

THE SENATE

Wednesday, January 19, 1966.

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

Prayers.

DEPUTY GOVERNMENT LEADER IN THE SENATE

APPOINTMENT OF HON. PAUL H. BOUFFARD
TO SUCCEED HON. CYRILLE VAILLANCOURT

Hon. Cyrille Vaillancourt: Honourable senators, before the order of business is called and with your permission, I have a few words to say.

First, I should like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your election to the presidency of this chamber. I am sure that that is the proper way to start.

Honourable senators, we missed our leader on this side of the house yesterday. Senator Connolly, as you know, represented Canada at the conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in New Zealand. He became ill on his return to Canada, and has been obliged to go to hospital for many weeks. I regret his illness and, because we are all Christians, I hope that God will accept our prayers and give him prompt and complete recovery.

Honourable senators, before the end of the last session, I asked the Leader of the Government to appoint a new deputy leader, as my health was not very good. Senator Connolly told me then to wait until the next session. The next session has arrived now. Today I have the honour to present my successor, Senator Paul Henri Bouffard.

Senator Bouffard, at the beginning of a session, and particularly as this is the first session of a new Parliament, you will find the work arduous; but with your experience as a lawyer, and you have long been an eminent barrister in our province, I am sure you will carry out your duties without difficulty. I thank you for accepting this office. (*Translation*): A better qualified successor could not have been found.

(*Text*): I thank all my colleagues for their co-operation during the past ten years, and especially my two leaders, Senator Ross Macdonald and Senator John J. Connolly, who have treated me not only with great respect but also with the utmost kindness. I thank you all for your splendid co-operation.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: We were not too hard on you either.

Hon. Mr. Vaillancourt: I thank you also for your co-operation. I am still with you and I am ready to work with you, but I regret I cannot remain as deputy leader on this side. To do so would be too arduous.

Thank you, and God bless you.

Hon. A. J. Brooks: Honourable senators, I know it does not come altogether as a surprise to us that Senator Vaillancourt has resigned as Deputy Leader of the Government in this house. On returning to Ottawa a few days ago we heard a rumour that he might do so.

As we all know, Senator Vaillancourt has been a faithful and conscientious member of the Senate for many years, and we are pleased to hear him report that it is not his intention to resign from the Senate, but that he will remain among us and carry on his work.

Last session we understood that Senator Vaillancourt's health was not good, but I must say that his looks must belie that fact, because he is looking very well indeed. I can assure him we are all very happy that he appears so much better.

It is not necessary for me to go into Senator Vaillancourt's record in this house; one has only to read it in the *Hansard* reports. He has had a splendid record. May I say further that I believe everyone who knows him regards him as one of the finest and most courteous gentlemen in Canadian public life.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: We are all aware of the many talents of Senator Bouffard, who is succeeding him, and I have no hesitation in stating that I am sure he will conduct himself in the fine manner of Senator Vaillancourt.

Honourable senators, perhaps at this point it would not be out of place to say a few words about the deputy leader because, in my opinion, he deserves much more credit than is generally received. No one knows better than the leaders of the house the value of the services he renders. Senator Vaillancourt mentioned the two leaders under whom he has served during the past ten years, and how grateful he is to them. I must say they had good reason to be grateful to Senator Vaillancourt.

It might also be of interest to recall that the deputy leader is not an official Government appointment. As I understand it, he is appointed by the members of his own