

the French-speaking countries of Africa, ties he strengthened later as member of the International Association of French-speaking Parliamentarians (IAFSP). His tremendous accomplishments were recognized by this international association which chose him as its international chairman. For a Canadian, that was a great step indeed. Since that association is mostly dominated by members from France, our colleague had to be an exceptional man to be chosen international chairman.

Senator Asselin, in my capacity as treasurer, I think I can speak on behalf of our Canadian group in the IAFSP. I want you to know how much we appreciate what you did, how proud we are that you were chosen international chairman, and how we are going to miss your wise counsel. Congratulations and good luck in your new position, which we hope will be a bit less hectic than life as a politician was in Ottawa. Our best wishes to you and your wife.

[English]

**Hon. Hazen Argue:** Honourable senators, I should like to add a few comments to the words of congratulation and approbation of the other senators. I think it is a great tribute to Senator Asselin that he has been appointed to this very important post at this particular time in the history of Canada. It warms my heart and gives me confidence to think that in this post is a man of broad vision and broad understanding, who has, undoubtedly, all the ambitions of the people of Quebec in his heart, but who understands also the visions and aspirations of Canadians generally.

Senator Asselin has, as has already been said, a very broad background and a very broad understanding. He was a distinguished member of the House of Commons, with whom I had the privilege and honour to serve for a number of years. He has been a distinguished member of the Senate for a long period of time, and a member of cabinet. He is now moving on to other very important responsibilities and work.

I have found Senator Asselin always friendly, always understanding, and, although we have had political differences, we have had much more in common than we have had by way of differences or antagonisms. One thing I have always admired about Senator Asselin is that, in my judgment, he is one of the best orators to grace either the House of Commons or the Senate, and when he speaks in English it is impeccable English. His pronunciation is excellent.

I congratulate him on his new appointment. I think it is in the interests of the province of Quebec and of Canada.

[Translation]

**Hon. Paul David:** Honourable Senator Asselin, your appointment to the prestigious office of Lieutenant-Governor fills my heart with joy and pride.

You were kind enough to introduce me in this House in April 1985. Ever since I have appreciated your wonderful leadership as member and then Chairman of the *Assemblée internationale des parlementaires de langue française*. You entrusted me with responsibilities within that organization and on several missions I was able to appreciate the extraordinary

[Senator Molgat.]

prestige you have enjoyed in the "Francophonie" through out the world.

Your appointment, dear colleague, will serve as an invaluable asset for both Quebec and Canada who play a special role in french-speaking summits. Your unfailing friendship and remarkable experience have enlivened my life in this place. I am grateful to you for it.

I wish you the best in this new turn of your outstanding career. My warmest congratulations to you, dear colleague, and to your wife and family!

**Hon. Roch Bolduc:** Honourable senators, I would be furious with myself for not congratulating Martial on his promotion. I call him by his first name since we went to Law School together in 1948. It was already obvious at that time that he had the leadership and a pleasant personality that would make him not only the leader of our group but the chairman of the then student association of Laval University. We could already see in him a politician of the future. Then, naturally, he started his political career at the federal level while I went my way until we met again in the Senate 30 years later.

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I would like to wish him the best of luck in his new role as Quebec Lieutenant-Governor.

**Hon. Gerald R. Ottenheimer:** Honourable senators, I would like to add a few words about our friend and colleague Senator Asselin. Unlike my colleague Senator Bolduc, I am not a classmate of his but I was with him in the IAFSP and a political colleague until now as well.

I first met Senator Asselin in the IAFSP, at a meeting in Paris in 1976, I believe. We met several times since then, at IAFSP meetings in Senegal, Gabon and Reunion. You see, honourable senators, we travel a lot in the IAFSP. At that time, I believe I was Speaker of the Newfoundland House of Assembly and during that period, Senator Doody was a fellow member. He sometimes asked me why I was away so often. I told him that I had to be with Senator Asselin and the other senators and members of Parliament to show that the IAFSP was also important for legislators in the English-speaking provinces because French is an official national language for all Canadians.

In any case, I had the pleasure to meet Senator Asselin through the IAFSP. I believe that most of these meetings, maybe all, I do not know, were attended by federal delegates, of course, and also legislators from Quebec and New Brunswick. I think that I may have been the only Canadian there whose mother tongue was not French. Senator Asselin always received me well within that association.

When I arrived in Ottawa, since the Speaker was absent, Senator Asselin as Speaker *pro tempore* welcomed me in this House.

I always appreciated his contribution to Senate debates and his sage advice in our caucus.

We will all lose a good colleague, a good friend, a man who thinks before he speaks, a thoughtful man who always adds to the deliberations in which he participates.