

Finally, honourable senators, I take leave to pay respect, on behalf of us all, to the late Right Honourable John George Diefenbaker.

The former Prime Minister's death shocked us all. Not in perfect health for a number of years, he nevertheless was such a part of Parliament, a giant within the process, that it is difficult to imagine him no longer here.

My personal career in politics has been closely associated with Mr. Diefenbaker's. In 1957 I ran with him and for him in the province of Quebec. By 1958 his style had gripped the land. I came to Ottawa and subsequently served in his ministry. My presence in the Senate is as a result of his appointing me.

In such an intertwining of careers one is left with inescapable memories of the man. His populism—the degree to which he opened the process—is now legend. For many of us the civil libertarian and humanitarian principles which he espoused gave greater meaning to our political involvements. He understood and respected the law and strove to make it equitable. His Bill of Rights remains a lasting imprint on Canadian jurisprudence. We shall not again be graced by the likes of John Diefenbaker. Those of us who knew him must count ourselves among the luckiest of Canadians. We shall all remember him.

I have alluded to events that had nothing to do with the election. I am not going to deal with substantive changes at this time. But as we begin this Thirty-first Parliament with a new Speaker in the Chair I think it is appropriate for me to pay tribute to Senator Allister Grosart. He is a friend upon whom I have relied for much in recent years, and I am pleased to see that he has assumed the pre-eminent position among us. I am sure we all concur in applauding the wisdom of the senator's appointment to the Chair.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Senator Flynn: As a man well-versed in not only the rules but the traditions, customs and practices of this house, Senator Grosart is superbly qualified to discharge all official functions incumbent upon his new role. I join with all senators in offering congratulations and good wishes for his term.

[*Translation*]

Honourable senators, as we are on the subject of the new Speaker, I would also like to pay homage to his predecessor, the Honourable Renaude Lapointe who occupied the Chair in this house. Her charm was certainly a great asset to the Senate.

She carried out her duties in this chamber with a great deal of tact. But it is especially outside this house, in the social role that she played, that she distinguished herself by making friends of Canada all those she met as Speaker of the Senate. We are happy that she can now take a less neutral stand and return to her former activities.

I indeed remember a rather virulent speech she once gave, and we are anxious to hear her speak again in such a way. We are nevertheless very grateful to her for what she did for Canada while she occupied the Chair.

[Senator Flynn.]

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend a hearty welcome to all our new colleagues. There are indeed some notable personalities who entered this chamber yesterday and who may make a contribution, and transform the Senate or at least initiate some reform. We are indeed most happy to have them among us.

[*English*]

To those on this side of the chamber who took their seats yesterday, I extend an additional special welcome. We have suffered an imbalance in this place for some time, and it is refreshing to me that strides have been made towards infusing our ranks with blood of a bluer variety.

Hon. Senators: Hear, Hear.

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, it is good to be back here again, but not necessarily on this side of the chamber. I read some press comments that members of the party of which I am a long-time supporter had been cast into the outer darkness of opposition, but I reassure myself this afternoon when I note there is a good deal of illumination on this side. I hope it will continue throughout the life of this Parliament and that we may provide illumination on a number of issues which confront Canadians.

● (1415)

First of all, honourable senators, may I express, on behalf of the official opposition in this chamber, our great delight and joy that the Honourable Senator Allister Grosart has been appointed Speaker.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Senator Perrault: I think it is no secret that there is a great deal of enthusiasm on the part of supporters of the Liberal Party that with the change in government this great and unregenerate Tory should have been appointed to this high post, and we know that he will be meticulously objective in all of his judgments and rulings. Our new Speaker has a great sense of this place, a great sense of Parliament, and we feel sure that he will serve us in a distinguished way.

I am pleased to join in the eloquent tribute accorded our outgoing Speaker by the Leader of the Government, Senator Flynn. The Honourable Senator Renaude Lapointe, whether in this chamber or when travelling on behalf of this house throughout this nation or abroad, has always brought great honour to the Senate and to Parliament. We are proud of Senator Lapointe. She has been a great Speaker who has served us superbly.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Senator Perrault: Senator Flynn, in his remarks, described some of the grievous losses of members that we have suffered over recent months. Certainly March 29 last represented a grievous loss for his family and his nation, and for Parliament, when the Honourable Senator Maurice Bourget passed away.

Inevitably, information contained in the *Parliamentary Guide* is rather sketchy. Only in very cryptic form does it describe the careers of those who serve in Parliament. We read that he was elected to the House of Commons in 1940, and