

Tributes

From time to time he had the courage in this Chamber to express that in a voting situation. He always had the courage in a committee situation.

One of the finest tributes that can be said of him is that when he chaired a committee, opposition members felt comfortable and government members felt comfortable. All were valued and all would have an opportunity to make a contribution.

He will be missed. Our thoughts are with his family. We wish them well. They know as members of our parliamentary family that if any of us are in a position to help them, if our help would be valuable, all they have to do is call.

Hon. Mary Collins (Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Environment) and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, I too would like to add some words at this time about our colleague Chuck Cook.

Our constituencies adjoin each other, Capilano—Howe Sound and North Vancouver. After the last election, Chuck took over part of my constituency. We worked very closely together. We represented a lot of the same people. We were involved in a lot of the same issues on the north shore of Vancouver. Our staffs really got to know each other very well over the past eight years.

I was really shocked yesterday. I was not prepared for the news of Chuck's death. It really made me think that we are indeed only here for a very short time. I still find it hard to even accept that Chuck is not here.

Chuck and I did not always agree. That would be of no surprise to anyone in this House. Chuck had this way of putting across his points. My colleagues in the British Columbia caucus know this very well. He would come in to a meeting and he would just go right at it. Whether it was in caucus, in this House or a committee, he could be gruff. He could certainly be uncompromising and he certainly stood up for what he believed in.

That is a real mark of a representative of the people in this House of Commons.

One incident last fall that I will always remember is indicative of the larger family that we are all part of in this House. It was during the referendum debate. Chuck and I were on opposite sides of that debate. That was not easy. On a number of occasions I had to argue with him on television programs and in forums in my riding. I am

sure, as we would all agree, that was not an easy thing for either of us.

Our local newspaper tried to make it a real fight between us. It tried to really pit us against each other. You know how they take glee out of that kind of thing and try to make it a permanent animosity. After the referendum was over, Chuck obviously reflected well the views of his constituents once again. Very shortly after he had an occasion to address the members of his riding at a meeting and he made some very kind comments about me. That meant a lot to me because it really buried the hatchet and the difficulties we experienced over that particular issue. When Chuck was back in Ottawa I had a chance to share my thanks and feelings with him.

• (1515)

For all of us it is a difficult time when we lose someone who has worked so hard on behalf of Canadians, first as a lawyer and then a broadcaster, on all the different issues with which he was involved. Perhaps his greatest love was horses. That was a very special part of his life.

He will be missed but he will be remembered by his friends here in this House and by the people of North Vancouver and the north shore for what he contributed. He gave himself to the service of his country.

I would also like to add my thoughts at this time to Dale who has been so supportive all these years, it is very difficult to be the spouse of a parliamentarian, and to his children, Colin, Ken and Kim. We are indeed with them in our thoughts today.

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I just want to add a few words to the tributes we are paying to our colleague Chuck Cook.

Someone I once knew told me that he had written a book on banking law and was making a tour of talk shows across the country. Among those he appeared on was Chuck Cook's, when Chuck was in north Vancouver. He discovered to his enormous surprise that Chuck had actually read his book and they engaged in an extraordinarily intelligent and interesting dialogue. He said it made a profound impression on him that this was someone who had actually taken the trouble to research the work of the person he was interviewing. This was not "fly by the seat of your pants" entertainment. It was a serious effort to provide to his listening public ideas, discourse and dialogue that would give them something lasting.