

*Routine Proceedings*

lot of us when we came in 1988 was to meet the many people whom we had looked up to over the years for their experience, knowledge and expertise, people like yourself, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, we have not looked up to you for very long because you have not been around here as long as some of the others. However, we have certainly looked up to you with respect for the kind of knowledge and experience you have brought to this place and for what you have done for Canada because that is very important.

We have seen people who have received tributes today, like the Deputy Prime Minister, the House leader and members of the opposition who may not be returning to this place because of choices they have made after serving this country for so many years. Just to be able to meet with them, to talk with them, to sit on a committee with them and to call them by their first names has been one of the greatest thrills for me. I do not think one could ever measure that, but it is something I will cherish for all my life.

We also get to meet members from all parts of this country. I did not understand the difference in the difficulties faced in my part of Canada just north of Toronto, Ontario and the difficulties my colleague from Regina faces. There are differences in this country.

I had the privilege of visiting Iqaluit not too long ago. A three hour plane ride did not seem like too big a deal, but it was minus 70 when I arrived. It was nippy. I was able to speak with some of the people up there. I spoke with the member who does not happen to sit on this side of the House, but we spoke about some of the difficulties. That was in our country. We had virtually an 80 degree Celsius temperature change in this country.

We forget the expanse of this country, the changes and the differences and that is just going straight north. We go through five and a half time zones east to west. No wonder we have difficulties in communicating and working with one another. It is closer for the people on the east coast to go to England and Europe and there are fewer time zones than when they go to Vancouver, British Columbia.

When we think of what we have accomplished as a nation and as a country it is just so wonderful to feel that

in our own little way we have been able to play a small part. To me it has been a wonderful thrill.

I was listening earlier to the member for Bonavista—Trinity—Conception. Last summer we had the privilege of twinning our ridings. One hundred and twenty young people from my riding went to the east coast of Newfoundland and 120 young people from the east coast of Newfoundland came to York—Simcoe.

It was a great learning experience for those young people and others accompanying them. It was culture shock. Both groups went through culture shock when they arrived. They did not understand the differences between our communities. But when they went home they had a better understanding of what it was like to live in another part of Canada three or four time zones away. That was a wonderful experience. I could not have been part of that if I had not been serving as a member of Parliament.

I think of members of the opposition with whom I have had the privilege of working, certainly in the Whip's office. To the Official Opposition Whip who has come in, it has been my pleasure to work with him and the Whip from the New Democratic Party.

• (2115)

I think of the Whips I have served under and have had the privilege of being assistant to on the government side. I certainly appreciate the knowledge and expertise they have brought to the job. I also appreciate the staff of the Whip's office. I know I give them a hard time once in a while but we know they are the ones who run the place. They certainly run a lot of the government members around. I do appreciate the work they have done and the work my own office staff does, whether on the Hill or in Newmarket and throughout the riding.

There is one thing that I have to comment on before I finish up tonight because it is probably one of the real disappointments that I have felt in this place. It is a twofold disappointment in that before November 21, 1988 those of us who were rookies came here because we were upstanding, upright citizens. We were dedicated and we did the right things. We were respected in our communities, and all the other things that went with it.