

David V. Currie

institution in a way that we shall long remember. But we are also conscious of the fairness and the impartiality with which he has dealt with the many requests we have made of him over the years.

Also, I join with the others in paying tribute to the gracious presence of Mrs. Currie. We have enjoyed very much having both of them with us in this building.

We are happy that Your Honour asked the House to take this time today to express our thanks to a distinguished servant of the House of Commons. Your Honour presented a problem when you suggested, because the relevant order in council has already been signed, that he is not properly here; but since the Sergeant-at-Arms is the only person who can eject someone from this place, I guess we have no option but to say we are glad he is still with us.

There is one other custom which is frequently followed in this place, namely, when comments are made by way of tribute to one in this place, that person can respond. It is unfortunate today that our rules do not permit a response from our Sergeant-at-Arms who is retiring. Perhaps that is just as well for the rest of us. He might have some things to say out of his 18 years of experience that are better put in his memoirs than on the record of *Hansard*.

On behalf of my party, I am happy to pay this tribute to Lt. Colonel David Currie. We are honouring him, but I should like to take the liberty of asking him to do something for me before he leaves the chamber today. One of my valued possessions is a book entitled, "Valiant Men—Canada's Victoria Cross and George Cross Winners", edited by John Swettenham. Before he leaves the chamber today, I should be very happy if Lt. Colonel Currie would autograph the page on which appears his picture and the citation related to his being awarded the Victoria Cross on August 18, 1944.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Mr. C. A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, we, of the Social Credit Part of Canada, are quite pleased to join with other parties in extending our congratulations and thanks to Lt. Colonel Currie who has reached the age of retirement, and we are assured that he will know how to fill his retirement years as he did so well when he acted here, in the House of Commons, as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Mr. Speaker, I think that our party is doubly indebted to Lt. Colonel Currie, because members of our party have always sat closest to him, either to the left or to the right. I do not know whether it was because of our affection for him or if he was the one who attracted us to this side of the House, but we were pleased with it because we felt truly protected in the House. I feel duty bound to mention his sincere devotion towards us. When we first came here in 1962, since everything was new for us, we needed much guidance and it took a great deal of patience on the part of the Lt. Colonel. But we were fortunate enough to deal with such a diplomat—indeed I term him a

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre.)]

diplomat—a conscientious and honest diplomat and, Mr. Speaker, a fair and honest man is hard to find nowadays. He knew how to deal with problems quietly and promptly. We can say of Lt. Colonel Currie that he did well what he had to do. I think it is the finest tribute one can pay to him. I wish him and his wife a long and happy retirement.

● (1127)

[*English*]

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, the years roll by. My memory goes back to the occasion when Colonel Currie first took his position as Sergeant-at-Arms. Of all the recommendations I made during my period of office, none gave me greater pleasure than the recommendation that he should be the Sergeant-at-Arms. Great in peace, great in war, and great in the hearts of the members of this institution through the years!

There is nothing one can add to what has already been said, except a personal word to Mrs. Currie and the Colonel. May happiness and sweet content be yours for years to come. Colonel, you have earned a rest after having presided over this institution, in so far as the administration of the law is concerned, for so many years. God bless you both and keep you.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The question period will conclude at 12.15.

● (1132)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[*English*]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

CANADA-U.S. AUTO PACT—REPORTED IMBALANCE IN EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. It deals with the overview of the North American auto industry just completed and released by the treasury department in Ontario.

As the government has had these figures for several days, my question to the Minister of Finance centres on the revelation in the report that if Canadians had their fair share of employment in relation to retail sales in this country respecting the auto industry, we would have 25,000 more Canadians employed in that industry than we have at the present time: we would have 120,000 employed in the industry instead of 95,000 at the present time. Would the minister indicate if he agrees with that observation set out in the Ontario report and, if so, what is the government going to do to correct this imbalance?