

Parliamentary government has been fashioned by the wisdom of many centuries. Its justice, authority and dignity are cherished by men of good will.

When Her Majesty said, "This is for all of us a moment to remember", I think, indeed, honourable senators, it was a moment to remember, which each one of us will cherish as a very precious moment.

Honourable senators, I would like to thank you for the very kind and gracious welcome you have given me on my appointment to the Senate. Your welcome has been most sincere and heart warming. Here I am together again with many old friends from the House of Commons. It is one of the most cherished and nicest things about our parliamentary life that while we may have different political faiths, we may have views and opinions which are strongly opposed and be divided on many issues, yet underneath it all, no matter what differences may divide us, we can still be very good friends. I say again, honourable senators, how much I have appreciated your very kindly, courteous and friendly welcome to this chamber. I am indeed looking forward to my association with you, and I hope that in the days that lie ahead that I may be able to make some small contribution to the welfare of Canada. It matters little our race, colour, creed or political faith, or where we live in this great country, or the nature of our occupation, or for that matter our financial status, for above all we are Canadians first, and Canada is our first great love; and while, as I said a moment ago, we may differ on many matters, yet we are really only concerned with one great objective—what can we do that is in the best interest of Canada and all Canadians from coast to coast.

I was much impressed when I took the oath of allegiance in this chamber in observing the procedure centuries old, and, in particular, the old-world language used on occasions. Our Speaker, our judges, and counsel when appearing in court all wear gowns, which always add much to the dignity of the occasion. But there are some in this country who are always seeking something new and strange; they wish to discard old customs and traditions. We are a young nation, and I think we should cherish and maintain the customs and traditions we have inherited from the old world. I have often observed in other countries the intense pride and affection the people of those countries have for their own country, their customs, traditions, dress, music, language, special holidays, culture, their national achievements and their heroes, and all those things that go to unite, and build up a strong national fibre in, the love of their country. Let us

retain what we have inherited from the countries of our racial origin, but also let us build up and maintain our own Canadian traditions and culture.

To you, Mr. Speaker, I pay my respects, and congratulate you, sir, on your appointment as Speaker of this house. You have already given evidence, sir, that you will be a good Speaker, that you will add to the dignity of your office, and that you will more than live up to the very high traditions set by past Speakers. If I may say so, sir, your very charming and gracious manners, which are always associated with your race, your perfect English—and I am told by my colleagues that your French is equally good—your long training in the law, your great interest in our national sports, your interest in the theatre and the cultural side of Canadian life, all provide an excellent background for your high office. I am sure that I speak for all honourable senators when I say that we are delighted and happy to have you as our Speaker.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. White: I feel that the Prime Minister has paid a great honour to my native village of Madoc, where I was born and have always resided, and to the riding of Hastings-Frontenac, which I had the honour to represent in the House of Commons for eighteen years, in my appointment to the Senate. My many Liberal friends at home were just as pleased and happy as my Conservative friends. In this huge country many have never heard of my little village of Madoc, which is half way between Ottawa and Toronto. It is a land of paradise for the fisherman and hunter. It is also a great agricultural country, where the really good cheese is made, and where a large share of your good roast beef is grown. My little village, like so many other small hamlets across this country, has produced men and women who have become famous throughout Canada, perhaps throughout the world. One distinguished gentleman, well known to many honourable senators, is William Mackintosh, the Principal of Queen's University, who during the war made a valuable contribution in the work he did in the Finance Department here in Ottawa. Dr. Roy Allan Dafoe, who achieved world-wide fame at the birth of the quintuplets, came from my small village; and in the recent war a Madoc boy, Major Jack Foote, won the Victoria Cross. This gallant padre took part in the raid on Dieppe, and was fortunate enough to get back to the ship, and could have returned to England, but when he looked towards the shore and saw the many Canadian boys who were taken prisoners, he jumped in the