

[English]

There is much made, I might add, of the member's penchant for rock music, something that may be little known to the public. One can tell just by looking at the member for Windsor West that he certainly is a fan of the Kentucky Headhunters. However, as someone who has spent 30 years in the House of Commons, we know that the member for Windsor West is no Rolling Stone.

He is respected. We do appreciate the work he has done for his party and for this country.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. William Scott (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today on behalf of the Government of Canada to recognize the 30th anniversary of the election of the hon. member for Windsor West to the House of Commons. He is the longest continuous serving member of Parliament.

When I came here as a rookie in 1965, he was already a fixture as the hon. member for Essex West. Only the hon. member for Saint-Denis can claim to have sat in Parliament with the hon. member for Windsor West before then, having been elected in a by-election in 1964.

Over the years we have seen many changes in the House of Commons. Good friends have come and gone and been replaced by new good friends. What has never changed is the dedication of the hon. member for Windsor West to the process that is exemplified by the House of Commons.

Today we find ourselves in the middle of yet another discussion on the future of our country. The hon. member for Windsor West can no doubt recall many instances over the past 30 years when the future of our country was at stake. Each time he rose above the partisanship that existed here to make a valiant defence of the virtues of our country.

The hon. member for Windsor West has worn many hats in the last 30 years. He has been Minister of National Revenue, Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Minister of Regional and Economic Expansion, President of the Treasury Board, Opposition House Leader and Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in 1990.

Tributes

He was a royal pain in the side of our government at that time.

Thirty years of service to the people of Canada as a federal member of Parliament is something to be very proud of. I join with his family and friends and hon. members from all sides of this House in wishing the hon. member for Windsor West a very happy 30th anniversary.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, I take this special opportunity to stand in celebration of Herb Gray's 30th anniversary in this place as one who can claim to have contributed to his first victory by being a part of the sacrifice then made by the New Democratic Party in the first federal election in which it ran. I have to say that in spite of the chagrin at the time, I knew then that Herb Gray would be a charismatic luminary for almost ever in the Liberal Party as he is today. I share with him the struggle that we from Windsor have undergone in order to ensure that our city is considered to be part of the map of Canada and not its periphery.

I take great pleasure in congratulating my friend and colleague on this his 30th anniversary. I do not know whether I can agree with my leader that he should have another 20 years. I cannot give up the struggle, but I do respect this man.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, at the risk of being named again, I hope you will permit me to take a few minutes to respond to the words of tribute just paid me.

I do want to express my deep and sincere appreciation for these kind words. Listening to them makes me believe that perhaps I have not got off to such a bad start after all.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

• (1430)

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): As I have been reminded here and on the Hill recently, this is the 30th anniversary of my first election to the House of Commons. It is not something I think about a lot because I am not the type of person much given to reminiscence. I prefer to deal with things as they are and as I would like them to be.