

HOUSE OF COMMONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBERS HAVING COMPLETED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Mr. JOHN BRACKEN (Leader of the Opposition): Before the Prime Minister moves the adjournment of the house, in deference to the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Mackenzie) I think we on this side should congratulate the right hon. gentleman upon the improved appearance of his associates on the other side. Their handsome features are greatly brightened by the carnations they are wearing, the bright red hues of which make it peculiarly appropriate that they should be placed over the hearts of hon. gentlemen who comprise the government.

But that is not all I want to say. As I have paid members of the government that delicate compliment, perhaps they will extend to me the privilege of offering our sincere congratulations to two gentlemen who happen to sit on this side of the house, each of whom has completed twenty-five years of continuous service in the House of Commons. I refer to the hon. member for Danforth (Mr. Harris), and to the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Senn). These gentlemen came to the House of Commons before some hon. members now here were very old. They came, I understand, early in 1921, and for twenty-five years, without any time off, have represented their constituencies continuously in the house. In other words, they have been here for a longer continuous period than any other hon. members, with the exception of the dean of the house, the distinguished hon. gentleman who represents the constituency of Quebec South (Mr. Power).

I am sure all hon. members will join with me in extending congratulations not only to those two hon. gentlemen who now celebrate the completion of twenty-five years in the House of Commons, but also to our associate the hon. member of Quebec South, who, I understand, has been here for thirty years. All hon. members will agree with me when I express the hope that all three of these distinguished hon. gentlemen will live long to serve their respective constituencies, though all may not agree with me when I express the hope that the two with twenty-five years of service to their credit will long continue to represent their constituencies in the same chamber in which they now sit.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I agree with my hon. friend the leader of the opposition that on occasions it is pleasant to "say it with flowers". I am sorry I have not flowers

at the moment to send across to the hon. members opposite to whom he has just referred. However, I do join warmly with the leader of the opposition in extending heartiest congratulations to those hon. members upon having completed twenty-five years of service as members of this house. May I add that all hon. members on this side of the house will wish to join in these congratulations. We have all enjoyed the happiest relations with the gentlemen whose names have just been mentioned, namely the hon. member for Danforth (Mr. Harris) and the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Senn). So long as they sit opposite the government and give us the pleasure of looking at their countenances from this side of the house, I hope they may be spared for continued public service for years to come.

I wish also to thank the leader of the opposition for his congratulations extended to my hon. colleague the member for Quebec South (Mr. Power), and I join warmly with him in these congratulations. There was, however, one small error which my hon. friend made in his calculations and to which perhaps he will allow me to make reference. While I should be the last to wish to deprive my friend the hon. member for Quebec South of any distinction to which he may be entitled, and while in certain of its aspects it may not be the most pleasant reflection, it is a fact nevertheless that in time of membership measured by months and years, I stand today the oldest member of this House of Commons, and so happen to be entitled to be styled the dean of the house. That honour, however, is closely shared with the hon. member for Quebec South. I do not think there are many months difference in the period of time we have served as members of the house, each having had a long term of service.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King the house adjourned at 5.05 p.m.

Friday, January 31, 1947

The house met at three o'clock.

TRIBUTES TO DECEASED MEMBERS

THE LATE HON. PIERRE JOSEPH ARTHUR CARDIN

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, since the last session of parliament, this House of Commons has experienced a severe loss in its membership in the passing of two of its best known members: the Hon. P. J. A. Cardin, K.C., member for Richelieu-Vercheres, whose death at the age of sixty-seven occurred on October 20, 1946, and Mr. William Chisholm Mac-