

Election of Speaker

said earlier today, has to be endowed with particular qualities of justice and fairness; he should know the rules of the house; he must use discretion and tact, and above all be able to interpret not only the letter but the spirit of the law. To this end it is essential to remember the rules of the house.

As was stated by those who spoke before me, the hon. member who holds the office of Speaker of the house must also be an able and experienced member of parliament.

We on this side remember how the predecessor of the hon. member for Edmonton West acted when we were but some fifty-odd Liberal members here. We seldom had to complain about the rulings made by the Hon. Mr. Michener, a calm, cool and competent man. The former speaker had never shown any partisanship before his election to that office; he had participated in several debates but he was never guilty of partisanship. Consequently, once he was in the chair he never had any trouble in upholding the rules of the house, and he was always tactful when making a ruling.

The member for Edmonton West has sometimes shown political partisanship in this house. As far as we are concerned it is a thing of the past, we have forgotten it and, as of now, we want to turn a new leaf in the history of our proceedings. I am convinced, therefore, that if the hon. member for Edmonton West will follow in his predecessor's footsteps, he will not only enjoy the admiration and respect of his colleagues in the house but will also discharge his duties to everyone's satisfaction.

I would be remiss in not congratulating warmly the hon. member on his nomination and offering him my best wishes in his new duties.

Mr. Real Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Raymond, in agreement with the leader of our party, the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson), we readily support the appointment of Mr. Lambert as Speaker of the house.

I do not have the pleasure of knowing Mr. Lambert personally. However, after hearing everyone speak so well of him, I believe he will prove to be an impartial Speaker who will safeguard the rights of minorities and of every member of this house and who will probably protect also this august assembly against the infiltration of subversive ideologies, such as state socialism, for instance, and communism.

At all events, I can assure the house that we shall fully support the Speaker. We shall

co-operate with him as much as possible so that this parliament may bring to the people the results they expect from every member elected by them.

(Text):

The Clerk of the House declared the motion carried in the affirmative, *nemine contradicente*, and Marcel Joseph Aime Lambert, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Edmonton West, duly elected to the chair of the house.

Mr. Lambert was conducted from his seat in the house to the Speaker's chair by Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker and Hon. Leon Balcer.

(Translation):

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members of the House of Commons, may I first beg the house to kindly accept my humble thanks for the great honour conferred upon me in electing me as Speaker. As a token of sincere appreciation, may I simply say thank you for your courtesy and your generosity.

I feel embarrassed by the excessive praise bestowed upon me, not only by the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker), but also by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) and by the members for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson), Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge), Laurier (Mr. Chevrier) and Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette).

I assure you that you will not be disappointed and I do hope that our deliberations will achieve worth-while results, in keeping with the responsibilities imposed upon each and every member of the House of Commons and Canadian parliament by the people of Canada. If it can be said that a newly-elected Speaker takes a pledge, then I feel that I could do no better, to convey its meaning, than to repeat the words expressed by my renowned predecessor when he himself was elected Speaker on May 12, 1958, and I quote:

It will be my aim and my duty as the servant of the house, and with your approval, to uphold these principles and traditions, securing to each hon. member the right to express his opinions within the limits necessary to preserve decorum; protecting the recognized privileges of hon. members, of minorities and of the house itself; facilitating the transaction of public business in an orderly manner and with due economy of time and, above all, seeking to be fair and impartial in such decisions as you entrust to me.

If these are also your objectives, as I think they are, I ask for your patience and co-operation in approaching them.

Hon. members of the House of Commons, I thank you.

(Text):

Hon. members of the House of Commons, I beg to return my humble acknowledgements