

*Routine Proceedings*

• (2020)

There is one in particular that I believe was achievable. I have not actually achieved it but I think I have moved it along and other members in the House have helped me. It is the business of Canada taking control over that portion of our domain called the nose and tail of the Grand Banks.

I think every member in the House has heard me speak on that. A highlight for me was when I was allowed to have a private member's motion that was debated in this House on three separate occasions, in February, March and in the dying days of this government on Monday morning. All sides of the House spoke on the subject. The motion was voted on. I could not have achieved more in the sense of getting it to that point after four and a half years. Regrettably the motion did not carry because there were not enough votes in support of it, but I feel honoured that I was able to represent almost 100,000 Newfoundlanders, my constituents, and raise their profile by raising this very motion which is germane, if not directly to every one of my constituents, certainly indirectly in the second or third case.

I will close by saying that yes there have been disappointments. Yes the economy is in rough shape and yes decisions have been made that I did not agree with. I have spoken in detail on that but I do not believe this is the night to be specific. I am sure other people on both sides of the House will be specific about that.

I simply want to say one more time what a great pleasure, what a feeling of pride it is to stand here in this House tonight and say that I represent close to 100,000 of my constituents and they are great constituents. How do I judge that? I have been in a lot of houses, like all members in the House, and I have been in houses where I knew the political philosophy was entirely different from mine, but I have yet to enter a house or knock on the door and been treated with anything but total civility and the hospitality for which Newfoundlanders and indeed my constituents have become known.

I want to say to them what a great pleasure it has been to serve them. They will be seeing as much of me this summer as they have in past summers. I will continue to look after their concerns, even though the House is not sitting, in the hope of coming back to renew their

concerns on whatever side of the House that is going to be.

I am not giving a farewell speech, but I think it would be inappropriate for me to sit down without thanking members of my family who have made their sacrifices and particularly my wife Gwenneth who comes to Ottawa some weekends. In the wintertime I am off to the riding and in the summer it is sometimes reversed. I have great admiration for how she does this, like all wives and spouses, without a complaint. For the staff members who work for me and who put in a lot of long hours I could not ask for, nor could any member, more loyal, dedicated people who work in the best interests of my concerns and the concerns of the constituents.

I would like to thank all the staff of the House of Commons—we have all made great friends here—the office of the Speaker, you, Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the Speaker to whom many accolades were paid today. Thanks particularly to the security guards who serve such a fantastic function and always have a smile for us even when we are so busy that we do not even really think about that aspect of life. I have always treasured the friendship of my colleagues and I hope that anything that has happened in the heat of debate will not be considered to be personal. As we dissolve this Parliament and go on to other things, whether it is back for another political session in the 35th Parliament or another session of the 34th Parliament, I would like to believe we can all leave here better for having served, better friends and with more friends for having served as well.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you. I thank all those who have helped me and in particular I thank my colleagues and constituents for allowing me this rare pleasure for any Canadian. I wish everybody the best of luck, goodwill and best wishes.

• (2025)

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, I know there is a speech coming up as it ought to be from my hon. friend from Parry Sound—Muskoka so I want to make a short comment. I want to echo the comments of my hon. colleague who has just spoken and say how pleased we are in terms of how we have been served as members of Parliament by Speaker Fraser, Madam Champagne, and you, Mr. Speaker. We appreciate that