

appropriate to the performance of his highly confidential duties. This position he was unwilling to accept. He believed that men in the public service could best carry on their work by remaining in the background of anonymity and retiring from the light of public favour. He refused to accept any honour or position which would appear to remove him from the level of his fellow workers or create any barrier or embarrassment between him and them. He hated notoriety, controversy, publicity and everything that was blatant or garish. He knew that the great things in life are wrought in the stillness and solitude of the mind of man, and that reflection and silence become a trusted servant of the people far more than speech and the glitter of the limelight.

By his own modest acceptance of these high traditions of the public service, which he did so much to create, he fashioned the pattern of the Department of External Affairs. Like Doctor Skelton I have always believed, and I believe this house will agree, that the quiet persistent dedication of Canada to the cause of international understanding best fulfils our mission, and perhaps destiny, in a stricken world.

The result of Doctor Skelton's example and influence is that to-day in the Department of External Affairs, in London, in Washington, and elsewhere throughout the world this nation is served by men who, thinking nothing of public acclaim, of personal distinction, or of public reward, have laboured without ostentation, steadily and silently, for the great cause which has been entrusted to their hands.

The name of Doctor Skelton deserves honour on the lips and in the hearts of all Canadians. While he asked for no reward while he lived, he would be humbly proud to know that in the remembrance of his life and labour Canadians found a new dedication and a continuing devotion to national unity, international good-will, and the thoughtful and unselfish labour without which they cannot be maintained.

2. Mr. Norman Robertson, Counsellor in the Department of External Affairs, was asked on January 30, 1941, to serve as Acting Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, following the death of Dr. O. D. Skelton.

3. Mr. John Hall Kelly, Canadian High Commissioner to Eire, passed away in Dublin on March 9, 1941, following an operation. The Prime Minister made the following statement in the House of Commons on March 10, 1941:

I have to-day received the following cable from Premier de Valera of Eire:—

I wish to express my sincere sympathy with you and the Canadian government on the death of Mr. Hall Kelly, your distinguished representative in Dublin. He has endeared himself to all who knew him, by his personal qualities, and by his zeal and devotion in fostering close and cordial relations between Canada and Ireland.

I am sure that hon. members of this house will have learned with deep regret of the passing of Canada's first high commissioner to Eire. The career of Mr. John Hall Kelly is a record of industry, charity and devotion