

THE SENATE

Thursday, December 17, 1964

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

HON. C. G. POWER, P.C.

FELICITATIONS ON FORTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY IN PARLIAMENT

Hon. John J. Connolly: Honourable senators, every once in a while we have occasion to pause and to say something that we are all particularly anxious to concur in. On this occasion, it is especially easy for all of us to give our concurrence.

On December 17, 1917, Charles Gavan Power was first elected to the House of Commons. He was re-elected in 1921, 1925, 1926, 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945, 1949 and 1953. He was appointed to the Privy Council in the year 1935. He was, in turn, Minister of Pensions and National Health, Postmaster General, and Minister of National Defence for Air during World War II. He was appointed to the Senate on July 28, 1955.

I do not suppose there is, or ever has been, a man on Parliament Hill as well liked or admired more than "Chubby" Power. If Parliament is an institution, he is one of the bulwarks that has made it the kind of institution it is, because he too in the public life of our country is the kind of institution I think all of us would like to be. This is the kind of career he has had.

From the personal point of view, of course, all of us have deep and abiding affection for Senator Power. Perhaps I speak with too much emotion, but in everything I have said I know you all feel as I do, some perhaps more deeply than I.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. A. J. Brooks: Honourable senators, as I came into the chamber a few minutes ago the honourable Leader of the Government acquainted me with the fact that today is the anniversary of the long period of time our colleague Senator Power has served the public as a member of Parliament and as a senator. I entirely endorse what the leader has said.

I remember my first introduction to Senator Power. It was when I entered Parliament as a member in 1936, and Senator Power had been chosen then as a minister in the Mackenzie King cabinet. In the first caucus our party held Mr. Bennett, our

leader, was reviewing the ability and standing of the members of Mr. King's cabinet. I might say he was not altogether complimentary to most of them. However, when he came to Senator Power—"Chubby," as he was then called—he said, "In my opinion, 'Chubby' Power has more brains than any other man in the King Government."

I followed his career in the House of Commons. I admired him as a Minister of Veterans Affairs for the wonderful work he did for the veterans, and I admired him for his work in assisting to organize the air force in the Second World War. I may add that when I was Minister of Veterans Affairs, no matter where I went across Canada visiting veterans' hospitals, one of the questions I was always prepared to answer, because I knew it would be asked, was, "How is 'Chubby' Power?" Because of his great human qualities, he gained the affection of the veterans.

It is a pleasure for me to join the Leader of the Government in paying this tribute to a very deserving colleague.

Hon. C. G. Power: Honourable senators, the speech I am about to make has been made quite a few times. These anniversaries have this advantage for me, but they may become somewhat of a nuisance to you because I am called upon to impose a speech upon you about once a year when the house is sitting at this particular time.

The speech is nearly always the same, but occasionally new things come up. For example, yesterday I received a Christmas card and a note with it saying, "In two and a quarter years you and Mackenzie Bowell will have filled a complete century in Canadian public life." Now, I am not quite sure whether that was intended as a compliment or not, or whether it was intended to be a mention of that union between orange and green, of which we heard a short time ago.

On reflection, I began to think that Mackenzie Bowell may have been lucky, although in many respects the fact that he sought and obtained high public office was not of great advantage to him because when he reached the high places, which were the aim and object of his ambition, all he found there was a nest of traitors.

I also began to recall a bit of the past as I listened to that eloquent speech of my good friend, Senator Grattan O'Leary. It occurred to me, in looking back over the past, that among all his other great efforts in Canadian politics and public affairs he had almost made me immortal by reciting in extenso before a Conservative convention a speech I had made at a Liberal convention. I was not invited to the convention that he attended, but listening to his voice over the radio the thought occurred to me that if he