

THE SENATE

Wednesday, October 24, 1962

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

THE LATE JOHN T. HAIG, P.C., Q.C.

TRIBUTE

Hon. Walter M. Aseltine: Honourable senators will no doubt have heard of the death yesterday of John T. Haig, P.C., Q.C. after a very long illness. He will be remembered by honourable senators as the Leader of the Opposition in this chamber from 1945 to 1957, and as Leader of the Government for one session during which he was also a member of the Cabinet without portfolio.

He resigned his seat in the Senate in January, 1962 on account of poor health which prevented his being present in his seat in the Senate.

It has not been the custom, honourable senators, for us to pay tribute to the memory of a person who at the time of his death was not a member of the Senate, but in view of the fact that John T. Haig was a senator for nearly twenty-seven years, during which time he took a very prominent part in the work of the Senate, and particularly in view of the fact that his son, the honourable senator from River Heights, has succeeded him and is now a member of this chamber, I, with the leave of the Senate, should like to say something about the late senator. I know I speak on behalf of all honourable senators present and with your approval.

John T. Haig was born in Ontario but at an early age settled in the province of Manitoba, where he received his public school, high school and university education. Both he and I graduated from the University of Manitoba, but he graduated some nine or ten years before I did.

I began to be well acquainted with John T. Haig about the year 1909. That was the year in which I graduated, and I immediately became articulated as a law student in Winnipeg. From that time on I knew him as a distinguished lawyer, a man who made a great success of his profession and built up a big practice in Winnipeg.

I knew him as a sportsman, particularly as a curler. We curled many games together after he came to Ottawa. I remember his playing the third position for me on many weekends at the Ottawa Curling Club and the Rideau Curling Club. In addition he was for many years

chairman of the Macdonald Brier Curling Trophy and we frequently attended the dominion curling championships together.

I also remember John T. Haig as a politician. He was active in politics for over fifty years, not only in his native province of Manitoba but in the federal field.

On Wednesday last the honourable senator from Carleton (Hon. Mr. O'Leary) described himself as a party man, a partisan and a Conservative without prefix or qualification. Honourable senators, that description also fitted John T. Haig to a "T"—and he never faltered.

As honourable senators are no doubt aware, I was also well acquainted with our deceased colleague as a senator. I believe that almost from the time I became a senator I have been a member of the Standing Committee on Divorce. For quite a number of years I was chairman of the committee, and John T. Haig, during that time, as well as at other times, was of valuable help to me. He was deputy chairman of my committee for a number of years, and between us we disposed of many thousands of petitions.

John T. Haig became Leader of the Opposition in the Senate in 1945, and continued in that office until 1957. During his term of office I sat beside him in the front row, and in his absence I was acting Leader of the Opposition. He became Leader of the Government in the Senate when the administration changed after the 1957 election, at which time I also sat with him in the front row and in his absence was acting Leader of the Government.

During the twenty-seven years that John T. Haig was a senator he performed outstanding public service. He was highly thought of and made many warm friends.

Honourable senators, I hold in my hand a telegram I have just received from his son, Senator Campbell Haig, in which he states that his father's funeral will take place at 1.30 p.m. on Saturday, October 27, and he requests me to go to Winnipeg and be present as an honorary pallbearer.

I am sure all honourable senators would wish me to express to the five children and other relatives of our late colleague your sincere regrets and deepest sympathy. May I say that my wife will accompany me and we will do our best to represent the Senate at the funeral.

DOCUMENTS TABLED

Hon. A. J. Brooks tabled:

Report to Parliament of the Civil Service Commission on positions excluded in whole or in part from the operation of