

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words on the same question of privilege introduced by the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury). On behalf of my colleagues in the New Democratic Party I wish to extend special greeting to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), who has been a member of this House for every parliament, except for one aberration in 1958, since 1942.

It has been appropriately said of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre that he is the dean of the House of Commons. It seems to me, and to many hon. members who reflect upon that judgment, that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre can be said to hold that position because of two important facts. First, perhaps more than most members of the House the present member for Winnipeg North Centre has recognized the central importance of parliament to Canadian democracy, of parliament both as a vehicle for changing laws and as a vehicle for redressing immediate grievances. Perhaps more than any other member of the House in this century, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has called this central fact to the attention of Canadians from one coast to the other. However, I think it would be a disservice to the hon. member to say that he has focused exclusively on this House. He has recognized that what takes place in the House of Commons must yield in priority to concern to what transpires outside.

● (1420)

We pay him tribute today for his role in the House but, in particular, for those causes for which he has fought in the House since 1942, for increases in pensions, for a guaranteed income for all, and for improvement of the position of those who are without substantial income, power or influence in Canadian society. In short, he has worked on behalf of those in Canada who most need someone to work on their behalf.

I join with the President of the Treasury Board and the hon. member for Peace River in extending our best wishes to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. I conclude on this note. It was suggested a while ago that perhaps the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre would not like it pointed out that he is 65 today. I have it on very good authority that he indicated some desire about an expression, not in this House which he of course knew nothing about, to a private gathering later. He is said to have expressed the view that a lot of people in Canada will be surprised to learn that he is 65 today and not 75.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

**Mr. Gilles Caouette (Charlevoix):** Mr. Speaker, on the same question of privilege, it gives me great pleasure to join with my colleagues of the other parties to offer my congratulations to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) on the occasion of his sixty-fifth birthday.

A new member is always specially impressed by certain other members, no matter to what party they belong. I must confess in all sincerity that the knowledge of House

#### *Tributes to Member for Winnipeg North Centre*

procedure shown by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has greatly impressed me, as it continues to impress all other hon. members.

It is thus with pleasure that the members of the Social Credit Party of Canada take this opportunity to wish the hon. member a happy birthday and to express the wish that he will be with us in the House for as long as possible.

[English]

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, as one who is concerned that things that are done in this chamber be done in accordance with the rules, I am wondering under what Standing Order the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury) got the floor. I can only assume that Your Honour gave it to him under the provisions of Standing Order 117.

Speaking of Standing Orders and citations, I confess that when the President of the Treasury Board entered upon his remarks I wondered whether he was going to make a serious charge against me under the heading of "conflict of interest". That led me to look at citation 66 in Beauchesne's Fourth Edition. If I were as able today as I used to be to take a long time to debate a point of order, I could defend myself against that charge, but it really is not necessary. As a matter of fact, I had planned, when I came into the House, that during the question period I would put a question regarding old age pensions to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I may say that if I am able to get the floor during the question period I still intend to do so.

I wish to express my warmest thanks to the President of the Treasury Board, to my friend the hon. member for Peace River, to my colleague from Oshawa-Whitby and to my newfound friend, the hon. member for Charlevoix, for the very kind things they have said about me. It has been a real experience to have been here, but for one short absence, since I was a youngster of 34. In those days when you came to this House at 34 you were a young man, but nowadays when you come here at that age you are getting on. As I say, it has been a wonderful experience to have been here through several decades. It has been a real thrill to engage in some of the battles in which I have been involved; it has been a particular thrill to win a good many of them, and to feel that one has served the people who sent him here. It has also been a tremendous experience to feel the warmth and friendship of colleagues on all sides of the House. I am most grateful to all those who have taken note of this day. I intend to try to find out later who organized it. In any case, I express my warmest thanks.

The hon. member for Peace River said I had been around for a long time but that I was not here for the debate on reciprocity. Nor was I here at the beginning of time. But I should like hon. members to know that I have been here longer than some of them may think. Sixty-five years ago today, the day I was born, the House of Commons of Canada gave second reading to the first bill which had anything to do with the provision of pensions for the general public of Canada. It is true that prior to that time provision had been made for pensions to civil servants, and so on. But on June 18, 1908, the House gave second reading to the Government Annuities Act and dealt with it in committee. So, Mr. Speaker, I was here. They tell me I kicked up quite a fuss because I did not want that debate