

HOUSE OF COMMONS

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES
OF THE WHOLE

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): As hon. members know, standing order 56 does not require the chairman of the committees of the whole, who is also the Deputy Speaker, to be appointed until after the adoption of the address in reply to the speech from the throne; but in the last several years it has become the practice, for convenience, to make that appointment at one of the early sittings of the house. Therefore I should like to propose, as candidate for that office, a gentleman who I think is eminently qualified to carry out these duties with all the good judgment and sense of justice which have been made a tradition of this office by his predecessors. He is Mr. William Alfred Robinson, member for the electoral district of Simcoe East. Mr. Robinson is a former mayor of his town of residence, Midland, Ontario, and is a lawyer of wide repute. He has served in this house during the last two parliaments, and in addition to his contribution to its debates, he has presided over several committees and has been deputy chairman of the committees of the whole since May of 1952. I think that hon. members who were in the house during that session will agree that his record is such that one should have no hesitation in placing his name before the house for the office of deputy speaker. I would therefore beg leave to move, seconded by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe):

Business of the House

That William Alfred Robinson, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Simcoe East, be appointed chairman of committees of the whole house, notwithstanding the provisions of standing order 56.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. St. Laurent: I rise now to move the adjournment of the house. In accordance with the motion adopted today the business for tomorrow will be the consideration of the speech from the throne. In accordance with the practice of recent years, on the opening of the debate on an address in reply to the speech from the throne, after the mover and seconder have been heard the Leader of the Opposition has usually found it more convenient to wait until the following Monday to continue the debate.

If that is agreeable to the Leader of the Opposition there would be no other business tomorrow but the formal routine business and the moving and seconding of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. Then if the Leader of the Opposition saw fit to move the adjournment of the debate I would be glad to move the adjournment of the house. Perhaps it would be convenient for us to know, in arranging our plans for tomorrow and the following day, if that course would be agreeable to the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Drew: I had assumed that we would follow the usual practice, and I shall move the adjournment of the debate tomorrow.

Mr. St. Laurent: I move that the house do now adjourn until tomorrow at 2.30 p.m.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 4.40 p.m.