

*Tributes to Deceased Members*

attended Laval and McGill Universities and completed his education on the continent of Europe.

Although he resigned from the cabinet over two years ago he continued to take an active part in and make a positive contribution to political life in this country, particularly with regard to leading questions of our day concerning national unity and economic affairs, which he was particularly well qualified to discuss by reason of his background and education.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members of the opposition I should like to extend my deepest sympathy to Mrs. Tremblay and her children, as well as to the members of the Liberal party.

[English]

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members of this party I should like to join with those who have already spoken in expressing our very deep and sincere regret at the passing of two of our colleagues.

Mr. René Tremblay, who was for some time the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, we came to know very well. I can speak for members of this party in saying that we always found him accessible and courteous. He approached the problems of his department with a deep sense of humanity and with a fine compassion, which we greatly appreciated.

The passing of our colleague Maurice Rinfret is also to be regretted, Mr. Speaker. Many of us came to know him quite well during his time in the house. Personally I had the privilege of being with a Speaker's delegation which visited the Soviet union and Czechoslovakia something over two years ago. We found him a delightful companion and a person who was deeply motivated for the welfare and benefit of this country.

We are exceedingly sorry at the passing of these two members of this house. We should like to extend, through you, Mr. Speaker, to their wives and families our deepest sympathy in their hour of bereavement.

[Translation]

**Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval):** Mr. Speaker, the members of this group wish to join their colleagues in regretting the loss of two men who have laboured in this house. It is said that life is full of surprises and we have

[Mr. Stanfield.]

another demonstration of this truth this afternoon. I also believe that the two men whose passing we regret have served our country well.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I had the honour of sitting with Hon. Mr. Tremblay on the committee on the national anthem of Canada and that is where I had the opportunity of realizing his good sense, his good judgment, the firmness of his decisions, as well as his deep convictions.

As for the lamented Mr. Maurice Rinfret, I could not imagine on Friday before Christmas, when he came to shake my hand at Montreal Central station before I took my train, that I was shaking his hand for the last time. Maurice Rinfret was a great friend and I am not aware that he had a single enemy in the house. His passing is a real loss for his party and for this house.

So, in the name of this group, I wish to offer my most sincere condolences to the two bereaved families and assure them that the memory of these two men will long remain in the hearts of French Canadians as well as of all Canadians labouring in this house.

[English]

**Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley):** Mr. Speaker, as we think of our two colleagues who have been removed from our midst we share the sense of loss and the feelings of deep regret which have been expressed in the house this afternoon. Though we knew that Maurice Rinfret had been seriously ill, we hoped that he would return to the house and that he would be spared for a considerable time. It was a shock to hear that he had passed away.

It has been said that every member of the house held Mr. Rinfret in the deepest respect. I say that for many of us the feeling went beyond respect; we held him in affection, especially when we considered his qualities of character and the attitudes that he evidenced on many occasions.

We are reminded again of the shortness of life in the passing of Hon. René Tremblay, which was perhaps more unexpected than that of Mr. Rinfret.

● (2:50 p.m.)

I want to assure the house again that we share the sense of loss felt on the passing of these two colleagues and we join in expressing sympathy to the loved ones who are left, trusting that divine grace will be vouchsafed to them in this their hour of sorrow.