

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, March 31, 1969

The house met at 2 p.m.

THE LATE GENERAL DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

TRIBUTES TO FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport):

Mr. Speaker, all members of this house, I know, share today with the government and people of the United States of America a sense of loss at the departure of an honoured and highly respected friend. The death of General Dwight D. Eisenhower permits us to pause to recall the many reasons why Canadians have long regarded General Eisenhower with such warmth.

His leadership as Supreme Allied Commander in Europe in the critical years of World War II acquired for General Eisenhower a lasting reputation in the hearts of the tens of thousands of Canadian servicemen who served under him. His distinguished tour as Commander of the NATO forces and his later occupancy of the highest elective office that his country could offer to him gave all of us numerous opportunities to view his many qualities of leadership and his traits of kindness, understanding and humanity which so endeared him to us all.

Canada long ago marked for all time its indebtedness to General Eisenhower by renaming a mountain in Banff National Park in his honour.

We pause today to think of this friend of Canada. The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition are present in Washington today to convey to the American people our sense of grief.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I concur in the remarks made by the Acting Prime Minister. He stated the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition are in Washington. The right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), who was prime minister at the time the late General Eisenhower was president of his country and came to visit Canada, is also present. This, in addition to the thousands of messages from all ranks of life in all parts of this

country, indicates the respect, love and affection held for General Eisenhower.

I limit my comments to remarking that while I was not during the course of the conflict of 1939-45, close to General Eisenhower, I was not too far away when he visited France. The respect and admiration held for him by all members of the armed forces bears testimony to his accomplishments. When called upon to make a momentous decision which no one else could make, he made it wisely. We hope that in the future, when such momentous decisions have to be made, there will be men of the calibre of General Eisenhower to make these decisions.

● (2:10 p.m.)

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I join in the expression of sorrow to the family of the late General Eisenhower and to the people of the United States of America. General Eisenhower made his mark as a great military commander and as a president of his country, during which presidency he accomplished many things, not the least of which was the end of the war in Korea. He was obviously a sincere man with deep convictions about human welfare and we join all Canadians in mourning his passing.

[Translation]

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, in the name of my party, I wish to join with the other hon. members to deplore the death of that eminent personality who has left his mark on several years of this century.

He was above all a great soldier, of which the United States are very proud. During the war all the allies admired his achievements.

We mourn his death and we wish to express our feelings of deep sympathy to his family and to the American people.

[English]

PRIVILEGE

MR. WOOLLIAMS—ALLEGED LEAK PRECEDING
ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING MONTREAL
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT—STATEMENTS BY
MINISTERS

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, in my absence from the house