

Prime Minister has indicated here this morning, that we can again take up the question of achieving a permanent Speakership totally removed from partisan politics once a Speaker has been chosen for this high office by this House.

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Fraser, at the outset I am tempted to make quite clear that we were not consulted in this process either. In the past 18 months or so, we had grown accustomed to being consulted on a number of matters.

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

**Mr. Broadbent:** Perhaps this is a sign of the times. On a more serious note, on behalf of the New Democratic Party, I should like to indicate our support for the nomination of the hon. member for Sudbury (Mr. Jerome). In assuming this high office he is, of course, following an exceptional man, Mr. Lamoureux, who combined to a great degree the exceptional qualities of wit, intelligence and impartiality. It is our hope that in assuming his duties the hon. member for Sudbury will maintain those high standards established by Mr. Lamoureux. We wish him well.

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

[Translation]

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Fraser, I am very glad to see that I am recognized by most members as the leader of the Social Credit Party.

The right hon. Prime Minister's (Mr. Trudeau) proposition is agreeable to us since the hon. member for Sudbury (Mr. Jerome) is a conscientious man. Indeed he hails from northeastern Ontario, a region neighbouring mine, north-western Quebec. Although we have not travelled much together, I know the hon. member for Sudbury well enough to believe in his impartiality, the prime quality of a Speaker.

We have been spoiled for the past 12 years by Mr. Lucien Lamoureux, an excellent Speaker. I would hope that the hon. member for Sudbury will follow in his steps, that he will be impartial and will acknowledge the existence or the presence of each member of this House. As was said by the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) a moment ago, I regret that the Prime Minister chose not to consult the representatives of the other political parties in this House on the nomination of the Speaker, as it is the custom to consult the Leader of the Official Opposition.

We nonetheless recognize the merit of the nomination proposed by the Prime Minister. We wish the hon. member for Sudbury a long and successful stay in the Chair and few annoyances from the members and the parties. We have no intention of being troublesome, unless it is necessary, yet we will not carry things too far.

We are happy with this nomination and, as I have said, we wish the new Speaker many satisfactions in his new role.

● (1110)

[English]

**The Clerk of the House** declared the motion carried in the affirmative, *nemine contradicente*, and James Jerome,

### *Election of Speaker*

Esquire, member for the electoral district of Sudbury, duly elected to the Chair of the House.

Mr. Jerome was conducted from his seat in the House to the Speaker's chair by Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau and Hon. Mitchell Sharp.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. members, I beg to return my humble acknowledgements to the House for the great honour you have been pleased to confer on me by choosing me to be your Speaker.

If those words sound familiar, it is because they have been said here by Speakers for the last 100 years or so, and for many hundreds of years in other parliaments. Perhaps it is an appropriate way for every Speaker to begin, because if you start to tinker and tamper with the traditional way of doing things, the lesson you learn is that no matter how you try to modify or improve tradition it has a certain value which perhaps you did not fully appreciate when you first looked at such a simple sentence. When you try to put it in your own words it does not come out as well, no matter how you try to change it; so perhaps there is a lesson that some of the traditions are more than just traditions but have other values attached to them. Perhaps that is a proper subject for a new Speaker to think about as he begins his task.

There is honour, of course, in being a member of the House of Commons. It is an honour that we all share, a very special honour conferred upon us by those who are the final judges in our democratic system. It is a great honour to be a member of the House of Commons, but to receive a favourable judgment from the members themselves is an even greater honour which perhaps only the members of the House of Commons can fully understand. Sometimes the work we do here appears to be a battle for individual advantage or party advantage. But all of us realize that what is done here is extremely important work on behalf of all the people of Canada, not only for their individual rights but, in addition to that, is an example to all the people of Canada that change must be brought about through the process of law and order in a proper, democratic way. So, every meeting we hold here should be an example to our people.

To be given the honour to preside over these important meetings, and obviously the session cannot begin unless somebody takes on the role of Speaker, is an honour greater than any that has been conferred upon me at any time, and greater than anything my imagination could have conceived might happen to me in the future.

With the honour, of course, goes an obligation to do the job to the best of my ability, and, it goes without saying, to give it my best efforts at all times. At this moment I want to assure hon. members on both sides of the House, lest there be any doubt about it, that I place the fulfillment of this obligation ahead of every other consideration. Whether it be a question of party politics, personal considerations, friendships or otherwise, this obligation must at all times come first. I will fulfil the role as best I can. I will not always make everybody happy. However, if I can carry out this role to the best of my ability without losing the respect and the good will that you have extended to me at the start, because there could be no beginning without