

## THE SENATE

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Monday, November 4, 1957

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Hon. Arthur M. Pearson, Acting Speaker, in the Chair.

Prayers.

### THE LATE SENATOR McGUIRE

#### TRIBUTES

**Hon. W. Ross Macdonald:** Honourable senators, may I say that we were deeply saddened on Thursday last to learn of the passing of one of our colleagues. I refer to the late Senator William H. McGuire. Senator McGuire had attained the age of 84 years and was a senior member of this chamber. He had been here for 31 years and had taken a keen interest in all the work of the Senate, not only in the Senate chamber but also in various committees.

Our late colleague was born at Peterborough, Ontario, on May 31, 1873. He was educated at the Campbellford Collegiate Institute, the University of Toronto, and Osgoode Hall Law School; was called to the bar in 1906, and created a King's Counsel in 1933. He took a wide interest in the affairs of our country, both in the cultural aspect and in connection with the industrial development of this land. He was a student, and, indeed, an authority, on Canadian history, and was for a number of years president of the Canadian Catholic Historical Association. Not only was he active in his chosen profession, but he was also a director of a number of large and expanding industrial organizations. While doing all this he found time to be president of a publishing company at Richmond Hill, where he published a newspaper.

Senator McGuire during his long and useful life made a host of friends; to these friends he was ever faithful, being ready to defend them at all times and under all circumstances, provided they were true to the principles which they espoused. He was a man of strong convictions. Being once convinced that a course of action was right, nothing could lure him from the path which his conscience dictated to him was the proper one.

Honourable senators, from what I have said you might think that Senator McGuire was always serious minded. Of course, that is not so. While he was profoundly serious minded where grave problems were concerned, he did, on the other hand, enjoy life

to the full. He possessed in a large measure that keen sense of humour which is so characteristic of the Irish race.

Senator McGuire was blessed with a strong physique. At university he was not only a good student, but also a good athlete, and established for himself an excellent reputation as an amateur boxer. In fact, he was so good that at one time he sparred for two rounds with the champion heavyweight of the world, John L. Sullivan.

Honourable senators, I said at the outset of my remarks that Senator McGuire had attained the age of 84 years. I should also say that he was a third-generation Canadian. Now, there are many young people who are third-generation Canadians, but to be a third-generation Canadian at the age which Senator McGuire attained means that his forebears were indeed pioneers in this new land. His grandfather came to Canada from Ireland in 1810, and was one of the early settlers in that part of Ontario east of Toronto and between Toronto and Peterborough. The McGuire family has seen Canada grow from a colony to a nation, and has contributed much to its development.

To Senator McGuire's daughter, to his grandchildren and to all those who were near and dear to him, I extend deep sympathy.

**Hon. John T. Haig:** Honourable senators, I am glad that the Leader of the Opposition was kind enough to pay his respects to the late Senator McGuire first, because he knew our late colleague very well indeed.

Senator McGuire was one of the leading senators in this chamber. I always felt he was typical of the Irish people of Ontario, whose fathers or grandfathers came here from Ireland years ago and settled in that part of Ontario east of Toronto. It was always a great pleasure to me to hear my father, who came from that part of Ontario, tell stories about the Irish people there. I used to wonder if there were as many Irish people down there as he seemed to think there were, but after meeting the late Senator McGuire I knew there were.

It was a pleasure to serve with Senator McGuire on committees. He never took an arbitrary stand; he always took a stand for what he thought ought to be done in the best interests of Canada. I personally learned some very valuable lessons from his views as expressed in committee from time to time. I did not always agree with him, and I say that quite candidly, but I learned a very great deal from him. It seemed to me, as I am sure it did to other junior senators, that he participated in discussions in a spirit that should characterize the Senate in all its deliberations.