

Tributes to Deceased Members

Mr. J. H. Harris (Danforth): Mr. Speaker, I ask the indulgence of the house for a moment or two while I pay a word of tribute to those who have gone on before us. Naturally, sir, I think of my colleague, an ex-officer of my organization, who came from the half of my own original riding which I had the privilege of representing for close to twenty years, and of how he, John Ernest McMillin, more commonly known as Ernie McMillin, looked forward to being of some service to his community.

I look around this chamber, Mr. Speaker, and I see before me no one who has been here continuously since I first came here. That shows how quickly the scene changes. I pay tribute to the hon. member for Quebec South (Mr. Power), who happens to be absent at the moment. But for the first time in three decades, after listening each year to tributes paid to men of high qualifications, and men of honour who have passed on in the intervening period, I ask your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, and I do not think I am asking too much, for a moment or two while I say a word about those with whom I have been associated.

John Ernest McMillin, a younger man than myself, was well known to me. A constituent of mine, he left behind a very able Christian widow and a most charming daughter eighteen years of age. He left behind him an estate and a reputation for fair dealing. As my leader said a moment ago he was more than a builder of houses; he built upwards of a hundred, of which today seventeen are under construction and have to be finished. He was a builder of character and citizenship within the community, and by example as well as precept he showed the rest of us the way we ought to go. He was chairman of the board of stewards of his church, and served in a similar capacity in community enterprises of one kind or another. He was instrumental in raising many thousands of dollars for charitable purposes. The late Mr. McMillin was a member of the board of education in Toronto, in which endeavour he took a keen interest, and always showed himself to be anxious to give service to his fellow men. All of us learned to love, respect and admire him.

My leader has been good enough to mention a hospital employing a personnel of not only 250 nurses but an additional 350 persons. The late member on his own motion, through the board of that institution, instituted scholarships with a view to encouraging the nurses in their great work. But he went further than that, Mr. Speaker. He believed that within the confines of their plant, valued at about \$5 million, they might find some

[Mr. Drew.]

little space to be used as a chapel where those in distress might come to meditate. As I have said, in the new plans for the \$2 million addition to that building, with which the minister of health is now helping us, he made sure that there would be a chapel. He went further, and undertook to see that the \$10,000 which would be required for the building of that chapel for those in distress would be available in due time.

The late Mr. McMillin was cut off in middle life. Speaking to his widow this morning I asked her to be of good cheer. I assured her that we had all loved her husband, and that we cherish his memory. I am sure she will be cheered by the words emanating from this chamber this afternoon from the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and the leader of the party to which I belong (Mr. Drew), and I shall consider it my duty to see that those words are conveyed to her.

I shall not attempt to discuss the many ramifications of the works undertaken by the hon. member whose loss we have suffered within less than two months of his being elected. His connections with businessmen's associations, the Y.M.C.A. and community projects of other kinds are well known to his many friends. That is where they should be known. It is with a heavy heart, sir, that I offer these few words this afternoon to be placed on *Hansard* in order that they may be embalmed in the records of this honourable assembly. I trust that in due course they may be of some comfort to the members of his family.

I believe all observant members of the House of Commons know of the reasonably close friendship between me and the right hon. gentleman who, toward the close of his public service, sat in another place. I know that while serving as a minister of the crown the Right Hon. Ian Mackenzie helped many of us who were trying to be of service to our communities. I learned to know him as a man, and as a public-spirited servant of the people of Canada.

I have met his family. Let me at this time pay tribute to the work he did for Canada both in this chamber and in cabinet council. Perhaps I shall not be considered selfish if I pay tribute to the work he did on behalf of certain charitable institutions in which other members of this assembly were interested—and I take second place to few when I say that.

The hon. member who takes his place in this chamber as Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin) is a gentleman of high calibre who has the health of Canadians at heart. I trust that in the House of Commons he will implement the obligations taken