

# Eulogy to Lester Pearson stresses humility, wisdom

JAN 1 1973 MONDAY

OTTAWA (CP) — A mourning Ottawa said goodbye Sunday to Lester Pearson, the humble son of a Methodist minister who rose to prime minister, won the Nobel Peace Prize and became one of the most personally popular men in Canadian politics.

"Nothing that can be said can add to the greatness of this man," said Rt. Rev. A. B. B. Moore, a former moderator of the United Church of Canada, as the flag-covered coffin of "Mike" Pearson sat in Christ Church Cathedral during the state funeral.

Under heavy, grey skies, and through rain-rippled slush, the body of the 75-year-old former prime minister was borne from Parliament Hill Sunday for the ecumenical and bilingual service. Then it was taken to a small, secluded burial plot in the Gatineau hills of Quebec, north of Ottawa.

Through a bone-chilling blizzard Saturday and the drizzling rain Sunday, about 13,500 people walked silently past the coffin as it lay in Parliament's Hall of Honor. There

were many moist eyes as they paid tribute to the likeable, lisping man who was their prime minister from 1963 to 1968.

Dr. Moore, an old family friend, bade farewell to Mr. Pearson with the text: "The wisdom of a humble man will lift up his head, and will seat him among the great.

"Compounded of devotion and intelligence, of persistence and sensitivity, of humor and courage, of vision and practicality, Lester Pearson was a great man."

Mrs. Pearson, their son Geoffrey, their daughter Patricia, and their spouses and children, sat stoically in the big arched Cathedral as about 1,200 people joined them there, and in a nearby hall.

Geoffrey is an external affairs officer teaching at the University of British Columbia. Patricia is Mrs. Walter Hannah of Toronto.

In his tribute, U.S. President Richard Nixon had said that Mr. Pearson's "accomplishments as an outstanding post-war leader has few equals."

The Maple Leaf flag, which Mr. Pearson labored so hard to create, was flying at half-staff throughout the city, as his body was taken from Parliament Hill for the last time.

To the slow steady beat of military funeral marches, the procession sloshed through the streets, led by a 25-member mounted RCMP escort, blue winter coats covering their scarlet uniforms.

Next came a 50-man military escort from the 1st Canadian Field Squadron in Petawawa and the Central Band of the Canadian Armed Forces, its drums muffled in black. The honorary pallbearers walked beside and behind the hearse, which was escorted by eight RCMP officers on foot.

Four military insignia bearers followed the hearse, carrying Mr. Pearson's medals on black velvet cushions. These included the Nobel Peace Prize medal, awarded in 1957 for his work in establishing a Middle East peacekeeping force, along with his Companionship of the Order of Canada, his Order of

Merit from the Queen and First World War campaign medals.

Members of the family followed in closed cars. A military Guard of Honor, which had earlier stood opposite the black-creped Peace Tower, followed the cars, along with those former cabinet colleagues of Mr. Pearson, who chose to walk with the procession.

Leading the honorary pallbearers, in black overcoat and bowler hat, was Prime Minister Trudeau, who entered federal politics in 1965 at Mr. Pearson's invitation.

Mr. Trudeau was among 13 honorary pallbearers. They included External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp; Allan MacEachen, government leader in the Commons; Charles M. Drury, president of the treasury board, and Senator Paul Martin, government leader of the Upper House.

Among former cabinet colleagues were one-time finance minister Douglas Abbott, now a justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, and Jean Lesage, who was Mr. Pearson's parliamentary secretary in 1951-52, later national resources minister and then Quebec premier.

Senators who have been prominent organizers and fund-raisers for the national Liberal party were among the honorary pallbearers, including senators John Aird and Keith Davey of Toronto and John Nichol of Vancouver.

Eight of the honorary pallbearers were former colleagues in the external affairs department, including A. E. Ritchie, currently external affairs under-secretary; Jules Leger, now under-secretary of state, and diplomats or former diplomats Marcel Cadieux, Saul Rae, George Ignatieff, Charles Ritchie, Escott Reid and H. F. Feaver. King Gordon, long-time public servant in United Nations agencies, was in the group.

Among other friends were Montreal industrialist Fraser W. Bruce; physician Peter Burton; Graham Spry, former agent-general for Saskatchewan in Britain; Davidson Duntton, former bilingualism commissioner and president of Carleton University, and Ottawa newspaper men Norman Smith and Christopher Young, a nephew by marriage.

The sombre dignity of the funeral contrasted with emotion that had run through the Parliament buildings earlier as dark-suited diplomats joined long-haired youths, crippled war veterans, women with shopping bags, and children carrying skates in a final farewell.

They included British Prime Minister Edward Heath—U.S. Vice-President Spiro Agnew was unable to land because of bad weather—and a taxi driver who "knew Mike well."

Freezing rain and low clouds prevailed as Mr. Agnew's plane circled the Uplands airport just before the Pearson funeral.

The United States vice-president radioed his regrets before turning back. In his absence the U.S. government was represented by its ambassador to Canada, Adolph W. Schmidt.

Mr. Pearson's long-time political opponent, John Diefenbaker, stood before the coffin in prayer. He had flown to Ottawa from Saskatoon and came through a blizzard directly from the airport to the Parliament buildings.

Judge John Matheson, a former parliamentary secretary to Mr. Pearson, made two trips to the bier, and despite a badly-crippled leg—a Second World War wound—he walked with the procession to the church, nearly a mile away.

Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa came to pay his last respects Saturday. An aide to the premier said he arrived in Ottawa late Friday. He departed Ottawa after his visit to the catafalque. The crowd was held back to allow him a moment alone at the catafalque.

He paused a few minutes, eyes on the bier, and then left. An aide said the premier was returning immediately to Quebec City due to previous engagements.

The coffin, guarded by the RCMP, military and parliamentary police, was not to be touched by the passing crowd. But one woman ran up and kissed it before she could be stopped.

Those who filed by the coffin, at an average rate of almost 900 an hour, included many political opponents, as well as political friends. Not far down the stone corridors from the Hall of Honor, Mr. Pearson had spent many heated hours in the Commons chamber, as he pushed through controversial legislation on the new flag, pensions, the national medical care scheme, and other measures.

"... he may have had opponents, but few enemies," Dr. Moore was to say later.

The ecumenical service involved Very Rev. T. E. Downey, Anglican Dean of Ottawa; Dr. J. A. Davidson, minister of Dominion-Chalmers United Church, Ottawa; Most Rev. Joseph Plourde, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Ottawa, and Rt. Rev. W. J. Robinson, Anglican Bishop of Ottawa.

It was by special request of the family that Dr. Moore, an old friend from University of Toronto days, delivered the address. And he devoted his address largely to Mr. Pearson's wisdom, humility and greatness.

About his wisdom: "His friends drew upon it in a companionship that was warm and rewarding. His students tapped it as they shared his disciplined and well furnished mind. His colleagues leaned upon it as they carried with him the responsibilities of a common task. His fellow citizens trusted it as they laid upon him the duties of leadership... the peoples of the world found hope in it..."

About his humility: "Lester Pearson was a humble man because he was open to others and to situations. There was no aggressive imposition of self... he saw his life as a trusteeship and not his own to be grasped selfishly... humility with him was not a garb to be put on but belonged to his inner being and his understanding of himself."

As for his greatness, it had been recognized through the offices entrusted to him and the tributes paid to him and "nothing that can be said can add to the greatness of this man."

A lone piper played a lament as Mr. Pearson's body was placed in the hearse for the 30 mile trip to Wakefield, Que., where he had selected a secluded burial plot with two friends 30 years ago. The two friends, Hume Wrong and Norman Robertson, are already there.

At the conclusion of the private burial ceremony, the Canadian flag which draped the coffin throughout the lying-in-state and funeral, was folded by two RCMP officers and presented to Mrs. Pearson.