

**Hon. Mr. Hicks:** It is a distinction which Senator Ferguson deserves, regardless of her sex, but which, as I say, is particularly appropriate for her as a graduate of Mount Allison University.

In 1875 Mount Allison University became the first university in the British Empire to grant a Bachelor's degree to a woman. In that instance it was a Bachelor of Science degree, and that was followed, seven years later in 1882, by the first Bachelor of Arts degree ever awarded to a woman by any university in Canada. Mount Allison has apparently continued its excellent tradition of featuring the ladies. Of the eight women who are members of this body, three are graduates of Mount Allison University, those being, in addition to Her Honour the Speaker, the Honourable Senator Norrie, and the Honourable Senator Neiman who, as honourable senators are aware, took her oath of office just a few days ago.

May I take this opportunity, Madam Speaker, to wish you a long and successful tenure of office as the presiding officer of this body, particularly at this time when such a wish carries significant overtones and undertones, which I am sure will not escape honourable senators.

• (2030)

Unhappily I must now refer to the death of a most unusual Canadian. The Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson will be appreciated in retrospect by Canadians and by Canadian historians to perhaps a greater extent than he ever was by his Canadian contemporaries during his lifetime. I need not refer to his distinguished career as a sportsman, a teacher, an outstanding public servant, a minister of government, an international statesman, and finally as the Prime Minister of his country. The facts are well known, and have been movingly and eloquently placed on the record here by the government leader, Senator Martin, on Thursday last.

In a very real sense Mr. Pearson is the first Canadian to have achieved the status of a world statesman. It is true that Sir Wilfrid Laurier and, perhaps to a greater extent, Sir Robert Borden and William Lyon Mackenzie King, established and maintained a reputation of distinction outside Canada, but their activities were confined almost entirely to Canada's position in the Commonwealth. Even if he had not been recognized by the award of the Nobel Peace Prize, Mike Pearson's skilful diplomacy, culminating in his brilliant leadership in the United Nations, ranked him as a world figure to a degree that cannot be attributed to any other Canadian in our history.

It is popular for journalists and some others to say that he did not achieve the same distinction as a leader within Canada. Here again, I suspect the record will prove these people wrong. It is true that his leadership was not marked by an ostentatious use of or love of power, nor that showy decisiveness which the press and the public so easily recognize. He had none of the arrogance or obvious self-importance which many people associate with leadership. At the same time, he managed the affairs of this nation under the most trying and difficult circumstances with a skill that is really only understood when one examines his achievements.

If he was not an ostentatiously decisive and strong leader, nevertheless he never lost sight of the goals he set for himself and his administration. What other Canadian

Prime Minister in so short a period managed to make so many changes in the Canadian pattern of life—a new flag for Canada, a national pension plan, the Canada Assistance Plan, a guaranteed income for old age pensioners, collective bargaining in the federal Public Service? Added to these were the unification of the armed services, the doubling of Canada's external aid, and the establishment of the foundations for a bilingual Public Service. If this was not strong leadership, it was certainly effective leadership and effective government.

Canada needs more men of this stature, and I am sure that the whole nation, regardless of differing attitudes towards him during his lifetime, mourns his passing, extends sympathy to the members of his family, and takes pride in the achievements of a man who enhanced Canada's name and reputation throughout the world.

For more than nine years, since I have been President of Dalhousie University, there have been in my office the pictures of only two men. One is of the first President of Dalhousie University, the Reverend Thomas H. McCulloch—a not inconsiderable public figure and reformer during the early years of the nineteenth century, and an associate of Joseph Howe in the struggle for responsible government in Nova Scotia—the other is of Lester B. Pearson, given to me before he became leader of the Liberal Party in Canada. Hence my reference to him might have been more personal because of the long-standing friendship which he gave to me, as he did to so many others.

Lester Pearson had the capacity to listen without necessarily being swayed, and then to weigh and consider. This may have been interpreted by some as indecisiveness. It is true that he always saw the other side of any argument he advanced or policy he proposed, but surely this is strength and realism rather than indecisiveness. There are different kinds and styles of leadership, and if his was not always the kind that fits popular fancy I submit it was the kind that was good for Canada, and for this Parliament during a most difficult period.

I have already referred to the moving and eloquent tribute paid to the late Lester B. Pearson by the government leader in the Senate on Thursday last. I owe it to Mr. Pearson and Senator Martin for having been chosen to lead the Canadian delegations to two UNESCO general conferences in Paris. I thank both of them—particularly Senator Martin, who is here with us now—for the confidence that they placed in me, and particularly for the wide scope of authority allowed to me as the leader of the Canadian delegations.

It is an honour to me to come to the Senate under the leadership of Senator Martin. He is a man whom I have always admired greatly. As has been said before and recently, he is a man who has given virtually the whole of his adult life and career to the public service of his country, in varying capacities. Like politicians who have done this, he has had his successes and also his disappointments. But the fine thing about Senator Martin is that his successes have never turned his head, nor have his disappointments ever daunted him. I consider it an honour to serve in the Senate under his leadership.

Honourable senators, the circumstances of our meeting in this First Session of the Twenty-ninth Parliament