

Members of Parliament

itemize all the tremendous contributions which this gentleman has made to Parliament and to Canada. It is always a pleasure to have him in our midst. We always sense that he is a sort of guardian angel that presides over this institution and one who sort of provokes us into doing those things which are clearly right and clearly in the best interest of the parliamentary tradition.

To my great friend and colleague, a truly great Canadian, the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Hees), who celebrated his seventy-seventh birthday on Wednesday, let me say that I agree with the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition that he is getting younger and better looking every day. I am sure he will be around for a long time to come.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I want to recognize the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray) who must rise on this day each week to ask the usual question of the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski). I know, after all the marvellous things which have been said about him, that today's exchange will be an absolute model of civility.

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I hope you will permit me to postpone asking the customary weekly question about the business the Government intends to call, so that I may have a minute or two to respond to the comments of my Leader, the Government House Leader, and the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

First, I want to join with the good wishes extended already to the Hon. Stanley Knowles and to the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Hees) on the occasion of their birthdays. May they go on for many years to come.

Using the precedent of the Leader of the New Democratic Party, may I say in a personal sense, in respect of the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) who entered the House in the same election as myself in 1962, that frankly it does not seem all that long ago that I first arrived here. Perhaps it is because—and I think the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North would agree with me—I have had the marvellous privilege of being able to serve in the House of Commons and the marvellous privilege of being able to serve the people of my community, of the City of Windsor, and the people of Canada as a Member of Parliament and also as a Minister. Very few people have had that kind of opportunity. I am deeply grateful to all those who have helped me achieve what I have been able to achieve, no matter how little it may be.

I express my thanks to my own family. I express my thanks as well to the thousands of people in my own community who have worked with me and have supported me over past years to enable me to have the privilege of serving in the House of Commons as a Member of Parliament and, from time to time, the privilege of working as a Minister.

I think I can say that whatever I have done and whatever I hope to do in the House of Commons, the people of my

community share with me in these efforts and, hopefully from time to time, in some achievements. In a sense they are here with me, because I feel very much that I am here working with and for them.

Certainly I have been privileged to be able to work for and speak out on behalf of individual Canadians, ordinary Canadians and their families, as workers, consumers, and small business people. I have been privileged to be able to speak out and work for the preservation of Canada as a strong, sovereign, and independent country.

I am grateful for the words of my Leader in that regard, but I want to say to him that I am not sure I am even ready to consider rushing in to accept the offer he made a few minutes ago. I think I would like to see the present situation continue, hopefully crowned with even greater achievement and success in the next election.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to say how much I appreciate the great privilege of being a Member of the House and representing thousands of electors, thousands of constituents who have allowed me to serve them as their Member of Parliament and, from time to time, as a Minister. It is a great privilege and a challenge to work for one's country, to do one's best to build it, and to make a better life for its whole population.

[*English*]

I thank very much those who have spoken for their kind words. I hope, with the support of the Almighty and my electors, to be able to continue to try to live up to the sentiments expressed in those remarks.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner), the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski), and of course the Leader of our Party, the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent) for the kind words they have expressed.

It has indeed been an honour and a privilege for me to have been able to be here for 25 years, to be able to do the things I want to do, and to be able to express the views and to push for the ideas in which I believe.

I want to recognize and thank the people of my part of Winnipeg for letting me do this. I have not been too surprised, because it is a tradition which goes back to 1900.

In 1900, the first Labour Member of Parliament in Canada, Arthur Putee, was elected in Winnipeg. In 1925, Winnipeg North sent a Labour Member, Mr. Heaps, to Parliament, who stayed here until 1940. We had one Liberal for one term in 1945, then we elected a CCF Member, Alistair Stewart, who stayed here until 1958. We had a Conservative Member for