

*The Address—Mr. Boudria*

particular election by one James Boyd, who was a wood merchant from the Town of Hawkesbury.

Another interesting feature is the fact that John Sandfield Macdonald, Premier of the United Province of Canada and the first Premier of the Province of Ontario had the honour and privilege of representing the riding of Glengarry in the Legislative Assembly.

William Lyon Mackenzie King represented the constituency between 1945 and 1949. It is interesting for Liberals in the House to note that he was elected in that election with a vote of 4,551 for the Liberals against 325 for the Tories. While I do not quite enjoy that kind of majority in Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, I am grateful for the majority that I did receive and I hope that support from the electorate of my area will continue in future elections.

It is a particular honour for me to come to the House of Commons. I come from humble beginnings and I am very proud of them. I believe it is important for all of us, once we get here, to remember our roots forever. Those of us who forget them will often be reminded in a most ungenerous way by the electors at subsequent elections.

I started working at the House of Commons on October 25, 1966. I believe that I am the first former employee of the House of Commons ever to be elected as a Member of Parliament. I did not come here as an executive assistant to Mr. Speaker, although that would have been nice. Nor did I come here as an adviser to a Cabinet Minister. I was not the son of an MP. I came here as an employee of the Parliamentary Restaurant. I will always have a special place in my heart for the employees of the House of Commons.

During my first days as a Member of Parliament, I had the privilege of taking a tour of the House of Commons. I must say that I have come to the conclusion that we often do not appreciate the work of the staff of this great institution as we should. I want to bring one interesting fact to your attention, Mr. Speaker, of which perhaps we are unaware, that is the lack of attention that we pay to the work of the staff. A few days after the election I was in the hallway right in front of this Chamber. There I noticed a plaque which honours a Member of Parliament who died in the great fire of 1916. Underneath the Member's name it says that six employees also died, but their names are not listed. I think it important that we pay more attention to the people who make this place work.

● (1520)

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

**Mr. Boudria:** I propose that we erect a plaque honouring these six people, and if this House is unwilling to do so, I will offer to pay for it myself if someone, some day, will install the plaque. The plaque will honour the following six people: Madame Louis Morin, Madame Henri Bray, Mr. J. B. R. Laplante, assistant clerk of the House, Mr. A. Desjardins, a plumber, Mr. Alphonse Desjardins, employee of the federal public service, and Mr. Randolph Fanning, an employee of the post office. I believe it would be recognition of the 3,000

people who work here if we paid that special tribute to the six employees who gave their lives.

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

**Mr. Boudria:** I have the utmost respect for this institution, Sir, and as I said, I worked here previously. I was a member of the Legislative Assembly of our great Province of Ontario, and I was a member on three different occasions of a municipal council. I believe, as my Leader very correctly said only a few days ago, that no greater honour can be paid to a Canadian than to be elected to the forum of this nation. I believe it was our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) who said it is a great country when a truck driver can aspire to be Prime Minister. I would like to think that this is not a bad place where a busboy in the Parliamentary Restaurant can someday return as a Member of Parliament.

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

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Are there any questions or comments?

We will continue with debate. The Hon. Member for Champlain (Mr. Champagne).

[Translation]

**Mr. Michel Champagne (Champlain):** Mr. Speaker, first I wish to thank voters in the riding of Champlain for the trust they placed in me and the Progressive Conservative Party on September 4 of this year. The vast majority of my constituents realized that important changes have to be made in the riding, in the province and in this country, if Canada is to be saved from the social and economic disaster towards which the Liberals have been leading us during the last twenty years. We owe this tremendous victory for democracy to a Party, to our Party, which listened to the needs of the people, which was receptive and understood the expectations of all Canadians, expectations which in the past had been dashed by an all too arrogant Liberal Government, a Liberal Government which thought it owned the country, a Liberal Government which wasted the hard-earned dollars of the Canadian people.

Mr. Speaker, this country was sick and tired of the Liberal Government's constant confrontation tactics with the provinces. That is why, Mr. Speaker, after the election on September 4, the Progressive Conservative Party has received a clear mandate, a mandate that will give Canadians, once again, a chance to fulfil their potential in all economic and social sectors. Hon. Members will remember that during the last election campaign, Brian Mulroney and his team of Progressive Conservative candidates invited the Canadian people to work together with them towards national reconciliation. The Right Hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Mulroney, has always associated reconciliation with the need to bring about an economic consensus. The climate of tension that existed under the previous government was one of the factors that led to the sad deterioration of our economy. In my riding, in Champlain, Mr. Speaker, this has meant a combined unemployment rate