

Chairman of this Convention, for his kind remarks; and to the Hon. R. B. Job who so graciously consented to second the motion.

I feel I should trespass upon your time and patience in order that I may, at the outset, leave with you my conceptions of my sworn duty. As I see it, my position is similar to that of a judge of the Supreme Court. I come to this chamber under a Royal Commission issued by His Excellency the Governor in Commission, and I have sworn that I will do the duties expected of me, "so help me God." The extent to which I shall be successful, must, in the last analysis depend upon the sympathy, co-operation and support that I receive from you as members.

I want to make it clear that I regard my sworn duties in a three-fold way. Firstly, that I must impartially and fairly discharge my duties to His Excellency the Governor in Commission who has entrusted the discharge of the duties of this office to me. I have, secondly, to fairly, impartially, and without fear and prejudice discharge my duties to the people who sent you here; and thirdly, I have my sworn duty to you as the representatives of the people.

My task is none too easy. It was a duty I did not seek and I doubt very much if anybody other than His Excellency the Governor could have persuaded me to accept it. But, like the thousands of people throughout this country who know our Governor, I think it is a fair statement to make that he is a great man in the most literal sense of the term. He is a wise man and what perhaps is the most important of all, he is a good man.

I am not underestimating the extent of my duties. May I remind members that the lamented late Hon. Mr. Justice Fox, because of the exactitudes of his office, in the opinion of many of us who were close to him, laid down the burdens and cares of this life at the untimely age of 54 because he had accepted the office which I am now about to assume. I feel duty bound to say that Mr. Justice Fox sacrificed his life for his country just as truly as if he had laid it down on the battlefields of Europe. This country is under an irreparable debt to him and to his family. Then again, as a great lawyer, and a judge of the Supreme Court, his wide parliamentary experience pre-eminently fitted him to discharge his duties as Chairman. The high standards set by the Hon. Mr. Justice Fox will indeed be very difficult for me to attain,

if I ever do attain them. But certain it is, by and with your sympathy and co-operation, I shall strive to the best of my ability to maintain the very high traditions set by him.

I feel, however members may be divided in their opinions on this subject, that the high standards set by the late Mr. Justice Fox were quite definitely maintained by my distinguished and learned friend Mr. Bradley, K.C. His wide parliamentary experience, his brilliantly analytical mind, and his great facility for promptly and concisely expressing that brilliance of mind, quite properly entitled him to the respect and admiration of all who know him.

I come in at a very awkward time. I take over where one Chairman laid down the burdens and cares of this life, and the other, because of the exactitudes of the office, saw fit to resign. I must therefore appeal to members to remember the unenviable place in which I find myself. I did not seek this office. I agreed to accept it only at the request and persuasion of His Excellency, but, having accepted it, it is my intention to discharge literally the requirements and dictates of my oath by presiding impartially and without fear or favour.... I shall expect members of the Convention to obey any rulings that I may be called upon from time to time to make, unless and until such rulings are appealed to and reversed by the whole House.

I should like to conclude by again expressing my very deep appreciation and thanks for the warmth and kindness of your welcome, and to ask you to accord to me in some measure the respect, co-operation and support that I certainly intend to give you, so that together we may walk forward with dignity, decorum and businesslike expediency, in the colossal task of preparing our beloved country to shortly meet its fateful rendezvous with destiny. Gentlemen, thank you very much.

Mr. Smallwood Mr. Chairman, I have no intention whatever of making any lengthy remarks. I want merely to assure you of my deep admiration of you, my respect, and my intention to co-operate with you to the fullest possible extent. I believe that for the remaining few weeks that the Convention will last the members will conduct the affairs of the Convention in a manner that will deserve the respect of the whole country.

If I cannot speak for the members I can speak