

## APPENDIX "A"

## HOUSE OF COMMONS—UNVEILING OF PORTRAIT OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Stanfield and colleagues, Mr. Speaker Deschatelets, honoured guests, members of parliament, members of the Senate, ladies and gentlemen: On behalf of the members of the House of Commons, and if my colleague Mr. Speaker Deschatelets, will allow me, on behalf of our colleagues in the Senate, I welcome you to this important and historic occasion. I extend particularly warm greetings to one whose portrait we will not unveil today, but who in my view is equally deserving of this recognition, namely Mrs. Diefenbaker.

We are very pleased to have with us today Mr. Horne, the renowned Canadian artist who has produced what is said to be a very fine portrait. Together with Mr. and Mrs. Diefenbaker we are all of course gratified that so many of their close personal friends have found it possible to be here with us today to share the honour bestowed on the former prime minister by the government and by the parliament of our country.

*[Translation]*

Ladies and gentlemen, it is fitting that this ceremony should be held on the very threshold of the House of Commons, where the Right Honourable John Diefenbaker gave his best to his country.

The portrait to be unveiled presently will be a special reminder of the notable contribution of a former prime minister to the Canadian parliament during more than a quarter of a century.

The parliamentary colleagues of Mr. Diefenbaker, those of yesterday as well as those of today, unite in congratulating him and in wishing him many more years of distinguished labour in the service of Canada.

*[English]*

I now invite the Hon. Mr. Stanfield to say a word.

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, Mr. Prime Minister and Mrs. Diefenbaker: This is a gathering, of course, in honour of a prime minister of Canada, but if we were gathered today in another gallery to honour the relatively small number of Canadians who have worked effectively and with statesmanship in order to

strengthen parliament, we would still be gathering today to honour Mr. John Diefenbaker. If I have one regret concerning you, Mr. Diefenbaker, and perhaps I may be permitted one regret in this connection, it is that your career before you became prime minister, before you became party leader, as a member of parliament and as a fighter for civil liberties, is relatively unknown to a whole generation of younger Canadians. This is their loss because it makes them far less familiar than they ought to be with a great chapter in the fight for the enlargement of liberty and freedom in our country.

Mr. Diefenbaker's public career is one of contrasts. On the one hand, as party leader and prime minister of the country he has changed the nature of politics, indeed the nature of our country, whereas on the other hand in his capacity as a member of parliament he has fought long and constantly to preserve the old and best traditions of parliamentary life in our country. So, in the name of your friends and admirers, Mr. Diefenbaker, I salute you today; I salute you as a member of parliament, as a leader of an important party, the leader of the opposition, as a great prime minister of Canada; a man who in all those capacities has left an indelible mark upon the history of our country.

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

**Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** The Right Hon. Mr. Diefenbaker, Mrs. Diefenbaker, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: Just a few days ago in Regina I had the pleasure of visiting the buildings that had been the homestead of the Diefenbaker family. I thought that Canadians in general, and students of history in particular, would be grateful to the government for having preserved these buildings and having permitted the people to visit them in such a convenient fashion. As I looked at the buildings, I was impressed perhaps most by their very unimpressiveness. This, none the less, represents the very central aspect of life in Canada. They are the kind of buildings that remind us of the qualities developed in Canadians who were brought up in them, qualities of