

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

## (HANSARD)

### First Session of the Twenty-eighth Parliament

*The Legislative Assembly expired by the effluxion of time on the 31st January, 1974.*

*The Twenty-eighth Parliament was convened for the despatch of business on the 22nd May, 1974, and the first session was opened by His Excellency the Governor (Air Commodore H. I. Edwards, V.C., C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., D.F.C.) on the 25th July, 1974.*

#### OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

### Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 22nd May, 1974

#### MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The Legislative Council met at 11.00 a.m.

#### PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Parliaments (Mr J. B. Roberts) 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.

#### GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION

His Excellency's Commissioners (His Honour Mr Justice Virtue and His Honour Mr Justice Lavan) having entered the Chamber at 11.03 a.m., a message was sent to the Legislative Assembly requesting the presence of members in the Council Chamber.

Members of the Legislative Assembly having arrived accordingly, the Senior Commissioner requested the Clerk to read His Excellency's Commission to do all things necessary in the name and on the part of Her Majesty the Queen, or in the name and on the part of His Excellency for the opening and holding of the first session of the Twenty-eighth Parliament.

The Commission was read.

#### COMMISSIONER'S STATEMENT

The Senior Commissioner (His Honour Mr Justice Virtue) read the following statement—

*Honourable Members—*

I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor to inform you that, on a date to be advised, His Excellency will declare to you the causes of the calling together of this

Session of Parliament; and it being necessary that a President of the Legislative Council and a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly be first chosen, it is His Excellency's pleasure that you, honourable members of the Legislative Council, after those who have been newly elected, have been duly sworn by me in the terms of a Commission granted to me by His Excellency the Governor, do elect your President, and notify the same to His Excellency; and you, honourable members of the Legislative Assembly, repair to the place where you are to sit, and having been duly sworn by the Honourable Mr. Justice Lavan in the terms of the Commission granted to him by His Excellency, you do elect your Speaker, and likewise notify the same to His Excellency.

The Junior Commissioner (His Honour Mr Justice Lavan) and members of the Legislative Assembly retired from the Chamber.

#### SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS

The Clerk announced the return of writs for the election of members at the general election held on the 30th March, 1974, showing that the following had been duly elected—

- Metropolitan Province—Ian George Medcalf.
- North Metropolitan Province—Roy Frederick Claughton.
- North-East Metropolitan Province—Donald Walter Cooley.
- South Metropolitan Province—Ronald Thompson.
- South-East Metropolitan Province—Grace Sydney Vaughan.
- Central Province—Harry Walter Gayfer.
- Lower Central Province—Alexander Ashley Lewis.

Lower West Province—Ian George Pratt.

South Province—Thomas Knight.

South-East Province—Robert Henry Claude Stubbs.

South-West Province—Graham Charles MacKinnon.

Upper West Province—Margaret McAleer.

West Province—Gordon Edgar Masters.

Lower North Province—George William Berry.

North Province—John Carmichael Tozer.

These members took and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance, and signed the Roll.

The Senior Commissioner retired from the Chamber.

### ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

The Clerk reported that the office of President was vacant.

**THE HON. N. McNEILL** (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [11.31 a.m.]: I move—

That the Hon. A. F. Griffith do take the Chair in the Council as President.

**THE HON. R. THOMPSON** (South Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [11.32 a.m.]: I second the motion.

No other member having been proposed the Clerk declared the Hon. A. F. Griffith elected, and he was conducted to the Chair.

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (North Metropolitan—President-Elect) [11.33 a.m.]: Honourable members, in electing me as your President you bestow upon me a very great honour and it is one of which I am deeply appreciative. May I assure you that at all times I will endeavour to carry out the duties of President of this Chamber to the best of my ability. May I also assure you that I will at all times endeavour to continue and promote the traditional function and dignity of this House. I would like to take the opportunity to wish the newly elected members and the re-elected members a very successful term of office in this Chamber.

I wish, also, to recognise the fact that the Hon. L. C. Diver, the retiring President of this Chamber, is on the floor of the House this morning. I greatly appreciate his attendance here and I would like to wish him and his wife a very long and happy retirement.

**THE HON. N. McNEILL** (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [11.34 a.m.]: Mr President, you have today been elected by the members of the Legislative Council to occupy a position of great honour.

It is indeed an honoured position, not only because of the great responsibilities which you will be called upon to bear, nor even because of the service to the great institution of Parliament which will be required of you: it is an office that brings with it all the traditions by which status has been maintained and which your predecessors have created and perpetuated.

Sir, you have been elected the 12th President of the Legislative Council since responsible Government was established in 1890.

You join the ranks of men, including the first Governor of Western Australia, Captain James Stirling, who prior to responsible Government, presided over this Chamber; and there are others, whose names are well known to us all, who played a most distinguished part in the government of Western Australia and her people.

Your own service to the State has been well recorded, both in the writings of Parliament, and in the progress of Western Australia. You entered Parliament in 1950 as a member in another place.

You were elected to the Legislative Council in 1953 and became Leader of the Opposition in 1958.

You became Leader of the House in 1959, and have held the various portfolios of Mines, Housing, and Justice during the period up to 1971, and during the last Parliament, of course, you were Leader of the Opposition.

It is well to record that you held those portfolios during difficult and, in fact, very onerous times, and history will relate the initiatives you exercised in the great mineral development, in the institution of law reform and the establishment of adult franchise for the Legislative Council, and in many other progressive legislative actions.

You take with you into office, Sir, a great experience and a debating ability which will be missed on the floor of the House, but which no doubt your former opponents would prefer to see you repose in that Chair rather than on the front benches of this House.

You have always been a most zealous defender of the role and status of this House—at times against very severe attacks—and you have seen, as a consequence, its position greatly strengthened.

I am sure I speak for all members in wishing you well—and we assure you of great co-operation. However, I am sure that wherever we may be lacking in co-operation, you will contain us with superior knowledge.

Sir, I congratulate you and express the hope that you may enjoy your office, and will, with great competence, maintain the position with honour to yourself and to the Legislative Council.

**THE HON. R. THOMPSON** (South Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [11.37 a.m.]: It is with great pleasure that I endorse the address to you by the Leader of the House. He said that possibly we, as an Opposition, would rather not see you sitting in your old seat. I feel that you have had a rather distinguished period of time in Parliament. Sir, you have served the electorates and the people of Western Australia well. I wish you well in your new position as President. I admit it will be strange not to look at you directly across the Chamber and not join in debate with you from time to time. I trust, however, that now you are President the latter will not be necessary. Of course, traditionally Labor members do not disagree with the President's rulings, and we hope this will continue to be the case.

May I wish you well, as, I am sure, do all members of this Chamber. We know that you will carry out your duties—as you did when you were Minister and also when you were Leader of the Opposition—without fear or favour to any. The decorum of the House has always been upheld by all members of the Chamber. I trust this will continue; indeed under your leadership I am sure it will. On behalf of the Labor Party, may I sincerely congratulate you.

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (North Metropolitan—President-Elect) [11.38 a.m.]: I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition for their very kind remarks.

#### PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT

**THE HON. N. McNEILL** (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [11.39 a.m.]: I wish to advise the House that His Excellency the Deputy Governor will be pleased to receive the President-Elect at 5 p.m. today.

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (North Metropolitan—President-Elect) [11.40 a.m.]: I will leave the Chair until a date and time to be fixed.

*Sitting suspended from 11.41 a.m. on the 22nd May, 1974, to 2.58 p.m. on the 25th July, 1974.*

Thursday, the 25th July, 1974

The President (the Hon. A. F. Griffith) resumed the Chair at 2.58 p.m.

**THE PRESIDENT:** I wish to advise the House that I have presented myself to His Excellency the Deputy Governor, who has been pleased to approve of the choice of the Council in the following terms—

Mr President,

It is with much pleasure I learn that you have been elected by the Members

of the Legislative Council to the high and honourable office of President of that House.

I have every confidence that you will fill the office in a worthy and dignified manner.

(Sgd.) Lawrence Jackson,  
Deputy Governor.

#### PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION

**THE PRESIDENT:** I have received a Commission authorising me to administer the oath of allegiance, and this will be presented and read by the Clerk.

The Commission was read.

#### GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

##### *Delivery*

His Excellency the Governor (Air Commodore Hughie Idwal Edwards, V.C., C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., D.F.C.) entered the Council Chamber at 3.05 p.m.; and, the members of the Legislative Assembly having also attended in the Chamber, obediently to summons, His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following Speech—

*Mr President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:*

*Mr Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:*

You meet here today, for the First Session of the 28th Parliament of Western Australia.

I am privileged on the first occasion of my commission as the Representative of Her Majesty the Queen, to officially open State Parliament.

I desire to place on record my sincere thanks for the warm welcome accorded me by the people of Western Australia on my return to my native State, and for the most friendly reception my wife and I have received.

We also record with regret the retirement of Sir Albert Wolff, K.C.M.G., after six years of distinguished service to the State as Lieutenant Governor, following many years' service in the Judiciary, including ten years as Chief Justice.

Sir Albert's successor is Commodore James Maxwell Ramsay, C.B.E., D.S.C., a choice which will certainly bring to the office the high respect it has always enjoyed.

We were deeply disappointed that general elections in Britain prevented Her Majesty the Queen from making her scheduled visit in March of this year.

We were, however, favoured with visits by His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, in November 1973, and in March, 1974.

Last year the people of Western Australia were pleased to welcome their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince Akihito and Crown Princess Michiko, on the first visit to Western Australia by members of the Japanese Imperial Family.

Conjoint elections for both Houses of State Parliament, on March 30, 1974, res-