

Birthday Greetings to Prime Minister

the prolongation of a particular individual or a particular party, should be discussed within the family. Perhaps the house will forgive me if I just mention that yesterday we did have a discussion of my birthday and all that it meant to my colleagues. They were good enough to make me a presentation, and it was not what I expected. They had asked me what I would like to have and I said perhaps the most appropriate thing to have would be a hair shirt, but it is better than that.

I would be less than human, and I do not think I am less than human, if I were not deeply appreciative and moved by the expressions of good will toward me on this occasion. There is nothing, Mr. Speaker, like a death or a birthday to make you realize you have virtues which are not always noticed by everybody. I am, if I may say so, particularly touched by the good wishes of the right hon. Leader of the Opposition. It is a wonderful and refreshing privilege to be able to join heartily with him in something, for as the right hon. gentleman has indicated, we are together now in our seventies, and I am catching up with him. Whatever may happen in the future to either or both of us, I shall always remember that as I entered this most important decade in a man's life, even more important than going from his teens to his twenties, I entered it with his good will and his expression of personal friendship.

As the right hon. gentleman has said, naturally we do not often agree in this house. We have been in opposition to each other politically for many years. I sometimes get the impression when I read the newspapers and magazines that this kind of feuding which goes on is almost unequalled in Canadian history. I only wish these writers could read about what it used to be like in the nineteenth century in the Canadian House of Commons and in Canadian public life.

The reason we rise above these differences, difficulties and controversies in public and political life is that whatever we may think of each other politically, and whatever we think of our political views, we always have an appreciation for each other. This is because we know we are here for one purpose and one purpose only, and we are joined in that purpose; that is, service to our country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[Mr. Pearson.]

DRUGS**PROVISION FOR OBSERVATION AND TREATMENT OF ADDICTS**

Mr. Milton L. Klein (Cartier) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-292, respecting observation and treatment of drug addicts.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Klein: Mr. Speaker, developments in the fields of medicine and psychiatry tend to establish that drug addiction, when it occurs, results from some type of mental illness or disorder. It does not appear to be any longer appropriate to punish persons who are drug addicts; it is rather advisable to treat the said persons as being sick, mentally or otherwise.

The purpose of this bill is to remove the stigma of a criminal conviction attached to drug addiction by drug addicts, and to protect the public and such persons from possible subsequent addiction by assuring that observation and treatment follow the laying of charges.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

Mr. Speaker: When shall the said bill be read a second time?

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, with the consent of the house, which I understand from the hon. member for Cartier will probably be forthcoming, may I move that this bill be referred to the committee on justice and legal affairs?

Mr. Speaker: I think there would have to be unanimous consent of the house to return to motions. Is this the wish of the house?

• (11:20 a.m.)

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, there has not been an opportunity to discuss this matter with the chairman of the committee. I wonder if the request could not stand until Monday.

Mr. Brewin: Certainly, if the minister prefers it that way.

Mr. Churchill: Let us see the bill.

TRANSPORT**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CAUSEWAY—POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION CHANGES**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Queens): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. Will the minister say whether a spokesman of his department was revealing