

The Late Douglas Abbott

launching ramps are going to cost more money to repair because when they are neglected they deteriorate faster. This is not a saving, Mr. Speaker. It is simply throwing money away. It costs money to maintain and repair them but it saves money if they are repaired regularly. This neglect is just plain bad management on the part of the Minister.

The Government preaches about tourism and recreation but does nothing in the development of onshore and offshore tourist facilities to support the rapidly growing boating industry in Canada which, incidentally, pays large amounts of taxes to both federal and provincial Governments.

In Ontario the budgets for small craft harbours and boating accommodations have been nil. There is a great demand for boating facilities and maintenance in eastern and northern Ontario. If the Government is truly interested in tourism and recreation, it is time it started doing something for the boating industry in Ontario and across the country. A lot of Conservative unkept promises and self-praise will never launch a boat.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to advise Hon. Members that before we commence Question Period I will be hearing remarks by the Hon. Minister of Veteran Affairs (Mr. Hees), the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition and the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell).

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THE LATE HON. DOUGLAS CHARLES ABBOTT

Hon. George Hees (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, following consultations with the other Parties I am rising now to speak in remembrance and tribute to the Hon. Douglas Abbott who died yesterday. Mr. Abbott was elected first to Parliament in 1940 and became Minister of Finance in 1946. He served in that portfolio with great distinction until 1954 when he retired to become a Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada.

I was privileged to serve in the House for my first four years during Mr. Abbott's term as Minister of Finance and found him to be one of the most able and popular Ministers whom I have ever known, and I think probably one of the most popular and able Ministers who ever served in this Parliament. He was a remarkable man.

He had friends in every part of the House in equal quantity. Members of all Parties admired his ability, appreciated his warm personality and his very keen sense of humour. He will be very greatly missed by all of those who were privileged to know him.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1420)

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, that was a typically generous gesture made by my friend, the Hon. Member for Northumberland, the Minister of

Veterans Affairs (Mr. Hees). I would like to respond on behalf of our side of the House and particularly on behalf of my colleague, the Hon. Member for Saint-Henri—Westmount (Mr. Johnston) and myself. Both of us knew Mr. Justice Abbott personally, held him in high regard, and felt great affection for him.

I think the Minister of Veterans Affairs and Mr. Stanley Knowles are probably the only two people here in the House now who served in the House of Commons with Douglas Abbott. They will remember him as we remember him, a great servant of the people of Canada. He was not only a Member of Parliament for 14 years but he was Minister of Finance from 1946 to 1954. He brought down nine Budgets in the House, a number of them bringing down surpluses. In the extraordinary flavour of that time, he was roundly criticized for that. I might say that I can say this with some authority because I was the last Minister of Finance ever to bring down a surplus in Canada.

Mr. Justice Abbott had an irresistible personality. The Minister of Veterans Affairs has referred to it. He was irresistible, engaging, and a wonderful friend. He sat on the Bench of the Supreme Court of Canada until retirement age. When he retired, he was the Senior Puisne Judge of that court and was renowned for his wide and vast knowledge of the public law of Canada.

Mr. Justice Abbott was born in Lennoxville in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. One of the personal honours accorded to him that he valued most highly was having been elected Chancellor of Bishop's University.

On behalf of the Liberal Party we send our deepest condolences to his widow, to his son Tony who served in the House of Commons as well and was a Minister in the Government of Mr. Trudeau, and to his family our warmest sympathies, our respect, and our admiration because he was a remarkable Canadian in his time.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the New Democratic Party to join with the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Hees) and the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) in regretting the passing of a distinguished Canadian, the Hon. Douglas Abbott. As has been mentioned, he was a successful politician and a distinguished judge. He was elected to the House of Commons before I was born. As a young lawyer I had the honour of appearing before Mr. Justice Abbott, the first time I appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada, while he did not rule for me, he gave me a good hearing.

Mr. Justice Abbott was, as I saw him, courteous, sharp, and very able. Many of us know his son Tony and our condolences go out to him and to the family. As the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, Tony did serve as a Member and as a Minister in this great House of Commons like his father.

Today, on behalf of my Party and all of us in the House of Commons, including those of us who did not have the honour of serving in the House with the Abbotts but served subsequent