

Speaking Notes
Senator Noël A. Kinsella
Unveiling of Senator Dan Hay's Portrait
May 08, 2006

Senator Hays, Mrs. Hays, Senators, distinguished guests,
chers amis:

One of the great benefits of being Speaker of the
Senator is that I am called on, from time to time, to fete my
outstanding colleagues. Today, on the occasion of the
unveiling of the Portrait of the 45th Speaker of the Senate,
the Honourable Dan Hays, it is my privilege to fulfill this
role and speak to the great contribution Senator Hays made
as my predecessor.

Senator Hays has made an indelible impact on the
Canadian Senate. He was appointed by the Right
Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau on June 29, 1984.

During the intervening 22 years he has repeatedly served in

many essential roles of leadership including: acting as Chair of various committees, Deputy Leader of the Government, Speaker, and Leader of the Opposition.

He has proven not only an ambassador for our nation, but for the institution of the Senate, as well. He has dedicated years to establishing open ties and excellent relations with the British House of Lords. He worked collaboratively with many of our international colleagues to entrench a role for Upper House Speakers at G8 meetings.

Senator Hays' first hand experience with the prejudice Japanese Canadians faced during the Second World War ignited in him a desire to combat ignorance through improved cross-cultural understanding. He has remained a dedicated advocate and promoter of Canada-Japan relations. Senator Hays' diplomatic record during his tenure demonstrates an unwavering commitment to using

the post of Speaker as an international tool of good will.

The innovation he has shown in promoting international cooperation will certainly be his legacy to the Speakership.

Dan Hays has balanced an innovative and pioneering life in farming with a successful career in law and has contributed immeasurably to the Parliament of a Canada. Senator Hays learned as a young Albertan law student, living in Toronto, the regional dichotomies that sometimes divided Canadians. Once a member of the Senate, he endeavored to promote an agenda of more inclusive and coherent federal policy making.

His invaluable knowledge of the cattle industry and oil and gas sectors have resulted in a highly productive period for the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry and the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources. These

committees published a number of pivotal reports under the guidance of Senator Hays, as their chair.

Senator Hays' portrait accurately captures the juxtaposition of metaphors that have characterized a lifetime of accomplishments. In this portrait we observe a savvy and astute political operator, yet an impartial and even-handed chief in the Senate Chamber. We gaze upon a country farm boy and at the same time, a sophisticated gentlemen, comfortable in the board room of any Bay Street law firm. We see the warren of the Parliament buildings, but a sky representative of the vast Prairie expanse. Finally, we recognize a relaxed and approachable, yet strong and earnest Speaker.

The artist, John Brocke is known for his application of great density in colour and deliberation in paint strokes.

Mr. Brocke is considered to be adept at marrying the fact

and essence of history with the mythology and mysticism of cotemporary life to construct symbols of truth. This portrait is a faithful representation of the impressive duality of a superb Parliamentarian.

It is an honour to welcome Senator Hays and his family back to the Speaker's Quarters and present for the first time, publicly, the official portrait of the Honourable Dan Hays, 45th Speaker of the Senate of Canada.