

SPEAKER

Election

The member for Cottesloe (Mr C.J. Barnett), as the member with the longest continuous service, took the chair and presided over the election of the Speaker.

MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe) [11.55 am]: May I also congratulate all newly elected members. I wish you well, and I welcome your family and friends to the public gallery. After over 26 years in Parliament, this is only the second time I have sat in this chair, and I assure you it will be the last time. My simple task is to oversee the election of the Speaker, an important and responsible position, and I call for nominations.

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier) [11.55 am]: Member for Cottesloe, I move —

That the member for Albany do take the chair of the Legislative Assembly as Speaker.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Deputy Premier) [11.56 am]: Member for Cottesloe, I formally second the motion.

MR P.B. WATSON (Albany) [11.56 am]: I accept the nomination.

MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe) [11.56 am]: Are there any further nominations?

There being no further nominations, I declare the member for Albany elected as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the fortieth Parliament. Congratulations and good luck.

[Applause.]

[The member for Albany was conducted to the chair.]

THE SPEAKER (Mr P.B. Watson): I accept the job as the leader —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Sorry, Mark—as the Speaker of the Assembly.

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier) [11.57 am]: Firstly, Mr Speaker, can I congratulate you on your arrival in the position of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. You have been a member of this house now for 16 years and you have served as an Acting Speaker for many years and on many occasions. I wish you all the best in your new role—an important role in the Parliament and one to be treated seriously and with impartiality. On behalf, I am sure, of all members, I wish you all the very best in this important role that you hold.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Presentation to Governor

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier) [11.57 am]: There is a lesson to all members about brevity! I have received advice from Government House that Her Excellency the Governor will be pleased to receive the newly elected Speaker and some accompanying members at 12.30 pm.

THE SPEAKER (Mr P.B. Watson): Thank you, Premier. I would just like to congratulate everyone who has been appointed here today. It is a very honourable job being a member of Parliament. Some people in the community do not realise how hard members of Parliament work. I would like to congratulate the older members who are back, the newer members and also the members who have served their community for a long time and who did not get back after the election—it just happens. They put in a lot of work over a long period of time or a short period of time. They put everything they could into their community. Looking through the house today, there are some people who have been here a long time and I see others who have just come here today.

As the Speaker, I will treat everyone the same. I will be looking after everyone in the chamber. I know all the tricks. As Michael Sutherland said, I am very lucky because I will not have the member for Albany sitting right there! We will be a very fair government. There is a lot of work to do over the next four years and this is the place where a lot of it gets done. Congratulations to everyone on both sides of the house. To my new staff from a minute ago, you do a tremendous job and you probably do not get all the praise that you deserve. Congratulations everyone, and thank you very much.

[Applause.]

Sitting suspended from 12 noon to 2.45 pm