

Dedication of St. Laurent monument



A statue of the late Louis St. Laurent, former Prime Minister of Canada, was unveiled by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in Ottawa on October 15.

The dedication ceremony, held in front of the Supreme Court Building in an area now designated St. Laurent Place, was attended by an estimated 500 onlookers among whom were members of the family, Governor-General Jules Léger, former Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, Speaker of the Senate Renaude Lapointe, Speaker of the House of Commons James Jerome, Mrs. Lester B. Pearson, Cabinet ministers, Members of Parliament, members of the diplomatic corps and the mayors of Quebec City, Ottawa and Compton, Quebec, where Mr. St. Laurent was born. The sculptor, Elek Imredy of Vancouver, was also present.

Louis Stephen St. Laurent, born in 1882 of French-Canadian and Irish-Canadian parentage, was 66 years old when he became Prime Minister in 1948. He remained in office until 1957. A lawyer by profession, he was president of the Canadian Bar Association from 1930-32 and was its honorary life president. In 1941 Mr. St. Laurent was

appointed Minister of Justice and Attorney General and, in 1946, he became Secretary of State for External Affairs.

It was at the Liberal convention called in 1948 to select a successor to retiring leader Mackenzie King that Mr. St. Laurent was chosen, and, on November 15 that year, he became Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council. Following the defeat of his Government in the general election of June 10, 1957, Mr. St. Laurent and his Cabinet resigned but he continued as leader of the Opposition during the Twenty-Third Parliament.

He retired from active politics in 1958 and died in 1973 at the age of 91.

Tribute by Mr. Trudeau

Prime Minister Trudeau, paying tribute to Mr. St. Laurent after the unveiling of the statue said:

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"There was nothing in the background of Louis St. Laurent, lawyer, which would seem to foreshadow his entry into politics or his eventual assumption of the leading role in government. But at an age when most men are thinking of retirement he took on the responsibilities of high office and embarked on one of the finest political careers in our history.

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"It was only out of duty that Louis St. Laurent took the first step which would lead him so far, involve him for so long and demand so much of his energy and himself. It was out of duty that he responded the first time to Mackenzie King's call to succeed Ernest Lapointe as Minister of Justice and leader of French Canada. Later, again out of duty, he accepted the External Affairs portfolio that his leader pressed upon him. And finally, out of duty once more, he yielded to the wishes of Mackenzie King who saw him as his successor, and he became Prime Minister of Canada.

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"Deeply patriotic, he had an unalloyed sense of belonging to Canada. In this we find the explanation of his almost religious concern for Canadian unity. For this ideal he never hesitated in risking his prestige, his popularity or his electoral interests. And the people, in whom he had confidence, justified his faith. His courage and his

loyalty to duty were a lesson and a salutary influence throughout the nation. His actions on the international stage were guided by the same enlightened and moral point of view. His name is enduringly linked with initiatives which still protect the Western world and contribute to world peace.

"Thoroughly Canadian, an exemplary citizen, a politician in the best sense — Louis St. Laurent earned universal recognition and admiration. May this monument which I have the honour of unveiling keep alive the memory of the Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent and remind us of the signal virtues that were his."

Canada elected to United Nations Security Council

Canada, West Germany, India, Venezuela and Mauritius were elected to the UN Security Council in New York on October 21, to serve from January 1, 1977 to the end of 1978.

With the election, Canada became the first non-permanent Western nation to be chosen for a fourth term on the Council, which is composed of five permanent and ten non-permanent members. Canada served previously in 1948-49, 1958-59 and 1967-68.

William Barton, Canada's Permanent Representative to the UN will be the representative on the Council. Prior to his present appointment in August, Mr. Barton was for four years the Canadian Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva and also to



William Barton, Canada's representative on the UN Security Council.