

Tributes to Deceased Members

in this House of Commons has helped to dignify its proceedings and uphold its place in public esteem.

Right Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Secretary of State for External Affairs) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, it was on October 20 last that the members of the Canadian delegation gathered in New York for the reopening of the session of the general assembly of the united nations heard of the death of Hon. Mr. Cardin. At their first meeting, held on the morning of that day, the members of that delegation, including members of two other parties represented in this house, asked me to send to the family of the deceased a message which I should like to read to hon. members as our share of the tribute which has just been paid to his memory by the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). This is the message:

Mr. Octave Cardin,
Sorel.

The members of the Canadian delegation to the assembly of the united nations, which is about to resume its session here in New York, have been deeply moved at the news of the death of Hon. Mr. Cardin. At their first meeting, this morning, they have asked me to convey their deepest sympathy to yourself, to the other members of the family as well as to the whole population of Sorel and the surrounding district.

Kindly accept this expression of sympathy as a heartfelt tribute to the memory of a great Canadian who, during his long struggles for the victory of the political ideals which he deemed best suited to the true interests of our country, never hesitated to take or to strike a blow.

Louis St. Laurent.

That was a heartfelt tribute from all members of the delegation.

May I also, in my own name and on behalf of the French speaking members of this house, join in the tribute which has just been paid by the Right Hon. the Prime Minister to our late and lamented colleague who represented the constituency of Halifax, Mr. Macdonald.

(Text):

Mr. JOHN BRACKEN (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, on my own behalf and on behalf of all those who sit near me I am glad to express our agreement with the sentiments voiced by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. St. Laurent). It seems that the uncertainty of the span of human life makes itself evident at the opening of almost every session; when parliament reconvenes we usually find some empty seats, and this occasion is no exception to the rule.

Six months ago we had with us two men who are not here to-day. Both these men, as the Prime Minister has said, made very material contributions to this parliament. One

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

of them I knew personally for a quarter of a century. I remember how his oratory inspired us at the time when the explorations of another great French-speaking Canadian, La Verendrye, were being celebrated in the central part of this nation.

As the Prime Minister has said, Mr. Cardin was here for thirty-five years and during that period he was a member of three different governments. A most worthy representative of French-speaking Canada, an eloquent orator, an outstanding lawyer, an able administrator and a good parliamentarian, he devoted over half his life to the service of his country.

I associate with my memory of Mr. Cardin the doctrine of national unity which he so forcefully expressed on many occasions for the welfare not only of his associates in the province of Quebec but of all Canada. On the occasion of one of his inspiring addresses he used these words:

We must not make the mistake of breaking the branches of the Canadian family tree—we must be strong and whole.

That message, Mr. Speaker, which the late member for Richelieu-Vercheres left with us and with this nation, is a message we must never forget. I think it is worthy to be carved in stone as a eulogy over its author's grave.

As the Prime Minister has said also, the late member for Halifax had been with us since 1940. A lawyer by profession, he had been president of the bar association of his native province and vice president of the Canadian Bar Association representing that province. In this house he ably represented the best traditions not only of his profession but of the province down by the sea which has given us so many outstanding public men. He served here as parliamentary assistant in two different departments. As is well known, he seldom spoke, but what he did do was to establish a reputation for thoroughness and soundness of judgment which commended itself to the opposition, as I am sure it did to the members and supporters of the government.

I desire, Mr. Speaker, to associate myself and those around me with the motion which has been moved by the Prime Minister. We extend to the brother and sisters of the late Mr. Cardin and to the wife and brothers and sisters of the late Mr. Macdonald our sincere sympathy in their sad bereavement.

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggart): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of those associated with me I wish to join in the expressions of sympathy which have been so well presented to the house by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and the Leader of the