

THE SENATE

Friday, April 29, 1949

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

FELICITATIONS

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, before the doors are opened, I should like to indicate to honourable members of the Senate, and to the staff of the Senate, my appreciation of their kindness and courtesy to me during the time I have occupied the position of Speaker and "Président" of the Senate.

Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson: Honourable senators, I am sure that I am reflecting the views of honourable members of this house when I say a word of appreciation of the very great and distinguished services that have been rendered to the Senate of Canada by His Honour the Speaker, who for the past four years has presided over our deliberations with such grace and dignity.

It is the tradition and custom of the Senate that the Speaker shall change with each parliament; consequently this is probably the last sitting of this chamber over which His Honour will preside. During His Honour's term of office we have not only had the advantage of his long experience in public life and his wide knowledge of parliamentary practice, but we have had occasion to observe his personal charm and eminent sense of fairness, all of which have conspired to make his tenure of office one which I am sure every member of the Senate has enjoyed. As he steps down from the high office which he has held, and again resumes his place among us as an ordinary member of the Senate, I am sure that it is the wish of all that he may long be spared so that for many years to come we may continue to enjoy the great privilege of his friendship.

Hon. John T. Haig: In voicing my entire agreement with the words of the leader of the government in this house, I want in a very special way to express my appreciation, as leader of His Majesty's loyal opposition, of the unfailing kindness and generosity that His Honour the Speaker has extended not only to me but to my supporters during his term of office. I appreciate this very much indeed. Any opposition depends very largely for its success or failure on the attitude of the Speaker of the legislative body in which it functions, and you, Mr. Speaker, have fulfilled the highest traditions of your office;

sometimes I think you have leaned a little to our side in making your decisions, which was only proper in view of the fact that the majority could always get its own way in the end.

After fourteen years of service in this house, under a number of Speakers, I can say in truth that your fulfilment of the high office of Speaker of the Senate has been a joy and pride to all of us. May you be spared many years, as the leader of the government has just said, to live with us and among us. Whatever may happen in the future, we will never forget your unfailing courtesy and fair play during the years you have presided over this house.

Hon. T. A. Crerar: Honourable senators, as an old colleague of His Honour the Speaker in a government of former days, I gladly join my voice to those of the leader of the government and the leader of the opposition in the well-deserved tributes they have paid to His Honour, who has presided with so much dignity and fairness over our deliberations during the last four years. Only today I was walking with His Honour in the corridor on the sixth floor, and we were comparing our political experiences in the years that have gone. I thought I had a pretty good record in battling through elections, but I discovered that His Honour had been through almost twice as many campaigns, provincial and federal, as I had seen.

According to the tradition of the House, a new Speaker may preside over our deliberations after the coming election. It is fitting, therefore, at this time that we should mark the occasion by expressing appreciation to His Honour and in this way let him know the esteem in which we hold him. May the years ahead for him be always pleasant and happy years.

Hon. J. G. Turgeon: Honourable senators, I take the liberty of joining in the tribute to His Honour the Speaker as he nears the end of his term of office. I am taking this privilege because both he and I are in this chamber as representatives from British Columbia and were both born in the Province of New Brunswick. I have had the honour and the pleasure of knowing His Honour and of working intimately with him since before he became a member of the Canadian Parliament in 1921. The chief thing I wish to say today does not so much concern the general success which has attended his efforts for the public good as it does the fact that in reaching every objective he has always been guided very definitely by a strong moral sense of right and wrong.

I know that every senator from British Columbia would wish to join in this tribute,