

THE HONOURABLE ROBERT RENÉ DE COTRET, P.C.

TRIBUTES ON RESIGNATION FROM SENATE

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I rise to address myself to the resignation of Senator Robert René de Cotret from this chamber. Although he was with us for only a brief period of time, it has to be said in candour that he gave unstintingly of his talent and considerable abilities and added to the debates, proceedings and achievements of this house. We on this side genuinely regret that he will not be here and will not be serving on the opposition side in this Parliament.

While the electoral events of recent weeks have altered the seating positions of a number of us in this chamber, I wish to say that we on this side look forward to working with the loyal opposition for the good of the nation. These are not easy times for Canada, and while invested with the responsibility of government, the present Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition acted in the best parliamentary tradition. They observed meticulously the traditions and practices which have built this great parliamentary system. I thank them for their courtesy to me when I was Leader of the Opposition in this place, and I pledge to them courtesy and co-operation in kind during the important time ahead.

[Translation]

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, the absence of Robert René de Cotret in this house is felt more I think on this side of the House than anywhere else.

As the Leader of the Government pointed out, during the time he sat here in his capacity as Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of State for Economic Development, I think he showed exceptional qualities which were appreciated by all. I remember certain remarks made by senators on the other side of the house which indicate indeed the admiration and respect our colleague de Cotret was able to win.

It is unfortunate that the loss of the Senate did not become the gain of the House of Commons, first because he had been blamed, of course, when he had been defeated in the 1979 election, for coming here to the Senate and not having any credibility as a minister. That is the kind of cruelty you are exposed to in political life. That is unfortunate, I would say less for him because how many people, how many corporations, how many institutions will want to avail themselves of his services.

However, the loss suffered by Parliament will hopefully be repaired by other more favourable circumstances. To me, the defeat of de Cotret during the February 18 election was the greatest hardship of all; that the government should have been defeated, I had anticipated. I was expecting it. It is the tradition of this country that the Liberals always be in power and that the Conservative Party be given only a little time to try and make you think. I do not think you had enough time this time.

[Senator Hicks.]

I regret the defeat of Robert René de Cotret for my party, but I regret it particularly for the Parliament of Canada, and for my country.

● (1420)

[English]

LORI ANN LALLOUET

TRIBUTES TO FORMER PAGE

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I should like to pay tribute to a person well known to many of us, a former servant of this house, the late Lori Ann Lallouet.

May I say that we are well served in this chamber by the pages. They are fine young people.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Senator Perrault: As honourable senators know, many of our pages serve here as a prelude to careers in public life and public service. All of them are interested in improving their training skills and acquiring education. Many work assiduously to further that education.

No page has ever served us better than Lori Ann Lallouet, who died tragically in an automobile accident on December 29, 1979. Known to all of us, she was the senior female page in this house. She was efficient and cheerful, and well liked. She was unfailingly conscientious in everything she did.

One wonders why a fine life like Lori's, with so much to offer her country, was taken at such a young age. Lori was a graduate of the University of Ottawa, having obtained an honours degree in public administration and a degree in labour-management relations. She was working on her master's degree in public administration, looking forward to a fine career in public service.

We regret deeply her passing and we offer heartfelt condolences to her family—Lori was the only child. Our prayers go with them at this very difficult time.

[Translation]

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): I wish to echo the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the Government in the Senate.

It is really tragic to see such a young girl die when her life is just beginning. Of course, this is not a unique occurrence, but such events are always very cruel.

I wish to offer to the family of our devoted page the sincere condolences of all members of the opposition.

[English]

DOCUMENTS TABLED

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government) tabled:

Capital Budget of Air Canada for the year ending December 31, 1980, pursuant to section 70(2) of the *Financial Administration Act*, Chapter F-10, R.S.C.,