

had made that speech in my place—that is to say, had the words been by Power and the music by O’Leary—the result might have been somewhat different. He might have reached the top, and then what a mess we would have been in.

It is true, it would not have been the first time that the Liberals had had a Tory leader, but never would it have been so obvious a case of the right man in the wrong place.

These things are bound to occur to us as we listen to debates. The present debate, which is quite a serious one, reminds me of many of the same kind that have occurred in the past. As I listened to my honourable friend sitting behind me, Senator Gouin, I remembered that many years ago there was a motion on the Order Paper of the Legislature of Quebec calling for Quebec to get out of Confederation if the rest of Canada did not want to remain in. I remember that that motion was laid on the table by a very prominent man, the Honourable Joseph Francœur, who was afterwards Minister of Public Works in the Taschereau Government, and later a member of the House of Commons of Canada and a judge of the Court of Appeals. That motion was squelched and rejected after a brilliant speech by the father of my honourable friend, Senator Gouin. So, there is nothing much new under the sun.

The same thing occurs time and again as we go through life. Crises, difficulties, factions, and strong divisions, all appear to be healed as time goes on. As one looks back, one is impressed more and more by the unanimity of willingness to agree to give fair play and to listen fairly and decently to those on opposite sides of politics. Politics is not a bad game, I repeat—and I shall repeat it many times. Politicians are not all damned scoundrels. Some of the finest people in the world have been in political life.

As I look back over the 47 years I have been in politics, and to the time a little before that when I was interested in politics, I find there is much to be grateful for. There is much to be thankful for. One of the principal things is the good will and unanimity of good will among people who take part in public affairs.

I thank you, my friends.

#### DOCUMENTS TABLED

**Hon. John J. Connolly** tabled:

Order in Council P.C. 1964-1920, dated December 10, 1964, authorizing under section 21 of the Export Credits Insurance Act, contracts of insurance by the Export Credits Insurance Corporation, for shipment of approximately 100,000 metric tons of wheat to the People’s Republic of Bulgaria, in the period October 8, 1964

to October 7, 1965, pursuant to section 21B of the said act, chapter 105, R.S.C., 1952, as amended 1960-61. (English text).

#### CANADA PENSION PLAN BILL

##### SECOND REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

**Hon. Muriel McO. Fergusson**, Joint Chairman of the Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons appointed to consider Bill C-136, to establish a comprehensive program of old age pensions and supplementary benefits in Canada payable to and in respect of contributors, presented the second report of the committee:

Your committee recommends that its quorum be further reduced to ten members for the time during which the Senate shall recess, provided that both houses are represented.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall this report be taken into consideration?

**Hon. Muriel McO. Fergusson:** With leave of the Senate, I move that this report be considered now.

Report adopted.

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

##### INTERIM REPORT

**Hon. David A. Croll:** Honourable senators, I have a short report to make.

The Special Committee on Aging, appointed by the Senate on July 29, 1963, has now completed the second stage of its investigation.

The first stage, which continued throughout the fall of 1963, was essentially one of exploration and planning. During this period attention was devoted to examining the problem of aging in its various aspects, to determining the aims and limits of the inquiry, and to establishing contacts with governmental and other bodies in a position to be of assistance.

The second stage was that of public hearings which began in February last and were concluded on December 10 of this year. While the committee from the outset recognized the important contribution which these hearings might be expected to make, it was not prepared for the widespread response its invitation would evoke, nor for the trouble and expense to which interested parties would be willing to go in order to share their experience and concern with us.

In total, 71 submissions were received, which far exceeded our expectation. It might also be observed, as an indication of the spread of interest, that presentations were made to the committee by six departments