

*The Late M. J. Coldwell*

● (1610)

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I ask leave of the House to table a list of the titles of some of the measures which the government proposes to place before parliament during this session, and if I could have the permission of the House I would ask that this list be appended to the proceedings.

[Editor's note: For list of legislation referred to, see Appendix A]

[Translation]

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister)** moved:

That the speech of His Excellency the Administrator delivered this day from the throne to the two houses of parliament, be taken into consideration at the next sitting of the House.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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**THE LATE M. J. COLDWELL**

TRIBUTES TO FORMER MEMBER

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, during the past summer Canada lost one of its most respected citizens, a man whose name is indelibly etched in the pages of our history. I pay tribute today to the late M. J. Coldwell who represented Rosetown-Biggart in this House for 23 years.

Although Mr. Coldwell represented a Saskatchewan riding, his constituency, as we are all well aware, was far greater. He served all Canadians, and not only Canadians of his time but those of generations to come. The social security system we have in Canada today, which among the best in the world, was created by those who saw injustice and could not rest until they saw it corrected. M. J. Coldwell was one of those.

[Translation]

At age 21, he emigrated from England and settled in Western Canada, where he taught for 24 years in Alberta and Saskatchewan. While a teacher he took up politics, with a concern for the well-being of have-nots. Farmers and their employees were the first to benefit from his efforts, but by helping them he also helped fishermen, miners and workers across the country.

As leader of the Farmer-Labour Party of Saskatchewan, he helped establish the CCF Party, predecessor of the New Democratic Party. Later on, as parliamentary leader and head of the CCF Party, he became so to speak the social conscience of Canada.

[English]

His legacy to Canada came not because he held power—he led a minority party in this House—but because he had power: the power of high ideals, strong principles, and total commitment. Mr. Coldwell once observed: "If you live by your principles and are true to them, you can't fail". That explains his success.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

As a politician, as a humanitarian, as a parliamentarian, as a man of courtesy and grace, Mr. Coldwell is greatly missed. He has left us with much to remember.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, I join the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in the tribute he has paid to the memory of one who was a true parliamentarian and whose life was epitomized by the quotation which the Prime Minister placed before this chamber, that he lived a life of principle. I knew him from the earliest days, when he was an alderman in the city of Regina, as a candidate for the legislature of Saskatchewan, and finally as a member of the House of Commons. Both of us attempted to enter the political field federally, unsuccessfully, in 1925. He came to parliament in 1935 and I came in 1940. Both of us were middle-aged when we came to this chamber.

I recall as if it were yesterday the untimely illness of James Woodsworth, the leader of the CCF, who indeed was a conscience in his own day and generation. When he became unable to carry out his duties following a speech, I think it was during the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart became the House leader and acting leader of the CCF. He was a parliamentarian who understood parliament. He had wide knowledge of the history of our institutions, the meaning of our traditions. He was meticulous in preparation for debates.

I saw him but once when he became greatly disturbed at what he considered action dangerous to parliament. It was during the 1956 debate on the pipeline. There is nothing more sacred, as you know, Mr. Speaker, than the mace. It remains inviolate. Only once, as I recall my history, was it ever grabbed by any member of parliament. So disturbed was Mr. Coldwell that he rushed up and grasped the mace—a dramatic event that had only been equalled in 1641 or 1642 when Cromwell grabbed the mace at Westminster. I think of Mr. Coldwell as an individual, as a family man. For many years his wife was an invalid. He bore that burden of responsibility with admirable and indomitable courage.

● (1620)

This place has memories for those who have served in it. I recall when I came in here in 1940 seeing the front benches of the government of Mackenzie King. There were giants—

**An hon. Member:** Just like now.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** —on the government benches.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, a belief that the tradition of 1940 has been continued is something that is furthest from my mind.

Mr. Coldwell had a sense of humour, too. I remember on one occasion how unusually happy he was at the location of two hon. members of the Social Credit Party whose names were Fair and Kuhl. He called them the weather prophets of the House of Commons. I can only say that if