

*Tributes to Clerk Assistant*

surprise yesterday on the question of privilege?

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not see how any purpose could be served by that. I considered it my duty this morning to point out these few facts, which are very important, namely that no general charge should be made. In the circumstances I propose to continue by calling for the presenting of reports by standing and special committees.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

TRIBUTES TO CLERK ASSISTANT ON  
RETIREMENT

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to call the attention of the house to an event which has for all of us its element of sadness, as I am sure it has for the gentleman concerned, although perhaps there is also an element of release and anticipation. I refer to the fact that this is the last day our Clerk Assistant, Mr. Montgomery, will be in his chair in the House of Commons.

Mr. Montgomery joined the public service in 1912 and entered the service of the House of Commons in 1915. He is in his fiftieth year of service to the house. With his service to the house he has combined other forms of public service, community service, civil service, war charities and war activities, and for all this over so many years we owe him a debt of gratitude which I am sure we are all very proud and happy to acknowledge this morning. We thank him for what he has done in the public service of Canada, and we wish him many years of happiness and enjoyment ahead.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, this is one of those times when there is unity in the House of Commons as we do an unusual honour to one who has devoted his life to the public service. The Prime Minister has spoken in detail of that service. All of us who have sat in this chamber know what Mr. Montgomery's contribution has meant. He has been kindly, courteous and always devoted to the welfare of those in this chamber. There will be universal regret that after a half century of service he is about to retire.

We have no means of showing our appreciation for those that serve us well. We have no decoration such as the Victorian Order in the United Kingdom, which permits the

[Mr. MacInnis.]

sovereign on behalf of the nation to show the appreciation of the nation. We take this means of saying to Mr. Montgomery how deeply grateful we have been, and indeed are, to him and to all those who serve us in this chamber in the capacity of Clerk, Clerk Assistant and the other officials who give of their best to their country. Too often we do not pay tribute to civil servants who serve us so well. This is one occasion when, through Mr. Montgomery, we can pay our tribute not only to him in affection, but also to all those who serve in the civil service in devotion to their country.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, I think you and all hon. members will realize that had it not been for the top priority afforded the Prime Minister I should have risen in my place and spoken to a question of privilege on this day, which is a sad occasion for this House of Commons.

All of us are aware of the loyalty and ability Mr. Montgomery as Clerk Assistant has given to the House of Commons collectively and to members individually. In order to complete the record of Mr. Montgomery's services I should like to add to the words of the right hon. Prime Minister, and record in *Hansard* the fact that Mr. Montgomery, the Clerk Assistant of this house, has been a federal civil servant for fifty years and four months. Added to that record is the astounding fact that he has been an employee of the House of Commons for forty-nine years and three months, and for the past 13 years has been Clerk Assistant.

In addition to these services Mr. Montgomery has accepted other responsibilities from time to time. He has had a keen interest in and knowledge of the commonwealth parliamentary association. For the past 13 years he has been either assistant secretary or secretary of that association. I doubt whether there is any man in the commonwealth, except perhaps at the head office in London, who knows more of the details about that association and its work.

Although Mr. Montgomery today is resigning from his position as Clerk Assistant, we in the commonwealth parliamentary association are very pleased that at our last executive meeting he offered to continue his services and lend his knowledge to the work that association must do, commencing next month, in preparing for the commonwealth parliamentary association conference which will be held in