

Before I resume my seat, Mr President, may I offer congratulations to you on your elevation to the very high office in control of this Chamber. All members will agree that it is a fitting culmination to a distinguished career in this Council.

I also congratulate the Hon. Neil McNeill on his attainment of Cabinet rank and leadership of the House; the Hon. Graham MacKinnon for his return to the Ministry; and the Hon. Norman Baxter for his promotion to the front bench.

I look around the Legislative Council Chamber today and see a good blend of experienced members and new chums like myself. I can see young people and some who are not so young. I welcome the presence of three female members.

It looks like a good team with which to tackle the task ahead and I approach my term in this House with enthusiasm and confidence.

THE HON. H. W. GAYFER (Central) [4.09 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. Thompson (Leader of the Opposition).

House adjourned at 4.10 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 22nd May, 1974

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Legislative Assembly met at 11.00 a.m.

PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Assembly (Mr J. C. Bartlett) read the proclamation of His Excellency the Governor (Air Commodore Hughie Idwal Edwards, V.C., C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., D.F.C.) summoning the first session of the Twenty-eighth Parliament.

OPENING PROCEEDINGS

Message from the Governor's Senior Commissioner

A Message from His Excellency's Senior Commissioner (His Honour Mr Justice Virtue) requested the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Council Chamber. Members accordingly proceeded to that Chamber; and, having heard the Commission to do all things necessary for the opening of Parliament, returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS

His Honour, Mr Justice Lavan, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia, having been commissioned by His Excellency the Governor, entered the Chamber to administer to members the

Oath of Allegiance to Her Majesty, or the affirmation required by law, and was conducted to the Chair. The Commission to swear-in members having been read, the Clerk produced the writs for the general election, held on the 30th March, 1974, showing the names of the members returned. These members took and subscribed the Oath, or made and subscribed the affirmation required by law, and signed the Roll.

The Commissioner then retired from the Chamber.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [11.49 a.m.]: The House being duly constituted, I move—

That the Hon. Ross Hutchinson do take the Chair of the House as Speaker.

MR McPHARLIN (Mt. Marshall—Deputy Premier) [11.50 a.m.]: I second the motion.

MR HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe) [11.51 a.m.]: I submit myself to the will of the House.

There being no other nomination, Mr Hutchinson was conducted to the Chair by the mover and seconder of the motion.

THE SPEAKER (Mr Hutchinson) [11.52 a.m.]: I thank members for the signal honour they have conferred upon me, and I now assume my duties as Speaker of this House by taking the Chair.

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [11.53 a.m.]: Mr Speaker, may I take this opportunity to express to you my congratulations on your assuming this very high office of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia. You bring to the office a tremendous amount of experience; experience gained as a back-bench member behind a Government, behind an Opposition, as a Minister, and as a front-bench member of an Opposition. In the course of your experience you have had occasion to see and to hear many people who have passed through this Chamber; a large number of whom have contributed greatly to the working of our Parliament and of our State. You now have the privilege—or should I say the duty—to listen to many more people, but from a different angle.

It must be quite an experience for a person to take the Chair having been a Minister and a member of Parliament for so long. You are now in the position where you cannot interject or contribute, except as laid down in the Standing Orders!

We have every confidence in your capacity to fulfil your duties because you come to this position of Speaker not only with a tremendous record of achievement as a member and as a Minister, but also with

a wonderful record as a citizen, a sportsman, and as a distinguished member of the armed services of this community. We have every confidence that you will bring to your new position the great tolerance and understanding that you have always shown in the past. I have known you for many years, and I have always had a tremendous admiration of your capacity and of your desire to hear the other point of view, and I know you will be fair in your deliberations and make balanced judgments. You will follow in the steps of very illustrious past Speakers. On behalf of the Government members of this Chamber, I wish you well on your appointment.

MR J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Leader of the Opposition) [11.54 a.m.]: On my own behalf and on behalf of those associated with me, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your elevation to this very high office in the Parliament of Western Australia.

Some of your predecessors have held this office with very great distinction, and no doubt you will endeavour to emulate those who have been most successful. We have no reason to believe that you will be other than fair, but if it so happens that you are, you will know all about it.

We trust that we, on this side of the House, will give you no more trouble than did our predecessors. We are conscious that the rules of the House should be obeyed, and so far as we are concerned, we will abide by them most strictly.

We trust that your occupancy of the office will be pleasurable whilst it lasts. I cannot say that I hope it will last for a long time, because, as is customary with all Oppositions, from the day they become the Opposition, they work diligently to change places with the Government. If this should occur, then you will have a successor. However, whilst you occupy the Speaker's office, I can assure you of our obedience to the Chair and of our desire to co-operate with you in the proper running of this House. We wish you well.

THE SPEAKER (Mr Hutchinson) [11.56 a.m.]: I would like to express my warm appreciation for the congratulations and good wishes that have been extended to me by the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition. I would like to thank them very much indeed for those expressions. I take this opportunity also to thank members again for electing me to this high office. I very much appreciate the kindly words expressed by the Premier about the events leading up to my assumption of this office, and also for the sage advice that has been given to me by the Leader of the Opposition.

Perhaps at this stage I could say that I have a deep abiding faith in the democratic parliamentary system, and I believe that every effort should be made to maintain and preserve the parliamentary system's high and traditional

principles based on the rule of law and order. I believe also that this Parliament, on behalf of the people of Western Australia, must guard jealously our rightful and constitutional place and role in the Australian Federation. It is my zealous wish that I will be able to fulfil worthily the duties and responsibilities of the Speakership, and to follow worthily the fine example which has been set by my predecessors in office.

There is no doubt that the general conduct and dignity of this House compares more than favourably with similar assemblies in other parts of our island continent. I trust that members will co-operate to ensure a continuation of this happy and desirable state of affairs. I have no doubt that from time to time I will reveal certain inexperience in the Speakership and in my role of Speaker, but I trust that when this occurs, members will show due understanding of the innumerable difficulties of my new role.

Once again I express my thanks to all concerned in my election to the office of Speaker.

PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [11.59 a.m.]: Mr Speaker, I desire to announce that His Excellency the Deputy Governor (Sir Lawrence Walter Jackson) will now be pleased to receive the Speaker-elect and such honourable members as desire to accompany him this afternoon at a time convenient to the Deputy Governor.

THE SPEAKER: I will now leave the Chair until a date and time to be advised.

Sitting suspended from 12.01 p.m. on the 22nd May, 1974, to 3.00 p.m. on the 25th July, 1974.

Thursday, the 25th July, 1974

The **SPEAKER** (Mr Hutchinson) resumed the Chair at 3.00 p.m.

THE SPEAKER: I desire to report that I submitted myself to His Excellency the Deputy Governor on Wednesday, the 22nd May, and, on behalf of the House, laid claim to its undoubted rights and privileges, and prayed that the most favourable construction be placed upon its proceedings; and that His Excellency has been pleased to express his satisfaction at the choice of the Assembly in the following terms—

Mr Speaker,

It is with much pleasure I learn that you have been elected by the Members of the Legislative Assembly to the high and honourable office of Speaker of that House.