

have, as Quebec's Lieutenant Governor in these times is, indeed, most fitting and most propitious. He will do a wonderful job in that capacity for his province and for Canada.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Senator Sherwood: I congratulate Senator Asselin and I wish him and Madame Asselin every success and happiness in his new career.

I wish to thank all honourable senators for the very nice things that have been said this afternoon. I cannot commence to deal with them. I would not know where to start or where to end. Certainly, I want to thank all honourable senators in this chamber not only for their kind remarks today but for their courtesies and their help to me in this chamber through these last ten years. I have appreciated the fellowship and the good work done here by all of you.

I just wish I could be speaking today in the knowledge that the Meech Lake Accord had been ratified and unanimously adopted. I am sure my leader here in this place wishes that, and I only wish he could be celebrating that too. He has worked long and hard and has given tremendously of himself in the interests of drawing the country together and getting the accord passed. It is now up to all of us to work through the healing process. Perhaps we will all live long enough to see something great come out of all our concern and deliberations. I sincerely hope and pray that that is true.

Honourable senators, I have enjoyed this place. It never bothered me that the press rarely had anything good to say about us. After all, they were only repeating what everybody else was saying. As someone stated earlier, I guess I came here with a bit of a mission. I intended to take an active interest in environmental pollution. I know that politics makes strange bedfellows, but my big surprise was to find out that it created even stranger authorities on the farm problem.

I shall miss this place. I could rattle off a lengthy list of useful work done by various committees. We have done studies and produced reports that have received honourable and favourable response. We have looked into problems such as poverty and soil contamination. I could go on and list a great many that were not even popular issues when they were approached by Senate committees. We were concerned enough about some of these problems to invest time and effort into searching for solutions before our elected brethren even realized there was a problem. We responded to needs and concerns, not just to potential votes. That is what makes this chamber different. However, I do not want to get into the merits of having an appointed rather than an elected upper chamber. I shall follow with great anticipation the future of this place, and I wish all of you well, whatever may happen.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have served with you in this unreformed and unrepentant Senate. Happy days and good health to you all!

Mr. Speaker and honourable senators, just before sitting down, I could not pass up the opportunity to say a few words about Senator Flynn. He was among the first to congratulate me when I was appointed to this place, and he was obviously

[Senator Sherwood.]

overjoyed at my appointment. I soon realized that Jacques Flynn was a field marshal with some awfully battered and beleaguered troops. The sight of anything wearing the same uniform as his, and that could walk and chew gum at the same time, would obviously have been a source of relief to him. He made me feel like a much-loved, long-lost cousin, and I appreciated that.

Although I served many years in the legislature of New Brunswick, I was somewhat intimidated by this august red chamber. Senator Flynn, sensing that and wanting to ease me into the situation, favoured me with some views on the Senate. He made our chamber and the work of its committees sound perfectly idyllic. I had visions of men and women with a wealth of experience and knowledge working closely together in order to find the best solutions possible to whatever problems their collective genius uncovered.

● (1630)

Imagine, if you will, my amazement when I took my seat and attended my first Question Period. I had seen ministers of the Crown worked over before—I had been one myself—but, in comparison to that, I had been subject to what was a sissy's game. The Liberal opposition was as tough then as it is now, and since they had a few ministers to grill there was no end to the barrage of questions. So what of Senator Flynn's promise of pleasant, philosophical exchanges? Well, that was it.

Senator Flynn took to it like mother's milk. He was having the time of his life. He looked more like Mohammed Ali up there, and if the Leader of the Opposition telegraphed his punches by wasting too many words in winding up, Senator Flynn was into him with a jab that left him searching for words.

So I discovered that Jacques Flynn was, above all, a politician, just like the rest of us. He loved to cross swords with the other side, and he still does. But apart from being combative, there are many qualities to the man that must be recognized, for they were of immense benefit to the Parliament of Canada and to the federal legislative process.

This is the man who brought to our deliberations, and to those of the House of Commons when he served there, a keen legal mind, an acute sense of fair play, a vast knowledge of Canada, its history and traditions, and an honesty and integrity that have always been totally beyond reproach. His incisive comments on legislation coming before us will, I am sure, be missed, as will his views on the proper course for our two founding peoples to follow in order to ensure a harmonious and profitable future together.

Senator Jacques Flynn can be proud of the contribution he has made to public life. Certainly, I was proud to serve under his command in this chamber, and I shall ever be proud to count him among my friends.

Honourable senators, to my colleague from New Brunswick, Senator Margaret Anderson: I also had the privilege of serving with her father, the late Stafford Anderson, in the legislature of New Brunswick. He was a gentleman of the first order.