

THE SENATE

Wednesday, February 21, 1990

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Speaker *pro tempore* in the Chair.

Prayers.

THE HONOURABLE HENRY D. HICKS

TRIBUTES ON RETIREMENT FROM THE SENATE

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I regret to say that the calendar has caught up with our distinguished colleague, the Honourable Henry D. Hicks. His outstanding service to the Senate will come to an end on Monday, March 5, 1990.

It is entirely appropriate that we pause for a few minutes not only to pay tribute to Henry Hicks for the services he has rendered to the Senate of Canada but also to recall to our minds the diversified career that he has had in various activities in Canada.

On examining Henry's record one might conclude that the careers of several persons had been brought together in his particular life. But that is not the case. Henry Hicks did all those things that are contained in his biography.

My first vivid recollection of Henry Hicks—and I regret that I may call him Henry occasionally, only because of a long association with him—as a political person was his election as Leader of the Liberal Party of Nova Scotia in 1954. It was a tumultuous convention, called to select a leader following the sudden death of the Honourable Angus L. Macdonald, who had been leader of our party in that province for a long time. Henry was the choice of that convention.

It was natural that at the convention he was selected because his record up to that time had been a brilliant record as a scholar, as a graduate of Oxford University, as a member of the Bar of Nova Scotia, and as a member of the provincial legislature and Minister of Education.

It was natural that Henry should have been Minister of Education, because education has been a lifetime interest of his. As minister in the province of Nova Scotia he made important changes, particularly to improve educational opportunities in the rural parts of the province of Nova Scotia, following the Pottier Commission.

Senator Hicks was relieved of his duties as a provincial legislator and moved on to a new career as Dean of Arts and Science at Dalhousie University. He soon became President of Dalhousie University and, for a period of 20 years in all, provided outstanding leadership to that foremost Canadian university. It was a period of notable expansion at Dalhousie in physical plant and also in the quality of the teaching staff, because one of Senator Hicks's objectives was to improve the

quality of instruction at Dalhousie, which had always been of high standard.

That was a career in itself, and, of course, when summoned to the Senate in 1972 Senator Hicks continued for some years to combine both responsibilities: President of Dalhousie University and member of the Senate of Canada. I should add that, in addition to those responsibilities, political and academic, Henry also acquired a deep interest in foreign policy and foreign affairs and, as President of Dalhousie, served as President of the Canadian Commission to UNESCO and travelled frequently to attend important UNESCO meetings in Europe and elsewhere.

Since coming to the Senate Henry Hicks has continued to exhibit those vivid qualities of personality to which we have become accustomed and which we admire so much. He has been a working senator and has, in his career, become an expert in the field of defence policy. He participated with Senator Lafond on the Defence Committee and succeeded him as chairman of that committee. He then continued the tradition of producing fine reports, which are followed closely by persons in Canada with a particular interest in defence questions.

Henry, of course, served his country at wartime. He reached the rank of captain and has, since then, maintained an interest in the welfare of veterans. He has represented Canada at various events throughout the world as a veteran.

We all regret that we must say farewell to one of our most distinguished colleagues and one of our best friends. Of course, Henry is embarking upon a new career. We are satisfied that he will continue his cabinet making, at which he is quite accomplished. He will also maintain his work as a philatelist. He is one of the most notable philatelists in our country, and has made not a fortune but some money, and I am sure he hopes to make some more in the future through selling his stamp collections.

Honourable senators, that is all I want to say, except to wish Senator Hicks many years of happiness and long life. As we know, Henry was recently married and we are glad to see his new wife in the gallery today. We wish both of them much happiness and long life.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, I want to thank the honourable Leader of the Opposition for having drawn our attention to the impending retirement of our colleague, Senator Hicks, and for having tried so well and so successfully to do justice to the several distinguished careers of our colleague.