

Canadian and foreign affairs. He has also spoken knowledgeably on matters respecting economy and welfare reform.

Honourable senators, when one retires or takes another job, one runs the risk of people burrowing into all sorts of history in order to find things to say on an occasion such as this. The difficulty in this case was to pare down the complimentary things that could be said, rather than to find them. I did find that in 1974, before I was appointed to this chamber, Senator Asselin proposed that the government consider selling marijuana in liquor stores. I believe, in support of that motion, he made the usual suggestions with regard to the dangers of anything such as this being controlled by organized crime. I believe he also suggested that it might be a novel approach to deficit reduction. That is evidence of the broadness of Senator Asselin's interests and constructive imagination.

Another thing that is important to remember is that he was our first formally-appointed Deputy Speaker. He served in that role with great distinction and was a most popular occupant of that position.

Senator Guay: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Senator Frith: We all recognize the fairness and wisdom he exercised in that role; qualities that will do him well in the important post he is assuming.

[*Translation*]

Honourable senators, if I may conclude with the same comments I made yesterday for Senator Ottenheimer's statement, which if I am not mistaken came at almost the same time as the news of the appointment, I would say this: Dear senator, dear colleague, we congratulate you as a well-loved colleague for a well-deserved appointment.

Hon. Jacques Flynn: Honourable senators, one of the reasons our colleague accepted the position of Lieutenant Governor of Quebec and is returning to live in Quebec City is my forthcoming departure. He could not do without me. I am sure that was a big factor in his decision.

We came here together in 1958. We continued to work together except for a short period from 1962 to 1965, but even then we stayed in touch because we continued to fight for the ideas we always defended here, representing the legitimate interests and aspirations of Quebec.

As was just said, Senator Asselin has had an outstanding, very varied career. He was a minister on two occasions, Deputy Speaker of the Senate, and international president of the IAFSP. He became known throughout the French-speaking countries as an excellent ambassador not only of Canada but of the francophone community in general.

When I return to Quebec City, I will be very glad to know that I can find him easily not very far from my home. This is just a hint for him to invite me over, but even if I did not suggest it, he would have understood.

So I extend very hearty congratulations to him. I am very pleased for him, his wife Ginette, his son and the other members of his family who are very proud of his obtaining

such an important position. My wishes and those of my colleagues go with him.

[*English*]

Hon. H.A. Olson: Honourable senators, I also claim some right to offer my congratulations to Senator Asselin today, because I was in the other place when he came here. We have had a long association—mostly from different sides of the house, although there was a brief period when—and even Senator Flynn will remember—we, as Social Creditors, would support the Conservatives on almost every occasion that came up. It did not last long, but at least it was a good relationship.

Senator Flynn: Do not push your luck!

• (1410)

I want to associate myself with those who have recited some of the details of Senator Asselin's career. Certainly, his career on Parliament Hill has been a long and honourable one. I wonder, however, how he will make the transition from what he has been doing here so well as a member of the Conservative Party to a non-partisan position. He has done his job so well that it seems to me that he will find it difficult to be apolitical, but I wish him well in that endeavour. I join with those who wish Senator Asselin and his family well, both in his new position and in his new location.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Rhéal Bélisle: Honourable senators, I would like to join my colleagues who congratulated senator Asselin on his appointment as Lieutenant-Governor of the province of Quebec. Knowing that other senators have had the privilege of being chosen from this chamber to serve in that very important position in several provinces, I have to say that this appointment makes all of us happy.

He certainly deserves such an honour, having always performed his duties so well in his political career at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. We will miss him, but I know that, even with all his wisdom and all his goodwill, he cannot be ubiquitous. To see him, we will have to go visit him in Quebec City.

Congratulations! You deserve it.

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat: Honourable senators, I also want to add a few words to express my true friendship, my appreciation and my congratulations to our colleague, senator Asselin, and to his lovely wife Ginette.

I have not been working with senator Asselin for as long as some of my colleagues and our association in not partisan since we sit on opposite sides of this Chamber, rather than on the same side.

Our friendship dates back to a trip my wife and I made to Japan, with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, during which we met senator Asselin. Since then, I think our friendship has grown. We had the opportunity to travel together a few more times.

I especially want to mention the work senator Asselin has done at the international level. We all know what he accomplished when he was responsible for CIDA. He drew closer to