

bers, I must say that in elegance and as well in eloquence our Speaker need take second place to none.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Senator Macquarrie: As has been said by my leader, there have been changes in our party. We have physically moved in this chamber. I like it over here because two of the pictures that face us show the Highlanders in the forefront of activity, which is exactly what one would expect. In one of them they are depicted in a bar, which is also what some would expect!

Without any digression, I like it over here. I hope my personal physical constitution will allow me to stay on this side of the chamber as long as the nation's Constitution allows. That, of course, remains in the lap of the gods.

The welcome journey having been taken, we note changes on the quarterdeck. Senator Roblin, our new captain, has spoken of them. It is more years than I would like to enumerate since I met a certain young Manitoba MLA, not very long in that legislature, impressive immediately to one of my perception and almost as soon thereafter to others. It was not long before he became the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party in that province and then the Premier. I can say without any historical equivocation or fear of contradiction that he was the most efficient and progressive Premier that province has had in my time—and my time is quite a long time.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Senator Macquarrie: To show honourable senators that I watch TV once in a while, I would say that Senator Roblin has shone as a jewel in the Senate crown and has now reached a new culmination of achievement as a great representative of the Senate in the cabinet. In the process, he has strengthened immeasurably a cabinet which has a great many things to do in the years ahead.

Senator Doody's diligence, wisdom and wit make him a natural House Leader.

My fellow Islander, Senator Phillips, like myself a denizen of the Hill since 1957, has the difficult job of whip. I think he has the qualities to discharge his duties well.

I wish all of these people the very best in their onerous duties and responsibilities. As long as they do not make some of us in the middle ranks of age work too hard and as long as they do not take themselves too seriously, then they will have our utmost co-operation in any endeavour they call upon us to take on. They will not have an easy task. Even a poor mathematician like myself knows that a small minority in one legislative chamber taking the lead for a strong, active and doing government with enormous strength presiding over the other chamber does not have, *a priori* or even pragmatically, an easy position. I count on them to carry out their tasks well.

I do not dare talk too long since I got a late start, shall we say. However, I would like to say a word about Senator Flynn who has served as my guide, my mentor and my friend here for many years, and indeed has done so for others long before I came here. Senator Flynn has provided grace and knowledge far beyond the usual in his long and oft-times difficult tenure.

I also salute and declare my appreciation and join my remarks with those of Senator Roblin for our former whip, Senator John M. Macdonald. "Faithful and true", to use the old hymn expression, might be appropriate words to sum up our stalwart friend. Senator Roblin, with his fine scholarship, used the word "concise" or "incisive". More explicitly, we might say that John M. Macdonald was always blunt. If you wanted to know where you stood and what the situation was, you would get a darn good reading from Senator John M. Macdonald, a quality which I always appreciated down through the years. Senator Roblin has now called him the sage of Cape Breton. I leave it to Senators Muir and MacEachen to decide between themselves who is the rosemary and who is the thyme in the Cape Breton trio.

● (1500)

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition): It is a quintet, not a trio.

Senator Macquarrie: The great joy of all of this is that we can say these things about these people and still have them with us. That is having your cake and eating it, too.

We began yesterday's sitting with the swearing in of ten new senators. At that time, there was one missing and I would like Senator LeBlanc to know that, as soon as that fact was detected, all my literary colleagues were saying: "Wherefore art thou?" I am glad that, today, there are two or three Shakespearians here, since yesterday when I tried that comment out in the lobby, there was not much response.

It was a very appealing and interesting situation—and perhaps a little ironic—that one of the first acts of a new Parliament which put into office the most strongly entrenched government ever in the lower house, should be to proceed to entrench the opposition in the upper house. However, since I am not an advocate of an elected Senate, I will not dwell on that. I will simply say that, since I know most of the new senators, I am delighted to have them here. I know that they will enhance not only the dignity but the volubility and accomplishment of this place.

Senator Turner and I were mentioned a few years ago in an article in a magazine which has since gone out of production—but not for that reason, I assure you. The article in question concerned the House of Commons and ten people were listed as being "ten of the best". I trust that Senator Turner's experience was different from my own in that, when I showed one of my colleagues the article—which I carried in my pocket at all times—he said: "The best what?" I must say that I was momentarily nonplussed.

Senator De Bané and Senator LeBlanc have long been friends of mine, as have Senator Lefebvre and other colleagues from the House of Commons. It has always been my judgment that a member with experience in the House of Commons does not do any harm when he comes to the Senate of Canada. I am sure that the whip of our party would say, "Hear, hear" if he weren't such a quiet fellow.

With respect to Senator MacEachen, I am sure he will not like my saying this but it is slightly over 30 years since we met