

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald: Honourable senators, when Parliament was prorogued in September last little did we think that our honourable colleague, Aurel D. Léger, would not be with us today. We had known for some years of his uncertain health, but we did not realize that he was so critically ill. The announcement of his passing at the comparatively early age of 67 years was indeed unexpected.

Senator Léger was elected to the House of Commons in 1940, at which time I was also a member of that house. We continued our membership there together until 1953 when both of us were summoned to the Senate. Accordingly, we had, and continued to have, many interests in common, and in the light of our mutual experiences we frequently discussed the problems which arose from time to time in this chamber, and I never hesitated to look to him for advice. Having followed his career for thirteen years in the House of Commons and knowing something of his devotion to and his untiring, unselfish efforts on behalf of his constituents, I attached great weight to his opinions.

During the last few years, notwithstanding his failing health, his interest in the work of the Senate never slackened, and when his health permitted he was always to be found in his place, so devoted was he to his duty. During these last years it was a source of deep regret to him that his physical condition prevented him from taking a more active part in our proceedings but never did he shirk any duty which he was able to perform. Those of us who were close to him and had been associated with him over the years can say of him that he was a faithful friend and at all times loyal to the high ideals which motivated his life.

His passing will be a great loss to his loving wife and family, and I join with the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) in extending to them our deep sympathy.

May I now refer to our late colleague, the Honourable William Henry Golding, more familiarly known to us as Bill. He had not been well for some time but that was never obvious from any lack of devotion to his duties. Indeed, no senator has had a finer record of attendance and helpful, constructive participation in the work of the Senate than had our dearly beloved deceased member. To the end of his distinguished career, even when his health was rapidly deteriorating, he continued, without a word of complaint, dedicated to his parliamentary duties.

It was my privilege to become acquainted with Senator Golding when I was elected to the House of Commons in 1935. He was then

a member of that house. Our friendship increased over the years. It was also my good fortune that in 1945, when I was elected Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, he was elected Deputy Chairman of Committees of the Whole House. Though he had no legal training, he had had an unusually long term of office as mayor of the town of Seaforth, Ontario, and his experience in that office stood him in good stead in his more important office in the House of Commons. Indeed, he soon had a grasp of the rules of that house equal to that of any lawyer who has held that very responsible position. Over and above the letter of the law, he put a lot of good common sense into his rulings, which won the approval of members on both sides of the house. After coming to the Senate he continued to take a keen interest in the rules and in the proceedings of this chamber, and from time to time he was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House.

In debate Senator Golding's words caught and deserved the closest attention and respect from both sides of the house. This, and his unanimous choice as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, is perhaps the most sincere form of recognition that a member can achieve, and Senator Golding enjoyed it in full measure. We have indeed lost a true friend, and Canada has lost a great statesman and dedicated public servant.

On different occasions the late senator spoke to me of the members of his family and of his deep interest in their well-being. From what he said I know that their love and devotion to him were indeed equalled by his love and devotion to them. Honourable senators, I join with the members of this chamber in extending to them our deep sympathy.

(Translation):

Hon. Clarence J. Veniot: Honourable senators, as dean of the Acadian representatives in this house, I would like to add a few brief remarks to the tribute just rendered to our late colleague, the Honourable Senator Léger.

I had the opportunity to know him better than anyone in this house, because we occupied the same office in the House of Commons during the first five years following his election as the member for Kent, in New Brunswick. During that time, I had in our daily relations many opportunities of appreciating the true value of this gentleman whose behaviour was always unassuming. It is often said that the actions of a man always count more than his words, and, though our colleague may not have been a great speaker, I owe this tribute to his memory that he