

Tributes

Where I grew up in the city of Vancouver had always been represented in my memory by the Winch family. I must say this with no rancour that when we went to a local movie theatre for the matinee on Sunday afternoon we saw pictures of Adolf Hitler and we booed; we saw pictures of Mussolini, we booed; we saw Mackenzie King, we booed; we saw George Drew and we booed. We saw Harold Winch and we erupted in cheers.

We should not reflect that we of course put Mackenzie King or George Drew in the same category because they were great Canadians, but that was the essence of the identity within the community of the east end of Vancouver toward what everybody in that part of town considered their champion.

Harold Winch loved Parliament. Harold Winch was defined as a radical socialist which can be said to be a correct definition in the framework of being a loyal monarchist, strange as it may seem, and a devoted parliamentarian, not so strange.

• (1520)

This man who was committed to the monarchy in terms of parliamentary reform and parliamentary roles was the one man who went out impassioned during the debate on the flag and demanded that the Union Jack be retained. Some symbol for a so-called radical socialist.

His commitment to Parliament, his commitment to the rules of this Chamber, his commitment to this vehicle as an outlet for legitimate aspirations of social and economic justice were unmatched anywhere in our province.

His enemies were legion but that did not include personal friendships. Harold Winch had friends in the Conservative Party, the Liberal Party and every other adjunct to form a coalition that those two parties put together in British Columbia, sometimes known as Social Credit, thrown against the Democratic Socialists.

Harold Winch was respected yet loved by the people of our province.

His death is also the death of an era. The Social Democrats of his era were demanded to set an agenda to meet an unusual set of economic circumstances. The same challenges are now before the party that he left behind, the Social Democratic Party of Canada. His

death is a reminder of the leadership given the Social Democrats to chart a new path in a troubled country.

I say, through you, Mr. Speaker, to all Canadians that we do not have a monopoly on the truth or a monopoly on all the answers to Canada's problems, but Harold Winch's demonstration of willingness to work through those problems, the finances for all Canadians, is still the same commitment by every one of us who call ourselves Democratic Socialists.

Mr. David D. Stupich (Nanaimo—Cowichan): Mr. Speaker, I am one who felt very privileged to have worked with Harold for 44 years in the CCF-NDP.

One month ago I visited him at his home. We had a meeting of three people. After telling us that his mind was starting to let him down, he went on to prove that he had not forgotten a single thing for the last 80 years.

The election of 1953 has been mentioned. I had some small part in that. On the first count when Harold was premier-elect by quite a substantial number of MLAs, I was ahead by 923 ballots in Nanaimo and the Island. By the time the final counting had taken place some three weeks later, I was behind by 18 votes. Harold might have been premier had that result been different in Nanaimo.

He was a derelict. He was proud to be called a derelict. The Prime Minister in 1933 said those people on welfare, those people unemployed were derelicts and he was not prepared to put any more public money into looking after derelicts. Then Harold was elected and was proud to be one of these derelicts and represented them very carefully and very well in the House. I am proud to have known him as long and as well as I did.

Mr. Speaker: The House always views tributes with great dignity and I would ask the hon. member to wind up with some short remarks.

Mr. Lyle Kristiansen (Kootenay West—Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, the home I was born into in downtown Vancouver was called the CCF house. I was the only child in a house that saw many raging debates. The first voices I can remember through the swinging doors between our common living room, parents' bedroom, dining room and my closet-sized bedroom were those of Harold Winch, Ernie Winch, Wallace Lefaux and a number of other early leaders in the socialist movement in British Columbia.