

he were here today as I am, looking across the floor and seeing the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang) and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) sitting side by side, separated from the Minister of Consumer Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) by the Secretary of State (Mr. Faulkner), who is placed there for the purpose of keeping order in this honourable chamber, I am sure he would mention it. He would say that Damon and Pythias today have their counterparts in the House of Commons.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is the spirit of this institution. We may disagree, we may profoundly criticize those who sit in other parts of the House, but where there is sincerity and a devotion to idealism there is always respect shown to members no matter where they sit. We have no Watergate tradition in this country. Mr. Coldwell was a man who embodied the finest principles of parliamentary democracy in the British heritage.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to thank the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) for the thoughtful words they have uttered in memory of the late M. J. Coldwell.

Mr. Coldwell was a leader of our party for 18 years and was a member of this House for 23 years. There are many things one could say about him. A number have already been said this afternoon. But what struck me as most important about Mr. Coldwell was the cause to which he devoted his life. Above everything else, even above his concern for the important question of civil liberties, was his concern for the poor in Canada and for the poor and underprivileged abroad. It was that kind of passionate commitment that led him finally to the acceptance of the principles of socialism. It was that kind of commitment that provided sustenance for himself and his family, and leadership for so many people in my party over so many years.

A second point to be made about him is that although he was tough in commitment to his ideals and firm in his convictions, he was also among the most considerate, polite and tactful of men. This is a rare combination to find in one person, a solid commitment and strong determination accompanied by a total willingness to be always civilized and considerate of one's opponents. That leads to my final observation on behalf of my party this afternoon, Mr. Speaker. It is with respect to Mr. Coldwell's fundamental commitment to this institution.

The right hon. gentleman from Prince Albert has already referred to the esteem that Mr. Coldwell had for this institution. I think that when the history is written for this century there will be few others, if indeed any, who could be singled out in terms of their contribution to the House of Commons while displaying as great a combination of concern and thoughtfulness for the well-being of men, understanding of their opponents and commitment to serious action. He was a truly exceptional Canadian.

The Late M. J. Coldwell

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1630)

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I wish to join with the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) and the leader of the NDP (Mr. Broadbent) in expressing our most sincere sympathy to the Coldwell family.

I had the privilege of knowing Mr. Coldwell personally in 1946 when the seat he occupied was exactly the one where I am now, while I sat behind Solon Low.

Our party was larger then than the CCF Party. Mr. Speaker, I should like to point out to you something very important, namely that Mr. Coldwell was the leader of eight federal members and was recognized by everybody as a rightful party leader.

A while ago the right hon. member for Prince Albert mentioned Mr. Coldwell's great interest for his country, Canada, and it is true that notwithstanding our political convictions, we must all recognize that Mr. Coldwell was relentless in his efforts to promote Canadian unity and especially to help the underprivileged classes.

At that time, we Social Crediters, perfectly agreed with the CCF members about that goal. However, we did not agree about the methods to be used. They advocated socialism while we advocated private enterprise. It is still thus today. As far as the goal was concerned, I believe he sincerely aimed to reach it: to help the working classes, the neglected people, as the right hon. Prime Minister said a while ago. His efforts were sincere. In 1946, 1947 and 1948, the Prime Minister worked towards the same goal. That is why he said a while ago that he knew him very well. I know he knew him very well.

Mr. Speaker, Canada has certainly lost a great citizen, a man who showed devotion to his country, who commanded respect in the House of Commons. Everybody listened to him attentively, even the right hon. member for Prince Albert who occupied then the second seat behind the leader of the then official opposition, Mr. Bracken, I believe.

As a man, Mr. Coldwell was held in respect as much by the Liberals who were in power as by the opposition parties, which were all duly recognized without exception.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and on my behalf, I wish to express my deepest sympathy to the Coldwell family. Again I say that Canada lost a great Canadian in Mr. M. J. Coldwell.

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INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister) presented the following message from His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of Canada:

His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of Canada transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an Order in Council appointing the following members of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as