

THE SENATE

Tuesday, October 1, 1974

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

THE LATE HONOURABLE ROMUALD BOURQUE

TRIBUTES

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault: Honourable senators, since we met last May we have lost an esteemed member of this chamber by the death of Senator Romuald Bourque, the senator for de la Vallière in the province of Quebec, who passed away on August 14.

Senator Bourque had a long career of service to his country, his province and his community. He was Mayor of Outremont from 1947 to 1963. In 1952 he was elected to the House of Commons and he was re-elected in four subsequent elections. In July 1963, as some members will recall, he was summoned to the Senate.

Senator Bourque was born and educated in Ottawa. In addition to his career of public service he had a long and distinguished career as a successful member of the business community in his home province of Quebec. Romuald Bourque was a friendly man who made a lasting impression in all parts of this house and in all parts of Parliament, and before he was stricken with ill health he was a very faithful attendant in this chamber. Although Senator Bourque has been absent from this chamber for some time, we shall miss him greatly and we are deeply grieved at his death.

I convey to his widow and the members of his family our deepest sympathy.

Hon. Allister Grosart: Honourable senators, in the unavoidable absence of Senator Flynn, it is my sad duty to associate myself with the regrets expressed by the Leader of the Government on the passing of our colleague, Senator Bourque.

On behalf of this group, I am also pleased to associate myself with the tribute paid to him. I remember him very well. He came to the Senate the year after I did and recently occupied an office in the same corner of the fourth floor as I do. From time to time he would drop into my office, and occasionally I would drop into his, and I was happy to be able to receive from him some of the wisdom that he had acquired over his many years of public service.

Senator Bourque typified the best in the dedication to public service which is a characteristic of an increasing number of Canadians in public service. As the Leader of the Government has mentioned, Senator Bourque was Mayor of Outremont for 14 years. He was elected to the House of Commons five times in succession. He had, if I may say so, the distinction of having been a Liberal member of Parliament from Quebec elected in that historic year 1958.

His associations with the business community were very extensive, extending from his activities as publisher in Sherbrooke to his activities in the printing business in the city of Montreal.

We shall miss him, because, as the Leader of the Government has said, he regularly attended here in the Senate and in committee. In the work of the Senate his counsel was always available to anyone who sought it, and I am glad to say that from time to time I was one who did.

On behalf of this group and, if I may presume, on behalf of all his colleagues, I extend our condolences to his widow, his son and family, and his many grandchildren, who will miss him perhaps even more than we shall, even though we shall miss him greatly.

[Translation]

Hon. Azellus Denis: Honourable senators, as a personal friend of Senator Bourque, I join my voice to that of the Leader of the Government in the Senate as well as that of the Acting Leader of the Opposition, to mourn the loss of a friend whose high merit won him great achievements in every sphere of activity in which he delved during his fruitful career, as well in the field of business as in the service of his fellow citizens. He founded, managed and developed a business firm which was the envy of his competitors.

As for his public life, his services were called upon for many years; as the Leader of the Senate pointed out, he put his talents of administrator to use in the service of the city of Outremont both as councillor and as mayor.

Then, the electors of the federal riding of Outremont elected him member of Parliament. I had the privilege of being his colleague in the House of Commons—his riding and mine being neighbouring ridings—and he never refused to help younger candidates through his influence, prestige and eloquence. For this, I am personally grateful to him.

Finally, to crown a well-rounded career, the Prime Minister summoned him to the Senate, where Senator Bourque continued to give his fellow citizens the benefit of the wisdom of his advice.

In my turn, I express to the bereaved my most sincere condolences.

Hon. J.-E. Lefrançois: Honourable senators, I wish to associate myself with those who have spoken before me to mourn over the death of Senator Bourque, a colleague whom we all loved.

From the time of his appointment to the Senate in July 1963, the senator and myself were almost inseparable, since we travelled together, ate together, and spent our spare time together. I therefore mourn the loss of more