

The late Senator Hnatyshyn and I had been roommates for some time. He often told me stories of the early struggles of his family in the West, of his efforts to obtain an education, and his early days in starting a law practice. And then in his native province he rose to the very peak in his chosen profession. In his home City of Saskatoon, where he was best known, he had the respect and good will of everyone.

The senator was very proud of his family. His was a closely-knit family, and he told me many times how happy and fortunate he and his wife were that their children were born in Canada and grew up in this great land of freedom.

In the days ahead in this chamber we will miss his shy smile, his good humour and his sound, common sense judgment. I join with others in extending to his wife, his daughter and his sons my sympathy in their great loss of a devoted husband and a very loving father.

Hon. Fred M. Blois: Honourable senators, I should like to join with the Acting Leader of the Government, the Leader of the Opposition and the other speakers in paying tribute to the late Senator John Hnatyshyn.

As honourable senators know, he and I were seatmates here for several years, and now the seat on my right is vacant. During the time I had the pleasure of knowing Senator Hnatyshyn we became close friends, not only in this chamber but outside, and there I came to know the real worth of this honourable gentleman. He was a great Canadian—moreover, he was very proud that he was a Canadian. On more than one occasion he told me that he was not one of those who expected Canada to give him a living; he felt that as a Canadian he should play his part to make Canada a great nation and to make a place for himself. I think you will all agree with me that he did just that. He also told me that he was proud that he was able to serve Canada in his political life and in the work that he did in helping the underprivileged people of this country, our native Canadians and those who emigrated from other regions.

He was a man of integrity, a man of high honour, and during the years that I was closely associated with him I never heard him speak an unkind word about anyone. He was a man who believed that every person, both within this chamber and outside, had a perfect right to his own views, that he had the right and duty to express those views and that they should be listened to with respect.

He believed that, and he lived that kind of life.

He was chairman of a committee of the Senate, and he was a regular attendant at the meetings of the other committees upon which he served. He participated at all times and his views were listened to with respect.

As has already been said, John Hnatyshyn will be missed in this chamber and by his many friends elsewhere. I should like to join with those others who have spoken in expressing our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Hnatyshyn and the family.

Hon. Paul Yuzyk: Honourable senators, I would like to join with other senators in honouring the memory of our deceased colleague.

I regret that I could not attend the funeral of Senator John Hnatyshyn in Saskatoon last Saturday, due to the fact that I had a speaking engagement in the United States.

For a long time we shall miss our colleague in the Senate, and the impact of his personality—his warm friendship, his pleasant smile, his willingness to co-operate in the performance of the work of this chamber, his courageous outlook upon life and his devotion to Canada and the needs of her diverse population.

Senator Hnatyshyn is a notable example of the contribution that the Ukrainians are constantly making to the building, the many-sided progress, and the greatness of Canada. His parents, who came from the Canora district of Saskatchewan, were among the many thousands of pioneer Ukrainian farmers who came to this country almost empty-handed before and after the turn of the century, and with great courage and unswerving faith in God and their newly-adopted land, opened up millions of acres of virgin soil on the Prairies, thus bringing civilization and prosperity to vast hitherto unsettled regions.

These humble, hard-working parents sent John to school until he graduated as a lawyer from the university in Saskatoon in 1932, and became a highly respected member of his profession.

It was in his university years that I became acquainted with the late Senator Hnatyshyn, and I realized then that he was of leadership calibre. His many activities and achievements have already been outlined by previous speakers, but honourable senators will allow me to add that Ukrainian Canadians were most happy when the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, then Prime Minister of Can-