

was re-elected in 1945, 1949, 1953, 1957 and 1958. But a recital of dates does little to describe the Maurice Bourget that we knew.

Senator Flynn has described many of his other qualities and activities. This was a man who was a friend to all of us, wherever we sat in this house. He was always ready to defend a good principle, always prepared to be a good friend in a whole range and host of ways. He was a shining example of what public service can really be all about, regardless of one's political affiliation. This former Speaker and great parliamentarian brought great honour to the province of his birth and his nation, and to Parliament.

I join Senator Flynn in extending to his wife and children our condolences and our sympathy. I know other senators will wish to speak about Senator Bourget later.

Another great Canadian was taken tragically on July 11, the Honourable Claude Wagner. There were many wonderful characteristics of this man, but surely one of his most appealing qualities at this time of great national concern about unity was his dedication to national unity. He was concerned for the welfare of Canadians wherever they live, whether in the Atlantic provinces, on the west coast, in central Canada, the north, Quebec or Ontario. He was a man of great vision taken too soon. Again we extend to his wife and children our condolences and our sympathy.

Some of our members have departed through retirement, such as Senator William McNamara, whose prairie farm background eventually led him around the world in a distinguished career as the Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board from 1958 to 1970. As honourable senators are aware, he was responsible for negotiating Canada's first major wheat sales to China. I remember some years ago I went on a visit to China with Senator McNamara, and the two most famous Canadian names in China at that time were Dr. Norman Bethune and William McNamara. It was a great revelation for me and other delegates. Senator McNamara established the foundation for literally millions of dollars' worth of wheat sales annually for Canadian farmers and the Canadian economy generally. He certainly will be missed.

Senator Forsey—I note from the record, and I was acutely aware at the time when I served as Leader of the Government in the Senate—did not always vote with the government side. He was essentially a proud and independent spirit.

He had been a senator for only nine years, but earned this chamber a mountain of recognition in that time. The image of a staid and somnolent institution—which we all know is incorrect—has regularly been shattered by the brisk, machine-gun logic of our esteemed colleague. And he demonstrated that senators can legislate, can educate, and can also entertain. He did this all the time with a superb command of both official languages.

He was honoured on the Hill the other evening in a very appropriate fashion. I can tell you that all of us are going to miss his presence here. I suppose he would be described as a constitutional expert, monarchist supreme, and guardian of the

BNA Act, and an unremitting opponent of those who tinker for the sake of change. Eugene Forsey needs to be shown something better before it receives his seal of approval. And woe betide the proponents of any constitutional measure which does not have his approval. Eugene Forsey certainly does not mince his words. He will be missed. I hope he will stay close to the Hill so that he may provide assistance and guidance for all of us.

It seems to me that this is a time when we should consider once again the establishment of a senator *emeritus*.

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

**Senator Perrault:** I advance this in all seriousness. I am sure there is a place for those with great talent, capacity and ability who may have gone beyond the formal retirement age of 75, but who still have a great deal to contribute to our nation. I urge the Leader of the Government to consider this as one of the many reforms which I am sure he hopes to introduce.

For all of Canada, the passing of the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker was a traumatic event. John Diefenbaker will long remain in the minds and hearts of Canadians as an unforgettable man. A characteristic of the late Mr. Diefenbaker was that no matter how vigorous the opposition to some of his most cherished ideas, he always recognized the right of the other party to be heard, and he relished the idea of having his ideas assaulted in this fashion. He always had good words for anyone who would engage in vigorous parliamentary debate. That is the way Parliament should be. In fact "parliament" derives from the word "parle", meaning "to speak." Mr. Diefenbaker never let us forget that.

To those of us who had the unique opportunity to know him in our day-to-day work, he was constantly here among us in a most visible and vigorous fashion. But beyond these walls, many Canadians felt that they knew the man just as well as his closest confidants. That is perhaps the most telling feature of John Diefenbaker's work and his style of public life. He was able to touch people—great numbers of people—in a highly personal way.

History will record the ups and downs of his political career for future generations to study and analyze. Liberals, particularly, at this time are mindful of the fact that Mr. Diefenbaker lost many elections before he came to power, but we hope our return will not be delayed to the extent of his defeats in what I understand were seven straight elections.

**Senator Flynn:** Five.

**Senator Perrault:** For us in our time we are grateful for the opportunity which history gave us to know John Diefenbaker in a personal way, to share some of his time with him, to witness his work first hand and to be certain that he strove to leave this land better than he found it.

During the course of the upcoming debate, I hope to make reference to the many new senators who have been appointed to this chamber. All of us feel that there are great resources of talent and ability that can be put to work to serve the interest of the Canadian people. Together with my colleagues I look forward to working with these new senators.