

Legislative Assembly.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

LABOUR PARTY LEADERSHIP.

Resignation of Hon. P. Collier.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. M. F. Troy—Mt. Magnet) [4.32]: I desire to inform the House that the Premier (Hon. P. Collier) has resigned the Leadership of the Labour Party and the decision of a meeting of the party held to-day resulted in the Minister for Railways (Hon. J. C. Willecock) being elected Leader. May I say that the party regret very much the fact that ill-health has compelled Mr. Collier to tender his resignation, and I am sure that expression of opinion will be shared by all members of the House. Mr. Collier has been an outstanding, if not the most outstanding figure in Australian politics during the last 10 years. He is a man whose ability and integrity have been understood and appreciated throughout Australia. Whoever has associated with him in political and business circles has always been impressed by his personality. At Premiers' Conferences he has been a welcome figure as the representative of Western Australia, while his services to Australia have always been greatly appreciated. It is with very great regret that members of the Labour Party have had to accept Mr. Collier's resignation. I am sure that all members of the House will share the same feelings of regret and join with us in expressing the hope that, having been relieved of the responsibilities of his office as Premier, Mr. Collier will be able to take things quietly and regain his health. Further, members opposite will join with us in our hope that he will return to the Chamber later on reinvigorated and able to carry on his work on behalf of the State. I am sure I express the wish of all members when I utter the hope that that day may not long be delayed and that he will return to give the benefit of his talents in the service of the country as he has done so abundantly in the past.

HON. C. G. LATHAM (York) [4.34]: I desire to express the regret of members of the Country Party regarding the necessity that has arisen for the Premier tendering his resignation at the present juncture. He has been a member of this House for a long time. During the past 15 years, I have been closely associated with Mr. Collier, particularly during the three years when I held office as a Minister of the Crown and during a similar period as Leader of the Opposition. We have had our struggles and differences of opinion on the floor of the House, but it has always been a very pleasing experience to me to know that immediately the House rose, we could meet together as man to man without any evidence of political feeling that might have been engendered by the discussions in this Chamber. With the Minister for Lands, I hope that Mr. Collier will regain his health speedily and that we shall see him again in this Chamber in a very short time. Public life takes heavy toll upon the health of members and the public do not quite realise that a man who has served his country over a long period of years inevitably feels the strain. I, therefore, express regret on behalf of my section of the House regarding the Premier's forced retirement from office.

HON. N. KEENAN (Nedlands) [4.35]: I desire to associate myself with what has been said by the Acting Leader of the Government and by the Leader of the Opposition regarding the very sad circumstances that have compelled Mr. Collier to resign from the Leadership of his party. I have known Mr. Collier personally for a great number of years—upwards of 36 years. Although, of course, there have been very strong political differences between himself and myself, I am glad to think, especially now in this hour, that those political differences have not affected the personal regard that we have had for one another. I share in the hope that time will find some cure and enable Mr. Collier to return to this House, which he has adorned for so many years.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. M. F. Troy—Mt. Magnet) [4.36]: I discussed with the Leader of the Opposition the advisability of adjourning the House

over the week-end, in order that the usual Constitutional course may be adopted. I regret I have not been able to discuss the matter with the Leader of the National Party. I have been very busy since the party meeting and have not been able to make contact with him. I hope he, too, will agree to that procedure. Members, of course, will be required to meet to-morrow for the joint sitting of Parliament to elect a senator. I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 25th August, at 4.30 p.m.

Question put and passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: As indicated by the Minister for Lands, I remind members that they are expected to meet at 4.30 to-morrow afternoon in the Legislative Council Chamber with a view to electing a senator.

Mr. Lambert: If we adjourn this House, is it competent for us to meet the other branch of the Legislature to-morrow?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

House adjourned at 1.58 p.m.

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FEDERAL SENATE VACANCY.

In accordance with the Standing Orders passed by both Houses of Parliament and approved by Executive Council, the members of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly met in joint sitting in the Legislative Council Chamber, to fill the vacancy in the representation of Western Australia in the Senate of the Federal Parliament caused by the death of Senator William Carroll.

The PRESIDENT of the Legislative Council (Hon. Sir John Kirwan) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., in accordance with the

Standing Orders. He was accompanied by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Hon. A. H. Panton).

Election.

The PRESIDENT: I am ready to receive nominations for the vacancy in the representation of Western Australia in the Senate of the Australian Commonwealth.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. M. F. Troy—Mt. Magnet): I propose—

That Mr. Reginald Frederick Bourke, secretary, of Tuart-street, Applecross, be elected to fill the vacancy in the Federal Senate due to the death of Senator William Carroll.

I have Mr. Bourke's assurance that, if elected, he is prepared to act.

Mr. SLEEMAN (M.L.A., Fremantle): I second the nomination of Mr. Reginald Frederick Bourke.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM (M.L.A., York): I propose—

That Mr. Thomas William Marwick, farmer, Greenhills, be elected to fill the vacancy in the Federal Senate due to the death of Senator William Carroll.

I have Mr. Marwick's assurance that, if elected, he is prepared to act.

Hon. N. KEENAN (M.L.A., Nedlands): I second the nomination of Mr. Thomas William Marwick.

The PRESIDENT: I have received two nominations, and as there are no others I declare nominations closed. The two nominations I have received are those of Mr. Bourke and Mr. Marwick. Members will now proceed to vote.

The ballot having been completed by members present from both Houses,

The PRESIDENT: It has been reported to me that every member has received a duly certified ballot paper, and I presume that each member has voted. I therefore declare the ballot closed. Under Standing Order 18, governing the election of a senator, I have to appoint a member of each House to act as scrutineer with the Clerks of the two Houses. On behalf of the Legislative Council, I appoint the Hon. H. Seddon to be a scrutineer. After consultation with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Hon. A. H. Panton), and at his suggestion, I appoint the member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Tonkin) to act as scrutineer on behalf of the Legislative Assembly.