

well as those made by the hon. members for York South and Témiscamingue (Messrs. Lewis and Caouette) are for me today a source of comfort and encouragement and will be a source of strength, if need be, in difficult moments.

In the discharge of the high office devolved upon me, I shall do my utmost to deserve the confidence placed in me today by all members of this house.

As in the past, I shall count on the co-operation and goodwill of all hon. members. I will rely on them for advice, especially on those of our colleagues who bring to our debate the wisdom of age and a long experience in this house.

Such a co-operation will contribute more than any other factor to the orderly, efficient and dignified dispatch of our parliamentary business.

[English]

Hon. members, I approach my task with humility and fully conscious of my limitations, but sustained by your advice and counsel I shall endeavour to prove worthy of the trust committed to me by this house whose servant I am.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

SITTING SUSPENDED

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, may I suggest that this sitting be suspended until three o'clock this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker: The house has heard the suggestion by the right hon. Prime Minister that this sitting be suspended until three o'clock this afternoon. Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt this suggestion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the sitting suspended until the ringing of the bells at three o'clock this afternoon.

At 11.15 a.m. the sitting was suspended until 3 p.m. this day.

• (3:00 p.m.)

SITTING RESUMED

The house resumed at three o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE AT TABLE OF FORMER CLERK

Mr. Speaker: Before commencing further proceedings, perhaps I might be permitted to

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Opening of the Session

recall to the minds of hon. members that on Friday, July 7, 1967, the following motion was adopted by the house:

On motion of Mr. Martin (Essex East) for Mr. Pearson, seconded by Mr. Diefenbaker, it was resolved,—That the Members of this House, desiring to record their deep appreciation of the long and distinguished service rendered by Léon-J. Raymond, Esquire, O.B.E., as Clerk of the House of Commons, and acknowledging the dignity and profound learning with which he graced his office, designate him as Honorary Officer of the House of Commons with an entrée to the Chamber and a seat at the Table on ceremonial occasions.

To give effect to the motion of the house Mr. Raymond today is sitting at the table of the house.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

Mr. Speaker read a communication from the Governor General's secretary announcing that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate chamber at three o'clock on this day, for the purpose of formally opening the session of the dominion parliament.

• (3:20 p.m.)

A message was delivered by Major C. R. Lamoureux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, it is the pleasure of His Excellency the Governor General that this honourable house attend him immediately in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the house went up to the Senate chamber. Then the Hon. Lucien Lamoureux, Speaker of the House of Commons, said:

May it please Your Excellency,

The House of Commons have elected me their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

If in the performance of those duties I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Excellency's person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favourable construction.

The Honourable the Speaker of the Senate, addressing the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Commons, then said:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the