

a living man who is in good health with a dead one. It is unjust to do that. But it can be said that everybody meant well.

The cabinet ministers spoke well. My good friend the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. MacNicol) made a moving speech. So did the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Church); the leader of the C.C.F. party, and the member for Lethbridge (Mr. Blackmore) acting as leader of the Social Credit party, also spoke very well. I regret that we have not enough celebrations of this kind. We had one for Mr. King on the occasion of his birthday, and at the time of the unveiling of his picture in the House of Commons. On another occasion, when he left for a trip outside of Canada, we wished him godspeed; and on his return he was welcomed. But I think there should be celebrations like that for every member of the House of Commons. We have a gracious member amongst us, the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mrs. Strum). Why do we not join together in order to hold a celebration in her honour?

The spirit of the House of Commons is better today than it usually is. Why? Because politics have been forgotten for a time. That is a good thing. We are here together. We are in the same boat. I notice once more that Mr. King has some very good friends amongst his critics. Those who flatter him are not always his true friends. They may expect something, but he is too great a man to pay attention to flattery. I am sure that at times he appreciates criticism much more than flattery, because he must surely give the one who may criticize, the benefit of the doubt.

Now, sir, in the hope that you and all my colleagues will be honoured in turn on fine occasions like this, I offer my congratulations and good wishes to Mr. King, as this is a good precedent for other celebrations of the same kind to honour each one of our colleagues in turn.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, may I at once extend my good wishes to every hon. member of this house, and my warmest thanks for the generous expressions of good will to which I have listened this afternoon. I do not think I need say that it would be much easier and pleasanter for me to be extending congratulations to hon. members in different parts of the house than to be attempting to acknowledge the kind words that have been extended to me. Nevertheless these occasions do come along. They have been coming much too rapidly of late; time has been flying by much too quickly. To have been able to retain over

many years the confidence and good will of those closest to one in public life is in itself something for which one should indeed be more than grateful. I should like hon. members to know that for their confidence, over so long period of time, I am indeed deeply grateful.

I thank very warmly my colleague the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ilesley) and my colleague the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. St. Laurent) for what they have so kindly said on behalf of the members of the government, and the members of the party with which I have been associated during the greater part of my life. They need no words of acknowledgment, but rather would I express gratitude to them for what their lives and the lives of those on whose behalf they have spoken, have meant to mine; what the loyalty, the industry and the ability of those by whom, over the years, I have been surrounded in council has meant so far as my life is concerned in bringing this day to pass.

I thank most warmly all members of the Liberal party, those in this house and those outside it, who have given me their support, for having made possible the years of office it has been my privilege to enjoy.

Need I say, Mr. Speaker, that it has touched me not a little that words from hon. gentlemen of the official opposition should have come from two hon. members who have been not only close personal friends over many years, but who also have had close associations with those who have been nearest and dearest to me in my life. It has been, perhaps, a part of my misfortune that so much of my time in public life has been lived more or less alone. But that has only served to cause me to realize more deeply, than perhaps I otherwise would have, how much I owe in what there may have been by way of accomplishment to those whose example and whose lives have meant more than all else to mine. I thank the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. MacNicol) for his close friendship, and for his reference to the friendship of our mothers, before either of us was born. I also thank the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Church), who has had close associations with members of our family in the past, for having spoken so generously of what that association has meant.

I need not say how deeply I appreciate the kindly sentiments expressed by my friend the leader of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (Mr. Coldwell) and those of my friend the hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Blackmore), who has spoken on behalf of the leader of the Social Credit party. To both