

might travel together for this meeting of the Senate tonight.

When I learned of his passing it was an awful blow, because Pete and I were so close.

In 1958, when he was a candidate for the House of Commons in his home riding of Kenora-Rainy River, Mrs. Gladstone and I were invited to go to his constituency. On our arrival at the railway station in Kenora, we were delighted and amazed to see that over 150 Indian school children had come to welcome us. While I was busy visiting the chiefs and counsellors, my friend Pete drove Mrs. Gladstone to several of the schools in that area. The other day my wife told me that she would never forget the wonderful time they had driving around to visit Indians and the school children.

In 1962, the then Prime Minister Diefenbaker appointed John Alexander Robertson to the Senate. He was then in his 50th year. I believe he was one of the youngest senators appointed at that time. I cannot believe that two years later he has gone. There is a void to me without his presence here. He lived long enough for me to learn from him, because his counsel was wise. I do not know why he and I came together. We just seemed to be adapted one to the other. Probably it was because I was a hillbilly, and he a rail-roader. I am very happy he came to our home.

Senator John A. Robertson was a life member of the Royal Canadian Legion, and it was his great desire that legislation should be introduced which would benefit mankind generally and bring about better relations between labour and management. He was on the threshold of achievement. He was not the first one appointed to our chamber representing labour. Reading past records, I find that Senator Gideon Robertson likewise was a labour representative.

The late senator's three teenage children are at an age when they will feel their father's loss very keenly and, speaking as a colleague and friend and on behalf of the Indians whom I represent—and there were about 5,000 or 6,000 around Rainy River who knew him personally—our sympathy goes out to his charming wife and children in this hour of great sorrow.

VILLE LASALLE DISASTER

MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY

Hon. Malcolm Hollett: Honourable senators, I rise on another matter. Some 35 years ago an earthquake occurred out in the Atlantic Ocean off Burin where I lived. A huge wave rolled in and within seconds after

it struck the coastline, 28 men, women and children were dead.

As I touched down in Montreal yesterday on the plane I learned of the tragedy which had occurred there in the morning, and my thoughts went back 35 years. I remember the many expressions of sympathy which poured in to our people on that rugged coastline, expressing the sorrow of people all across Canada.

I deem it my duty to rise at this time to move that the Senate send, through the Mayor of LaSalle, an expression of sympathy and sorrow to the people who have been bereaved by this tragedy in this suburb of Montreal.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it agreed?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

CANADA PENSION PLAN

JOINT COMMITTEE—CHANGE IN COMMONS MEMBERS

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons stating that the names of Messrs. Morison, Enns and Prittie have been substituted for those of Messrs. McCutcheon, Scott and Moreau on the Joint Committee on the Canada Pension Plan.

PENITENTIARY ACT

BILL TO AMEND—FIRST READING

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-145, to amend the Penitentiary Act.

Bill read first time.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West) moved, with leave, that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading at the next sitting.

Motion agreed to.

COAL PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE ACT

BILL TO AMEND—FIRST READING

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-147, to amend the Coal Production Assistance Act.

Bill read first time.

Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West) moved, with leave, that the bill be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading at the next sitting.

Motion agreed to.