

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish also to thank this House's friend and adviser, our honorary Officer at the Table, the Hon. Stanley Knowles, for being with us today.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Finally, let us remember some appropriate words from one of our country's greatest parliamentarians, Edward Blake, who said in 1873:

The privileges of Parliament are the privileges of the people, and the rights of Parliament are the rights of the people.

One hundred and fifteen years later, those words are still true—we should remember them.

[*Translation*]

Finally, I wish to thank again all Hon. Members of the House for their support.

[*English*]

I am your servant, and I will need your continued support to carry out my duties to you in this Chamber.

Let us all in the interests of the country, our love, do our duty. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[*And the Mace having been laid upon the Table:*]

**Mr. Speaker:** The Right Hon. Prime Minister.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to offer you my heartfelt congratulations on your election. I am very impressed, of course, with your back-to-back majorities.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:** Above all, I want to salute in you, Sir, a faithful and dedicated servant of Parliament who has guided us well through a momentous period of our recent history. Your service to the House of Commons and to all of us has been sterling and noble.

On behalf of all Members, irrespective of political backgrounds, I salute you today, Sir, as a genuine leader of Parliament and a servant of us all.

[*Translation*]

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Mulroney:** Mr. Speaker, since you were first elected to this office, you have heard pressing arguments and passionate debates from both sides of the House on crucial questions for the future of Canada. Thanks to your personal qualities and your great sense of responsibility, these discussions could be held within the bounds

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of dignity and, at all times, of relevancy. We are all grateful to you.

[*English*]

We have not achieved unanimity very often here, before or since your election as Speaker, nor did we expect that we would. However, I think I can speak for all who have sat in this House during the two years that you, Sir, have occupied the presidency, when I say that you, Mr. Speaker, were a most important participant in the thorough and careful study of the important and delicate questions that have been raised by Members in this House of Commons.

The confidence just reiterated in you by your colleagues from all sides of the House is a tribute to the objective, the dignified and serene way in which you have presided over our often difficult deliberations.

I wish, Mr. Speaker, to assure you today of my respectful co-operation and that of my colleagues during the session that we are about to inaugurate. On behalf of not only Members from all sides of the House but, I suppose, in a special way, if I may say so, with the concurrence of the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) and the Leader of the NDP, on behalf of all Canadians who have come to see in you a symbol of parliamentary democracy, I thank you for your contribution and I wish you and your family well.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, that is just a prelude of things to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to have the privilege of congratulating my constituency neighbour, the Hon. Member for Vancouver South, on his re-election as Speaker of this House of Commons. I do that not only in my capacity as Leader of the Opposition but also as a personal friend of over a quarter century's standing. I echo in personal terms the good wishes of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) not only to you, Sir, as a gentleman of first rank, but to your family who have given you unquestionable support over the years.