

Senator Asselin, I wish you and your family a successful, interesting, challenging, joyful future.

**Hon. Martial Asselin:** Honourable senators, you will understand that I am very touched by your tributes on my departure. I am very sorry to leave.

I had a decision to make and I told the Prime Minister that I will serve Canada as Lieutenant Governor of Quebec.

Honourable senators, I spent nearly thirty years of my life here in Parliament. My political career has had its ups and downs, but I leave with the feeling that I fulfilled my responsibilities as a parliamentarian to the best of my ability.

Both in the other place and in this Chamber, I have taken part in important discussions on political, economic and social issues. Whatever they may say about the Senate, I think the most crucial debate this country has ever known took place right here, when we had the debate on the patriation of the Canadian Constitution. Journalists were unanimous in applauding the substance and essence of this debate, and it all happened right here in the Senate.

Of course, at the time the tone was less partisan and perhaps more objective. It is a fact that the opposition did not have the majority it has today. It is also true that it is sometimes tempting to abuse the power one has as the majority. That being said, the Senate has its place in the Canadian system, among our Canadian institutions. I believe our bicameral system must be maintained. For the sake of increasing our credibility, I am sure not many senators would object to changing the way senators are appointed.

Honourable senators, I was very much affected by recent events the Canadian political scene. We had a chance to remedy an injustice. Unfortunately, we failed. You will understand that as a result, my task will be far more difficult and delicate. I have always believed that what made Canada great was the fact that its two English and French majorities, with mutual respect for each others' rights and obligations, came together, with dignity, to govern this country. One will never be able to survive without the other. We are now on the edge of an abyss. It is up to you and up to me to meet this challenge.

[*English*]

I want to assure my English colleagues that I will cherish an excellent souvenir of my relations with them. Although it has sometimes been difficult, I have always respected the arguments of my opponents, even when I did not share their views. But today the future of this country is in your hands. Being people of honour, I am sure you will take the necessary steps to correct the present situation. I thank you, dear colleagues, for your cooperation and friendship.

[*Translation*]

I also wish to thank all my friends from my own party who always supported me in joy as well as in sorrow. And my thanks to you, Mr. Speaker for your unfailing courtesy. You gave me your trust when I assisted you as Speaker *pro tempore*. Thanks to your aptitudes and your good judgment, our work could go on without too many disputes. I will attempt

to represent the Crown in Quebec with compassion and dedication. The social groups in need of encouragement will find a real ally in me.

I will bring to the political situation which seems to evolve at tremendous speed all my attention and my 30 years of experience in politics and constitutional affairs.

Honourable senators, I have faith in Canada. I love my country but Quebec has a special place in my heart and I would not like to see it hurt further in the realization of its destiny.

Thank you.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear!

**THE HONOURABLE JACQUES FLYNN, P.C.  
THE HONOURABLE MARGARET ANDERSON  
THE HONOURABLE CYRIL B. SHERWOOD  
THE HONOURABLE MARTIAL ASSELIN, P.C.**

TRIBUTE ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR RETIREMENT

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State (Federal-Provincial Relations)):** Honourable senators, if, as scheduled, we adjourn today for the summer, three of our colleagues will have sat for the last time, since they will reach seventy five years of age before we return.

I would like to pay tribute to these three colleagues of ours in a single speech. I will start with the honourable Jacques Flynn, senator for Rougemont, who was leader of the Progressive Conservative Party in this House from 1967 to 1984, leader of the opposition most of the time, but also leader of the Government, and Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada in the Clark government in 1979-1980.

Such were his cleverness and the respect he earned from his conservative colleagues and from our Party's national leaders that his leadership was never questioned.

Conservative senators knew they had in Jacques Flynn a leader of sound judgment and a very wise man that they could trust.

● (1430)

[*English*]

Much can and will be said of the passion and eloquence he has brought to our debates. There has been no livelier, no more stimulating, no more spontaneous, and sometimes no more provocative presence in this chamber than that of Senator Jacques Flynn.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.!

**Senator Murray:** Truly, the Senate will be a duller place without him. Think how forlorn will be Senator Denis and Senator Guay without Senator Flynn. He is a Québécois through and through, but we have all seen and heard the Irish in him, and have marvelled at what a wonderful combination is made of French and Irish.

There are, however, several other aspects of his career, especially of his career in Parliament, that should be noted today, because they are more important and more definitive of