

THE SENATE

Tuesday, February 3, 1976

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

THE LATE HONOURABLE LOUIS P. GÉLINAS

TRIBUTES

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault: Honourable senators, it is good to see so many honourable senators back here, apparently in good health and rested, ready to resume their duties and responsibilities.

However, all of us were saddened to learn of the death in Montreal on New Year's Day of the Honourable Louis-Philippe Gélinas. Senator Gélinas, who was in failing health, had resigned his place in the Senate on December 10 last, as honourable senators are aware, but word of his resignation did not reach us until after the adjournment on December 20.

Senator Gélinas was one of the most distinguished and esteemed members of this chamber. He was born, educated and lived all his life in Montreal, the city he loved. He was a leading figure in the realm of finance, business and public life. Endowed with remarkable financial acumen and business motivation, he was the sole Canadian to sit as a director of the First National City Trust of New York. He was a gentleman of the old school, with great personal charm and a wide circle of friends. A humanitarian, he involved himself in a great number of charitable campaigns of which he was the moving spirit.

Senator Gélinas was a philanthropist interested in all worthy causes. He was a governor of the Montreal General Hospital and l'Hôpital Notre Dame, as well as of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

During World War II, Wing Commander Gélinas served with the Royal Canadian Air Force in Canada and overseas. He was awarded the decoration of Member of the British Empire. He also held the Czechoslovakia Medal of Merit. He was a man for all seasons, a gentle man, kind of heart and noble of spirit. He served his community, his province and his country faithfully and well.

To his wife, his son and the members of his family we extend our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy.

[Translation]

Hon. Jacques Flynn: Honourable senators, it is superfluous for me to say that I share the sorrows expressed by the Leader of the Government on the occasion of the death of our colleague, Louis Philippe Gélinas. Indeed you all know that for him I had admiration, friendship and respect.

In Senator Gélinas I admired that type of gentleman which we used to meet more often in the past and which seems to be rarer nowadays, possibly because of the

coming of the "new society" the Prime Minister promises us.

Always well dressed, always reserved, he really reminded us of the good old days when private enterprise was honourable and personal success in business never gave rise to suspicion.

I met him a very long time ago, but it is only since he came to the Senate that I really had the opportunity to appreciate him. We always shared a deep friendship.

I also had much respect for that really quite modest man. He understood the necessity for more or less partisan and political debates, but he could never get used to being involved in them. It was mainly when he sat on our committees that he felt at ease. The Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce more particularly benefited from his knowledge of economy and finance. Moreover, his advice in that field was sought and appreciated as shown by the various administrative boards to which he was appointed.

Our colleague served his country very well, not only as a financier and politician but also in the Canadian Air Force during the Second World War and as an active member of charitable organizations and art societies.

In expressing my regret on the death of a greatly esteemed colleague, I am acting as spokesman for the Opposition. He had only friends among us as in the entire house.

To his widow, a childhood friend for whom I have a high regard, and to all his family I convey our deep sympathy.

● (2010)

[English]

Hon. John J. Connolly: Honourable senators, we have just heard two beautiful tributes to Senator Gélinas. When he came to this house about a dozen years ago, Senator Gélinas brought to us an extensive expertise in commercial and financial matters of great importance to this country. For a long time before coming here he had been sought out by leaders of the private sector for his advice and help, and, as both leaders here tonight have said, he had served on many boards of directors of significant companies both in this country and abroad.

Perhaps we should remind ourselves as well that his experience in commerce, finance, taxation and industry was of utmost help to the Senate, particularly in the deliberations of the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce as that committee dealt with legislation touching upon these matters. Not only did Senator Gélinas have a fine background in the private sector of our economy, but he had an innate common sense and superbly developed sense of judgment.

Senator Gélinas was a shy man; he was a modest man; he was a retiring man; he did not shout his opinions from the roof tops. Speech in public, speech in this chamber, was a