

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, March 26, 1974

The House met at 2 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

TRIBUTES TO RIGHT HON. MEMBER FOR PRINCE ALBERT ON  
THIRTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF ELECTION TO  
PARLIAMENT

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to draw the attention of the House to a very agreeable event. Today is the thirty-fourth anniversary of the election to parliament of the right hon. member for Prince Albert.

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

**Mr. Stanfield:** Being a member of this House for 34 years is in itself a tremendous service to the country. But I rise today not simply to speak of the length of the right hon. member's parliamentary service nor to dwell on his accomplishments during those 34 years, although I would like to emphasize that he continues today, as he has during the years, to be a vigorous, eloquent and effective champion of the rights of Canadians, the rights of the dog, the rights of the underdog—

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

**Mr. Stanfield:** That was a bit of a Freudian slip, recognizing the fondness of the right hon. gentleman for his dog. But I do wish to congratulate the right hon. gentleman who continues to express himself so effectively and non-controversially in this House.

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

**Mr. Stanfield:** He is the dean of the House in terms of length of service and, I think we can all agree, the dean of the House in terms of parliamentary skill—a continuing example for all of us of an effective and able parliamentarian.

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

**Mr. Stanfield:** I simply wish to take this occasion to express personally and on behalf of the members of this caucus, and, I am sure, of members in all parts of the House, our congratulations and very good wishes to the right hon. member for Prince Albert on this auspicious occasion.

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

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted on behalf of all of us in the New Democratic Party to join in these warm felicitations to the right hon. member for Prince Albert. Some of us remember very well the day that he was first elected. I

was defeated on that day by one John Turner. However, he was not Minister of Finance and within a few years he was dead.

● (1410)

I should like to underline what the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) has said about the contribution of the right hon. member in having been here these 34 years and also to underline what was said about the contribution he has made in particular fields, notably in the defence of civil liberties and fundamental human rights.

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

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I was about to say that we are sorry that his wife, Olive, is not in the gallery, but I see she is behind a post.

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

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** We are sorry that she has had a bit of illness to cope with in recent months. We hope she is making good progress and we wish to Olive and John the very best.

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

[*Translation*]

**Mr. René Matte (Champlain):** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all my colleagues and on my own behalf, I am very happy to join all hon. members in congratulating the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker). Mr. Speaker, I should particularly like to emphasize the right hon. member's integrity and his important role in Canadian politics.

It has often been said that he was not understood in Quebec or that he did not understand Quebec, but I know that since the time when this was said, even Quebecers have come to recognize in Mr. Diefenbaker one of the greatest politicians of Canada, a man full of vigour and energy whose example we should all follow.

I should like to add that the first time I voted in a federal election, in 1957, I voted for this great Canadian.

[*English*]

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, as the senior member of this party in terms of date of election to the House of Commons I should like to associate myself and the members of the government party with the words that have been expressed so well by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield). As the member of this party with the longest service I certainly have no intention of emulating the record of the right hon. gentleman from Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), and I am sure that the Leader of the