
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

First Session of the Twenty-ninth Parliament

The Legislative Council was prorogued as from the 5th January, 1977.

The Legislative Assembly was prorogued and dissolved as from the 5th January, 1977.

The Twenty-ninth Parliament was convened for the despatch of business on the 24th May, 1977, and the first session was opened by His Excellency the Governor (Air Chief Marshal Sir Wallace Kyle, G.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., K.St.J.) on the 28th July, 1977.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 24th May, 1977

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 Chief Marshal Sir Wallace Kyle, G.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., K.St.J.) summoning the first session of the Twenty-ninth Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION

His Excellency's Commissioners (His Honour Mr Justice Burt 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-ninth Parliament.

The Commission was read.

COMMISSIONER'S STATEMENT

The Senior Commissioner (His Honour Mr Justice Burt) 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 19th February, 1977, showing that the following had been duly elected—

East Metropolitan Province—

Fred Evan McKenzie.

Robert Hetherington.

Metropolitan Province—
 Richard John Lloyd Williams.
 North Metropolitan Province—
 Robert Gerald Pike.
 North-East Metropolitan Province—
 Lyla Daphne Elliott.
 South Metropolitan Province—
 Desmond Keith Dans.
 South-East Metropolitan Province—
 Clive Edward Griffiths.
 Central Province—
 Norman Eric Baxter.
 Lower Central Province—
 Winifred Margaret Piesse.
 Lower West Province—
 Neil McNeill.
 South Province—
 David John Wordsworth.
 South-East Province—
 Ronald Thomas Leeson.
 South-West Province—
 Victor Jasper Ferry.
 Upper West Province—
 Thomas McNeil.
 West Province—
 Oscar Neil Blackburne Oliver.
 Lower North Province—
 Norman Frederick Moore.
 North Province—
 William Robert Withers.

These members—with the exception of the Hon. Lyla Elliott, who was absent—took and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance, or made and subscribed the affirmation required by law, 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. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Leader of the House) [11.37 a.m.]: I move—That the Hon. Clive Griffiths do take the Chair in the Council as President.

THE HON. G. E. MASTERS (West) [11.38 a.m.]: I second the motion.

THE HON. R. THOMPSON (South Metropolitan) [11.39 a.m.]: I move—That the Hon. N. E. Baxter do take the Chair in the Council as President.

THE HON. R. T. LEESON (South-East) [11.40 a.m.]: I second the motion.

The Clerk drew attention to Standing Order 20, and asked members who had been proposed

and seconded to conform with that Standing Order and submit themselves to the Council.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths and the Hon. N. E. Baxter having submitted themselves to the will of the House, a ballot was taken with the Hon. A. A. Lewis acting as scrutineer and the Hon. Clive Griffiths was declared by the Clerk to have been elected by a majority of votes, and he was conducted to the Chair.

THE PRESIDENT (the Hon. Clive Griffiths) [11.44 a.m.]: The great honour you have bestowed upon me in electing me as your President is very deeply appreciated.

I assure members that at all times I will carry out the duties of President to the best of my ability. I also assure you that I will maintain and uphold the traditions and dignity of this office, as my predecessors have done.

I would like to take this opportunity to say to the newly elected and re-elected members that I trust their term of office in this Chamber will be most rewarding and satisfying.

It is pleasing for me to acknowledge the presence in the Chamber today of the retiring President (the Hon. A. F. Griffith) who is on the floor of the Chamber, together with other retiring members, the Hon. Roy Abbey, the Hon. Tom Perry, and the Hon. Stan Dellar. I am grateful indeed for their attendance at this ceremony this morning.

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Leader of the House) [11.46 a.m.]: Mr President, may I offer you my hearty congratulations on your election to the very high office of President. You are the thirteenth holder of this office in 84 years, which indicates there has not been a great number of Presidents. I certainly trust you are not superstitious!

Mr President, you have been known as a very hard-working member of this Chamber. You were elected in 1965 in the first election conducted after voting for this House became compulsory. In winning your seat it was considered you had achieved quite a feat, and in each succeeding election you increased your majority. You have worked hard as the Deputy Chairman of Committees and as a member of the Joint House Committee for some six years. You are known as a very fair and upright member of Parliament, and we have great faith in our belief that you will carry out the duties of President in a fitting and honourable manner, bringing credit to yourself and to this House.

It is always sad to see members leave this place, for whatever reason, but it is a happy situation that today we are able to have with us four

retiring members. I refer to the Hon. A. F. Griffith, of whom I am sure all will accept that I should make special mention. He leaves here as a very long-serving member—I think the period is 25 years. He served initially as Leader of the Opposition, then as a Minister for 12 years, after which he assumed the very onerous responsibility of Leader of the House. Then for three years he served as President of this Chamber, and conducted himself in a fitting manner, upholding the dignity of his office and of this Chamber; always carrying out his duties with great responsibility.

I think the Hon. Roy Abbey was elected to this place shortly after my election 18 years ago; and we are sorry to see a man of his calibre leave us.

The Hon. Tom Perry's electorate at one time adjoined mine; in fact he took over a portion of my electorate in a redistribution. We are sorry indeed to see him go.

We wish the Hon. Stan Dellar success in whatever field he enters.

We are saddened by the fact that there is a vacant seat. For reasons of which all members are aware, we cannot move a motion of condolence today; however, it will be moved when we sit in July. I am sure Mrs Del Heitman is aware of our great sorrow at the passing of our friend and colleague—and I put it deliberately in that order because I am sure Jack was a friend to all of us who knew him in this Chamber. We are saddened by his death.

Nevertheless, Mr President, this is your day; it is the reason for this meeting having been called. We congratulate you on your election.

Presentation of President

I wish to advise the House that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to receive the President at 12.15 p.m. on Wednesday, the 25th May. I trust other members will be able to accompany him.

There is only one other point I wish to raise: I have no experience of this type of ballot, and I ask if it is necessary to move that the ballot papers be destroyed.

THE HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [11.50 a.m.]: Mr President, on behalf of the Opposition I offer you our very sincere congratulations. It goes without saying that I did not expect the result of the ballot to be different. I will certainly miss you sitting opposite me in the Chamber, because you are a very good debater, and a very good interjector sometimes! You have helped to make the time in this place a little less arduous on

occasion, and I am sure you will discharge your new duties with fairness and dignity, and with due respect to your position.

There is one other thing I would like you to do; that is, to endeavour to protect the rights of private members against the ravages of Executive Government and the powers of bureaucracy. I feel this is something we should be looking to you to do in your very exalted office.

Sir, I have the highest personal regard for you and I am pleased to see you in this position. With the numbers as they are in this House, it could not be otherwise.

I offer my good wishes to the retiring members. I will not dwell on this aspect because I am sure we have said goodbye to them on so many occasions that we are beginning to wonder whether they will ever go! I hope those who are getting a little long in the tooth will have a very happy and useful retirement, as distinct from sitting around.

I would like also to pay respect to the late Hon. Jack Heitman; he was a worthy opponent in this Chamber. I express sorrow on behalf of members on this side of the Chamber that he was not spared to enjoy the retirement he so richly deserved.

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central) [11.51 a.m.]: On behalf of members of the National Country Party I would like to extend to you, Mr President, my very sincere congratulations on your election to the high office of President of this Chamber. I know full well you will carry out your duties with great dignity and that you will ensure the decorum of this House is maintained at all times.

Like Mr MacKinnon and Mr Dans I have heard you deliver some very good speeches; sometimes those speeches were very amusing, but they were always sincere. As our President, I know you will follow the tradition you have established as a member of this House. I wish you the very best in your term of office.

I extend my best wishes to those members who are retiring. I know most of them are happy to retire. I wish Mr Dellar every success in his new sphere, whatever it may be. It is always sad to see members leave this Chamber. I have seen many members either retire or suffer defeat, and it is always with regret that we realise some faces will not be with us for the next six years.

Once again, Mr President, I offer you my congratulations.

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. Clive Griffiths): Honourable members, I express my warm

appreciation of the kind words, congratulations, and good wishes that have been extended by the Leader of the House (the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon), the Leader of the Opposition (the Hon. D. K. Dans), and the Hon. Norman Baxter. It is my sincere wish that I will fulfil the duties and responsibilities of the office of President in the same worthy manner as my predecessors have done.

I have no doubt there will be times when my inexperience in my new role will be revealed. I trust members will show understanding and tolerance on those occasions. Again I sincerely thank all members for the honour they have bestowed upon me today.

I will leave the Chair until a date to be fixed.

Sitting suspended from 11.56 a.m. on the 24th May, 1977, to 3.00 p.m. on the 28th July, 1977.

Thursday, the 28th July, 1977

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. Clive Griffiths) resumed the Chair at 3.00 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT

THE PRESIDENT: Honourable members, I wish to announce that I have presented myself to His Excellency the Governor, who has been pleased to express satisfaction with 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.) Wallace Kyle,
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 Chief Marshal Sir Wallace Kyle, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., K.St.J.) 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 29th Parliament.

The occasion gains lustre occurring as it does during the Silver Jubilee Year of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second.

During their tour of Western Australia, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, visited the Perth metropolitan area, Geraldton and Albany. At Albany, the Queen's presence coincided happily with the town's 150th Anniversary.

Once again the people of Western Australia demonstrated in full measure the affection and respect they have for Her Majesty.

A most pleasing landmark in Her Majesty's Jubilee was the launching of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal for Young Australians. The Western Australian Government has subscribed \$150 000 toward the State's \$450 000 Appeal target.

Joint Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly elections were conducted on February 19 this year.

Notable retirements from Parliament were those of the Honourable John T. Tonkin, A.C.; the Honourable Sir Arthur Griffith; and the Honourable Sir Ross Hutchinson, D.F.C.

With profound regret I refer to the deaths of four former Parliamentarians. They were the Honourable Lionel Francis Kelly; the Honourable Jack Heitman; Mr Kenneth Wathen Dunn; and Mr Alfred George Reynolds.

The Economy

The problems which beset the Australian economy are still very much in evidence—a situation which prompted the Premier to invite his fellow Premiers to hold an All-States Economic Conference. This is scheduled for August 5, 1977.

The Government believes that if all States can be harnessed in a full economic partnership with the Commonwealth, economic recovery Australia-wide will be hastened.

Industrial disputes continue to cause the Government serious concern.

Unemployment in Western Australia is still