

different political persuasions, we had to meet now and then, and sometimes we landed heavy blows. He has always shown respect for his opponent, and he was a courageous and conscientious man.

I will remember all my life the time when I had to suffer great family hardships. In any difficult situation, Jean Marchand was among the first to help me; he was there with a parliamentary delegation to lift my spirits and encourage me to face up to the difficult hours ahead of me. To me Jean Marchand is a prominent French Canadian—he will always remain a great friend of Quebec. I feel the Senate will miss his sense of humour, because he did have humour to spare.

I know that we will miss Jean Marchand, and I wish him the best of luck in the new responsibilities he has decided to assume.

Jean Marchand is being succeeded by a good friend of mine, Senator Maurice Riel. We have known each other for a long time, Senator Riel. The moment one becomes a friend of Senator Riel, there is no way one can cease to be, so great is his kindness, openness and sincerity.

I met him in interesting circumstances. We were sitting on the same Boards of Directors of Canadian corporations. His good judgement was always to be relied upon in discussions and, of course, his sound advice was always sought.

Senator Riel has the reputation of the good lawyer he has been and still is. The Quebec Bar Association has always been privileged in having Maurice Riel as a very brilliant member.

We can be assured that he will perform his new functions with great tact, because he has excellent judgment. As far as we in the Opposition are concerned, we promise him all possible co-operation.

We look forward to reading his rulings, which certainly will add to our jurisprudence in this House.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Yvette Rousseau:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the other honourable senators in offering you my warmest congratulations and wishing you every possible success on your appointment as Speaker of the Senate.

We know in advance that we shall benefit from your experience and great generosity.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to pay tribute to the Honourable Jean Marchand.

How can we honour the Honourable Jean Marchand with mere words? How can we express the deep affection we have for him? How can we show him our respect and gratitude?

If it were necessary to do so, I believe that we would have to pay homage to him not only as former Speaker of this House, but also as Jean Marchand himself. Indeed, for him, the man came before the politician, the leader before the administrator and the militant before the supporter.

I have a lot of personal memories of the Honourable Jean Marchand; I remember his qualities as a man of action and of duty and as a democrat. It would take quite sometime to give all the details of his career to this august assembly. On the

[Senator Asselin.]

other hand, I can talk about his accomplishments as they relate to my own experience.

To pay homage to the Honourable Jean Marchand, it is necessary to establish a parallel with the very history of Quebec, its political and ideological trends, its labour struggles, its collective frictions and its aspirations for the future.

To pay homage to the Honourable Jean Marchand, it is necessary to establish a parallel with the history of modern Canada, with a vision of a country which he served with ability and generosity.

To pay homage to Senator Marchand, it is necessary finally to recognize his influence within the international community, his everlasting desire to see in men what brings them closer together rather than what separates them.

The appointment which the Honourable Jean Marchand has just accepted honours him. He is leaving the political arena, the speakership of the Senate, for a position which is well suited to his personality.

Like Cincinnatus, the legendary Roman hero, who was successively peasant, soldier and statesman, he is going back to the plough and refusing honours the better to serve the Canadian community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish every possible success to the Honourable Jean Marchand. Just before we celebrate the Nativity I can only ask The Lord to grant Senator Marchand and his family long life, happiness and contentment. This is the message that I wanted to give to the Honourable Jean Marchand.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Arthur Tremblay:** Honourable senators, I shall, if I may, add my congratulations to the new Speaker. Unlike most of you, I have hardly had time to observe the measure of experience he brings to his new duties. During the short time I have been a member of this Chamber, I have seen how Senator Riel approached problems and the spirit of moderation with which he faced all contentious issues. I would like to take as an example the debate on the Constitution. This carefully considered way of approaching problems is our assurance that he will bring the same approach to conducting the proceedings of this Chamber. I therefore wish to congratulate him and at the same time give him the assurance of my complete co-operation. I am sure he will preside over the Senate with wisdom and prudence, since those are supposed to be the qualities of the Senate which set it apart from the House of Commons.

That being said, I would now, in a very personal and informal way, like to talk about Jean Marchand's leaving the Senate. We were classmates in the Department of Social Science, then directed by Father Lévesque. As a result, and due to other circumstances as well, I was able to follow him more or less throughout his career. Mr. Marchand and a number of other personalities became part of Quebec's evolution, in a way that is somewhat mysterious to outside observers. I think that it is the mysterious reality that Quebec represents for other Canadians which explains Senator Roblin's slip when he confused Mr. Lesage and Mr. Marchand.