

## THE SENATE

Tuesday, November 13, 1984

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.  
Prayers.

**THE HONOURABLE ERIC COOK  
THE HONOURABLE RICHARD A. DONAHOE  
THE LATE HONOURABLE DANIEL A. RILEY**

TRIBUTES

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, if I could have the indulgence of the Senate to pay a few words of tribute to some of our former colleagues here, before we enter into the business of the day, I would be very happy to do so.

First, I wish to make reference to two of our colleagues who have completed their terms of service in the Senate since we last met. I am referring to Senator Eric Cook, from Newfoundland, and Senator Dick Donahoe, from Nova Scotia. It is an honour for me to offer a word of appreciation to them for their services in this chamber and, to express for myself, and I know for everyone else in this place, our best wishes for many happy days.

Senator Eric Cook, Q.C., was summoned to the Senate 20 years ago, in 1964. He graced the Senate during his term of office. I speak with particular knowledge of the years of service which he devoted to one of our important committees, the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce. Anyone who attended meetings of that committee over the years will remember well the pithy questions Senator Cook posed to witnesses who appeared before the committee and the astute observations he would offer on the impact and meaning of the legislation being discussed. He displayed an extensive legal knowledge and, indeed, an extensive knowledge of finance which made his committee work particularly useful to the Senate. He displayed a capacity for analysis which I thought was quite remarkable and useful when difficult technical bills came before the committee. He was able to go right to the heart of the matter in a way not all of us are able to do. Thus, he was most helpful in enabling the Senate to offer constructive advice and recommendations with respect to many important bills.

Senator Cook impressed me as a quiet but forceful personality. He engaged the respect of all who knew him, even though what he had to say was sometimes filtered through a genuine Newfoundland accent. His place in this house will be hard to fill and we shall certainly miss his wise counsel.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Senator Roblin:** I wish to speak now about Senator Richard Donahoe of Nova Scotia. He was cast in quite a different

mould from that of Senator Cook. He possesses, to a degree, that Celtic exuberance which we have learned to associate with those members of this house who can claim Wales, Scotland or Ireland as their point of origin.

Senator Donahoe is an experienced politician, particularly in the Nova Scotia field, where he was at one time mayor of Halifax. He held a number of important portfolios in governments of that province. In fact, he was someone who could be described as a "real" Nova Scotian.

He came to this house in 1979, which means that his service here was relatively short, although he soon indicated he was able to put his wide experience to good use. Senator Donahoe was extremely active in dealing with representations and interests of his region. When provincial issues came before us he proved himself to be particularly well informed and knowledgeable.

Dick Donahoe was a natural orator. He had the gift of the well turned phrase. He had a fund of apt references and was capable of effective argument in defending the positions he took. He had all these attributes, and I am bound to say that he was not afraid to express his mind.

Senator Donahoe is a Knight of the Order of St. Gregory and the distinguished father of a distinguished family, having two of his sons in the Nova Scotia legislature at this time.

Senator Cook and Senator Donahoe will be much missed in our deliberations. I am glad to offer these words of thanks for the services they rendered to the Senate and their country and to express warm good wishes in all they have to do in the days to come.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to one of our colleagues who is no longer with us, the late Senator Daniel A. Riley, from New Brunswick.

Dan Riley was an excellent lawyer, but I think most of us will remember him better as a very colourful political veteran. He made his mark in the Parliament of Canada in the House of Commons in the 1950s. He was in the legislature and, indeed, in the cabinet of his native province in the 1960s. He came to the Senate in 1973 and served here for 11 years.

In temperament, I think it is fair to say that Dan Riley was just as Irish as his name, and he leaves the most warm and pleasant memories with all who knew him. I, in particular, appreciated the wry humour with which he observed the passing scene on the floor of the Senate. He was faithful in his attendance in this house. He was careful of the interests of his region and he was forthright in his comments on public affairs. He was a good senator and we shall miss him. I hope that I may be allowed, in your name, to extend to his family and