

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

● (1400)

At 2 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

### THE SENATE

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CHARLES ASKWITH, C.D., ACTING  
GENTLEMAN USHER OF THE BLACK ROD—FELICITATIONS ON  
RETIREMENT

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, since we are not absolutely sure what is going to unfold in the next little while, I should like to take this opportunity to draw to your attention the fact that today is the last day in the Senate for the Acting Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Askwith has been with us for many years as the Deputy Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod and, more recently, as the Acting Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod.

Colonel Askwith has always done a superb job.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Senator Olson:** I think all of us were particularly impressed with the proceedings at the opening of Parliament last December, which he, as we all know, organized in such a brief period of time.

His presence here will be missed by all honourable senators as well as by the Senate staff. Therefore, on behalf of the government, I would like to offer Colonel Askwith our very best wishes for his retirement and our gratitude for a job well done.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Duff Roblin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, on behalf of my leader and those of us who sit on this side of the chamber, I should like to join with the Leader of the Government in expressing our sentiments, appreciation and good wishes to Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Askwith on this occasion.

I hope he will not mind my saying that he is a quiet and unassuming man, but he is also a very efficient and friendly man. Those qualities certainly adorn the manner with which he has graced his office as the Acting Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod in this chamber.

We will miss him; we are sorry to see him go, but he goes with our warm thanks for the way in which he has conducted the important business of his office.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, I too should like to express my gratitude to Lieutenant-Colonel Askwith, who has been most helpful to me in carrying out the duties of my office.

[Senator Frith.]

When I was appointed, Colonel Askwith was ill. He invited me to visit him at his home and, even while on medication, his devotion to his function beyond the call of duty impressed me. He has always displayed the utmost dedication in supplying information and assisting the Office of the Speaker.

[*Translation*]

I may add that Colonel Askwith's services go well beyond those I have just mentioned. He has an intimate knowledge of Parliament Hill, in addition to his military experience. Furthermore, he is able to converse, in excellent French I may add, with everyone we meet in Parliament.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the invaluable services he has rendered to the Speaker of the Senate.

Personally, I am sad to see him go, and I hope there will be a way to impart his qualities to the person destined to be the next Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, and that he will be able to perform his duties with the same dignity, discretion and skill as Lieutenant Colonel Askwith.

### MINGAN ARCHIPELAGO NATIONAL PARK BILL

#### FIRST READING

**The Hon. the Speaker** informed the Senate that a message had been received from the House of Commons with Bill C-53, an Act to establish a National Park on the Mingan Archipelago.

Bill read first time.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the second time?

#### SECOND READING

**Hon. Louis de G. Giguère**, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 44(1)(f), moved that the bill be read the second time now.

He said: Honourable senators, Bill C-53 was adopted unanimously in the other place. The purpose of this bill is to reserve lands for the Mingan Archipelago National Park.

In the course of nearly a century, 29 national parks and more than 75 historic parks, sites and canals have been created and developed in all Canada's regions. Continuing in this vein, the bill proposes to create a national park in the Gulf of St. Lawrence on the Mingan Archipelago, about 200 kilometers east of Sept-Îles. The site was chosen because of its unique characteristics. The Mingan Archipelago is truly remarkable and deserves to be protected for future generations.

The Mingan islands have attracted considerable attention during the last twenty years because of the unique character of this natural region and the wealth and diversity of its ecosystems which are still in their virgin state.

The unique character of the Mingan Archipelago is due to the presence and impact of a number of natural phenomena that are extremely interdependent. The marine and sub-boreal climate, combined with the many geological shifts in its rock formations, has helped to create a terrain that is exceptionally