

Tributes

A gifted political strategist and analyst and a very cultured man, he knew almost everything about what was going on in politics.

He was very courageous. He knew that he had a relatively rare form of cancer, but still it was Pierre who encouraged those close to him and his friends like me. I thank the staff of the Royal Victoria Hospital who treated and cared for him with such dignity.

[English]

Pierre was a caring, approachable, passionate, action-oriented member of this House of Commons whose integrity was above reproach.

[Translation]

The right hon. member for Vancouver Quadra who is here asked me to say that he wanted to join in a special way in the tribute that I would pay to Pierre Deniger.

On behalf of the Leader of the Opposition, the opposition, the party and his very many friends, we offer Lynne and his dear nine-year old twins, Christiane and Patrick, our sympathy and the assurance of our support.

[English]

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, we all were saddened when we learned of Pierre Deniger's passing.

For those of us who knew him personally, it was a particularly serious bit of news that we received. I knew Pierre when he was elected in 1979 and re-elected in 1980 as one of the most dedicated and compassionate members of the House of Commons.

He was a great Canadian and a great parliamentarian. He was one who struggled and fought and represented his riding well. I remember on many occasions in the House of Commons how he spoke in terms of building the aerospace industry in Montreal. He spoke for the shipbuilding industry along the St. Lawrence and particularly represented the concerns of his constituents in Laprairie across the St. Lawrence River from Montreal.

I particularly remember, myself being a new member from western Canada, that he was one of the members of Parliament from Quebec who was prepared to spend a lot of time talking and chatting with us newly-elected

members from western Canada to explain his vision of Canada from a Quebec perspective.

I remember those long evening discussions with a great deal of pleasure as an opportunity to build my understanding of Canada as we know it today.

Our hearts and our thoughts go out to his wife Lynne and their two children. We will miss him greatly.

• (1520)

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, it is very sad to have to speak *in memoriam* of someone with whom we had so much in common. In the seventies, Pierre Deniger and I were young, ambitious executive assistants, so ambitious that in 1978, we both resigned from our jobs to run for Parliament.

I will always remember that time, in 1978-79, when every month we expected an election would be called, when we rented halls, cancelled and started all over again. This was typical of a government winding down, I was told.

We developed a very good relationship with Pierre Deniger during those uncertain times. On election night in 1979, our patience was rewarded, and we were ecstatic at being here in the House of Commons. We were re-elected in 1980.

I am sure Pierre Deniger would have liked to stay with us. His love of politics gave him a special dimension that we, his colleagues, did not have. For instance, he was very interested in all the ethnic communities. As Franco-phone members, we often tend to deal with our constituents on a one to one basis, but Pierre had developed this close relationship with ethnic communities, and at each caucus meeting he would talk to us about the celebrations and holidays of the various ethnic groups in Montreal.

I know it was my friend Marcel Prud'homme who introduced him to the multicultural aspect he appreciated so much. Pierre was also very interested in the rest of the country, as our NDP colleague pointed out, and I know that Pierre agreed to go and make speeches across the country because he wanted to see the country for himself.