

House of Commons

I knew John Dahmer as a fellow politician, as a concerned citizen, and as a friend. For many years he was active in all levels of politics, always learning, sharing, and contributing. He was committed, dedicated, and energetic. I know that he would have been a distinguished and respected parliamentarian.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the opening of a new session of Parliament, is a day filled with excitement, anticipation, and commitment for all Members, new and returning. This is my seventh such occasion and I share the dedication and resolution that fill all of us in this Chamber. I sense as well the keenness and energy of those who are here for the first time. Knowing John Dahmer, I can attest that his enthusiasm and energy today would have been boundless. He would have taken his place with pride and with an unrelenting dedication.

We will miss him bodily, Mr. Speaker, but his spirit, his sense of service and responsibility will live on in all of us throughout this Thirty-fourth Parliament. To his family and his friends, I offer again on behalf of the House our heartfelt sympathies and our deepest regrets that he is not with us here today.

Mr. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, as the Deputy Prime Minister has said, this is a very special day. All Members of this House, especially new Members, have walked into this Chamber with a sense of the pride and accomplishment of the election and a sense of the deep honour given to them by their electorate to serve this country in a public way. We share the sentiments of the Deputy Prime Minister that the untimely death of one of those who was duly elected by a constituency of Alberta has prevented him from sharing in the sense of honour and privilege that we all enjoy.

I had the occasion during the last election campaign to spend some time in the constituency of Beaver River. I know Mr. Dahmer was highly regarded by his constituents and can certainly testify to the record of accomplishment brought forward as part of his election campaign.

I also associate myself with the remarks of the Deputy Prime Minister in saying that we will not have the opportunity to enjoy the special contribution Mr. Dahmer might have brought, both in terms of his experience and in terms of representing that very important riding in western Canada.

On behalf of our group, especially the Members who come from the West and from the North, we want to express our sentiments as well to Mr. Dahmer's family and to say that we deeply regret his passing, that he cannot be here with us to share this very important day for which we know he fought and longed. We know he would have provided a great service to this country.

• (1740)

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, those of us who knew of the reputation of John Dahmer were saddened when we received the news that he had passed away. We recognized, from comments that his son made, that he was an extremely compassionate man throughout his entire life and that his lifetime goal was to enter the Parliament of Canada. We are pleased that he at least achieved that goal, but I must say that we regretted hearing the news.

On behalf of my colleagues in the New Democratic Party, we extend our deepest regrets to his wife, his family, and his friends.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask Hon. Members to stand for an appropriate period of silence.

[Editor's Note: Whereupon the House stood in silence for one minute.]

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Hon. Donald Frank Mazankowski, the Hon. Douglas Grinslade Lewis, the Hon. Herb Gray, John-Robert Gauthier and Nelson Riis have been appointed as members of the Board of Internal Economy for the purposes and under the provisions of Chapter 42, First Supplement, of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1985, entitled an Act to Amend the Parliament of Canada Act.

[Translation]

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I move: