

We walked to the gate outside Parliament, and, looking at the lights in the Centre Block, he said, "Well, that's it. It's tough to leave." Those were his final words as he went on to his new responsibilities.

Paul Martin was identified with social reform very early in his career, even in his early twenties. He had a great, well-justified, reputation in international affairs. He fought many effective battles as High Commissioner. It was anything but an honorary post as far as he was concerned. You may recall his fight to achieve fair Canadian landing rights at London Heathrow. One of his great victories in negotiations with the British government.

Long after he had left Parliament and had finished his post in London, he would telephone with advice and ideas and suggestions for the party and his friends in Parliament. I suspect he contacted people in other parties as well, he was so interested in the entire process.

Paul Martin will certainly be missed by all of us. We have only good memories of him. I offer my condolences to the members of his family. I join with all of the other well-deserved tributes paid to him this evening.

Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantés: Honourable senators, everyone has said good things about Paul Martin, and I believe all of them, for I loved the man. Some members opposite may disagree when I describe the following as one of the very good things he did. He gave me landed immigrant status six hours after I asked for it in Washington. I will always be thankful to him for letting me in.

Hon. J. Michael Forrestall: Honourable colleagues, in the Parliamentary restaurant, down one aisle, is a fairly sacred place. It is the last alcove in the Parliamentary precincts of our restaurant. In that alcove in that restaurant, through all the years that I have been here, and as I understand it for much longer than that, there has been a table to which members of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada have been able to go and enjoy their dinner with their colleagues in privacy. Over the years, to the best of my knowledge, our alcove has been the only alcove that welcomed and entertained with delight members of the Liberal Party of Canada.

As a young man I enjoyed dinner at the table in that alcove with my colleagues, listening and learning, and frequently to that table would come the right honourable gentleman of which we speak. He did not need an invitation. He would invariably sit at the head of the table where he was in full view of all those who might be dining in our restaurant. He would order, with deliberateness, his usual meal.

While at the dinner table, Mr. Martin would enter into the conversation, sometimes describing it, sometimes outlining it for amateurs, certainly always dominating it. He was, as has been said here this evening, always a gentleman, always a partisan, never engendering ill will, always welcomed, always thanked for coming, never embarrassed when people got up and left, having finished their dinner at our common table.

[Senator Perrault.]

The Right Honourable Lester Pearson used to join us from time to time, as did other very distinguished gentlemen with whom I have sat and served in the House of Commons. The Right Honourable Paul Martin was welcome at that table. He was a distinguished visitor. His views were always welcome. I came to know him quite well in the mid 1950s. It was that aspect of his character and countenance, his capacity to come at will to our common table and know that he was accepted, that I will always remember.

I join with others in paying tribute to his family, particularly to his son Paul.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE AUTHORIZE TO PERMIT ELECTRONIC MEDIA COVERAGE

Hon. R. James Balfour, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 59(1)(f), moved:

That the Subcommittee on Security and National Defence of the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs be empowered to permit coverage by the electronic media of its public proceedings with the least possible disruption of its hearings.

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

[Translation]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

Hon. Jacques Hébert: Honourable senators, I have the honour to present petitions signed by 75 citizens of the province of Ontario who oppose the goods and services tax.

These petitions are mainly from Toronto, Sudbury, Guelph and Peterborough.

I also have the honour to present petitions signed by 521 citizens of British Columbia who oppose the goods and services tax.

These petitions are mainly from Vancouver, Richmond and Victoria.

Finally, I have one last petition from Nanaimo, in British Columbia, and Oakville, in Ontario, which reads as follows:

[English]

The GST is the first federal tax to ever apply to books, magazines and newspapers in Canada. Over the past year, the GST on reading materials has reduced reading in Canada and