

THE SENATE

Tuesday, January 21, 1969

The Senate met at 3 pm., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

[Translation]

TRIBUTES

DEATH OF HONOURABLE EDOUARD J. THÉRIAULT; RETIREMENT OF HONOURABLE SYDNEY J. SMITH, P.C., HONOURABLE NORMAN A. MACKENZIE, AND HONOURABLE CYRILLE VAILLANCOURT

Hon. Paul Martin: Honourable senators, before we proceed with the business of the Senate, I have a difficult task to perform.

Since we adjourned for the Christmas recess, we have lost a friend and a colleague in Senator Edouard Joseph Thériault. He was a man of duty who would sacrifice anything to serve.

Senator Thériault was born on May 10, 1901, in Hartford in the State of Connecticut. Though he was not born in our country, I should mention that his parents were Acadians and came from Nova Scotia.

[English]

Senator Thériault was born in Hartford, Connecticut on May 10, 1901; his parents, however, were Acadians from Nova Scotia. Senator Thériault studied at Ste. Anne's College at Church Point in Nova Scotia. He was a graduate of Dalhousie University, and a distinguished solicitor and barrister who was devoted to his profession. He was appointed prosecuting officer for Digby County in 1933, a position which he held under successive provincial governments. He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1948. His interest in political affairs was extensive, and was both provincial and federal in scope. He was Mayor of Digby from 1940 to 1944.

Senator Thériault did not have an opportunity of serving long in the Senate. He was able to attend only one or two sittings of the house before falling victim to a very serious illness which took his life during the recess. He was a distinguished man, an outstanding Nova Scotian and a dedicated Canadian.

[Translation]

I therefore wish to express to his wife and family our deepest sympathy.

Hon. Jacques Flynn: As mentioned by the Leader of the Government, Senator Thériault came to this house for only one day, the day he took the oath, and that was the only time I ever met him.

I remember going to shake hands with him after he entered the house.

The Leader of the Government has recalled his distinguished career. He mentioned his birth in Acadia and said that Acadia was proud of her son.

We certainly deplore that he was struck so soon after being appointed to the Senate and that he was unable to bring the contribution he certainly intended to and that we expected of him.

I join the Leader of the Government, and I am sure I express the feeling of all those who sit on this side of the house, in conveying to the family of the late Senator Thériault our deepest sympathy for the grievous loss they have suffered. I would also like to tell them how much we regret that we were unable to further benefit from the services of Senator Thériault.

[English]

Hon. John J. Connolly: Honourable senators, unfortunately I did not have the pleasure of knowing Senator Thériault in the way that the Leader of the Government, the Leader of the Opposition and many of my colleagues did. I regret that his period of service here was so short. I express to his family my deepest sympathy on his sudden and unexpected passing.

It has been appropriate, I think, not only to remark upon the passing of our colleagues, as the sad events occur, but also to refer to those colleagues who for one reason or another resign their place in the Senate. This has happened to two senators who were affectionately known to all of us.

I would first speak about our immediate past Speaker, the Honourable Sydney Smith. Frankly, I had hoped that he would occupy the seat adjoining me to the left for a long time and that I would have the pleasure of a close association with him after his distinguished speakership, perhaps even closer than I had before he became Speaker. It does all of our hearts good to think that the last time Senator Smith was here for a special