

Tributes to Deceased Members

but, except for the last few months, he never allowed his condition to prevent his devoting his entire time and efforts to the interests of his constituents and to his other public duties.

As the Prime Minister has said, Mr. Belzile was a notary by profession. I believe he was the third generation of his family to practise that profession in the town of Rimouski, and his eldest son is carrying on in that tradition. The experience and knowledge which he acquired as a notary, in addition to his other qualities, made him of invaluable assistance to me and to the Department of Finance in the problems which we have to deal with there. I shall always remember with affection and gratitude the assistance that he gave to me personally and the great public service he rendered to this country.

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in common with other members of the house I was surprised and shocked when I heard of Mr. Humphrey Mitchell's very sudden death. I think that, almost more than any other member, Humphrey Mitchell was a friend of everyone in this house. There were occasions when he had strong differences of opinion with others which he did not hesitate to express in the most robust terms, but I know that on no occasion was there any loss of friendship or understanding as a result of the extent to which his convictions were always made perfectly clear.

It was noticeable to all of us that, if there was one thing upon which he was more sensitive than anything else, it was anything that might be regarded as even the slightest reflection upon the traditions and greatness of the United Kingdom. That grew out of his own past, out of events about which he said very little except when he joined occasionally in some recognition of those events in which he had taken his part.

Humphrey Mitchell served in the first war in a most historic ship through some very historic engagements. He was with the British cruiser *Minerva* when it sank the famous German commerce raider, the *Emden*. Later he was with the same ship when it pursued and sank the *Koenigsberg* in an estuary of an African river. He was with the ships supporting the landings of the Anzacs at the Dardanelles. Next to his deep and always firmly expressed affection for Canada and his continuing loyalty to Great Britain, he always showed the affection he felt for those with whom he served on those occasions.

Humphrey Mitchell brought to the Department of Labour an intimate knowledge of the problems with which he was called upon to deal, a knowledge gained through many long years of active service as a card-bearing member of the union to which he belonged

and as an official of various labour organizations. All of us will remember that, in interpreting the problems with which he was dealing, he gave to members of the house a balanced viewpoint in which he always recognized his intimate background of association with the labour movement in Canada, and at the same time sought faithfully to interpret the obligations of the government with regard to the problems that confronted it. He will be missed by every one of us. He was a fine Canadian, a fine member of this house and a great servant of Canada.

While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, may I pay my tribute to the other member of this house who has died since we last met. As has been pointed out by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott), Mr. Gleason Belzile served loyally at a time when his personal suffering must have urged him to give up the duties he was performing, and which he performed in the manner so clearly described by the Minister of Finance. He brought to this house wide experience in his own community. He gave to the government and the people of Canada loyal service, and I know we all join in extending heartfelt sympathy to his widow and nine children following his very untimely death.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): Mr. Speaker, we too desire to express our sympathy to Mrs. Mitchell and her sons and to Mrs. Belzile and her family following the untimely passing of their respective husbands. After all, both Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Belzile were in what is normally regarded as the prime of life, and their sudden passing was a shock to all members of this parliament. I saw Mr. Mitchell the day I left for western Canada, at the end of July, near where we were spending our summer. At that time he seemed in perfect health and was his usual genial and friendly self, so it was indeed a shock to learn that he had passed away so suddenly. As the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) has said, we shall miss his contributions to debates, his witticisms, his manner of placing points of view before us. We shall long remember him for the service he rendered the country during the critical days of the war, and indeed during his entire term of office, which I believe was longer than that of any other minister of labour not only in Canada but in the commonwealth. So we join not only in expressing appreciation of his service but also in extending our sympathy to those who have been left behind.

Mr. Belzile was a younger man who was coming forward in this house and who, as the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) has said, was rendering valuable service to that important department of government. We were