

comments were always a tremendous source of interest, and his ability was appreciated by all.

It is amazing that quite often, although not always, able people are modest. He was a rare combination of both. No member of this house was better liked during his years here than Eric himself.

His lovely wife came from a distinguished Newfoundland family, as did he. She is a charming, delightful person who is full of fun and energy. With their nice children they were a source of pleasure to everyone.

I apologize for taking up this further period of time, but I cannot help mentioning the third gentleman, a most worthy representative of this great Senate.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Henry D. Hicks: Honourable senators, I knew all three of the senators whose passing we are noting today. I did not know Senator MacDonald very well as our time in this chamber overlapped by only a few months; but Senators Welch and Cook I knew very well, indeed. I join with those who have paid tribute to the qualities of all three of these men, and add my expression of condolence to the surviving members of each of their families.

But, honourable senators, as the senator from the Annapolis Valley I must make special mention of Senator Frank Welch. He was about 15 years older than I, he having been born in 1900 whereas I was born in 1915. I always knew of him as a leading businessman in an area a little farther up the Annapolis Valley. I knew of him as a leader in the agricultural industry in the Valley, particularly in the production of Annapolis Valley apples. He was a director of, among other things, the United Fruits Co. Ltd., and in his long career he involved himself largely with the activities that made the business in the Annapolis Valley productive and known throughout the world. He was himself a significant factor in the export of Annapolis Valley apples many years ago.

Our tenure in this chamber overlapped for a while, during which time I got to know him better and to know his charming wife who has been referred to by previous speakers.

I pay tribute to his service as a citizen of his community. He started off in municipal politics in Kentville. As a Nova Scotian he was, as I think has been said, the president of the Progressive Conservative Party of Nova Scotia for a number of years during the 1950s. I also pay tribute to him as a Canadian and to the contribution he made as a member of this chamber.

I am glad to add my word of tribute to Frank Welch along with the other two senators whose loss we regret today and, again, to extend my sympathy to the surviving members of their families and, particularly, if I may say so, to Lois Welch and the members of Frank Welch's family.

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, if I may, I will just take a few minutes of the Senate's time to add my voice to those who have paid tribute to our three distinguished colleagues and who have offered condolences to their families. I would par-

ticularly like to say a word about my very dear friend, Senator Eric Cook, who is probably best known to me among the three ex-members of the Senate to whom we pay tribute this afternoon.

Senator Cook was a long time friend of mine as, indeed, he was to every Newfoundlander who had any interest at all in public life. As the son of one of the revered and respected mayors of St. John's, Sir Tasker Cook, I think that Eric had the political gene passed directly down to him and he exercised it with great ability and with great talent. There are those of his party here in Ottawa who from time to time had occasion to feel something less than satisfied with Eric's independence. Let me assure my honourable friends opposite that he was every bit as independent as President of the Liberal Party in the province of Newfoundland, and I am sure that he occasioned Mr. Smallwood just as much disquietude, and perhaps more, as he did to those sitting opposite. Let me say that his motives were never dishonourable or selfish. He never acted out of fits of pique, but on matters of principle respecting those things he felt deeply about, and there was nothing he felt more deeply about than that beloved rock that he represented so well.

I remember well his advocacy of John Crosbie's leadership of the Liberal Party in Newfoundland. I think that there was no other prominent Liberal at the time who so early took on the establishment as did Eric, and, for a man who had settled comfortably into the ranks of the Senate, I thought it was quite a remarkable display of interest and of tribute to his party, which he was trying to rejuvenate, and to his province, which he was trying to serve.

As a former deputy mayor of St. John's, as a lawyer and former Master of the Newfoundland Supreme Court, as President of the Newfoundland Liberal Party for many, many years and as a prominent businessman—owner of what I suppose was a landmark, McMurdo's drug store on Water Street, which all of us from Newfoundland remember so well—he and his family have made such a lasting contribution to our province and, latterly, to our country that I thought I should stand, thank him for his service and offer my condolences to Mary, to his three sons and to Elizabeth, his daughter. I rise once again to say how deeply I appreciated his friendship and honour his memory.

Hon. D.G. Stuart: Honourable senators, I should like to join all those who have said a word about Senator Eric Cook, and to convey my condolences especially to his wife, Mary, for whom I have the highest regard.

At the outset, let me say that I had and have the highest esteem for Eric Cook, who was both a Liberal and an independent, which I think is a great thing.

Senator Doody: And a rare thing!

Senator Lang: Why not join us?

Senator Stuart: They are not inseparable, as you Tories may realize some day.

Honourable senators, I am sure that if Eric is looking down on us—and he is—he is thinking, "I wonder when anybody is