

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Special

HON KIM CHANCE (Agricultural - Leader of the House) [1.15 am]: My colleague the Minister for Racing and Gaming said this probably would be my best speech of the night. I suspect it will be my second-best speech of the night. I move without notice -

That the House at its rising adjourn to a date and time to be fixed by the President.

Question put and passed.

Ordinary

HON KIM CHANCE (Agricultural - Leader of the House) [1.16 am]: Before moving the adjournment motion - the third and final for the evening - I want to say one or two things. First, it provides me with another opportunity to say a final farewell in a parliamentary sense to our friend Ian Allnutt.

[Applause.]

Hon KIM CHANCE: When we had the opportunity yesterday to say a farewell in a formal sense to Ian, we thought we were on our last sitting day. It is the nature of this place, Ian, as you are well aware, that you can rely on many things in the House but never the time you are going to knock off!

Mr President, I express my appreciation to every member in this place for the way in which they have handled what has been a harrowing legislative program. The points made on a number of occasions by the Leader of the Opposition about the difficulty and scale of the legislative program that we dealt with are points, in fact, with which I agree. We have dealt with the legislation in a manner that is probably best exemplified by the principal warriors on both sides of the House, Hon Ray Halligan and the Minister for Racing and Gaming. They have both exemplified the spirit in which legislation should be dealt with in the House. I for one am proud to be associated with both those members, particularly in the way they handled the legislation tonight.

It has been a long haul, Mr President. I wish every member a happy winter. I move -

That the House do now adjourn.

HMAS Sydney, Sinking - Adjournment Debate

HON J.A. SCOTT (South Metropolitan) [1.18 am]: It is not my intention to keep the House very long. Unfortunately, my speech will not be quite as short as the one that Hon Nick Griffiths liked so much the other day. I gave an undertaking to somebody that I would make this speech and I therefore intend to do that.

Members may recall that some time ago I made a speech in this Parliament during which I tabled documents that revealed that official documents relating to the sinking and subsequent search for HMAS *Sydney* in 1941 had been altered to conceal the truth. At the end of this short speech, I shall seek leave to table further documents relating to the sinking of the *Sydney*. The group of documents consists of two statutory declarations signed by surviving relatives of HMAS *Sydney* calling for the appropriate Western Australian government authorities to carry out a formal inquiry into the deaths of their family members. There is also a letter accompanying a submission to the chairman of the HMAS *Sydney II* seminar from Mr John Doohan. A list of submissions to that seminar shows no record of Mr Doohan's submission. There are also letters to Mr Doohan from Senator MacGibbon, chairman of the defence subcommittee and from the federal Attorney General's office declining Mr Doohan's call for a formal criminal inquiry into the HMAS *Sydney* deaths. There are also an additional two submissions by John Doohan, the first of which is to the federal Attorney General, Daryl Williams. It contains information relating to the lifeboats used by the survivors of the *Kormoran*, the German ship linked to the sinking of HMAS *Sydney*. The submission outlines significant inaccuracies in the findings of the inquiry by the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade into the circumstances of the sinking of HMAS *Sydney*.

The second submission is addressed to the then state Attorney General Hon Peter Foss and deals with the grave of "the unknown soldier" on Christmas Island. This grave is believed by some people to contain the remains of a sailor who had survived the attack on HMAS *Sydney* but who later died on a lifeboat that reached Christmas Island. Mr Doohan's letter states that the grave is that of Norman Howard, a phosphate company official. The unknown sailor's grave is at another location. Their investigations have been misled by a timber cross memorial to HMAS *Sydney* survivors that had been placed near Norman Howard's gravesite, which was made by Mr Doohan. Mr Doohan believes that the issue of the unknown sailor is an embarrassment to the foreign affairs, defence and trade committee inquiry because it throws further doubt on that committee's findings. I do not have the time or energy to go into details about these documents tonight and I seek leave of the House to table them for members' consideration.

[See paper No 1554.]

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 1.21 am
