

• (2:20 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. J.-T. Richard (Ottawa East): Mr. Speaker, I am deeply moved by the nice things that were said by my leader (Mr. Trudeau), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield), the leader of the New Democratic party (Mr. Douglas) and my friend, the leader of the Ralliement Cr ditiste (Mr. Caouette). I wish to thank them all for their good wishes.

I must say that I am happy to have spent 25 years in the House; as we say "it was a home away from home". Besides the fact that some confided in me, I have been trusted and respected by my colleagues from all parties in the House. My leaders had confidence in me and I consider that I have a special status: among the four more senior members of the House, I have the privilege of having always remained a commoner. Perhaps I wanted to make sure that I would be re-elected.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Richard: However, I have always thought that there was enough to do in the interest of those who are dear to me, the ordinary people with whom I have lived from my childhood, in very simple conditions, as I continue to do still.

I am quite pleased that I was never meant to have a lot of money or to reach a high station in life, because I still feel quite close to my electors who respect me and this is what I want more than anything else.

If you allow me, I would like to point out the presence in the Speaker's gallery of my mother—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Richard: —who is accompanied by my wife and my son.

[English]

I would have so many things to say, Mr. Speaker, if we were in a committee, or if I had the privilege of speaking for 40 minutes, but I think it would be very enlightening to some hon. members to know just what Parliament has been like, during these 25 years. The reformists are not just the recent arrivals in the House; The 1945 "little Chicago boys" who used to sit over in that corner of the House were much more a group of reformists. We sat there the whole time from three to six and then from eight to eleven at night.

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Constitution of Canada

I must thank all of the party leaders who have been in this House since 1945. I have enjoyed the confidence not only of my leaders who were Prime Ministers—four of them—but I should also mention that the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) has been a very good friend of mine. On the very first day I sat in this House he came over to greet me and to speak to me.

I could ramble on but I must close. Before I do let me say this carnation I am wearing was also a symbol of the little Chicago boys in 1945. The then Prime Minister, Mr. King, was in hot water at that time for many months, and I remember in those days we played the game because he thought that we were members of the Fabian society.

From a more serious point of view, may I say I hope I will be able to serve the people of my riding for some time yet. I also hope I will live to see a Canada that is very closely united and whose people are bilingual. By that I mean that I hope the solution to a united Canada, which I have looked for for so many years, will be found in the fact that slowly, progressively, without force or any other means of that type but through knowledge of each other and the expression of good will, we will have a nation where the majority of the people speak not only their native language, whether that be French or English, but both languages.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

LABOUR, MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION

Second report of Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration—Mr.  mard.

[Editor's Note: For text of above report see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

CONSTITUTION OF CANADA

CONCURRENCE IN SECOND REPORT OF SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE

Mr. Mark MacGuigan (Windsor-Walkerville) moved that the second report of the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons on the Constitution of Canada, presented to the House on May 20, 1970, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.