

Members of Parliament

House for dedicated and long service to the people of Canada and to this Chamber. I rise to pay particular tribute to my seat-mate and friend, the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray), and the opposition House Leader for celebrating today the twenty-fifth anniversary of his first election to the House of Commons.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I use the same privilege you have accorded to me to extend the same good wishes and admiration to the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) who has served this House with distinction in a very historic seat in a great tradition from that city, in the House of Commons.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1510)

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, we are in a happy mood, and you ought to take advantage of it. I hope the Clerk of the House will transmit to Stanley Knowles our best wishes, from this quarter of the House, on his seventy-ninth birthday.

I want to say to the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Hees), whose seventy-seventh birthday it was yesterday, that he is looking better than ever; that he is sounding better than ever.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Beatty: It is his first seventy-seventh, too!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): As a matter of fact, the Minister of Veterans Affairs has a younger approach to life than does the current Minister of National Defence (Mr. Beatty).

An Hon. Member: He is not nearly as stuffy.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I am sure the House will allow me a personal remark or two in tribute to my friend from Windsor West (Mr. Gray). He has served this House and Canada as Minister of National Revenue, Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, and President of the Treasury Board. In all of those capacities, and in his capacity as a Member of Parliament, he has fought assiduously for his constituents in Windsor West and for the rights of individual Canadians.

The cause that the Hon. Member is most noted for is his passionate dedication to a strong independent Canada. I reckon that no one in the House can question his unequalled record as a defender of the independent sovereignty of this country over the period of his public life.

I shall have the honour tomorrow evening to attend a dinner in tribute to the Hon. Member for Windsor West, attended by a few hundred, or perhaps a thousand, of his closest and

intimate friends, and I am privileged to count myself among those.

While there may be some disagreement around the House about this, the House Leader and I think we make a great team: he does all of the work and I get all of the publicity. Recent events have prompted me to say, why don't we exchange roles?

Let me be personal for a moment.

[Translation]

—I had the honour to introduce the Hon. Member, when he was first elected to the House, to his wife Sharon, and we are very glad and privileged to have the Grays among our best friends.

[English]

He has served in this House under six Prime Ministers, seven Opposition Leaders, nine Speakers and, because of the nature of things, countless Ministers of Finance.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I point that out, Mr. Speaker, only to reveal the depth of understanding and appreciation that the Hon. Member has for this institution and the love he has for Parliament.

We in this House, and indeed the people of Canada, owe him a great debt for his unstinting service to the traditions, to the honour, to the privileges of this House, and particularly to the people of Windsor, whom he has served now for 25 years. Lest there be any doubt about his current intentions, he told me privately, before I rose in my place today, that he has every intention of serving another 25 years.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to join with the Leader of the Opposition in paying tribute to two quite distinguished colleagues, the New Democratic Party Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) and the Liberal Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray), both of whom have served their constituents and this country for a quarter of a century.

A few words first about my colleague. Many Members here will know that the Member for Winnipeg North has worked hard as a Member of Parliament. I have had the pleasure to serve with him for some 19 of his 25 years here. But, what many Members will not know is that the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North was in municipal politics, in a variety of capacities, for some 14 years before becoming a Member of Parliament.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have here a man who has truly served the community in which he grew up with incredibly fine and durable distinction.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!