

It has occurred to me that Henry Hicks would have been right at home in the ancient Roman Senate, the original Senate, where they gathered the most distinguished elder statesmen of the land to share legislative responsibility with the popular assemblies. Certainly his appointment to the Canadian Senate by Prime Minister Trudeau in 1972 brought honour to this place, because he had already had a career of great achievement and of illustrious service to his country. And so it has continued for Henry Hicks during his 18 years as a member of the Parliament of Canada.

He had been a brilliant student, a Rhodes Scholar, a soldier and officer who had seen overseas service during World War II, a lawyer, a respected politician, a minister of the Crown, Premier of Nova Scotia, Leader of the Opposition in that province, distinguished educator, President of Dalhousie University, senator and sportsman. His achievements have been acclaimed, and deservedly so, and recognized in numerous honorary degrees from Canadian universities and in his investiture as a Companion of the Order of Canada in 1970.

Senator MacEachen mentioned a few moments ago some of Senator Hicks's interests and hobbies, one of which he pursues, it appears, not only for fun but also for profit. A few years ago Senator Hicks made a speech in Annapolis Royal about the importance of hobbies in life: "If it hadn't been for my hobbies," he said, "I couldn't have enjoyed my work as I did. They give me a great deal of refreshment and refurbishment." He is, as I said, known as an avid fisherman, stamp collector and craftsman. As a matter of fact, the Senate has benefited from his craftsmanship. We have had here a Black Rod that came from a piece of Brazilian redwood that Senator Hicks crafted in the basement of his Halifax home. That Black Rod was used for the first time to summon members of the House of Commons to hear the Speech from the Throne delivered by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on October 18, 1977.

Many of us have worked closely with Senator Hicks in this place and in the committees of the Senate, and all of us have, I am sure, our own recollections of his contributions to the deliberations of the Senate and of Parliament. I recall several speeches on education that he has given here, one in particular in 1983, that were as forward looking as they were authoritative. I recall serving, as several honourable senators here did, under his leadership of a delegation from the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate that visited the Middle East in 1983; I well recall how proud I was, and how proud we all were, of the way in which Senator Hicks spoke on our behalf, and, indeed, on behalf of Canada, in meetings with kings, princes, presidents and prime ministers in half a dozen countries of the Middle East during that tour. On the same tour of the Middle East I also recall observing with considerable pleasure Senator Hicks exchanging with our hosts views on military strategy on the Golan Heights, from the point of view, as he told them, of an old artillery man. Our hosts were taking very careful note of Senator Hicks's observations.

[Senator Murray.]

• (1410)

His work as a member and, later, as chairman of the Special Senate Committee on National Defence was in many ways, I am sure, a labour of love for him. He picked up the torch left by our late and esteemed colleague, Senator Paul Lafond, and under Senator Hicks's leadership the committee completed its work in a way that I am sure would have made Paul Lafond very proud.

Senator Hicks's interest in defence policy and his concern for collective security is well known. However, he is no war-monger; he is not even a hawk. I recall very well an emotional and touching intervention that he made in this chamber on the occasion of the Armistice Day observances a couple of years ago, during which he recalled school friends and college friends of his who had gone to war and not come back. At that time he shared with us some of his recollections of wartime service and of his late comrades in the wartime armed services. Senator Hicks has much in common with so many others who have known war intimately and who are often the most dedicated and determined peacemakers.

Honourable senators, for having contributed so much to this place over the past 18 years and for having served his country with such verve, skill and dedication for so long, Senator Hicks has earned the respect and gratitude of all of his colleagues and of all Canadians. Needless to say, he has also splendidly earned the right to devote more time to his many hobbies, and we can all rejoice that his obvious vigour and good health point to the long, active and happy retirement we wish for him and his new bride.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Hon. H.A. Olson: Honourable senators, I want to be brief but no less sincere because of such brevity. My good wishes are offered on a perhaps more personal basis, having sat next to Senator Hicks for the past several years, and also having been involved with him in a number of rather important international meetings where he and I were both trying to represent the Senate of Canada's point of view.

I want to say that it has been a very pleasant experience to have sat next to someone who is so intelligent, has such a wide spectrum of interests, and has been so pleasant. I want to say that it has indeed been a pleasure to be involved with Senator Hicks over the past 14 years.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Hon. Heath Macquarrie: Honourable senators, I am delighted and honoured to join those who have already spoken about the attributes of our departing colleague. I noted that the two Cape Bretoners who spoke dilated upon how much money Senator Hicks made out of his philately. If there is any difference between a Prince Edward Islander and a Cape Bretoner, that demonstrates it exactly. The Cape Bretoner would get right to the bawbees, the first thing, whereas some of the rest of us would think of his great internationalism and his interests in all of these artistic creations that the stamp-makers have produced.