

The late Gordon Graydon

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar): There is little one can add, Mr. Speaker, to the deservedly fine tributes that have been paid already to Gordon Graydon by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew). We wish to join with them, and with all other members of the house, in expressing to Mrs. Graydon and to his daughters the very sincere sympathy we all feel. Gordon Graydon and I came to the house at the same time, and we became very good friends. Indeed, Gordon Graydon's attitude towards everyone was an attitude of spontaneous friendship. He and I were at San Francisco together. Indeed, today the Prime Minister and I are the only ones who remain from that delegation.

At San Francisco and the subsequent meetings of the United Nations, Gordon Graydon was a wonderful public relations man for our country. In a few days he seemed to know people and, indeed, was able to call them by their first names. He had the affection of many people from many lands. When we remarked, as we did at the present assembly, to those who had known him that he had passed away, there was real sorrow at the passing of a man whom so many people, not only in our own country but all across the world, regarded as a friend.

Gordon Graydon's life was well spent. As the Leader of the Opposition said, he performed a service to his fellow men during the whole of his career, and he died a comparatively young man. Those of us who were associated with him in the house will ever remember his cheerful quips from time to time, always good-natured and sometimes very much to the point. Irrespective of the political lines that divide the members of this house, we have lost a friend in the passing of Gordon Graydon. Why these things happen, we cannot know; nor shall we know until "the day breaks and the shadows flee away."

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, the group which I represent, and I, wish to be associated with the tributes that have been paid this day to the deceased member for Peel, Gordon Graydon. Mr. Graydon was one of those who made great personal sacrifices in order to serve his constituents and the people of Canada well. In every way it seems to me Mr. Graydon set the very highest standard amongst members of parliament. I found him always most considerate of those with whom he worked, whether they were members of his own party or members of other parties. For this reason and for the reason of his warm, friendly personality, he was universally respected and admired wherever he happened to be. I

never knew him to say or do a mean thing and I was quite close to him over rather long periods at the United Nations and in the external affairs committee.

We realize that the House of Commons has lost, in Mr. Graydon, a brilliant member; that the Conservative party has lost a devoted advocate and supporter; and that his family has lost a good husband and father. We wish to be associated with all the good things that have been said here this day or on other days about Gordon Graydon. We take this opportunity of expressing our sorrow at his untimely passing, and our sympathy to all who are left to mourn as a consequence of his untimely death.

Mr. Jean-François Pouliot (Temiscouata): Mr. Speaker, in the eloquent and deeply-felt obituary tributes paid by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) and leaders of the other groups, rarely has it occurred that a departed colleague has been called a friend by all of them. But there was no exaggeration in their unprecedented praise of the late Gordon Graydon. It was well deserved, indeed.

His untimely death was a tragedy and a loss to parliament. In the fulfilment of the difficult task of Leader of the Opposition he firmly held to his views, but in doing so never made enemies.

I had the privilege to know him intimately during the last eight years, when his office was next door to mine under this roof. Although he had held with dignity the high office and dutifully performed the exacting duties of Leader of the Opposition during the crucial years and the hectic wartime sessions of 1943 and 1944, the latter of which was prorogued in 1945, he was one of our most modest and unassuming colleagues.

He then had to speak every day—sometimes many times in a day—and on a multiplicity of contentious matters. He had a quick mind, sound judgment and a bright sense of humour. In the fulfilment of his difficult task he did splendidly, although the references appearing under his name to parliamentary speeches, questions, statements and various interventions in debate cover fourteen pages in the *Hansard* index for the sessions of 1943 and 1944-45.

He was loyal to his successive leaders and to his party. He was most unassuming and modest, commanding the respect of his countless friends and admirers not only in Canada but in other countries where he had attended international conferences. He was known to be sincere and tactful, and to be endowed with a high sense of duty. He enjoyed also