

It was an experience, Ian, which I shall never forget. I enjoyed it enormously and I enjoyed our personal friendship, particularly after committee meetings when we might get together and have some "warm milk" and—

Senator Cools:—cookies.

Senator MacDonald:—discuss the day's activities.

I only wish to say, however, since Senator Sinclair will now be going home for lunch, that I wish to extend my sincere sympathies to his wife.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Hon. Sidney L. Buckwold: Honourable senators, it has been my privilege to be the third party of the steering committee of the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce; as such, I was somewhat of a go-between for Senator Sinclair and his deputy, Senator MacDonald, on the occasions we met to discuss our programs and our decisions.

I am not sure whether the decisions ever emanated from the steering committee on the occasions that it met. We had a chairman who, like an engine, really did not need steering and managed to stay on the tracks on that main line all the while.

I am sure many of my fellow citizens from Saskatchewan will be astounded that anyone from that province would have a good word to say about anyone connected with the Canadian Pacific Railway. The CPR and the chartered banks are the number one targets of everyone from that province, and that remains the case to this very day.

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So far as Senator Sinclair is concerned, I think all honourable senators would agree that he has been an exemplary Canadian who, in the careers that we have heard outlined this evening, has shown a brilliance rarely exceeded by others in the business world.

I enjoyed being a member of his committee. He ran that committee in a unique way. Unlike the CPR, the meetings always started on time and finished on time. When a meeting was called for 9.30 a.m., at exactly 9.30 a.m. the chairman called for order and the meeting got under way. That was true whether anybody was there or not. It really did not matter to the chairman.

Senator Sinclair could be a little rough on witnesses sometimes, as Senator MacDonald has said. I recall when the Minister of Communications appeared before the committee; a nice young lady, she appeared before the committee when it was considering amendments to the Patent Act and the Copyright Act. She was given a very rough ride. I apologized to her, as Senator MacDonald did, but I think that in the end she recognized that the chairman was after the facts, and in the conclusion of the committee's report she found that her concerns were well satisfied.

That is exactly the way the chairman operated. He was fair; he was considerate in the end, though not always in the beginning; he was truthful; and he always "said it like it was". He did not hesitate to question witnesses on matters that bothered him. I think we all respected him for that.

[Senator MacDonald.]

On behalf of the other members of the committee let me say that we enjoyed our association with Senator Sinclair. Not only was it a learning experience but it was a privilege to be a member of his committee. He showed leadership and made a great contribution to the Senate and to the country.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Hon. John B. Stewart: Honourable senators, I have a special reason for speaking because, as honourable senators know, I have been Senator Sinclair's seatmate for the past few years.

Senator MacEachen said that Senator Sinclair's legal and business experience prepared him well to be a member of the Senate. That comment reminded me of an article that Philip Givens, sometime mayor of Toronto and sometime member of the House of Commons, wrote explaining why successful businessmen are almost certain to be complete failures in politics. As I recall, Givens said that businessmen are quite unprepared for the adjustments and compromises that are inevitably required in politics; that they are shocked that their errors and bumbles would be revealed to the public, things which, in their private corporations, are kept quiet, secret and clandestine; and that they are impatient with the slowness with which the political mills operate. Givens laid it on. One could conclude that it was evident that no businessman—certainly no big businessman—would ever be a success in either the House of Commons or the Senate.

One now would have to say that Senator Sinclair has shown that at least once in a while the view stated by Givens is incorrect. As Senator Sinclair's seatmate I can testify that he has enjoyed his work in the Senate and has been vigorous in his contribution to the country through the Senate. Often the quiet, little conversations we have had here as seatmates reminded me of the kind of chats that go on in school when the teacher is not being too attentive. I must say that I found those conversations stimulating and, at the same time, encouraging. I want to say to you, honourable senators, that today I feel a very special sense of loss. I want to thank Senator Sinclair for the stimulation and the encouragement he has given me.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Hon. Lorna Marsden: Honourable senators, Senator Sinclair is a legendary figure in this country and in our time, and he was long before he came to this chamber. He is a person about whom I had heard many powerful Canadians speak with great awe, but I must say, from the perspective of a feminist arriving in the Senate, that my expectations were not very high. However, I was delighted to find that I was wrong about that, because, in addition to his creative attitude towards this chamber and towards his work as chairman of the Banking, Trade and Commerce Committee, which I think has been an inspiration to those of us who had the privilege of sitting on it, to my delight and somewhat to my amazement, it became very evident when dealing with the Privatization Bill that Senator Sinclair understood absolutely the concerns of women and women workers in this country, in that he not only ensured that those questions were raised but vigorously pursued or pressed the witnesses on that account. Those of us who are