

asked him to organize recreational projects in the neighbourhood.

Until the day he died, Jean-Claude was still a member of the union in his factory, released from his job to help the people in the neighbourhood.

Confronted with the tremendous needs of a community with very limited resources, the sports and recreation organizer quickly turned into a community worker.

After years of work and dedication to the needs of his fellow citizens in East Montreal, Jean-Claude finally embarked on a long and successful political career. First in the Quebec National Assembly, where he served for one term, and subsequently here on the federal scene since 1979.

Mr. Speaker, Jean-Claude Malépart worked in this House for more than ten years. Never on the front benches, he was always just an ordinary Member. However, his impact vastly exceeds and for a long time will continue to exceed the usual range of the average member. The fact is, Jean-Claude Malépart was not an average member. Throughout his adult life, he provided the weak, the needy, the elderly and the sick with a voice, motivation and pride. To him, politics was a vocation, a calling. As the altar boy who demanded wage parity for his fellow workers and as the thundering orator who was able to make a government retreat, Jean-Claude Malépart was always guided by the same acute and aggressive sense of social justice.

His approach to justice and equity was not theoretical or philosophical. He was totally instinctive, dynamic and marvelously effective.

"When I see injustice", he said, "I don't know why, but I always feel I have to do something to correct it". For him, to see poverty and get angry about it was not enough. He had to take action and do everything humanly possible to find a remedy. His philosophy was very straightforward. It is not enough to condemn injustice. We must do something about it. Actions speak louder than words.

It was this militant, active and resolute approach that made him lead honourable battles such as the fight against deindexation of old age security pensions, his campaign "Tax food: Never!" and the last one, "Let's invest in our health!". These will remain forever, not

only in the political history of our country but above all in the hearts and minds of millions of Canadians.

[English]

Jean-Claude Malépart's vision of our country was one of justice and equality. He was a proud son of Quebec. By choice, he wanted also to be thoroughly Canadian. His roots and his first loyalty was his home province, but in the 1980 referendum, he fought and fought hard to convince Quebecers that they should also choose Canada.

In his last speech to this House of Commons in April 1989, he begged English-speaking Canada to look at reality as it is and to recognize that Quebec is a distinct society. He was worried about the future of his two daughters. Jean-Claude said that Quebec wants to take its place in Canada adding, and I quote what he said to the House, "We want the assurance that in Quebec, my children will be able to continue to work in French.

[Translation]

A man who, in his youth, dreamed of wearing the uniform of the Canadiens, finally carried the torch of dedication, royalty and pride, not for a hockey club but for an entire people.

• (1510)

Just as Maurice Richard was the idol of his youth and of a generation of Canadians, Jean-Claude was an inspiration, to us and to all who want to serve their fellow citizens and help defend the less fortunate in our society. They now know that by following the example of Jean-Claude Malépart, they can make the difference. They can change things to make our society fairer and more equitable. Time and time again he showed us the value of being loyal, loyal to one's roots, language, neighbourhood, city and friends.

Personally, I had the honour of being a friend of Jean-Claude Malépart, and I had the privilege of enjoying his perfect loyalty. Of course, he often rocked the boat. He didn't always agree. And he said so loud and clear. But, when it came down to the crunch, he was always there, solid as an oak, ready to help, like a friend and brother.

If there was one spot in the world where Jean-Claude would have wished to be more often, it was with his wife Pierrette and his daughters Sylvie and Nathalie. "My family", he said, "is my inspiration and support. I have said so over and over again: Without the support, advice