

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, December 17, 1970

The House met at 2 p.m.

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TRIBUTES TO DR. MAURICE OLLIVIER, JOINT LAW CLERK
AND PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL, ON RETIREMENT—
APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH MAINGOT

Mr. Speaker: May I impart to the House the sad news that effective January 1 Dr. Maurice Ollivier will retire from the office of Joint Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel of the House of Commons.

On a brighter note, I am sure that hon. members will be pleased to know that Mr. Joseph Maingot will be promoted to succeed Dr. Ollivier. In the discharge of his previous responsibilities as Assistant Counsel, Mr. Maingot has earned the respect of all who have had occasion to seek his advice and guidance. We know that he will continue to serve members well in his new position.

At the same time, I am sure hon. members would want me to express their appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Maurice Ollivier who is leaving us after serving so many years in the high office of Parliamentary Counsel and Joint Law Clerk of the House of Commons. For close to half a century, Dr. Ollivier has dispensed knowledge and wisdom to generations of Members of Parliament, to political leaders, to successive Speakers.

[*Translation*]

His constantly alert intellect, his sound judgment and his dedication to duty made it possible for Dr. Ollivier to make his profound knowledge of parliamentary and constitutional law reliably and efficiently available to Parliament. His drive and his dedication both to hon. members and to the parliamentary institution itself were never found wanting.

In the course of his long career, Dr. Ollivier was able to adjust to all new situations. He possessed the ability to renew himself and to preserve his youth of spirit. Indeed, there has long been a suspicion that Dr. Ollivier has discovered the secret of perpetual youth and is jealously keeping it to himself.

Even after he leaves the House, he will therefore be able to pursue his professional and other activities with the same zeal and vigour that marked his work in the Parliament of Canada.

[*English*]

On behalf of the House, I reiterate to Dr. Ollivier the assurance of our gratitude for so many years of faithful service to the Parliament of Canada.

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might be permitted a few words on this

occasion as one who first came to this Parliament in 1957 but before that had the experience of sitting in the Parliamentary Press Gallery as far back as 1949. I will not recall all the events that have happened since or even some of them, but I should like to pay tribute on behalf of my party to Dr. Ollivier who has been a most excellent parliamentary counsel. We wish his successor, Mr. Maingot, well.

• (2.10 p.m.)

Having known the great Dr. Ollivier over the years and having had the advantage of seeing some of his treasure house of documents concerning events that have happened in Parliament but which have not necessarily been reported, I hope that Your Honour and others will see fit to approach the Canada Council so that some of the documents that Dr. Ollivier has assembled dealing with the events of state over the past 50 years may be published in printed form. Having seen some of these documents which have never been publicized before, I am aware that among them are some of the most revealing and certainly some of the most interesting recollections pertaining to the development of Canada as a nation that one could ever hope to see.

I wish Dr. Ollivier well in his retirement and also his wife, Blanche. I wish the new parliamentary counsel well. I hope Your Honour will give some consideration to the thought I have directed to you today.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, Your Honour has spoken so well on behalf of all of us that nothing needs be added, but on behalf of my party, I should like to re-echo most warmly everything you have said about Dr. Ollivier.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, from this corner of the House it is difficult for us to determine Dr. Ollivier's physical size, but nevertheless we have been able in the past to size him up from the standpoint of his efficiency, which, moreover, you have very well defined in your comments.

For the information of hon. members, Dr. Ollivier is a Quebecer, and members of the Ralliement Cr ditiste well recall that, in 1962, those among them who had no parliamentary experience were able to benefit from his wide knowledge and experience.

Should Dr. Ollivier have kept to himself the secret of eternal youth, we hope that his retirement will give him