

THE SENATE

Tuesday, January 28, 1969

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

THE LATE HON. M. WALLACE McCUTCHEON, P.C.

TRIBUTES

Hon. Joseph A. Sullivan: Honourable senators, I am quite sure that I express the sentiments of most honourable senators as I rise to speak on the great loss that has befallen this house.

If any man dies, I am the poorer, because I am involved in mankind. When the man was so deeply involved in mankind as was Wallace McCutcheon, the loss to his country is so much the greater for its harsh untimeliness.

As one of his closest friends for many, many years, as his doctor, I can truthfully say—and a doctor knows, because his life is a study of mankind—here was a great man. It was my privilege, as one of his pallbearers, to escort him to his last resting place. His monuments lie all about us. There are some who might not recognize them, because this is the sort of man he was. Most people knew him as the wizard of finance, but I knew him as a man. His death has come as a grievous blow, not only to the philanthropic charities to which he gave his all, but to this country, this Parliament, this Senate, where he inspired both admiration and affection. He was great both as a person, and as a public servant. Many of us will always have a sense of deep personal attachment to him. His time, his energy, his health have been his country's rather than his own.

In brief, Canada was his life and he established a claim to its gratitude beyond the reach of adequate recompense. His decision to enter the cabinet was a patriotic one, made at personal self-sacrifice. No one in the history of this country, in the Parliamentary life of Canada, gave up as much as did Wallace McCutcheon for the good not only of this Senate but for the whole of his country. The imprint of this supremely intelligent man remains upon many aspects of the lives of Canadians.

His sudden death had the drama of a man cut off in the prime of his career. When I was called he had, in fact, been working at his

office in his home attempting to solve the medical conflict for the Board of Governors of the University of Toronto in a situation that had nearly become desperate.

A vigorous leader in any enterprise he undertook, Senator McCutcheon was forceful and his influence was widely felt. For all his formidable intellect, he was a warm and amiable man who delighted in pricking the pompous and puncturing the pretentious. His speeches were provocative and witty with a knowledge of economics and finance that far surpassed anyone in this country.

I remember once when I had Senator McCutcheon as a guest before an outstanding medical society he stated, "It would be good for all of us if we could give our ears a rest sometimes and use what lies between the ears." His annual reports in business were admirable essays in logic and rhetoric leavened with his pungent observations. Throughout his long and distinguished business career he insisted on the highest standards of intellectual integrity.

I know it is generally conceded that it is a matter of regret today that he was not given the opportunity to play an important part in the parliamentary life of his country when he was at the peak of his intellectual powers. His contribution could have been invaluable, as indeed it was throughout his life in whatever endeavour he turned to. His ready wit and nimble mind endeared him to his associates and elevated him to a position commanding respect. His capacity for hard work was recognized with admiration as he plunged into the task of mastering the intricate fields of Parliament as well as its procedural complexities. I am quite sure that it cannot be denied that at the time of his death he was the acknowledged master of finance in this country. He, indeed, was a casualty of the hard task of driving oneself beyond his own physical makeup and ability. He was a humble man of faith. His religion was never paraded but was manifested in his quiet faithfulness to his church.

We mourn the death of a great Canadian whose integrity of life, generosity of service and greatness of mind have strengthened and enriched the Canada he loved.

He was a family man. To Eva, his wife, that great and dignified lady, his admirable consort who has supported him in every moment of his life, and to his children, not only as their friend but as their doctor, I express my admiration and my deep and heartfelt sympathy. Dr. Wilder Penfield expressed it so well