

Tributes

• (1420)

Your achievements do you great honour. We, your fellow Commoners, can only hope that we will continue to benefit from your wisdom and dedication for many years to come.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, one does not have to think long and hard to find the words to pay tribute to the hon. member for Windsor West. We met when I arrived in the House the year after he was elected, and although I took a sabbatical for a couple of years, I sat on the Liberal benches with the hon. member for Windsor-West for nearly a quarter of a century.

[*English*]

As you said, Mr. Speaker, he served this House very well in many capacities. He has always been a very hard working member of Parliament, a very dedicated minister, and an excellent interim Leader of the Opposition, but there is one thing that has to be an example to all members of this House. He has always been a fantastic member of Parliament for the people he has represented.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Chrétien: It is an example for all of us that every time the member for Windsor West got up, whatever his duty, we always knew that he was from Windsor, Ontario and that the interests of his constituents were always reflected in his policy stance. He has always been a very good supporter of the party. He was an example in terms of discipline, but he served his people first and foremost. For that he has to be an example to all members of this House.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Chrétien: I want to say that he is re-establishing something that seems to have disappeared from Canadian politics. After we have served for many years in very important positions, the press, the media and public opinion seem to say that perhaps we should go else-

where. In Europe people serve after they have been Prime Minister and minister for years, keeping their seat in the House, offering advice, example, and participating in the debate for a long, long time in their lives because experience and judgment are very important.

That is why we on the Liberal side do not want to make too much about 30 years. It is not enough. We want him for many more years.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Chrétien: I am sure that despite the differences between the parties, all members of this House wish that Herb, Herb, Herb will be around for a long, long, long time.

Some hon. members: Herb, Herb, Herb.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear, hear.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my party, I wish to pay tribute to the hon. member for Windsor West.

[*English*]

Thirty years in politics is indeed a very long time. It is a testament to the stamina of our colleague that he has successfully steered his way through 10 elections and the vagaries of political life. Fewer than 27 members in the history of Canada have served in this House for 30 years.

There is a former member sitting here today, Mr. Stanley Knowles. I would like to say to the hon. member for Windsor West that he has about 20 more years to catch up on Mr. Knowles who will have been here for 50 years and today is celebrating his 84th birthday.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Ms. McLaughlin: I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that it is a grand acknowledgement to the member for Windsor West that he has served this House well. He has served his country well. He has been a leading spokesperson for his party and a very able cabinet minister.

[*Translation*]

He always conducted himself with great dignity and showed great respect for others. The entire House has benefited from his wisdom.