

Legislative Council

Tuesday, 10 May 1994

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 3.30 pm, and read prayers.

MOTION - CONDOLENCE

Pike, Hon Bob

HON GEORGE CASH (North Metropolitan - Leader of the House) [3.34 pm]: I move, without notice -

That this House expresses its deep regret at the death of Robert Gerald Pike, a member of the Legislative Council of Western Australia, places on record its appreciation for his long and devoted service to the people of Western Australia, and conveys its deepest sympathy to his widow Patti and his three sons and four daughters.

Mr President, may I first put on record my deep sadness at the sudden and untimely death of our parliamentary colleague, Hon Bob Pike. Bob Pike was a parliamentarian of fierce determination, a great believer in the democratic process and, first and foremost, a man committed to improving Western Australia. It is perhaps fitting that at the time of his death Bob was Parliamentary Secretary of State for Federal Affairs, which is a position that allowed him to work directly on his consuming political passion of ensuring that Western Australian powers should not continue to be lost to the Commonwealth Government. There is no question that Bob Pike was a champion of states' rights.

Bob was born in Collie in 1933, where his family had a butchering business. The young Bob Pike's first ambition was to be a priest, and he actually attended the St Charles Seminary in Guildford. Although he never entered the priesthood, many of us experienced Bob's speeches in this House, which at times, I might say, were sermon-like in their delivery. Bob had a tremendous command of the Latin language and his interest in theology was well known to all members of this House. What is not as well known to some in this House was his total commitment to and deep involvement in his local Catholic church and in a number of other parishes within his electorate of North Metropolitan Region. After leaving the seminary Bob Pike returned to Collie where he worked in a bank and eventually in his family's business. After a brief stint in the Royal Australian Air Force Bob entered public life at the age of 22 when he was elected to the Collie Shire Council. He served on that council for 13 years and was first elected shire president in 1962 at the age of 29. He joined the Liberal Party in 1967 and held a number of positions in the party, from being a branch president through to serving as a senior vice president of the state party. Bob was indeed a longstanding member of the state council of the Liberal Party in Western Australia.

He was first elected to State Parliament as a member for North Metropolitan Province on 22 May 1977 and rose to the position of Chief Secretary, and Minister for Prisons, Cultural Affairs and Recreation in the O'Connor government. Bob left the Parliament after the 1983 election, but after several years his love for politics and, indeed, his commitment to the interests of Western Australia saw him stand again and win the seat of North Metropolitan Region in 1989. He was subsequently re-elected to that region in 1993. Until his untimely death Bob was a significant contributor to Parliament. He served on a number of committees; he chaired the Standing Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Statutes Revision and was a former member of the Joint House Committee. He was the chairman of the select committee which inquired into state investments in Rothwells, Petrochemical Industries Co Ltd and WA Government Holdings and he also headed an inquiry into the Western Women group.

Members will remember Bob as a no-nonsense operator who got things done - a fact highlighted by a quote in the 27 April edition of *The West Australian* which stated -

While Mr Pike was criticised for his motivation and sometimes his tactics during

the inquiry, his persistence was the main reason the Western Women investors got a payout.

Bob Pike was a man of conviction, a man of integrity and certainly, as one respected political commentator remarked before his death, a man with a mission. Bob Pike was totally committed to the principles and ideals of the Liberal Party. His counsel and advice were heard on many matters raised in the parliamentary party room and branches, divisions and conferences of the party right across Western Australia. It is perhaps fitting, Mr President, that Bob's presence will continue in the party room as only last year Bob, who was an expert in the art of calligraphy, presented to the party room a personally scripted parchment entitled "The Beliefs of the Liberal Party". That is framed and hanging on the party room wall. Bob Pike made a significant contribution to Western Australia during his 11 years in this Parliament. He will be sorely missed. I take this opportunity to extend my deepest sympathy to his wife, Patti, and their seven children.

HON JOHN HALDEN (South Metropolitan - Leader of the Opposition) [3.41 pm]: On behalf of the Opposition I join with the Government and other members of the House in supporting this condolence motion. As the Leader of the Government said, Bob Pike had a long career in politics in Western Australia. He was educated at Collie Senior High School and St Charles Seminary in Guildford. He was employed in his early working days as an accountant at Griffin Coal Mining Co Pty Ltd and the Commonwealth Bank. He was elected at the age of 22 to the Collie Shire Council and remained as a councillor from 1956 to 1962. From 1962 to 1970 he served as President of the Collie Shire Council. Bob was elected to the 29th Parliament as a member for North Metropolitan Province and remained as a member until 21 May 1983 when he was defeated by Hon Graham Edwards. During Bob's first period as a member in this House he was elevated to the Ministry on 25 January 1982 as the Chief Secretary, Minister for Cultural Affairs and Minister for Recreation. On 30 December 1982 the then Premier added to Bob Pike's portfolio responsibilities by giving him responsibility for prisons.

As the Leader of the Government said, Bob subsequently lost an election, but as we all know he was re-elected to the 33rd and 34th Parliaments as a member for North Metropolitan Region. On the election of the Liberal Party in 1993 Bob was made Parliamentary Secretary of State with special responsibility for parliamentary and electoral reform and federal affairs. It was not as a Minister that Bob Pike gave to this Parliament and to the state those things for which he will be best remembered. It was his efforts to establish in this House a series of standing committees for which I am sure he will be most remembered. There is no doubt that standing committees have altered the perception of this House and its role forever. I suggest to members that there is a need to preserve that system with integrity. I further suggest that we must always be mindful of our responsibilities to this House and must allow on occasion our political persuasions to decline just a little so as to maintain the objectivity that is essential in those committees, particularly in our discussions of the decisions that come from them.

Bob Pike often referred to members on this side of the House, or on the other side when we were in Government, as "socialists, centralists and left-wingers". When he did so I always felt that he was referring to me. I was always perplexed that he described people with those sorts of beliefs with such venom and such passion. However, as the Leader of the Government said, he was a man committed to a political cause. The one thing we learn in this House is that we all have different beliefs and commitments, and we all put them in distinct and different ways. Bob Pike was never ashamed of putting forward his views, and he put them forward with great vigour. I am sure that it is not the last time members on this side of the House - and I hope in the not too distant future on the other side of the House - will be referred to as socialists, centralists and left-wingers. However, it is probably the last time we will have our beliefs referred to as Bovril.

Bob Pike saw this House as a defender of states' rights. It would not be unfair to say that he saw the continuation of this Chamber's gerrymandered electoral laws and the committee structure as continuing to ensure that members on this side never had the numbers to ensure that this House was a defender of states' rights, because he could never be convinced - probably rightly so - that we had the same commitment on that issue as he, most particularly, and those opposite, more generally.

I found Mr Pike's insistence upon those matters and his commitment to this issue perplexing. However, I never doubted in any respect his commitment to those issues. If there is to be an epitaph for Bob Pike it is that he was a believer. I suggest that to those opposite he was a true believer. To members on this side, he was probably a believer who was misguided. However, the depth of his commitment and his beliefs are not challenged. He leaves with us a legacy for which we should be grateful and which we should challenge.

On behalf of the Opposition I place on record our deepest sympathy and sadness to Bob's wife, Patti, and his seven children. It is always difficult to know how one should express in a true way the grief which they must feel at this moment. I hope that on behalf of the Opposition I have been able to give some comfort to his family. I thank the House for its time.

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Minister for Education) [3.45 pm]: Bob Pike was a friend of mine for the past 20 years. He assisted me in writing my first endorsement speech, and it was a good enough speech for me to be successful on that occasion. Bob and I entered this House in 1977; he for North Metropolitan Province and I for what was then called Lower North Province. Bob and I did not always agree on everything; however, we had a good time arguing about issues. Invariably at the end of the day on the broader questions of principle he and I were as one on most of those issues.

I had enormous admiration for a number of Bob Pike's attributes, essentially for his great strength of purpose. Bob knew where he was going and what he believed. He would argue his point of view strongly, no matter what the forum. His support for the Liberal Party and its policies was unquestioned. I do not think anyone in the Liberal Party had more depth of understanding of the party's policies and platforms than did Bob Pike. The Liberal Party will miss him sadly from that point of view. Bob had a dedication to the federation, to which Hon John Halden referred. Bob Pike was not a states' righter because he thought it was a political cause to push which may win him a few votes. He believed fervently that power needed to be decentralised; that the concentration of power in any one part of a community was a recipe for disaster. He argued federalism on the basis that we should spread political power throughout the community. That was the essence of his states' right argument. It was an argument against the centralisation of power, not an argument for states' rights for some political purpose.

I always admired the enormous knowledge that Bob Pike had about so many subjects. I do not think Bob Pike was ever involved in a conversation in which he did not know more than everybody else about the topic that was being discussed. His depth of general knowledge and his ability to make a contribution on an enormous range of issues was extraordinary. His ability to speak a couple of languages and his understanding of Latin was also quite amazing. His memory was superlative. I also admired his loyalty to his God and to his church. As members would know, Bob was a loyal member of the Catholic Church and spent many hours debating and discussing the fundamental questions that surround religion and what life after death is all about. Most of all I admired his dedication to his family. Bob was a great family man. Having seven children demonstrates how important he felt it was to have children around him. He spent an enormous number of hours with his children, giving them the benefit of his knowledge and, at the same time, ensuring that they were brought up in an environment that he believed was appropriate for young people in this day and age.

Bob was also a great champion of this House, as we have already heard. He came into this House in 1977 fervently supporting the review function of this Chamber and he was always very active in opposing the intrusion of the Executive into the affairs of the Legislative Council. Members opposite would not know that Bob would argue just as vehemently in the party room against that as he did outside the party room. Bob was not a fair weather operator in respect of that issue - he strongly believed in the need for the Legislative Council to be a House of Review and to be as independent as is humanly possible from the Executive of the day.

I acknowledge the comments made by Hon John Halden about Bob's involvement in the

committee system. I know, because I was here at the time, that when Bob was responsible for the formation of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies in 1982 he had to fight a number of people within his party to achieve that first step. Bob ignored that as meddling by the Executive and proceeded, as only he could do, to have that committee established. I was delighted to be appointed to that committee when it was first established. When Bob was returned to office after his defeat he was instrumental in the formation of the committees we now have in this House.

He will be remembered as a person who gave this House a broader role and expanded its meaning within the political life of Western Australia. I will miss Bob's political and personal advice. Bob was never backward in giving it, but it was always welcome. This Parliament and our party owe Bob a great deal for his dedication, determination and persistence which he applied throughout his life. I deeply regret his passing and extend to Patti and his family my deepest condolences.

HON E.J. CHARLTON (Agricultural - Minister for Transport) [3.52 pm]: On behalf of the National Party I support this motion and endorse the comments of the previous speakers.

My association with Bob Pike goes back to when I first came into this place. I did not know him before then. In the time I knew him I came to respect the value he placed on what I consider to be the important facets of life on this earth. While he was dogmatic, but specific, in his point of view on every issue he certainly respected other people's points of view.

Although Bob was passionate in his views on certain issues, members in this House will acknowledge that he did not speak for a long duration on any issue. He said what he had to say in a few minutes and often upset a lot of people along the way. He said what he believed and that was it. After he had put forward his view, he was ready to go on to the next issue.

Bob had a lot of sayings which he readily put forward. He often repeated these sayings even though he realised he had said them previously. He believed in his sayings so passionately that he wanted to ensure that members understood what he meant. I can recall two sayings which he obviously felt were appropriate to me because he recited them to me on several occasions. We all know that he was an admirer of Bob Menzies. He would tell me that there were two things Menzies said that I should always remember: Firstly, if I wanted to win government I had to be in coalition. Obviously, that was for my benefit. Secondly, people should not criticise the Catholic Church. He obviously believed in these sayings and I respect him for it.

In the last week in which Bob Pike was in this Parliament I was fortunate, together with other members, to join him for a cup of tea in the dining room. He spent the time reminiscing about his experiences in life and they were significant, as Hon Norman Moore mentioned. His experiences were not of the ordinary kind and he had the capacity to relate important historical events. At that time I told him he should record his experiences and sayings for the benefit of future generations because they should have the opportunity to know what he believed in.

I appreciated the opportunity to have heard Bob Pike's experiences. I probably led him astray on a number of occasions because I would take him into the bar and buy him a drink simply to listen to his comments on some of the issues of the day.

It is with a great deal of sadness that we record Bob's passing. It would do all members a great deal of good to remember the important things which Bob Pike stood for. Although members have their opinions about other members, about politics and what is right or wrong, Bob Pike was not backward in speaking out about the things he believed in. The state will be poorer for his passing, but will be the great beneficiary of the contribution he made as a member of Parliament.

Members who attended the requiem mass and funeral of the late Bob Pike must have been moved by the church service and impressed by the way his family presented themselves and showed the respect they had for their husband and father. His family

participated in the mass in a very special way - their demeanour said it all and no words needed to be spoken. The clergy and the other people who attended the mass would have been impressed with Bob's long association with his church. It certainly demonstrated that Bob was not only a politician. Many of the members in this House believed that he was obsessed with politics and that he had no time for anything else. It is obvious from the requiem mass and funeral service that he made time for a lot of other activities which were recorded that day.

I support this condolence motion to Bob's family and I am sure that all members will remember Bob Pike with great respect.

HON MAX EVANS (North Metropolitan - Minister for Finance) [3.59 pm]: I support the motion. Bob Pike was certainly a unique person and we all know that he was obsessed with politics. His lifestyle and outlook were certainly different from mine. I first met Bob at the 1986 preselection when he was trying to re-enter politics. He had been involved in politics all his life and I had not. I formed a relationship with him since then.

Bob has made all members realise that life is finite and none of us knows whether we will be here tomorrow. I only heard yesterday at a meeting of the Stirling division of the Liberal Party that he attended a meeting of that division on the Friday prior to his death - he passed away on the following Monday. We have a limited life here, and there are a lot of things we want to do. In most cases, we do what we can, and do it properly, because we know that we will not be here forever to do those things. The boy scouts have a motto "Leave the camp site better than you found it". Hon Bob Pike did that with the world. He left the world a better place than he found it, and he left the Parliament a better place than he found it. He made a great contribution to the Parliament in his work on the Standing Committee on Government Agencies.

One of Hon Bob Pike's greatest contributions when he was Chief Secretary was to establish the instant lottery to support sport and the arts. I could not get Sir Charles Court or the government to do that. The Liberal government of those days, and I think also Labor governments during that period, put money into hospitals and charities but did not regard sport and the arts as areas that should be supported by government. I forget how much money was raised by the instant lottery in the first year - it was not very much - but it has built up and it now contributes \$6m a year to sport and the arts. I hope the people involved in sport and the arts appreciate the great debt they owe to Hon Bob Pike for establishing that instant lottery.

Hon Bob Pike made this Parliament a better place. The Standing Committees on Legislation, on Estimates and Financial Operations, and on Constitutional Affairs and Statutes Revision have led to a marked improvement in the operations of this place, although perhaps further improvements are warranted. When I came into this place, I was surprised that those committees were not in existence. I had been in England some months before coming to this place, and I had considered moving to establish similar committees. I was happy for Hon Bob Pike to run with that idea because there were other things that I wanted to do. Those committees work well, and we should be grateful for their establishment. Hon Bob Pike loved the glamour and limelight of select committees. He used the system very well, and we cannot deny the contribution that he made. It is to his great credit that he strove to be scrupulously fair at all times.

Hon Bob Pike's knowledge on all subjects was mind boggling for me. I have had a reasonable education, but Bob Pike was an expert on all subjects, so much so that I could not tell whether he was right or wrong. When it came to religion and history, he left me a long way behind. Hon Bob Pike also seemed to be a financial whiz-kid. He had a good mind for finance and was a financial adviser for many years during his time out of the Parliament. He had investments in shares and property, and I hope those investments serve his family well.

Hon Bob Pike was a unique person. He had a great love of politics and for the atmosphere of Parliament. I do not hold that against him, because Parliament is an important institution. He believed in the Parliament. During the period that he was in the

Parliament, he regularly had lunch in the parliamentary dining room and enjoyed talking about what was going on. That was his life. It is sad that Hon Bob Pike was taken in the middle of his life in the Parliament. I believe he had a lot more to offer. I support the motion for this fine politician, who achieved so much in a short time and left the Parliament better than he found it.

HON P.R. LIGHTFOOT (North Metropolitan) [4.04 pm]: I support this condolence motion for Hon Bob Pike. It is with an immense amount of sadness that, like others here, I speak on his behalf today. Hon Bob Pike and I were friends for many years. In fact, it was Bob who induced me to look at politics as a serious pursuit in the 1970s when I lived in Kalgoorlie in the northern goldfields. It was his encouragement and, to a large degree, his philosophies that induced me to pursue a career in this place.

Bob Pike to me was a rather enigmatic man. I never knew what he would come out with next. I was not fully aware of what he knew, and I was never aware, of course, of what he did not know. He surprised me on numerous occasions with his knowledge of ancient Greek, Latin, the *Bible*, politics and procedure, standing orders and the minutiae of some Acts and Bills. In fact, Hon Bob Pike will be sadly missed in our party room. Over the period that I have been in this House, as opposed to the other place, because Bob was absent for a few years, I have always felt secure in the knowledge that if there was something wrong with a Bill introduced into our party room, Hon Bob Pike would pick it up and explain to the party where it was either wrong or right, or that we needed to be careful here or there. He has left a great vacuum in our party in regard to the detail and examination of Bills and other procedural matters of this House.

I feel desperately sorry for Bob's wife Patti and their seven fine children. Bob Pike perhaps should be emulated by the people of this state because he was a very moral man. I do not recall that he drank. He may have, but I do not recall that. I certainly do not recall that he smoked. Bob Pike was, above all, a family man, who put the nucleus of the family as the most important thing in this social and gregarious life that we lead in this nation today. He believed in the pursuit of excellence. He also believed that there should be some reward for effort. Hon Bob Pike worked hard, and should have been rewarded. I trust that through his unbending belief in his religion, he will find that ultimate reward.

I find it a sad occasion that we speak today in this condolence motion. It is not often that a member of this place dies in office. Hon Bob Pike will be remembered for more than that. I hope he will be remembered not for being bigger in death than he was in life but for the genuine contribution that he made to this House and for the feeling of absolute correctness and dedication that he displayed. He will be missed. The office that I share was next door to Hon Bob Pike's office. I liked and felt very comfortable with the position that he took in politics. As a result, I guess we tended to gravitate towards each other at party meetings, annual general meetings, divisional meetings, conferences, and so on. I will miss that gravitation. I will miss the almost paternalistic advice that Hon Bob Pike gave us, often whether we wanted it or not. I found that, at least in retrospect, to be an endearing part of the character of Hon Bob Pike.

I hope that Hon Bob Pike's wife and children, and other close members of his family, come to understand why he was taken at a relatively young age. I am sure they will find a securing and comforting arm in his church, which he followed all of his life. In fact, as the Leader of the House said, Hon Bob Pike felt a calling to the church in his younger days, and I think that aspect of Hon Bob Pike imbued him with a moral drive in this place that I certainly try to emulate at times, and often do not succeed. I take this opportunity to express to his loved ones my deep sorrow at his passing and trust that we will remember Hon Bob Pike for the contribution that he made in all facets of politics, both at the local government level, where he was the youngest shire president ever elected in this state, and at the ministerial level during the previous Liberal government, and also for other contributions that he made both at the committee level and to the lay party.

HON TOM STEPHENS (Mining and Pastoral) [4.09 pm]: Only a couple of weeks ago, Hon Bob Pike called me over in the corridor just outside the dining room to introduce me to two distinguished Catholic clergy in Perth to whom he had taken the

opportunity of extending the courtesy of the dining room as his guests. He was feeling in the mood for discourse, as was his wont, and I was to be the after dinner mint - the spoils after lunch. I was introduced to the two distinguished Catholic clergy and Bob mentioned that I shared a common background with them and him in that we had all studied for the Catholic priesthood. Bob and I did not complete those studies, for different reasons.

From time to time Bob has spoken to me about his great love of dogmatic theology. It was perhaps as a result of that interest that he ended up on the conservative side of politics. I spoke of my interest in liberation theology, spiritual and mystical theology, the social gospel and the social teaching of the church. Bob loved to engage me in these discussions around Parliament House, but when I arrived in this place I had less of an interest in theology and more in politics. Bob wanted to speak about theology, and I wanted to speak to him only about politics. Twelve years down the track I have discovered an increasing interest in things theological while maintaining my passionate interest in politics.

Hon Bob Pike's presence in this Chamber will be missed for a range of reasons. I extend my condolences to Mrs Pike and his family. Unfortunately, I was in my electorate at the time and was unable to attend the funeral. The President, as is his wont, will make a copy of condolence speeches available to family members following the debate, and I hope his family realise that this House recognises that Bob was a formidable political character and, for this side of the House, opponent.

When I arrived in this Chamber, Hon Bob Pike was the Chief Secretary and, from memory, he sat where Hon Norman Moore currently sits. That was at a turbulent time in the final days of the O'Connor government. In August 1982 significant challenges faced the then government as we approached the poll. Some interesting debates - in which Bob played a significant role - ensued in this Chamber from which I learnt a great deal about this place. We discussed, among others, the Electoral and the Local Government Acts.

I recall that Bob had carriage of an unfortunate piece of legislation which we opposed. On this side of the Chamber we numbered nine, yet we managed to organise a revolt within the then government. The numbers escaped Bob, and he had to withdraw the legislation. As members would appreciate, with the numbers as they were and are in this place, this was a rare event indeed! Interestingly enough, as occurs in politics, Hon Bob Pike pointed out to me that when in government we moved and carried the same piece of legislation which had caused the revolt! This was a machinery Bill which a department had been able to get through the party room. When I discovered that the Bill was about to pass through the House, it was too late. I spoke to our Minister outside the Chamber indicating that it was draconian legislation and that we had knocked it off when in opposition, but the Minister had to accept responsibility to pass the legislation. Bob took delight in that experience!

As indicated, Hon Bob Pike was the architect of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies, although, as Hon Norman Moore indicated, Bob had difficulties - of which he made no secret - on this issue in his party room prior to when he was Chief Secretary and a backbencher in the Sir Charles Court government. Bob was keen to have this place working as a House of Review, rather like that outlined in Lionel Murphy's vision of the Senate. Bob wanted to establish an active committee system in the upper House, and this led him to cross swords with Sir Charles Court, the then Premier. This caused Bob difficulties, yet he took the matter to the wire. Despite the wishes of the then Premier, Bob insisted that the committee be established, and with his terms of reference. Therefore, he contributed to ensuring that this House had a mechanism by which it could review the quangos, the number of which was growing prolifically in this state at that time.

As Hon Max Evans indicated, Bob had none of the wowser-type apprehensions regarding using gambling to advantage the coffers of the state. He was free in pushing for the instant lottery, and this probably arises from Bob's Catholic bingo background. The history of the Catholic Church in this country involves gambling as a fundraising activity

for the church. Therefore, Bob had a different perspective on such activities from many other sections of the Christian movement, and he put that viewpoint when in government. He had no problem about raising funds for the state through this means, as gambling had been used to develop the infrastructure associated with the Catholic religion.

Hon Bob Pike was known to be a very prominent Catholic; however, he represented an oddity in the Liberal Party in that regard. It is not usual, especially in the Eastern States, and to a lesser extent in Western Australia, to find a Catholic representing the Liberal Party. Of course, exceptions exist to that rule. Bob realised that he represented that oddity, although some active Catholics can be found in the ranks of the Liberal Party. The origins of the Labor Party in Australia, followed by the emergence of the Liberal Party in the later part of this century, resulted in the religious divide to which I refer. Bob was an exception to that rule.

In that context Bob would bait me regularly with his deep knowledge of the Catholic faith. He would indicate clearly to me the occasions upon which he felt that I was locked into a viewpoint which was at odds with his understanding of the Catholic tradition. I never shared his view of my being at odds with the traditions and on a number of occasions in debate in this House, I thought Bob was in conflict with that tradition. During the passage of the *in vitro* fertilisation legislation I thought Bob was the odd man out in this regard when voting against me and my party on a certain division.

I travelled with Bob on the occasion of Hon Eric Charlton's famous wheatbelt tour. For part of that tour Bob travelled in his car, and I recall travelling in his vehicle rather than using the bus which was the main transport means for that tour. Bob was driving through parts of the state that were foreign territory for me and, to some extent, for him. He took the opportunity to give long discourses to me of the role of the Liberal Party as the senior player in the coalition. While nonetheless wanting this coalition which would get his party into government, he left me with no doubt as to what would be the relative roles of the two parties in the future government that would, in his view, likely be formed after the 1993 election.

In the last couple of weeks of Bob's life, he revealed to me not only more of this passion for things theological but also the development of a passion for things eschatological, the theology of the last times. He was probing the areas of death and dying. Perhaps he had a premonition of his own death when he was exploring the literature on eschatology. That is a fascinating thought. I hope that all of us are blessed with some sort of premonition of our lives on earth coming to a close.

In recent weeks in the House, Bob had taken the opportunity of making contact with people in a fresh, new way which was different from any of the ways he had previously been in contact with staff in the Parliament. It is a bit uncanny that he had struck a fresh, new chord with people in the building, one that was appreciated and was very much welcomed. It is a pity that too often in life kind words are not spoken about people and it takes a person's death before they are said. I will miss the formidable nature of his presence in the Chamber, the opportunity of talking about things of a higher plane than those which we tend to debate in the realm of politics. In death I hope that Bob should rest in peace. Perhaps he would have preferred me to use the words: *Requiescat in pace*; vale, Bob Pike.

HON PETER FOSS (East Metropolitan - Minister for Health) [4.22 pm]: I join in supporting this motion. Soon after a person dies, we realise how often we have turned to that person for advice. In the short time since his death, our party has turned to look for Bob and found him not to be there. We always knew that Bob would tell us what was right, the right protocol, the constitutional position and the proper position for Western Australia. In fact, probably with some irony, we all knew that the only person who would have told us the proper way to run the very first funeral for a parliamentary secretary who died in office would have been Bob. He was a fountain of knowledge and he was able to provide that knowledge because he understood the basic principles. He was not merely a collector of incidental pieces of information; he was very much a person who was based in principles. I think that came from his Roman Catholic

background and his training for the priesthood. I only came to know Bob in 1989 and we became quite close friends. We worked together on a lot of issues in this House. It was a surprise to some people that we came to be as close as we did.

I worked with him on two committees. The first has already been mentioned, the Petrochemical Industries Co Ltd committee. That was a very hard fought committee where political lines were drawn and no quarter was given. Hon Fred McKenzie mentioned to me that, despite the fact that it was one of the hardest fought committees, at all times the most essential thing about Bob was that he was a scrupulously fair chairman. He would always be ruthless, but in the fairest possible way. He was scrupulous about procedure, to make sure that everything was done properly, but he gave no quarter in the end. We became very close over that inquiry. I got the six o'clock morning call - anybody who knew Bob well would get such a call - saying, "Top of the morning to you." He was very kind to tell me that the answer was, "And the rest of the day to yourself." We went through that every day while we discussed this committee. He was a planner. He was a marvellous politician because he had the capacity to think ahead. He would have been a brilliant chess player - I do not know whether he played - because he had the capacity to think several steps ahead. It got to the stage where we had a game of snap, because we could always guess what the other had come up with in the meantime. I had very good times working with him on that committee. I learnt a tremendous amount about the committee system from him. I came in totally politically naive and my dealings with him were a wonderful way of understanding the political process. I could have had no better teacher than Bob.

Bob was absolutely meticulous. Everything he was told went into his diary. He always said that after his death his diaries would be one of the most valuable things that he left behind and people would be scrambling to get hold of them. I will tell members a story which Bob thought was very funny. It is about the PICL committee. Bob's diary was a small, leather bound affair. I said to him, "That is your bible; you live by your diary." He accepted that. We were sitting in a committee meeting and we were hoping to examine Mr Laurie Connell, but he did not turn up. Instead his lawyer, Mr Geoff Miller, QC, turned up to explain why Mr Connell was not there. Mr Miller was told, "You cannot speak to the committee; only witnesses can speak to the committee. If you want to speak, you will have to give evidence." Mr Miller thought about it and decided to give evidence. Bob was very scrupulous about witnesses giving evidence. He always insisted on their being sworn. Witnesses do not have to be sworn but Bob thought it was a better way to do it. If the witnesses were sworn, they would realise that it was a solemn occasion and if they gave false evidence, they could be prosecuted. He directed Mr Miller, QC, be sworn. The clerk to the committee, Mr Oi, could not think where he had left the *Bible*. He spotted it - as he thought - at one end of the table, picked it up and went to the other end of the table. In the meantime, Bob, who was always very conscious of where his diary was, was feeling around the table wondering where he had put his diary. At the moment when Mr Oi got to the other end of the table to swear in Geoffrey Miller, QC, with Bob's diary, he realised what he had taken. He looked in a panic stricken way towards the other end of the table to see whether Bob had noticed what was happening. Bob was still feeling around for his diary. I had worked out what had happened and was nearly falling off my seat. Mr Oi noticed my actions and signalled to me not to say anything so that the rest of the committee members would not know that the witness was being sworn on Bob's diary. Luckily, Mr Miller said that he would take an affirmation! We laughed about that on many occasions afterwards because there would have been a certain appropriateness in a witness being sworn on Bob's diary.

Bob was a very Christian man. A lot of people feared him. I think people did not realise how essentially Christian in his humility Bob was. He was very conscious of his own faults but nobody ever saw that was the case. He presented to the world a very strong, hard front; but he was extremely conscious of his faults. At one time he showed me his diary. He said, "These are my faults of character." I will not tell members what they were. However, he had written down in the diary with great perspicacity all of the faults he considered he had. I think a mark of considerable greatness is to be aware not just of

our strengths but also our weaknesses. He very much believed in the Christian philosophy to be conscious of one's faults. That is where Bob's strength came from; he recognised his weaknesses. We as politicians are always called on to reinforce our strengths, whereas we should be more conscious of our failings. Bob was certainly aware of his failings.

As I said, he was very important in committees. I was involved with him in two committees. One of which I was not a member was the Standing Committee on Constitutional Affairs inquiring into Western Women Financial Services Pty Ltd, but although I was not a member of the committee, I was very much involved in the Western Women group inquiry from the beginning. There is no doubt whatsoever that it was Bob's firm conduct in running that inquiry that led to its success. It brought to the public as a whole the facts involved in the case. Many people thought that the women who had invested with that shonky company had foolishly chased a high interest rate. It was only through the endeavours of that committee and the information being made public as a result of the rules which applied to the committee that the public began to understand that these women had thought they were investing with a State bank. They had gone to a financial adviser because they thought that was the sensible thing to do. It was through the endeavours of that inquiry and the way in which it was conducted by Bob Pike that the responsibilities of various parties clearly emerged. He scrupulously observed neutral behaviour as the chairman; nonetheless, he was totally ruthless in the way he followed things through. People should realise that once Bob made up his mind to do something he would follow the procedures exactly, but he always made certain he achieved the result in the end.

Although we remember Bob speaking in this House quite vehemently, one of his most consistent characteristics was that he was always cheerful. He enjoyed a joke and enjoyed seeing the light side of life. He of course enjoyed politics and therefore had very good reason to be cheerful because he was indulging in what he enjoyed most of all. He also loved music. I thought that when Hon Tom Stephens was speaking of travelling with Bob he was going to say he also listened to Bob's music. Whenever Bob travelled and when he was home he enjoyed classical music and he liked it played loudly. I have sat in his den at Floreat Park while he thought about life, always to the accompaniment of music.

As alluded to by Hon Eric Charlton, he should also be given credit for the formation of the coalition in Western Australia. In 1989 a change occurred in this Chamber when we were in opposition because of the very close cooperation that took place between the two parties. We had an effectiveness that we might not have had previously. Bob worked on the final agreement of the coalition between our two parties. He was very effective at arriving at that sort of deal. I do not think most people realised Bob's involvement in that. He had a tremendous amount to do with the rapprochement between our parties and the making of real agreements between us where we felt we shared things in common and there was trust. A real coalition was formed, not merely a document written. I do not think he was given full credit for his role in that. However, he must be given considerable credit for what he did because that was essential to our becoming the Government. Sometimes it is the contribution made quietly behind the scenes which is the most valuable.

As everyone has mentioned, Bob was a very strong Catholic. There are some well-known arguments between the Catholics and the Anglicans which are no more than a matter of playing out a series of parts. Bob said that after Bill Hassell left the Parliament there was no-one to take up the Anglican side of the Catholic-Anglican argument. He missed the cut and thrust of argument with Bill Hassell over Catholics and Anglicans. I am very pleased to say I was able to keep him happy by continually needling him on many little issues. That old style of dispute was a very pleasant interlude between us because we both enjoyed the theological debates. It was another link between the two of us. That was one of the reasons I appreciated Bob. I sat next to him in the House for four years and I think occasionally we were pulled up by the President for speaking a little too much in the Chamber. Bob was an interesting person

to sit next to; he always had something to say and it was always well worthwhile listening to him. We probably enjoyed ourselves a little too much, as evidenced by the audible conversation for which we were pulled up by the President. Everybody used to say there was a dull spot in the part of the House where we used to sit. I am sure it was not due to the members, but to the acoustics, as a result of which we got away with it probably more than we would have otherwise.

I will sadly miss Bob. He was a fountain of information, a good friend, a very enjoyable colleague and a person who contributed an enormous amount to the state. I would have loved to see what would have happened if he had trained as a lawyer. He had the mind to be one, and was naturally at heart a lawyer. There is no doubt that everything Bob did he did with full heart and full determination. I will miss him. I thank Patti for the courtesy and kindness she showed to me whenever I visited Bob at his home and I wish her and her family the very best. Bob's passing is a very sad happening.

HON GRAHAM EDWARDS (North Metropolitan) [4.36 pm]: I support this condolence motion and wish to be associated with the remarks that have been made today, particularly those of Hon John Halden and Hon Tom Stephens. My main purpose in rising is to express my sympathy to Mrs Pike over the loss of her husband and to her children over the loss of their father. As a member who shared a region with Hon Bob Pike I also join with other members here this afternoon and acknowledge the contribution he made to this Chamber, to this state, to the electorate and to his party. I am sure that Bob Pike will be sadly missed by Mrs Pike and by the children. I am sure too, given the nature and character of Bob Pike, they will find much with which to comfort themselves and much to be proud of in the future.

HON BARRY HOUSE (South West) [4.38 pm]: I also support the motion. I begin by acknowledging Bob Pike's links with the south west, some of which have already been mentioned. He played an active role in the Liberal Party both at branch and at Forrest division level in the south west. As a Collie shire councillor and then as shire president he played an active part in that community, as well as in his family business.

Bob was a fountain of information about Collie families and about Collie's history. I well remember many tales Bob used to tell about his days in Collie. One I recall in particular which he used to tell with a great deal of delight concerned a night he had with his mate, Roy Palmer. They were playing cards until the early hours of the morning and on their way home - it was a very dark, moonless night apparently - both of them ran into a train on a crossing in Collie. Both damaged their cars but neither was very damaged themselves. That was a great source of hilarity for both of them and us for quite a while. The tales which Bob used to recount were usually recounted in the dining room over a meal, and often with the remnants of the meal on Bob's chin. We all know that Bob loved his food and used to use those occasions to recount tales of that nature.

I remember Bob also for his little red book. I recall that, one day soon after he came back to this Parliament in 1989, when I was first associated with him, there was a mad panic when he lost the little red book. It eventually turned up, but for several days it was very much discussed. It was very much Bob's bible. He carried it everywhere. A few days before he died, I was in the dining room with a group of people talking about that little red book. Bob said that one day he would use it to write his memoirs. I sincerely hope that those diaries are in a safe place. I urge somebody, one day, to write the memoirs based on those diaries.

Bob was also mentioned as the father of the committee system. He instigated the Standing Committee on Government Agencies in 1982. Therefore it was somewhat ironic and in a way a tribute to Bob Pike that, in the same week as his death, as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies I tabled the thirty-sixth report of the committee, which proposes to make major changes to the way in which government agencies are created and structured, and also proposes a reappraisal of our role as a committee. I am sure that Bob would have approved of those developments.

As has been said, Bob lived and breathed politics. He will be remembered fondly for his enormous contribution to the Parliament, the Liberal Party and the people of Western

Australia. As well, he will be remembered for his extensive knowledge on many matters. We all respected his advice. I join with other members in paying my respects and offering sincere sympathy to his family and friends.

HON MURIEL PATTERSON (South West) [4.41 pm]: I support the motion. I place on public record my regard for the late Hon Bob Pike. One of my lasting memories of Bob will be the conscience responsibility he placed on the position of a member of Parliament - the utmost importance, integrity and honesty. His belief was enthusiastically passed on to all who would listen and was appreciated particularly by new members as we entered the House.

My last contact with Bob was during the early hours of the morning on the last sitting day of Parliament when some of the members were enjoying a very late supper. His vast knowledge and attention to detail was highlighted in the humorous stories he related. I have reason to be grateful for his kindness. One day I was distressed by a problem with my eye. He showed his concern by bringing a doctor from the other place, waiting for his diagnosis and then, without being asked, taking the prescription and having it dispensed for me, which gave me great relief.

The late Hon Bob Pike's Christian beliefs were known to us all. He never deviated from his beliefs. As well, if he believed in anyone, he said so. That was shown by his support for the Premier and many of his colleagues. My condolences are extended to his wife, Patti, his family and his extended family.

HON M.D. NIXON (Agricultural) [4.43 pm]: I support the motion and extend my condolences to the family of the late Hon Bob Pike. In this world of change, I thought that Bob would go on forever. I cannot remember when I first met Bob, but it would be in the vicinity of 25 years ago. If success in this world is due to ability, it is also due to tenacity, which is a capacity that Bob had more than most people. He had reversals in his political career, as we are all aware, but they did not stop Bob. As soon as most people receive a setback in their career, they usually think that it is too hard and head off in a different direction and do something else that they perceive as being easier. Bob did not do that. He knew what he was about. Hon Tom Stephens summed up Bob when he said that his dogmatic theological philosophy was probably what drove him. Bob always knew where he was going; it was just a matter of how he got there. Because he knew his objective, he just set about achieving it.

I worked with Bob before he became a politician. I worked with him in the organisation after he ceased to be a politician. I worked with him when he became a politician again. Throughout that period, he did not lose his dedication to the Liberal Party. He always knew what the principles were and stuck by them. When I came into this place, I found that I was to share an office with Bob Pike, which gave me great pleasure. When I entered that office, it reflected Bob's character. There was a photograph of the Pope and there was a crucifix. As I am an Anglican, that was quite a novelty to me. However, I was happy to share it with Bob. As well, on the wall there was a beautiful original painting of parrots.

When I heard that Bob had passed away, it was a tremendous shock to me because he was a constant in our political and parliamentary system. The greatest shock was last week during the opening of Parliament when I attended the office and found that the little items which reminded me so much of Bob had been removed from the office. Approximately a week before he passed away, Bob's name had fallen off the door and I reminded him of that. It was put back on the door, but it had been taken off again and I could see where it had been. I enjoyed working with Bob. He was an enthusiast. I love working with enthusiasts because they get things done. Hon George Cash mentioned the principles "We Believe" that are displayed in the Liberal Party room. Bob believed in those principles very sincerely. There could not be a better monument to Bob than that document which is displayed in the party room. I hope that it hangs there for a very long time.

HON J.A. COWDELL (South West) [4.47 pm]: I associate myself with this condolence motion. I only knew Hon Bob Pike in this Chamber in the last 12 months of

his life. Given the comments of others, perhaps he had clearly mellowed by that time. He was passionately committed to the Liberal Party. He always said that it was his membership and support of the Labor Party that he got wrong. Of course, we disagree on that matter. Mention has been made of his support for the Legislature against the inroads of the Executive, the bicameral system and, in particular, the federal system as opposed to centralism. I took the opportunity to read his maiden speech of 1977 in that regard.

Many of us will remember that, in the previous administration of the O'Connor government, Bob was nicknamed the Minister for smiles and good announcements by the government. I do not think that any of us, even from the distant confines of the Labor Party central office, could have overlooked that part of his reputation or career. Bob was obviously generous with his advice to me, as to others. Mention has been made of his study at the St Charles Seminary and of his proficiency in Latin and theology. On more than one occasion he conveyed to me a sort of pained concern that anyone could be a dissenter and nonconformist when given the option of adherence to the one true church. As Hon Bob Hetherington said to me the other day, this House has certainly lost its foremost authority on papal encyclicals. Hon Bob Pike was a man who knew the difference between *Quadragesimo Anno* and *Rerum Novarum*.

HON B.M. SCOTT (South Metropolitan) [4.50 pm]: I support the motion and pass on my sincere sympathy to Hon Bob Pike's wife and his lovely family. My association with Bob Pike was a long one. I was on one of his preselection panels, and at that time I did not envisage that one day I would be sitting beside him in the Parliament. I will comment on the fact that I was sitting beside him. Bob had been most helpful to me as a new member and I appreciated that. I place on record his enormous help. As a new member in this Parliament, one comes in and begins to slowly understand the subculture that is apparent in the Parliament. When anything happened that might have been a new procedure, Bob would lean across to me and say, "Barbara, that is standing order 127. Make sure you look it up and understand it for the next time it occurs." I appreciated that sort of help.

His vast knowledge has been spoken about today, not only in matters of the procedure of this Parliament but also in the workings of the Liberal Party and democracy in our state. My last dealing and close association with Bob was a week before Parliament rose. I had been asked to give a speech at an Anzac Day service, and I said to Bob that I could not find a reading that the children referred to and asked me to speak about. It was from Ephesians, and I knew Bob would know where it was. He did not, but he said he would slip out and phone a mate at St Thomas More College. He did so, and came back and said it was the Epistle of St Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians. We looked at that and decided that the alternative reading from the Romans was more appropriate. I feel it is appropriate to read a bit of that because it embodies what all of us here are about and how we are all actually one, but individual. Bob was very much that, part of the whole but very much an individual. The reading from the Romans was -

For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.

Bob and I decided that that was more appropriate, and I spoke about that. One of Bob's strengths was that he was able to impart to new members and to other members that we are all working for the same cause, that each of us has different talents, and the secret is to be able to use them.

Let me tell members of an early experience I had as a new woman member in the Parliament. One day Bob called over the lady attendant, who is not here at the moment, and said, "There is something around here that is smelling. Have you got new hairspray on?" She said, "No, Mr Pike." She walked away and about a day later he said to me, "Barbara, I need to talk to you. I think I am allergic to your perfume." So I had to stop wearing my very expensive JOY perfume. At gatherings with my friends, sometimes they ask me what it is like sitting all night in the Parliament. I say that sometimes it is

not a lot of joy, except for my perfume, and Bob Pike is allergic to it. With those words I say that I am going to miss his advice and his company. I consider it a privilege to be the only person who sat next to Bob Pike in the Thirty-fourth Parliament. I once again express my deepest sympathy to his wife and children.

HON T.G. BUTLER (East Metropolitan) [4.55 pm]: I associate myself with the condolence motion, which may come as a surprise to quite a number of people. Bob Pike, as most of the speakers have stated, was a committed parliamentarian and a committed Western Australian. Bob Pike, to me, was a different person in government than in opposition. He certainly was more silent. I became quite critical of Bob since the election of the Government because of his silence around the time that the Government was using the guillotine and other methods to pass legislation. I was pleased to hear Hon Norman Moore tell the House that Bob followed those convictions through to the party room and expressed his concern about the relationship of the Executive and the Parliament. Bob will be remembered in this House, certainly by me, for the sayings and clichés which he used, which fascinated me. The most fascinating one occurred when things were said which concerned him. Bob would refer to them as pure, unadulterated Bovril. I threw that back at him on one occasion and said that that was the greatest amount of Bonox that I had ever heard; to which Hon Derrick Tomlinson replied, "Bovril, you fool." Bob will be remembered in this Chamber and I pass my condolences to Mrs Pike.

HON DERRICK TOMLINSON (East Metropolitan) [4.57 pm]: The last thing I anticipated I would be doing in this Parliament is speaking and associating myself in a condolence motion for the late Hon Bob Pike. I have sat and listened to what honourable members have had to say about Bob and I have been somewhat surprised at some of the things I have heard. This illustrates the complexity of the man. I could not help but feel some sympathy when Hon Tom Stephens referred to the debates which he and Bob had about dogma theology and liberation theology. Bob and I never discussed theology. Bob knew that my relationship with God was quite different from his. He realised it was a waste of time talking theology with me, whether it be dogma theology or liberation theology. I think he regarded me as a lost soul. Bob and I expressed different points of view on many occasions, but I regarded him through all of that as a friend. I first met Bob in 1971. I was a wet behind the ears parliamentary candidate for the federal Parliament seat of Perth. I was then opposing the sitting member who was the leader of the government in this House in the previous Parliament, Hon Joe Berinson. Shortly after I was endorsed by the Liberal Party as the candidate for Perth, I met Bob Pike at a Liberal Party meeting. Bob had recently arrived from Collie and was a member of the Perth division of the Liberal Party. As I was wet behind the ears he took it upon himself to groom me as a candidate. He taught me that if one wants to win in politics it is essential to knock on doors. One of the hallmarks of Bob Pike as a member of the Liberal Party and as a politician was his capacity to knock on doors, meet people and persuade them to his point of view. He also taught me a great deal about public speaking. I recall that on one occasion when I was speaking he took me aside and said that he had not realised I was a button twiddler. I wondered what he was talking about, and he explained that as I spoke I played with the button on my coat. I did not win the election in 1972; neither did I win the election when I contested it again in 1974. Thereafter I spent a couple of years in Victoria, and when I returned Bob was a member of the State Parliament. I took a different path in life and became involved in the hallowed halls of Academe at the University of Western Australia.

I did not make much contact with Bob again until 1983 when I decided it was time to reinvigorate my membership of the Liberal Party and become involved. That I did, and Bob and I became involved with one another, not necessarily with the dogma and liberation theology, but very often arguing different points. We argued different points of view on the state council of the Liberal Party and the state executive of the Liberal Party. Whenever the state executive met Bob could always anticipate that if he spoke, I would immediately follow him and present the opposite point of view. Likewise, if I spoke I always anticipated Bob would follow and present the opposite point of view. Our

strategy was always to try to be the last person to speak because the last person to speak always had the opportunity of attacking the other person's argument before presenting his own. I think Bob and I came to be recognised as people who belonged to different positions within the Liberal Party, both committed liberals and both committed to the principles of liberalism but having, as is the nature of politics, different understandings of the way politics should operate. Bob would often tell me that his people could not understand that he and I were friends because they saw us going hammer and tongs and attacking one another quite vigorously in debate. He said they could not understand that once the debate was over, we were friends. I think that is the nature of the man. He strongly and vigorously advocated his point of view; he was not timid about attacking the alternative point of view but he was an intellectual man and did not hold the grudge. He understood the other person's point of view and respected their right to their point of view, even though he disagreed with it. That was the understanding Bob and I had.

When I sought endorsement for a seat in this place I confess the first person I went to was Bob Pike. I asked for his advice on how to win the endorsement. He sat me down and told me what my faults were and the things I should avoid in the selection committee. He advised me to do this, that and the other, even down to the tone of voice I should adopt. I took his advice and was endorsed by the selection committee. When I arrived home about three o'clock in the morning there was a message to ring Bob, whatever the time. He asked me how I had got on and I told him. He said he thought I would. He asked me what I did and when I told him, said it was very interesting. He asked me where and how I had stood and how I had presented myself. I told him and he said that was very good also. Shortly afterwards he sought endorsement for the north metropolitan seat and when the selection process was over, I rang and congratulated him on his success. He thanked me very much and said that he had listened to what I said I had done, and had done the same thing.

We came into this place and I was allocated the seat that is now occupied by Hon John Cowdell. Hon Bob Pike was allocated the seat now occupied by Hon Alannah MacTiernan. That was before we were sworn in. When the day came and I went to what I thought was my designated seat, Bob Pike was sitting there and my place was the seat now occupied by Hon Alannah MacTiernan. I asked what had happened because I was supposed to be sitting in the other seat, and Bob said that he had pulled rank on me because he had been a member previously. For the next six months every time I left my seat I made a point of exiting through the middle aisle. One day Bob said to me, "Derrick, I cannot help but notice that every time you move from your seat, you move past me." That was when we declared a truce and I then started to move in front of Hon Norman Moore. It did not stop there, because after we were re-elected I noticed that the two chairs Hon Phillip Pendal and I had had in the office we shared had disappeared. They were two very rare armchairs because we had them and nobody else did. I went looking for them and, lo and behold, they were in the office of Hon Bob Pike. I took one, wheeled it down the corridor and put it in my room, which I then shared with Hon Barbara Scott. The next day it was gone and I found it in Bob Pike's room. I wheeled it back. The next day it was gone and, again, I found it in Bob Pike's room with a sign saying "Derrick, Barbara, leave this chair alone." I wheeled it back and wrote a sign on it "Bob, leave this chair alone." I must confess the chair ended up in the room of Hon Bob Pike.

He was a person with whom I disagreed on many occasions; he was a person with whom I disagreed on points of principle and, on occasions, simply for the joy of the contest. I think he disagreed with me sometimes simply for the joy of the contest; but, through all of that, we were friends in politics, Parliament and life and I deeply regret his passing. It is with deep regret that I associate myself with this motion and convey my condolences to Parti and the children.

HON REG DAVIES (North Metropolitan) [5.10 pm]: As a former party colleague and also a co-member for North Metropolitan Region with Hon Bob Pike, I join with other members in supporting the condolence motion moved by Hon George Cash. The passing of Hon Bob Pike will leave a void within the Parliament and within the Liberal Party. I

extend my condolences to Mrs Pike and the Pike family on the sad loss of her husband and their father.

HON A.J.G. MacTIERNAN (East Metropolitan) [5.11 pm]: I do not claim to have any great knowledge of Hon Bob Pike but I would like to have it recorded, over and above what has been recorded today, that when I first arrived in this place I really appreciated the warm welcome given to me by Bob Pike and the efforts he made to give advice. It has often been said that was something he was very skilled at, and he gave some very friendly advice to me on numerous occasions. In that first year he was able to maintain with me, a new member, some very friendly cross-party links. I certainly appreciated that, particularly in my early days.

HON J.A. SCOTT (South Metropolitan) [5.12 pm]: I would like to add my support to the condolence motion for Hon Bob Pike. As a new member of this House I did not have long contact with Bob Pike, but I very quickly became aware of his very strong allegiance to and tenacity when fighting for his party. Whenever I met him outside the House he always took the opportunity to try to convince me of the error of my ways - not only that but also to convince me to convince my colleagues that we should not be supporting the Labor Party in any way. I add my sympathy to that extended to the wife and family of Hon Bob Pike. I am sure that the Liberal Party will miss him as much as his family will.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Clive Griffiths): I endorse all the comments and tributes made by members who have addressed the motion and expressed their condolences to Patti and the family of the late Hon Robert Pike. As members are aware, it will be my intention to collect the comments and present them to Mrs Pike together with a copy of the motion that has been moved. Of course I want to bring to the Pike family not only those remarks made by honourable members but also from the Clerk and staff of the Legislative Council our deep sympathy for the family's very sad loss.

I guess I knew Bob Pike as long as anyone in this place. I cannot remember when I did not know him. He certainly has been a great member of the Liberal Party and a great advocate for ensuring that things were done strictly in accordance with the constitution of the Liberal Party, and of course he brought that same attribute to his parliamentary role in this Chamber. He was a very loyal ally to have in politics. One of the things that Bob and I had in common - and he was better at it than I - was that we could count. He was very passionate in his desire to achieve the ends that he believed he should achieve in order to progress his point of view. He had a passionate belief in the integrity of this place, and he never flinched from taking the opportunity in the party room to express his views whenever members of the Executive endeavoured to encroach upon the principles of the Parliament.

Someone mentioned that Hon Bob Pike was very skilled in investments. I can vouch for this because he mistakenly had the view on a couple of occasions that I might have some money to invest. He was also mistaken in thinking that if I had the money I would listen to his views on what to do with it. However, to my sorrow, some of the investments he suggested I should follow - but I did not have the money and I could not take up his advice - subsequently proved to be very good indeed.

Hon Bob Pike was the sort of person who studied very closely how people think and the conclusions they would reach in a given set of circumstances. For many years I have been a representative from the Parliamentary Liberal Party to the State Council of the Liberal Party - a place to which I do not often go, but I could always rely on Bob Pike to act as my proxy. The good thing about Bob Pike was that I never had to tell him what to do in regard to any of the points being raised at the state council because I could always rely on Bob to do what I would have done in the same circumstances. Therefore, he was a great ally to have.

I want to say to Patti and the family that Bob will be missed by all his colleagues, not only in the Liberal Party but also in this Parliament, and that we send to her and her children our most sincere condolences on their very sad loss.

I ask members to support the motion by rising in their places for one minute's silence.

Question passed, members standing.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE - ORDINARY

HON GEORGE CASH (North Metropolitan - Leader of the House) [5.19 pm]: I move -

That the House do now adjourn.

When a current member passes away, it is the usual custom for the House to adjourn at the conclusion of the condolence motion as a mark of respect to our former colleague.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.20 pm
