

In concluding, I wish to say in all sincerity that I believe there is an urgent need for the strengthening of the moral and spiritual forces of our people. Never in the history of this great Australia has this need been so urgent. It is my considered opinion that, as surely as night follows day, the rise or fall of this nation will depend upon this important issue. The statement that righteousness exalts a nation was never truer than it is today; it is certainly applicable in our day and generation. We claim to be a Christian nation. Let us practise the principles of the Christian belief in our national life.

Mr. Fox: Whisper that to some of your broadcasters over the air.

Mr. NALDER: I wish to extend my best wishes to the members of the Government at the beginning of this second session of the nineteenth Parliament, and express the hope that the efforts of the members of this House will be rewarded by a fair measure of success.

MR. YATES (Canning): I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. F. J. S. Wise, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE PREMIER (Hon. D. R. McLarty—Murray-Wellington): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till Tuesday next at 4.30 p.m.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 3.47 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 27th July, 1948.

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

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

• Section "B", 1947.

The PRESIDENT: I have received from the Auditor General a copy of Section "B" of his report on the Treasurer's statement of the Public Accounts for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1947. It will be laid on the Table of the House.

QUESTIONS.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES.

As to Government Charge to Municipalities.

Hon. A. THOMSON asked the Chief Secretary:

(1) What were the conditions made by the Government when it entered into a contract to supply electric current to the City of Perth and the price per unit?

(2) What were the conditions made by the Government when it entered into a contract to supply electric current to the Fremantle municipality, and the price per unit?

(3) What is it costing, per unit, to generate electric current?

(4) What is the estimated loss, if any, that has resulted from these contracts?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

(1) Conditions of supply and the basis on which the price per unit is calculated are as set out in Act. 34 of 1913.

(2) Conditions and price are contained in an agreement entered into between the Premier of Western Australia and the Commissioner of Railways on the one hand and the Fremantle Municipal Tramways and Electric Lighting Board on the other hand. Copy of agreement may be seen by the hon. member at the Electricity Commission's Office, Murray Street.

(3) Generation cost per kilowatt-hour for 1947-1948 was 1.03d.

(4) Losses over the 31-year period of the contracts have not been separately recorded for the two consumers referred to.

HOSPITALS.

As to Maternity Accommodation at Fremantle.

Hon. G. FRASER asked the Chief Secretary:

When, if ever, is the Government going to do something to offset the shrinking maternity hospital accommodation at Fremantle?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

The situation is being watched closely, but there is no evidence at present of serious difficulty in securing accommodation.

Hon. G. Fraser: You have been watching it for 18 months!

HOUSING.

(a) As to Cost of Homes at Hilton Park.

Hon. G. FRASER asked the Chief Secretary:

What was the cost of homes built at Hilton Park under the Commonwealth-State Rental Scheme during (a) 1947, (b) 1948?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

Average contract prices for timber framed homes being built at Hilton Park are:—

	Two Bed- room.	Three Bed- room.
	£	£
November, 1947 ..	1,017	1,182
March, 1948 ..	1,231	1,441
July, 1948 ..	1,245	1,454

(b) As to Boulder Homes Affected by Storm Water.

Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM asked the Chief Secretary:

(1) Was a committee appointed to inquire what steps would be taken to remove the houses affected by storm waters in the area known as Gribble Creek, Boulder?

(2) What report was made by the committee, and when was it made?

(3) What action was taken, or is contemplated?

(4) Who were the personnel of the committee?

(5) In view of the repeated flood water inundations in this area, who recommended that workers' homes be granted there?

(6) What assistance can be made available to owners of private homes in this area?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) The committee's decision, dated the 14th April, 1948, was—"Committee unanimously agreed that the seven homes and the stumps on the eighth block should be removed to sites selected by the tenants and that no other homes be erected in the area."

(3) Tenders were called without result—now being recalled after interviewing several contractors.

(4) Mr. Lydon, P.W.D. Supervisor; Mr. Conochie, Architect, State Housing Commission; Mr. Haynes, District Engineer, G.W.S. Department; Mr. Bott, Town Engineer, Kalgoorlie Municipal Council (acting on behalf of Boulder Municipal Council); Mr. Melville, tenants' representative. (In occupation of one of these houses); Mr. Koefed, Land Officer, State Housing Commission (co-opted as secretary to committee).

(5) A departmental architect made local inquiries re building sites but was not warned of the danger of flooding.

(6) No claim was submitted to the committee by private owners in the area.

MOTION—CONDOLENCE.*Late Hon. L. B. Bolton, M.L.C.*

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. H. S. W. Parker—Metropolitan-Suburban) [4.59]: I move—

That this House place on record its sincere appreciation of the services rendered to the State by the late Hon. Leonard Burlington Bolton who, at the time of his passing, was a member for the Metropolitan Province, and to express its deep sympathy with his sons in the irreparable loss they have sustained by their father's decease; and that the President be asked to convey the foregoing to the late hon. member's sons.

The death of Leonard Burlington Bolton is a great loss to the people of Western Australia and he will be missed owing to his many and varied activities. As a primary producer he was a pioneer of note who made a success against great difficulties in the Moora district. He achieved that success owing to his determination, which made him an outstanding agriculturist in that district.

As an industrialist he was equally well known, and the motor body works he established in Perth will stand as a monument to his memory and to his great energy and ability. He undoubtedly was responsible for a great volume of work being undertaken in Western Australia that would otherwise have had to be carried out in the Eastern States. At all times he was a very just and ideal employer. Because his activities were great and diversified, he was able to give employment to large numbers of his fellow citizens, and I am sure they will feel his loss very considerably.

Not all his energies and abilities were absorbed in his work as a primary producer or as an industrialist. He was also very active in sporting circles. For many years he was a member of the committee of the Western Australian Cricket Association and for much of that time was a vice chairman of that body. It is rather appropriate at this stage to recollect how much he did for cricket in this State and certainly he assisted very considerably in securing the entry of Western Australia into the Sheffield Shield competition. He was associated with all real genuine athletic movements, and he took a keen and active interest in many sporting bodies. In his younger days he was himself an excellent athlete.

To most people these activities would appear to have been sufficient, but not so to our late lamented friend. He felt it was his duty to do something more for the people, and as a justice of the peace he became an official visitor to the Fremantle Gaol—a very onerous and, to many of us, a very unpleasant occupation. Nevertheless he carried out his duties in that regard to the satisfaction of all. At one time he was chairman of the Fremantle Hospital Board, which position he occupied for many years. He always took a keen and active interest in that institution. His advice in many directions was much appreciated and always bore fruit. On top of that, he took an active interest in municipal affairs and was for a period mayor of East Fremantle. Then again, he was for many years a member of the council of the Royal Agricultural Society.

Members will agree that the late Leonard Bolton led a full and active life for the benefit of his fellow citizens, and he worked in their interests in a most unselfish manner. I think all members will desire to join with me in extending to our late member's family our deepest sympathy and sorrow at his passing. We desire to record our great appreciation of the many good works he performed while with us. May his sons, in realising the great name and record he has left behind, permit that to temper their grief.

HON. C. F. BAXTER (East) [5.5]: In supporting the Leader of the House, I may remark that the late Mr. Bolton left a gap in this House that will be very difficult to fill. He had endeared himself not only to members of this Chamber, but by his activities left his mark on the public life of Western Australia. He was never tired of labouring in the interests of every section of the community. As the Minister has said, he was able to carry out most useful work in very many directions, the nature of which I shall not repeat as the Chief Secretary has traversed them already.

He was a good sportsman and lived up to the best traditions of cricket, in which game he took a particular interest. That speaks volumes for anyone. We who worked with him in this Chamber, learned to respect him in the highest degree, appreciating that his actions at all times were for the common

good of all people. I found in him a close friend who could always be relied upon to render assistance in every way possible.

It is to men like the late Leonard Burlington Bolton that this State owes so much, and we could certainly do with many more like him. We expected plenty of years of useful life for him, but unfortunately he has been taken from us. His loss will be felt intensely. I join with the Leader of the House in extending condolences to the bereaved family.

HON. J. A. DIMMITT (Metropolitan-Suburban) [5.7]: I support the motion of condolence. There is so much that could be said in praise of our late lamented friend, Leonard Burlington Bolton, and not only from the standpoint of his work as a parliamentarian. As a member of a local governing body, as a farmer and as an industrialist he exercised his best endeavours, and he was in each sphere outstandingly successful.

We knew him best as a member of the Legislative Council and I think we all learned to respect him because of his forthright and fearless attitude with respect to legislation brought before this Chamber. He supported with great energy any measure that he thought was for the good of the State and with equal ability opposed any legislation that he thought was not in its best interests. One of the characteristics of our late colleague was that we always knew where he stood with regard to any matter that came before the House, and because of his honesty of purpose and his strength of character, we came to realise what a reliable member he was.

His attitude built up confidence between him and his fellow members and that same quality maintained confidence between himself and his electors, with the result that he was seldom opposed and when opposed it was not difficult for him to regain his seat in the House. Those of us with whom he was closely associated and those who enjoyed his warm personal friendship over the years, will feel his loss very much indeed. We will certainly miss him during this and future sessions of this House, and this Parliament and Western Australia itself are the poorer for his passing.

HON. E. H. GRAY (West) [5.10]: I, too, support the motion of condolence. My first association with the late Mr. Bolton dates back 20 years ago when we were political opponents at an election. The contest was the closest and best organised fight that I have ever engaged in, and the campaign was conducted on the highest plane. Nothing was said or done during its progress to which I could personally object. From that time onwards, although we belonged to different political parties, we were the closest of friends. For many years I lived opposite to Mr. Bolton's residence at East Fremantle.

At one stage when the Australia-India Association was formed in Perth, Mr. Bolton and I took a great interest in the organisation. He was elected as honorary treasurer and I as a vice-president and trustee. We worked together successfully in that organisation and it, in common with other bodies with which he was connected, owes the late Mr. Bolton a deep debt of gratitude, because he was always ready to assist in any organising that had to be done and, in fact, he was the backbone of the institution.

I agree with all that Mr. Dimmitt has said about our late colleague. There was no mistaking where he stood. When Leonard Bolton expressed an opinion it was a very definite one, and most decidedly his work in this House was of great assistance. As a political opponent, I could never wish for a better one than the late Mr. Bolton; as a man, I could never wish for a better friend.

HON. H. K. WATSON (Metropolitan) [5.12]: I would like to be associated with the motion moved by the Chief Secretary. When Leonard Burlington Bolton went to his long rest, Western Australia lost a good citizen and this House suffered the loss of a very able and industrious member. Many of us have lost a good personal friend and his sons a loving and devoted father. The late Mr. Bolton was a close personal friend of mine.

As I stand here today I cannot help recalling the fact that I was a member of the committee that assisted in securing the election of Mr. Bolton to this House in 1932. Now, as his successor in this Chamber, may I be permitted to say that I shall not regard

my tenure of office as having been in vain if I should be able to carry out my parliamentary duties not less thoroughly and conscientiously than he did and if I should be able to enjoy the esteem and goodwill of hon. members not less than he did. Peace to his honoured memory!

HON. H. HEARN (Metropolitan) [5.14]: I wish to associate myself with the motion before the House. It was my privilege to work with the late Mr. Bolton for many years in various organisations and to enjoy his close personal friendship. He was a great citizen. For many years he laboured unceasingly for the benefit of the State.

His work in building up our secondary industries will always be a monument to his years of association with the various organisations devoted to that objective. His cheerful personality, always in evidence even under the burden of domestic sickness and ill-health, will always be remembered. He has left us a legacy of service and goodwill which should be an inspiration to all of us in the coming days.

HON. H. A. C. DAFFEN (Central) [5.16]: I would like to express my deep regret at the loss of my dear friend and seat mate, Hon. L. B. Bolton. He was a good man and true and was respected everywhere. He enjoyed the affection of many of his fellow citizens and was a man of high moral standard and realistic and patriotic outlook. The community suffered a real loss by his death. However, his record of achievement, built up from a humble beginning, was not only of great credit to himself but serves as a shining example to others. I am sure he will live long in the memories of his friends and those who knew him as a man who professed ideals and constantly strove to achieve them. I join in the motion of sympathy to his relatives.

HON. G. W. MILES (North) [5.17]: I join with others in expressing my deepest sympathy in the loss of the late Mr. Bolton. I think I can claim to have been his oldest friend. I remember the day when he arrived in the State 60 years ago with his family. He was a school mate of mine and I appreciate the remarks passed by other members.

HON. C. H. SIMPSON (Central) [5.18]: I would like to have the privilege of being associated with the motion. It was not my pleasure to know Len Bolton for any great length of time, but during the two years in which I knew him I was privileged to come into fairly close association with him, and our friendship was very intimate. He had a property in the province I represent and on a number of occasions I had the opportunity to go there with him. During that time he took the utmost pains to introduce me to anyone he thought it might be to my advantage to know.

He had a vivid personality and a generous disposition, and he was never more pleased than when rendering some form of service. Whether it was small or great, he took the same painstaking care to see that that service was effective. I think that one of the finest tributes I have heard rendered to his memory was paid by two of his employees who said there was a strong bond of affection between Len Bolton, as employer, and the men who worked for him. Those men regarded him as a pal and a fellow worker rather than as a director and a boss. He served with conspicuous ability in many spheres of activity, and I think the finest tribute we can render to his memory is to endeavour to follow the example he so ably set us.

THE PRESIDENT [5.20]: Before putting the motion, I would like to associate myself with the remarks made concerning the late hon. member. I knew him for many years prior to his entering this House and can thoroughly endorse all that has been said in his favour. There is some consolation for his family in the realisation of the fact that their father lived in every respect a full life and worked zealously on behalf of the many activities in which he took part. He lived a full life, too, in the contribution he made to the advancement of this State.

Question put and passed; members standing.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION.

THE PRESIDENT: At the commencement of each session, the Council appoints members to serve on the following standing committees:—Standing Orders, 3; Library,

2; House, 4; and Printing, 2. I now ask the House to make those appointments.

Hon. A. L. LOTON: I call for ballots to fill the various vacancies.

Ballots taken.

Result of Ballots.

The ballots resulted as follows:—

Standing Orders.—The President, the Chairman of Committees, the Chief Secretary (Hon. H. S. W. Parker), Hon. C. F. Baxter, and Hon. G. Fraser.

Library.—The President, Hon. J. G. Hislop, and Hon. A. Thomson.

House.—The President, Hon. J. A. Dimmitt, Hon. W. R. Hall, Hon. Sjr Charles Latham, and Hon. C. H. Simpson.

Printing.—The President, Hon. W. J. Mann, and Hon. E. H. Gray.

House adjourned at 6.2 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 27th July, 1948.

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

MOTION—CONDOLENCE.

Late Hon. W. D. Johnson, M.L.A.

THE PREMIER (Hon. D. R. McLarty—Murray-Wellington) [4.32]: I move—

That this House desires to place on its records its profound sense of the loss sustained in the passing of the late Hon. William Dartnell Johnson, a member of this House, and that an expression of the sincerest sympathy of members be conveyed to his widow and family by Mr. Speaker.

I regret the necessity for moving the motion. The late Mr. Johnson passed away during the Parliamentary recess. He was a New Zealander by birth and came to this State in the 90's. He was first elected as member for Kalgoorlie in 1901, when he entered the Fourth Parliament. At the time of his death, he represented Guildford-Midland in the Nineteenth Parliament, an indication of an active political life over a period of 47 years, during which he was a member of this Assembly. I understand that at the time of his passing he was the only remaining member who had served in Parliament when it was located somewhere in the Terrace prior to its transfer to Harvest-terrace.

The late Mr. Johnson held responsible positions as a Minister of the Crown in the English Government and in the Scaddan Government. He also served as Speaker and for a time was Leader of the Opposition. In short, he had a distinguished Parliamentary and public career. He was a keen student of politics and a hard worker in the interests of the State and of his constituents. He was anxious at all times to maintain the highest traditions of our Parliamentary and democratic institutions. We all know that he was a keen family man and a great lover of his home. I am sure all members extend their sympathy to his family in their great loss.

HON. F. J. S. WISE (Gascoyne) [4.34]: In seconding and supporting the motion I would like to point out that in the passing of the late William Dartnell Johnson the Party I represent has lost the services of one who had been associated with it for a lifetime. The late Mr. Johnson always played a very active part on this side of the House in association with members of this Party. For many years he was Chairman of our Parliamentary Labour Party. In debate, we always knew that the alert