

Jacques Flynn's great contribution to this country than the style and verve we shall all remember. Jacques Flynn is, and has been for half a century or more, active in the practice of law. Those of us who are not lawyers sometimes poke fun at those who are, because their counsel does, sometimes, seem to get in the way of our best intentions and to complicate matters, which, to the layman, appear wonderfully simple.

[*Translation*]

Yet, right from the beginning our Parliament has had the very good fortune of being able to rely on many outstanding lawyers. The fact is that nobody is in a better position than an experienced lawyer to predict the positive or negative impact of a legislative amendment, or even to say whether the amendment will give the expected results. The best lawyers—Jacques Flynn first among them—jealously defend the values inherent in our court system against direct attacks, of course, but most often against the overly good intentions of legislators or public officials.

Any legislative endeavour entails considerations of fairness and justice towards society as a whole, and Jacques Flynn was always among first to see them and point them out to us. The parliamentary precincts have been witness to the splendid and even brilliant use he has made of his extensive legal know-how. The Senate and the entire country are grateful to him for that.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Senator Murray: Senator Flynn is as much an ardent Quebecer as a hard-core Canadian. Some people would describe that as an inconsistency. And yet throughout our long history our most prominent parliamentarians from Quebec did indeed display both qualities. They realized that for more than three hundred years now Quebec has been, in North America, the focal point of French language and culture.

In that respect, they have been perfectly aware of the unique responsibility of Quebec, of its government and of its legislature, and they have been the staunch defenders of the rights of Quebec and the provinces generally within the Canadian Constitution.

These federal parliamentarians from Quebec have been the most energetic champions of Canadian unity, convinced as they were that our country's strength stemmed from unity.

Jacques Flynn, whose grandfather was the Conservative Premier of Quebec at the turn of the century—

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Senator Murray: —is keeping alive this illustrious Quebec and Canadian tradition. There has never been in his mind, nor in ours, any doubt as to his double identity as a Quebecer and a Canadian: he is both at the same time and proud of it.

Finally, I would like to say a word about the Conservative Party's enormous debt to the honourable Jacques Flynn.

During our darkest years from 1963 to 1979 and from 1980 to 1984, Jacques Flynn was one of those who never lost heart. For many years he and a few of his friends and colleagues were the only members of the Conservative Party in Quebec.

[*Senator Murray.*]

Always in a good and optimistic mood, he has never spared us from his most caustic comments when he thought the Party was on the wrong track.

When our Party had practically no Quebec members in Parliament, Senator Flynn managed to gather around him the Conservatives in his province. A fierce supporter of the Conservative tradition in Quebec and within Confederation—a tradition of equality between French and English Canadians—he became, even while challenged, its symbol and champion in Quebec.

[*English*]

During my years in the Senate, and especially during the past four years, Senator Jacques Flynn has been in many ways an inspiration to me and always a valued counsellor and a loyal colleague and friend. I only wish it had been possible for him to leave here, now, in the knowledge and with the satisfaction that the unfinished constitutional work of 1982—indeed, of 1867—had been completed with the unanimous ratification of the Meech Lake Accord. His profound disappointment will not shake his own convictions about the true spirit of Confederation, nor will it lessen the determination of those who share his convictions to see them prevail.

● (1440)

Honourable senators, I have spoken at some length about Senator Flynn, because he has been in Parliament for more than 30 years, has occupied a place of leadership in this chamber, and has played such an important role in the affairs of his party in Quebec and in Canada.

More briefly, but no less sincerely, I should like to salute our two departing colleagues from New Brunswick. Senator Margaret Anderson, who comes from Northumberland County and the famous Miramichi River area of New Brunswick, has been in this chamber for 12 years. She was appointed to the Senate by Prime Minister Trudeau on March 23, 1978. She comes from a long family tradition of public service in New Brunswick, her father having served as a provincial cabinet minister for 17 years, under two premiers of that province.

Senator Anderson has upheld the tradition of public service, first, in the Liberal Party, where she has held both provincial and national office. Others are better qualified than I to give an appreciation of her contribution to the party. Suffice it to say that the dominance of the Liberal Party in the Miramichi area has been a long and solid one. During most of my time here I have had the pleasure of serving with Senator Anderson on the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce, where her contribution has been consistently well informed and constructive.

Senator Anderson has brought to this place an impressive record of community service in the Miramichi area of New Brunswick; and in business as president of the lumber firm, W.S. Anderson and Company Ltd. Her experience and her fine personal qualities have served Canada, the Senate, and New Brunswick well. She can leave here proud of her contributions and of the regard and respect in which she is held by all of us.