

Tribute to the Late George Muir

making light of this matter, may I point out to them that one of the members from Newfoundland tried to encourage my committee to come to Newfoundland in May or June with the promise that we would go tuna fishing. I believed him, Mr. Speaker, until I realized that the tuna do not come in until July.

Be that as it may, I believe within my heart that I am now a better chairman of the regional development committee. The decision whether I am going to be chairman during the next session of the House depends on the committee. Since to all intents and purposes my work on the committee is now finished, I am perfectly prepared to stand for re-election when the committee is convened again. It was opposition members who asked me to be chairman, and if the members of the committee ask me to be chairman again, I will be proud to accept the offer of the opposition. Otherwise I shall take my seat as an ordinary member of the committee.

Some hon. Members: Hear! hear!

Mr. Speaker: The matter raised by the hon. member for South Western Nova is one of interest not only to the hon. member who raised the question and to the hon. member who has just spoken but to the whole House. In view of the fact that there is such a lengthy program of business ahead of us today, perhaps hon. members will allow the Chair to give the situation some thought and to study the precedents before a ruling is handed down. The matter will be taken under very serious consideration during the next day or so.

VACANCY

Mr. Speaker: It is my duty to inform the House that I have received a communication notifying me that a vacancy has occurred in the representation, namely:

Mr. George Muir, member for the electoral district of Lisgar, by decease.

Accordingly I have addressed my warrant to the Chief Electoral Officer for the issue of a new writ of election for the said electoral district.

THE LATE GEORGE MUIR

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we were saddened by the news during the recess of the death of our colleague and friend, George Muir, member for

[Mr. Morison.]

Lisgar. Born and raised in Manitoba, he was an accomplished farmer, a man who understood both the hardships and the satisfactions associated with that way of life.

He was first elected to this House in 1957 and served continuously until his death a little more than a month ago. We remember him as a man of warmth and kind humour, and we share our sense of loss with that of his family and those Canadians he represented in Parliament.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to join with the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in paying tribute to the late George Muir. Probably those among whom one lives are in the best position to judge a person. When one applies this test to George Muir there can be no question about the love and affection with which he was regarded by his constituents and the people among whom he lived. He was a quiet-spoken man, a reasonable man, but also a man of strong convictions and a very high sense of public duty. He had a thorough knowledge of agricultural problems, particularly with regard to the West. We in my party, and I am sure the House as a whole, will greatly miss his counsel and advice.

On behalf of my colleagues and myself I join with the Prime Minister in extending our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Muir and the members of the family.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, the members of this party want to concur in the expressions of appreciation and the tributes that have been paid to the late hon. member for Lisgar.

George Muir sat close to this group and consequently we had an opportunity to get to know him very well. We had a great appreciation of his kindness, his good humour and his thorough knowledge of agricultural problems and the people he represented in the House. All of us were surprised and saddened at the news of his death. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that you will be expressing the view of members in all parts of this chamber in conveying to his family and his constituents the deep sense of loss that we feel at his untimely death.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my group I join with the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and with