



Debates of the Senate (Hansard)

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The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella, Speaker**

SENATORS' STATEMENTS

The Honourable Pat Carney, P.C.

Resignation from the Senate

Hon. Pat Carney: Honourable senators, I wish to advise the Senate that I will be notifying the Prime Minister that I will resign my seat effective January 31, 2008.

Tributes

The Honourable Pat Carney, P.C.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I received a notice earlier today from the Leader of the Government to request, pursuant to rule 22(10), that the time provided for the consideration of Senators' Statements be extended today for the purpose of paying tribute to the Honourable Senator Pat Carney, P.C., who will retire from the Senate on January 31, 2008.

I remind honourable senators that pursuant to our rules, each senator will be allowed only three minutes and they may speak only once. The time for tributes shall not exceed 15 minutes, but it does not include the time allotted to the response of the senator to whom the tribute is paid.

Hon. Hugh Segal: Honourable senators, our colleague Patricia "Pat" Carney came to Ottawa in 1980 from the riding of Vancouver Centre, not to have a better job than the one she had as a journalist, economist, analyst, lecturer and community leader, but as a newly elected MP in the Clark Progressive Conservative team to build a better country. In the 27 years of service to Vancouver, British Columbia and Canada, that is precisely what Pat Carney did.

(1335)

Never a go-with-the-flow pushover, Senator Carney stood her ground, in partisan and policy terms. She always fought for economically rational and socially progressive policies, even when the politics and the biases of the day favoured neither.

Her determination, focus, integrity and strength were often viewed by bureaucrats, the media and even some of her own colleagues in the same party as being aloof, stubborn and difficult. By the way, these terms were used by men to diminish women, especially in the 1970s and 1980s when a paternalistic, old-boys, golf club, male, Ottawa culture deeply resisted strong, competent and take-no-nonsense women. Thankfully, Pat Carney was not bothered.

She did her job and charged straight ahead, and helped change the culture as a result. *Beneath the Veneer*, the 1990 report of the Task Force on Barriers to Women in the Public Service, of which Senator Carney was chair, was a catalyst that would encourage women in the public service to move beyond the glass ceiling. Senator Carney's political partisanship never interfered with her advocacy for women. In 1991, when Bill C-43 came before the Senate, Senator Carney voted against her own government's bill. It was one that sadly would have criminalized abortion. Her vote produced the tie that defeated that bill.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Senator Segal: Senator Carney is a woman from a generation who understood and experienced the limitations that culture and society placed on women. She is also an example of how cultural and societal limitations on women were broken down, often through compelling competence, sheer acts of courage and personal will of the kind her career will always symbolize.

As Minister of International Trade, her role in the free trade negotiations was seminal, clear-cut and demanding. Her advice in public and private was clear-headed and insightful. She brought a Pacific-coast sensibility to discussions that would have been otherwise only about Central Canada, as is often the case in this city.

The value of Senator Carney's economic literacy, articulate analysis and determined advance of a better life for middle-income Canadians and the poor was inestimable. It brought a spring to the step of humane and compassionate Conservatives as we all went door-to-door fighting for a better way of governing and serving. She served under Prime Minister Clark, and as Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources in the early Mulroney years. She negotiated and delivered the Atlantic and Western accords. The accords brought fairness to the regions and undid the horrific damage of the confiscatory National Energy Program, a program that was designed in Ottawa, by Ottawa, for Ottawa. Her leadership, strength, intellectual rigour and competence in no way diminished her rich

Irish sense of humour and depth of friendship; a friendship she extended often to new MPs, such as Barbara McDougall and Mary Collins, who greatly benefited from her advice, camaraderie and experience with others.

For that friendship, leadership and her work on free trade, we owe Pat Carney more than we can ever adequately repay. The championing of the case of both heritage lighthouses and Senate reform are legendary and reflective of her never-give-in demeanour.

Senator Carney's autobiography, *Trade Secrets: A Memoir*, while a compelling and entertaining journey of her life and careers, is definitely not the end of the story. We wish her a full, active and robust retirement. I doubt that her service to Canada and its people is over. I am sure it is simply entering a new phase.

(1340)

Hon. Joyce Fairbairn: Honourable senators, it is with feelings of personal pride and regret that I say farewell to a long-time friend and colleague who is leaving the Senate to return to the Gulf Islands and her beloved province of British Columbia.

There is only one Pat Carney in this world and, during her working life, she has stirred up attention to and an understanding of our Canada as a journalist, a vigorous member of both Houses of Parliament, a cabinet minister and a voice for people who need attention and help to be able to join in the daily life of this incredible country.

Born in Shanghai, China, with a South African mother and an Irish Canadian father and a twin brother, Jim, she and her family moved to British Columbia where Pat was raised in the Kootenays, where, I can hardly believe, she once dreamed of becoming a rancher. Instead, her mother's background as a writer set her moving in the direction that eventually led her to this Hill back in the 1960s.

Pat and I pioneered many years as eager young women in a man's world — a time when we were referred to as "female newsmen." Educated at the University of British Columbia, she has worked all over the province and in the Yukon for newspapers, radio, television and magazines with some of the finest reporters, editors and commentators in Canadian journalistic history. Along the way, she was recognized as a first-rate financial writer.

While she was doing all that in the 1960s, I was in Ottawa, working away in the Parliamentary Press Gallery. My weakest effort was anything to do with high finance, and I stood in awe of Pat when she was dispatched from Vancouver on annual budget days. She would march into those scrums and take direct aim at the finance minister, whose knees would be shaking at the directness of her questions.

In 1968-69, she was assigned to the Ottawa team of *The Vancouver Sun* and FP Publications in the Press Gallery, where she joined up with me and another vigorous young journalist, the late Marjorie Nichols. The three of us were just, well, a threesome; we were great friends.

With all of this excitement in her system, she returned to Vancouver where she carried on writing as always and working as an economic consultant. However, having been here, politics was on her mind, and in 1979, she gave it a try, unsuccessfully, as a Progressive Conservative candidate. Then, putting up a vigorous effort, she was elected in Vancouver Centre the following year, which added vigour to a new Parliament.

In 1984, Pat joined the Mulroney cabinet as the first female Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and, two years later, was named Minister of International Trade. She played a significant role in negotiating the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, for which she received a reward for outstanding achievement in the field of international law and affairs from the New York Bar Association, which was pretty hot stuff, I would say. She was a best-selling author of *Trade Secrets: A Memoire*. She went on to serve as President of the Treasury Board and the Minister Responsible for the Asia Pacific Initiative at the time.

In 1988, Pat decided not to run for re-election but her life in Parliament was far from over. Two years later, she was appointed to the Senate of Canada, and showed the strength of her personal convictions when she opposed the then Conservative government's proposed anti-abortion act, which was defeated on a tie in the Senate. Always an advocate for women's rights, she showed great courage and that was very much appreciated across this country. The effort will never be forgotten.

As a result of her background with those who live and work in the Gulf Islands, Senator Carney joined with the late Nova Scotia Senator Mike Forrestall to try to persuade the federal government to protect heritage lighthouses, but so far, to no avail. I have no doubt that she will vigorously promote this important issue in her remaining days in this chamber and I hope she will succeed, or pass the torch because she never lets things lie. They have to be done and Pat, one way or another, will get this one done.

(1345)

As I look at Pat's history today, I emphasize that she has been a tremendous benefit to this country as a journalist, a parliamentarian, and a special character with deep convictions and I thank her for that. I know that journalism is still in her heart, as it is in mine, and I would not be at all surprised if we see her by-line again and perhaps another book.

Good wishes to you Pat, to Paul and the family. Be assured that I will remember you always as a tough colleague, a good friend and a devoted Canadian.

Hon. Lowell Murray: Honourable senators, it is almost 30 years since Bill Neville and I met Pat Carney and her young son over breakfast one morning in the Château Laurier to encourage her to yield to the Progressive Conservatives of Vancouver Centre, who were trying to recruit her as their candidate for the 1979 general election.

To politics, to government and to Parliament she brought her broad perspective and understanding of what was happening and how and why; her knowledge of mining and resource development in Northern Canada, which she knew from direct experience; her roots in the Far East as well as in her

beloved British Columbia, where her antennae unfailingly registered every significant development, no matter how nuanced, usually before it happened.

Pat Carney was a famously quick study as a cabinet minister and as a parliamentarian. As lead minister, her name will forever be identified with some of the most important contributions of the Mulroney government to Canada's prosperity: dismantling and replacing the more perverse elements of the National Energy Policy; negotiation of the offshore energy accords with Nova Scotia and Newfoundland; and the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. She was the point person, the fulcrum of all this and more, reporting to cabinet and caucus, answering to Parliament, explaining to the media and defending the policy to a host of public interlocutors.

I should say here that the policies I have just referred to, and, in addition, the Forrestall-Carney Heritage Lighthouse Protection Bill, were as popular on the East Coast as on the West Coast. This was a point made to me in conversation as recently as this morning by our former colleague and leader, Senator Al Graham.

I like to think of my seatmate as one of the last of the Progressive Conservatives. She believes that government does have a role in the economy. In the Mulroney government, she was the most ardent advocate of the child care legislation that we passed through the House of Commons but which later died on the Senate Order Paper when the clock ran out and the 1988 election campaign began. She had let us know, and Mr. Mulroney referred to this often, what it had been like for a single parent to have to drive halfway across Vancouver before and after work every day to place a child in secure daycare, a burden that still afflicts too many Canadian families.

In that connection, my mind goes back 30 years to the presence of her young son at that breakfast in the Château Laurier, and forward to today as she takes her leave of us. In 1979, coming into politics, she needed to know that that life could be reconciled with her obligations as a parent. Heading into 2008, she leaves us because other needs at home are more pressing. Those concerned about family values could well reflect on the personal, professional and public life of Pat Carney and on her priorities.

Much water has gone under the bridge since that breakfast in 1979, and speaking of water, I again commend to honourable senators Bill S-217, An Act to amend the International Boundary Waters Treaty Act on bulk water removal, another Carney legacy in the making.

Hon. Mobina S.B. Jaffer: Honourable senators, the province of British Columbia will lose a powerful and skilled advocate in the Senate when Pat Carney retires at the end of January.

(1350)

Her departure marks the end of a storied 25 years in Parliament, during which time she blazed many trails for Canadian women. My first memories of her were in her role as a minister. She was an immense support and went out of her way to help the immigrant and visible minority organization through her friend Patsy George, while she was a Member of Parliament for Vancouver Centre. The stories amongst my friends are abundant of how she helped many immigrant women obtain their goals.

It is her work in the Senate that I wish to highlight today. Many would say her legacy is lighthouses. I beg to differ. There is no question she has given a great deal to the preservation of maritime heritage, but I choose today to honour her work in two important areas: coastal community sustainability and Aboriginal women.

Throughout much of her time in the Senate, Pat Carney worked hard in opposition lobbying for projects that made a difference. She fully utilized her background in journalism, municipal planning and economic consulting. There is no question one of Pat Carney's legacies in the Senate is the voice she gave to B.C. coastal communities in Ottawa.

The other legacy that should not be forgotten is her work to provide Aboriginal women access in Ottawa. She has tried, in vain at times, to get the Senate to do a report on the consequences and effects of Bill C-31, introduced in 1985, an act that intended to restore Indian status to Aboriginal women who had lost their status by marriage to non-Aboriginals. Repeatedly she has called attention to this issue, and the need for this type of study.

Honourable senators, I was deeply moved by the words of a B.C. native woman's activist, Wendy Lockhart Lundberg, who recently wrote in the *Vancouver Sun* about what Pat Carney's work meant in her life. She writes:

We would like to thank Pat Carney for her solid and consistent support. She was one of the first and few parliamentarians to acknowledge the marginalization and under-representation of native women in Canada in the very core legal and legislative issues that affect their human rights and interests.

She goes on to say:

Carney was instrumental in ensuring that both individuals and organizations participated in policy and legislative development. Among other things, she made sure that native women were provided with opportunities to speak in a variety of forums about the discriminatory provisions of the Indian Act that still affect them today.

We thank the senator for her leadership and we wish her a long and happy retirement. Our hands go up to her in honour and respect.

Today, I, along with everyone else in the chamber, wish to also raise my hands in respect. Senator Carney has spent so many years in public life, and I want her to know that people from British Columbia have appreciated her service.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Pierre De Bané: Honourable senators, I would like to join my colleagues in paying tribute to a great woman who has excelled in both the House of Commons and the Senate.

Senator Carney made a truly remarkable contribution to both Houses of this Parliament. Throughout her successful career in the Senate, Pat Carney was a member and vice-chair of the Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade. She was also a member of the Standing

Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples, chair of the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources, and vice-chair of the ad hoc parliamentary committee on light stations, which a number of my colleagues have mentioned.

[English]

When Senator Carney joined the Senate, she was the first Conservative senator to be appointed from British Columbia since 1931. She has always been a strong advocate for British Columbia and its unique interests, including issues surrounding marine safety on Canada's West Coast. Born in Shanghai, China, Senator Carney had a career in journalism and economic consulting before entering politics.

(1355)

I listened to Senator Murray talk about his first encounter with her. When I went to British Columbia, I was told that Senator Carney hesitated, that she wanted to run as a Liberal. I said that would have been a great comfort for my party because I have known her in the House of Commons, where she was a powerful voice for the official opposition between 1980 and 1984.

Although Senator Carney was summoned to the Senate in 1990, her political career is over a quarter-century long. Not only in politics, but also in journalism, she was an important figure.

She held three cabinet posts, as honourable senators know: Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources; Minister of International Trade; and President of the Treasury Board. She was the first female to be appointed to these senior cabinet positions.

In 1988 she was presented with the prestigious award for outstanding achievement by the New York Bar Association, along with her American counterpart, Ambassador Clayton Yeutter.

Her academic achievements have indeed matched her illustrious political career. She holds a BA in Economics and Political Science, a master's degree in Community and Regional Planning and an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from both UBC and the British Columbia Open University.

I would like to tell my dear colleague that I wish her many years of enjoyable retirement in the beautiful surroundings of Canada's Gulf Islands. Many people who do not know her see only a person who is a tower of strength and an eloquent spokesperson for the aspirations of the people of Western Canada.

I know how sensitive Senator Carney is to the most humble request of the people of this country, and I want to communicate to her my esteem and gratitude.

Hon. Ross Fitzpatrick: Honourable senators, I too rise today to pay tribute to a valued colleague on her early retirement from this chamber.

Although Senator Carney and I are on different sides of the political spectrum, I have always admired and respected her commitment and dedication to serve Canadians and, in particular, her rigorous pursuit of matters of special importance in our home province of British Columbia.

Although she was born in Shanghai, China, I am proud to say that Senator Carney and I share a British Columbia background. While I was born in Kelowna and received my early schooling in Oliver, she was growing up in the Kootenays and attended high school in Nelson. She also has strong ties to the Okanagan, as her family were early pioneers in Kelowna and the Vernon area.

The original Carney Ranch at Ellison is now part of the Kelowna International Airport. As we drive to the airport, we can still see the Tom Carney brand burned into the side of the old homestead barn.

I followed her career as an incisive and outstanding financial and business writer in the 1960s. In those days, I do not think that either one of us kids from the country thought that we would ever end up serving together in the Senate here in Ottawa.

Senator Carney has always taken a strong interest in the Okanagan, and she has been an unyielding champion for British Columbia's coastal communities and an important voice in the Coastal Community Network, which develops common ground on resource and marine policy and effectively articulates the needs of the coastal communities.

As honourable senators know, Senator Carney has also been a great champion of our seafarers, introducing a bill in Parliament to protect our heritage lighthouses for those at sea and also as an important part of our history and culture. The coastal communities will surely miss her strong and steadfast support.

(1400)

Honourable senators, Senator Carney has earned the right to an early retirement. I know that you will join with me in wishing her well as she leaves us to return to beautiful British Columbia. I feel confident that she will find true happiness, as she has had the wisdom to become reunited with Paul, her long-time Grit love and mate. The best to you both.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Hon. Nick G. Sibbeston: Honourable senators, I would like to use this occasion to say a few words about Senator Carney. Mention was made of Senator Carney spending her life in B.C. and in Ottawa. She was in the Northwest Territories in the 1980s when the North was very active with the possibility of a 48-inch gas pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley. She was a consultant for one of the pipeline groups, which was a very challenging task. She travelled from community to community to convince people of the merits of the pipeline. Pat was operating in a man's world. It was in the early years of government in the North. The government was Commissioner Stuart Hodgson, who was really the king of the North.

To assist her in her task, Pat hired Aboriginal people to bridge the cultural differences between the big companies and the local community. It was a daunting task. In her boldness she was an

inspiration to people like me who would never have thought to challenge the government and the status quo. Pat is certainly a personality and a character, and she has done very well for the people of the North.

In closing, I want to make a bit of a pitch. My office was on the same floor as Pat's, and I have always admired her corner office. If somehow you could will it to me, Pat, I would be most grateful. Best wishes for your retirement, and thank you.