

the benign smile, of a man who sent such shivers of pleasure down the spines of the matrons all the way from Oyster Pond to Mushaboo.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** I can assure him that we on this side of the House will endeavour to be every bit as helpful to him as we have to his many predecessors.

[*Translation*]

As the great André Siegfried said, if you want to harm someone, too much praise is more effective than criticism. In fact, Madam Speaker, I think there is a Machiavellian plot afoot among members of the Press Gallery who seem to be out to destroy in this way the new Leader of the Opposition—he can count on us to render the plot ineffective. We are certainly not going to praise him excessively, because he is faced with a difficult and a historic task as leader of a party that has played a major role in the history of this country, and he ought to realize that the task that lies ahead will be a difficult one. I want him to know that we wish him the very best.

[*English*]

I also want to congratulate the members of the shadow Cabinet. I think it is fair to say that never has a more vaporous group of shadows ennobled this place.

This has been an occasion to talk about the man rather than the policies, so he will understand that I have gone on a little longer than otherwise would have been possible.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that we all wish him good luck, good health and, as they say in show business, “break a leg”.

[*Translation*]

In French, the traditional expression is the “mot de Cambonne”.

[*English*]

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, in this world of constant flux I am glad to see that there are certain constants. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has maintained his usual gracious and congenial disposition in welcoming the Hon. Member for Central Nova (Mr. Mulroney).

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Broadbent:** Before I add my few words of welcome to the new Leader of the Conservative Party, I too would like to join with the Prime Minister in expressing the good wishes of my colleagues to the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark), who is now teaching back at my old alma mater, York University—and right away I have written a warning note to all the students there not to pay too close attention. Quite seriously, though, I want to say that we do hope the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead will continue to bring his

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concerns about the well being of our country to this important Chamber so that we will benefit from his views.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Broadbent:** I think the new Member for Mission-Port Moody (Mr. St. Germain) will understand that in welcoming him I have several reasons for not elaborating on the point. Again most seriously, however, I do welcome him to the House on behalf of my colleagues and I am sure he will understand my comment when I say that I hope his stay will not be too long.

I now want to turn to the Hon. Member for Central Nova (Mr. Mulroney) to say that when he has been in Chamber for some time—we do not know for how long—he will know that he should not expect again the kind of greeting that he received from all sides today. I suspect this is a one and only shot, especially for a leader of a political party. But we do welcome him and wish him well in his personal concerns and in his activities in this Chamber.

● (1420)

I have noted, and for some time knew, that the Member for Central Nova was not only a working colleague but rather close to one of our former leaders in the Province of Quebec, Robert Cliche, an old friend of mine, a distinguished Quebecois and a distinguished Canadian.

I look forward to the days ahead in this Chamber, hopefully even today, when the Member for Central Nova will be just a wee bit more specific on some of his policy orientations. No doubt because of the little publicity he has had in recent weeks we have not had a detailed provision of his policy positions, but when he does reveal them I hope we will begin to note the impact on his life of Robert Cliche. I shall watch with interest.

[*Translation*]

And once more, I would like to say, very sincerely, as they say in Baie Comeau, bienvenue, bonne chance, but perhaps not too much of the latter!

**Mr. Brian Mulroney (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, first of all I wish to thank the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) for his gracious and cordial remarks. There may have been some minor political differences between us in the past, as there certainly will be in the future, but nevertheless, I have always recognized that the Right Hon. Prime Minister is a man of great distinction, and I wish to offer him my sincere thanks for his warm welcome here today.

[*English*]

The Prime Minister has always been a man of great accomplishment and distinction. I was honoured by the thoughtfulness and the generosity of his words today. I wait with bated breath for tomorrow.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!