

Tributes

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, I just want to respond to the hon. member for Churchill. I have a video that he might discuss with the member for Kingston and the Islands. I will send him a copy of the video, which shows that the accusation made about me in the press to which he refers was false. I have a video to prove that it was false.

I would appreciate it if he would look at the video before he raises the issue again.

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, I apologize and I certainly will not raise it again. However my question is: Who is Tim Naumetz?

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the right hon. Prime Minister does not expect me to get into that debate.

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THE LATE HAROLD EDWARD WINCH

Mr. Speaker: I want to remind the House that we have news of the death of a former member of this place who served the city of Vancouver, the province of British Columbia, and Canada with great distinction for many years.

I would ask the hon. member for Vancouver East to rise and commence tributes.

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, Harold Winch, member of Parliament for Vancouver East from 1953 to 1972, died on February 1 at age 84.

He had a long history of public service, having also served as MLA for Vancouver East from 1933 to 1953. Along with his father, Ernest Winch, another outstanding political activist, Harold Winch lived several lives. He was a dynamic and colourful man and an eloquent speaker who never forgot the hardship of his own childhood poverty and the experiences of the unemployed during the 1930s.

As an unemployed electrician he began his political activism when he was hit on the head by a police baton. His leadership qualities were evident when he quelled a riot at a huge gathering of unemployed workers in downtown Vancouver in 1938.

As editor of *The Western Clarion* he refused the King's Jubilee Medal in protest of the government's inaction on economic problems.

Harold joined his father in the B.C. legislature, and in 1938 he became leader of the CCF. One of the things that he often mentioned to us and that he was most

proud of was that during those years the CCF was the only political party to press for voting rights for Asian Canadians.

Father and son travelled and organized throughout B.C., laying the foundations of the socialist movement in B.C. and eventually across Canada. They elected many MLAs. Harold Winch resigned as leader after the CCF narrowly missed governing in 1953.

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He ran successfully to represent Vancouver East in the Parliament of Canada, joining J. S. Woodsworth, Stanley Knowles, Tommy Douglas and Grace MacInnis as an outstanding parliamentarian and orator who spoke out eloquently and often for social reforms.

He was an early opponent of capital punishment, advocated reform of penitentiaries and the Criminal Code, argued persistently for low cost housing, demanded government action on unemployment and unemployment insurance and spoke often on the concerns of workers, veterans and pensioners. The problems of Vancouver East and of his constituents were his top priority.

Harold Winch retired from the House of Commons in 1972. He survived two life-threatening illnesses and enjoyed many happy years in retirement following his marriage to Jessie Winch.

He helped to found the Immigrant Services Society of Vancouver and chaired the Boag Foundation. He was my mentor when as a very nervous novice I was asked to run for Parliament in 1977. I always remember his advice. He said: "Margaret, speak up and never be humble". With his endorsement I won.

Harold's last public speech at the memorial for his lifetime friend Grace MacInnis was as eloquent and witty as ever. Harold Winch is an important part of B.C. history. He was a founder of the CCF-NDP and a dedicated public servant for almost 40 years.

On behalf of all my colleagues in this House we extend condolences to his beloved wife Jessie, his sons, Donald and Gerald, and his daughter, Shirley Dray.

Hon. William Scott (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and parliamentary contribution of a former colleague who represented Vancouver East from 1953 until 1972, Harold Edward Winch.