

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, February 18, 1972

The House met at 11 a.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN SPEAKER'S AND SENATE GALLERIES OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Mr. Speaker: It gives me much pleasure to bring to the attention of hon. members the presence in the Speaker's gallery and in the Senate gallery of a delegation of very distinguished and senior parliamentarians from the United States Congress representing both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The delegation, led by Senator Frank Church and Congressman Neil Gallagher, is in Ottawa to attend the fourteenth annual meeting of the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group. I know it is the sense of this House that over the years this group, this association, has made a valuable and indeed a positive and significant contribution to the maintenance of cordial relations between our two peoples, between our governments and between our countries, based upon good will, mutual understanding and friendship.

On behalf of all hon. members I extend to our distinguished visitors and friends a most hearty welcome and express the hope that their stay in Canada will be interesting, enjoyable and fruitful.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

THE MINISTRY

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGES—TRIBUTES AND BEST WISHES TO MEMBER FOR NIAGARA FALLS ON RECOVERY FROM ILLNESS

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as is customary I should like to inform the House of certain changes made in the ministry since the recess began on January 12, 1972.

It is with great personal regret that I received the resignation on December 31, 1971 of the Hon. J. J. Greene as Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I know I speak for all hon. members when I say that we followed our colleague's recent illness with concern and are now delighted with the recovery which will allow him to continue to serve his constituency in Parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1110)

Mr. Trudeau: Although his absence has already been felt by cabinet, it is fortunate that the House of Commons,

and indeed all of Canada, may still benefit from the unique eloquence, common sense and humour of the hon. member for Niagara Falls.

[*Translation*]

During the parliamentary recess, some changes were made in the membership of the cabinet. The Hon. P.M. Mahoney was made Minister of State to assist the Minister of Finance.

Ten ministers were given a different portfolio beginning January 28, 1972: the Hon. Arthur Laing, Minister of Veterans Affairs—

[*English*]

Shall I dispense, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Lewis: Dispense. It makes no difference, anyway.

Mr. Trudeau: In that case, I shall not dispense, Mr. Speaker.

[*Translation*]

Hon. E. J. Benson, Minister of National Defence; Hon. John N. Turner, Minister of Finance; Hon. Bryce Mackasey, Minister of Manpower and Immigration; Hon. Donald S. Macdonald, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources; Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé, Minister of Public Works; Hon. Ron Basford, Minister of State for Urban Affairs; Hon. Robert K. Andras, Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs; Hon. Otto E. Lang, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada who will still be responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board; Hon. Martin P. O'Connell, Minister of Labour, who will still be responsible for Information Canada.

I should like to table the correspondence exchanged between the Hon. J. J. Greene and myself. As a few changes were also made in the appointment of parliamentary secretaries, I should like to table the decree concerning those changes.

[*English*]

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I just say a word about the hon. member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Greene) to whom the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) referred. I will have one or two other things to say about the rest of the Prime Minister's announcement later in the day. On my own behalf and that of my colleagues I wish to express our regrets because the hon. member for Niagara Falls has found it necessary to retire from the cabinet as a result of ill health. I express these regrets all the more warmly because I know that he has never had anything except my own best interests at heart in pursuing his career. He has been a vigorous partisan, as I am sure he would agree. At times he has swung a broad axe and sometimes I felt a blunt axe; but he was always prepared to have an axe swung at him in return. I wish him well, Sir.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!