

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Special

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [9.01 pm] — without notice: I move —

That the house at its rising adjourn until a date and time fixed by the Speaker.

I will be brief. People have had a long night and it has been a long year, but it is important that we very briefly acknowledge some thanks. I have a large number of statistics on the number of bills passed this year, the number of suspension of standing orders, the number of questions asked, the number of days that we sat, the number of questions asked in question time and on notice, and also some of the significant bills that were passed in this Parliament, but I will jump straight to some thank-yous that I think it is important that we make to this place.

I first of all thank very much Mr Speaker and the Acting Speakers of this place for their stewardship of the house. To the member for Maylands as Deputy Speaker, and the members for Forrestfield, Geraldton, Girrawheen, Mirrabooka, Moore, Southern River and Wanneroo, I thank you on behalf of the members. Certainly there are times in this place when it gets tense, and maybe that happened this afternoon and into this evening.

Mr Speaker, I also acknowledge the function of those who support you and your executive assistants, and I appreciate their work. I also acknowledge the Clerk of the house, Kirsten Robinson, and the team here in the chamber for their tremendous support of all members. I acknowledge all the staff of the chamber for their tremendous work. I also acknowledge the committee staff, who have worked so tirelessly to prepare 18 reports this year. I also acknowledge and sincerely thank the government Whip, the member for Balcatta, for his tremendous stewardship of this place.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I know the Whip's job is not easy, having served for eight and a half years as opposition Whip, and for two years as government Whip in the previous Labor government. I also acknowledge, of course, the cooperation and good working relationship we have had with the opposition Whip, the member for Vasse. I also sadly acknowledge that the manager of opposition business, the member for Churchlands, is not able to be us with this evening, and I again pass our condolences to him for the loss of his father and to other members who, sadly, have lost loved ones this year. A number of members have lost loved ones this year. Christmas for them will be a difficult time. I acknowledge them, and our thoughts are with you as we move into the festive period.

I acknowledge the Parliamentary Services team, headed by Mr Hunter and that, of course, includes those who provide security to us, the gardeners, cleaners, building services and the welcoming reception team. I acknowledge Mr Laurie Mansell and the Hansard team. A remarkable group of people are our Hansard reporters. I must say, I absolutely welcome the return to paper speech duplicates, which we have had in the last couple of days due to technical problems. I also acknowledge the tremendous library team who provide us with ongoing support in the library; Mr John Buchanan, the IT team; those in the finance team under Elma Ozich; Judy Ballantyne and the library team; Dave Embry and the audiovisual team. I also acknowledge those wonderful people who assist in adding to our waistlines in this place, those, of course, being the dining room staff and the lounge staff, who provide us with tremendous service. I also acknowledge what I think is considered to be one of the great assets of the Parliament and that is, of course, the Parliamentary Education Office. They are a remarkable group of people, who support us as members and, of course, the general public and the many schools that come into this place and learn about the Parliament that is our Parliament.

I also thank the staff in the Premier's office and the staff, including Rebecca Neilson, from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Mr Nick Hagley, for their tremendous support of cabinet and of this Parliament and for their tremendous role. I acknowledge Gary Hamley and my ministerial staff. I am sure all ministers would want me to acknowledge their staff in their ministerial offices. I am sure we also want to acknowledge our tremendous electorate office staff, who make a significant contribution. They are the ones who are at the coalface when we are here or out of our electorate offices. I acknowledge all our electorate office staff for their tremendous work and to my own, Larissa, Krystal, Jock and Fran, I thank you sincerely.

Finally, I remind people of the importance of family and acknowledge our families who support us personally as members of this Parliament. We must never forget that although it is an immense privilege to serve in this place and serve the communities we represent, at the end of the day when we leave this place, it will always be our loved ones who sustain us. That is an important consideration. The Parliament closes and, of course, we will move into 2019 with additional sittings, so members will have increased pressures on them to be in this place.

Mr Speaker, I was not going to do my little ditty tonight, given the tension that was here this afternoon, but on re-reading my lyrics, it is actually appropriate due to the nature. I am channelling Simon and Garfunkel tonight because Paul Simon —

The SPEAKER: Get to it.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: — gave his last farewell concert in his hometown of Flushing Meadows in Corona Park. Mr Speaker, this is in dedication to you. It is very short. Here we go —

Hello Speaker my old friend
I've come to talk with you again
It's a story of some downs and ups
Of the Eagles and their Premiership Cup
Of a year which finished with our share of the GST
For our Treasury
That's been the year in Parliament.

The Legislation Program has been grand
Plastic Bags have now been banned
We've now got sewerage bollards out the front
Looking like an Opposition stunt
Members keep giving speeches
That no one understands
Some good, some bland
That's been the year in Parliament.

And in this parliamentary hall
Are a dozen members maybe more
Members talking without speaking
Members hearing without listening
Members giving speeches that people never hear
And no one cares
That's what it's like in Parliament.

So Mr Speaker close the gate
Do it now lest it's too late
Get the crayfish and the sparkling wine
All the Members form a conga line
The Christmas message is written on the parliamentary walls
And Christmas balls
Merry Christmas, from Parliament!

[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: I distinctly remember your wife saying you were not allowed to do that this year!

Mr D.A. Templeman: I know.

MR Z.R.F. KIRKUP (Dawesville) [9.12 pm]: On behalf of the manager of opposition business, I have no ability to sing whatsoever.

The SPEAKER: Neither does the Leader of the House!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Indeed. I will keep my contribution on behalf of the opposition and, in particular, the manager of opposition business, very brief. I acknowledge that the reason I have to speak is of course the sad passing of the member for Churchlands' father. I acknowledge also those members in this chamber who have lost loved ones over this time. I agree with the member for Mandurah that this Christmas will undoubtedly be very difficult for those members. I am sure that all of us now send our sympathies to those members in these difficult times.

My best wishes to the Premier, his cabinet and their staff on the year that has been and for the Christmas period. I think this is always a good time to take stock, consider ourselves and enjoy the moments that we might get, although I recognise that, at times, natural disasters might occur. I am sure that all of us hope that we do not see any disastrous bushfires or the like, and pray for good fortunes in the state of Western Australia during this time. To members opposite, their families and the staff in particular in this chamber, I acknowledge them and thank them. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Clerk and deputy clerks in particular. From the bills and papers office, I thank Rachel Wells, Daniel Govus, Denis Hippolyte, Alison O'Shaughnessy, Nik Carbone and Paddy. I have no doubt that the Speaker will reference all other members in this place.

I would also like to recognise the LOOP staff: Kymberly Clifton, Cheryl Dove, Denice Rice, Dale Leggett, Anthony Spagnolo, Simon Helm, Andrew Gaspar and Blair Stratton for their contribution and support of this very small team, which has thankfully added two new members since we have started this year. They are the fourth member for Cottesloe, Dr David Honey, and the member for Darling Range, Alyssa Hayden. They are good friends

to have in this place, who are very experienced in their own right. They have made a formidable contribution to this small team. I think we are punching well above our weight.

I would also like to thank our Whip, who I think does an exceptionally good job. I have the great fortune to share this back row with her. I also thank the member for Nedlands, whom I share an office with. Thank you very much.

It is a privilege and an honour to serve in this Parliament. I think all of us feel that responsibility—sometimes burden—when we enter this place. At times when we come in here, there are moments of tension. Indeed, we saw that again this evening in some of the more fiery debate I have seen this year.

It has been a tumultuous year; I think it is an important time to recognise, when we leave this place, that we are all human. It is important for all of us to remember that we have families and that at this time, in the Christmas spirit, we should enjoy our time with them while we can. I hope each and every member on the government benches, our colleagues and friends in the National Party and, indeed, my opposition colleagues, get special time with their families at this time. Next year will see the halfway mark of this government and the halfway mark to the next election. Of course, that means that the tempo and the tempers will increase as we get closer and closer, so I think it is important for all of us to take a break.

To my good friend the member for Mandurah and Donna, Jack, Charlie, Mia and Samuel—the tribe, as it were—enjoy the summer together. You are well deserving of it.

Mr Speaker, congratulations on your second year of commanding—or stewarding—this place. I wish you and your family all the very best.

Thank you, members, and merry Christmas.

THE SPEAKER (Mr P.B. Watson): I get to say something! As Speaker, I would like to thank my Deputy Speaker, Lisa Baker; the Acting Speakers, the members for Geraldton, Moore, Wanneroo, Southern River, Mirrabooka and Forrestfield; members of the —

Ms M.M. Quirk: Member for Girrawheen!

The SPEAKER: Oh, the member for Girrawheen! Oh, my gosh—I am in trouble now. I will say it again: the member for Girrawheen. I have said it twice!

It was a very, very trying year for members of the Procedure and Privileges Committee. It is not very often that you have to sit in judgement of one of your own members of Parliament. I especially acknowledge Dr Isla Macphail. If she ever gets on your trail, beware: there is no-one more forensic and no-one more important. When we had the inquiry she got up at three o'clock in the morning because a lot of our information had to come from overseas. Congratulations, Dr Macphail—not only to the committee, but to you and all the other members.

Jackie Berry, my executive assistant, and Anne Day, the executive assistant to the Clerk, are the people behind the scenes who do a tremendous amount of work. Anna Murphy, who is my Speaker's steward, does a tremendous job whenever we have any visiting dignitaries.

To the Legislative Assembly executive, Kirsten, Scott, Liz and Mat: it is always good to have you behind me. When I am up here on my own and have to make decisions, it is always great to have you in front to make sure I get it right.

The Legislative Assembly office does a tremendous job, as does the Legislative Assembly committee office. The Parliamentary Services Department—Rob Hunter and his group—do a tremendous job. Rob Hunter is responsible for the bollards! Did I say that out loud? No, I would not!

Building Services and the gardening staff: when we walk into this place every day, the gardens are immaculate, and everything is clean thanks to the cleaning staff. There is also Catering Services, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Library and Information Services, the Parliamentary Education Office, Reception Services, Hansard—who have been making me look good for 18 years; are members agreeing that they have made me look good for 18 years?—the Audio Visual team and Security.

[Interruption.]

The SPEAKER: Oh, hello! It is my driver, wanting to know where I have been for the last three hours!

As I said when I presented awards just recently, when you come into Parliament everything is there. You walk in the front door and the reception is great; the security is great; everything is clean and everything is done so well. The catering staff and everybody does a tremendous job, and they are all part of our family. Some of us have been

here for a long time, especially country members, and these people are part of our family. To all of us—especially the country members, who come up on a Sunday night and go home on a Friday morning—and the city members, our families are a very, very important part of what we are. We are members of Parliament, but we also have families and dependants and we are very proud to be members of our electorates.

I also want to farewell Glen Whitting, one of the parliamentary assistants, a Richmond supporter, who works in the chamber and the committee office. Glen is leaving Australia to take up residence in Thailand, where his wife has taken on a new job opportunity. We wish him all the best in his new life overseas. I also want to congratulate his daughter, a very good up-and-coming young golfer, who has just got a scholarship to a very good American university.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and merry Christmas. Spend it with your loved ones, and recharge your batteries for the busy year ahead.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank Guy Roth, Ian Bishop and Christine Hunter, who keep my office going while I am in Parliament.

Members, that is the end. No more singing, Leader of the House.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 9.19 pm
