

THE SENATE

Tuesday, January 23, 1962

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

THE LATE SENATORS LEGER AND GOLDING

TRIBUTES

Hon. Walter M. Aseltine: Honourable senators, it is my sad duty at this time to report that since prorogation took place last September two prominent members of the Senate have passed to the Great Beyond, namely, the Honourable Senator Aurel D. Léger and the Honourable Senator William H. Golding. I would like to refer briefly to each of these deceased colleagues.

Senator Aurel D. Léger, I am informed, died on December 28 last. He was a resident of Kent County, in the province of New Brunswick. He had been a prominent member of the Senate of Canada for eight years prior to his death, and before being summoned to the Senate he had been a member of the House of Commons for some thirteen years. Before his election to the House of Commons he played a very prominent part in the public life of that section of New Brunswick in which he resided. He was very faithful in his attendance here in the Senate and was a valuable member of several of its standing committees.

The late Senator Léger will be sorely missed by his many friends and colleagues, and I take this opportunity of extending to his widow and the members of his family our sincere regrets and deepest sympathy.

I wish now to refer to the late Senator William H. Golding. Senator Golding's death was a great shock to me because at Christmas-time I had received a short letter from him in which he referred to the coming session of Parliament and stated that he expected to be in attendance as usual. I received another letter from him written on December 30. This letter, which arrived after he died, was written in his own firm, legible handwriting, and in it he congratulated me on my having been made a member of Her Majesty's Canadian Privy Council.

As I have said, that letter did not reach me until a few days after his death. I can hardly believe, honourable senators, that he is no longer with us, and I shall always treasure these two letters that he wrote to me just shortly before he passed away.

As we all know, the late Senator Golding spent a great many years in the public life

of Canada, commencing as far back as 1916, when he became a member of the Seaforth Town Council. In 1921 he became Mayor of Seaforth, and held that position for nine years. In 1924 he was responsible for the establishment of the Scott Memorial Hospital, and took a great interest in hospital work of all kinds. He was that hospital's first chairman. Later he was also chairman of the local Public Utility Commission.

Quite naturally, it seems to me, when in 1932 there was a vacancy in the South Huron riding which had to be filled he was chosen as standard bearer. He was elected on that occasion and continued as Liberal member of Parliament until 1949. In Parliament he was held in great esteem, and filled many important posts. He was chairman of the party caucus and was also deputy chairman of the Committees of the Whole House.

In 1949 the late William Golding was summoned to the Senate, and I remember quite well that his first task in this house gave him the honour of moving the adoption of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. That was on February 21, 1950. From that time forward he was on record as being one of our most faithful honourable senators and was noted for always being in his place, either in the Senate chamber or in one of the committees of which he was a member.

He was a member of several important standing committees to which he brought a wealth of experience and wisdom.

As honourable senators know it has been my great privilege and pleasure to have known the late senator most intimately ever since he became a member of the Senate, and even before that time he was a very close, dear, personal friend to me. I valued his friendship most highly.

For years he sat at my right at the meetings of the Standing Committee on Divorce. He was blessed with a very high degree of good, sound common sense. He had his feet firmly on the ground, and was always present when he was most wanted. I, as chairman of that committee for some time, valued his advice and co-operation very much.

Senator Golding was a fine Christian gentleman, beloved by all with whom he came in contact. He will be genuinely mourned on Parliament Hill where he was a familiar figure for almost thirty years, and where he was a most outstanding and painstaking parliamentarian.

To his family of two sons and three daughters I wish to express our deep sympathy for the loss of a good father and a distinguished Canadian.