

Questions

his own opinions, he sought to make them known, to have them understood, and mostly to make them prevail as much as he could.

Mr. Speaker, the right hon. member for Prince Albert has, within the house and outside, set an example of hard work. He had the courage of his convictions and of his opinions. He did not fear to express them before anyone.

The Prime Minister was perfectly right when he said a while ago that the hon. member for Prince Albert was a dynamic parliamentarian. Surely, he made charges and he was even accused of obstruction in the House of Commons. To a certain extent, it was also true. On the other hand we always knew what he thought and we always knew what he intended to do to convince the House of Commons that he was right. That does not imply that we all supported him. Far from it, we have fought him and we shall probably fight him again as much and as long as he is sitting in this house. But, as far as the leader of the opposition is concerned, we must recognize that he had great qualities as a leader.

Mr. Speaker, he is temporarily replaced by the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Starr) whom we also had the opportunity to hear very often in the course of the various debates that have arisen in the house.

I had the pleasure of travelling with him two years ago when the Canadian parliamentary delegation went to Czechoslovakia and Russia. The member for Ontario attends the sittings of the house regularly; he is a man of duty and even a pleasant travelling companion. He therefore has several qualities.

Mr. Speaker, with regard to the new leader of the Conservative party, I shall wait till he sits in the house to appreciate his behaviour and his contribution to the whole of Canada. We all know he was a provincial premier for several years. But the provincial arena is not quite the same as the federal arena. And so, I want to see him in the federal arena before expressing any opinion about him. There is one sure thing: he is not of the same stamp as the former Conservative leader. He seems as calm, reserved, moderate as the other was fiery and impetuous. He has met the Prime Minister, possibly to seek his advice, or to find out how a leader of the opposition must act in the house, but I do not know for sure. In any case, we will be able to appreciate him when he sits here with us.

Mr. Speaker, since we are talking about departures, that of the former minister of

transport (Mr. Pickersgill), the former member for Bonavista-Twillingate, whom we also knew very well in this house, leaves a gap. Whatever our political allegiance, it was always a pleasure to get in touch with him. There was no need to wear white gloves and a dress-suit to see him. In fact, it was possible to see him anywhere and he always welcomed us kindly. He dealt personally with matters we put to him and heaven knows how many there have been in the last six years.

We now congratulate the newcomers in this house and wish them a great deal of success.

With regard to one of our friends on this side of the house who now sits on the other side, as someone said a moment ago, Mr. Speaker, that is not surprising to us since the government supported him a few years ago.

We have nothing else to add now except that we hope that parliament becomes more and more efficient so that it can better serve the people whom we represent and whom we must serve for the welfare of Canada as a whole.

[English]

ECONOMIC COUNCIL

TABLING OF REPORT ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Mr. John R. Matheson (Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, with leave I should like to table copies in English and French of the report on consumer affairs and the Department of the Registrar General which was published in July 1967 by the Economic Council of Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Does the parliamentary secretary have leave to table these documents?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

PUBLIC SERVANTS SPEAKING ONLY
FRENCH OR ENGLISH

Question No. 49—**Mr. Irvine:**

1. How many people who speak English only are employed in all federal government departments?

2. How many people who speak French only are employed in all federal government departments?