

THE SENATE

Monday, December 19, 1983

The Senate met at 8 p.m.

SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

READING OF COMMISSION APPOINTING
THE HONOURABLE MAURICE RIEL

The Honourable Maurice Riel, having taken the Clerk's chair, rose and informed the Senate that a Commission had been issued under the Great Seal of Canada, appointing him Speaker of the Senate.

The said Commission was then read by the Clerk.

The Hon. the Speaker then took the Chair at the foot of the Throne, to which he was conducted by the Honourable Senator Frith and the Honourable Senator Roblin, P.C., the Acting Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod preceding.

Prayers.

[Translation]

THE HONOURABLE JEAN MARCHAND P.C.

TRIBUTES ON RESIGNATION FROM SENATE

Hon. Royce Frith (Acting Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I would like to take this opportunity this evening to pay tribute to the Honourable Jean Marchand, our former colleague, who resigned last week, on December 15, as Speaker and member of the Senate.

Jean Marchand was appointed to the Senate on December 9, 1976. I remember that when he was appointed, the new senator said that instead of ending his career, he was starting a new, longer and satisfying one. He settled down to work right away, thus letting his actions demonstrate the truth of what he said. Mr. Marchand became Speaker of the Senate in March 1980, and since that time has used all the resources of his position to defend the rights, integrity and independence of the Senate against any encroachment by the House of Commons, with its far greater number of Members.

To help him carry out this task, he created a public information and education branch responsible for informing the public about the importance of the role of the Senate.

Senator Marchand also took on very substantial diplomatic duties. As you know, honourable colleagues, the duties of the Speaker of the Senate rank fourth in order of precedence in Canada, and the services of the Speaker of our institution are ever more in demand. Since he was appointed Speaker, he has travelled over 250,000 kilometres on official missions in more than twelve countries. In addition to the role of co-chairman which he assumed in a number of joint committees of the Senate and the House of Commons, and in addition to the

administrative responsibilities involved in the Speaker's function, Senator Marchand has made a contribution to a host of charitable, scientific and parliamentary organizations. Honorary degrees in law, industry relations and social sciences were conferred on Senator Marchand by various universities.

Before he was appointed to the Senate, Jean Marchand played a major role for more than three decades, during which a number of important events brought about profound changes in Canada and Quebec, his province of birth. The former union leader, federal Minister and social worker never stopped working, always with his customary energy, in his various functions.

After finishing a course in social and political sciences at Laval University, in 1942 he became an organizer for the Canadian Confederation of Catholic Workers. Five years later, he had risen to the senior ranks of the same organization, which later became the powerful Confederation of National Trade Unions. Here, he spent twenty-three years, acting first as Secretary General and later as President. He played a prominent role in a number of social and labour disputes which pitted him against Maurice Duplessis, Premier of Quebec at the time. We remember the asbestos strike and the struggle for education reform for workers in the pulp and paper industry which led to the first Quebec statute on labour relations. With his friends he helped pave the way for the Quiet Revolution, a major development in the social history of Quebec.

In the fifties and sixties, he was a member of a host of national commissions and international organizations operating in the social, economic and labour sphere.

I was privileged to be a member of the Laurendeau-Dunton Commission with Senator Marchand.

From 1963 to 1976, Mr. Marchand held various portfolios, including Transport and Environment. He also created two new Departments, Manpower and Immigration and Regional Economic Expansion. In concluding, I offer him, on behalf of the Government our best wishes in his new position as President of the Canadian Transport Commission.

[English]

Honourable senators, in the name of the government and on behalf of all those on this side, I should like to congratulate our new Speaker on his appointment. We are all confident that the Senate is, indeed, in good hands, and will be ably administered by our new Speaker.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Duff Roblin (Acting Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, if I may reverse the order of speaking used