

The Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Mulroney: But I want particularly to welcome the Prime Minister back from Greece, and the Cabinet back from Central Nova.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: I want you to know, Prime Minister, that during the summer, while you were otherwise occupied, it was a very pleasant summer for me. There was one untoward incident, only one. The Liberal candidate in Central Nova persistently referred to a candidate from Quebec who did not live in his riding but lived in a million dollar house rent free, and I defended you, Sir, regularly.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: I rose to your defence with an alacrity that surprised even me.

I was also delighted and interested to read in the weekend press, Madam Speaker, the fact that the Prime Minister announced he is not a quitter. I want you to know, Sir, that we are behind you all the way.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: And I say "Hang in there", notwithstanding the urgings to the contrary from some people over there. This Party, and I am sure the New Democratic Party, stands united on at least that.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: I am delighted as well in having an opportunity of representing Central Nova to be so close to my old friend, the Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen).

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: It is not a widely known fact—

[*Translation*]

—but I would like to mention it because it is quite an interesting phenomenon and one of the subjects I am really delighted to raise in the House today—

[*English*]

—that the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Prime Minister and I, all hold degrees from St. F.X. University, and I should point out that the President of St. F.X. is here today. On behalf of the Prime Minister and myself we want to say we did not study economics at St. F.X. under the Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: I only mention that because the Prime Minister asked me to.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[*Translation*]

Madam Speaker, imagine my surprise and, in fact, my delight, at seeing before me, in the House today, the smiling face of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde). Before I left Ottawa for my riding in Nova Scotia, I thought that considering the tremendous and increasing popularity of the Minister in Quebec, he would have been drafted for the leadership of the Quebec Liberal Party. I am truly delighted to see that he turned down a Quebec draft, to stay in our midst. That is really good news.

[*English*]

I want to say a word of thanks as well to the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent). Indeed, on many occasions the Hon. Judge Robert Cliche, a truly great Canadian, spoke well and eloquently with regard to the qualities of the Hon. Member, and with good reason. Judgment, as Robert Cliche used to say, was always so important. I want you to know that we Nova Scotians appreciate your judgment, Sir, in taking your caucus down to Nova Scotia.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: It did my heart good to see the socialists spending \$90 and \$95 a day, and then, Prime Minister, they have the temerity to say things are not going well!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[*Translation*]

Mr. Mulroney: Dear friends and colleagues, Madam Speaker, I know this is a very unusual day, at least for me, but I sincerely wish to thank everyone for the warm and cordial welcome I was given here today.

[*English*]

My thanks to all of you for your kindness and generosity. I will try, given the magnificent example set by my predecessor, the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark), to serve this House and to serve you with honour and distinction.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF DOCTOR BAL RAM JAKHAR, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE OF INDIA

Madam Speaker: I would like to draw to the attention of the House the presence in our gallery today of Dr. Bal Ram Jakhari, who is the Speaker of the House of the People of India.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!