

[Translation]

The reputation of Senator Gouin, the senior representative of the Province of Quebec in this house, is so well established that it is not possible to add to it.

Son of a former Prime Minister of the province of Quebec, he followed his family's tradition. His literary accomplishments, his knowledge of history and his philosophical turn of mind enabled him yesterday to make a most excellent speech which all the members of the Senate greatly appreciated. I congratulate him and thank him for it.

[Text]

I would indeed be remiss if I did not at this point offer sincere congratulations to our new Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know your lengthy experience and contribution in this chamber qualify you in every respect for the high honour you have received. We wish you well in the discharge of your duties and anticipate with pleasure your benign and informed supervision of our deliberations.

May I add this very personal remark, that for the nine years the honourable Speaker has been a member of this chamber he has never been penalized for an absence and has never missed a meeting on account of sickness.

May I also say how very pleased we are that Mrs. Smith is accompanying you. We look forward to pleasant social relations with you and Mrs. Smith during this Parliament.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

[Translation]

Hon. Mr. Bouffard: I would be remiss if I failed to mention Senator Maurice Bourget's term of office as Speaker of this assembly. During the few years he presided over our deliberations, Speaker Bourget discharged his responsibilities with ability and dignity. Furthermore, his charming wife was a great comfort to him in the carrying out of his functions by adding that feminine touch which is so necessary to enable the Speaker to discharge the often delicate tasks with which he is entrusted.

I am happy to welcome him back to the ranks of the private members of the Senate. No doubt he will be a great credit to this house and will add further to his stature.

[Text]

I also wish, on behalf of the Government and personally, especially to welcome among us Senator William Benidickson. Senator Benidickson has had lengthy parliamentary experience. Trained in the law, he was first

elected to the House of Commons for the constituency of Kenora-Rainy River in 1945, after distinguished wartime service in the R.C.A.F. Senator Benidickson was re-elected at six successive general elections, and also served in the other place as a Parliamentary Secretary and as Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys. In the Senate we need members who have had experience in the public affairs of our country, and we are pleased to see Senator Benidickson take his place here with us.

Before starting to talk about the Speech from the Throne, I would like to congratulate the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Brooks) for the manner in which he has fulfilled his duties. I quite understand it has not been an easy task. Indeed, I think he would have been much better off had he spoken from my side rather than from his own.

Hon. Mr. Brooks: For different reasons!

Hon. Mr. Bouffard: For different reasons, yes. Within the very best traditions of the Senate, he has expressed his doubts and propositions with the dignity that suits this house and without the venom that sometimes one feels one must use. He can rest assured that the traditions will be observed on this side.

Honourable senators, before speaking to the proposals contained in the Throne Speech of the First Session of the Twenty-seventh Parliament, I would like to cast a glance backwards to the Twenty-sixth Parliament.

The Twenty-sixth Parliament recalls, I am sure, many memories and attitudes. It was a Parliament of near traumatic highs and depressing lows but, regardless of the political point of view one might have had, it was a Parliament of substantial accomplishments. Major legislative proposals were enacted. I am thinking of such items as the Canada Pension Plan, the Flag, integration of our defence forces, the establishment of the Department of Industry, the Columbia River Treaty, the Municipal Development Loan Board, Redistribution, the establishment of the Economic Council, reductions in personal income tax, and many others as well. Moreover, it was a period of strong economic expansion which benefitted all sectors of the economy and all sections of the country.

The Senate shared in a significant way in the workload of the last Parliament. Virtually every Government bill which within the limits of the Constitution could be introduced