

having been with us, and we know today that it is a sadder and a poorer place for his passing. What better measure is there of a man than that we should be able to say that, because of him, Saskatchewan and Canada is a better place in which to live. He leaves a legacy of accomplishments in Saskatchewan and elsewhere that will live in our memories, and I believe will serve as an inspiration to others who seek to serve in a similar governing capacity.

Thomas Clement Douglas fulfilled his political and Christian destiny. He was a true humanitarian and a great Canadian. He will be fondly remembered and sorely missed by all who knew him. I join in extending my sympathy to his wife, Irma, and to their two daughters, Shirley and Joan.

**Hon. Hazen Argue:** Honourable senators, I would like to join with the others here who have paid a very moving tribute to the late Tommy Douglas. I had the honour and good fortune to know Tommy for many years and to work with him in representing a common area of Saskatchewan. He came to Saskatchewan to the Baptist Church in Weyburn in 1935. He was one of us in Saskatchewan for many years. His ability on the platform as a humorist and a story teller was tremendous, but he also had a particular ability to weave his message in a very understandable way so that, when the meeting was over, people went away feeling that they had acquired a wealth of knowledge because of having attended that meeting. He was the voice of Saskatchewan for many years, the voice of all parts of Saskatchewan, and I think Tommy Douglas, in his own being, was able to represent many parts of the province and many divisions and groups within the province.

Tommy Douglas was raised in an urban atmosphere; he was a trade unionist as a young man; he was a preacher for some years and a political leader for many years. He was, of course, a premier and attended federal-provincial conferences. However, I think that Tommy Douglas, whether as a member of the federal House, a member of the provincial legislature or as a premier, was first and foremost a Canadian with a national perspective who wanted a strong Canada, and what he wanted for Saskatchewan I believe he wanted for every other province in Canada. Whatever battles he was engaged in and whatever issue he might have occupied himself with, one thing would always be clear: That, in the clash of strength, in the clash of the many *versus*, as in the case of the few or the strong *versus* the weak, Tommy Douglas was always with the people. He was always putting forth the views of the people. I can remember that many years ago, when I lived in a rural area which had to deal with a severe debt problem, Tommy Douglas, in any negotiations, was on the side of the individual farmer in his battle with the lending institutions so that that farmer, that community and that province might be able to survive.

● (1430)

Although Tommy will, I suppose, be remembered mainly for his contributions as a political leader, he was also, over these many years, a religious leader. He was a minister of the Baptist Church. He did not cease to practise as a clergyman when he went into politics. He did not practise as a clergyman

often, in terms of media coverage, and much of his activities would not be well known, but, Sunday after Sunday in Regina, he quietly went off to teach a Sunday school class. This may be unknown to most people, but he was there continuing his work as a religious leader.

Honourable senators, there are many memorial services being held in various parts of Canada. Along with other senators from Saskatchewan, I had the privilege to attend the memorial service in the First Baptist Church in Regina last Friday afternoon. It was an ecumenical service. Church leaders representing Protestant faiths and the Roman Catholic faith spoke at that service. Tommy Douglas was, in the eyes of everyone, a practising Christian. He had kept the faith and had spent his years on earth as a minister of the gospel in a real and fundamental way. The Premier of Saskatchewan delivered the eulogy and it was a most moving tribute. Everyone at that service felt that he spoke for all of Saskatchewan in making his tribute.

Honourable senators, I want to join with others in saying, once again, that Tommy Douglas, in his day, made an enormous contribution to the life of Canada. Medicare will stand as a continuing monument to this man. As our history books are revised in the days ahead, Tommy Douglas' stature will grow and grow because of the immense contribution he made to the social, economic and political life of this country. I also join with others in extending our condolences to this wife, Irma, and to their daughters, Shirley and Joan.

**Hon. Sidney L. Buckwold:** Honourable senators, I join with everyone in this chamber, especially my colleagues from Saskatchewan, in paying tribute to the late Tommy Douglas. I am not sure what more can be said, because almost everything that can extol the virtues of this great Canadian has been said. My relationship with Mr. Douglas was not that of political opponent, such as Davey Steuart's or Senator Barootes', nor was it that of colleague, like Senator Argue's. I had the privilege to be the mayor of Saskatoon and to work with him on many occasions in trying to negotiate for my city and others. I always found him easy to get along with, yet generally he was able to win the point that he was after.

As has been said, he was a great story teller. I remember one of his stories about how to cure snake bites. I think that Senator Steuart will recall this one. He was saying that if you walk through the tall Texas grass and a snake bites you on the calf of your leg, you hold it up, squeeze it and a friend will suck out the poison. If the snake bites you in the arm, you do the same thing. Somebody, naturally, asked him, "What happens if the snake bites you on the behind?" He would say, "That's how you can tell who your friends are." He would go on from there to talk about his friends.

Those of us from Saskatchewan recall many vivid and vital memories of Tommy. Although, as I have said, I was not a political supporter of his, it was a privilege to be a friend and admirer. His impact on Saskatchewan and, indeed, on all of Canada will forever be favourably remembered by all who have benefited from his ideas—the ideas that have now been translated into social programs. He was a great parliamentari-