

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Speaker: The Honourable L. Rene Beaudoin

FIRST SESSION—TWENTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT

The twenty-first parliament having been prorogued on the fourteenth day of May, 1953, and dissolved by proclamation on the thirteenth day of June, 1953, and writs having been issued and returned, a new parliament was summoned to meet for the dispatch of business on Thursday, November 12, 1953, and did accordingly meet on that day.

Thursday, November 12, 1953

This being the day on which parliament is convoked by proclamation of His Excellency the Governor General for the dispatch of business, and the members of the house being assembled:

Leon J. Raymond, Esquire, O.B.E., the Clerk of the House, read to the house a letter from the Secretary to the Governor General informing him that the Right Honourable Thibaudeau Rinfret, Chief Justice of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, would proceed to the Senate chamber to open the first session of the twenty-second parliament of Canada on Thursday, the twelfth of November, at twelve o'clock noon.

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

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The Right Honourable the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly the house went up to the Senate chamber, when the Speaker of the Senate said:

Honourable Members of the Senate,
and Members of the House of Commons:

I have it in command to let you know that His Excellency the Governor General does not see fit to declare the causes of his summoning the present parliament of Canada until the Speaker of the House of Commons shall have been chosen according to law, but this afternoon, at the hour of three o'clock, His Excellency will declare the causes of calling this parliament.

And the house being returned to the Commons chamber:

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

MR. L. RENÉ BEAUDOIN, MEMBER FOR THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF VAUDREUIL-SOULANGES

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Raymond, we the members of this House of Commons who have been elected to form a part of the twenty-second parliament of Canada have just been reminded that His Excellency will disclose the reasons for summoning the members only after they shall have chosen one of their own members to be their Speaker. The position of Speaker is, as has been many times said in this house, one that calls for very high qualities. The holder of this office must possess good judgment, a conciliatory attitude, and a thorough knowledge not only of parliamentary procedures, but of all the matters that come before the house. Another very essential quality is a sense of responsibility toward the Canadian people, for this office is one of the cornerstones of democracy in this country.

I believe that the hon. gentleman whose name I shall have the privilege to nominate possesses in a high degree the qualities necessary to fill this role in the twenty-second parliament. Those of us who have sat with him in the past, and who have seen him fulfil the duties of Deputy Speaker and previously of Deputy Chairman of Committees of the whole house in the last parliament, have had ample assurance of his outstanding ability and his unflinching courtesy to his fellow members. The hon. member whose name I wish to place in nomination is Mr. Louis Rene Beaudoin.