

that house and that it will not be long before you become just as familiar with the rules of our house.

We were pleased with the way that you conducted the opening ceremonies of this the Twenty-Fifth Parliament of Canada, all of which augurs well for your happiness and success in the Chair.

May I say also that we are pleased that Mrs. White is with you, and we will look forward to happy associations with you, Mr. Speaker, and with Mrs. White during the life of this Parliament.

I take this opportunity to welcome the retiring Speaker (Hon. Mr. Drouin) who is now of the Privy Council, to the body of the Senate. He will find his seat here less comfortable than the one which he occupied in his more exalted position; but there will be some compensation, for instead of having to listen to speeches and make occasional interruptions, he will have the opportunity of making speeches himself and of listening to occasional interruptions, probably from this side of the house.

The Honourable Senator Drouin presided over the proceedings of this assembly in a dignified, impartial and pleasant manner, and at special Senate functions with a dignity and charm which brought credit to the Upper House. We wish him a long and happy life whether sitting to the right or to the left of the Honourable the Speaker.

Honourable senators, for the last four years we have had as Leader of the Government in this house a man learned in the law and also learned in our procedure, a knowledge gained from his long parliamentary experience, a man who never spoke on a subject unless he was prepared; courteous at all times, but whose ire would instantly be aroused if a statement was unfair, untrue, grossly exaggerated, or inaccurate.

For me it was a great privilege to have been his opposite number and I shall always cherish the memory of my happy association with him.

I refer, of course, to the Honourable Senator Aseltine, who had not only the respect but also the affection of all our members, and none of us was happy to learn of his decision to retire from his high office.

To him and to his helpmate, Mrs. Aseltine, who has endeared herself to us, we wish continued good health in our midst, where we are sure they will continue to play an active role for years to come.

Honourable senators, having lost one very good government leader, we are fortunate in having obtained for ourselves another. The new Leader of the Government in the Senate (Hon. Mr. Brooks) has been a good friend to most of us and a very close friend to many of

us. I sat in the House of Commons with him from 1935 until 1953. During that time our association developed into a close friendship; but in spite of that long friendship, so far as our political inclinations were concerned we remained as far apart as the poles.

The honourable leader can count on my co-operation in the carrying out of his heavy duties, which I am sure will be performed effectively and according to the well-established rules and principles adopted in both national and international spheres. He is well equipped for the heavy responsibilities he has assumed. We congratulate him and wish him well.

Honourable senators, I will not take the time of the house by referring personally to all newly-appointed senators; however, I should say a word of greeting to one who is with us for the first time and has been sworn in as a privy councillor. I refer to the honourable senator from Gormley (Hon. Mr. McCutcheon). During the last Parliament we were not fortunate enough to have a member of the Government in our midst, and when we wanted any information about the Government we went to the leader and he always obtained it for us. I do not know how he got his information, he never told us. From now on when we require such information we may request the Government Leader to obtain it, or if we want to bypass him we can go direct to the member of the Cabinet who is with us. When we have inquiries our only problem will be: shall we direct them to the Leader of the Government in this house or to the member of the Government in this house. The latter is a Minister without Portfolio, and from what I read in the press I gather that he is a very busy minister. Personally, I am satisfied that he is a minister of something, but I just cannot put my finger on what it is. The nearest I can come to describing his position is to say that he is a minister of intangible affairs.

Honourable senators, I also welcome the other new senators. I shall refer in a moment to the mover of the address (Hon. Mr. Haig) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Fournier). Perhaps I may be excused for extending a special greeting to Senator Grattan O'Leary, because when I first came to Parliament I found that my name appeared often in the *Ottawa Journal*, and I felt that this was of his doing. I have been grateful to him ever since, although I must say that during that period I would one day be delighted with what I read and another day I would not. However, I know we are all pleased to have him in our midst, and I am sure that his stay here will be pleasant to himself and profitable to the nation.

As I said before I shall not refer personally to the other newly-summoned senators.