

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I join with the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the Right Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Turner) in congratulating you on your re-election as Speaker of the House of Commons.

The reality, as you well know, being the astute man that you are, is that in this vote in which you received a substantial majority of support, indeed the overwhelming majority of support from members of the Conservative Party, the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party, a higher compliment could hardly be paid to any Canadian in public life.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: It has already been said, Sir, that you are a servant of the House and not of the King, not certainly of the Government of the day. All Parties participated in the decision that was reached in 1984 to have, for the first time, an elected Speaker. It was a significant and positive step in reform that is another illustration of why, in our hardly unbiased judgment, the Parliament of Canada on balance is the most democratic of all the parliamentary systems that exist on the planet today.

You will recall what was not exactly a sweeping election victory in 1986. We went through 11 ballots in 11 hours. It was a prolonged process, a hotly contested ballot from which you emerged the clear victor. What is so significant this time around is that having had the judgment of your peers, having had the experience of your making decisions, very often tough, difficult decisions, but invariably fair decisions, the men and women who were re-elected in this Parliament plus the new Members of the House who have reflected upon your performance as they witnessed it during your period in office have given you the highest form of compliment, having voted perhaps for the first time on faith, this time voted on the basis of well deserved reputation.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would just like to say that in our experience, you are a capable, generous, warm, prudent and fair man, and I have great confidence that in the future you will make decisions as

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you have in the past, that is, always fairly, sometimes for the Government, when the Government is right, but also quite often for the opposition Parties!

As I said at the beginning of my remarks, as the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and also the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Turner) suggested, all New Democrats have a lot of confidence. You will continue in the future, as in the past, to be an outstanding Speaker in the history of Canada.

[*English*]

I conclude by joining with others in not only wishing you well in the years ahead that you will be serving your peers in this House, but also the members of your family.

Mr. Speaker: I wish to thank the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner), and the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent), Leader of the New Democratic Party, for their very kind remarks. I shall keep them all in mind in the coming weeks and months.

SITTING SUSPENDED

Mr. Speaker: This sitting is suspended until four o'clock p.m., later this day, at which time the House will proceed to the Senate where Her Excellency will open the First Session of the Thirty-fourth Parliament.

At 11.16 a.m. the sitting of the House was suspended.

SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 4 p.m.

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[*Translation*]

OPENING OF THE SESSION

Mr. Speaker read a communication from the Secretary to the Governor General announcing that Her Excellency the Governor General would arrive at the Main Entrance of the Parliament Buildings at 3.50 p.m. on this day the 12th of December, 1988, and that when it had been signified that all was in readiness, Her Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate Chamber to open formally the First Session of the Thirty-fourth Parliament of Canada.