

Routine Proceedings

speaking very highly of his approach to a very, very difficult job.

We thank him for those years of service and wish him well. We hope he appears before the Royal Commission to pass on his final thoughts as a private citizen as opposed to the Chief Electoral Officer. However, we do wish him well and I know he will find that there is life after elections, as all of us find out sooner or later.

I am pleased to second, on behalf of my party, the resolution appointing Mr. Jean-Pierre Kingsley as Chief Electoral Officer. We learned through our consultation process of his vast experience in the public sector, both in terms of government and the voluntary sector such as hospitals. In consultation with my colleague, the member for Nickel Belt, who has had occasion to sit across the table with Mr. Kingsley on matters dealing with conflict of interest, his most previous post, he indicates that Mr. Kingsley is extremely fair, straightforward and comes to the point. That is the type of individual we need in this office. It is a very delicate office. One could ask why Mr. Kingsley would even want the job, given the nature of it, but we look forward to working with him. Perhaps he may not be here for 24 years, but neither will some of us.

I congratulate Mr. Kingsley on what will almost immediately be his appointment after we pass this resolution. I and members of my party look forward to working with him in the years to come.

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley—Hants): Mr. Speaker, I will not prolong this, but I just want to endorse all the remarks that were made, especially by my House Leader, as well as those made by the spokesman for the official opposition and my friend, the hon. member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan.

Having shared with Mr. Hamel almost the 20 some years that he has held that position, and I do not want to go through all the elections we have shared together, but I just want to endorse, in a very personal way, all of the constructive comments that were made.

Jean-Marc Hamel, whom I got to know in those seven elections he held office, is the personification to me of the type of public servant this country has been blessed with. He had duality in both languages and he also shared duality in the practical problems of a politician along with the problems of interpreting the Canada

Elections Act. In those few times during a campaign one had to phone the Chief Electoral Officer, whether it was Jean-Marc Hamel or someone in his office, the information came back and it really helped in those difficult times. As the deadline for the election day got closer and the tenseness thereby of the campaign got a little more heated, there was always the calmness and the common-sense of this office.

I wanted to say—and this may save me from writing a letter to Jean-Marc Hamel—these few words of encouragement for his tremendous service to the country, and for Jean-Pierre Kingsley, who I do not know as well but know about, I certainly hope that in his days as he gets initiated into this most fascinating world that he will obviously consult from time to time with Jean-Marc Hamel to see how you go about discharging such an important duty that affects us all in this land.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Eugène Bellemare (Carleton—Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, like my colleague from Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Milliken), I would like to support the appointment of Jean-Pierre Kingsley. I know Mr. Kingsley; he is a dedicated, honest, down-to-earth man who is devoted to the community. I knew him on the board of directors of the Montfort Hospital in the region. I know that Jean-Pierre Kingsley will be an excellent Chief Electoral Officer for Canada.

I must also thank Jean-Marc Hamel for his work. I ran in only one federal election under Mr. Hamel and I hope to have the opportunity to run in many under the very capable direction of my friend Jean-Pierre Kingsley. Congratulations and bravo!

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: I am also going to break with tradition and say something as your Speaker with respect to our retiring friend who is an Officer of Parliament, Mr. Jean-Marc Hamel. Not as often as my honourable friend from Annapolis Valley—Hants, but for some time now I have gone through a number of elections under the very competent guidance and administration of Jean-Marc Hamel. I want to join my honourable friend and others in expressing on behalf of others our very, very sincere regards and thanks—