

THE SENATE

Thursday, May 26, 1977

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.
Prayers.

THE LATE HONOURABLE THOMAS D'ARCY LEONARD

TRIBUTES

Hon. John J. Connolly: Honourable senators, before the business of the day is proceeded with, I should like to inform the Senate, those of my colleagues who do not already know, that our late colleague, Senator D'Arcy Leonard, died in Toronto yesterday.

Senator Leonard retired from the Senate on April 29, 1970, on his 75th birthday, so he was 82 at the time of his death. We do not as a rule pay tributes to members of the Senate on their death, if death is subsequent to their retirement from the Senate. But on this occasion I think it is highly appropriate to say something, because Senator Leonard, as all honourable senators who knew him would agree, was one of the very distinguished—the word is illustrious—members of this house. At the time he retired we said of him that he had four careers. He had been a soldier, a lawyer, a very distinguished businessman, and for 15 years a member of this Parliament.

One of his great contributions to the Senate was as Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance; but the general work of the chamber benefited greatly from the advice, judgment and sagacity of Senator Leonard. I remember that on one occasion he sponsored a bill which had to do with the closing of a hospital in Muskoka, I believe it was one which had been devoted to the care of patients suffering from tuberculosis. It was rather significant that Senator Leonard should sponsor that bill, since after the first World War he had been confined to that same hospital with tuberculosis. He spoke very effectively on that occasion about the great strides that had been made in the control of this disease, at one time thought to be so deadly as to be practically impossible to cure, to the point at which it was possible for the institution in question to be closed.

Senator Leonard was not only active in the business and professional life of the country, as well as in its public life, he was particularly effective in his native city of Toronto in work connected with its hospitals and universities, and, indeed, with the work of universities throughout Ontario.

On the occasion of his retirement Senator Flynn used what is, I think, a very telling phrase with regard to D'Arcy Leonard, when he called him "a total person". I think that all of us who knew him would agree that was indeed a very apt description of the man.

It would have been a great experience for the younger and newer members of this chamber to have known Senator Leonard. He has left many legacies here. On the occasion of his retirement, on April 23, 1970, he said this, if I might just quote one paragraph from his speech:

I have said before that I have been very proud to be a member of this chamber. I am a great believer in the second chamber in the federal institution, and have been ever since I first studied constitutional law. I leave it now, after nearly 15 years, believing that as far as the Senate of Canada is concerned it is a much stronger and more effective body than it has ever been. So, for whatever I may have tried to do in participating in its activities, I am certainly more than repaid by the feeling that this has been something well worth doing. It is something that is continuing in greater degree and, I hope, is of far greater importance to the Government of Canada than it has ever been in the past.

I called Senator Leonard on the occasion of his birthday, on April 29 last. I was not able to get him because he was playing golf. His final illness must have come very suddenly.

To his wife Lilian and to all the members of the family I am sure all of us extend our very deep sympathy.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Jacques Flynn: Honourable senators, I am deeply shocked and saddened at the news of the death of our former colleague, Senator Leonard. I only learned of it as I came into the chamber today. What I said at the time of his retirement bears repeating. Senator Leonard was a great senator. He was a civilized man. He was a gentleman, a gentleman in the sense of the 17th century French word "gentilhomme"; that is, a man who was concerned with all areas of activity.

As Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance he did a tremendous job, and he did it in a way which was always so charming as it was efficient. He did a lot for the Senate. He had a wonderful career. I am very sorry at his passing, and I join with Senator Connolly (Ottawa West) in offering his wife and his family the heartfelt condolences of the official opposition.

Hon. Hartland de M. Molson: Honourable senators, in January of 1956 thirteen new senators took their seats in this chamber, and among them was Senator Leonard. I was very pleased to be on that list. During the 15 years he was here I got to know him extremely well. I worked on several committees with him. I was for a while Deputy Chairman of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance, which he chaired so ably. I feel that his contribution to this chamber, and through it to this country, should not in any sense be