

HON LESLIE ARTHUR LOGAN - CONDOLENCE MOTION

HON KIM CHANCE (Agricultural - Leader of the House) [4.01 pm]: I move -

That this House expresses its deep regret at the death of Hon Leslie Arthur Logan, a former member of the Legislative Council for the Central Province and Upper West Province, Minister for Local Government, Town Planning and Child Welfare; and places on record its appreciation for his long and distinguished public service and tenders its profound sympathy to the members of his family in their bereavement.

Hon Leslie Logan was not known personally to me. However, he was known personally to Hon Murray Criddle, who I understand will contribute to this condolence motion.

I am informed that Leslie Logan was born on 28 January 1908 and was a son of Geraldton. His father, Alan John James Joseph Logan, was a farmer and a Wesfarmers Ltd representative. They farmed in the Geraldton region for many years. Leslie Logan was an employee of the Geraldton Harbour Works from 1924 to 1927 and co-manager of the family's business, Logan's Tea Rooms, from 1927 to 1929. He farmed at Northampton from 1929 to 1948 where he conducted a mixed farming operation consisting of wheat, sheep, cattle and poultry.

Hon Leslie Logan was a keen participant in community affairs as well as a representative for the Central Province and later the Upper West Province. In his contribution to local community affairs he was a member of the Primary Producers Association, and the Northampton Agriculture Society and a committee member of the Agriculture Society for a period of approximately 16 years.

He served with the 19th Garrison Battalion from 1942 to 1944. In civil service, he was a member of the Geraldton Volunteer Fire Brigade from 1928 to 1929. He received the Queen's Coronation Medal on 2 June 1953 and the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal on 8 February 1977.

Hon Leslie Logan received an honorary diploma and keys of the City of Athens in 1970. He was an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Australian Planning Institute, a life member of the Perenjori Agriculture Society and chairman of the Management Committee of the Howard Solomon Hostel and Nursing Home in Lynwood. He was a member and president of the Residents Committee of the Shire of Wanneroo Aged Persons' Home Trust. Hon Leslie Logan was president of the General Purposes Grand Lodge of Freemasonry from 1972 to 1979 and a past Pro Grand Master Grand Lodge of Freemasonry in 1980.

He was president of the Bedford Bowling Club, of which he was made a life member in 1978. He managed the Geraldton and districts junior country week cricket team for 26 years. He was a life member of the Geraldton Regional Cricket Council in 1977 and he was awarded the best and fairest player of the Railways Football Club in 1929.

From 12 April 1947 until 21 May 1965 Hon Leslie Logan was the MLC for Central Province, which was called the Midland Province from 1950. He became the member for the Upper West Province on 22 May 1965, which he represented until 21 May 1974. He was the Country Party Whip from 1957 to 1959 and from 1959 to 1971 he was the Minister for Local Government, Town Planning and Child Welfare. He was Deputy Chairman of Committees from 1954 to 1959, a member of the Library Committee from 1950 to 1955, a member of the Standing Orders Committee from 1955 to 1958; a member of the Printing Committee in 1973 and 1974; and the Chairman of the honorary royal commission into the war service land settlement scheme in 1956 and 1957. He was a member of the honorary royal commission inquiring into the retailing of motor spirits and accessories in 1957, a member of the select committees inquiring into the activities of private inquiry agents in 1952, the Firearms and Guns Act Amendment Bill in 1953 and the Workers' Compensation Act Amendment Bills of 1954 and 1973. Hon Leslie Logan was father of the Legislative Council from 1971 to 1974.

That is a record of fine achievement by a former member of this House. I regret very much never having met Hon Leslie Logan. However, it is abundantly clear that in this place he served honourably and well, as he did within his own community and in the nation during wartime.

HON M.J. CRIDDLE (Agricultural) [4.11 pm]: It is my honour to comment on the life of Leslie Arthur Logan. I was fortunate enough to know Les Logan from my sporting attributes early in life and he was very much involved in sporting activities. However, I know that he had a major involvement in all community issues in his electorate. He was a farmer, a soldier, an administrator, a sportsman, a respected politician and cabinet minister. Les Logan's was a multi-faceted life marked by wide community service. He was known for his family commitment, his high principles and his boundless energies. He was a man who liked getting on with the job.

Mr Logan was the fourth child in a family of three boys and four girls. In 1908 his parents bought a small farm near Northampton - an area I know very well, having lived there all my life - and it became their home for the next 11 years. Life on the farm in those days was very difficult. Incomes were meagre and family life consisted of the barest of basic conveniences.

Mr Logan began his education at a one-teacher school known as Alma. Alma hall still stands just off the main highway and the Logan farm was about three miles from the Alma hall. That is where he spent his early education days. Due to his mother's poor health, the family leased the farm when he was 11 and moved to Geraldton where he attended secondary college.

In 1924 Mr Logan began work as a messenger boy in the Geraldton harbour works and eventually became a storeman there. After three years, his mother's illness caused him to leave that job and he began running the Logan Tea Rooms. I spoke earlier today about Mr Logan's life to Mr Keith Drage who gave the eulogy at his burial and he informed me that the tearooms became somewhat of an institution with its home cooking and family atmosphere, and was somewhat of a meeting place for people who came to Geraldton from time to time to get their groceries and so on.

At the age of 21, Mr Logan decided to return to the family farm at Northampton. In 1931 he married Rina Bond, a girl he met - many members will relate to this - at a Walkaway dance, just south of Geraldton. They were happily married for 65 years, producing a splendid extended family. Mr Logan was also part of the generation who fought in World War II when much was at stake for Australia. He spent more than two years with the Australian army, serving in the 19th Garrison Battalion in Geraldton, Broome and Melville Island, attaining the rank of corporal. He returned to his family farm in 1944 as the tides of war changed.

Mr Logan was a great supporter of all sports in the district, either as an organiser or as a participant. He was very much involved in the organisation of sports, as Hon Kim Chance said. He played football for the railways football club and was involved in the Geraldton and Northampton football associations. He was so involved in the matches that he later became involved in umpiring them, an onerous task for anybody. He participated in tennis, cricket, athletics and swimming and later lawn bowls, all of which benefited from his enthusiasm. For 26 years he managed the Geraldton junior cricket team and I can remember that involvement when he came to Perth. A cricket shield known as the Les Logan shield was played for over many years. Having been involved in that, I can say there was stiff competition for that shield.

He was involved in a range of community organisations. He spent five years on the Northampton Roads Board and assisted with the vestry of the Anglican church in the town. He was on the committee of the Northampton Agricultural Society for 16 years for which he did valuable work; that agricultural society continues today. As Hon Kim Chance said, he was also a member of a number of other organisations, including the John Shipton Lodge of the Manchester Unity Order of Oddfellows and a member of the Hampton Lodge of Freemasons for 56 years, both of which orders he rose to the top.

Mr Logan's community involvement and interest in local government made him an ideal candidate for the district's state seat when it became vacant in 1947. He contested the by-election for the Country Party and won. It was the beginning of an illustrious parliamentary career which spanned 27 years. As a member of the coalition Government led by Sir David Brand, Mr Logan was a cabinet minister for 12 years from 1959 to 1971. During that time he held three cabinet portfolios simultaneously as Minister for Local Government, Town Planning and Child Welfare.

For some, after putting in an amazing effort serving their constituents, it would have been time to put up their feet and look forward to a slowing of pace. However, that was not Les Logan's style. He took up bowls, became a member and counsellor of Birthright - an association of lone fathers - assisted with transport for Inglewood Care Group and joined the vestry of the district's Anglican church. Mr Logan was also active with the Belgrade Park Village, a retirement home of which he was made a life member. He extended his involvement in freemasonry too, for which he had a great love, serving as Deputy Grand Master, President of the Board of General Purposes and Program Master at various times. It was not until he became seriously ill late in 1999 that he was compelled to limit his activities.

He was unfortunate to lose his wife three years ago. It was a very sad loss and a devastating blow to Les Logan. However, with the support of his daughters, their families and many of his friends, he remained contented. He was content that he had made a contribution to society, content to have done his best at everything he attempted and satisfied at having always acted with integrity.

Mr Logan's honesty was due no doubt to the great example of his parents. The quality and extent of his commitments saw him awarded the Order of Australia in 1980, which was bestowed on him for his services to the community and also to Parliament. Mr Logan made many friends from all walks of life but never forgot his humble beginnings nor lost his warm friendly nature; I can attest to that. He will be remembered for his ethical code and, above all, his contribution to the Western Australian people. A small statistic exemplifies Mr Logan's adherence to always doing the right thing, to which we can all relate: He held a drivers licence for 75 years and he had a perfect record, not even so much as a parking fine. Mr Logan is survived by four daughters, Margaret, Cynthia, Beryl and Lesley, as well as 12 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Les Logan, well done!

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the Opposition) [4.20 pm]: On behalf of the Opposition, I also indicate our support for the condolence motion for Hon Les Logan. He obviously served the community throughout a long and vigorous life as a farmer, as a member of this House for 27 years, as a minister of a very successful Government for 12 years and then as a retired citizen. He had the distinction of being the father of the House for his last three years in Parliament. He also earned both imperial and Australian honours as well as accolades from numerous community organisations. We have heard from the Leader of the House and Hon Murray Criddle about the history and life of Les Logan, so I do not propose to go through that, other than to say that, as a young man, he worked through very tough times and eventually became a member of Parliament through making a significant contribution to his community in the Geraldton area. Being Chairman of the Northampton Agricultural Society for 16 years and a member for 45 years demonstrates his significant contribution. He was a member of the Northampton Roads Board, which demonstrated his commitment to the community. His contribution during the Second World War was also important.

He was elected to Parliament in 1947. I read a little of the history of his elections. He was unopposed for much of the end of his political career. When members think about how hard we fight to be in here and how tough elections are these days, we can only imagine how popular and well thought of he must have been to be elected unopposed at a state election. That was the case with Les Logan, who clearly demonstrated as a member that he had what it took to look after the interests of his constituents. He was awarded the Queen's Coronation Medal in 1953 and the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977. As we have heard, he spent 12 years as a minister in the Brand Government. To be a minister for 12 years is a very significant achievement. I understand that during his time as a minister he was very well regarded and worked very hard in his portfolios. In retirement he did not slow down and stop work; he continued to work very hard in the community and held a number of positions within the community.

Interestingly, his death leaves only Sir Charles Court as the last of those ministers who took office in the Brand Government in 1959, 42 years ago. This Parliament has been enriched by the contribution of people like Les Logan, who brought with him a wealth of practical community experience and who earned respect and affection from the community. I was interested in the comments of Hon Murray Criddle about Les Logan's perfect driving record; he went for 75 years without a conviction. That demonstrates his attitude towards doing the right thing on all occasions. On behalf of the opposition, I extend our sympathy to his four daughters, 12 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon George Cash): Before asking members to signify their support for this motion by rising and standing in silence for one minute, I indicate to the House that, as is the usual practice, I will ensure that the comments made in this condolence motion are passed on to the family of the late Les Logan.

Question passed, members standing.