

and transport should lead to the south and not to the north. The country is fertile and fruitful and well stored with nearly all the things the people need. The people are intelligent, industrious, strong and famous for their perseverance. Their inventiveness and their resourcefulness now assert that if the labour of these people were properly organised and wisely applied, this State would in return for very little toil, yield abundance for all.

Today Australia has made much progress in her march forward as a nation. Future progress will depend on the intelligent use of our resources. If, in our selfish greed for riches, we destroy our resources and imperil the livelihood of future generations, then we shall have betrayed our heritage. Every Australian should acquaint himself with our many problems.

I should like to conclude by congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, on your successful appointment as Speaker of this House.

Mr. O'BRIEN (Murchison): I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. Sir Ross McLarty, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE PREMIER (Hon. A. R. G. Hawke—Northam): I move—

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

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.12 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, 7th August, 1956.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

The PRESIDENT: I will ask members to remain standing while I read prayers.

Prayers read.

QUESTIONS.

LONG-SERVICE LEAVE.

Application to Private Industry.

Hon. W. R. HALL asked the Chief Secretary:

As it has been indicated in the Press and the Lieut.-Governor's Speech that legislation will be introduced during the current session to extend long-service leave benefits to employees in private industry—

(1) Can he inform the House whether these benefits will be on the same basis as those enjoyed by Government employees?

(2) Can he also say whether leave will be made retrospective if at the passing of the Act the employee has already served the necessary period to qualify him for leave?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

(1) and (2) Details of the proposed legislation are still receiving the consideration of the Government and it is expected that an early decision will be made.

DRAINAGE.

Implementation of Comprehensive Scheme.

Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH asked the Chief Secretary:

In view of the fact that many property-owners and occupiers throughout various parts of the metropolitan area are suffering much personal inconvenience, damage to property and financial loss, in some cases to such an extent that people have been obliged to vacate their premises due to flood waters, and in view of the fact that drainage throughout the metropolitan area has reached the stage of emergency proportion, and in recent years has become increasingly worse, will the Chief Secretary inform the House exactly what steps the Government has taken to date to implement the comprehensive drainage scheme of the metropolitan area, and also indicate the Government's intended action to prevent the position from further deteriorating, and consequently becoming completely out of control?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

The Government has planned a series of drainage areas within the comprehensive drainage scheme and work has been commenced in the Welshpool section of the Bentley-Welshpool scheme. Further work in connection with the comprehensive drainage scheme is dependent upon the availability of funds. This project has been included in the schedules recently submitted to the Commonwealth Government in connection with the State's application for financial help to relieve unemployment.

FEDERAL AID ROADS ACT.

Expenditure of Funds, 1955-56.

Hon. N. E. BAXTER (for Hon. A. R. Jones) asked the Chief Secretary:

Section 9 of the Federal Aid Roads Act lays down conditions under which State Governments shall expend moneys made available. Can the Minister, therefore, inform the House—

- (1) Did the State Government comply with the conditions of the Act in allocating moneys for the financial year 1955-56?
- (2) If so, how much money was made available for each of the purposes set out in—

- Subsection (1)
- Subsection (2)
- Subsection (2) (a)
- Subsection (2) (b)
- Subsection (3)
- Subsection (3) (a)
- Subsection (3) (b)?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Subsection—	£
(1)	5,089,383
(2)	1,948,396
(2) (a)	1,923,724
(2) (b)	24,672
(3)	2,949,885
(3) (a)	2,157,497
(3) (b)	792,388

HOUSING.

Additional Workers' Homes, Mt. Magnet.

Hon. W. R. HALL asked the Chief Secretary:

(1) Is the Government aware that there is considerable mining activity at Mt. Magnet, and that as a result there is a severe shortage of housing for the workers?

(2) Will the Government give immediate consideration to the building of more workers' homes at that centre?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

(1) and (2) The Government is aware of considerable mining activities at Mt. Magnet; and in order to assist in the housing of workers, 10 homes have been completed and occupied, while five are under construction. If further rental homes are built under the new Commonwealth-State Agreement rents would possibly exceed £3 10s. per week as against the present rents of £2 5s. per week.

In so far as purchase homes under the State Housing Act are concerned, applicants would be required to await their turn on the priority list in the usual manner.

PARLIAMENTARY SUPERANNUATION FUND.

Appointment of Trustees.

On motion by the Chief Secretary, resolved:

That pursuant to the provisions of the Parliamentary Superannuation Act, 1948-1955, the Legislative Council hereby appoints the President and Hon. Sir Charles Latham to be trustees of the Parliamentary Superannuation Fund.

MOTIONS—CONDOLENCE.

(a) *Late Hon. H. Hearn, M.L.C.*

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. G. Fraser—West): I desire to submit two motions; and, of course, one hates that the occasion for moving such motions should ever arise. However, we have to face up to events, and so it falls to my lot today to move these motions though, indeed, it makes me very sad to do so. The first one is in connection with the late Hon. Harry Hearn, and I move—

That this House place on record its sincere appreciation of the services rendered to the State by the late Hon. Harry Hearn, who at the time of his passing was a member for the Metropolitan Province, and express its deep sympathy with his widow and the members of his family on the irreparable loss they have sustained by his decease; and that the President be asked to convey the foregoing to his widow and family.

Like a good many other men who have made their mark in politics in Australia, Mr. Hearn came from England. He was born and lived for some years at High Wickham in Buckinghamshire, England, and in 1912 came to Western Australia, being followed shortly afterwards by his brother. Those two men, within a very short time, started a business in a small way and with very little capital. As a result of their energy and enterprise, coupled with the progress of this State, the business prospered. Eventually it was known as Hearn Bros. & Stead, and from it sprang Hearn Industries, one of the large commercial companies in this State today. I think those members who had experience at all with the late hon. member would realise and would expect that any enterprise started by him could do nothing else but succeed. During the last war, the hon. member served as a commissioner for the Australian Comforts Fund, and for his services in that connection was awarded the O.B.E.

We in this House, since 1948, had the pleasure, shall I say, of the company of the hon. member; and, speaking for myself, I would say that although diametrically opposed to him on many vital questions, I learned to have a great regard

for him. I am thankful for the services he gave in this Chamber; because although, as I said, on many questions that are dear to my heart I had no more vigorous opponent, I do realise—I want to pay this compliment to the late hon. gentleman—that, on those questions, he was talking of something that he knew plenty about.

So I placed a very high value on the many amendments he put forward and on the words he used in moving those amendments. I therefore appreciate very much the great public service that the late hon. member performed for the community of Western Australia. To his widow and his children I offer my sincere regrets, but I feel sure that their sadness will be lessened by the fact that they know that during his lifetime he did something worth while. For those reasons I move the motion.

HON. C. H. SIMPSON (Midland): It is my sad duty to second the motion proposed by the Minister and to associate myself with the sentiments he has expressed. Mr. Hearn was in this House for a number of years, and he brought to it a considerable knowledge of the business life of the community in which he had been an active participant for so many years. It is true, as the Minister has said, that he was a strong party man, but that did not alter the sincerity with which he expressed his side of the case when deciding the merits of any question on which, perhaps, he and the Government differed.

He was particularly active on questions that affected employer-employee relationships, and to those debates he brought a great deal of practical experience which he himself had had at first hand. He was essentially fair, and the arguments he brought forward always commanded the respect of those members who were present and heard him. He was regarded as an authority on questions of finance, insurance, and matters of that kind, and those of us who remember the work he did in connection with the Royal Commission on Town Planning will feel that he would have been a very good member to have in the House to give us his views on those matters.

One particular event which I think will cause Mr. Hearn's name to go down in the hall of fame so far as this House is concerned, was his presentation of a Black Rod to this Chamber. Those of us who gathered together on that occasion felt that there was an air of solemnity in those proceedings. The President, and the Speaker of another place, were both present. Both Houses of Parliament were well represented; and, in addition, the wives of some of the members were there. Mr. Hearn, in making the presentation to the Governor, gave a most interesting history of the functions and traditions associated with the Black Rod.

If I may make the suggestion at this time, I think that one way of perpetuating the late hon. member's memory would be to have our little brochure reprinted. I understand it has not been kept in print. It would be extremely informative to the new members who have come into the House today. We had a token sort of Black Rod prior to that time. The gift made by Hon. Harry Hearn was a most handsome one, and one that is well-equipped to carry out its significant purpose in this Chamber, as well as being an ornament of which we might well be proud.

I join wholeheartedly in the sentiments expressed by the Minister; and, although it is a sad duty, I willingly associate myself with the motion he has moved.

HON. SIR CHARLES LATHAM (Central): I would like to associate myself with the remarks that have been made by the Minister and Mr. Simpson. I knew the late Mr. Harry Hearn for many years, long before he came into Parliament, and I found him a most industrious man. Western Australia has benefited greatly from his work, particularly the other side of the river, where he built up one of the large industries in this State.

One feels sad, especially when one is growing old, to see men in the prime of their life passing away, and I believe that devotion to duty is one of the main causes of ill-health. The late Mr. Harry Hearn never spared himself; and whenever there was anything to do, or someone required his help, he did not fail to do what was asked of him. He was warned during the campaign that he should take things easily, but he thought of his party and the State first, and unhesitatingly gave of his best.

This State has lost some valuable men, who have served us well. The hon. member's name may be included among theirs and the people of this State should be grateful for the service he has rendered. I wish to associate myself with the sympathy extended to his widow and family. They will miss him and we will miss him as a friend.

HON. H. K. WATSON (Metropolitan): I would like to add my tribute to our late friend and colleague and to join in conveying the sympathy of this House to Mrs. Hearn and family, and to the late Harry Hearn's twin brother Ernest, on the great loss they have sustained. In many ways and in different spheres the late hon. member played his part in developing Western Australia and in promoting the interests of this State. He was certainly a keen advocate of free enterprise and his very life offered perhaps the most striking example of the principles for which he stood.

As the Chief Secretary said, from humble beginnings he and his twin brother over the years built up a big industry in this

State. His life is a great inspiration to our younger generation of what can be achieved by a man who has the will to work and who is industrious. We will miss him in this House; we will miss his vigorous and well-reasoned contributions to our debates; and we will miss that hearty laugh in the corridor.

To me, his passing is a personal loss because it so happened that both of us entered this House on the same day after having fought an election campaign as a joint team. I had known the late Mr. Hearn for many years before he entered Parliament, but the fact that we fought the election as a joint team, and entered this House on the same day, began for us a much stronger friendship and association, which lasted right up to the time of his death. With his passing Western Australia has lost a good citizen and this House a very able member. Harry Hearn's work is done; peace be to his memory.

HON. E. M. HEENAN (North-East): As one who was invariably opposed to the late Mr. Hearn on the floor of the House, I would like to pay a small tribute to him by supporting the motion. In my opinion the late Mr. Hearn exemplified virtues which I think are in the forefront of the attributes which a good member should aspire to possess. He was a great fighter for his cause, but he was always fair. He possessed a keen sense of humour, and he never entertained any malice against those who differed from him. We on this side of the House got to like him and respect him.

Finally, I would say that it was typical of him that he passed away in the hurly-burly of the fight.

HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan: As a colleague of the late Mr. Harry Hearn, and representing the same province in this House, I would like in a few words to add my tribute and to join in the message of condolence which the House will send to his relatives. I shall miss a close personal friend; and I know that this House, and possibly the State, will miss him more because the contributions which he made to the industrial legislation of this State are not likely to be easily replaced by those who follow him. The contributions which he made while he was in this House will be looked upon with favour and treasured in the industrial legislation of the future.

The late Mr. Harry Hearn knew that if he exerted himself his days might be short, but he preferred to live his life as he felt it should be lived, and the fact that he died in harness would please him. He knew what exertion would mean, and he decided in favour of giving all that he possessed to those of us here and to the people of this State.

HON. J. J. GARRIGAN (South-East): I do not think it would be fitting unless I said a few words in support of the motion. When I came to this House in 1954 the late Harry Hearn gave me some sound advice and I shall always stick to it. He said, "You go by the railway signs Jim and always remember 'stop, look and listen.'" I thanked him for those words and I shall always remember the good advice that he gave me.

I have been a member of select committees with him, and no greater gentleman ever lived. I always found him to be fair, just and hard; but in politics it is sometimes necessary to be hard and one could not blame him for that. I sympathise with his widow and relatives and I join in this motion of condolence. To me Harry Hearn was a great friend and a thorough gentleman.

THE PRESIDENT: I wish to associate myself with the motion moved by the Chief Secretary. I got to know the late Mr. Harry Hearn particularly well because he served as a member of the Joint House Committee. Some of the benefits that members are now enjoying have been brought about because of the words of wisdom and the foresight of the late hon. member. I ask members to carry this motion by standing in their places.

Question passed; members standing.

(b) *Late Hon. C. W. D. Barker, M.L.C.*

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. G. Fraser—West): I move—

That this House place on record its sincere appreciation of the services rendered to the State by the late Hon. Charles William Donald Barker, who, at the time of his passing, was a member for the North Province, and express its deep sympathy with his widow in the irreparable loss she has sustained by his decease; and that the President be asked to convey the foregoing to his widow.

I hope the day is far distant when the occasion will arise for us to again carry in the one day two motions such as these. Don Barker was born in York, England; and at the very young age of 17, he came to Australia. Unlike so many other new Australians today, Don went practically immediately up North to Onslow. At that time he was only 17 years of age. He lived his life in that area until his linking up with the Navy during World War II.

Whilst in the Navy, he served in various parts of the world. One would have thought that on his return he would have considered he had given his worth to improving the North, and would have settled in the metropolitan area, but not so Don. He again went North, this time to Derby,

and was a stock inspector in that area until 1952, when he was elected as a member for the North Province.

We found Don a very enthusiastic member for the area he represented, and he left no stone unturned and missed no opportunity to impress upon members in this Chamber that there was such a place as the North-West and the Kimberleys, which, according to him—and to a large extent with considerable truth—was not receiving the attention it should. He missed no opportunity to bring before us the wants of his area.

I think members will agree that we will miss that booming voice of his in this Chamber. Without doubt, he possessed one of the loudest voices I have heard, and we will miss it during this session. I think we can go so far as to say that in the passing of Don the North has lost a friend who took every opportunity of keeping the area well and truly before us.

To Don Barker's widow, I express my deep regret and sympathy at the untimely manner in which he passed away. The circumstances must have been very distressing for his widow, and I feel sure I am echoing the sentiments of all members when I say that we are deeply sorry at his passing. We appreciate the services he gave to the people of this State very much indeed.

HON. C. H. SIMPSON (Midland): Again I associate myself with the remarks of the Leader of the House, and I second the motion he has placed before us. In the late Mr. Don Barker we always had a cheery soul with whom sometimes to argue the point, and sometimes to discuss matters concerning his constituency; because, whatever his faults or virtues may have been, Mr. Barker was rightly termed the psalmist of the North-West, and he was only too willing and anxious to give us any information we needed regarding that great strip of territory that formed his constituency.

At all times he was willing and anxious to do what he could for the people he represented. There were occasions, of course, when we did not agree politically, but always we could respect Mr. Barker's sincerity and the views he expressed.

The Leader of the House has referred to Mr. Barker's booming voice. I remember that on one occasion when he was addressing the House, and Mr. Craig jokingly placed his fingers in his ears and said, "Speak up! We cannot hear you.", Mr. Barker gave him the full works! I will remember that occasion. As we all know Mr. Craig was only speaking in fun, but Mr. Barker did have a voice which he used to full effect.

In his passing I think we can give him credit for having done his best for the large constituency he represented; no one was better fitted to speak of its many virtues and great possibilities. I associate myself entirely with the motion.

HON. L. C. DIVER (Central): I, too, would like to associate myself with the motion because I feel that in the passing of Don Barker the great outback of Western Australia has lost a wonderful disciple. Whatever people may have thought of Don Barker, he was one of those sons that came to Australia and considered it the land of his adoption. He spent many years in the great outback where all the privations existed. He knew the needs and the interests of that country. When he came to Parliament he did not hesitate to place them on record and do all he could to alleviate the difficulties of the people he represented.

I am very sorry indeed that we are here again at the opening of this session passing condolences similar to those we have passed in the last two sessions, and I also join with the Chief Secretary in trusting that such circumstances will not continue with us. I support the motion.

HON. E. M. HEENAN (North-East): I desire to associate myself with the remarks made by the Chief Secretary and other members. I am going to miss the late Mr. Barker very much, because we sat here side by side from the day he entered Parliament, and I got to know and like him very much indeed. I always admired him for the manner in which he worked and strove for his constituency, the North-West of the State, and for the way he laboured on behalf of the aborigines. He had a wealth of knowledge of these people, and I am sure we will long remember his forthright advocacy of the causes he espoused. These words of mine are a poor tribute compared with the tears shed at his funeral by many people, and noticeably by a number of half-castes. They, and others like them, undoubtedly lost a sincere friend and champion when Don Barker passed away.

HON. SIR CHARLES LATHAM (Central): I, too, would like to associate myself with the motion. I suppose I saw more of the late Mr. Barker than anybody else, because I am here nearly every day of the week, except of course when the House is closed. I missed Mr. Barker when he went away. He was so friendly, and always came along with a pleasant story to tell. He certainly worked diligently for the people he represented. I agree that very few members who have entered this House have understood the native population as well as did Don Barker, and there are few who have attempted to assist them more than he did.

It is regrettable to me when I consider that of the last four members of this House who have passed away three died so suddenly. I do not wish to be an alarmist, but I wonder whether it is due more to devotion to duty than to old age. I know some people imagine that no work is done in this House, but it does seem extraordinary that three out of the last four who have passed away died so suddenly. I hope when it comes to my turn that I will have done as much as they did. I will miss Mr. Barker very much. I saw him frequently in the members' room and he always had something new to tell me, particularly about the North-West. I associate myself with the motion conveying to his widow our deepest regret and sympathy.

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (Hon. H. C. Strickland—North): The passing of our late member Don Barker will, of course, be a very severe loss to the people in the North-West. No member, in my experience as a member of this House, and in the years before—since I was old enough to read and appreciate what was going on in Parliament in relation to the North-West—has placed before this Chamber, and before the public, at every opportunity, the disabilities of the North and its potentialities more vigorously than did the late Don Barker.

I first met him so many years ago that it is difficult to remember the occasion. It was, however, during the 1920's. At that time he was quite a slim, young Englishman; as the Chief Secretary said, he was a youth. Don Barker is known to have been one of the most industrious workers on any job he undertook during his career. I have heard some of the older identities of the North say in simple words since his passing, "Don Barker did not have a lazy bone in his body." From my knowledge of him, I can support that remark entirely.

As Mr. Heenan has said, he was a great champion of the natives. He worked endlessly and tirelessly since becoming a member of this House towards the uplifting of the native community, and in doing what he thought to be—and what no doubt was—the best that could be done for many native or part-native children who came to the city for higher education. He made his home available to them as much as he could.

His very energetic and sympathetic wife assisted him greatly in helping these young native girls to see their way around the city, and providing a very good home for them—an exceptionally good home. It could be said that Don Barker acted as a father to these children, and Mrs. Barker as a mother while they were in Perth attending school or college to further their education.

To me, as one of Mr. Barker's colleagues representing the North Province, his death came as a very great shock. There is not the slightest doubt that his energetic and vigorous advocacy of the North will be missed by the people there. He had a number of friends before becoming a member of Parliament; but after having been elected to this House, he made many more, both in the North-West and in the metropolitan area. His cheery and amiable disposition made him a man who was easily met and one who was always good company.

It is difficult to say anything further without reiterating the words of other members. Therefore I will conclude by supporting the motion extending the deepest sympathy of this House to his widow.

HON. H. K. WATSON (Metropolitan): I would like to add my meed of praise to our late member and join other members in conveying to Mrs. Barker very sincere sympathy in the tragic loss of her husband. It seems extraordinary that in this House of only 30 members we lost two during the previous pre-sessional break and have again lost two during this last pre-sessional break.

We were all shocked at the death of the late Mr. Barker. One could have reasonably expected that, at the age of 50, he would have many more years to continue as a member for the North Province, which he served so diligently. There is no doubt that he took a zest in his work both in this Chamber and in the province he represented. On various matters affecting the North he spoke with a dogmatism born of experience and, as the Minister for Railways has said, he was a very cheerful and friendly character and we shall certainly miss him.

THE PRESIDENT: I also regret the sudden passing of the late Mr. Barker. I will miss his rising in his seat very suddenly on the right side of the Chair and starting a very lengthy debate. He was a member for a period of only just over four years, and those who were present when he delivered his maiden speech will remember the address he gave on the wealth and the disabilities of the North and the experiments being carried out there.

I do not think anyone else has ever told the general public of this State so much about the North, because he seized every opportunity, whether it was on the Address-in-reply or the Supply Bill, to bring before the people outside this Chamber the disabilities suffered by the North-West and the advantages that would be gained by an increased population there and a better deal for that part of the country. I ask members to carry the motion by rising in their places.

Question passed; members standing.

House adjourned at 5.23 p.m.