

MR DOUG CARPENTER, DEPUTY CLERK (COMMITTEES)

Resignation - Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr Riebeling): It is with regret that I advise that today is Doug Carpenter's last sitting day in this House. Doug has signalled his intention to submit his resignation to the Governor at the end of January next year. He will be working over the next couple of weeks and will then take long service leave prior to his retirement. In a moment I will give the call to the Leader of the House. However, before I do, I would like to say how much I personally appreciate Doug's assistance in my role as Speaker. Doug is one of those people who have been involved in Parliaments in Australia for a long time. He joined the New South Wales Legislative Council in June 1972. We were fortunate to attract him to this place in 1988 to assist in the administration of the Parliament. Doug's involvement in recent times in the new committee structure and the refurbishment of the committee rooms has been a highlight of my association with him. That effort will be a legacy we will enjoy for many years. I am sure everyone who works in those premises will appreciate his role. I wish him and his wife, Beryl, a long and happy retirement. I am sure that they will enjoy their planned trip overseas.

[Applause.]

Motion of Appreciation

MR KOBELKE (Nollamara - Leader of the House) [2.46 pm]: I am sure there will further acclamation after other members have spoken. I move, without notice -

That this House expresses appreciation for the excellent service given by Mr Doug Carpenter as Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly since 1990 and wishes him well in his forthcoming retirement.

I will begin by briefly outlining the Deputy Clerk's parliamentary career. In 1972, a slightly younger Doug Carpenter was first appointed to the New South Wales Legislative Council. He was subsequently appointed Usher of the Black Rod of that House in 1983 and the Clerk Assistant in 1986. In May 1988, he was appointed the Clerk Assistant to the Western Australian Legislative Council. Two short years later, Doug escaped the clutches of our colleagues in the other place and we welcomed his appointment as Deputy Clerk in this House in January 1990.

Over the past 12 years, Doug has worked in administration, servicing committees and House procedures. I am sure that the many members who have worked on committees that he has serviced will have their own stories to tell and thanks to express to Doug for his help. In recent times, he has had major responsibility for setting up the new Legislative Assembly committee system, its administrative and procedural documents for staff and members and the associated building development at 11 Harvest Terrace.

Doug is well known to us all by his external appearance as a solid and reliable employee. However, there is much greater depth to his character. I have it on very good authority that he has been known from time to time to engage in pastimes such as continuous cricket in the parliamentary corridors using a variety of implements as bat and ball. Nor has his self-effacing nature always been to the fore. The "subtle" display in his office for some years of a photograph of himself with Bill Clinton - at that time yet to become the President of United States - did not go unnoticed. I am not sure about the rumour that Bill had a similar photograph in his office.

Mr Johnson: I can hear people saying, "Who is that bloke with Doug?"

Mr KOBELKE: Members are aware that today is Doug's last normal sitting day - unless, of course, the House sits tomorrow, which is likely at this stage. I understand Doug will be presenting a couple of papers at a conference in Canada, then taking long service leave from 12 August until returning to work briefly in January next year, immediately prior to his well earned retirement. I believe a formal retirement function will be held at that time.

Mr Speaker, on behalf of all members of this House, I wish Doug well in his retirement. I sincerely thank him for the help and assistance he has provided us as members of this place and for his significant contribution over 12 years to the running and management of the House.

Mr Speaker, I also take this opportunity on behalf of members to extend a special thanks and farewell to Michelle Garvey, who is also leaving us in the winter recess to pursue further studies at the University of Illinois in the United States. We wish Michelle the best of luck in her future endeavours.

Again, thank you and congratulations on your contribution, Doug.

[Applause.]

MR JOHNSON (Hillarys) [2.50 pm]: It gives me enormous pleasure to speak on behalf of the Liberal Party in seconding the motion to express our thanks to Doug for the work he has done since he has been in this place.

The trouble with being the third speaker is that all the biographical notes that Peter McHugh surreptitiously gave me have been mentioned. I will put them aside and speak from the heart.

Mr Speaker, I came into this place 10 years ago and for the first four years of my life in Parliament I had the honour of being an Acting Speaker and, following that, the Deputy Speaker for a period. The support that Doug gave not only to me but also to all those who occupy the Chair, Mr Speaker, was enormous. Doug has been an absolute mainstay. We have gone through nights when everybody has been very tired and when the person with the great responsibility of the Chair must make quick decisions on points of order and many other matters. Of course, Peter McHugh has been there some of the time, but Doug has been there a lot of the time and although I do acknowledge Peter, we are talking about Doug today and the great amount of work he has done and support he has given everybody. Without that sort of support, the person who occupies the Chair, Mr Speaker, whether that be you, an Acting Speaker or the Deputy Speaker, would find things far more difficult. Through you, Mr Speaker, I thank Doug very much indeed for the past 10 years of support that he has given me, not only when I have occupied the Chair but also when I have asked him for advice as an ordinary member of Parliament when I needed a bit of help and support. Some members need more advice than do others and Doug has always given us his expertise, opinion and, more importantly, the interpretation of standing orders, which are often misunderstood by members in this House.

I had the pleasure also of serving with Doug for quite a number of years as a member of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee, which then became the Procedure Committee and is now the Procedure and Privileges Committee. Doug not only gave a tremendous amount of support to the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee but also played an important role in the setting up of many other committees.

The House will be a lesser place after your retirement, Doug. You will be sadly missed by all of us when you leave this place. We will have to get used to somebody new who will probably not be as good as you are. Notwithstanding that, everybody deserves to have some free time, especially after the stress and trauma of working in this place, because that is what it is. No two days are the same in this House. That is the way it has been for me for the past 10 years; it has been like that for many more years than that for some members.

On behalf of the opposition Leader of the House, the Liberal Party gives you our very best wishes for the future. We hope you have a very safe, happy and secure retirement and that you and your wife, Beryl, enjoy life from now on without the stresses and strains of this House. Good on you, Doug.

[Applause.]

MR TRENORDEN (Avon - Leader of the National Party) [2.54 pm]: I also want to get on the bandwagon, Doug, not only on behalf of the remaining National Party members in this place, but also on behalf of Hilda Turnbull, with whom you had a great deal to do in the past, and on behalf of Hendy Cowan for the years that he served in this place. We have all appreciated your work. However, we have a bone to pick with you. It is a fact that you will be replaced by two people and, by your leaving, you have whipped out our chief of staff. That is our only grievance with you, Doug. I am sure our chief of staff will be a good person, as will Nigel, and I congratulate those two people who are going into the system. They will serve the place well, as you have done, Doug. You have always been a great support to National Party members and we have appreciated it. You have always had an even way of dealing with us, which is fantastic. It is also sad, when talking about Doug going off to retirement, to hear of young Michelle Garvey leaving too. That is sad and I hope you, Mr Speaker, will replace Michelle with someone as young as she is! We need people in this place at times with a hair colour slightly different from mine and that of a few other members in this place. I wish you well too, Michelle.

Mr Speaker, it would be inappropriate not to mention the fact that a few other members and I will not be around when Ian Allnutt - who is hiding behind the partition in the Chamber - retires from the other place. Probably the saddest aspect about Mr Allnutt is that Claremont Football Club did not recognise his great abilities as a footballer. However, we recognise his great abilities as a Clerk in the other place. Ian, all of the members of the National Party wish you well too, as several of us are unable to attend your retirement function. Likewise with Doug, you can be very proud of your performance in the Parliament. I am sure you, Doug, will keep in touch with us and with Parliament and I wish you and your wife, Beryl, the very best.

[Applause.]

Question passed, members standing.