

party in caucus. His appointment is a kind of vote of confidence in him as a member of the caucus and of his party. He acts, of course, when his leader is away.

Senator Vaillancourt has mentioned the fact that the Leader of the Government in this house is absent because of illness. This we all regret very much. I join with Senator Vaillancourt in wishing Senator Connolly a very speedy recovery, and I hope he will be back with us soon in this chamber.

I have often told Senator Connolly that he had one great fault—I am sure all honourable senators have noticed it—it is that he works too hard, that he does not spare himself. While this may be a hard lesson for him, I am sure it will be nonetheless a good lesson, and a warning that he should not in the future use up so much of his strength.

At this time also I assure Senator Bouffard that we on this side of the chamber are very pleased to hear of his appointment. He can expect from us sympathetic understanding and co-operation in the transaction of necessary Senate business.

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald: Honourable senators, when I learned that Senator John Connolly would not be present at the opening of this Parliament and would not lead this house during its opening days, I hoped that his absence would be limited to the opening days. Regrettably, we learn now that he may be absent during the opening weeks. However, we will rejoice with him when he is well enough to return, which will probably be within the next three or four weeks.

All honourable senators will agree with what the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Brooks) has intimated, namely, that Senator Connolly has worked too hard, and that he should not be in too great a rush to return. I wrote him a letter to that effect, in which I assured him that the members on both sides of this house would do all in their power to carry forward the legislation as it came before us.

At that time it was my understanding that Senator Vaillancourt would act as Leader of the Government. He was in good health when we saw him last in July. He had been ill before that time and, fortunately, had made a good recovery. I know of his capacity; I also know of his loyalty. It was my good fortune when Leader of the Government in this house to have Senator Vaillancourt as my deputy leader, and never once when I called upon him to take my place in the house or in committee, as I did often, did he hesitate to

do so. No one could have been more willing, more faithful, or more competent than he.

I am sorry that Senator Vaillancourt feels his health will not permit him to continue, as I know we would have given him all the help he needed. He could have depended upon us to the same extent that I depended upon him.

Senator Vaillancourt has seen fit to retire from his office, but he has named a successor in whom we have confidence. We have seen Senator Bouffard in this house and as chairman of committees. We know that he is an able counsel, and that he has a complete grasp of the proceedings in this house. We know that he understands fully all the legislation that comes before us. At this time, when we have to get along without our leader and without the services of the one who has been the deputy leader, we are indeed fortunate in having a man of Senator Bouffard's standing in his community, at the Bar and in the Senate, and one of his capacity and understanding, to act as our leader.

While saying not goodbye but just *au revoir* to Senator Vaillancourt we, at the same time, say welcome to Senator Bouffard.

Hon. Paul H. Bouffard: Honourable senators, no one is more sorry than I am that the seat of the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Connolly, Ottawa West) is vacant at the present time, while he takes a necessary rest from his labours. I hope his absence from the chamber will not be a long one. Our deputy leader (Hon. Mr. Vaillancourt), who looks to be in pretty good health, is nevertheless withdrawing from that role.

Many people have asked me why I accepted the task of Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate at a time when I shall probably have to undertake the leadership for a few weeks to come. However, honourable senators, there is nothing I would not do for John Connolly—he deserves my best efforts.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Bouffard: There is nothing I would not do for the Prime Minister, who after a long and arduous campaign decided to attend a far-away conference for the benefit of his country and in the cause of peace. If these gentlemen, who are extremely busy, think that it is in the interest of the country so to act, I myself feel that I cannot refuse the task that has been offered to me.