

Tributes to Senator Crerar

House. It is not possible to say too much about the importance of this, because when members in their questions and ministers in their replies choose to abide by these principles that I have tried to set out here, the question period runs smoothly, with maximum participation. On the other hand, when members or ministers choose to disregard these principles, they can be called to order by the Chair but the question period cannot be saved from the damage that has been done to it.

In the first six days it has been obvious that members have looked upon this experiment with a positive and conscientious attitude which, if it continues, will assure that this very worth-while experiment will become a permanent Standing Order. My authority is simply an expression of the desire of members that the proceedings run well and have maximum value, but I am sure members understand very clearly that the less the Chair is called upon to interfere in the proceedings, the better.

With those remarks, I can only conclude that again this is a point of discussion and I would be more than pleased to appear before the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization and discuss these points with hon. members, who may be interested in doing so at the earliest opportunity.

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THE LATE THOMAS ALEXANDER CRERAR

TRIBUTES TO DECEASED SENATOR AND FORMER MINISTER

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, particularly after your statement on the rules I do not wish to abuse the time of the House or the rules themselves, but I would ask for the indulgence of the House to pay tribute to the senior member of Canada's Privy Council, namely, Thomas Alexander Crerar, who passed away on the weekend at the age of 98. He was a giant figure in the political development of Canada during the initial, turbulent decades of this century. In him, western Canada enjoyed one of its most dedicated spokesmen and one who always used the language of unity rather than of divisiveness or alienation.

[Translation]

Senator Crerar was an essentially progressive spirit and our country owes much to the generosity with which he served the political scene in general and his government in particular. I am certain that all hon. members will join me in expressing our sincere condolences to his family.

[English]

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself and the members of my party with the warm tribute that the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has paid to the hon. Senator Crerar. He had a very long and distinguished career in the public life of this country. Clearly, he was a man with strong convictions, a man of high principle, a man who regarded his own principles and his duty to the country as going beyond party loyalties, a man who associated himself with a union government under a Conservative prime minister at the time of the First World War, a man who associated himself with the progressive movement in the 1920s and a man who later served with

[Mr. Speaker.]

distinction as a minister in the Liberal government under the Right Hon. Mackenzie King.

Obviously, he was a man with a great sense of public duty, a man who lived a long life and who maintained through that long life a very active interest in public questions, and strong views which he expressed with great force and conviction.

I should like to join the Prime Minister in extending our sympathy to the members of Senator Crerar's family.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the New Democratic Party I should like to join the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) in paying respect to the memory of the late Senator Thomas A. Crerar. As the Prime Minister has so well put it, he was one of those to whom we must refer as a giant in the political history of this country. There are three of us in this House—the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas), and I—who remember him in the House as a cabinet minister during the Second World War. We know from our history that he was also a cabinet minister in the House during the First World War, when none of the three of us was here.

To have a career that included entering parliament in 1917 at the age of 41, and to be in the Senate until 1966 at the age of 90—a total of 49 years, with only five of them spent out of parliament—is indeed a distinguished career.

There were times when some of us felt that the late Senator Crerar was not as progressive or as liberal as we wanted him to be, certainly in economic terms, but his adherence to the defence of civil liberties and his devotion to the principles in which he believed were very clear.

We join in paying respect to his memory and in expressing our sympathy to Mrs. Naylor, his daughter, and to all those who were close to him.

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members of my party, I join my colleagues to give homage to hon. Senator Crerar. I did not have the honour or the privilege to know personally this important Canadian, but I had the opportunity to follow his activities when he was a minister in the King cabinet.

I believe that Senator Crerar served his country according to the dictates of his conscience. On behalf of my party, I offer our most sincere condolences to his family.

● (1520)

AUDITOR GENERAL

TABLING OF REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): I should like to lay on the table a copy of the report in both official languages, of the Independent Review committee on the office of the Auditor General of Canada, dated March, 1975.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following