

I first met Mr. Douglas when he introduced me at a public meeting in Regina after I was elected in 1945. After that, I could only be his friend and we were friends for many years.

I rise today to say a few words in tribute to a great Canadian. Tommy Douglas was one of a small band of social reformers who enriched the life of his country. Over the last few days, we have heard much praise of him from leaders and from the common people. That is in keeping with the man himself. He was the leader of a great political movement; he was an outstanding provincial premier; and he has rightly been called "The Father of Medicare." I can think of no greater tribute.

When he transferred his energies to the federal scene, Tommy Douglas continued to work tirelessly for social progress. I am convinced that the broad social programs which we know today would have been very different without Tommy Douglas' impetus.

His public record is known to all. As I recall him, Tommy Douglas was a gentle man; powerful in debate but always fair and always generous. I never heard him utter an unkind word. Prejudice was foreign to his nature. Although he suffered disappointment in his political life, and he must often have been discouraged, he was never downcast. He believed firmly in human perfectibility and was convinced that with faith and hard work anything was possible. That is a good philosophy. Tommy Douglas was never afraid to stand for what he believed to be right. He never courted popularity at the expense of principle. He lived according to his conscience. I am glad to remember him today.

● (1410)

**Hon. Louis-J. Robichaud:** Honourable senators, as a lifetime member of the exclusive Premier's Club of the 1960s, I would like to add a few words to what has been said about the late Tommy Douglas. I certainly subscribe to what the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Government and Senator Croll have said about him. I also subscribe to all of what has been credited to him in the media over the past few days. Tommy Douglas was a remarkable man in many ways. It has been said that it would be difficult for him to forgive his enemies—simply because he had none! This comment struck me because I believe it is accurate. It was difficult to become an enemy of Tommy Douglas.

Tommy Douglas always delivered his message with wit and in a humorous way. I remember one occasion, and I believe it was in 1961 or 1962, when the ten premiers were facing the then Prime Minister, the Right Honourable John Diefenbaker, at a federal-provincial conference. Of course, it was to deal with tax sharing arrangements and, as is traditional, all the premiers wanted a larger portion of the pie. Premier W.A.C. Bennett of British Columbia said at one point that his government needed a lot more money because a lot of senior citizens were moving to British Columbia from Saskatchewan because of the climate. When it came time for Tommy Douglas to speak, he said that what Premier Bennett had said was absolutely true—that a lot of people move to British Columbia from Saskatchewan because of the climate, "but we need more

money in Saskatchewan because most of them come back because of the weather." That was Tommy Douglas' way of communicating a message and he used it time and time again.

I am sure that all Canadians are benefiting today from his contributions to our society. I join with all those who have expressed condolences to his widow, to his children, to the members of the New Democratic Party and all those people who had a special affection for Tommy Douglas.

**Hon. D. G. Steuart:** Honourable senators, as I read the newspapers and listened to what has been said about the late Tommy Douglas in this house, I sometimes wondered if we were talking about the same man that I knew for all those years. Senator Roblin and Senator Robichaud said they could not imagine that he could ever say an unkind word to anyone. My God, they never sat in the legislature opposite Tommy Douglas. I can recall Ross Thatcher saying that if you had a debate with Tommy Douglas, he took the hide off you layer by layer and your own wife never spoke to you for about two weeks after he was finished with you.

I got into politics because of Tommy Douglas. If someone said he cannot imagine Tommy Douglas having an enemy, then, by god, at times, I could not imagine Tommy Douglas having a friend. He stood for everything that I stood against—and I never won a battle! That was part of the reason I disliked him so much. From 1944 to 1964 we did not win even one tiny battle against him.

The honourable senator from Regina could also mention one or two things. There was the odd person who disliked Tommy Douglas over the years. He used to say about things like that: "You can't make an omelette if you don't break a few eggs." Well, you could look at some of the broken eggs here—and Senator Barootes is one of the broken eggs that went into making Tommy's omelettes.

I got into politics because of Tommy, because I wanted to defeat him—but I never succeeded. But I stayed on; "I came to scorn and stayed to pray." I stayed on and developed a great admiration for what he did, and, in fact, we became good friends. So I would like to join others in saying that while there was the odd little imperfection in Tommy Douglas—

**Hon. Senators:** Oh, oh.

**Senator Steuart:**—he did take the steam out of taking the hide off you with a lot of good humour. We had many an interesting exchange, I can assure you—none of which I ever won. I could win one or two now, but it would not be fair, because he would be answering from up above and still get the best of me, I am sure. I would like to join others in saying how much he will be missed and what a great Canadian he was. I, too, offer to his wife and family our condolences and our best wishes.

**Hon. Efstathios William Barootes:** Honourable senators, as a Saskatchewan citizen who knew Tommy Douglas, I wish to express a few words of personal remembrance in tribute to and in honour of his life, emphasizing particularly those aspects of his political career that endeared him to millions of Canadians. This diminutive battling Scot was, without doubt, the most