

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, January 22, 1968

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

[Translation]

### THE LATE HON. RENÉ TREMBLAY AND THE LATE MAURICE RINFRET

EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET ON PASSING OF  
FORMER MEMBERS

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, it is with deep dismay that I learned, as most members, of the death of Hon. René Tremblay which occurred just before noon today. We knew that he had been ill, but we expected that he would still be with us for a long time.

Mr. Tremblay had a rather brilliant career. He studied in Canada and in Europe. He was at first professor at Laval University and then became deputy minister of the department of industry and trade in Quebec. In 1963 he was elected member for Matapédia-Matane. Soon afterwards he was appointed Minister for Citizenship and Immigration—he was thus one of my predecessors—to become eventually Postmaster General.

Mr. Tremblay was not only our colleague, he was everyone's colleague and he was also a personal friend. We are of the same generation not only as far as age is concerned but also from a political standpoint.

You will understand, Mr. Speaker, that as other members of this house, we are particularly affected by this sudden demise, particularly when it is realized that it follows upon the death of Hon. Mr. Favreau and our friend, Maurice Rinfret. This might lead us to ponder on the effects on health of political tensions which may possibly be felt more particularly by the group to which I have the pleasure and the honour to belong.

The death of Hon. René Tremblay is surely a loss for the province of Quebec but it is also a loss for the whole country. I am sure that the members of this house will be unanimous in expressing to his wife and to his children their most sincere condolences.

Personally, I regret that, before leaving us, he did not have the good fortune of seeing certain injustices committed against him repaired as they should have been. But this is

probably what one can expect in politics; we are in a ring where the opponents do not always pull their blows and it is in circumstances such as those that we realize that we are mere human beings.

As I have already said, Mr. Speaker, to the name of Hon. Mr. Tremblay we must add that of another friend, a sincere friend of all, that of the hon. member for Saint-Jacques, Maurice Rinfret. He presided over the proceedings of the house with a great deal of humour, of kindness. I do believe that regardless of political affiliations everyone liked Maurice Rinfret. I think, therefore, that the house should also agree to express its condolences to Mrs. Rinfret.

Mr. Rinfret was ill for a very long time. He was seriously ill when he was last with us here, and yet he never complained and no one even noticed it.

At this moment of our political history, Mr. Speaker, when there are so many problems which we must face collectively, it is particularly painful to witness events such as these.

• (2:40 p.m.)

[English]

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to associate myself and the members of the official opposition with the comments of the minister regarding the late Maurice Rinfret and Hon. Mr. Tremblay.

I was shocked to learn during the recess of the death of Mr. Rinfret who served in this house as the member for Saint-Jacques and as Deputy Chairman of Committees. Although it was not my privilege to serve with him in the house for any length of time, I quickly became aware of the position of respect and esteem that he held among members of all parties in the House of Commons. I was not aware of his illness and it was a great shock to me when he passed away during the recess of the house. Certainly we would wish to extend our sympathies to Madame Rinfret and members of the family.

Mr. Tremblay, as the minister indicated, served his province and the country in both elective and non-elective offices, having been in the public service of the province of Quebec before he entered the House of Commons. He was educated in both official languages and his education spanned two continents. He