

this Crown Corporation consult with senior members of management in order to order them back to the bargaining table so that they can begin the process of resolving this long and bitter dispute which is not only affecting the lives of families and children but indeed of a community at large. I urge the Minister to take that action immediately.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

[*English*]

LEADER OF THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

TRIBUTE TO HON. EDWARD BROADBENT

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would like very briefly to pay tribute to the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent). He recently announced his intention of relinquishing the leadership of the New Democratic Party. I will do so with some moderation for the moment, Mr. Speaker, bearing in mind the fact that the Member remains at his post until next winter which will give us both ample time and opportunity to pursue the ongoing assessment of our respective merits.

I have learned it is also advisable to exercise prudence in commenting on a retirement from the leadership of a rival Party. Recent history has shown that an announced retirement is different from a real retirement.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, as I watched the Hon. Member for Oshawa tango at the Governor General's last night I can tell that you he didn't look like anybody announcing his retirement at all.

In fact it is much too early to imagine the Member, the very distinguished Member, in one of his radical chic leisure suits, puttering around in his Sandy Hill mansion, or blowing smoke from his famous Monte Cristo cigars while lounging on the beach in Rio after another exhausting meeting of the Socialist International.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: I point out at the same time the Progressive Conservatives were meeting in Jonquière.

However, I know that whatever the disagreements we may have in this place, and we have had a few, and I suppose we will again, the Leader of the NDP will always remain faithful to the principles that his whole political career has in fact exemplified. For that, Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Oshawa has earned the unanimous admiration and respect of all members of the House of Commons.

Tribute to Hon. Edward Broadbent

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Whereupon the House stood in tribute*].

Mr. Mulroney: Because the Member never wavered in his support for those fundamental principles of equality and justice on which this country was built, and because he defended them with passion and intelligence within his Party and throughout the country, he has made a singular contribution to our national life.

[*Translation*]

I daresay, Mr. Speaker, that the New Democratic Leader already enjoys a special place in this history of his party, and that he greatly contributed to the development of our collective conscience.

It would be an insult to the New Democratic Leader's intelligence if I stated that I share all the positions taken by his Party, not to mention the fact that some Members of his caucus become quite susceptible when confronted with support from moderate quarters!

But when it came to major stakes involving our future, especially the absolute need for genuine national reconciliation in this country, the Leader of the New Democratic Party always put the nation's higher interests above every partisan or political consideration.

This, Mr. Speaker, has earned him I believe, the respect and affection of many Quebec men and women who, fortunately for me, were not concentrated in the same constituency.

• (1420)

[*English*]

I think there exists in Canada today a profound desire to get on with the job of preparing a better future for our children and their children. Canadians are no longer interested in fighting again the sterile battles of the past when the 21st century beckons.

This new spirit which we feel throughout this land, and throughout all political Parties in this Chamber, did not come about spontaneously. Nor is it the product of one man or woman or one political Party's action. It comes above all from a shared conviction that unity and harmony are the foundations on which we must build our future prosperity and strength.

Few people in this Chamber or elsewhere have contributed more to this new spirit, so beneficial for Canada, than the Hon. Member for Oshawa, the Leader of the New Democratic Party. To you, Ed, and to Lucille, whom we all enjoy and admire, I convey the genuine congratulations of the Government of Canada and the warm good wishes of all Canadians from coast to coast.