

*The Leader of the Opposition***AFTER RECESS**

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

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NEW MEMBERS

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has received from the Chief Electoral Officer certificates of the election and return of the following members:

Of Mr. Brian Mulroney, for the electoral district of Central Nova.

Of Mr. Gerry St. Germain, for the electoral district of Mission-Port Moody.

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NEW MEMBERS INTRODUCED

Brian Mulroney, Member for electoral district of Central Nova, introduced by Hon. Erik Nielsen and Hon. George Hees.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Gerry St. Germain, Member for the electoral district of Mission-Port Moody, introduced by Mr. Brian Mulroney and Mr. Chuck Cook.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

WELCOME TO NEW PAGES

Madam Speaker: I also wish to welcome our new group of pages who are commencing their duties today in the House.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*English*]

Madam Speaker: The House has already applauded the pages who are beginning service today in the House of Commons for the entire year. We hope with all our hearts that they have a good year among us and that they learn a lot from all of us.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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● (1410)

[*Translation*]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau:—as you see, a spirit of benevolence pervades the House today. Perhaps you will allow me to say a few words, in addition to the welcome extended from this side of the House to the new Leader of the Opposition. I would like to address a special word of welcome to the two new Members who have just joined the House. I am told that the Member for Mission-Port Moody (Mr. St. Germain) is perfectly bilingual. Madam Speaker, I can give the Hon. Member the assurance that, in this House, all Members are on an equal footing and that we on this side intend to be as attentive to his words as to those of the other Hon. Member who has just joined our ranks.

I would like to say a very special word of welcome to the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark). I would like to congratulate him on the duties he will be taking up at York University. However, I hope that his responsibilities there will not keep him away from the parliamentary scene, because as emeritus leader his position is a very honourable one and we intend to show him the respect he is due.

[*English*]

You will understand, Madam Speaker, if I say that, standing in this place, I feel a little bit that we are witnessing the onslaught of history. When I first came into this Chamber we on this side were faced by a very formidable Leader of the Opposition, the former Member for Prince Albert, the Right Hon. Mr. Diefenbaker. But he stood alone as leader on the other side.

On the other hand, very soon after I stood in this place, I was faced by the Leader of the Opposition who was then Mr. Stanfield. But he was flanked by his former leader, the Right Hon. Mr. Diefenbaker. It then came the turn of the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark) to lead his Party. He was flanked not by one but by two former leaders, Mr. Diefenbaker and Mr. Stanfield, who stood by his side to assist him.

Now, as we see the Member for Central Nova (Mr. Mulroney) take on his duties as Leader of the Opposition, he is not only flanked by the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead but also by the Hon. Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) who was interim Leader of the Opposition. I dare say there is a third leader—at least his ghost is still in this place and we feel it often—the former Member for Prince Albert who, I am sure, will be here to assist the Hon. Member for Central Nova.

We are very happy to welcome the Hon. Member for Central Nova. I am sure he will forgive us if we say that we have even greater pleasure at the presence in the gallery of Mrs. Mulroney.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: The Hon. Member for Central Nova has come a long way from that log cabin in Pictou County. I see that he has put away his rumpled trousers and old sweaters, to be brought out again at the next election. In the meantime it is nice for us in this Chamber to be able to bask in the glow, in