

and minatory gesture launch a penetrating question to the selected target on this side, usually me.

As to the hon. gentleman who has been chosen as successor to the right hon. member for Prince Albert as leader of his party, I have already conveyed to him—and I repeat them here—my personal congratulations and good wishes. I wish him health and strength as he faces the great responsibilities of his very important office. While we both have duties to perform which will bring us often and no doubt vigorously into opposite sides of debate and discussion, I am encouraged to think that as Canadians with the same objective of service to our country we will be able to co-operate to the maximum possible extent in respect of matters which are above partisan politics.

Mr. Herridge: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pearson: In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might be permitted to offer my congratulations to the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Starr), now sitting opposite me, who has been chosen as Acting Leader of the Opposition.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pearson: He is an old friend and a doughty foe. We on this side—and I am sure this is true of members of the house on whatever side they may sit—appreciate his quiet, sincere and effective service to his party, to parliament and to his country. In short, he is a good man and a fine public servant.

● (2:50 p.m.)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pearson: There is also, as I have already indicated, a gap in the ranks on this side as a result of the resignation of Jack Pickersgill from the House of Commons. He also, if I may put it in this way, was a Rupert of debate and a devoted and dynamic man of the Commons. I have known him almost from the beginning of my appearance on the Ottawa scene and I have always had a very great admiration for his ability, his loyalty and his encyclopaedic knowledge—I shall certainly miss that. Indeed, I shall miss him greatly as will all members on this side of the house and, I think, of the house as a whole. He was a stimulating and stirring parliamentarian, and while a staunch party man he never allowed his friendships to be limited by party considerations. Perhaps the

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house will give me permission to table the exchange of letters which took place between Mr. Pickersgill and myself on his resignation and allow that exchange to appear today as an annex to *Hansard*.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Editor's note: For text of documents referred to above, see appendix.*]

Hon. Michael Starr (Leader of the Opposition): First I wish to thank the Prime Minister through you, Mr. Speaker, for his kind words toward me; I hope the things he has said about me will continue to apply in the future—with his co-operation.

His announcement of the decision of the former member for Bonavista-Twillingate to leave the treasury benches does, of course, represent a loss not only to the Liberal party but to the House of Commons and to this institution of parliament. He was a very articulate member of this house; he was well versed in its procedure and, particularly in opposition, he was at times devastating. His notable career in the service of a former prime minister is known to all of us as well as to the people of this country. He even tried his talents in the fields of law and of authorship. I am sure he will be as greatly missed on this side of the house, as he will be by the government and its supporters. We wish him well in his new position.

As far as the other changes are concerned, we only hope that the former minister of national defence who is moving to the Department of Transport as minister will not try to bring about another unification measure there. As for the new Minister of National Defence, we wish him well. He is well thought of in this House of Commons and I feel sure that at the helm of national defence he will prove a great asset to his department. To the leader of the house we extend our good wishes as he undertakes new duties in addition to those which already fall within his responsibility.

I am sure all members on this side of the house are grateful to the Prime Minister for his words about our former leader, the right hon. member for Prince Albert. It is hoped on this side of the house that he will remain in the ranks of the Commons so that his wisdom, energy and experience of parliament will not be lost.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Starr: I am sure if our new leader were in his place at this moment he would