

Routine Proceedings

here in this House, all members elected to the House of Commons have only one objective: the well-being of Canadians. Our objectives and viewpoints may often differ, and we may express them quite forcefully, but we have received from our constituents a mandate to show Canadians what the best way is to run this country.

[English]

I would like to say to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the New Democratic Party that for me to be back under these circumstances unfortunately takes away at a time when I would like to have some light exchanges. The Prime Minister is very good at that, as is the Leader of the New Democratic Party, but today is a difficult day and it does not call for that. I would like to thank the Prime Minister and the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the new member for York North who has done something unprecedented.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Chrétien: He is probably the first member of Parliament in our history to walk down the aisle twice in the same Parliament. I think that is a very good precedent that will lead us to walk down the aisle very soon, but the other way.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Chrétien: I would also like to say a few words about my election.

[Translation]

First of all, I wish to thank the hon. gentleman, Mr. Robichaud—

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Chrétien: —who gave me the opportunity to take my seat today. I also would like to thank the voters in the electoral district of Beauséjour who placed their trust in me at a crucial moment in Canada's history. I hope I will be a very good member for my constituents and I will try to be as good as my predecessor, Mr. Robichaud.

• (1120)

Before I sit down, I would also like to thank the hon. member on my right who was the leader of this party for nearly a year and who did an exceptional job.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that I fully intend to offer the Chair the same level of co-operation as did my predecessor from Windsor West and another predecessor, who is still a member of this House but unfortunately not in the House this morning, the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra. Both are very experienced parliamentarians who always understood the very difficult role the Speaker of this House has to play every day, in sometimes difficult circumstances.

[English]

In conclusion, I would like again to say thank you for the graciousness of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the NDP in welcoming me to the Chamber. I want to offer to both of them my collaboration. As I said, we are all here to serve the nation the best we can. We are here in a very difficult time. It is the time to get into the business of the nation, of war and peace that is troubling the nation.

For this welcome, to all members of Parliament I would like to say a very profound *merci beaucoup*.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

ACTIONS IN LITHUANIA

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there have been extensive consultations, carried out principally by the member for Scarborough Centre, and I think you would find there is unanimous agreement in the House to adopt, without debate, the following resolution which I would propose to move, seconded by my colleagues from Parkdale—High Park and Winnipeg Transcona:

Be it resolved

That this House condemns the brutal and unacceptable Soviet crackdown in Lithuania, and calls upon President Gorbachev and