

*The late Dr. W. G. Blair*

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, all of us in the house, the new members who did not know him as well as those of us who did, will share the feeling of sadness that at the very opening of a new parliament we should be paying tribute to one of the members who enjoyed and deserved the respect of everyone in the previous parliaments in which he sat. I think it is one of the finest attributes of our parliamentary system that we can differ with one another about public questions and still retain respect, esteem and affection for one another as members of the human family.

In the case of Dr. Blair we know that he was one of those members who was deeply loyal to his own party, who worked hard in its interests but was never an extreme partisan, and I think we would all agree with what the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) has said about him. As a consequence we all know that he enjoyed in more than large measure the regard of his fellow members in all parties in this house.

On behalf of the official opposition I should like to extend to the Prime Minister and to his colleagues our sincere sympathy in the loss of one who would have contributed to their strength in this house had he been spared to continue his service among us. On behalf of our party I should like to join with the Prime Minister in expressing to Mrs. Blair, to their son and daughter, and to all the members of the family, our very deep sympathy in their bereavement.

**Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, I am quite sure that all members of the house will agree with what the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. St. Laurent) have said regarding the late Dr. Blair. Those of us who sat in the house with him for some years look upon the loss as a personal one. When a member fell ill, Dr. Blair, like other medical men in this chamber, was immediately able to render assistance to the suffering member. Dr. Blair sat very close to me—just across the way; consequently I got to know him very well. Indeed, I might say that I had not only a high regard for him but I came to have affection for him, as many of us had. When he passed away so suddenly it was a reminder, of course, that even a medical man who attends members of parliament suffering from the diseases which ultimately take them away was perhaps unaware of the condition in which he himself was.

I wish to join the Leader of the Opposition in expressing to the government and the members of the late Dr. Blair's party our sincere sympathy in the loss that they have

sustained. I noted the Prime Minister said that had Dr. Blair lived a little longer his great ability might have been recognized to a greater extent than it was hitherto. I noted, too, at the time that the shock must have been very great to his family. I noticed that his wife suffered an attack almost immediately. May I express sympathy to his wife and to his family and also the hope that Mrs. Blair has fully recovered her health and that time will heal the loss she must have sustained in the passing of Dr. Blair.

**Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, it seems that all too frequently we are called upon to pause in our activities in this house to pay tribute to a deceased member. It seems to me it indicates the strenuous nature of the work that has to be undertaken by those who stand for election to this House of Commons.

It has been some months now since the shock of the news of Dr. Blair's death came to us, but I am sure it will be a long time before our deep appreciation of his many fine qualities is in any way dulled. Dr. Blair was one of those members about whom almost everything good could be said. It is therefore no problem whatever to pay tribute to him in the very highest terms and to do it honestly.

We concur in what has already been said about him. However, I would like to add this. In my judgment he was a good representative of his people; he was a good parliamentarian; he was a trusted and valued friend; and above all he was a gentleman who was always kind, considerate and very, very helpful. On behalf of the party that I have the privilege to lead I express to the Prime Minister and his party our sympathy in their great loss, and to his widow and the members of the family left behind our very sincere sympathy and our prayers that time will heal the shock and the wounds and will sublimate their sorrow into most beautiful memories.

**Mr. W. H. McMillan (Welland):** I rise to pay tribute to an old friend, the late member for Lanark. I think I possibly knew him longer than did any other member in this house. We were in the same medical year at Queen's University; we graduated together, went overseas with the Canadian Army Medical Corps and returned and took post-graduate courses together in the city of New York. We were returned home from France within a day or two of each other and I met him at the demobilization centre in Kingston, Ontario. There I introduced him to one of the nursing sisters of the unit to which I was attached. She was that gracious lady, Miss Grace Moore, who became Mrs. Blair the