

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, June 11, 1970

The House met at 2 p.m.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received which is as follows:

Government House, Ottawa
11 June, 1970

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Hon. D. C. Abbott, P.C., Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, acting as Deputy to His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, June 11th, at 5.45 p.m. for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain Bills.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Louis-Frémont Trudeau,
Brigadier General,

Assistant Secretary to the Governor General.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

TRIBUTE TO MEMBERS FOR CALGARY CENTRE AND OTTAWA EAST ON TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege affecting all members of the House. Politics is often described as a gamble—that is, it is not unlike playing the stock market. Some players lose their shirts in short order. Others manage to make respectably moderate gains. Still others transform their initial investment in the political process into solid and long-term returns. A gamble or not, this process is a vital and necessary element in the constitution of the democratic process in which we are all participants.

[*Translation*]

To achieve such success requires tenacity and patience; humour and understanding. Above all it requires the ability to convince a block of voters that, on balance, one understands their problems and has more to offer them than all the other fellows.

Today I am sure all hon. members would wish to join in congratulating two of our

colleagues who have been receiving votes of confidence from their constituents since they were first elected on June 11, 1945. I refer to the hon. member for Calgary Centre and the hon. member for Ottawa East.

• (2:10 p.m.)

[*English*]

Twenty-five years is a large and precious segment of any man's lifetime, Mr. Speaker. Our country is all the richer for having as citizens the kind of men who would offer these years to the Canadian Parliament. Without this sort of responsibility and dedication, this institution would not endure; without their good nature and geniality we would find it a less attractive place.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to associate myself with the question of privilege raised by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and to join him in extending congratulations to the hon. member for Ottawa East (Mr. Richard) and the hon. member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Harkness) on achieving 25 years of service to this House. I do not think that hon. members think of it in terms of service. My own observation is that most people who come to this House are very anxious to stay. In addition to these 25 years being a period of service for these hon. gentlemen, I am sure that they have been fascinating and enjoyable years which have given a great deal of pleasure to their colleagues in the House.

It is natural that I should know the hon. member for Calgary Centre a little better than the hon. member for Ottawa East, who I find to be a very friendly and gracious colleague. I have known the member for Calgary Centre for quite some time. He has had a very distinguished career. He is a very affable man, a man of very deep conviction and principle. I recall, when I was in another position, trying to persuade the member for Calgary Centre, who also at that time held another position, that he ought to do something he did not think he should do. I was not able to make much progress.

I extend felicitations to both of these gentlemen. I wish them many years of continued