

He was, as honourable members will recall, a member of the National War Labour Board in 1943. He had been a candidate for the House of Commons in the general election of 1940, and was summoned to the Senate on November 19, 1942, when he was thirty-seven years of age. At that time, and until his death at the age of forty-two, he was the youngest senator.

I do not know that I can add very much to the knowledge of honourable senators, who knew him so well. For myself, I was proud to count him as a friend. He was a familiar figure in our deliberations, intensely interested in making his contribution to public life, and jealous of the good reputation of this honourable body. He did much to inform those who were interested as to the place which the Senate holds in the government of the country. It seems to me a tragic circumstance, one which is difficult to explain, that a career which held so much promise should end so prematurely. All we can do, and I desire so to do in the light of the position I hold, is to extend to his widow and to his infant daughter very sincere sympathy in the great sorrow which has befallen them, and to assure them that they are not alone in their grief, but that this body and the country as a whole realizes that Canada has lost a brilliant and outstanding son.

Hon. JOHN T. HAIG: Honourable members, in following the government leader it is not my intention to allude in detail to the life histories of the men to whom he has referred. I took a few notes, however, so that, while not delaying the house, I might fittingly express by personal feelings.

The Honourable Gerald G. McGeer, K.C., known to most of the people of Canada as "Gerry McGeer", was born in my home city of Winnipeg in January, 1888. He was a member of the Bar of British Columbia, a member for some years of the British Columbia Legislature, twice mayor of Vancouver, for ten years a member of the House of Commons, and since 1945 a member of this chamber. He was married, and leaves a wife and two children.

The late senator has often been referred to as the stormy petrel of British Columbia politics. Of Irish nationality, he early showed an interest in the under-dog; and all his reactions to any problem affecting public life were influenced by his concern for the down-trodden. Whether or not one agreed with his political philosophies, one had to admire the ability and tenacity with which he supported his cause. A bonny fighter, he will be missed not only in his adopted province of

British Columbia but throughout Canada.

As a member of this chamber, may I say that Gerry McGeers, whether we agree with them or not, are a good thing for Canada. The late senator will be sorely missed in this house, if for no other reason than that he kept us "on our toes", thinking about what we ought to do.

The Honourable William J. Harmer, as the leader of the government has said, was one of the senior members of this house, having been appointed to the Senate by the Union Government in February, 1918. By vocation a railroad telegrapher, for some time he was an operator on one of the lines of the Canadian Pacific Railway in Alberta, the province which he adopted as his home. He subsequently became Deputy Minister of the Department of Telephones, and remained with that department of government for some years until his appointment to the Senate.

Senator Harmer took little part in our deliberations here, but he could always be counted upon to be in his place in this chamber, and faithfully attended all committees of which he was a member.

The Honourable Walter E. Foster, P.C., LL.D., who was a native of the province of New Brunswick, rendered great service to his own province, first as a businessman, later as a member of the provincial legislature, and finally of this chamber. In 1925 he was appointed a member of the government of the Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King, but was defeated in the general election of that year, and came to the Senate in 1928, and was Speaker of this house from January 1936 until May 1940. He was beloved not only by the members on his own side of the house but by those in every part of this chamber. He was the first Speaker I had the honour to sit under in this house, and I always felt especially friendly towards him because on many occasions he helped out the new members by his good-humoured assistance.

Senator Foster was indeed happy in his home relations, but the loss of a son in the last war seemed to cast a shadow over his declining years. I had the pleasure of knowing his wife and one of his daughters who was principal of a school for girls that two of my daughters attended. We all thought a great deal of her. To her, to her mother and the other members of the family, I extend sincere sympathy in their sad bereavement. May there in future be many more appointed to this chamber who will bring to it such credit and honour as did Senator Foster.

It is a little difficult to speak of the late Senator Bench—his call has been so recent