

honourable senators will object if I say this—no senator in the past, and certainly not in the eight years that I have been here, has done more to keep the Senate before the public than Eugene Forsey. I hope he will be around for a long time to come.

Senator Roblin: Honourable senators, I have been listening with attention and complete agreement to the observations that honourable senators have been making about the several distinguished, and, indeed, famous, people whose names are being brought into remembrance this afternoon. But when the Speaker informed us that our former colleague, Senator Forsey, was in the gallery, I thought it would be nice to say something about somebody who was present to hear it, since so often, and particularly in political life, good things are said about you only when you are dead. It is nice, therefore, as I say, to be able to say some good things about somebody when he is present to hear the opinions that are being expressed.

Eugene Forsey is a charming, vivacious, and cultivated personality. I almost described him as a cultivated “bag of tricks,” but, of course, I mean that in an affectionate sense, with regard to the capacity of his mind, informed by knowledge, and of his intellect, so disciplined by hard work.

What I particularly liked about his contributions to this chamber, among other things, was the wit and good humour with which he approached matters under discussion. I enjoyed his poetic contributions towards our debates, and I hope he will not think of it as unkindly if I say that his poetry was rather of the school of Edward Lear than that of William Shakespeare; nevertheless, both, of course, have their place in our literary tradition.

Eugene Forsey had a fund of reminiscences about famous persons in our political life which always enlivened his discourse. He always has a historical reference that could be applied to whatever situation was before us.

As we have good reason to know, he had a fund of constitutional lore which is perhaps second to none. What I liked about him also, and what I still like about him, is his capacity to judge the issues that he studies on their merits, his ability to express an independence of political opinion, which all of us are not able to command, and his capacity to go to the root and substance of any argument that might be under discussion. He saw both sides of the question, but he had the power to bring sound judgment to bear in arriving at a definite conclusion.

● (1510)

The Greeks, or Hellenes, as I suppose they are known, have been described by some wise man as being the education of Europe. I am not entirely sure Eugene Forsey was the education of the Senate, but he was certainly the education of Duff Roblin, and for that I express my gratitude and esteem.

He is the keeper of our Constitution these days, and he is the conscience of anyone who would indulge in constitutional reform, so I say to you “Beware!”

My parting shot to Eugene Forsey would be to apply to him a Scottish saying which I am sure he will be able to interpret

[Senator Goldenberg.]

without any further help from me—Eugene Forsey, lang may your lum reek.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Senator Rowe: Honourable senators, at some other time I intend to make some reference to a number of former senators to whom tributes have been paid here today. However, I should just like to make one particular reference at this time to Senator Forsey.

One fact that has not come out in all of the references—and I would be derelict in my duty if I did not remind senators of it, as Senator Forsey has on many occasions reminded us and the public of Canada—is that Senator Forsey, while he spent most of his life on what we call the mainland of Canada, was born in Grand Bank, Newfoundland. He was a contribution that Newfoundland was able to make to Canada long before 1949. Needless to say, we Newfoundlanders are very proud of the contribution that he has made.

But, while being a great Canadian, he never forgot his origins, as we can testify. On many occasions when we had constitutional problems and we appealed to Senator Forsey for advice, he was always ready to give it. In fact, on at least one occasion when I was asked how many senators Newfoundland had, although I knew that under the Constitution we were entitled to six, I embarrassed myself by naming seven. Of course, one of the seven I named, not facetiously, was Senator Forsey. We always regarded him as being, in addition to a great Canadian, a great Newfoundlander.

On behalf of all Newfoundland senators and, indeed, on behalf of all the people of Newfoundland, I should like to express our appreciation of the great contribution that that distinguished scholar and humanitarian has made to Canada.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS IN GALLERY

DELEGATION FROM FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I should like to call your attention to the presence in the gallery of some distinguished guests of the Senate and the House of Commons of Canada, and I would ask you to give them a hearty welcome. They are the Honourable Dietrich Stobbe, President of the Bundesrat of the Federal Republic of Germany. Accompanying him is a person known to us all, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellency Erich Straetling. With them are distinguished counsellors of the Bundesrat, which is the equivalent in some ways of the Senate of Canada.

We welcome you, Your Excellency, to this chamber on this occasion.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.