

Tributes

what he has done for his party, his constituency and his country.

So on behalf of the Liberals, I would like to offer the Prime Minister and his family our best wishes. May you have very good years together.

• (1410)

I also hope that following the election which will be held in the coming months, Mrs. Mulroney will tell the Prime Minister not to do what I did and come back. Although the Prime Minister and I have dreamed for years of the big battle, it will always remain a matter of speculation. We will not have an opportunity to fight it, but in spite of that I would like to offer him our tribute and our best wishes for good health so he and his family can have very many years of happiness together.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

[English]

Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure today that we put aside our political differences. I have an opportunity on behalf of myself and my party to wish the Prime Minister well in his future endeavours.

Some hon. members: hear, hear.

[Translation]

Ms. McLaughlin: Although we only rarely agreed, I wish to point out the years he devoted to public life. These years were not easy and the challenges were numerous, I am sure, but he often met them with courage and humour.

The House of Commons will no longer be the same. The contribution that the Prime Minister can still make in other fields will be appreciated.

[English]

I think all of us in public life realize that there is a great sacrifice. It is not to serve the public, which I know the Prime Minister has done with great pride and with great dignity, but certainly one's personal life must surely be affected by this.

I would like to wish Mrs. Mulroney and the family all the very best for the future, as well as the Prime Minister. I know that for the Prime Minister politics has been very much a family affair and it has brought great dignity to the Canadian people as well.

In thinking about my remarks today I thought that Prime Ministers are often remembered for grand ges-

tures. Often the small kindnesses are not noted. I would like to mention something specifically about the kindness of this Prime Minister during the illness of our colleague Pauline Jewett when Mr. Mulroney took the time out to call her.

I know how much that meant to her. I know that it is not just for our colleague Ms. Jewett that the Prime Minister has done this. Those small kindnesses were taken by the Prime Minister. Sometimes it is not recognized by the public that politicians are even human beings.

On a very personal note, there is no one in this House who would not say to the Prime Minister that even when we did not agree, he did work from his political perspective in the interests of his country.

I want to conclude by offering my best wishes to the Prime Minister. My only disappointment is that the Prime Minister did not call an election today. I have to express that disappointment, Prime Minister. We do wish on this side of the House the very best to you and your family and thanks for the public service you have given to Canadians over the past 10 years.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I too on behalf of my colleagues on this side of the House rise to pay tribute to an outstanding individual, an incredible person, a visionary and a dynamic leader who is the Prime Minister of Canada.

We express our deep gratitude for the decade of tireless effort on behalf of our party, Mr. Prime Minister, and for your leadership in piloting the nation in challenging and tumultuous times.

We always look at the personal side of these challenges and the way in which you have conducted yourself in meeting these challenges. As a person, those of us who know him know the Prime Minister to be a man of warmth, charm, compassion and wit.

• (1415)

He is always good natured and has never lost his sense of humour, not even in times of facing difficult challenges or the gruelling task of leading and governing.

For those of us who know him, he was always there to support us in times of need or crisis with a kind word or a generous act which provided that comfort and encouragement to friend or political foe. We appreciate the comments of the leader of the New Democratic Party