

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, April 12, 1957

The house met at eleven o'clock.

THE LATE THOMAS PATRICK HEALY

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that every one of us was deeply shocked to learn yesterday evening of the death of our dear colleague the hon. member for St. Ann, Mr. Thomas Patrick Healy. The loss of one who had such a secure place in our esteem will cast a sad note on what we expect may be the last day of this session. We were sorry that ill health forced Mr. Healy to cut short his attendance at the United Nations a few weeks ago, where he was serving on the Canadian delegation, but we had hoped that the excellent care he was receiving from his family and from his medical advisers would enable him to make a complete recovery and be with us again soon.

Mr. Healy was born in Montreal 63 years ago, of Irish-Canadian parentage. He was educated at St. Anne's public school, and later was a member of the firm of Healy Brothers Limited in Montreal. In 1938 he was elected an alderman of the city of Montreal in a by-election, and confirmed in that position a year later at a general election. In 1942 he was re-elected by acclamation as a councillor of the city of Montreal, and he was re-elected in 1944, 1947, 1950 and 1954.

Thomas Healy was first elected to the House of Commons at the general election of 1940 and was re-elected at every general election since that time, with majorities which showed the high regard in which he was held by his constituents. While he did not speak frequently in debate, he was very close to his constituents and untiring in looking after their interests. He concerned himself particularly with railway and other transportation matters of interest to the city of Montreal. He made an important contribution to the house committees which studied these matters. He was also chairman of the House of Commons committee on printing.

Tom Healy, as he was known to everyone, was one of the most likeable personalities in the House of Commons. His shrewd Irish wit made him a cheerful companion, and he brought gaiety and charm wherever he went. His optimistic outlook, his ability to see the brighter side of things, even in the

darker moments, made him a highly treasured colleague. All of us who have had the pleasure of knowing him will miss him greatly, and I know everyone in the house will join with me in expressing our deep sympathy to his wife and to his family in the great loss they have suffered.

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in everything the Prime Minister has said I join in complete accord. Tom Healy was a friend of us all, a courteous and warm-hearted gentleman, a happy person, a good public servant. Of no one can much more be said.

I think all of us have a feeling of deep sadness which comes from the passing of a personal friend. That is how I feel about him, and I join with the Prime Minister in extending to the widow and the family sincere and heartfelt sympathy.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I think everything that can be said has now been said by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. I merely want to add that all of us, as has already been said, who knew Tom Healy will miss him sadly from the House of Commons if we come back again and he is not here. I want to express to the Prime Minister and his colleagues our sympathy in their loss, because I am quite sure that his wit and his charm enlivened many of the discussions within the party itself.

I, too, would say on behalf of this party and myself that we extend to Mrs. Healy and, I believe, three daughters, our sympathy in their sad and very sudden bereavement.

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, it is all too frequently that the house has had to mark these sad occasions of the loss of respected members of the house. Especially during the past year or two they have been altogether too frequent. We looked upon Mr. Healy, the late hon. member for St. Ann, as a very fine man, humble and unassuming, friendly and genuine in every way. We respected him and we join with the Prime Minister in expressing to his family and his friends and the members of the Liberal party, who will certainly mourn the loss of a very respected member, our genuine sympathy.

I express the hope that the affairs of state and of parliament will not be allowed to weigh so heavily upon the members that