

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, November 14, 1967

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBER FOR ONTARIO ON SERVICE AS LEADER OF OPPOSITION

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I should like to call the attention of the house to the fact that barring unforeseen and unexpected circumstances, this is the last day on which the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Starr) will be the Leader of the Opposition, and I would like to congratulate him if I may. I hope he will not misunderstand me when I offer the congratulations of the house on the way he has carried out his responsibilities. Of course, Mr. Speaker, there have been times when he has been quite unreasonable and strong headed in his criticism of the government, but he seems to get away with that sort of thing yet maintain the regard, respect and affection of us all. Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that he will move over in a political but not a physical sense, and we are delighted that he will still be around.

Perhaps a more important reason for rising on this day is that the hon. gentleman's last day as Leader of the Opposition is his first day as a young man of 57. I should like to extend to him our congratulations and to wish him many happy returns.

Hon. Michael Starr (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the right hon. Prime Minister for his flattering and kind words. They almost made me feel like a blushing bride. I appreciate his thoughtfulness in directing these words to me.

May I say that as a short term interim leader I have had the good fortune to receive the full co-operation of the members of our party, and thus my task was made easier. I know the new leader on his arrival in the house tomorrow will receive the same co-operation, and I am sure, the Prime Minister will suitably welcome him.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I hope the members of this party may be allowed to associate themselves

with the words of the right hon. Prime Minister in extending congratulations to the hon. member for Ontario on the able manner in which he has discharged his duties as acting Leader of the Opposition. We also wish him good health and good fortune on his birthday anniversary.

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, we want to join with the other hon. members in offering our best wishes to the present Leader of the Opposition.

[English]

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, lest our silence be misunderstood, we in this group want to associate ourselves with the expressions of good wishes to the hon. member for Ontario.

• (2:40 p.m.)

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING PUBLICATIONS IN BOTH LANGUAGES

Mr. Raymond Rock (Jacques-Cartier-Lasalle) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-183, to amend the British North America Act, 1867 and Publication of Statutes Act (proceedings to be printed in French and English on the same page).

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VIET NAM—REPORTED STATEMENT BY MINISTER RESPECTING U.S. POSITION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Prime Minister was so kind to me earlier today I shall refrain from asking him a question about the C.B.C. Instead I shall direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and ask him whether the statement he made yesterday to the effect that the United States has no right to be in Viet Nam—I might say this was widely quoted in the press—represents a new hardening of the government's attitude on this matter, or does it now represent the government's policy?