Tributes

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to take this question on behalf of the Solicitor General who is out of the House on business.

There will be no cuts in funding for sex offender treatment programs for 1993–94. Indeed, treatment programs in Ontario will be expanded to offer additional programs such as relapse prevention programs at Frontenac, Beaver Creek and Pittsburgh Institutions and Portsmouth Community Correctional Centre. All four programs are expected to be operational by April of 1993.

Mr. Speaker: I wish to advise the House that notice has been brought to me that members would like to rise and pay tribute to our deceased colleague, Chuck Cook.

THE LATE CHUCK COOK

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, in my close to 14 years in this Chamber, this is the first time I have risen on an occasion like this. I do so with a sense of sadness and yet a sense of anticipation.

Chuck Cook has been a good friend of mine since 1961. For most of us, the friends we encounter in this Chamber are people who we encounter upon our arrival in the Chamber or maybe slightly before. It is unusual that you have a friendship that goes back so far.

Charles Henry Cook was the director of the School of Business Administration at Mount Royal College, the United Church college in Calgary, Alberta in 1961 when I arrived as the director of student affairs. I used to tease him a little. He was a bit older than I was and he seemed to me at that point in my life a little bit wiser than I was and that was probably true. He had a law degree and masters in business administration from Western University. He was putting together a program of academic studies in business education at the university level that began with no acceptance anywhere except among his students and ended up as credit courses accepted by most universities in North America.

The tribute to that part of his life is the reality that the school is bigger, stronger, has more programs and he was the person who began it all. It was long before we had our own university in Calgary and long before we had a school that specialized in any kind of business education. He was indeed a pioneer.

However, the part of Chuck Cook's life that preceded my time with him, and it has only come to my knowledge in recent years, was that he was famous in the city of Winnipeg by 20 years of age. He had achieved the kind of fame and fortune in his local community perhaps that we aspire to in the Parliament of Canada and in our home communities. He was well-known. He was the most popular disc jockey in the city of Winnipeg by the age of 20. He was a lawyer by the age of 30 and he was a politician in this Chamber by his early 50s.

Chuck Cook is survived by his wife, Dale. On behalf of my wife I would like to say something about that relationship. As luck would have it, when our paths crossed at that community college, within a year we became neighbours of the Cooks, just down the street. Our children are of similar ages. My wife and his wife became friends. It was not inconsequential in our early days as parliamentarians that you had somebody who you had known for a while who understood your life and your lifestyle, the difficulties that were caused in your family, somebody who you felt comfortable talking to because of that earlier association. We have thought a lot since Tuesday of Dale Cook and their three children, their sons Kenneth and Colin, and Colin's children Michael, Trevor and Sean, and of their daughter Kimberley.

• (1505)

I think the House would like to know that as a family they were together in the last few days of Chuck's life. I think the House would like to know that the death was not sudden. It was the result of cancer, a disease which can exist over a long period of time.

Perhaps it is at least partially the mark of the man that I do not think anybody in this Chamber knew the severity of his illness. I was his Whip. I knew there were days when he found it difficult and sometimes impossible to get on an airplane to come from Vancouver to Ottawa and to go back. There was pain involved. There were other complicating factors. It was not Chuck's way to talk a lot about those kinds of things. Throughout the time I knew him he simply got on with life.