

I should like, honourable senators, to offer condolences to his widow, Clara Smallwood, to his three children, and to his family. He will be long remembered.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Hon. William J. Petten: Honourable senators, I am pleased and honoured to have the opportunity to pay tribute to the late honourable Joseph Roberts Smallwood.

I first met Mr. Smallwood in 1947 in company with my late father, Senator Ray Petten. I was even then impressed by his dynamic personality.

As Senator Doody has said, Joseph Roberts Smallwood was born on December 24, 1900, in Gambo, Bonavista Bay, Newfoundland. He was one of 13 children born to Charles and Mary Ellen Smallwood. The family later moved to St. John's.

His uncle Fred, a prosperous businessman, sent his nephew to Bishop's Field College in St. John's. He left school at the age of 15 and went to work for a number of newspapers from 1915 to 1920. In 1920 he left Newfoundland and, on his way to New York, worked at papers in Halifax and Boston. While in New York, he became interested in politics, and it was there that he learned to handle hecklers and control large crowds at public meetings.

I remember a meeting held in the C.L.B. Armory in St. John's in 1950, where a heckler was constantly interrupting the premier. Smallwood asked him to come on stage, passed him the mike and told him to address the meeting. He, the heckler, stammered and stuttered and was relieved to take the seat Smallwood offered him. That was the end of the interruptions.

In 1925, Smallwood returned to Newfoundland to organize the paper mill workers in Grand Falls and Corner Brook and became president of the Newfoundland Federation of Labour. During this time, he walked the 800 miles of the Newfoundland Railway to organize the section men. He was always interested in the welfare of his fellow Newfoundlanders.

Smallwood was an admirer of Sir Richard Squires, Prime Minister in the twenties and thirties. His other hero was Sir William Coaker, founder of the Fishermen's Protective Union. Coaker founded the F.P.U. in 1908, and it is said the membership reached 20,000. With the backing of the union, he built the town of Port Union on the northeast coast of Newfoundland and founded the Fishermen's Union Trading Company that exported Newfoundland fishery products to the world markets. It is said that Smallwood patterned himself after Sir Richard Squires, but I have always been of the opinion that his model was Sir William Coaker.

In the 1930s, Smallwood worked as a reporter and editor for St. John's papers, and shortly after this, he founded the *Humber Herald* in Corner Brook, Newfoundland. He wrote several books during this period, including the books of Newfoundland. In 1937, he was working as a columnist for the *St. John's Daily News* and went on the air with his column and took the title of the "Barrelman", where he became well known to people from all parts of Newfoundland. This would stand him in good stead for his future endeavours.

During all this time, Smallwood still maintained an interest in farming.

When the national convention was called in 1946 to decide Newfoundland's future, Smallwood was elected for the district of Bonavista Centre with an overwhelming majority. The proceedings of the national convention were broadcast every night by radio, and Smallwood lost no opportunity of getting his views known to all Newfoundlanders. He brought Newfoundland into the union, but not without a hard-fought battle. After bringing his country into the Canadian family as the tenth province, he might have been expected to be content to rest on his laurels, as most people would have been. Not Smallwood. He then embarked upon a great industrial and economic development plan.

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Under his leadership the trans-insular highway and the connecting roads to the isolated communities were completed. There was then the rural electrification of the province; the improvements to high schools; the building of Memorial University; hospitals and health care to all parts of the province; the Churchill Falls Hydro development; and the iron ore mines of Labrador. His thoughts and energies were always for the people of his beloved Newfoundland.

Joey Smallwood was not one to let the time of day deter him from calling. I remember one occasion; it went something like this: "Bill, Smallwood here. I would like to see you when it is convenient." I asked, "When, Premier," and he said, "When it is convenient." I asked, "Now?" "That would be satisfactory," he replied. It was 11 o'clock at night. Premier Smallwood lived 50 miles from St. John's.

On another occasion, I was at his home for a meeting. It was a Saturday. We were constantly interrupted by telephone calls. I said to the premier, "Why not get someone to answer the phone?" His answer was, "Bill, when I stop answering that phone I will cease to be Premier of Newfoundland."

His door was open to one and all and it was not uncommon to see people lined up at his home on weekends. He was truly a remarkable man—an understatement for sure—and one who did more for his province of Newfoundland than anyone else.

I am pleased to say that Memorial University has a J.R. Smallwood Centre for Newfoundland studies and that there is a J.R. Smallwood Heritage Foundation to continue the work that he started on the encyclopedias of Newfoundland. Joseph Roberts Smallwood, a great Newfoundlander and a great Canadian. I will not see his like again in my lifetime.

Hon. Duff Roblin: Honourable senators, I do not often allow myself the luxury of looking back, because at my age it is not safe. But I cannot refrain on this occasion from bringing to mind the first occasion on which I had the opportunity to become acquainted with the Honourable Joey Smallwood. This occurred at the first Dominion-Provincial Conference that I had the privilege of attending. If I may say so—present company excepted—there were giants in those days. There was Leslie Frost, Maurice Duplessis, Ernest Manning, W.A.C. Bennett, Tommy Douglas, Walter Shaw, Hugh John Flem-