

I must say that I have known Senator Everett. I did my basic military training in Shilo, Manitoba, in the late 1950s. I regret Senator Everett's departure because I think that some of us who sit as independents could play a greater role. We all know that there is a price to pay at times to sit as an independent, and that sometimes independents do not meet with the approval of some other senators.

I had already been in touch with Senator Everett to talk about what we could do together. I will not speak on behalf of the other fine gentlemen who sit as independents, the Honourable Senator Pitfield, Senator Lang and Senator Lawson, but I am sure that, for some of us who sit as independent senators, at the moment Senator Everett's departure is very sad indeed. I only hope that his wife and children will not mind if we take some of his precious time in the future when we call on him to seek his advice.

I say it openly: I am a new senator and I do not have experience in this chamber, so I was counting on this very fine gentleman. My father taught me that that is probably the best thing one can say about someone. When my father said about a lady, "She is a fine lady," he felt that he had said everything. When my father said about a man, "He is a fine gentleman," he felt that he had said everything.

As far as I am concerned, sir, you are a very fine gentleman who has sat in this Senate chamber and your departure will be missed by all senators, and certainly by me.

Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I would join with my colleagues on both sides of the house in paying tribute to a fine gentleman. I agree with Senator Prud'homme that those words epitomize the honourable senator's life here in the Senate and also in his home city of Winnipeg. It was with surprise and sadness that I learned that Senator Everett would be making this announcement today. He has resigned, as he has done everything in his political life, as a matter of principle. Many of us would like to have had the opportunity to argue against his conclusion with regard to not being able to devote as much time to the Senate as he would have liked to contribute. Senator Everett's choice was to take his leave with the view that he would be followed by someone who would devote his or her full time to the work of the Senate. This is a testimonial to Senator Everett's own views on the importance of the work of this chamber. He has been one of the members of this chamber who have heightened its importance with their wisdom, experience, loyalty, and faithfulness.

• (1420)

Honourable senators, as I listened to Senator Molgat saying that Senator Everett was the youngest senator in this place when he was appointed in 1966, it took me back in time, because I remember that day; I remember it vividly.

I was a young reporter in the Parliamentary Press Gallery at the time. One of my newspapers was the *Winnipeg Free Press*. The arrival of this gentleman to Parliament Hill was big news. Thirty-nine years old or not, he had definitely made his mark in his community. The word came out from Winnipeg: "Go and interview this man; we want this for the front page." So I chased him down.

Somewhat reluctantly on his part, he agreed to be interviewed. It was one of the most difficult interviews I have ever conducted in my life. He was so careful and so cautious that his answers were single words. I had to go back and interview his friends in order to build the kind of story we wanted about the appointment of this very significant person to Parliament Hill.

I wish Senator Everett all the best in the future. He has many things left to do and a contribution to make. I have a feeling that he will find other avenues of interest and other tasks that will be important to the public life of this country. I wish him well; I wish Patty well; I wish their family well. You will be missed, Senator Everett.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Hon. H.A. Olson: Honourable senators, I did not expect this announcement today until Senator Everett made it. Consequently, I have no notes. However, I wish to say one or two things about this announcement.

I made Senator Everett's acquaintance long before I came to the Senate in 1977. He will remember that, back in 1968-69, ministers occasionally came to the Senate to give explanations for the legislation they were attempting to pass through the House of Commons and the Senate. I was Minister of Agriculture at that time, and there were a number of matters that were of great importance to Western Canada and the grain industry. As a result, I grew to know Senator Everett and the kind of questions he asked; questions which clearly displayed his interest and integrity.

Honourable senators, it is a sad day when someone with the intellectual capability and the integrity of Senator Everett decides to leave this place with, as he indicated, still nine years left. However, his reasons are his own, and it is not my right to question those reasons.

Honourable senators, over the past 27 or 28 years, I have had many interesting conversations and discussions with Senator Everett in public and in private. We have conversed over breakfast together in the fifth floor cafeteria many times, and I have enjoyed those conversations.

Senator Everett, I know you have thoughtfully considered what your future will hold, and knowing your personality, I am sure that future will be an interesting one. I wish you well.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Hon. Earl A. Hastings: Honourable senators, as a fellow member of Mr. Pearson's Class of '66, I rise to briefly associate myself with the remarks that have been made with respect to the career of our colleague Senator Everett as he leaves this institution.

• (1430)

I can only add how delighted and honoured I have been to work with the Honourable Senator Everett, and how much I have appreciated his friendship and counsel over the years.