

Roosevelt epitomized the ideal of what a man in high place should try to do for his fellow men.

Words fail me to express my thoughts. Many people have perhaps wondered what it would be like to live in a period when a great man was on the stage of life. Those who read everything they can find about Lincoln, as almost everybody does, must often try to imagine what the ordinary man and woman of his day thought about him. It has been said that when he was living people did not regard him very highly, that it was only afterwards that his greatness was revealed. I have never been sure about that. It seems to me that human beings can recognize true greatness at the time of its existence. I do not think that anyone who has lived during the past twelve years could have failed to realize that President Roosevelt would go down in history as a great man. It has been a wonderful thing to see this man, with all his physical infirmities, so outstand the rest of the world that for generations to come his name will be a shining light on the pages of history. Yesterday President Roosevelt was a citizen of the United States; to-day he is a citizen of the whole world. That is not a new sentiment: it was said of Lincoln, but I think it can be said with equal truth of Roosevelt.

We in Canada do not always love the President of the United States; but all of us, from the highest to the most humble, loved President Roosevelt. Despite Hitler and Mussolini and Togo, he seemed to say to us: There is still hope for the world!

Mrs. Roosevelt is a great woman. No wife could give greater support and encouragement to her husband than Mrs. Roosevelt gave to the President, and we sympathize with her and her family in their grievous loss.

I join with the honourable leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. King) in wishing the new President every success in carrying out the policies of his distinguished predecessor. We share the sorrow of the people of the United States. We Canadians are a peace-and-freedom-loving people, and we knew that in the late President we had a powerful friend. He will be numbered among the great statesmen of the world.

I fully agree with the proposal of the honourable leader opposite to incorporate in the proceedings of the Senate the speeches which the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition delivered in the other House expressing Canada's appreciation of the late President, and her sympathy with the people of the United States in their loss—a loss not merely national but international.

May I say to the people of the United States: We in Canada, as well as the rest of the world, are under an eternal obligation to your country for having produced such a great man as Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

(The speeches of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition are as follows):

Rt. Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Honourable members have learned of the death at Warm Springs, Georgia, this afternoon, of the President of the United States. Franklin D. Roosevelt was so close and good a neighbour, so great and true a friend of the Canadian people, that the word when received was as if one of our very own had passed away.

I hasten to express on behalf of the Government, the members of both Houses of Parliament now in session, and on behalf of all the people of Canada, our deepest sympathy with the Government and people of the United States. I wish at the same time to express our deepest sympathy for Mrs. Roosevelt and all the members of the family in their bereavement. Their sorrow and the sorrow of the American Nation will be shared by the peoples of the United Nations and by those who cherish freedom in all parts of the world.

The death of President Roosevelt is in truth a loss to the whole of mankind. Few lives have been more closely identified with humanity in its needs, its struggles and its aspirations. His services to the cause of freedom went far beyond limits of race and bounds of nationality. He was an undaunted champion of the rights of free men, and a mighty leader of the forces of freedom in a world at war. He has left to the world an enduring heritage by what his life, his faith and his courage have contributed to the well-being of his fellow-men. It is a comforting thought at this time to know that before the close of his great career he had already helped to fashion the design of a world organization for the maintenance of peace and security. His rest at Warm Springs was in preparation for the journey to San Francisco to open the Conference of the United Nations. In this conference he envisaged the culmination of his life's great aim—an enduring peace among the nations of the world.

It was my great privilege to have been a lifelong friend of Franklin D. Roosevelt. I knew him very well. Of that friendship I shall hope to speak at another time. My feelings at this moment are perhaps best expressed in lines of Matthew Arnold, which perhaps I may be permitted to quote. May I voice what at this hour lies deepest in the hearts of all:

O strong soul, by what shore  
 Tarriest thou now? For that force,  
 Surely, has not been left vain!  
 Somewhere, surely, afar,  
 In the sounding labour-house vast  
 Of being, is practised that strength,  
 Zealous, beneficent, firm!

I believe it is.

Mr. Speaker, as a mark of respect of our country for the memory of the President, the flag will fly at half-mast from the Peace Tower of our Parliament Buildings. As a further mark of respect I know that all honourable members would wish to have this House adjourn without continuing its proceedings to-day, and I move accordingly.