

rain given into his charge. Much was shown by this great man, and the harvest will continue for a long time to come.

Happy are those who, like Jules Léger, leave to their brothers such a rich heritage. We are proud of what he did and prouder still of what he was.

Truly, he was a man deserving of our fondest memories and undying gratitude.

To his family, and particularly Madame Léger, we extend our deepest sympathies.

[English]

STATUS OF WOMEN

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION—REMARKS
BY SENATE JOINT CHAIRMAN—QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Hon. Martha P. Bielish: Honourable senators, I rise on a matter of privilege to demand, on behalf of Canadian women, an apology from the Senate Joint Chairman of the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution. Senator Hays, referring as he did in committee last week, to Canadian women as the "girls," and suggesting that our place is in the home looking after children, demonstrated that he is completely insensitive to the aspirations of contemporary Canadian women.

We realize full well that we have been biologically favoured by nature to bring children into the world. We are also aware of the fact that we have traditionally been expected to play a major role in their upbringing. We have no intention of attempting to rewrite the laws of nature, nor do we for a moment intend to lessen our dedication to properly care for our children. But we do not intend to sit back and allow anyone to dictate to us how our everyday lives should be organized, what our priorities should be, and in what fields of endeavour our talents would be welcomed.

● (2015)

We consider ourselves Canadian citizens, enjoying all of the rights that that privilege carries, and one of those rights is certainly that of not being treated like children.

Senator Hays' behaviour was totally reprehensible. It showed a singular lack of respect and revealed that he is totally out of touch with developments in contemporary society. I think his behaviour cast serious doubts on his fitness to occupy the position of Joint Chairman of the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution. I would therefore invite him to consider seriously whether he should not step down and allow someone with a greater awareness of social evolution to take his place.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, Senator Hays is well able to speak for himself; but, as honourable senators will have observed, he is not in the chamber at this time. The usual parliamentary practice, if remarks of a personally critical nature are directed at another member of this place, is to ensure, first of all, that the senator is either in his place so that he is in a position to respond immediately or, alternatively, to at least provide him with an advance copy of personally critical remarks and prior notification that these remarks are to be voiced in the Senate.

I presume that the Honourable Senator Bielish has provided the Honourable Senator Hays with an advance copy of her statement so that he will be in a position to reply if he so desires.

Senator Phillips: Honourable senators, if I understood Senator Perrault correctly, he referred to Senator Bielish's remarks as being of a personal nature. I listened carefully to those remarks, and while they were critical of Senator Hays' action, they were not personal. The leader is entirely wrong in his interpretation of Senator Bielish's remarks. It is quite proper for her to criticize Senator Hays' action, and she in no way criticized the person of Senator Hays.

Senator Perrault: Well, honourable senators, I do not wish to engage in a prolonged debate with Senator Phillips, who is surely entitled to his views, but when a senator in this place, regardless of party, is referred to as "totally unfit" to undertake certain important responsibilities which have been given to him, I feel that this harsh description constitutes a very personal remark.

May I suggest that Senator Bielish, in all fairness, should provide Senator Hays with a copy of her statement and notify him that this statement was made here this evening. Senator Hays, of course, is very busy with his responsibilities with the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution.

Senator Bielish: Could I have your last statement again, please?

Senator Perrault: I said that I felt it would be fair to another honourable colleague to notify him of the statement that was made in the chamber this evening. Furthermore, may I suggest that he be provided with a copy of the statement. May I suggest that in all fairness to Senator Hays, he should have been provided with a copy of the statement before it was made in this chamber this evening.

Senator Bielish: Honourable senators, I shall make certain that he receives a copy this evening. I had not provided him with a copy prior to this evening, but I shall send a copy of this statement to him in the committee as soon as possible.

THE CONSTITUTION

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE—CHANGES IN COMMONS
MEMBERSHIP

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that messages had been received from the House of Commons to acquaint the Senate that the names of Messrs. Epp, Keeper, Miss Jewett, Messrs. Robinson (Burnaby), Tobin, Miss Jewett, Miss MacDonald, Messrs. Lapierre, Epp, Tobin, Robinson (Burnaby), Lapierre, Hawkes, Irwin, Miss Jewett and Mr. Gimaiel had been substituted for those of Messrs. La Salle, de Jong, Keeper, Miss Jewett, Messrs. Lapierre, Robinson (Burnaby), Epp, Tobin, Fraser, Lapierre, Miss Jewett, Messrs. Irwin, Beatty, Tobin, Robinson (Burnaby) and Irwin; and that the names of Messrs. Young, Dinsdale and Irwin had been substituted for those of Miss Jewett, Miss MacDonald and