

Tributes

Commonwealth and Francophonie summits, at which he ensured the sovereignty and security of Canada.

He has overseen Canada's election to the UN Security Council, an entry to the OAS and our active role in Haiti. By all measures he is a leader among leaders, viewed by his world colleagues with respect and called upon for advice and counsel.

If politics is a debate about the future then leadership is the courage to make choices, defend them, and champion them.

Mr. Prime Minister, you have done all of these things. For that we are grateful, and for that we thank you and we thank Mila and your family. You have served us extraordinarily well and we extend to you our warmest, kindest and best wishes.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, "As a member of Parliament and a colleague he was witty and compassionate. He was partisan and caring. He loves Quebec and believes very deeply in Canada and has a unique and thoughtful way of expressing that". Can you believe that I said that about Jean Chrétien?

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Mulroney: He must have been leaving.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Mulroney: In fact I did say that about him, but he promised me he would be leaving. That was on February 27, 1986 and so I noticed both the eloquence of his remarks today, for which I thank him, and the important caveat that he has made about return.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Mulroney: I would particularly like to thank the Leader of the Opposition for his thoughtful and generous comments regarding my wife and children. The fact is, we are friends and our families have been friends for some time. However, he did regret the fact that he and I would not be facing each other on the front lines in the next election.

[*English*]

The Leader of the Opposition expressed regret that he and I would not meet in the great battle.

• (1425)

I just want to point out to him that I expect a convention of my party to select my successor as party leader to take place in the summer of 1993. I point out to him that one of his colleagues, Mackenzie King, in 1948 stepped down, resigned as Leader of the Liberal Party and then decided that he might not turn over the Prime Ministership and hung in there for months. So who knows?

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, I did not want to dampen any enthusiasm that might be existing over there.

I also want to thank my friend, the leader of the NDP, for her gracious remarks and her kindness in recalling a number of incidents, including one about someone we both cared for a great deal, Pauline Jewett, and the moments that surrounded Pauline's elevation to the Privy Council, about how proud she was of it, what a marvellous woman she was and what a tremendous fighter she had been.

The leader of the NDP not only did all of her job, but she was also looking after Pauline at the same time. This too is part of her quite wonderful human qualities.

I do not think I would be offending anybody by mentioning in regard to my friend, the leader of the NDP, one of the observations I have made after a decade here in Ottawa. The fact of the matter is that this is a tough business, as the Leader of the Opposition has pointed out. We do not get much gratitude. Of course in my case the press has been marvellous, but I know the rest of you have had a tough time.

I think there is *en passant* an observation that is probably appropriate. I watched the leader of the NDP come from a by-election into the House and to the leadership of her own party. If this business is tough on all of us, as it is, I think it is particularly tough and demanding on women. I have always thought that in Canada, in Ottawa and in politics women have to be twice as good to get half the credit that men do. I just want to congratulate my hon. friend on her tremendous accomplishments.