

Governor General's speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Honourable Mr. Haig, seconded by Honourable Mr. Fournier (Madawaska-Restigouche), for an address in reply thereto.

**Hon. Allister Grosart:** Honourable senators, I rise on this first occasion with that deference which a newcomer here is privileged to give to the great traditions and the near-century of achievement of this honourable chamber and its distinguished members past and present.

I rise also with that sense of personal diffidence which befits one who lacks, as I do, the parliamentary experience which is to be found here in such abundance. Indeed, I find it here in such superfluity that on this occasion I would fain borrow some of it if I could.

It is beyond my powers to express fully the emotions that arise at this time. For many years I have observed and admired from outside the great institutions of Parliament, of which this chamber is not the least, but I had not, until a very short time ago, hoped for or expected the honour of a summons to attend here and take part in your deliberations.

I cannot allow the occasion to pass without expressing my thanks to the Prime Minister for what I take to be his hope that I may here prove in time to be of some usefulness to my country. I say "my country" because Canada is my country, although I came to live here only forty years ago, having been born in Dublin, Ireland—born, I am proud to say, a subject of that same Crown to which I renewed my allegiance as a Canadian citizen in your presence only a few weeks ago.

Indeed, honourable senators, I can think of no better precedent for my life-long loyalty to the same Crown, as an Irishman and a Canadian, than the fact that I am here assigned to a seat in a Canadian Parliament with an honourable Canadian Senator O'Leary on my immediate left and another honourable Canadian Senator O'Leary on my immediate right.

May I pay my respects to Your Honour and add my congratulations to those already so eloquently expressed by others on the high place to which you have been called. I have been tremendously impressed by the dignity and distinction which you have brought to the Chair. I could not help thinking on many occasions how pleased one who was your friend and admirer, and I believe my friend too, would have been to see you here. I refer, of course, to your successor in another place, the late Sidney Smith.

The honourable senator from River Heights (Hon. Mr. Haig) and the honourable senator

from Madawaska-Restigouche (Hon. Mr. Fournier) are not in the chamber today. Senator Haig is absent on a sad duty which was referred to earlier; and Senator Fournier is away on the nation's business.

However, I would like to add my congratulations to those already expressed on the splendid manner in which they moved the motion which is under discussion. It seems to me they set a high standard for us—who, I suppose, are inevitably to be called "the new ones", though I hope not for long—to follow as best we may.

I also offer my congratulations to my leader, the honourable senator from Royal (Hon. Mr. Brooks), and also to his predecessor, the distinguished Privy Councillor who now sits on his left (Hon. Mr. Aseltine). I wish the new leader full success in the discharge of his important responsibilities.

I think it is appropriate that I add, even at this late date, something about the recent indication of the sagacity and persuasive genius of our Prime Minister in what he has done to grace our front bench here by the presence of the senator from Gormley (Hon. Mr. McCutcheon). At the same time, I pay my respects to the senator from La Salle (Hon. Mr. Drouin) and congratulate him on his birthday. I wish him at least the third quarter of his century here, whatever his plans may be for his future after that, of which I am not competent to speak at this moment.

Finally, I pay my respects to the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) who now, as I understand it, graces the third of the high places of Parliament, to which he has given distinguished service for so many years. I extend to him my sincere sympathy in his recent bereavement, and I am sure he has found considerable comfort in the knowledge of the admiration and affection in which Mrs. Macdonald was held by all who knew her.

Honourable senators, I apologize that on this occasion I am not competent to address this chamber in the French language. I hope in due course, if I am here long enough, to make amends. I have two teenage daughters who are becoming fluent in both languages. A long time ago I determined that in this, as in many other respects, they were going to be better Canadians than I am. Being teenagers, they are doing their best to bring me up to their standards.

When the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Macdonald) opened discussion from the other side on the motion before us, I found myself wondering at his charm and his eloquence, and also wondering how it was possible for any man, even with his wide experience, to say such terrible things