

[*Translation*]

**Senator Asselin:** Honourable senators, I would like to join both leaders in the Senate, the government leader and the leader of the official opposition, to pay tribute as well in this house to the memory of a great friend, the late Senator Bourget.

Even though we were not of the same political affiliation, we had the opportunity many times to exchange views dispassionately on Canadian politics. Senator Bourget I recall was very concerned about the future of this country. He spoke about the things to do to safeguard Canadian unity with great emotion.

I know his departure took us all by surprise. I am sure he will be missed immensely in this place. It should be recalled that his joviality and good humour reflected the grandeur of his feelings and thoughts. So what could I add but to join my colleagues in offering his charming wife, as well as his two daughters, my sincere sympathy in the difficult moment they are going through?

I would also like to add a word about the death of Senator Wagner. Senator Wagner left us in his early fifties. His political life had had many perturbations. He is one of those who could have told us about all the sacrifices a man who has chosen to serve his fellow citizens in political life must make. However, he had great willpower and a great desire to succeed but was not always able to reach his goals. That is in the end, honourable senators, the story of several politicians.

He had been with us for a short time but he was already known for his straight speaking and his views on the new direction of this country. Canada and Quebec lost in him an important leader.

I will cherish the thought of a man who had much affection for his family. I join with others in offering his family my most sincere condolences.

I do not want to prolong my remarks but I would like to echo what Senator Flynn and Senator Perrault said about Senator Forsey and Senator McNamara and the sympathy they expressed with respect to my former leader, the Right Honourable John Diefenbaker.

**Senator Langlois:** Honourable senators, it is with very deep emotion that I join honourable senators who spoke before me to pay sincere homage to our lamented and very distinguished ex-colleague, the late Senator Maurice Bourget, former Speaker of this house.

My association with him goes back nearly forty years, during which time we were called upon to work very closely in federal politics, first at the local organization level of our party for eastern Quebec, then as colleagues in the House of Commons for twelve years, and finally, in this house for thirteen years.

This long association was always most pleasant and imbued with mutual confidence and great friendship. During this period, I had the opportunity to appreciate the extraordinary mental and spiritual qualities of our late colleague.

[*Senator Perrault.*]

I also know that I speak for all my colleagues in this house who had the advantage to know him like I did when I say that Senator Bourget occupied the exalted position of Speaker of the Senate with dignity and devotion and a very great distinction, and that he contributed to strengthening the prestige as much of the Senate as of the Canadian parliamentary system.

Our late colleague served his country well. He has left unforgettable memories in the hearts of all those who had the honour and the pleasure to work with him in federal politics. For my part, I have the sincere feeling that I have lost not only a great, sincere and most loyal friend, but also a fellow citizen who was greatly devoted to his country.

Honourable senators, I have the honour to express once again to Mrs. Bourget, who always supported her husband with charm, great distinction and dignity and to his two daughters, Suzanne and Louise, my most sincere condolences.

Honourable senators, I also want to join in the homage paid to our other colleagues who have left us during the holidays, that is the late Honourable Senator Wagner, the Honourable Harold Connolly, the Honourable Eugene Forsey and the Honourable William McNamara. Like all of you, I knew these honourable senators in this house. However, as concerns Senator Wagner, I also had the opportunity to know him when he was active on the provincial scene. I always had the greatest respect for him. I wish to express to his family my most sincere condolences.

There has been another great loss which has affected all of us, that of the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, former Prime Minister of our country. I had the honour of sitting in the House of Commons with him and of knowing him when he was in the opposition in the other place. I have fond memories of him following my personal contacts with him, especially when he occupied the office next to mine. At that time, he shared an office with the honourable member for Grey-Bruce, I believe. At that time, I was able to meet him often, and also share his great sadness on the death of his first wife. This was a great loss for him. He often came to talk about it with me in my office. It was at that time of his life that I knew him most intimately.

Honourable senators, parliamentary life always holds such losses for us. We regret them and we express the fond wish that the immediate future will bring fewer of them, as we are confident that the new members of this house will be worthy successors of those who have left us.

● (1435)

[*English*]

**Senator Connolly:** Honourable senators, because of restrictions of time, I would at the outset like to associate myself with the things that have been said by my colleagues here in the Senate about the passing, first of all, of the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, and then of the passing of Senator Wagner who showed so much promise but who was here so short a time.

Then I would like to refer to the loss we have sustained in the retirement of Senator McNamara whose understanding of