

We then became very close friends. He was almost always my deskmate except when he was Speaker of the Senate. We must all admit that his departure created an immense vacuum especially for me who always shared his joys and his sorrows.

To his distressed family, to his two daughters, to his charming wife I would like to extend my most sincere condolences. I personally extend all my sympathy to all his many friends, to all his voters from the riding of Lévis as well as to all his friends in the Senate. I feel like having lost a beloved brother. I would like also to extend my deepest sympathy to the family of Senator Wagner as well as to the family of the Right Honourable John Diefenbaker.

● (1450)

[English]

Senator Walker: Honourable senators, I did not intend to speak today, but the name of the late Right Honourable John Diefenbaker was mentioned, and so I shall do so.

Fifty-two years ago I met him at the first national convention of the Conservative Party, which was held in Winnipeg. He was then a tall, gangling, curly, fair-haired man with light blue eyes that pierced right through one. That quality never changed. In 1942 I nominated him for the leadership at the National Conservative Convention at Winnipeg, at which time he received an awful licking. In the meantime he had been beaten in Saskatchewan for the leadership of the provincial party, and for the mayoralty of Prince Albert. Although he had often been beaten—five times in all—he was finally elected a federal member of Parliament in 1940.

In 1948 he again ran for the leadership. On that occasion I was his campaign manager, and the present Speaker of the Senate, the Honourable Allister Grosart, was then campaign manager against him. Senator Grosart was in favour of the Honourable George Drew, and Mr. Drew won the leadership.

It must have been a great temptation for Mr. Diefenbaker to retire from such contests. In 1956 he ran again for the Tory leadership, and on that occasion he won brilliantly. At that time the present Speaker of the Senate was the campaign manager and I was acting as his official agent. All those events, in retrospect, remind us, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

During my term as a cabinet minister in Mr. Diefenbaker's government, wherever I went in the world on missions for the Prime Minister, Mr. Diefenbaker was looked upon as the champion of the coloured races. That is something about which little mention has been made, but it is a fact, and it made a great deal of difference from then on in Canada's relations with the rest of the world.

Mr. Diefenbaker was also the champion of the common man, as he used to call him—the ordinary man—and gave millions of people a vision of hope that otherwise they would not have had.

I could go on to speak of his achievements, the Bill of Rights, the various pieces of legislation that he passed, "the sixty achievements" recorded in my speech in the House of

[Senator Denis.]

Commons *Hansard* in 1962, but time does not permit me to do so and this is not the place to do it.

As I was sitting here, I recalled that splendid poem by Lord Tennyson which most of us learned when we were at public school. I am applying this to Mr. Diefenbaker in retrospect:

When I look back on what hath been
Like some divinely gifted man,
Whose life in low estate began
And on a simple village green;
Who breaks his birth's invidious bar,
And grasps the skirts of happy chance,
And breasts the blows of circumstance,
And grapples with his evil star;
Who makes by force his merit known
And lives to clutch the golden keys
To mould a mighty state's decrees
And shape the whispering of a throne.
And moving up from high to higher,
Becomes on Fortune's crowning slope
The pillar of a people's hope,
The centre of a world's desire.

Senator Croll: Honourable senators, I served with all those honourable gentlemen whose names have been mentioned. I associate myself with what has been said. I served in the House of Commons with Maurice Bourget, and there is really nothing that one can add to the glowing tribute that was paid to him by Senator Connolly and others.

I am a particular friend of Harold Connolly, who served in this chamber for a considerable length of time, which was cut short by illness. His was a great talent, but unfortunately he did not have an opportunity to use it in the way that would have been beneficial to Canada. He provided many years of service in his native province and for a time was provincial premier.

Eight years ago I was privileged to introduce to this house Senator Forsey, who has made a significant contribution both to the Senate and to the political life of this country.

Senator Forsey was never at a loss for words, either spoken or written, and he was always adept at recollecting what had been said by others. He has always been a very active, energetic man, and whenever we sought him, we had to search for him.

Senator Forsey possesses a thorough knowledge of the working of government. He always knew how government operated. Yet on occasion he would admit to the house that his idea of what the Senate did was something that he picked up as he went along and found that he had much to learn when he joined the Senate. It is possible that his view of the Senate changed once he was appointed, but I rather doubt that. He was not that kind of man. Senator Forsey was able to attract a great deal of attention and people began to think of the Senate as an institution somewhat better than merely a Wednesday