

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, December 28, 1971

The House met at 2 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRIME MINISTER ON BIRTH OF SON

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege, a point of order and a matter concerning the business of the House. In the absence of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield), on his behalf, on behalf of all members of this party and, I think, all members of the House, as well as all the people of Canada, I extend to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and Mrs. Trudeau our very warm and sincere congratulations on their new arrival. We hope that his wife and new baby will be home soon. We wish them joy.

I resisted all kinds of advice as to what to say at this time. I have stayed away from witticisms. However, I am entitled, on a Parliamentary issue, to say to the Prime Minister that he will have joy and happiness. There will be problems, of course, but it will be useless in the debates that may take place from time to time to employ 75C. It just will not work.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baldwin: I suggest that he learn by heart the provisions of Standing Order 13 which contains the procedure when there is a stranger in the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I am very happy, on behalf of this party, to extend our warmest congratulations to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and Mrs. Trudeau on the happiness that came to their life Christmas night.

Around this place, one frequently looks for precedents, especially when there is something one must say. I thought, since so much has been made of the fact that only on one previous occasion has a Prime Minister while in office become a father, that I might find something in the records of February 1869, that would be appropriate. Alas, my search was in vain. The House was not sitting in February, 1869. When it did meet in April, nothing was said about the arrival that February of a daughter in the home of the then Prime Minister. This means, Mr. Speaker, that this really is a first.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): This is the first time in the history of Canada that the House of Commons has had the opportunity to extend to a Prime Minister and his wife congratulations on the arrival of their child. We do so with great pleasure and wish them all very real happiness.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to extend, in my own name and on behalf of my colleagues of the Social Credit party, most sincere congratulations to the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and Mrs. Trudeau on the birth of a son, occurring on such a memorable date.

We wish the new baby and the Trudeau family every happiness and success during 1972.

[English]

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank members of all parties for the very good wishes that have been expressed on behalf of every member of this House. I want to say that this is certainly the right season for this to happen. The House leader of the Conservative party, by his reference to rule 75C, has said that this is one way in which I could proceed. I hope I will be able to use 75B a bit more often.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

• (2:10 p.m.)

Mr. Trudeau: But one way or another, the baby has arrived 'just-in' time to have agreement.

This is one case where I would be able to tell him that I have had advice from people of all parties who have had some experience in the rearing of children and that there will be a multi-party approach to this. Mr. Speaker, I will say this is one area where I am certainly very happy to receive advice from the opposition parties.

[Translation]

And I particularly tell all hon. members that it is a memorable day for me when I am the object of such a warm reception from everyone.

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, with regard to this very memorable day and considering that all parties have offered their good wishes to the Prime Minister, may I, on behalf of my electors of the Joliette riding, offer my very best wishes to the newborn child, to the Prime Minister and to Mrs. Trudeau, as well as to the members of their families.

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[English]

AIR TRANSPORT

SECURITY MEASURES AGAINST HIJACKING—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion under Standing Order 43. It is a motion which I