

I think it came as somewhat of a shock to us all on June 28 to learn that Jean François Pouliot had resigned his seat in the Senate. No one will deny the independence of Senator Pouliot in thought, word and deed. My first recollection of him is from the days when I was a student. I was having a holiday on the lower St. Lawrence and, as I was going past the parish church in Cacouna on Sunday morning after mass, Jean François was standing in the back of a car haranguing the crowd. I need not tell you that there was an election on. He was fiery then and the fire even yet is not an ember.

Senator Pouliot came from a family which served its province and its country in public life through three generations. His own service probably outstripped them all. He was in the House of Commons for 31 years of continuous service from 1924 and he was in the Senate, where he had 13 years' service, from 1955—a total of 44 years of service to the Parliament of his country. In these years he strove mightily for the welfare of the people of Temiscouata. One never thinks of Temiscouata without immediately thinking of Jean-François Pouliot. His people look out from their fertile farms to the Laurentians to the north, farther away than the 25-mile expanse of the St. Lawrence at that point; they see the beautiful offshore islands, the Pilgrims and Brandy Pots; they see the shipping of the world pass by; they are a contented, law-abiding people and Jean-François Pouliot made himself part of their daily life.

One wishes one could record some of the events of his parliamentary career. Today colour is said to be a great asset in public life. He invented it! Today pungent criticism is of the very fabric of public debate. He epitomized it! Today bilingualism is one of our worthiest national goals. He personified it! Today humour and wit still enliven the political dialogue, or should. Both were the handmaidens of his performances! I hope some day his biography will be written, and it might well be called "An Independent among Partisans". Certainly we shall miss him.

As a lawyer, as a juristconsult, as a journalist, as a man with a sense of history—all this is in his record, though only sketched in the *Canadian Parliamentary Guide*. Perhaps it is to be found more voluminously in the records of *Hansard* both of the House of Commons and of this honourable house.

We wish the charming Madame Pouliot, their son François and himself health and contentment and many years of retirement.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West):** The Epic of Gilgamesh was one of Babylon's most ambitious efforts. Its discussion of man's pursuit of immortality is rather important in the early Babylonian literature, and I select this important passage from that part of the work. It reads as follows:

O Gilgamesh, where are you going?

The life you are seeking you will never find.  
When the gods created mankind, death they allotted to man

But life they kept in their own hands.

How true we find this in the Senate! On June 26 yet another of our colleagues passed to the Great Beyond in the person of the Honourable Dr. Fred W. Gershaw. It is difficult adequately to express the profound sense of loss which all honourable senators will feel on his passing. Senator Gershaw was conscientious; he was dedicated to the Senate and to the work of its committees, perhaps particularly, Senator Roebuck, to your committee, the Divorce Committee.

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Connolly (Ottawa West):** Parliament was a life that he not only loved but ennobled. He was 15 years in the House of Commons; he was 25 years in the Senate.

Dr. Gershaw was a great physician. Technically he was capable, and his practice and the work of his clinic in Medicine Hat testify to that. But, above all, he was a compassionate man; he had feeling for his fellow men. He was, indeed, a true Christian humanist, and we saw this so often here when honourable senators felt the need for a physician's services.

The speeches he made in this chamber were not frequent. They were quiet. They were concise. They were informative. He had an acute awareness of scientific developments, particularly in the field of medicine. He was very much in the van of progress in that field, for the alleviation of human suffering. On numerous occasions he spoke here on the problems of health in the underdeveloped countries—which constitute some two-thirds of the world's population—and he had direct experience of the needs of those countries through his work in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.