

[Translation]

**Hon. Eymard G. Corbin:** Honourable senators, I would also like to take this opportunity, as a parliamentarian, to extend my best wishes to Senator Neiman. I had the privilege of working with her on the Special Senate Committee on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide, and I was impressed by the determination and zeal with which she approached these issues and led the committee's proceedings.

Whenever problems arose in committee, and they did, Senator Neiman always managed to keep calm, no matter how stressful the situation. I think one of her outstanding traits is her ability to relax in moments of stress and take the time to clarify both sides of the issue.

Our experience as members of the Special Senate Committee on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide has been unforgettable, and I think most of the credit for this should go to Senator Neiman. She always stayed calm. Setting aside whatever had happened during the day, she would sit down with us and talk about our personal concerns and other matters. She was able to maintain a businesslike atmosphere and, despite the seriousness of the topic, to do so with the occasional burst of humour.

I agree it is too bad that a person with her intellect should have to leave us at this time of her life. As I happen to sit right behind the senator, I have daily witnessed her interest in parliamentary issues and the dedication with which she reads all the documents she receives. She never skips a line, and I have been watching the senator for all these months and years.

I hope that if circumstances permit, she will feel free to share her opinions with us, even if she must leave us today.

[English]

• (1100)

Senator Neiman, you must go, however you will remain in our hearts.

**Hon. H.A. Olson:** Honourable senators, I want to associate myself with all of the comments made about Senator Neiman's career over the last 23 years here in the Senate. Whatever has been said has been well said but, perhaps, understated, even in regard to the contribution that she has made to this chamber. This is why I want to associate myself with all those kind words.

Perhaps on a somewhat more personal basis I may be permitted to say that both Senator Murray and I owe her even more than he indicated. I have had the good fortune of having Senator Neiman sit behind me, both on this side of the house and on the other side of the house when we were in opposition. There were some days during Question Period when Senator Murray, who was then Leader of the Government, was particularly annoying, should I say, or something to that effect. Senator Neiman agreed a long while ago, mostly while we were on the other side of the house, that she would be my guardian, and cool me down when we had those Question Periods to which I just

referred. I think you should know, Joan, that both Senator Murray and I are grateful for your contribution in this respect.

We will miss you for the reasons that have already been adequately described. I join with all of those who wish you well in whatever you intend to do with what I am sure will be many more productive years. We hope you will be involved in interesting matters, and that you will also remember that there comes a time when you should rest a little bit from all of your hard work and take advantage of a very well-deserved, quieter time, if I may call it that.

[Translation]

**Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès:** Honourable senators, let us not forget that Senator Neiman has never denied anyone in this house her friendship, a friendship that is very much appreciated. When people ask what the Senate is and why should we have a Senate, all we have to do is describe the senator, and the answer is obvious. People are convinced and they love you.

**Hon. Rose-Marie Losier-Cool:** Honourable senators, as the most junior senator appointed to this house, I also wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Senator Neiman.

At my first committee meetings, I was struck by the integrity and intellect of Senator Neiman and especially by her desire to share a friendship. Now, I should like to wish her a happy retirement.

I was flattered when someone in this house told me that we shared a physical likeness. After the words of praise I heard today, I am doubly flattered. Senator Neiman, I hope that some day my contribution to this house will resemble yours.

[English]

**Hon. Richard J. Stanbury:** Honourable senators, because my leader and others dealt comprehensively with the life and times of Senator Joan Neiman, I wish to restrict my remarks to fond memories of over 35 years of friendship and working together, in politics and in the Senate.

Joan's involvement in community service led her into active politics. Her interest in the social policy of the Liberal Party, both provincially and federally, naturally culminated in her candidacy for election to the provincial legislature, and an important contribution to the effectiveness of the federal party.

She and her husband Clem have had a comprehensive partnership in marriage and in the raising of a wonderful family, in law as the law firm of Neiman and Bissett — which is Joan's maiden name — and in a deep commitment to community service, as well as in their pursuit of politics.

Through the sixties and seventies, a group of us worked to revitalize the Liberal Party in Toronto and Ontario. We were not always successful, but I doubt if anyone ever enjoyed politics more than we did.