

## THE SENATE

Tuesday, April 22, 1980

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.  
Prayers.

[Translation]

### THE LATE HONOURABLE JOSIE D. QUART

TRIBUTES

**Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, it was with sadness and surprise that we learned last Thursday of the passing of our colleague, Senator Josie Quart who had attended the opening of the first session of this legislature. She was in the Senate Tuesday and Wednesday. She had returned to Quebec City to attend a meeting of the "no" committee. She was in high spirits when she got up Thursday morning and about noon, she had a heart attack and died a few minutes later.

I met Senator Quart almost 50 years ago, not in my early youth, but let us say in my teens when I spent my summers in Château-d'Eau with one of my uncles and where the Quart family also had their residence. All her children were my friends.

Afterwards, I followed her career. She had always been a very active person mainly within the Conservative Party, especially during the 1945-1957 crisis when she relentlessly kept the flame alive.

[English]

Honourable senators, she was colourful, gregarious, good-natured and friendly, and could usually be encountered hurtling down a Senate corridor on her way to yet another sitting of some Dave Croll committee or other. But she always had time for a few pleasant words. Did I know, she once asked, why there was an increase in the sale of water-beds? The answer was because people thought it would be cute to fuddle duddle in a puddle. And off she was again, the irrepressible Senator Josie Dinan Quart, no ordinary octogenarian, on her way to remind a bunch of parliamentarians that their deliberations were about real people with serious problems, and that this fact should not be lost sight of as they celebrated their way up an ivory tower.

They all loved her because she refused to take herself seriously. But perspicacity and an ability at plain-speaking were by no means the extent of Josie Quart's God-given gifts. This incomparable lady could defuse even the most acrimonious exchange with a disarming comment calculated to bring participants back to a realization of the fact that nothing of any value could be achieved in an atmosphere of animosity.

● (2010)

She was a gem who could be counted on for a superlative effort in anything she undertook. Her capacity for work was

boundless and her enthusiasm contagious. She was forever involved in a multiplicity of undertakings.

Her contributions to society through all the activities she initiated, the groups she led, the causes she espoused, have served to make this country, and in particular the province of Quebec, a much better place to live in.

This was an uncommon lady to whom much was given in the way of talent, and from whom much was received in the way of service. The community she served was in no way restricted by geography. Her concern was for the community of man. She sought its general betterment, and in that she achieved a degree of success that was remarkable.

We should thank Providence for having given us Josie Quart. She leaves behind a world better for her having lived in it. She had charm and she had grace. She was witty, personable and intelligent. She was, as she would say, a typical Tory.

To her family and the many friends who will also miss her, I offer, on behalf of the Progressive Conservative Party that she served so selflessly, my most heartfelt condolences.

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, to underline and echo much of what Senator Flynn has said, I should say that I did not know Senator Quart too well, but I did know her family and, in particular, her son Gerry. I thought so highly of Senator Quart that I find it difficult to acknowledge that she was a typical Tory. However, in the circumstances, I am prepared to say even that.

She did have a remarkably rich life matched so well by the richness of her personality and the sheer enjoyment one experienced, by simply being in her presence, no matter what was being discussed.

Senator Quart could be likened to Wordsworth's Happy Warrior who:

—while the mortal mist is gathering, draws

(Her) breath in confidence of Heaven's applause.

Senator Quart's grandson delivered the eulogy at a touching and beautiful ceremony at St. Patrick's on the Grand Allee. Some members of the Senate were present. The service and, in particular, the music were particularly beautiful.

In the eulogy delivered by her grandson, he opened and closed with what I think are very appropriate words:

Her life was a rich tapestry and we shall miss her.

**Hon. Daniel A. Lang:** Honourable senators, if I may be permitted to add my brief tribute to the late Senator Quart, I should be happy to do so.

I was first introduced to the Quart family on my appointment to a rusty, rather salt-scarred Corvette when I served in