

world affairs and particularly of world trade was so valuable to us during the nine years he was here. Then I should like to turn to my namesake, so far as the last name is concerned at least, Senator Harold Connolly whose health, unfortunately, did not allow him to participate in our work in latter years to the extent that he would have liked.

But I should particularly like to say something about our great friend Senator Forsey. From the time of his first intervention in the Senate, when he joined us some nine years ago, his career was one of great promise. Indeed his time here displayed the fulfilment of that promise because his influence was both enlarged and solidified not only in this house, but in Parliament and in the country.

As has been said, Senator Forsey was one of the most articulate people who has ever graced the benches of the Senate, and in both languages. Senator Forsey understood Parliament and the legislative process, and his chairmanship of the Regulations and other Statutory Instruments Committee demonstrated that. The work of that committee was not newsworthy, perhaps, in the real sense of the word, but he understood the importance of Orders in Council and regulations and their effect upon legislation and the legal process, and how they could enlarge legislation unduly and far beyond the contemplation of the legislature, and how they could infringe the rights of the citizen.

This has been a major concern for many years in the upper house of the United Kingdom, the House of Lords, and Senator Forsey made it an important concern, as it must always remain an important concern, of this house. The work is tedious; the material is detailed, and meticulous study must be applied to it. The requirements of this kind of job are intelligence and judgment. Senator Forsey, and the committee, to whom I also pay tribute, did this work extremely well.

I really think, however, the fulfilment of Senator Forsey's career arose during the great constitutional debate in this house and in committees in 1978. His lifetime of study and experience, going back to his days at McGill, and his days of close association not only with the Right Honourable Arthur Meighen but with many other constitutionalists of his day, proved invaluable to him for that great debate and for the process which we all went through, and are, perhaps, continuing to go through at this time. His interventions, his letters, his articles and his interviews certainly delighted the media, but they delighted us as well. His views swayed the Senate and the committees of Parliament. He performed a signal service not only for this chamber but for our national institutions and for our country. The departure of Senator Forsey from this chamber and from Parliament leaves a great void.

● (1440)

Honourable senators, I should like at this time to say something about my friend, Maurice Bourget. I ask permission particularly to do this because when I had the privileges and responsibilities of the leadership here he was the Speaker.

His death was one of the great shocks we have had in recent years, because only days before it occurred he presided over

this house in the absence of the Speaker. Parliament will not be the same without Maurice Bourget. He had been here or hereabouts for some 40 years. He was a great gentleman; he was urbane; he was cultivated; he was considerate; and, above all, he was kind.

He had friends everywhere in Parliament, on both sides of the house. He had friends in far-flung places—in Europe, in the Middle East, and in the United States, where he went as part of his work as a parliamentarian. He had friends in all parts of Canada. He had friends particularly in the province of Quebec, and perhaps most especially in his native city of Lévis.

There is epitomized in his home high on the cliffs over Lévis, which overlooks the harbour of Quebec, an idea of what Maurice Bourget understood of the early days of this country. One of the great views in this country is the prospect of the city of Quebec from the river. Every time the Bourgets looked out of their windows they saw that view, and the view they saw distils the early history of this country, because Cartier had been there, Champlain had been there, the Indians came there to trade and the coureurs de bois came there to commence their journeys to the interior, the settlers were there, the missionaries went from there and the traders naturally used the river as the only highway into the interior.

All of this mixture of history was part of the background of the thinking, of the philosophy, of the life of Maurice Bourget, and that background he understood and appreciated. It was an integral part of his conception of Canada, a country that he loved deeply.

I remember, when the first flames of separatism appeared, he called me on the telephone from his home with great emotion and in great distress. I remember what he said, "What are they trying to do to my country?"—not "our country", not "your country", but "my country". He felt that he himself was being violated by the propositions emanating from separatist quarters, and he continued, "They cannot be allowed to succeed. They will not succeed."

By training Maurice Bourget was an engineer, and as an engineer his advice was sought, but as Speaker he exhibited a judicial quality that is rare even among people trained in the law. Instinctively, he had an understanding of the rules that apply in Parliament, and of the decorum that should prevail in this house. He was one of the most distinguished Speakers we shall ever see in Parliament.

To his great wife and to his two wonderful daughters we all send our very deep sympathy.

[Translation]

Senator Denis: Honourable senators, I would simply like to add a word in commemoration of my personal and intimate friend, the Honourable Maurice Bourget. I think everyone agrees that he was a very worthy colleague. As well we all agree he was a highly competent Speaker. Having known him since 1940 when he was first elected as member for the riding of Lévis I can say that he served exemplarily the interests of the voters of his riding.