

Tributes to Deceased Members

I am sure, they will derive a substantial measure of comfort from the knowledge that the members of this house will think of our departed colleagues with respect and affection.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): Mr. Speaker, I think everything has been said that needs to be said about the two highly respected members who have passed, but we should like to associate ourselves with all the words of appreciation and the condolences that have been given. Both were amongst the friendliest members of the house. Mr. Matthews, aged and yet sprightly, was an example to all of us of what we might be if we lived very much as he lived. We recognized his friendliness everywhere we met him. Mr. Douglas was much the same kind of man. On the many occasions on which I sat on committees with him, I found he was one of the friendliest members with whom we were associated. To the relatives who are left to mourn, we extend our sympathy.

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, the members of the group which I represent wish to join with the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and the other speakers in all that they have said by way of tribute to the two deceased members, the one having represented Brandon, and the other, Queens, Prince Edward Island. We found these two men always friendly and considerate. We found them to be gentlemen. I was not privileged to know either of them personally, but simply by association with them we learned to respect both. We feel, Mr. Speaker, that these two good men have left something by which they will be remembered for many years. We wish to extend to their widows and other relatives our sincere sympathy.

Mr. J. W. MacNaught (Prince): I should like to join with those who have already spoken in paying humble tribute to the memory of my colleague from Prince Edward Island, Mr. J. Lester Douglas. He was a man of infinite charm, extremely hospitable, and he derived much pleasure from his many acts of kindness and consideration. I well remember his good counsel to me when I first came to Ottawa. We shared the same office for three years, and I shall never forget his kindness to me during that time.

Lester Douglas was highly regarded by his constituents. It was a moving sight indeed to see the large number of persons from all classes of life who filed past his coffin to have a last look at their well-beloved representative. To his widow and children I offer my deepest sympathy.

I am sure that my constituents would like me at this time to pay tribute also to

the memory of J. Ewen Matthews. Mr. Matthews was born in the constituency of Prince some eighty years ago, and spent the early part of his life in Prince Edward Island before leaving his native province to make his living elsewhere. It is interesting to recall that the late Mr. Douglas and the late Mr. Matthews were close friends. Some forty years ago in Charlottetown they worshipped God in the same church. Mr. Matthews was a fine Christian gentleman, and his mature judgment will be greatly missed by his friends and associates. My sympathy, and that of my constituents, is hereby conveyed to his widow and family.

Mr. J. A. Ross (Souris): Mr. Speaker, while joining in the tributes paid to the late Mr. Douglas, as an old neighbour and friend of the late Mr. J. Ewen Matthews I should like to say how kindly tolerant and helpful I always found him, especially after I came to Ottawa. His interest in the welfare of his fellow men went away beyond all partisan affiliation. May I add my word of sympathy to Mrs. Matthews and the members of the family in the loss of a good husband and splendid father.

Mr. L. A. Mutch (Winnipeg South): I presume, Mr. Speaker, that there are many people in the province of Manitoba who would bear witness to the statement that I wish to make, and it is this. Mr. Matthews held his fellow man in such esteem that if he could not speak well of any man he did not speak at all. His service to the province of Manitoba, where in these last years we knew him so well, matched his philosophy of life to such an extent that he will not soon be forgotten in that province.

As to Mr. Douglas, I had the pleasure of sharing a seat in the house with him during the last session. While he was here I met him on many occasions under intimate circumstances. As one who knew him well in this house, I am pleased to be associated with the tributes which have come from those who knew him best.

Mr. W. Chester S. McLure (Queens): I wish most sincerely to associate myself with the well-deserved tributes paid by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew), and others, to the late J. Lester Douglas. No man in this house, and very few outside of it, knew Mr. Douglas as I did. I had fought him for fourteen years in the political field. I had known him a great many years before that, and I must say that I found him to be a real man and a most honourable opponent. Furthermore, he had perhaps the greatest way of forming friendships of any man I ever knew. He also had the way of holding the confidence of those friends.