

Hon. Azellus Denis: Honourable senators, I join with those who have just spoken in extending my condolences to the families of those honourable senators who have passed away, especially to the family of the late Senator Cook, as he was a personal friend of mine.

[Translation]

I would like to say a few words about Senator Cook on the occasion of his sudden death. He was not only my colleague, but a personal friend of mine. Our friendship dated back 20 years, to when we were both appointed to the Senate. His friends and mine became the friends of both of us, and they all benefited from his spiritual and moral qualities, his sincerity and his good humour.

[English]

Bilingualism had nothing to do with our friendship; all I know about it is that he had to invent French words and I had to invent English ones.

[Translation]

Even after he left, we continued to benefit from his visits to the Senate and to enjoy his lasting friendship.

I deplore his sudden death as much as if I were myself a member of his family.

I extend to Mrs. Cook and her children my sincere condolences for their cruel loss.

[English]

Hon. William J. Petten: Honourable senators, I was shocked to hear of the sudden passing of our former colleague, Senator Eric Cook.

On Friday, August 22, I telephoned Eric at his home in Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, because I knew he had suffered a heart attack two months previously; my call was to inquire about his state of health. We chatted for a short time. He seemed to be in great spirits and told me that he had completely recovered and was looking forward to returning to Ottawa in the fall. So, you can well imagine my feelings when, in a telephone conversation the following Monday with a friend in St. John's, I learned that Eric had passed away on Sunday, August 24, 1986.

Senator Eric Cook was a leader in the civil, legal and political life of our province. He was a leading member of the legal profession; he served as deputy mayor of the city of St. John's; he was president of the Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador; and he was a long-time chancellor of the Anglican Diocese of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Despite his very busy schedule, he always had time to counsel and guide those of us who were a little younger. I will long remember his patience and understanding.

All honourable senators who served with Eric will remember his exemplary attendance in this chamber and his dedication to the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my most sincere sympathy to his wife, Mary, his daughter, Elizabeth, his sons, Peter, David, Jonathan, and their wives. They have

[Senator Phillips.]

lost a devoted husband and father, and Canada has lost a great Canadian.

Before I resume my seat, I would like to join with those who have spoken before me in extending to the families of the late Senators Welch and MacDonald my sincere sympathy.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Daniel A. Lang: Honourable senators, I do not very often rise on occasions of condolences, but I must do so today with respect to Senator Eric Cook. As Senator Denis has said, it was in February 1964 that Senator Denis and Senator Cook and I were inducted into this chamber; and subsequently I became Senator Cook's deskmate. That was an experience that I will never forget. I remember very well his turning to me and saying, after the prayers had been spoken in French, "Why are we praying for Charles de Gaulle?" I was quite baffled by that remark until I looked at the French wording of the prayer and saw that it was praying for Prince Charles Régald. In that way I was starting to learn the Newfoundland dialect!

Eric, to me, epitomized the ambience of the Senate at that time. He was courteous, knowledgeable and conscientious. He contributed to our committee work in a way that was completely outstanding. But the very essence of Eric was that he was a gentleman.

In many ways I think of Eric as a "real Newfoundlander." I have for many years maintained that Newfoundland has contributed all the salt to our parliamentary life and has made it tasteful and exciting.

An Hon. Senator: Hear, hear!

Senator Lang: Eric, above all, stood for the interests of his province and, against great pressures at times exerted upon him, stood strongly for those interests: the well-being of his province following from the Confederation pact and the benefits following from the exploitation of Newfoundland's offshore resources. That took courage and independence of mind, which are, I find, characteristics of all the Newfoundlanders I have met during my parliamentary career. Eric was intellectually honest, above all; he was also wise, and he had one of the most delightful self-deprecating senses of humour I have ever encountered. I know that all of us who knew Eric will sadly miss him. I join with all of you in expressing to his wife, Mary, and to his family our sympathy in their loss and in ours.

● (1410)

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. David Walker: Honourable senators, some most appropriate remarks have been made so I shall be very brief.

Of all the gentlemen I have met in this chamber, and there are a great many, I have never met anyone to compare with Eric. He was the soul of honour and the source of wit, kindness and generosity all built in together. He was modest to an extreme, but always ready for fun. As a member of the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce he always had plenty of time for fun. He kept the committee's proceedings modulated and on an even keel. His