[Translation]

Mr. Trudeau: Indeed, it is an odd couple, Mr. Speaker, whose fate has inextricably been bound for several years for better or for worse, as the saying goes. Under some parliamentary conventions, we are in a way paid to oppose one another. However, I believe I have been fortunate indeed to have to face the opposition of such a man who has always shown much distinction and competence. [English]

Like any couple living and working in the same house, we have had our spats and tiffs. I have been the object of "Big Thunder" rolling over there, as the press have nicknamed the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield). He is fortunate in a sense that we can use his nickname in the House. The nickname the press gives me is unparliamentary.

An hon. Member: Name one.

Mr. Trudeau: I do not know them all. If I knew of one that was parliamentary, I would be volunteering it at this time. Apart from the occasional disagreement, we have also shared an exchange of good will and of good and bad days. We have had the responsibility of difficult times when it was essential to work together with a common purpose. My hon. friend has made an outstanding contribution to parliament for which all Canadians, not just Conservatives, are very grateful and thankful.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: His public service to Canada and to Nova Scotia has spanned a period of some 27 years. I know his decision to change his job will not mean that he will have less concern for, or less interest in, our country. Throughout his career he has been a man of vision and ideas. I should say that I borrowed a few of them in my day.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Although I do not have much direct influence on the outcome of the convention of the party opposite, I know they will be looking for a man of equal competence.

Mr. Hees: Or a woman.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Whoever it is, Mr. Speaker, I wish "it" good fortune.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: I will miss the constant attention of my original partner. I hope that the change in partners will at least permit him to enjoy some time with his family. His family certainly very strongly supported him. They, too, deserve the gratitude of this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1420)

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, although I have only recently joined this ménage à trois, I should like to associate myself with the Prime Minister

Tributes to Mr. Stanfield

(Mr. Trudeau) in paying this well deserved tribute to the leader of Her Majesty's Official Opposition (Mr. Stanfield). We are paying this tribute to a man who has graced the House of Commons with his presence for the past 8½ years. Those of us who have shared our parliamentary experience with him have shared that experience with a blunt, courteous, honest and witty man.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: When I sat down in my office this morning to put together these few words in tribute to the hon. member for Halifax, four particular qualities of his came to mind, in no particular order—I think they stand out equally in his character. They are personal qualities which appeared to me as his particular contribution to the political life of our land. The first is that he has always shown a strong and serious concern about the dual cultural heritage of this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: At times when it was not always politically expedient or popular to do so, he took courageous stands in defence of a long tradition of French-speaking rights which had to find new expression in legislation in our generation, just as they had to find expression in earlier legislation. He stood up to be counted when it was required, and for that all Canadians owe him grateful thanks.

The second quality which comes to mind is his sense of compassion. This has been displayed in connection with various legislative matters which have come before the House and, indeed, on a number of issues which have not. I am thinking of his early concern about the need for some form of guaranteed income for Canada's poor, even though it meant doing battle within his own party, as all of us find necessary from time to time. That kind of attitude toward less fortunate people was something which had to be fought for—and he has made this known on issue after issue.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: The third quality is the hon. gentleman's overriding sense of honesty. This came out in the campaigns. It has been demonstrated in the House and it has been demonstrated in all aspects of his life both inside and outside this chamber. Finally, he has demonstrated, as very few of us do, as politicians, his possession of a sense of humour. I think there is one virtue that those of us who run for political office cannot claim to be ours to the same degree, perhaps, as other people in the population, and that is the capacity to laugh at ourselves. If there was ever a calling in human life that ought to bring forth the capacity not to take oneself too seriously, it ought to be the politician's vocation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Stanfield has even been known from time to time to poke fun at some of his opponents as well. In conclusion, for my party, Mr. Speaker, I should like to say that in his new role we wish this distinguished Canadi-