

*Summer Recess*

I have great hopes for the report that will come from that committee. The way the terms of reference were granted by the House would allow its members who are now hearing witnesses and who will meet during the summer, who will look at previous reports on the subject on parliamentary reform, to come forward with interim reports, if it so desires, that could allow the institution to make experiments. I hope that in the short term we will be able to improve the appearance of the work that is done in this place.

Earlier I described the mood in the House. I described what I consider was the mentality of the official opposition, but trying to set aside partisan views, let me state that I think there is an urgency that the work done by the government and the work done by the opposition—which is hard work in any case—be better perceived by the citizens in all regions of Canada.

I believe that the committee on parliamentary reform will allow us, soon I hope, to be able to achieve that goal and to improve not only the image of parliamentarians in society but to improve the quality of the work we do and improve our capacity to serve Canada better.

*[Translation]*

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I should like to say that it was most encouraging on this side of the House to bank on unequalled team spirit. Despite the difficult times we experienced during this lengthy first session of the Thirty-second Parliament, government members managed to stick together and assume their responsibilities as parliamentarians. They are to be commended and they deserve my respect and appreciation for their continued support. I would be remiss as well if I did not take this opportunity to underline the constant contribution and exceptionally well done work of my parliamentary secretary, my hon. friend who is here tonight, and to emphasize the co-operation of the House leaders of both opposition parties, in spite of a few hitches along the way. Again, as I said earlier, the results are there, Mr. Speaker, the volume of work done is huge. The number of measures passed by this Parliament during this session is obvious, although this session was an historic one, of course, but what needs to be improved is the spirit of this House, the attitude of hon. members. One important factor that might contribute to raise the standards of debate and to command more respect for both the government's and the opposition's rights would be a little more maturity and seriousness on the part of the Official Opposition. Then we shall be able to improve the public image of this House. Again, I thank and congratulate the support staff of the House of Commons, all our Table officers, the pages and all those who enabled parliamentarians to do their job during the past two years and three months. Mr. Speaker, we are going to adjourn within a few hours, within an hour, it seems, and I wish to make it clear that it is quite exceptional for Parliament to sit this late.

Because of the current special economic conditions, a budget was brought down at the end of June, as we all know, which

implied the urgent passage of at least two pieces of legislation, one authorizing the government to obtain the funds it needed to administer the country, and the other authorizing it to implement its anti-inflation policy and to limit salary increases in the civil service. Today we passed the latter, which explains why on this the 4th of August, 1982, we are still in Ottawa, in the House of Commons, debating and discussing. Usually, as we know, the House adjourns in early July to resume its activities around mid-October, a few days after Thanksgiving Day. This year, in view of the August 4 adjournment, we will resume the business of this session on October 27; the recess will thus be shorter by about two weeks than in previous years. Still, it will allow hon. members, once again, to play an important part of their role, that is, meeting their constituents in their respective ridings, listening to the people and also explaining government policies. I am convinced that we are not talking here of a two-month holiday, but rather of work that is different from that which we have been doing here for such a long period of time, as I have just explained.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss in my duty if I did not mention the warm relationship, from a personal and human point of view, which, despite the nature of our debates, existed between the various House leaders this year and last. More particularly, I must stress how deeply enriching and satisfying my contacts and discussions have been with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). I feel that, throughout the months when we were called upon to negotiate together and plan the business of the House, the experience, the seasoned parliamentary spirit, the good will, the great human qualities of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre spared this institution on several occasions pitfalls that could have harmed the parliamentary spirit. In other words, I want to say publicly that throughout his career and, of course, especially while as government House leader I had to negotiate directly with him, the contribution of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre for the good of society and in particular the proper functioning of this parliamentary institution has been priceless. I want to take the opportunity, this evening, to express to the hon. member through his party leader—but I see the hon. member has just stepped back into the House—to pay special tribute to him, by expressing my everlasting friendship and admiration. I have the deepest admiration for the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. I am happy to see him here this evening. I wish him the best possible health and the longest possible stay in this House of Commons until the next election.

While emphasizing the exceptional qualities of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), I do not want to minimize the good relations I have had and I still have with the other House leaders. Without going into details, I want to say again that communications and human relations are essential to the efficient operation of this institution, and I want to pay tribute to my two fellow House leaders, the member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) and the member