

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, January 15, 1991

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers

[*English*]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

RECONVENING OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wish to inform the House that, in accordance with the order of the House made Wednesday, December 19, 1990, and after consultation with the government, I caused to be published in an extra edition of *The Canada Gazette* a notice calling the House to meet this day.

In addition, on Sunday, January 13, 1991, I sent an electronic message to each member of the House containing the substance of that motion.

[*Translation*]

I also wish to inform the House that, in accordance with the government's representations and pursuant to Standing Order 55(1), I have caused to be published a special *Order Paper* giving notice of a government motion on the crisis in the Persian Gulf.

[*English*]

I now lay upon the table a letter dated Saturday, January 12, 1991 from the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons in relation to that notice.

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NEW MEMBER

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has received from the Chief Electoral Officer a certificate of the election and return of the Hon. Jean Chrétien, member for the electoral riding of Beauséjour.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

NEW MEMBER INTRODUCED

Mr. Jean Chrétien, member for the electoral district of Beauséjour, introduced by the Hon. Herb Gray and Mr. Marcel Prud'homme.

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[*Translation*]

NEW MEMBER

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has received from the Chief Electoral Officer a certificate of the election and return of Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua, member for the electoral riding of York North.

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[*English*]

NEW MEMBER INTRODUCED

Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua, member for the electoral district of York North, introduced by the Hon. Jean Chrétien and Mr. Sergio Marchi.

• (1110)

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the serious international circumstances that prevail intrude on what is traditionally a light-hearted and respectful welcome to a new leader of any party and, of course, to a new Leader of the Opposition. I would have enjoyed that combination of tribute and welcome today. Most members would agree, and I know the Leader of the Opposition has already indicated to me that he would hope we err on the side of brevity this morning, which I will do.

On behalf of all members, I would like to extend a very genuine and a warm welcome to a very distinguished parliamentarian and a very fine Canadian, the Hon. Jean Chrétien.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, the very distinguished parliamentary career of the new Leader of the Opposition reaches back over a quarter of a century. His very distinguished career in House of Commons is evidence of the fact that the very nature of the Commons is such that while strong disagreements can, and will always take