

choice of political orientation. As they say, in politics only the results count.

In any event, I am very proud to be able to count on the support of Senator Jean-Maurice Simard, if I may take this liberty, in defending our rights and demands. In return, the senator can rely on my full co-operation in any initiative aimed at improving the lot of our fellow citizens in New Brunswick.

Welcome, senator.

Hon. Martial Asselin: Honourable senators, I hope you will let an old friend of Senator Simard tell him, on behalf of the group we represent here in the house, how happy we are to welcome him within the party sitting on the government side in this chamber.

I have known Senator Simard for quite some time, and we met quite often when we were working together on activities connected with the international francophone community. The senator has always shown a great sense of responsibility in discharging his duties.

We also remember his courageous struggle for the recognition of bilingualism in New Brunswick. Senator Simard, I am sure Acadians are delighted that you succeeded in defending their cause in the exemplary way you did in New Brunswick, as a member of the legislature and also as a minister of the Crown.

We extend to you a cordial welcome and are counting on your talents and experience as a parliamentarian to help the Senate meet its age-old commitment to protect regional and minority rights.

Congratulations, Senator Simard.

Hon. L. Norbert Thériault: Honourable senators, I would not want to miss this opportunity to say to Senator Jean-Maurice Simard how delighted I am to see him among us today. As somebody said earlier, he has always had the greatest respect for the Senate and has been wanting to sit in this institution for a long time. As a senator I can assure him that he will find this place more peaceful than it was when he joined the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly in 1970.

I would point out to my colleagues that the timely arrival of Jean-Maurice Simard in the Senate increases to six the number of New Brunswick residents who sit in this institution and who were once members or ministers of the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly.

Each one of us has been able to put to practical use the experience acquired as member of another legislature.

I particularly want to tell Senator Jean-Maurice Simard that I recall the spirit he showed at the Legislative Assembly when he arrived for the 1971 spring session as new member and new Minister of Finance.

I remember hearing at the time—we hear that these days in the other place—about the sorry mess in which the Minister of Finance had found the New Brunswick government. I will say no more about it. I remember as well the energy and idealism of Jean-Maurice Simard.

I sat during eight or nine years across from him on the opposition benches in the New Brunswick legislature. Although I did not always agree with some of the policies advocated by his government, I always saw in him a worthy defender of the rights of French-speaking New Brunswickers.

He was able to build upon the foundations left by the previous government. Jean-Maurice, I am glad for you and your family. You will find life somewhat more peaceful here. You will have interesting work to do. As my colleagues from New Brunswick and others said, you know as I do that we have always had the same ideal in politics, to promote the well-being of our fellow citizens with every means at our command. I promise to continue to do so with you. Jean-Maurice, it never occurred to me that one day you and I would be sitting on the same side of the house.

[English]

Hon. Cyril B. Sherwood: Honourable senators, I wish to add my words of welcome and congratulations to those which have been expressed to a former colleague from New Brunswick. Jean-Maurice may find that the pace is a little different here from the rough and tumble of the New Brunswick scene, but, knowing Jean-Maurice, I am sure that we will all see that he can shift gears adroitly. He will soon find himself perfectly at home with all honourable senators.

● (1410)

I join with the remarks that were led off by Senator McElman, and with all of the other nice things that have been said. I note that the honourable senator's family is in the gallery, along with other good friends and supporters from New Brunswick. It is very nice to see them here, Your Honour.

Honourable senators, again I offer a warm welcome and congratulations to my former colleague.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

REPORT OF COMMISSIONER TABLED

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I have the honour to table the Report of the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages required by the Privacy Act for the period ended March 31, 1985.

FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT LOANS ACT

BILL TO AMEND—FIRST READING

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-57, to amend the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act.

Bill read first time.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the second time?

On motion of Senator Doody, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 44(1)(f), bill placed on Orders of the Day for second reading later this day.