

I want to congratulate the mover (Hon. Mr. Haig) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Fournier, Madawaska-Restigouche) of the Address in Reply on their splendid efforts. Unfortunately they are both absent this evening. Senator Haig is living up to the reputation which his father forged in this chamber, and Senator Fournier is living up to the reputation he established in the province of New Brunswick.

Honourable senators, I do not know if it is permissible to pay a tribute to an officer of the Senate, but I am going to do so anyway. Again, I know His Honour the Speaker will call me to order, if necessary. I want to mention Mr. MacNeill the Clerk of the Senate, who has been guide, philosopher and friend to me. In my opinion, he is one of the top officers in the whole Parliament of Canada.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Willis: Honourable senators, I come from the county of Peel which I am very proud to represent in this assembly, for it is the banner county of Ontario. Senator Blain represented the county of Peel from 1917 until his death in 1926, and I am proud to succeed him here.

I was interested the other day in the exchange between the senator from Lumsden (Hon. Mr. Pearson) and the senator from Kennebec (Hon. Mr. Vaillancourt) with respect to the Land Use Committee. Senator Vaillancourt spoke about the eastern farmer, and Senator Pearson about the western farmer. I am a farmer from the central province of Ontario, and I do not want the farmers of my province to be forgotten, for we have problems just as do the farmers of eastern and western Canada. I come from township of Caledon, where I farm the old homestead. My father was warden of the county of Peel and so were my two uncles. My father married a Liberal.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald (Brantford): I knew there was some good in you.

Hon. Mr. Willis: My uncle was past president of the Liberal Association, and when I came to marry I chose a darn good Liberal girl by the name of Mary Dryden—a prominent surname in Liberal history in Ontario. Her grandfather was Minister of Agriculture in that province for twenty years, and her father was quite active in Liberal politics. When I phoned her father to say that I hoped to marry his daughter he said, "I think you are all right but you are a heck of a Tory"—but he didn't use the word "heck".

Now, honourable senators, I want to pay a tribute to the honourable Senator Ferguson. I am sorry she is not here tonight. She preceded me in this debate in both eloquence

and delivery. She reminded me of Longfellow's Evangeline. Historically, Evangeline came from Nova Scotia. I admire the Maritimes, I admired the honourable senator's speech, and I sent her a note afterwards saying that it would be difficult to follow her in the debate.

Now I come to the point where, as the honourable senator from Carleton (Hon. Mr. O'Leary) said, he entered this chamber as a Conservative. I come from a family where one Conservative vote was a worth while target in an election. When the honourable senator from Carleton was speaking he made me think of these words of Gilbert and Sullivan:

I often think it's comical
How nature always does contrive
That every boy and every gal,
That's born into this world alive,
Is either a little Liberal,
Or else a little Conservative.

With all the splinter groups in the other house, that may not be true today.

But I come here with no apologies whatsoever.

The first night that this assembly met we paid our respects to late departed senators, one of whom was an intimate friend of mine, the late Senator Brunt.

On the second occasion we met in this chamber the honourable senator from De la Durantaye (Hon. Mr. Pouliot) rose and asked a candid question and demanded a candid answer. So far none of the newly-named senators have answered him. But tonight I am going to answer his inquiry. I have looked up the British North America Act just to refresh my memory, and I find that the appointment of senators to this chamber is by order in council and by tradition it has become the prerogative of the Prime Minister in office. On this, honourable senators, I quote an eminent constitutional authority who had this to say:

I think party supporters must have respect for and show loyalty to their leaders. I show loyalty to my leader; I am ready to defend him because I am proud of him.

Now, who said that? It was Mr. Pouliot, when he was member for Temiscouata in the other house, the same Senator Pouliot who is here tonight. I agree with him completely in the statement he made.

Hon. Mr. Pouliot: If my honourable friend will permit an interruption—I appreciate very much the fact that he has read some of my speeches, and I hope that he will live long enough to read them all.