

friends, and particularly to his wife and children, a sincere tribute of respect and our sincere condolences on his passing.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I am glad to join Senator Roblin in his comments on all three of our former colleagues, to underline some of the things that he has said and to support them all.

With reference to Senator Cook, several of his colleagues are here with us in the Senate and I know that they will have something to say about him. I can only say that I found Senator Cook an inspiration; I found him to be a model senator in his department, in his intellect and in the prestige he brought to this chamber. I believe that Senator Petten and Senator Rowe will wish to add some detail to our tributes to Senator Cook.

With respect to Senator Donahoe, honourable senators who were here at the time might remember that, rightly or wrongly, Senator Donahoe and some of the rest of us anticipated that he might not be here with us at the opening of this Parliament and so we were invited to comment—as he himself had commented in his speech—about that. While I seemed to disagree with just about everything that Senator Donahoe said, particularly in terms of political positions, I mentioned that I did respect the extent to which he was a firm supporter of his party. Also at that time I made reference to the fact that the French word for a partisan or a supporter of a party is “militant” and that the word “militant” could always be accurately and honourably ascribed to Senator Donahoe and the positions he took on behalf of the Conservative Party.

As I said then, I enjoyed the opportunity to share this chamber with Senator Donahoe. He had a distinguished career in politics and in law, coming to us as a former attorney general of his province, which, as we know, is the highest law office in any province. He founded a dynasty of which, as Senator Roblin said, he was the patriarch. We are glad that he crowned such a successful life with service in the Senate.

At this time we would reaffirm our wish to Senator Donahoe that he enjoys a long, happy, fruitful and, I am sure, continuing militant life.

● (1410)

With respect to Senator Riley, I think it is appropriate that his long-time colleague, Senator Robichaud, speak on our behalf.

I, like many others, learned to admire, and indeed to love, Senator Riley for his puckish sense of humour. He could always be relied upon, when things seemed to be riding along too well, to act as the burr under the saddle, awakening us to the not so obvious issues and dimensions of questions that were before us.

We extend our sympathies to his family. Senator Riley was a very popular and effective senator. I leave it to Senator Robichaud to add his comments to those that I have made.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Louis-J. Robichaud: Honourable senators, a great deal has been said about Senators Cook and Donahoe, both of

whom I have had the privilege of being associated with over a number of years, and particularly Senator Donahoe in his capacity as Attorney General of Nova Scotia when I was the Attorney General of my home province of New Brunswick. Both were very competent and effective senators. We will miss both of them very much.

Senator Donahoe was a member of the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs and always made a very able contribution to the discussions that took place during meetings of that committee.

In rising today I wish to make special reference to the late Senator Dan Riley. All of us, at one time or another, have had to attend a funeral service to pay our respects to a departed relative or friend, and that is always a sad occasion. On September 15 of this year I attended a funeral service in Saint John, and for me and others present that was a sad occasion indeed. Dan Riley was no longer with us.

Dan Riley was known in student circles, in legal circles, in political circles, in business circles and in Senate circles since the 1940s. Those circles were represented at his funeral service.

I saw members of his family and many friends at his funeral, but I did not see one enemy, because Dan Riley had no enemies. If a rumour were to reach the ears of Dan Riley that a certain person did not like the way he operated, Dan Riley would be the first to approach that person with his conquering smile and would immediately eliminate any possibility of a rift between him and the other person in question. Dan was that sort of man, with his Irish wit, his sense of humour and his willingness to look for the straight road toward justice.

He could have conquered the universe had he wanted to. He was fabulous, in my estimation.

I had known him since the late 1940s, first as an acquaintance, then as a friend, then as a member of the House of Commons, then as a lawyer, then as a cabinet minister in the cabinet I had the honour to lead in the 1960s, then as the chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of New Brunswick, and then as a senator. As a matter of fact, he and I were sworn in in this chamber approximately two minutes apart in January 1974.

Dan was a born orator. He was probably the best speaker I ever heard in my life. When I was premier of New Brunswick and had to delegate somebody to give a speech that would inform as well as entertain a particular audience, I would call upon Dan Riley first, knowing that he would respond to the challenge. He did so in such a “super” way, as they would say in Great Britain, that he was one of those who was called upon to speak on every occasion as a master of ceremonies or as a public speaker regardless of the solemnity of the occasion.

As a senator, he was particularly interested in the Transport Committee because he had developed an expertise when he was chairman of the Public Utilities Board in New Brunswick. Members of the Transport Committee agreed with him although at times those in charge of transportation in Canada