

never complained publicly, ever, in moments of what must have been for him, as comes to all leaders, private dismay.

I have always thought that there is a special place in heaven for those who have had to lead the Opposition in Canada. For the sake of the right hon. member for Yellowhead and myself, there had better be.

• (1420)

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: One does not always receive in that job the adulation and universal acclaim that goes hand in hand with being Prime Minister.

[*Translation*]

It takes patience, a lot of patience and strong convictions. But above all, Mr. Speaker, it takes courage, something the Leader of the Liberal Party has never lacked.

I think that at this point it would be appropriate to recall that about 25 years ago, as Minister of Justice, the Leader of the Liberal Party tabled the first Official Languages Act in this House. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated his loyalty to the basic principle of equality between both major language groups in this country.

All Canadians who are anxious to preserve the unity of our country will never forget this outstanding contribution by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

[*English*]

The Leader of the Opposition took strong stands on major issues. There was never any doubt about where he stood on issues ranging from free trade to Meech Lake or national defence. He hurled himself into the fray with vigour and the joy of battle. In many ways some of the words of Teddy Roosevelt spoken decades ago at the Sorbonne clearly apply to the Leader of the Opposition:

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, and comes up short again and again; because there is not effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who

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spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the triumphs of high achievement and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

That, Mr. Speaker, is a description of a man of courage and the Leader of the Opposition is, indeed, all of those things.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

To his wife Geills and family our very best wishes for a future of good health and accomplishment and serenity together. You, John, have served Canada well.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I would certainly like to add the congratulations and best wishes of the New Democratic Party.

[*Translation*]

The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition, elected to the House of Commons for the first time in 1962, has represented various ridings in three provinces and has never lost an election. That is a good example to follow!

The hon. member's profound respect for parliamentary democracy is well-known. He sees the role of the House of Commons as central to our parliamentary system.

It is one of his great qualities we admire and respect.

[*English*]

I had the opportunity to speak to the former leader of the New Democratic Party with whom the right hon. Leader of the Opposition served for a number of years. He wants to add his best wishes for the future.

I have looked over the accomplishments of the hon. member. He deserves the fine tributes that he has received from the Prime Minister today. They come from our party as well.

Being a relatively new leader, I thought looking at some of his background could be an instructive experience. I noted that he was the Canadian junior champion in the 100 and 220-yard sprint—something obviously useful in politics, particularly if you happened to be Minister of Finance. I think the current Minister of Finance might agree.

Some hon. members: Oh, Oh!