

THE SENATE

Tuesday, October 2, 1986

The Senate met at 2 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.
Prayers.

**THE LATE HONOURABLE JOHN JOSEPH
MACDONALD
THE LATE HONOURABLE FRANK CORBETT WELCH
THE LATE HONOURABLE ERIC COOK**

TRIBUTES

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, it is my sad duty to record the deaths since last we met of three distinguished former members of this chamber.

The Honourable John J. MacDonald was born in 1891 and was appointed to this place in 1958 from Queen's, Prince Edward Island. Senator MacDonald was a farmer, a former president of the Prince Edward Island Dairymen's Association. He was a candidate in two provincial elections in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Senator MacDonald had enlisted in World War I in 1916 and went overseas in 1917. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal which was, and I quote, "granted to a soldier who has performed service of a distinctly gallant and distinguished nature." He was commissioned as a lieutenant in 1918 and demobilized in 1919 as a captain.

Senator MacDonald had led a full and eventful life before coming to this chamber at the age of 67. He served Prince Edward Island and Canada for 13 years in the Senate before retiring in 1971. He died on September 24, near the age of 95. I want his family and friends on the Island and elsewhere to know that he is remembered here by a number of former colleagues, and that all of us have paid tribute to his contribution to the Island and to Canada in war and in peace.

Hon. Orville H. Phillips: Honourable senators, I wish to take a moment to join in the tributes to our former colleagues.

For 13 years the late Senator Welch and I shared an office. We became very close friends and my admiration for him increased during those years.

Senator Welch led an interesting and productive life. He was a merchant and, later on, he had a very large apple orchard in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, as well as being involved in real estate. He was quite active in municipal politics and was president of the Nova Scotia Progressive Conservative Association. Senator Welch was appointed to the Senate in 1962 and served in this chamber until 1975. He often said that as his first welcome to the Senate he was asked to introduce the legislation dealing with the establishment of the Atlantic

Provinces Development Board, and he always appreciated that privilege and honour.

Senator Welch had a deep love for Nova Scotia and its people, and he and I would often chat about Nova Scotia and its citizens. He would mention a certain family and say, "Yes, they came from Parrsboro," or "They came from Cape Breton." He always knew various members of the family in question, and usually ended up by saying that they were fine people.

I attended Senator Welch's funeral and was able to extend to his wife, Lois, the sympathy of the members of the Senate, and particularly of those who had the privilege of knowing him.

The late Senator J. J. MacDonald was born in rural P.E.I. He was of Scottish heritage. One of my fondest memories is of his telling me that as a young lad in P.E.I. he used to look out from his farm window and see smoke rising from the chimneys of nine other farms. Then he would say in his deep voice, "And they were all MacDonalds." I am sure that my seatmate will not disagree with that. As a young lad he went to western Canada and, as has been mentioned, he enlisted in Edmonton.

Senator Murray mentioned that he received the Distinguished Conduct Medal. I have not yet had an opportunity to undertake a thorough search, but it is my understanding that he was one of five Canadians awarded that high decoration for service in World War I. In World War II he served as an instructor with the rank of captain.

He was very active in the Prince Edward Island co-operative movement and various other farm organizations. Many of the dairy policies that are in place in P.E.I. today were the original idea of the late Senator J.J. MacDonald.

He knew personal tragedy in his life; his son, who operated the farm, was killed in an automobile accident. After his wife's death in 1971 he retired from the Senate and went to live with his daughter, Mrs. MacIntyre, in Saskatchewan for a short time. He then returned to the Sacred Heart Home in Charlottetown where he was very well thought of. He had many visitors. He continued to take an interest in the activities of the Senate and made inquiries concerning various individuals when I visited him.

The late Senator Cook received a very high compliment on his appointment. At the time of his appointment I asked the now Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland what he thought of it. He told me then that if he were making the appointment, he would have appointed someone like the late Senator Cook. That compliment was paid by a member of one party on the appointment of a senator from the other party.