

THE SENATE

Tuesday, March 17, 1987

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

Prayers.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

TRIBUTES TO ST. PATRICK AND THE IRISH PEOPLE

Hon. Richard J. Doyle: Honourable senators, surely there is no need to remind this company of the day it is. It is one of the great gifts of my ancestors that the seventeenth is kept as it is, a joyous celebration of the goodness—not just the goodness of a saint, but the goodness of the people he served and of the gladness they gave and continue to give all the world over.

They are not all of the ould sod. Oh no, there are far many more of them abroad than have ever seen that green and smiling place. They are to be found in great numbers in many lands, certainly in Canada, where their achievements are many, their deeds are famous and their heritage is held dearly, even where only two of three of them may meet over a cup or a glass on the seventeenth. They are, you know, to be found even in the Langevin Block, or in high office in the Senate.

This city is especially blessed. In its pioneer days, it welcomed many of the Irish coming from the tribulations of the old land to find new hopes and dreams in Canada. My grandmother Doyle was born at Billings Bridge, where her father and mother had farmed before her. As we would say today, she had assimilated very well, thank you.

I remember her saying to me once of a new neighbour just over from Cork, "Oh, but she's a fair one. But you know, she's still got the brogue and she still has the blarney."

Senator Grattan O'Leary, one of the Irish of Gaspé, once wrote:

For the English I hold no animosity. They have been my friends, and true friends in every clime. The worst that can be said of them is that they are prisoners of their history and their pride. Once removed from Irish soil (which I, incidentally, have visited 24 times), an Irishman should leave ancient hatreds where they can do no harm, in the coffers of eternity. No more bitter alchemy in my years than the spectacle of Irishmen, hatred in their hearts, cruelly murdering and destroying other Irish over the dismal chimera of religious difference.

My father, like the senator, bore no grudge against the ancient enemy, but even in the dark days of the war, the best thing he could say of Sir Winston Churchill was: "Ah, he does sometimes listen to Mr. Roosevelt."

But this is not a day for quibbling—although we may hear of a fight or two before sundown.

I thank honourable senators for hearing me out in the forbearing spirit of St. Patrick's Day.

Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès: Honourable senators, there are none more charming than the Irish. I have not enjoyed myself more in any other land. I hope, now that Senator Patrick Doyle has joined the Tory Party, that he will do what St. Patrick did and lead the snakes out of it.

Senator Frith: I don't detect any movement over there!

[Translation]

PARLIAMENT

THE ESTIMATES, 1986-87—PARLIAMENT VOTE 10C—REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE—MESSAGE FROM COMMONS

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that the following message had been received from the House of Commons:

HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Wednesday, March 11, 1987

ORDERED—That Parliament Vote 10C, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1987, be referred to the Standing Joint Committee on Parliament; and

That a message be sent to the Senate to acquaint Their Honours thereof.

ATTEST

Michael B. Kirby,
for *The Clerk of the House of Commons*

[English]

RADIO ACT

BILL TO AMEND—FIRST READING

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-3, to amend the Radio Act.

Bill read first time.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the second time?

On motion of Senator Doody, bill placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Thursday next, March 19, 1987.