

The Late Donald Jamieson

On a personal note, I had known Don Jamieson ever since I was a boy. He was associated with my late father, Ches Crosbie, when he started in business many years ago with Gaden's where he started as well in the radio business broadcasting sports for Gaden's Ltd. He was associated with my father also with a group of people who urged that we pursue economic union with the United States rather than confederation with Canada and that we keep our options open. There were the famous referenda of 1948 and 1949 in that regard.

Even then Don was a golden-tongued orator and was one of the greatest political speakers of the 20th century. He was certainly in a class with Joseph Smallwood himself, which was no mean feat. He was a broadcaster, a communicator and an author. He wrote a book "*The Troubled Air*" before going into politics, so the trouble did not refer, of course, to the political sphere. He was a patriot. He was a great representative of Canada as Secretary of State for External Affairs. He was warm-spirited, convivial, thoughtful, not narrowly partisan and certainly articulate.

I well remember the period that he was a Minister. He was elected to this House first in 1966 in a by-election and sworn into the Privy Council on July 6, 1968 as Minister of Defence Production. He became Minister of Transport, Minister of DRIE, Minister of Industry Trade and Commerce and then on September 14, 1976 he was appointed Secretary of State for External Affairs, a post he filled for three years. We were very proud of him in Newfoundland that he had been chosen to represent all of Canada and that a Newfoundlander had achieved that position. He did a remarkable job. He was on top of his files wherever he went and he always looked convincing. I think I can remember seeing him on television giving Brezhnev a bear-hug. I have to say this, that Brezhnev shook first when that great bear-hug took place.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

● (1415)

Mr. Crosbie: It is interesting that the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) mentioned that Don never forgot his roots. He lived in Swift Current where the Beck family came from. His great grandfather had come from Scotland and had lived on Sound Island which is in Placentia Bay and later resettled. Don built a residence on Sound Island some years ago and lived there for part of the year himself.

During the time he was a Minister and Newfoundland's representative in Ottawa, as we call it, the Progressive Conservative administration under Mr. Moores had taken over the Government of Newfoundland, and during the period from 1972 to 1979 our relationship with Don Jamieson was very, very warm. He always worked together with the Newfoundland Government to see what he could do for Newfoundland, not forgetting of course that his own district was one-seventh of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. The relationship was a good one despite the difference in parties.

I noticed when I came here that Don was warmly regarded on all sides of the House. He had friends in all parties. That is as it should be. I think Don well illustrated what Thomas Haliburton once said, that to handle a ship you must know all the ropes. He knew all the ropes of the ship of state as he exemplified in his career.

He left this House in 1979 to go back to Newfoundland and became Leader of the Opposition. He left politics in 1981 to become our High Commissioner at the end of 1982 in England, a most capable High Commissioner for Canada in the U.K. He had a very significant career both in Newfoundland and Canada and I want to pass on our condolences today to his wife Barbara, his four children, Donna, Heather, Roger and Debbie, and his three grandchildren.

I would close by saying that Don exemplified something that John Bunyan said in *Pilgrim's Progress* when he was defining democracy. He said that democracy was primarily an attitude of mind, a spiritual testament, in which politics was still the greatest and most honourable adventure. Don came from a very successful career in the public sector, particularly in broadcasting where he was the best known broadcaster in Newfoundland. He was four years president of The Canadian Association of Broadcasters, by the way. He entered into politics because I think he thought that politics was still the greatest and most honourable adventure. That is a thought and spirit not much in evidence today, more's the pity, but I hope one that we will get back to before too much longer because politics is still in my view as well the greatest and most honourable adventure. Don himself was one of the greatest and most honourable adventurers in that profession.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, today Canada has lost a distinguished citizen and Newfoundland has lost a noble son. I would like to pick up from where the Minister just left off in quoting Bunyan about the life of politics and referring it entirely appropriately to Don Jamieson.

Don Jamieson brought to Canada many significant attributes as a human being. Before I say something briefly about them, I think it is in one sense supremely ironic that in order to win his subsequent battles he had to lose a decisively important one first. That has already been referred to concerning the battles of 1948 and 1949. As he said subsequently, he was on the wrong side. As a good Newfoundlander he campaigned against Newfoundland joining Canada. He of course changed his mind and we can all be glad that he lost his first battle in order to go on and make a great contribution, not only to his native province, which he loved so well, but to the great land of Canada, which we all love so well.

● (1420)

He did a rare thing in politics. He was a Liberal who was, in his time, with perhaps one or two exceptions, the best orator in the House of Commons. In crucial moments he was able to