

Ways and Means

of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson) and to the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch), the deputy to the deputy of the party to which he belongs, and to all hon. members in the house, may I express good wishes for the months that lie ahead. To the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson), may I say this: I wish him health and happiness, but not too much success.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I, on behalf of the opposition, be permitted to join in the observations of the Prime Minister and express our appreciation in regard to your own services, as well as those of the Deputy Speaker and the chairman of committees. It has been a long, difficult and at times contentious session. You, sir, and others in the chair, have always shown patience, good humour and fairness in your dealing with the opposition. If at times we have tried your patience, perhaps you will remember that the government has tried our patience.

I should like also, if I may be permitted, to express our appreciation of the services to the house, and perhaps here I can speak for all hon. members, by the *Hansard* reporters, who have certainly had a difficult, long and arduous session; the officers of the house, the pages and translators as well as others who have ministered to our comfort in so many ways. I am not forgetting the restaurant. This, as I have said, has been a long and difficult session for them. It would have been much more difficult for us if we had not had the advantages of their skilled and unselfish work.

May I say to the Prime Minister and to the members on the government side that we have enjoyed working with them. If at times they have not been receptive to the ideas from the opposition, so many of which have come from my hon. friend from Essex East, that has not been their loss so much as it has been the country's loss. I reciprocate the Prime Minister's personal good wishes. I hope he now has a restful time and a happy vacation, because he is going to need it.

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, after consultation with our group I find I can speak with a unanimous voice. I am proud, sir, on behalf of our group, to tell you how much we have appreciated the way you have conducted your office, and the respect you have shown for what is compatible with your position in maintaining the rights and privileges of members and the decorum and decency of parliament. I may say that I cannot agree with the remark of the Prime Minister that it has

been a productive session, but that is a responsibility he will have to accept. However, sir, it has been an interesting session, a long and arduous session. I have no hesitation in saying that I am glad it is coming to a close tonight because, having been home only six days this year, I thank God to learn during the discussion of divorce that desertion is not a ground.

I believe that although there have been long and sometimes perhaps bitter discussions in this house this is parliament and democracy in action. One thing, sir, I do want to say, not only as a result of my seven years here but my previous experience, and one thing of which I am proud, that is that the difference in policies and in principle in the house do not stop friendships outside of it. Though we may differ in politics and in policies, one thing I think goes out from this house, we are all Canadians. So with those words I will say—I do not want to say good-bye because I never will—adios till we meet again.

Mr. Speaker: If I may be absolved temporarily from my rule of silence I should like very much to acknowledge with great gratitude the very kind words which have been spoken by leaders on both sides of the house.

Mr. Winch: And very honest words, sir.

Mr. Speaker: The cordial tolerance which is shown for the shortcomings of which I am all too conscious encourages me and softens the sadness which I feel at the close of this session. I think I may be able now to bear up during the ensuing weeks.

I should like, if I may to acknowledge on behalf of the officers of the house and those who serve us here the kind words which have been said about their services which all of us appreciate so deeply, as they lay the groundwork for what we are able to accomplish here. I will not include in this the Deputy Speaker and chairman of the committee and vice chairman who are able to speak for themselves and who I am sure would like to have the opportunity to join with me in these words of thanks and good wishes to all members during the recess.

Just one other note I would like to add. When we go to the other place this time we shall not return, but I hope that all hon. members will find their way back if not to this chamber to the one on the other side of the hall.

(Translation):

The Chairman: Mr. Speaker, with *Hansard* for this session running to 8,000 pages, it would appear that we have reached a new record.