

Senate speech after his appointment was directed towards the problems of the western farmer and to an analysis of the movement of wheat prices. He will be missed as a friend and confrère, and to the members of his family we express sincere condolences.

May I add that personally I knew Senator Wood very well. We met when he was appointed to the Senate. I never knew a man with a bigger heart and who was more ready to render services to all who offered friendship to him. I trust that his family will accept my most sincere sympathy.

Honourable senators, I wish also to refer to the death of Senator J. W. Comeau, which occurred only one week in advance of the opening of this session, and followed closely on his retirement from this chamber. With his leaving, at the age of 89 years, the Parliament of Canada lost its oldest member and Nova Scotia and Canada lost one of its most renowned public figures.

Senator Comeau had been active in the public life of this country since 1907 when he was first elected to the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia. He first became a member of the Executive Council of Nova Scotia in 1911, and he was a member of Premier A. L. Macdonald's cabinet immediately prior to his being summoned to the Senate in 1948. It is interesting to note that Senator Comeau also served for a short time as a member of the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia; so, in addition to having been 59 years in public life, he was one of the few living Canadians who had been a member of both a provincial Senate and the Senate of Canada.

His public career was characterized by devotion to the interests of his region and his race. And while declining health in recent years had restricted the extent of his participation in the deliberations of the Senate, his loss will be keenly felt by his friends and colleagues here. To Senator Comeau's widow and children I take this opportunity of expressing our deepest sympathy and regrets.

Hon. A. J. Brooks: Honourable senators, as the leader has just mentioned, the opening of Parliament following a recess is usually a very sad time because of the death of some of our members during the interim. This occasion is no exception.

The most faithful services of Senators Norman Lambert and Thomas Wood were lost to us in the month of November, and only a week ago Canada lost the services of its oldest senator, who was also, I think, our oldest practising politician, the Honourable

Joseph W. Comeau, known to everyone here and to all his friends as "Willie" Comeau. These were all very distinguished and able men, and this chamber is much the loser by their departure. Together they brought a wealth of knowledge and experience not only to this chamber but to Canada, ranging from the field of journalism in the case of Senator Lambert, the field of business in the case of Senator Wood, and the legislative and political fields, at both the provincial and federal levels, with respect to Senator Comeau.

Senator Lambert was a member of this chamber for 28 years, while Senators Wood and Comeau were members for 17 years. In total these senators contributed no less than 62 years of effort in this chamber, and when one views it from that standpoint, the gravity of their sorrowful loss to us takes on added significance.

I know that other senators, particularly those who knew him better, experienced as I did a feeling of sadness and surprise at the unexpected passing of Senator Lambert. Somehow one does not really expect men such as Senator Lambert to die suddenly. He was always so steady and sturdy; he always looked the picture of good health. Having met many men in public life, I think I can truthfully say that one of the most modest and most capable of these was Senator Lambert. I did not know him very well until I came to the Senate, but I could not help admiring his work not only in the chamber but on various committees. If one looks through the pages of Senate *Hansard* for the last 28 years one will find them replete with the many fine speeches made by Senator Lambert.

I did not know Senator Comeau for any considerable time, having met him after I came to Ottawa as a Member of Parliament and he came to this chamber, but I knew of his splendid record in his native Province of Nova Scotia. He was a real Maritimer and represented the Acadian people in the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia. He had a long and very interesting political career. In fact I feel that few men in Canada had as interesting a career as Senator Comeau. He was elected on many occasions, and when one met him and learned of his many fine qualities and attributes one realized that these were such that would certainly appeal to the people whom he represented. It was no surprise to anyone that he was able to win his seat on so many occasions.

Senator Wood I did not know. He was ill when I came to the Senate, and I only met him under the poorest of circumstances. But I