

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, April 21, 1967

The house met at 11 a.m.

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FELICITATIONS TO PRIME MINISTER ON BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, if the house will permit me to do so I should like to extend my congratulations to the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) on his birthday anniversary, which is the day after tomorrow. The house will not be sitting then so I take advantage of this opportunity. While there have been occasions when I have not been in complete agreement with the Prime Minister, I have always belonged to that group which believes in doing honour to those, regardless of political beliefs, who make their contribution to their country and the world.

I couple with my congratulations the expression of the view that his distinguished career both nationally and internationally is worthy of mention on this occasion when he joins me in celebrating his seventieth birthday anniversary. Age does not weary, and I conclude by expressing the hope that he will now realize that those old age pensioners, who have not received the additional amount over and above \$75 per month, cannot properly live on the amount they are receiving.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted on behalf of my colleagues to extend birthday greetings to the right hon. Prime Minister and to say to him how pleased we are to see him in such good health and good spirits. He has a very arduous year ahead of him during our centennial celebrations, and we are pleased that he is able to tackle his long list of commitments and to continue to be so effervescent here in the house. We hope his good health will continue.

• (11:10 a.m.)

I noticed earlier this week that the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Gordon) expressed the hope that the Prime Minister would continue as leader of his party. I

should like to support that hope. When I look around at some of the prospective candidates for that office I feel that we would rather bear the ills we have than flee to those we know not of, or perhaps some that we know only too well. I would say to the Prime Minister that on this auspicious occasion we are happy to join in extending birthday felicitations to him, and hope he will continue to enjoy many more years in which to receive the appreciation of the Canadian people for his long years of public service.

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): Lest the Prime Minister think that we wish him ill rather than well, we in the Social Credit party join in the expressions of congratulation and best wishes on this very important occasion.

[Translation]

Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my group I should like to join with the other party leaders to wish the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) the happiest birthday ever. I hope that he will direct as much as possible the business of the house toward social legislation liable to get the support of most hon. members, if not all.

[English]

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, lest it be thought—

Mr. Pearson: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I should like to move closure on these tributes.

Mr. Pickersgill: That is one occasion, sir, when I am not going to pay any attention to the Prime Minister's wishes, because I feel I should pay attention instead to the wishes of his followers. I should not like it to be thought that the good wishes that have been expressed from the other side of the house were not every bit as sincere from this side of the house. Perhaps I could remind Your Honour that tomorrow is the fourth anniversary of the formation of the Pearson government, and we on this side of the house look forward to another four years of constructive activity for Canada under the same Prime Minister.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): It will be clear now, Mr. Speaker, why I moved closure. These family matters, about