

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, February 10, 1984

The House met at 11 a.m.

● (1105)

[English]

THE LATE HON. EARL ROWE AND THE LATE SENATOR ALLISTER GROSART

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, the House has learned with sorrow of the death of the hon. Earl Rowe, who was the former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and a former Member of this House. With his death another link is severed with the political generation of George Drew and the late Right Hon. John Diefenbaker.

Earl Rowe was appointed Lieutenant Governor by Prime Minister Diefenbaker and had served loyally under both Mr. Diefenbaker and the Hon. George Drew. He was a Minister without Portfolio, in fact the youngest one of the Government of R. B. Bennett. Hon. Earl Rowe was a Member of this House for the riding of South Simcoe in 1932, and for Dufferin-Simcoe for 38 years, with a brief interruption when he took over the Ontario leadership.

Our sympathy goes out to his son, Bill, and to his daughter, Jean Casselman Wadds, a former Member of this House. In fact the late Hon. Earl Rowe and Jean Casselman Wadds were the first father-daughter team in the House of Commons. She, of course, is a former High Commissioner to London who is now serving on the Macdonald Royal Commission.

Although it is not usual, Mr. Speaker, I think we should mark as well the passing of Senator Allister Grosart, lover of literature, life, good talk, and good books. He was a student of Shakespeare, and a firm upholder of parliamentary democracy. He was the Speaker of the Senate in the Government of the Right Hon. Joe Clark. His awareness of the spirit of Parliament and his love of the parliamentary institution were instrumental in gaining the acclaim of members of the other place.

With his departure yet another link with the Diefenbaker era is severed. Canadians will mourn his loss. Parliament has lost a defender. His friends will mourn a loyal, urbane, and distinguished comrade. His widow, Thelma, and family of three daughters, have our heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement.

Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government and the Members on the Government side of the House, I would like to express our sorrow at the passing of the Hon. Earl Rowe. Mr. Rowe had a very distinguished career in municipal, provincial, and federal politics. He served in this House for some 38 years, that period

interrupted only briefly when he served as Leader of the Ontario Conservative Party. He had a distinguished record of service as well as Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. During his period of service in the House of Commons he was a Minister in the Cabinet of R. B. Bennett.

He had another very important aspect to his life which touched upon my own community of Windsor. He made a marvellous contribution to the harness racing industry. He and his son Bill founded the Windsor Raceway, which is a very important local industry in my own community.

● (1110)

On behalf of the Government and Members on this side of the House generally, I would like to express sincere sympathy to his son Bill, and his daughter Jean Casselman Wadds, a former colleague in the House of Commons, at this time of sorrow. Certainly Earl Rowe will be long remembered as part of the contemporary history of our country.

On behalf of the Government I would also like to associate ourselves with the words of sorrow expressed on the passing of the Honourable Allister Grosart.

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I too would like to associate the New Democratic Party with the comments made on the passing of both Earl Rowe and Senator Grosart.

I served in the Ontario Legislature during the time Earl Rowe was Speaker of the Legislature. I remember him quite well. He had an infectious sense of humour which enlightened occasions over which he presided. On behalf of our Party we would want to convey our sympathy to the family, Mrs. Wadds and his son Bill.

With regard to Senator Grosart, I recall upon arriving in the House of Commons being summoned to Senator Grosart's office for a discussion about one of his pet projects. He was very interested in the whole question of science and technology, and asked that I join with him on a committee that he was perpetuating, if not forming, to try to encourage dialogue between Members of Parliament and those in the scientific and technical communities. I want to say on behalf of my colleagues, and on my own behalf, how sorry we are to hear of his passing.