

skills. As Senator Murray has said, Senator Flynn is certainly one of the best speakers in the Senate.

Let me close with a mention of the other characteristics I admire. He is not a phoney. In spite of being, in my opinion, frequently wrong—in fact, almost always wrong—he is never in doubt.

Senator Perrault: Always!

Senator Frith: His convictions are strong and he expresses them straightforwardly. In all my dealings with him—and I had frequent dealings with him when I was deputy leader and we were playing these opposition roles—then, as always, he expressed his views in a straight fashion. He was never devious. He was straightforward and honest, and always kept his word when it had been given. Senator Flynn has applied all of those characteristics for a long time to his view of his public service duties. What a shame that he is so often wrong!

As a result of some travelling that he and I did together, I became very fond of his wife, Renée.

● (1500)

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Senator Frith: When I say “together,” I mean the three of us!

In spite of all the above, I have tried to be as honest and as straightforward with Senator Flynn as he has always been with me. I do wish him and Renée a long and happy life together, now that they have the opportunity to spend more time together as people who, as we know, genuinely love each other, to travel more, and to pursue interests that remain unpursued because of his long and devoted commitment to his participation in the work of both houses of Parliament, the law, and his country.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Martial Asselin: Honourable senators, I never thought that my last speech in this House would be about Senator Flynn.

It is difficult to believe that this very talented parliamentarian is actually retiring. I think it is generally recognized that Senator Flynn has always belonged to the old school of theatrical speakers. Still, his logic and the coherence of his reasoning were impeccable. His comments were always stamped with that great analytical capacity of his. His sense of justice and fairness have always won him the attention and respect of his audience. Although not always in agreement with the content of his speeches, his opponents have always admired his honesty and his strong will. He always made his point very firmly.

His vigorous pleas, his wit and his sense of humour, as well as his talent for parliamentary strategy will be a great loss to this place.

Honourable senators, Senator Flynn was more to me than a colleague whom I have relentlessly seconded in his duties as leader of our party in the Senate. He was also and foremost a true friend who saw me through rough times over 20 years ago now. In those difficult times, I was able to count on his

strength and his wisdom. He always counselled me very judiciously.

I wish to put on the record how grateful I am to him for his friendship and how sincerely I wish it can last for as long as Providence will allow.

As you all know, Jacques Flynn is a “Québécois pure laine” who understood a long time ago the aspirations of our nation. He is also a Canadian who always stood up for Quebec in a strong and unified Canada.

His comments on constitutional problems were always incisive and moderate, based on an inspiring vision of the future of our country. I believe that in this area, he will be difficult to replace.

His contribution to public life, first as a private member and later as Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, Minister of Mines, Minister of Justice, Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and Leader of the Government in the Senate, gives him ample reason to be proud. He has served his country well.

Although occasionally, some strongly worded exchanges with the opposition would break the monotony of certain debates, I am sure there was never any hostile intent, because basically, he is a very sensitive soul, witness his fondness for reciting the occasional poem, looking at paintings and laughing at his own jokes. I asked him the other day why he laughed at his own jokes. He said it was because he thought they were good jokes. But above all, he was always ready to share the concerns of others.

Senator Jacques Flynn, as I said before, besides being a brilliant parliamentarian, also has an outstanding legal mind, a fact that was recognized by the Quebec Bar last year when it awarded him the Bar’s “Prix d’Excellence”.

It was because of all these qualities that the Right Hon. Joe Clark appointed Jacques as Minister of Justice in 1979. Jacques is a legal force to be reckoned with. That great talent and acute intelligence I mentioned earlier is always very apparent when Jacques is in court. I am witness to his successes, since he acted as my counsel several times before the courts, where he defended his cases with great vigour and tenacity. It is a pleasure to see him argue a case in court. He still enjoys and always will enjoy the respect of his fellow lawyers, and judges always listen carefully to his arguments.

Jacques Flynn is someone whose friendship I will always cherish. I wish him an active though tranquil and satisfying retirement. Our best wishes to your wife Renée and your children, Jacques.

I also want to transmit best wishes and greetings from your staff which has always been an important adjunct to your career.

[*English*]

Before I sit down I want to extend my compliments to both Senator Anderson and Senator Sherwood. I hope they will both have a very happy retirement, and I ask them to take with them my best wishes.