

to proceed with its regular business. A characteristic of this chamber which has always appealed to me, honourable senators, is the extraordinary sense of friendliness and comradeship which exists between us.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Hugessen:** Under these circumstances I do not anticipate any great hardship in assuming the position referred to by my honourable leader. I thank honourable senators very much indeed.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

### THE LATE SENATOR LESAGE

#### TRIBUTES TO HIS MEMORY

**Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson:** Honourable senators, I regret to have to officially announce to this house that since we last met we have lost one of our colleagues, the Honourable Joseph Arthur Lesage, of The Gulf, who died March 9, 1950, at the age of 68 years.

Senator Lesage was born at Louisville, Quebec, on June 7, 1881, the son of Hercule Lesage and his wife, the former Emilie Caron. He was educated at Louisville College and Laval Normal School, Quebec.

He became interested in the insurance business, as a broker, and at the time of his death was president of Lesage Proteau Limited and of *La Publication Cartier Limitée*.

Senator Lesage served as an alderman of the City of Quebec from 1918 to 1926. He was summoned to the Senate on March 3, 1944.

His wife, the former Emma Lachapelle, and two sons, Dr. Roger Lesage and Notary Fernand Lesage, survive him.

Our late colleague brought to the Senate a wide knowledge of public affairs, much business experience and a willingness at all times to discharge any responsibility that was assigned to him. His genial disposition and friendly manner endeared him to all with whom he came in contact. He will be sorely missed; and we extend to his widow and family our sincerest sympathy in their great bereavement.

**Hon. John T. Haig:** Honourable members, I was not closely associated with the late Senator Lesage, though naturally we all knew him. He was very punctual in his attendance at this house, and at almost any time when a debate was going on he could be seen in his seat on the other side of this chamber. He had just reached that stage in this house when one becomes familiar with its machinery. It is a difficult house to get

started in. In bodies where the members are elected for a definite term, one recognizes the possibility that a colleague may not be returned for another term, that somebody else may take his place. But in the Senate, of which a man or woman remains a member as long as he or she lives, a newcomer takes a little longer to become acquainted. The late senator was a quiet man: he did not obtrude himself in discussions in committee or anywhere else, and therefore it was more than ordinarily difficult for others to become acquainted with him.

He was no doubt a distinguished son of the province of Quebec, and he brought to this chamber a fine business acumen.

I join the leader of the government in expressing to his widow and his two sons our sincere sympathy, and our appreciation of the honourable service he rendered as a member of this chamber.

*(Translation):*

**Hon. Paul Henri Bouffard:** Honourable senators, may I be permitted to add a word to the very apt remarks which have just been made by the leader of the government.

I knew Senator Lesage for more than twenty years. Though he encountered difficulties at the beginning of his career, he soon proved himself a shrewd business man, a man of sound judgment and of the utmost reliability. Those qualities accounted for his success.

For many years, he gave himself wholeheartedly to the Liberal cause, either in the provincial or the federal field. He was always an effective front rank fighter. He soon won the confidence of the leaders of his party and became the chief organizer for the whole eastern section of the province of Quebec.

I have had many opportunities to appreciate his courage as well as the swiftness and the soundness of his decisions. All the Liberals, and more particularly those who have worked with him, will remember him as a staunch friend, a kind heart and an untiring worker.

His sudden death will leave a deep gap in the affections of those who knew him intimately. He was one of those men for whom friendship came first.

It is because of these qualities that he will be remembered and that his name and his memory will ever remain graven in the hearts of all his friends.

I would like to extend to his wife and to his two sons our deepest sympathy.