

THE SENATE

Wednesday, February 1, 1967

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

DEPUTY GOVERNMENT WHIP

APPOINTMENT OF HON. A. HAMILTON
McDONALD

Hon. John J. Connolly: Honourable senators, I should like to announce to the Senate that the Honourable A. Hamilton McDonald has been appointed Deputy to the Honourable Senator Beaubien (Provencher) as the Whip on this side, for the convenience of all senators.

RETIREMENT OF HON. A. K. HUGESSEN TRIBUTES

Hon. John J. Connolly: Honourable senators, in the *Debates of the Senate* of Wednesday, December 21, 1966, there is this short passage:

HON. JEAN-PAUL DESCHATELETS: Honourable senators this is the last Senate sitting before the Centennial Year. As Senator Hugessen, our distinguished colleague, may not be back with us after the recess, I would like him to move the adjournment of the Senate.

HON. A. K. HUGESSEN: Honourable senators, I move that the Senate do now adjourn.

With those words, simple and clear, there came to an end one of the most distinguished parliamentary careers, made entirely in this chamber, that this country has ever witnessed.

Senator Hugessen was appointed to this chamber in January 1937. He was born in Great Britain, and was educated at Eton and later at McGill University in Montreal where he took his degrees in Arts and Law.

Senator Hugessen came to Canada originally as a very young man to work for the railway. His father was Lord Brabourne who once entertained Sir John A. Macdonald when Sir John was in Britain at the time of Confederation attending the conference leading to the passage of the British North America Act. Both his maternal and paternal grandfathers were members of the British House of Commons, as was his father before his elevation to the peerage. They were indeed real nineteenth century Liberals.

I remember visiting Balliol College at Oxford a few years ago and examining the plaques at the entrance to one of the quadrangles. I saw there the name Knatchbull-Hugessen repeated several times among the names of Balliol men who had died in the war. All of these people were kith and kin to Senator Hugessen. He himself served in World War I with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces in France.

By profession, Senator Hugessen is a lawyer, and there can be no question but that he was a leader at the Bar of Montreal. He was a partner in a firm of distinguished lawyers which at one time included among its number the great Eugene Lafleur. He was treasurer of the Montreal Bar in 1958, later he was its Bâtonnier, and Bâtonnier of the Bar of the Province of Quebec in 1960.

He has a great many business connections, and has been a member of the board of directors of many commercial and industrial organizations in this country. He was Chancellor of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal. You will recall that in 1963 he represented this Parliament at the funeral service for Pope John XXIII in Rome. On his return I think he spoke as feelingly about that great man as anyone, to my knowledge, has ever done. His speech made a deep impression upon all of us.

Senator Hugessen was a Governor of McGill University.

He was never a member of the House of Commons. In 1935 he was a candidate in St. Lawrence-St. George, running against the Honourable C. H. Cahan, who defeated him. I do not know that I can vouch for its accuracy, but there is a story prevalent about that occasion. At the nomination meeting he was nominated but was not present, and so was sent for. When he arrived at the hall with his wife he was informed that the Liberal party desired him to represent them, and he accepted. On that occasion Mrs. Hugessen was presented with a beautiful bouquet of roses. Some weeks later, probably after the election and his defeat, not to his but to her consternation he received a bill for the roses! To Mrs. Hugessen, who was quite concerned about it, he remarked, "This is perhaps your real introduction to politics, my dear."

Senator Hugessen was Deputy Leader of this house from 1950 to 1952. He sat in this chamber under every Leader of the Senate since the time of Senator Dandurand. On one occasion he told this story about the days of Senator Dandurand and Senator Meighen.