

THE SENATE

Tuesday, May 9, 1967

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

Prayers.

THE LATE SENATOR JOHN HNATYSHYN

TRIBUTES

Hon. Jean-Paul Deschatelets: Honourable senators, in the absence of the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Connolly, Ottawa West), who is abroad taking part in an important Commonwealth Parliamentary conference, it is my sad task to pay tribute to an honourable senator who has passed away. We were all shocked a few days ago by the news of the sudden death of one of our most able and popular friends and colleagues, Senator John Hnatyshyn from Saskatchewan.

The *Parliamentary Guide* gives only an indication of the numerous fruitful activities of Senator Hnatyshyn. It is unfortunate that his community, his province and Canada will be deprived, and at such an early age, of the brilliant services of a man who desired to serve. His training and experience as a lawyer, his understanding of people, and the ease with which he fitted into the work of the Senate immediately after being summoned here, made him one of our most valued colleagues.

The honourable Senator Hnatyshyn was Chairman of the Standing Committee on Immigration and Labour, and the recollection of his willingness to serve and to be helpful surely adds to the distress that his death brings to all of us.

May I say one thing more about the personality of this man, and it is not the least important—the sociability of his character.

[Translation]

This man smiled easily. In fact, whenever one spoke to him, his gaiety, which made him one of the most popular members of the Senate, made one trust him instinctively. We are all deeply distressed over his death and, on behalf of the Government, the Senate Leader and all his colleagues who join with me on this occasion, I ask his wife and family to accept our heartfelt sympathy.

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[English]

Hon. A. J. Brooks: Honourable senators, I wish to join with the Acting Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Deschatelets) in paying tribute to our very dear departed friend, Senator John Hnatyshyn.

I put it mildly when I say we were deeply shocked and saddened to learn of his death. As the acting leader has told us, Senator Hnatyshyn led a most active life and should have had many more years of activity, as he was but 60 years of age when he passed away.

The late Senator Hnatyshyn's life could be taken as an example to young Canadians of every race and of every creed in this country. Born in the Ukraine, he came here as an infant with his parents, grew up on a farm in western Canada, became a teacher, graduated from the University of Saskatchewan, received a Bachelor of Arts degree and a degree in law. He soon rose high in his profession and became President of the Bar of Saskatchewan.

He was director of many companies and organizations. He entered politics and became president of his party organization in the Province of Saskatchewan. In whatever he attempted, Senator Hnatyshyn rose to the top.

Honourable senators, as I have said, Senator Hnatyshyn was born in the Ukraine. He was one of the distinguished representatives of a great people, the Ukrainians, a people who have made many notable and outstanding contributions to the development of Canada. We are indeed fortunate to have had such men as Senator Hnatyshyn and people of his ethnic group come to Canada in such large numbers and help us to build up our country.

Honourable senators, may I add a personal note. I found John Hnatyshyn's death a deep personal loss. Anyone who has to lead, whether in the Senate or in some other place, realizes what a valuable help it is to have someone behind him whom he can always trust, someone who is faithful. That was John Hnatyshyn's character. Whether he was asked to take part in debate, to look after matters in committee or to perform some other task, I could always rely on him to do it and to do it well.

Senator Hnatyshyn was always loyal to his party leader and to his party; but he was also always on friendly and kindly terms with those with whom he did not agree politically or otherwise. He liked all his colleagues, no