

THE SENATE

Tuesday, September 17, 1968

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

Prayers.

TRIBUTES

RETIREMENT OF HON. THOMAS VIEN, HON. M. WALLACE McCUTCHEON, AND HON. JEAN-FRANÇOIS POULIOT; DEATH OF HON. F. W. GERSHAW AND HON. CHARLES GAVAN POWER

Hon. John J. Connolly: Honourable senators, during the prorogation of Parliament five of our colleagues resigned or died and are no longer with us. The Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Martin) has been kind enough to suggest that on this occasion it might be appropriate, because I had been the Leader of the Government during their terms here, if I led off in the tributes that are customarily paid to our departed colleagues. I thank him indeed for this courtesy. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, both you and the new Leader of the Government will understand if on an occasion like this I do not observe the amenities usually accorded both to a new Leader and to a new Speaker. That I will perhaps have occasion to do in the course of the debate on the Speech from the Throne.

The first of our colleagues to which I would refer is the Honourable Thomas Vien, who resigned from the Senate on April 1, 1968. I do not intend to repeat the tribute which was paid to Senator Vien—a former Speaker of this house—on December 20 last. We all remember the pleasant occasion then, when we honoured both Senator Vien and Senator Power, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of their entry into Parliament. It was a Confederation project of the Senate, if you will. Both had seen Confederation develop from the benches of Parliament and both had contributed personally to the process.

Senator Vien was 26 years in the Senate. He was appointed in September 1942. In Parliament he held many important offices. He was elected Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons in 1940, was summoned to the Senate in 1942, and appointed Speaker of the Senate in 1943. He is, and was, one of the leaders of the Bar of Montreal, and I am happy to say he continues his practice there.

I sometimes wonder if we ever had a more courteous or a more gentlemanly colleague than Senator Vien. His was certainly *la grande manière*—and he did not assume it; it was in his makeup.

On behalf of all senators, I thank him for the years, the many years, of service which he rendered to Parliament; and in doing so I wish for him and for his wife and children, and for their children, many years of happiness together.

We sustained another loss in the resignation of Senator M. Wallace McCutcheon on May 13 of this year. Senator McCutcheon was one of our colleagues for but six short years. In that time, however, he made a very notable contribution to the Senate. Abundantly reflected in his speeches was his broad experience in business and in many other facets of national life. In committees his examination of witnesses testified not only to his early training as a lawyer but to his eminence in the field of actuarial science.

Idle words never fell from Senator McCutcheon's lips here. He was too preoccupied with the serious work that was to be done both in Government and in Opposition.

He was a Minister, at first without portfolio but later of Trade and Commerce.

The bare elements of his career in the *Parliamentary Guide* are a litany of offices he held in enterprises both public and private that contribute enormously to our national life.

Personally, I regretted his decision to resign. In fact, I tried to dissuade him, as did many other senators, but he wanted, in his own words, "to be where the action was"—in the House of Commons. His motives were noble, even if history and precedent—including the notable precedent of the Right Honourable Arthur Meighen—were against him.

Honourable senators, action in public affairs is a virtue, but so too are reflection and wise judgment, and, as he proved by his years of performance, Senator McCutcheon would have been just as effective here as in the other house.

As I thank him for his immense service to Parliament and, incidentally, for his personal kindness to me during the years of my leadership, I express on behalf of all of his former colleagues here our wish that, with his wonderful wife and fine family around him, he will find satisfaction in all his future undertakings as well as in the distinguished service he gave with the Senate as his forum.