THE SENATE

Tuesday, December 1, 1964

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

CANADA PENSION PLAN

JOINT COMMITTEE—CHANGE IN COMMONS MEMBERS

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons stating that the name of Mr. Marcoux has been substituted for that of Mr. Olson on the Joint Committee on the Canada Pension Plan.

HON. JEAN-FRANCOIS POULIOT

FELICITATIONS ON FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY IN PARLIAMENT

Hon. John J. Connolly: Honourable senators, today is an important milestone in the history of the Parliament of Canada, because on December 1, 1924 a young man was elected to the House of Commons of Canada. He was re-elected in 1925 and 1926, in 1930 and 1935, in 1940 and 1945, in 1949 and in 1953. In July 1955 he was summoned to the Senate.

I should say too that with this tremendous record of continuous service in both Houses of Parliament, he succeeded a great-grandfather, a grandfather and father, all of whom had been members either of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Quebec or the House of Commons of Canada. This is truly a remarkable record of public service. I am, of course, referring to the distinguished senator from Rivière-du-Loup, the electoral district of Témiscouata, the Honourable Jean-François Pouliot.

Senator Pouliot's record has been surpassed only by that of one other of our colleagues, to whose record we will have an opportunity to refer on another occasion: I am sure all honourable senators would wish me to extend our best wishes to our good friend Senator Pouliot.

Hon. A. J. Brooks: Honourable senators, I have just been notified of this very interesting event and I cannot sit idly by without saying a few words.

For quite a number of years I had the great honour and privilege of sitting in the House of Commons with my colleague Jean-François Pouliot, and now we are together in the Senate.

Forty years is a long time. I might say it

in the wilderness. He should have been over here with the Conservative party, where he really belongs. He has made a wonderful success of his parliamentary life, succeeding, as he did, such illustrious ancestors.

I do not know of any member of Parliament who has worked harder than our good friend Senator Pouliot. While he has made a great contribution, I have not always agreed with everything he has said or with everything he has done. However, I am sure that he has always been sincere and that he has made a great impression on the Parliament of Canada. I wish him many more years to continue with us in that capacity.

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald: Honourable senators, it would appear that this is the season for extending felicitations to those who are celebrating anniversaries. Yesterday Winston Churchill celebrated his 90th birthday, and today we are rejoicing with Senator Pouliot on the occasion of his fortieth year in Parliament. I take the occasion to draw attention to the fact that one of our very charming lady senators from the Province of Quebec celebrated a birthday on Sunday last. I would add of course that her appearance belies the number of years which she has attained.

Hon. Jean-François Pouliot: Honourable senators, I thank very warmly the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Connolly, Ottawa West), the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Brooks), and my former leader, honourable Senator Macdonald (Brantford), for their extremely kind wishes. I was taken by surprise because I did not expect that the fortieth anniversary of my first election to the Commons would be mentioned tonight.

You have all been very good to me. In thanking you I wish to take this occasion to tell you that I consider it a great honour to be a member of the Senate of Canada, and I have never missed an opportunity to inform our fellow citizens of the excellent work being done by my colleagues of the Senate.

Honourable colleagues, you have been kind to me in different ways; you have always listened to me and you have often nodded your approval of various points I have made. I understand very well that it is difficult for you to agree with me on everything, but I have gratefully received your approval individually and separately on nearly every matter that I have discussed before you.

If I have been a member for Temiscouata County for 31 years, I owe it to the fact that my great-grandfather, my grandfather and my father were faithful servants of the people. I tried to imitate them as well as is a long time for him to have been travelling I could. If I was elected the first time not