

I want to say that, like Senator Murray, I was honoured and proud to be a member of the subcommittee of the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, which went to the Middle East under the distinguished leadership of Senator Hicks. I have admired Senator Hicks for many years as a fine scholar. I would not exactly get as excited as Senator MacEachen did over Dalhousie University. It is a fine institution, but there are other great places, such as Mount Allison, where Senator Hicks really began to acquire his great knowledge of the better things of this world.

Senator Hicks always impressed me as being a man who was articulate. I never heard him make a poor speech in this chamber, nor did I ever hear him make a long one. We all think we speak more briefly than our colleagues think we do, but Senator Hicks seemed to exemplify what the great Edmund Burke spoke about when he spoke of laconic brevity. He has brought his concise wisdom to many important matters; he has worked earnestly and successfully in this very important chamber, and I am honoured to be among those who admire him, who respect him, and who will deplore his departure—the more particularly, if I may say so, honourable senators, because there are many people around here, especially he who takes the roll call at the door, who sometimes confuse Senator Macquarrie with Senator Hicks. When Senator Hicks is around, and I can be sure that he hears me say it, I always say, “Yes, I may look like Senator Hicks, but only when I’m having a bad day!” Now there will only be one of us and that will make the job of our tonsorial artist easier.

With Senator Hicks go my great regard, abiding affection and confidence that, whether it be philately, cabinet making or whatever he does, he will do it with the skill of a true craftsman and a truly great Canadian.

Hon. John B. Stewart: Honourable senators, back in the eighteenth century one of the favourite literary forms was the “character.” Authors aspired to write perfect “characters” of distinguished persons. I have been wondering what someone would include in a “character” of the Honourable Henry Hicks. There are two things which simply could not be left out. First, he has been and remains a liberal—I use that term in the broader, more acceptable meaning.

An Hon. Senator: A small “L”?

Senator Stewart: By that I mean that there is nothing narrow or parochial in his thinking or his views. I think we would all applaud that kind of liberal. The second thing that would have to be said in a “character” of the Honourable Henry Hicks is that he is a man of great independence of mind. It is more than that: he is a man who is not only independent of mind but who is also extraordinarily candid and outspoken. I remember when I first began to meet up with him. It is not all that long ago—not nearly as long ago as Senator MacEachen goes back.

Senator Gigantès: Is this a left-handed compliment?

Senator Muir: Explain.

Senator Stewart: I was overawed by the concise, emphatic verities uttered by Henry Hicks. Then I came to realize he

really did not object if one kicked him in the shin and said, “Look, Henry, you’re entirely wrong; your premises are wrong and your deductions from your premises are wrong. Why don’t you think it over?” After a while he would come back and say handsomely, “You know, you’re quite right. You’re quite right; I was entirely wrong.” His ability to change his mind is one of the characteristics of Henry Hicks that have impressed me most. I sometimes wish it were a characteristic of which I could plead guilty and of which some of my senatorial colleagues could boast. These then are the two features I want to contribute to a “character” of Henry Hicks. It has been a great pleasure to know him and to serve with him in the Senate.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Maurice Riel: Honourable senators, I would feel bad if I were to miss this opportunity to say a few words of thanks to my colleague. For the past five or six years, and time really goes by fast, I have benefited from the serenity, the competence, the experience, the calmness and the intelligence of Senator Hicks who has always been very sympathetic and even quite patient with me. It is not only because we did not have a close relationship, coming as we do from distant part of the country, but I got to know him when we began discussing stamp collecting.

I found out that he was a stamp enthusiast and he got me interested in stamps through osmosis, if I can put it that way, because I was inspired by his dedication and his study of stamps.

His catalogues were printed in English and that really impressed me. When I go to Paris I often walk by the corner of Rue Matignon at the traffic circle of the Champs Élysées and Avenue Gabriel where the Paris stamp exchange happens to be located. I would be strolling from stand to stand, as they say in Paris—do not use the word “kiosque” because nobody will understand what you are talking about—thinking about my colleague and friend because that is certainly a source of spiritual inspiration to him, a rather unusual delight which cannot normally be felt on every street corner but which can be experienced at the corner of Rue Matignon.

People have been talking about Senator Henry Hicks for a long time. As I recall, if I can go back to nearly fifty years ago, well not quite, 42 years, after the war in 1948 there was a meeting of the Young Liberals of Canada and, being young at the time, I was invited to attend the meeting. I believe Henry Hicks was there. Of course he was 42 years younger, like me, and both of us were in fine shape. Since he was somewhat older than we were, I had been told that this elegant young man from Nova Scotia was aspiring at becoming premier of his province.

Later, much later, I found out that this was exactly what had happened. I must say that at this meeting we had also met a few other brilliant young men from the maritime provinces. I remember very well a young delegate who made a lasting impression and whose name was Dalton Camp. I should think everybody remembers Mr. Camp for having followed his suc-