

ments. Only after the passage of considerable time will this country realize the full value of all the contributions he made.

• (1030)

Certainly, it is fitting that all of us who knew him and were privileged to work with him should publicly recognize his great contribution. I appreciate this opportunity to add my word of personal tribute to what has already been said.

THE LATE HONOURABLE GEORGE ALEXANDER DREW TRIBUTES TO FORMER PREMIER OF ONTARIO

Hon. Allister Grosart: Honourable senators, in this sad climate of national mourning for our former Prime Minister the unhappy task falls to me of voicing what, I am sure, is the sorrow of all members of the Senate at the calling away in the dark hours before today's dawn of another great Canadian and distinguished former member of this Parliament, the Honourable George Drew.

The Honourable Mr. Drew was known to many members of the Senate personally. Some served with him, I know, in the House of Commons when he was Leader of the Opposition, and at least one honourable senator was a member of the Ontario Legislature while he was Premier of Ontario. He was a man of many facets. His fine-filmed minu made it inevitable that his interests would range over many of the arts as well as the affairs of men. I think we all agree that wherever he applied himself he distinguished himself, and rose to a position of eminence.

He was a great Canadian soldier. He served as a gunnery officer in the First World War, and was wounded. His interest in Canada's defence continued, and he rose to the rank of full colonel.

He was Mayor of Guelph, member of the provincial Legislature and a member of the House of Commons. He held the rare distinction of having served Canada at all three levels of government in positions of importance and eminence.

He became Premier of Ontario in 1943. His government was re-elected in 1945, and again in 1948. At that time it was said of him that he was the only Conservative in this century who had returned to power a Conservative government in three successive elections.

Honourable senators will recall that he became the federal Leader of the Conservative Party in 1948, and was Leader of His Majesty's Official Opposition from 1949 to 1956. He served with great distinction, winning the respect, I am sure, of both those who sat beside him and those who sat opposite him. He was a fighter; a man of high principles—principles to which he held with more tenacity, perhaps, than most of us are inclined to do, and for which he was at times criticized. However, I think in the long run the record will show that George Drew's staunchness to his principles was one of the most distinguishing marks of his greatness.

He was a man of strong convictions and he stood by his convictions. Some might say that on that account he made enemies. I do not think so. He had adversaries, opponents—many of them—but if the time were opportune I could bear witness to more than one occasion when

George Drew extended a generous helping hand to more than one of those, who, according to the news media, might have been regarded as his bitterest enemies.

He was a warm man, although he had an innate shyness that prevented him to some extent from showing his warmth. He was not a man who could wear his heart on his sleeve, but I know that to his family and to his friends the warmth of his heart and spirit was always apparent.

After his retirement from the leadership of the Official Opposition he served with great distinction under both Conservative and Liberal governments as Canada's High Commissioner in London. Time will tell, when contemporary memoirs are written, of some of his very important achievements there, particularly in matters concerning the international law of the sea and other delicate matters of high international diplomacy in which he was our representative.

He is gone from us, honourable senators, but I am sure you would wish that on your behalf I extend to his wife and the family he has left behind our appreciation of his great service to Canada, and our sympathy with them in this hour of sorrow.

Hon. Paul Martin: Honourable senators, the death this morning of the Honourable George Drew not only saddens us but brings home to each and every one of us the finiteness of man. It is almost ironic that his death should follow so closely that of Mike Pearson, for in spite of their political differences, and the different roles they occupied in the public life of our country, they were close and understanding friends.

[*Translation*]

I can certainly tell the Leader of the Opposition that his party had in George Drew a leader who fully understood the complexities of our federation and who, because of his contributions, is always to be considered as a very great Canadian.

[*English*]

George Drew was obviously a man greatly interested in the political affairs of his country, his province, and his municipality. He loved Guelph, where he was born, and where his distinguished father-in-law, Edward Johnson, had risen to prominence. He was a mayor and an alderman of the City of Guelph. He became a court official, serving in the role of Master at Osgoode Hall. He became a member of the Ontario Legislature. He was a civil servant, head of the Ontario Securities Commission. He became a member of the Government of the Province of Ontario, and its leader, succeeding the dynamic and charismatic Mitch Hepburn.

George Drew became the Leader of the Progressive Party at what I think would generally be regarded as a difficult period for that party, which has so richly contributed to our national and political life.

• (1040)

It is not a reflection on those who preceded him or on those who have succeeded him, but it is a tragedy, that illness took him almost at the moment of what might have been an important decision by the Canadian people.

Those of us who served in the House of Commons during his eight years of leadership will not forget that he