

are left with his example of courage, his example of integrity.

[*Translation*]

We will have the example of his dedication to Parliament, to our country, to Canada.

[*English*]

We are also heartened by the fact that he is remaining as member for Vancouver Quadra and, therefore, we will be able to call upon him to assist us in our work in this House, to show us by example how to participate effectively in the interests of Canada in the great debates in this House on the future of our country.

I said that I heard the right hon. member for Vancouver Quadra's announcement with mixed emotions. I mentioned my sadness and the sadness of my colleagues at his statement that he would no longer carry on as Leader of the Opposition. But I do have to say, particularly in response to the words of the chairman of our caucus, that I heard the words of the kind he has expressed today in our caucus this morning about me with extreme gratitude and honour.

For those of us who have feelings about Parliament, the concept of the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues holding the government to account, providing an alternative, providing a voice for those Canadians who are dissatisfied with the government and demand a change, is something very important.

I want to say to all members of the House, and the country that I, for one, together with my colleagues, intend to do my best to see that the traditional duties of the Leader of the Opposition are carried out to the utmost.

[*Translation*]

It is very important for us in the Opposition, and for me, as Leader of the Opposition, to hold the government accountable to the Canadian people and to provide a voice for Canadians who are dissatisfied with this government and desire change.

[*English*]

It is a great honour to have the position of Leader of the Opposition, even for a limited period. That is why, as I have said, I am so gratified by the support of my

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colleagues. In this connection, I also want to say that I am gratified by the continued support of the people of my own community who have made it possible for me to be here as member for Windsor West and thereby to carry on this additional responsibility.

We have, in the opposition, in the Liberal Party in Parliament at this particular time a special responsibility, not just the traditional responsibility I have outlined of holding the government to account, providing an alternative and providing a voice for Canadians dissatisfied with the government, but also to provide a base so that, if I may be permitted to say so, the new leader of the party will be able to build on that base to bring into Parliament a new Liberal government.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): In conclusion, I want to remind members of this House about what the Prime Minister just said about being in the arena of political combat, a combat which is ultimately in the best interests of this country. I once again thank my colleagues for their kind words, and I say to them—

[*Translation*]

It is time to get back to work. We have an important task to fulfil for the people of this country. Thank you.

[*English*]

Mr. David Barrett (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca): Mr. Speaker, I will be brief and non-partisan.

It is a poignant moment when you reach the stage in your political career when you are saying good-bye more often than you are saying hello. We have certainly reached that stage. However, I want to say a few words about the right hon. Leader of the Opposition, a former Prime Minister and a former Minister of Finance of this country, as a son of British Columbia.

We all are Canadians and we are proud of that, but we are also proud of our regions. John Turner represented all Canadians all the time, but he also had that special flavour that we in British Columbia know about. He did us proud. He enabled us, regardless of party lines, to become friends. One of the happiest moments for me in politics is to reflect on the friendships that I have made over these 30 years, and one of the best friendships, I say