

Now may I say, by way of reminiscing, and either for the benefit or discomfiture of our new members: you are sitting on the back benches at present, but some day you may wonder why you ever sat there, for it takes only about ten years to move up from there to the front benches. I was present when Senator Dandurand moved, and Senator Meighen seconded the motion, that Mr. Blount be continued an honorary officer of this house. They were able men and able speakers, and when they finished speaking there was nothing left for the rest of us to say—it was all said. I cannot do as well, and I will simply say this to the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Macdonald): In presenting this motion you have honoured one of our past officers. A gesture of that kind is encouraging to young men and women to join the public service of this country and serve its people. In such a way recognition is given where it is deserved. I am glad that the precedent with respect to Mr. Blount is being followed, and I have much pleasure in seconding this motion.

The motion was agreed to.

**Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck:** Honourable senators, notwithstanding the fact that everything that could be said in a general way has been said by the two leaders—as used to be the case in former times, according to the honourable Leader of the Opposition—I nevertheless feel impelled to make some specific reference to the appointment of the new Clerk of the Senate.

As a fellow solicitor and a member of the bar I have had an opportunity of observing Mr. MacNeill more closely than have those members of the Senate who are not lawyers. I have been intimately in touch with his work, particularly with respect to the Divorce Committee, where we are continually running into problems which require study and consideration. It has been our custom over the past two or three years to refer such questions to the Law Clerk, which of course is the most convenient and authoritative way of handling them, and I could show honourable senators a number of carefully prepared and sound opinions given to me by Mr. MacNeill for the guidance of the committee.

My mind goes back to another occasion when, over a period of some two or three years, a small subcommittee from this house assisted in the revision of the Criminal Code. As you well know, it was an exceedingly important and difficult task, and required a fundamental knowledge of the principles of law. The work involved a thorough study of many sections of the code, their history and the effect of their phraseology. Mr. MacNeill

prepared for the subcommittee a lengthy and most useful memorandum, and I say most sincerely that his influence on the revision of the code was greater than that of any member or other official of either house.

Ever since I came to the Senate I have been most impressed with Mr. MacNeill's willingness and ability. While the new Law Clerk will not find it an easy task to fill the vacancy, I express every confidence in him: he too will learn, as everyone has to, the rudiments of his office, and in that task he will have the advice and guidance of our present Clerk of the Senate. I look forward to an equally competent Law Clerk in the successor to Mr. MacNeill.

I congratulate Mr. MacNeill on his elevation to his present post, which is a most honourable one, and I wish him every success.

The motion was agreed to.

#### LAW CLERK AND PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL OF THE SENATE

APPOINTMENT OF EDWARD RUSSELL HOPKINS, LL.B.

**Hon. W. Ross Macdonald:** Honourable senators, Mr. MacNeill having given up the position of Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel of the Senate, it becomes the duty of this house to appoint his successor, and under the rules the vacancy is to be filled by a resolution of the Senate.

No doubt many honourable senators are acquainted with Mr. Hopkins, and it is hardly necessary for me to say much about him. I should like to point out that he has had a distinguished academic career: he holds the degree of B.A. in political science from the University of Toronto, B.A. from Oxford and LL.B. from the University of Saskatchewan. He was a Rhodes scholar from 1932 to 1935, a lecturer in law at the University of Toronto in 1935, and from 1936 to 1940 Professor of Public Law at the University of Saskatchewan. Mr. Hopkins served for five years in the Royal Canadian Air Force, and was discharged with the rank of wing commander. From 1946 to 1949 he was legal adviser to the Department of External Affairs. From 1949 to 1951 he was Clerk Assistant of the House of Commons, and then became secretary to the Board of Transport Commissioners, which position he has occupied until the present time.

I enjoyed a happy association with Mr. Hopkins during his term as Clerk Assistant of the other house, for I was then speaker of that house, and I know him to be a man of outstanding ability, with a great capacity for work, and a splendid gentleman. We are