

*The late J. H. Harris*

I should think that in the light of those services which he has performed no more fitting epitaph could be placed over the name of Joe Harris than the simple words: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, we of this group wish to associate ourselves with the thoughts expressed by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew).

Joe Harris was an esteemed member of this house and we too deeply regret his passing. We join in the tribute that has been paid to his memory and to the service that he has rendered to his community and to the nation. Likewise we wish to join with all members of this house in expressing our deepest sympathy in this their time of bereavement to his widow, to the children and to all to whom he was near and dear.

**Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, the tributes that have been paid to the late member for Danforth this morning in my judgment have been richly deserved.

I feel that I am speaking for all of the members of my group when I say we held Joe Harris in very high regard. We did so because we recognized him as a high-minded, sincere, honourable gentleman, a good member who served his constituency and Canada as a whole very well. He was a vigorous personality, and this house will miss him and the contributions he has so often made and could have continued to make for a good many years had not this illness intervened. I wish to join all members of this house in mourning the loss of a good member, an honourable gentleman, and to express our sympathies to those who have been left to mourn his passing.

**Mr. J. M. Macdonnell (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, coming from a riding that adjoins that of Mr. Harris I should like to add just a word.

Reference has been fittingly made to his great public service here, to his service to charitable institutions in Toronto and elsewhere, and there is just one thing I should like to add. As somewhat of a stranger to what we call in Toronto the area east of the Don, I found very quickly that the name of Joe Harris was a household word. The Harris family had been known there for many years, but Joe, by his readiness to serve everybody, carried the name to fresh heights. It was almost pathetic to see the confidence that anyone in that area who had any trouble

of any kind felt, that it could be solved if only he could get to Joe Harris and have him take it in hand.

With others who have spoken previously I hope the recollection of what he was, added to the sympathy which we all wish to express, will avail much to his sorrowing family.

**Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, in the years I have been in the House of Commons there have been many occasions when I should have liked to say a word regarding a departed member as we have performed this solemn function year by year. This is one occasion, however, when I feel the house will agree that it is proper for me to say a word.

My mind goes back fifty years when in the one-room Plains Road school in east Toronto, in which there were twenty-seven pupils in all grades, my late father being the teacher, I met Joe Harris. Of that group in that school four subsequently became members of the House of Commons: the hon. member for York East (Mr. McGregor), the hon. member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. Tustin), Joe Harris and myself.

Fifty years is a long while in one's life. Joe Harris in the House of Commons was the same Joe that I and the other serving members of that group knew so many years ago. Of him it could be said: He was a friend of the people.

The leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) spoke of the memorial words that might be most fittingly applied to him. I think of an occasion during the early days of the war when the picnic in East York was taking place and there was a procession to the site of that picnic. Three little coloured boys stood up on the street corner on Danforth, and together they used these words: "Three cheers for Joe, the man we know and love." That was the tribute of the people of his constituency throughout the years.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) and the representatives of the other parties in extending to his widow and other members of the family my deepest sympathy. Joe Harris was a man whom members of this house without regard to party admired and esteemed, and of whom it can be said that the Toronto East General hospital to which the Prime Minister referred is his monument. Those who may come after will be able to say, as was said of Sir Christopher Wren, "If you would see his monument, look about you."