

• (2020)

[English]

HONOURABLE PAUL MARTIN, P.C.
HONOURABLE EUGENE A. FORSEY
 FELICITATIONS ON APPOINTMENT AS
 UNIVERSITY CHANCELLORS

Hon. J. Campbell Haig: Honourable senators, before the Orders of the Day are called, I should like to call your attention to two events which occurred recently. They were the installation of the Honourable Paul Martin as Chancellor of Waterloo Lutheran University and of the Honourable Eugene A. Forsey as Chancellor of Trent University.

I am sure that all honourable senators would wish to join me in complimenting the aforementioned universities for their excellent choice in selecting those two gentlemen as their Chancellors. We are all aware that universities are currently facing a difficult problem with regard to decrease in enrolment, depleted revenues, and professional tenure. We are confident that the two honourable senators I have mentioned will fulfil the position of Chancellor at their respective universities with honour and dignity, and we extend congratulations to the universities and their new Chancellors.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Paul Martin: Honourable senators, I do not think I have any authority under the statutes of Trent University to speak for Senator Forsey. I am sure that he himself will acknowledge with gratitude the intervention made by Senator Haig, and I thank Senator Haig for his references to me.

WELCOME TO SENATORS AFTER ILLNESSES

[Translation]

Honourable senators, we are very glad to see Senator Fournier (Madawaska-Restigouche) in his seat.

I think this is the second time that I express great pleasure to see him back with us. We are certainly very happy to see that he is in such good health.

I think he came back at this particular time because he is aware that this is a unique opportunity for him to voice constructive criticisms about the government of this country.

[English]

We all welcome the return to the Senate chamber of Senator Edgar Fournier who with great heroism has resisted an illness which took hold of him over a year and a half ago. We are happy to see him in his place today. I am sure that his good health and his return has been hastened by the fact that he wishes to join with his leader in pointing out to the government its many good virtues.

I also express to Senator Harold Connolly our delight in seeing him in this chamber at the opening of Parliament following a serious illness. Senator Connolly attended the opening ceremonies seated in a wheelchair; but his heart and mind are good. We were very pleased to see him.

We welcome also the return of Senator McLean, who with great heroism and fortitude has likewise vanquished an illness which sought to overcome him. He is back in this chamber cheerful and resolute to take part in our proceedings.

[Hon. Mr. Fournier.]

LABOUR RELATIONS

WEST COAST PORTS OPERATIONS—QUESTION

Hon. Jacques Flynn: Honourable senators, I am not certain whether the question period is over, but before I put a question to the Leader of the Government I would like to associate myself with the good wishes extended to Senators Fournier, McLean and Connolly.

My question concerns the bill, passed by the Senate on the last day of the last session of the Twenty-eighth Parliament, ordering stevedores on the west coast to return to work. That order was valid until December 31, 1972. I am wondering if that problem has been settled, or if there is any danger of the strike being resumed and the government being forced against its will, as it was then, to pass appropriate legislation.

Hon. Paul Martin: The Leader of the Opposition was kind enough to give me notice, but he did not give it to me in time. Therefore, I will take the question as notice.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

MOTION FOR ADDRESS IN REPLY—DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate proceeded to consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. Henry D. Hicks moved, seconded by Hon. Paul C. Lafond:

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Roland Michener, Chancellor and Principal Companion of the Order of Canada, Chancellor and Commander of the Order of Military Merit, upon whom has been conferred the Canadian Forces' Decoration, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the Senate of Canada, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.

He said: Honourable senators, in rising to address myself to this motion and to support it, I am particularly pleased, first of all, to be able to express my congratulations and good wishes to the Honourable Senator Muriel McQueen Fergusson, our Speaker at this the First Session of the Twenty-ninth Parliament of Canada.

I am particularly pleased to congratulate Senator Fergusson on her being elevated to this high office as I have had a long association with her in various capacities.

Although I did not know Senator Fergusson during the period when she was a prominent member of the New Brunswick bar, we later met when we were both regents of Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick. It is particularly appropriate that a graduate of Mount Allison University should be the first woman to become Speaker of either this house or the other place.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.