman of Committees of the whole House of Commons. As chairman of the executive committee, Canadian branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, he travelled to New Zealand and Australia in 1951 and to Colombo, Ceylon, in 1952.

This very impressive record and our memories of the remarkably efficient manner in which he fulfilled his duties as Deputy Speaker have, I am sure, convinced the hon. members of our colleague's ability to discharge the heavy responsibilities of this office with fairness and impartiality and in keeping with the highest traditions of this house.

Mr. Raymond, it is with genuine pleasure that I move, and I am glad to have the advantage of having my motion seconded by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew):

That Louis Rene Beaudoin, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Vaudreuil-Soulanges, do take the chair of this house as Speaker.

**Hon. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition):** In seconding this motion, as I do with great pleasure, I recognize that a tradition is being established in this house. I am very happy in seconding the motion. I do indicate the fact that we all welcome the tradition that has been established in this house of the impartiality of the Speaker who presides over its affairs. As the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) has said, Mr. Raymond, the office is not only one of great importance to the members of this house, but one of the utmost importance to the people of Canada because, in great part, the conduct of debates, and the manner in which the business of the people of Canada is conducted, are measured by the judgment and the understanding displayed by the Speaker.

This office carries with it great traditions and a great history, one that is emphasized by the fact that there is at present in the house no mace which will subsequently be the symbol of his authority. There were times when the mace perhaps was used as a symbol of authority in a more direct manner than has of recent years ever been needed. The authority today is the evidence of the symbolic position of the crown in relation to the conduct of our affairs which the mace itself expresses.

In seconding this motion I do so with particular pleasure because Mr. Beaudoin comes

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

to this office with experience. I know that all of us in the house who have sat here on earlier occasions share the same opinion, that in the conduct of his duties as Deputy Speaker he sought at all times to perform that task with impartiality and good judgment. He has had experience that has carried his contacts beyond the affairs of this house; and in his relations with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association he has established those wider associations that mean much in the conduct of this office.

In seconding this motion I do so also with the belief that Mr. Beaudoin will carry to this office an understanding of the need for a balance between too great severity and too great freedom. We have passed from the days of the very rugged experiences that are recorded even in our own history; nevertheless, it would not be desirable, in avoiding too rugged debate, to prevent that free cut and thrust of discussion which is an essential of the parliamentary exchange of ideas. I second this motion confident that he will do his utmost to be impartial in the decisions that he makes. I wish Mr. Beaudoin well in the occupancy of this high office.

**Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart):** Mr. Raymond, I rise to support the motion. I am indeed happy that a new precedent has been set and that unanimity has been indicated this morning by the fact that the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) have respectively moved and seconded the nomination.

I think that the nearer the election of Speaker is to the members of the House of Commons on all sides, the better it is for his authority. In the mother of parliaments, of course, the nomination and its seconding are both made by rank and file members of the House of Commons, a gesture which indicates that the Speaker is not the servant of the government but is the servant and choice of the entire house. It is indeed with a great deal of pleasure that I witnessed a significant precedent this morning.

I have seen five Speakers elected; and every time we are summoned to the Senate chamber and are returned with instructions, my mind goes back over the pages of a long history; for the Speaker of a house of parliament in a commonwealth country occupies no mean position historically. I saw the other day a statement by a British parliamentarian which is worth recording. He wrote these words:

The Speaker of the House of Commons is no mere chairman elected for the convenient supervision of debate; he is the champion of the legislature against the executive; he is the custodian of