

THE SENATE

Tuesday, November 29, 1994

The Senate met at 2:00 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

NEW SENATORS

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I have the honour to inform the Senate that the Clerk has received certificates from the Registrar General of Canada showing that the following persons, respectively, have been summoned to the Senate:

Jean-Robert Gauthier

John G. Bryden

INTRODUCTION

The Hon. the Speaker having informed the Senate that there were senators without, waiting to be introduced:

The following honourable senators were introduced; presented Her Majesty's writ of summons; took the oath prescribed by law, which was administered by the Clerk; and were seated:

Hon. Jean-Robert Gauthier, of Vanier, Ontario, introduced between the Honourable Senators Fairbairn and Hébert.

Hon. John G. Bryden, of Bayfield, New Brunswick, introduced between the Honourable Senators Fairbairn and Robichaud.

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that the honourable senators named above had made and subscribed the declaration of qualification required by the Constitution Act, 1867, in the presence of the Clerk of the Senate, the Commissioner appointed to receive and witness the said declaration.

• (1410)

Hon. Joyce Fairbairn (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I am happy to rise today to offer words of welcome to our two new colleagues who have just taken their seats in this chamber.

For many of us who have walked these halls, Jean-Robert Gauthier is no stranger, having represented Ottawa-Vanier in the House of Commons for the past 22 years. What some people in this chamber may not know is that he has a long linkage to the Senate. He was raised by his grandfather, Louis-Philippe Gauthier, who was the Deputy Clerk of the Senate from 1926 to 1946. Thus, he was imbued with this place during the early days of his upbringing.

Senator Gauthier was first elected to the House of Commons in 1972. He has served in a number of important capacities in the

other place, including Opposition Whip, House Leader for his party, Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and, most recently, Co-chair, along with our colleague Senator MacEachen, of the Special Joint Committee on Canada's Foreign Policy.

Honourable senators, through those years, he gained a reputation as one of the staunchest advocates and supporters of the institution of Parliament and the respect of those who work within it, both in the House of Commons and the Senate. His defence of the rights of francophone Ontarians and of official bilingualism has been central to his parliamentary contribution; something which, I am sure, he will continue vigorously in his new role.

Honourable senators, we also wish to extend a warm welcome to Senator John Bryden who joins us from Bayfield, New Brunswick, where he has established a strong and impressive background in business, law and public life.

It is no coincidence that Senator Bryden's escort into the chamber today included our colleague Senator Robichaud. Their connection goes back to the 1960s when Senator Robichaud was Premier of the Province of New Brunswick. Senator Thériault, for that matter, was the Minister of Health and Welfare at the same time. From 1969 to 1970, John Bryden served as Deputy Minister of Justice. It was during that period, under the former premier that New Brunswick passed its official languages law.

Senator Bryden also worked with Premier Frank McKenna in 1988-89 as Commissioner of Economic Development before moving on to other pursuits, including running his own management consulting firm for the past two years. Knowing his enthusiasm for hockey, I believe he will bring new meaning to the words "Ottawa Senator" for a certain local hockey team.

Given Senator Bryden's experience in a variety of the facets of New Brunswick life, both public and private, his participation here will be of great benefit to his province.

Both of our new colleagues come to the Senate determined to make a contribution in this place. On behalf of all my colleagues, we look forward to receiving your good advice as this chamber deals with many challenging issues in the months ahead.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, Senator Gauthier's appointment brings to 19 the number of senators whose political careers include membership in the House of Commons. I have no doubt that his 22 years in the other place have prepared him well for the rigorous duties in this chamber, and that we will be the beneficiaries of the wisdom he has accumulated. Certainly, we have profited from the many years his fellow ex-commoners have spent over there preparing for the Senate.