HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, April 23, 1968

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

VACANCIES

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that during the adjournment of the house I received communications informing me that the following vacancies have occurred in the representation, namely:

Of Hon. Lawrence T. Pennell, member for the electoral district of Brant-Haldimand, by resignation;

Of Hon. Paul Martin, member for the electoral district of Essex East, by resignation.

I have accordingly issued my warrants to the Chief Electoral Officer to make out new writs of election for the said electoral districts.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

APPOINTMENT OF J. GORDON DUBROY AS CLERK ASSISTANT

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps hon. members will allow me to mention that during the recess there has been a promotion to a very senior post in the House of Commons, that of Clerk Assistant, and to this post has been appointed a very faithful and deserving officer of this house, Mr. J. Gordon Dubroy.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[Translation]

PRIVILEGE

MR. TRUDEAU—ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Speaking for the first time from this seat, I would ask the hon. members to allow me to express my thanks for the messages of congratulations and encouragement I have received from all parts of the house. In a democracy, the people's representatives have the privilege to disagree on the best way of governing the country. However, we are all prompted by the same desire to make Canada a greater and a stronger country.

The best answer I can give to that generous tribute is by undertaking to serve the house and the country to the best of my ability.

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DISSOLUTION AND ELECTION ON JUNE 25

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): In view of the announcement I am about to make, Mr. Speaker, I feel any further comment by me on any other subjects would be improper.

This afternoon I called on the Governor General to request him to dissolve parliament and to have writs issued for a general election on June 25.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, by proclamation under the Great Seal of Canada, dated April 23, 1968, the present parliament is dissolved and members and senators are discharged from attendance. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: In the circumstances I propose to leave the chair, but perhaps I may be allowed to say one word to thank hon. members for the co-operation which at all times during the last years they have extended to me.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: If hon. members are still here by four o'clock they are invited to call on the Speaker in Room 16.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.