

**PETER JOSEPH ALOYSIUS COYNE**

*Condolence Motion*

**DR GALLOP** (Victoria Park - Premier) [12.02 pm]: I move, without notice -

That this House records its sincere regret at the death of Peter Joseph Aloysius Coyne and tenders its deep sympathy to his family.

Peter Coyne was born on 6 July 1917 in Geraldton. He was the son of Peter Coyne, a storekeeper, and Rose Evelyn Purcell. Peter Coyne was educated at Yalgoo Catholic Primary School and Marist College, New Norcia. After leaving school, Peter worked as a mineworker in 1936 and as a general storekeeper from 1938 to 1940. In 1941 he enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force where he reached the rank of flight sergeant as a radio technician. He served in the Northern Territory from August 1944 to November 1945. Upon being discharged from the service in April 1946, he worked as a country storekeeper from 1946 to 1948 and in the city from 1948 to 1960. Peter Coyne became a television salesman from 1960 to 1964. He became a life assurance representative from 1964. He married Nancy Lillian Cooper on 11 November 1943 in Melbourne.

He was elected to this House as the Liberal member for Murchison-Eyre on 20 February 1971. He served that electorate for 15 years until his retirement on 19 February 1986. During his time in this House he was a member of the Joint Printing Committee from 1974 until 1977 and was a deputy chairman of committees from 1980 to 1981.

On behalf of all members of this House I extend our deepest sympathy to Peter Coyne's four children and their families.

**MR BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Leader of the Opposition) [12.03 pm]: I join this condolence motion to the late Peter Coyne. On behalf of the parliamentary and lay Liberal Parties I extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

I did not know Peter Coyne personally, but I am advised by people who knew him very well that he was a very unassuming, thoroughly decent and conscientious representative of the Legislative Assembly for 15 years and a very loyal member of the Parliamentary Liberal Party. Peter Coyne's early years were spent in Yalgoo. He was later to represent that region. He was the son of a storekeeper and spent much of his working life as a storekeeper over the period 1938 to 1960. This was interrupted by his war service, when he served in the Royal Australian Air Force. He reached the rank of flight sergeant. He subsequently worked as a salesman and a life assurance representative. In 1970 he was selected by the Liberal Party to contest the district of Murchison-Eyre when the late Dick Burt announced his retirement. He won a seat that had been held on the basis of a very strong personal vote by the former member. To hold that seat was not easy. Nevertheless, in 1971 he was elected by a majority of 65 votes. He was re-elected in four successive elections despite being twice written off by election commentators and having such formidable opponents as Julian Grill at the 1974 election. Peter Coyne may have had fewer electors than other members but they were scattered over a massive area in small communities. Meekatharra was the largest population centre in his electorate. Only a few score people in his electorate changing their mind would have overturned any majority he enjoyed. Despite the Liberal Party facing an adverse political tide in the 1983 election, at the age of 65 years Peter Coyne again held Murchison-Eyre by just 60 votes. It was a strong indication of the respect in which he was held by his electors.

I am told that, on one occasion, he was asked by his parliamentary colleagues to represent them at a Young Liberals national convention. Despite being at least two generations older than most of the attendees, he nevertheless attended and became a very popular identity.

Peter Coyne had a very strong and staunch Catholic faith and was a very strong family person. He was a very loyal and successful member of the coalition Government and was a well-regarded member of this House and a dedicated servant of some of Western Australia's most remote communities.

On behalf of the Parliamentary Liberal Party I extend sympathy to his family.

**MR HOUSE** (Stirling) [12.06 pm]: On behalf of the National Party and my colleagues I join in this condolence motion. I extend our sympathy to the extended family of Peter Coyne. It is fair to say that this is one of the occasions when we miss the member for Merredin, whose extensive knowledge and understanding of the service of other members would prove most useful. Peter Coyne left this Parliament in the month I arrived. It makes me reflect that 15 or 16 years of service is a long time by someone like Peter Coyne, who represented a vast part of this State. We need to reflect on that, because it is not easy to represent an area so vast that has scattered small populations. His was dedicated service that needs to be recognised. My colleagues and I recognise that and extend our condolences to Peter Coyne's family.

**Extract from *Hansard***

[ASSEMBLY - Wednesday, 7 November 2001]

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Dr Geoff Gallop; Mr Colin Barnett; Mr House; Mr John Bradshaw

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**MR BRADSHAW** (Murray-Wellington) [12.07 pm]: I have been in this House long enough to remember the late Peter Coyne. He was a decent, honest fellow whom everybody in this House respected. His electorate of Murchison-Eyre was difficult to represent, as has been pointed out by the Leader of the Opposition. Only two other members of this House would have known Peter Coyne personally. They are the members for South Perth and Moore. Peter Coyne represented his electorate very well. After he had left Parliament, he told me on a few occasions to not leave Parliament too soon. Some members do not have a choice about when they leave. He missed the cut and thrust of political life. That is why he told me not to leave too early. It is sad that he has passed away. It surprised me that he was 84 years old. I remember him being in Parliament and he did not appear to me to be the age he was. I extend my condolences and sympathy to his family. I know his son, Peter junior, reasonably well. It is sad that Peter Coyne has passed on.

Question passed, members standing.