

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, February 20, 1969

The house met at 2 p.m.

NEW MEMBER

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that the Clerk of the House has received from the Chief Electoral Officer certificate of the election and return of T. C. Douglas, Esquire, for the electoral district of Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

NEW MEMBER INTRODUCED

T. C. Douglas, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands introduced by Mr. David Lewis and Mr. Harold E. Winch.

MR. T. C. DOUGLAS

EXPRESSIONS OF CONGRATULATION AND
WELCOME TO LEADER OF NEW
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government I welcome back to this house an hon. member who has enjoyed one of the longest active political careers in Canada. Perhaps a few months have been missing here and there but, by and large, I believe he has been sitting in legislative chambers or parliaments since 1935.

We must all face the hazards of political life. The hon. member who has returned to this house has shown that he persists in the pursuit of his ideals, that he has great sticking power and that he believes strongly in the principles he follows. These are virtues we admire in him.

He is also welcome because he has a great sense of humour and conducts himself in a lively fashion in debates. Of course the hon. members of his caucus will welcome the additional leadership he will bring to their united ranks.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Trudeau: We know he brings to the house an intimate knowledge of his new constituency, where he has been meeting his constituents for some months. He will find the

house a welcome place in which to be. It has changed a little. We now have a permanent or enduring Speaker, we have changed the rules a little, and some of the ministers are in the house, off and on.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Trudeau: The one thing that has not changed, however, Mr. Speaker, is the courtesy of hon. members and the friendships which develop among members of all parties. As a human being and as a man devoted to principle, the hon. member stands second to none. Because of this we welcome him back to the house.

• (2:10 p.m.)

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I join with the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in warmly welcoming back to the house the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas), the leader of the New Democratic party.

The hon. gentleman has always enjoyed the highest regard and respect of his colleagues. He has always been in the public life of the country, first in the House of Commons as the hon. member for Weyburn, then as premier of a province, then in the house as the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam, and now as the hon. member representing the constituency of Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands. His return to parliament is welcomed by all, and especially by those on the left—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Stanfield: I am glad they rise to that. Of course, I really mean to the left of you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure I can group most of us who are sitting to your left, Mr. Speaker, as being to the left of the government, as it is virtually impossible to be to the right of this government—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Stanfield: —unless, of course, we were prepared to adopt the principles of Genghis Khan or somebody of that sort.

An hon. Member: Don't suggest it!