

*The Late Hon. James Sinclair*

give the necessary consent to allow the Leader of the Official Opposition to speak tomorrow. The understanding, as set out by the President of the Privy Council with regard to the unlimited time available to the Leader of the New Democratic Party, is gratefully accepted. We look forward to hearing what the Prime Minister has to say.

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**THE LATE HON. JAMES SINCLAIR**

## TRIBUTES TO FORMER MINISTER OF THE CROWN

**Hon. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your giving me the opportunity to express my own personal feelings of regret and sorrow over the loss to this country of a gentleman who was a tremendous and very effective Member of the House of Commons. I am referring to the Hon. James Sinclair who died yesterday in Vancouver.

May I say about him that our terms paralleled here for a long time. He was first elected in 1940. I was elected in 1942. Both of us lasted until 1958. It was on that occasion that the then Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Mr. Diefenbaker, was calling for an arrangement to avoid Parliament having an election. It happened that there were two Hon. Members who protested and the same words were said by James Sinclair and myself.

What I would most like to say about him is that those of us who knew him in those years, knew that he was a very able Member of Parliament, an able speaker, and was one who could get into debates and arguments and be fair back and forth, both ways. He became in due course a Cabinet Minister under the Right Hon. Mackenzie King and later under the Right Hon. St. Laurent, and his term, as I say, ended in 1958.

James Sinclair was a very effective person about the House of Commons. He also solved a number of problems regarding the rights of Members of Parliament. Hon. Members might be surprised to learn that he made the first arrangements for a certain amount of flying to be included in the travel arrangements of Members of Parliament. He did other things. The few of us who remember those 18 years when that gentleman was here, remember him as a person who was a very able and an effective and honest Member of Parliament.

We are sorry for this loss to the Prime Minister, who is his son-in-law, and also for the loss to his three grandsons. We express our sorrow to them. I believe all of us in Parliament appreciate what this gentleman did in this House of Commons and we join with the country today in paying tribute to James Sinclair and in expressing our sorrow at his loss to us.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, I would like to associate this Opposition Party entirely with the remarks made by the hon. gentleman who has been with us very many years himself. It is not difficult for us to associate ourselves entirely with those

remarks. When I first entered this Chamber in early 1958, having been elected in late 1957, I was very familiar with the good work of the late James Sinclair. But I had the advantage, as did the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. MacEachen) for a while in his life, of watching the action from the galleries until I took my seat. I came to admire the late Mr. Sinclair very much from the very brief period of observation I had of him. Like the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), who has raised this matter, we, too, extend our sympathies to those he leaves behind and we mourn him.

● (1510)

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I think it was a good thought for the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) to draw to our attention the passing of the Hon. Jimmy Sinclair, who served in the House for quite a long time and who, subsequent to his departure from the House in 1958, spent a very successful career in private business. I had the opportunity when I first entered the House to observe Mr. Sinclair as a Minister. He was, as the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre has stated, a brilliant and dynamic personality who participated in debate with a liveliness that is not frequently seen, today certainly, in the House of Commons. Of course, his great talent as a debater and as an analyst seemed to become even more outstanding in the short period he served in the Opposition during that short Parliament from 1957 to 1958, to which the Hon. Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) has referred. I would like to recall those days, as the Hon. Member did, and note as both he and the Hon. Member for Yukon did, his service to Canada and his service to the House of Commons. I particularly join them in expressing the sympathy of this Party to his wife Kathleen, who was a strong support to him not only when he was in politics but later, to his five daughters, his five grandchildren and to his son-in-law.

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[English]

**PETITIONS****MR. SKELLY—NEED FOR CONSULTATIVE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT POLICY**

**Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a number of petitions today. The first one is signed by a number of West Coast fishermen and it indicates that the majority of people involved in and dependent on the fishing industry on Canada's West Coast have lost confidence in the ability of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to manage effectively and objectively the West Coast fishery resource. Be it therefore resolved that the Government of Canada implement the following consultative process. The Government must provide a consulting committee composed of