

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1949.

MEMORIAL SERVICES.

SPECIAL ORDER.

Two o'clock P. M.

The President announced the order of business to be the memorial services set pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 5, adopted January 28, 1949, in honor of the late Senators Charles N. Orr, Henry A. Larson and C. L. Cole, and former Senators James C. Kelly and T. H. Johnson.

Prayer by the Chaplain of the Senate:

"Thou art pleased, Gracious Lord, with faithful and honest service. And today we remember in gratitude to Thee the honest and consecrated effort and thought of these departed servants of this and other years in this Senate. With devotion to truth and the common good of all, they labored with inner integrity to erect and maintain enduring foundations for our state. Give unto us who bear responsibility in these days to be guided by eternal principles of the good, the true, and the just. Thus may we offer to Thee for Thy blessing all our thoughts, words and deeds. Use these humble efforts of ours to Thy own great purposes. In the name of Christ. Amen."

CALL OF THE SENATE.

Mr. Miller moved a call of the Senate.

The roll being called, the following Senators answered to their names:

- | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---------------|----------------|------------|
| Almen | Davis | Johnson, C.E. | Nelsen | Sullivan |
| Andersen, E.L. | Dennison | Johnson, J.A. | Neumeier | Swenson |
| Anderson, E.P. | Dernek | Julkowski | Novak | Vukelich |
| Anderson, M.H. | Dietz | Larson | O'Brien | Wagener |
| Baughman | Dougherty | Lauerman | Pedersen | Wahlstrand |
| Bridgeman | Duemke | Ledin | Peterson, E. | Wefald |
| Burdick | Feidt | Lightner | Peterson, E.L. | Welch |
| Bushnell | George | Lofvegren | Rogers | Welle |
| Butler | Goodhue | Masek | Rosenmeier | Wright |
| Carey | Grottum | Mayhood | Siegel | Wuertz |
| Carley | Hagen | Miller | Simonson | Zwach |
| Carr | Harrison | Mitchell | Sinclair | |
| Dahle | Imm | Mullin | Sletvold | |
| Dahlquist | Johanson | Myre | Spokely | |

Mr. Miller moved to dispense with further proceedings under the Call of the Senate.

Which motion prevailed.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

The President of the Senate recognized the Senator from Hennepin County, Mr. Miller, who offered the following tribute to the deceased members and former members in behalf of the Memorial Committee:

"Mr. President, Members of the Senate, Honored Guests:

We pause this afternoon in memory of men who have lived among us and worked with us as members of this Senate, three of whom died while members and two others who were former members. We pay tribute and say a final farewell to C. L. Cole, Henry A. Larson, Charles N. Orr, T. H. Johnson and James C. Kelly, with whom we have worked and been closely associated, whose names have been called and they have responded to the last roll call.

A little while ago they were here. Men who had convictions and sought loyally to promote the welfare of the state. We must carry on with the same work in the committees and in this chamber that they were busy doing such a short time ago. Now they are gone, and we pause here today to take stock, as it were, of our loss and pay tribute to their memories. In the words of Whittier:

'How strange it seems,
With so much gone,
Of life and love, we still live on.'

For many years it has been our privilege to walk in and out among these men whom we honor today. No two were alike, save in loyalty. Each had his own way of expressing his personality and making his influence felt among his fellowmen. As we pause here today to bid them farewell, we are reminded that the glory of the sunset is none the less beautiful because of the approaching night. Only the limitations of the eye obscure them from our vision; the soul still feels their presence, and the warm glory of their love and abiding influence. To their loved ones I tender an understanding sympathy.

'Such lives as thine,
Have not been lived in vain,
But shed an influence, rare, divine
On lives that here remain.' "

The President of the Senate recognized the Senator from Ramsey County, Mr. E. L. Andersen.

"Mr. President, Members of the Senate, Honored Guests:

It is with a humble acknowledgment of my own inadequacy that I rise to pay tribute to the late Senator Charles Noah Orr. As you look toward the chair that was his for so many years, your minds will turn to fond recollections, your heart will renew the feelings of love, respect and esteem that he claimed from each and every one of you.

Charlie Orr, as he was known to most of you, was born in Princeton, Minnesota, June 7, 1877. His father, Abraham, a farmer, came to Minnesota from western New York. His mother, Emma G. Orr, was a New Englander.

Senator Orr grew up at Princeton, attended Carleton College and graduated from Hamline University. He then entered the St. Paul College of Law, graduating in 1904. He began practice with the firm of Childs, Edgerton and Wickwire. A few years later he started his own office with Herman F. Stark. Later Charles S. Kidder joined the firm and this association continued up to the time of Senator Orr's death.

He was elected to the House in 1910, and after serving in the 1911 and 1913 sessions, was elected to the Senate. He served in this body for 18 consecutive sessions, and in nine regular and six special sessions he was majority leader. His term of service of 38 years in the Legislature, including 34 years in the Senate, was exceeded only by that of Senator A. J. Rockne.

Senator Orr was a life-long and devoted member of the Masonic order, holding many offices of honor and distinction. In 1943 he was elected Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the Knights Templar of the United States—the first Minnesotan ever to be elected to that organization's highest office. The Sovereign Great Priory of Canada conferred upon him the very highest honor in their power to grant, the grade of Grand Cross of the Temple.

On Monday, January 10th of this year, at 9:30 in the morning, while he was driving to the Capitol, Senator Orr succumbed to a heart attack. He was 71 years of age. Funeral services were held at the Masonic Temple, 6th and Smith Avenues, St. Paul, under the auspices of Damascus Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar. Interment was at Oakland Cemetery.

He left two daughters—Marian, Mrs. John A. Pfaender of St. Paul, and Janet, Mrs. Frank E. Leslie, Jr., of Spokane, Washington. Mrs. Orr, formerly Ellen May Adams, whom Senator Orr married in 1906, died in 1938. Senator Orr was a devoted husband and father. Some have told me that he was never the same after the loss of his wife.

Of Senator Orr's long and distinguished record in the legislature, much could be said. Simply to list the major legislation that he fostered would be a long recital. Probably no project was closer to his heart than the capitol approach plan.

Editorializing, the St. Paul Dispatch recently said, 'Considering the leadership he exerted, it is probable that no other man in the history of the state has contributed a greater service. The leadership which Senator Orr exerted was of a unique kind. It came to him through a sort of informal deference of his colleagues to his ability, his philosophic patience, his wealth of experience and his qualities of personal sympathy and fairness.'

An early incident in his life seems to me to characterize his later years. It was in 1897 or 98, and there are Senators here today who can recall the occasion, Charlie Orr was on the Carleton College football team when it played the University of Minnesota. Carleton won the game by a touchdown, the only one scored, and Charlie Orr ran interference for the man who made the touchdown. He was always ready to run interference for others.

Each of us will recall special attributes. Some might mention his great oratorical skill. He had a resounding voice and a marvelous command of language. One of the greatest pleas he ever made, I have been told, was in the 1945 session, for the Capitol approach plan.

Others would tell of his remarkable memory that made it possible for him to keep track of innumerable measures and know just where they were all the time. Still others would single out his remarkable facility for bringing opposing parties together. He was able at compromising issues, but he never compromised principles.

As majority leader he was firm about the rules, he abhorred careless procedures, but was never arbitrary or domineering. He was scrupulously fair to all members, majority and minority alike. He took a special interest in new members as counsellor and sympathetic tutor. You could always go to Senator Orr and get set right. He showed the greatest consideration for all.

Senator Orr had a deep spiritual experience that was indicated in the touching Christmas letters it was his wont to address to his friends.

His life in the Senate meant everything to him. So immersed in its work was he, as one member put it, that he was more than a Senator—he combined and reflected the finest traditions of all Senates and all Senators. His loyalty and devotion to the Senate and its members was deep and abiding.

The closer one came to Charlie Orr, the richer the reward of friendship. He loved good fellowship, was a most enjoyable companion with his ready wit and humor, his marvelous good nature and the greatness of his spirit. He touched the hearts of those who knew him intimately.

Although he is gone from our midst—his record of achievement will be a continuing challenge—his character will serve to inspire us, and his memory will ever live in our hearts.”

The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from Fillmore County, Mr. John A. Johnson, who addressed the Senate as follows:

“Mr. President, Members of the Senate, Relatives and Honored Guests:

You must all know that it is a humble privilege for me to speak in eulogy of our friend, Henry A. Larson. While I occupy his seat now in this Senate and have known him for many years, it is difficult for me to interpret the full import of the significance of his long services to his community and our state. For 22 years he served in this body and left a never-to-be-forgotten impression with those who were his colleagues. The influence of former Senator Larson's integrity, judgment and stalwart personal character is far reaching.

Henry Albert Larson, son of pioneer Fillmore County settlers, who came to America from Norway, was born June 27th, 1877 in Preston Township, where he attended rural school and grew to manhood. Following graduation from the Lanesboro High School, he attended Indiana Normal College at Valparaiso and University of Minnesota. Meanwhile, he also taught rural school in Fillmore County.

His first public office was Preston Township assessor, and in 1902, he was elected clerk of the Fillmore County District Court. While serving in this office, he studied law and in 1915, passed the bar examination and was admitted to the practice of law in Minnesota. That same year he resigned as clerk of the Court and entered the practice of law in Preston in partnership with the late Senator John W. Hopp.

Following Mr. Hopp's death Senator Larson practiced alone until 1932, when he took into partnership with him his nephew, Philip B. Gartner. This partnership continued until January 1, 1947, when Senator Larson retired from the active practice of law.

Henry was elected State Senator from Fillmore and Houston counties in 1926, and served continuously, being in his sixth term at the time of his death, March 12, 1948. During the 22 years in the State Senate he was a dependable and conscientious legislator. He was Chairman of the Committee on Banks and Banking as well as holding membership on numerous other committees. He was President Pro Tem of the Senate during the 1939 session. At the time of his death, he was a member of the Commission for the revision of the State Constitution.

Senator Larson was a member of St. Paul's English Lutheran Church at Preston, Preston Lodge No. 36, A.F. & A.M., Preston Chapter No. 32, R. A. M., and Malta Commandery No. 25, Knights Templar.

On September 25, 1906, he was united in marriage to Miss Frances Broderick of Preston. She survives him together with numerous nieces and nephews and one brother, C. A. Larson of Minneapolis and a sister, Mrs. Carl Pederson of Boone, Iowa.

In his community Henry was a trusted counsellor, both in legal and personal affairs, and had for many years been president of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank. A central pivot had slipped out of a whole era in Southern Minnesota when Henry Larson died suddenly at Tulsa, Oklahoma, March 12, 1948. He had gone to Oklahoma with his wife for a winter vacation to visit their niece when the messenger of death came to call him to the eternal mansions above.

In gratitude for the privilege which has been ours in being beneficiaries of the significant contributions of former Senator Larson's life in public and private, we pay him this respect and memorial today. We unite with those of the family and intimate friends who mourn his loss in praying the abiding comfort of God's love.

May I close this eulogy with a quotation from the touching tribute given him by his own nephew and law partner, Philip B. Gartner, in the Fillmore County District Court:

‘It is a privilege for me today to pay tribute to the memory of my late uncle and partner, Henry A. Larson. It is the more a privilege because I think he deserves to be remembered.

‘We all start out in this life, and most of us have the chance to make something of ourselves if we want to. Many of us do not. Many of us become a liability to society. Some who do, console themselves by thinking that they didn't have the opportunity that someone else had.

‘But the fact remains that anyone who wants to can so lead his life that he makes something of himself and is an asset to society. I believe that the story of Mr. Larson's life shows this to be so.

‘There was no one backing him when he started out as a young man. He made up his mind what he wanted to do, and he did it. Without the benefit of attendance at a law school, he learned enough law to be admitted to the bar.

‘During his whole life, he abided by the law. He treated others with kindness. He was honest. He was good. Now that