

*Presence in Gallery***HOUSE OF COMMONS**

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF HON. JOHN NAPIER TURNER,
LEADER OF LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to draw to the attention of the House the presence in the gallery of the Hon. John Turner. As you know, over the weekend, in an open and democratic convention, Mr. Turner won the support of the Liberal Party of Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that we on this side of the House extend to him our congratulations and our loyalty.

There were six other candidates in the race also, and we extend to them our admiration for well organized campaigns, and for conducting themselves with dedication and dignity.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacEachen: Our choice was endorsed by all of the delegates at the convention as a result of the usual and characteristically generous action taken by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Chrétien) in moving a motion of unanimity at the end of the deliberations.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacEachen: May I say that Mr. Turner will be no stranger to the House of Commons. During his 14 years in this Chamber he established a solid reputation as a parliamentarian. He has deep respect for the traditions of Parliament, and he is at home in the House of Commons. We look forward to welcoming him back as Prime Minister after the next federal election.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you that we on this side are ready to go the moment our Leader gives us the word.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Brian Mulroney (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues I am honoured to rise today to convey our warm congratulations to the Hon. John Turner on his very impressive victory on Saturday.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: I had the opportunity of doing so in a personal way late Saturday, and I am pleased to do so today, and to convey, having been in that position in another circumstance, a tribute to those who were not successful. It occurred to me, and I know to my colleagues, that losing in those circumstances is never easy. I thought all of the contestants conducted themselves with dignity. I commend all of them on a fine fight.

● (1410)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, I especially wish to congratulate the Hon. Jean Chrétien on the dignity and courage he showed throughout his campaign.

[*English*]

I noted with interest the statement of the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. MacEachen). I suppose he was being as consistent today as he was on Saturday. If that were the case, I want to assure my hon. friend that we too are ready, willing, and more than able, to deal with the writ.

I can tell you something extra. Early this morning, with the permission of the Chair, I had the carpenters down here fixing the seat of the Leader of the Opposition for Mr. Turner, because I know he is going to be sitting here for a long time, and I want him to be comfortable.

To Mr. Turner, to Geills, and to the children, we extend our best wishes for health and happiness in the future.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I want to join with the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. MacEachen) and the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Mulroney), and speak on behalf of my Leader who is unavoidably absent this afternoon, and my caucus, in welcoming Mr. Turner to the leadership of the Liberal Party, and presumably to the post of Prime Minister in the not too distant future.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: However, having seen the behaviour here this afternoon, I want to ask him whether he is sure he really wants it.

I would like to say to those who were not successful that I have some knowledge of how it feels. You heal. It takes time. Each of you conducted magnificent campaigns.

I watched with great interest from an unusual vantage point. Having been a politician for most of my adult life, I had always thought that only those of us in political life had to find things to say when there was little left to say, for long periods of time at a stretch. However, I sat among the press over the course of Friday night and Saturday. There were long stretches when little was happening that could usefully be commented upon, except to say that the end result appeared to be inevitable.

I would like to say to Jean Chrétien in particular, who is not here, that his campaign carried with it a great deal of emotion which I think many people in the country felt throughout the campaign. His campaign served him well, and will make him a politician in the hearts of Canadians for a long time to come.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!