

Election of Speaker

when a man occupies the Speaker's post he ceases to be the servant of a party or of the government and becomes a servant of this House of Commons. It is his task to see that the rights of all members are protected and maintained, and particularly the rights of minorities and the rights of the House of Commons itself.

Every member of parliament remembers with some pride the words of an earlier speaker of the mother of parliaments, Speaker Lenthall, who said to a monarch, King Charles I, "I have neither ears to hear nor eyes to see but such as this house shall command me". It is this tradition which has made our parliamentary institutions possible, that we have a member who is set aside to be the servant, not of parliament, not of the government, not of the opposition, but of the house itself.

We sir, will be very glad to support this motion and to co-operate with the hon. gentleman when he occupies this post, in order that this twenty sixth parliament may be useful and effective.

(Translation):

Mr. Georges Valade (St. Mary): Mr. Raymond, it is with great pleasure that I join with the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) to support the nomination of the hon. member for Mount Royal (Mr. Macnaughton) as Speaker of the house.

I feel it is appropriate that, as a member of a Montreal riding, I should be asked to support the nomination of a fellow member from the metropolis of Canada.

That this agreeable task should have been entrusted to a backbencher makes me feel very proud and shows that the Leader of the Opposition gives to ordinary representatives of the people as much importance as to members of the cabinet.

Mr. Macnaughton's personal qualities are well known by the members of the house, where he has friends only.

He showed impartiality—a *sine qua non* condition to hold the office of Speaker—when he presided over the deliberations of the public accounts committee, of which I had the honour to be a member.

Mr. Macnaughton is loyal, straightforward and honest. He will undoubtedly fill his post with dignity, as did his predecessors.

Therefore, Mr. Raymond, I am very happy to support his nomination and to wish him health and success in his new functions.

Mr. Real Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Raymond, on behalf of the French speaking Social Credit members, I am happy to second the earlier statement of our leader, to the effect that we shall support Mr. Speaker in the discharge of his duties. We want to assure

[Mr. Douglas.]

him of our fullest co-operation, while stressing that we shall not try to elude our own responsibilities as representatives of the people.

It was mentioned earlier today that the rights of minorities in this house must be protected. We shall, indeed, demand justice for each and every member of the house.

We have not been elected to play politics, but for serious reasons of administration. National affairs are not the concern of a single group, but of the whole nation and its representatives. We must therefore stress the need of affirming a living democracy, which means the freedom of expressing our thoughts and ideas, and also full freedom so that each group in the house may raise its voice loudly and firmly in saying "Long live Canada; long live the two races which are the cornerstone of confederation, and long live all Canadians."

(Text):

The Clerk of the House declared the motion carried in the affirmative, *nemine contradicente*, and Alan A. Macnaughton, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Mount Royal, duly elected to the Chair of the house.

Mr. Macnaughton was conducted from his seat in the house to the Speaker's chair by Right Hon. L. B. Pearson and Hon. Lionel Chevrier.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members of the House of Commons, may I express to you my humble acknowledgement of the great honour which you have conferred upon me by choosing me to be your Speaker.

I wish to express my gratitude to the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) for his generous words in proposing my name. May I digress just for a moment and say to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) that during the last five years while I was chairman of the standing committee on public accounts I appreciated very much—and I wish to testify in public to this fact—that at all times I had the active friendship and support which on more than one occasion was sorely needed. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the right hon. gentleman publicly for his kind consideration and for his trust.

My thanks also go to the leaders of the Social Credit party and the New Democratic party for their most generous endorsements, and to the seconder of the motion, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Chevrier). I also appreciate very much the remarks of other hon. members. I hope I may be worthy of the high honour of this expression of your confidence.

It will be my duty to preserve the precious heritage of this historic chamber, to maintain decorum and order in debate and above all to exercise fairness and impartiality in