



PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

VALEDICTORY SPEECH



The PRESIDENT
(Hon Nick Griffiths, MLC)
(Member for East Metropolitan)

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL — RETIRING MEMBERS
Motion

Thursday, 21 May 2009

Legislative Council

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Valedictory Remarks — Motion

Resumed from 20 May on the following motion moved by Hon Norman Moore (Leader of the House) —

That this house expresses its appreciation to retiring members for their significant contribution to the Legislative Council and the state of Western Australia.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Nick Griffiths): Before I embark on thanking a very long list of people who have provided me with a great degree of sustenance, which has enabled me to attempt to serve the people of the East Metropolitan Region and the state of Western Australia in this house for 16 years, there is a matter that needs to be addressed. To my left are two blue chairs. Those two blue chairs are representative of a dysfunction in this Parliament. They exist because some members of the other place, which has been referred to from time to time with some authority as an elected dictatorship, do not like having a check on their power. They do not like a system of proportional representation that enables a number of points of view to be expressed in Parliament. They think that all wisdom resides in single-member constituencies where only one point of view ends up being represented in Parliament because such systems are based on “winner takes all”. Perhaps that is the root cause of the culture of which I complain. They do not like the fact that there is a house of Parliament that reviews legislation, reflects on what is often very imperfect legislation that comes before it, and gives proper consideration to improving such legislation for the benefit of the people of Western Australia. They do not like the fact that this house provides, because of the fact that there are two houses, an opportunity for community consultation. They do not like the fact that we have an effective committee system that holds governments to account. This house is a brake on putting into effect ill-thought out measures. It is an inculcation against extremism.

Those two blue chairs represent the treatment of this house over a considerable period. My predecessor, Hon John Cowdell, worked assiduously to improve the operational budget of the Legislative Council. He raised with the then Attorney General the fact that our finances were so poor he had to let go staff. When I became the President in 2005, I conferred with the Acting Clerk, Mr Malcolm Peacock, the now Clerk, and we examined the finances of the Legislative Council with the able assistance of the senior financial officer, Mr Michel Crouche. This was shortly after the 2005-06 budget was handed down. It was clear from our examination of the finances that the Legislative Council was either going to be in the red or its staffing requirements were going to be severely diminished. We put a case to the Department of Treasury and Finance seeking urgent supplementary funding. This was done in June 2005. Towards the end of the financial year, we received a facsimile from the then acting Under Treasurer refusing the proposition that we had put and saying how inappropriate it was—he used that stupid argument based on the number of members of the Legislative Assembly vis-à-vis the number of members of the Legislative Council. That proposition had no regard to the obvious argument; namely, operational expenses. We persisted to seek a redress to the budget of the Legislative Council. I think the telling argument was the threat to expose the ludicrous document forwarded to us by facsimile. Eventually, in October 2005, the Legislative Council received an injection of funds sufficient to enable us to carry on, and that injection has been maintained, inadequate though it is. I invite Hon Clive Griffiths to sit down and thank him and Hon John Cowdell for being here.

The issue of the Legislative Council’s finances has also arisen with respect to the capital budget. Some members of Parliament have been here over many terms and are aware that the Legislative Assembly was provided with a very nice suite of committee offices many years ago—many years ago. Recently we got ours—very recently. Again, this was achieved thanks to the very hardworking team of the Legislative Council, on this occasion led by the then Clerk, Mia Betjeman; Malcolm Peacock, of course, made a substantial contribution; and Kelly Alcock in particular played a very significant role. Notwithstanding the fact that the other place got everything it wanted without fuss years ago, we were put through the hoops by Treasury and the then Treasurer. It was almost as if we were not entitled to have proper committee offices. In the end we got them, and for that I am grateful.

The other area of the capital budget, of course, relates to those two blue chairs. Early in my term as President, the then Speaker, Hon Fred Riebeling, and I approached the then government, the Premier of which was Hon Geoff Gallop, and we put forward the proposition that the chambers needed to be air-conditioned and refurbished. The clear unequivocal understanding was that because both chambers could not be out of action at once, the Legislative Council, which is closer to the north, would be air-conditioned and then the air conditioning and refurbishment of the Legislative Assembly would take place. It soon came the time for the Legislative Council to be refurbished. It

was the day that Hon Louise Pratt, now Senator Louise Pratt, last spoke in this house. I did not preside over question time that day. Mr Peacock and I attended before the Treasurer and Treasury officials in the parliamentary services room, and we went through the business plan for the Legislative Council refurbishment. The Legislative Assembly did not have to have a business plan. Everything seemed fine. There was enthusiasm; it was proper. The Legislative Council had provided a business plan and everything was going well. Then an event occurred. The then Premier and his colleagues in the other place thought that by motion of the other place they could expel two of our members—Hon Shelley Archer and Hon Anthony Fels. Of course, members will recall those motions that came from the other place were clearly out of order, and I so ruled.

Later that year, in December 2007, I was informed that the expenditure review committee, which was the budget committee of the previous government, had rejected the proposition that this chamber be refurbished. I continued to press the case. The then Treasurer, now Leader of the Opposition, would not even see me. The budget was handed down—no refurbishment. Again, he would not discuss the matter with me. Last year we had an election, and, with the assistance of the now Leader of the Government, Hon Norman Moore, and the Deputy President, Hon George Cash, I was able to confer with the now Treasurer, Hon Troy Buswell. He gave the Legislative Council a very fair hearing. We are now going to have the refurbishment that the Legislative Assembly was given years ago. Unfortunately, it is a year late, so we have to put up with the temporary inconvenience of two blue chairs, but those blue chairs will be here for about 10 months, till probably March next year, and they will be a reminder to the house of the way this house was treated by the previous regime.

I do not want to leave the finances of the Legislative Council just yet. I want to make a further comment. I think members have heard me say this many times: if the other place is being funded appropriately, then we are being underfunded; if we are being funded appropriately, the other place is being overfunded. People cannot have it both ways. I am talking about operational expenditure. It is obvious. I am not going to criticise the current government, because it has been in office for only seven and a half months and it is facing the most difficult economic circumstances that this country has seen since the early 1930s, but I should point out that when I and Mr Peacock appeared before the budget committee, we were treated with great courtesy. We were heard with respect. I am very hopeful on the house's behalf that when circumstances permit the inequity that has been allowed to occur with respect to the Legislative Council will be rectified.

Members would appreciate there are a number of matters that are perhaps more pleasurable for me to mention, and I now move to them. I am very pleased to see my wife in the President's gallery. I thank her very much, first for being here and second for the magnificent support she has provided me during the time we have known each other, and in the latter period of me being a minister and throughout the duration of my term as President. Being a member of Parliament is very difficult on families, and it is a wonderful thing indeed to have such support. I thank my family in general and, may I say, in particular my children, Stephen, Paul, Thomas and James. I am conscious that over the years I have perhaps not done as good a job as I was capable of doing, because of my role as a member of this house.

When I was first elected in 1993, I had the very good fortune of having my friend Lyn Jager as my electoral officer. She worked for the late Hon Fred McKenzie. I had known Lyn before. I considered her to be a friend. She provided me with magnificent service for eight years as my electorate officer. Then I had the very good fortune of her joining me at my ministerial office, where she played a leadership role in ensuring that that office functioned as well as it possibly could. Lyn cannot let go of politics and now works for my friend and colleague Michelle Roberts. I understand it is probably a bit easier than working for me, but some people do have a bit of good fortune in the end. Lyn is in the President's gallery. I again thank her.

I thank Mrs Sonya Rivett, who has been my electorate officer for eight years. I do not get too many complaints in the electorate office because I have had two great electorate officers who have made sure that I do not come into contact with constituents very often. When I first became a member, I remember that Lyn took me to task for telling a constituent precisely what the solution to their problem was. Members will know that sometimes constituents do not want to be told what the truth is; they want members to find an answer for them, impossible though that may be. I thank Lyn and Sonia.

I also want to thank Brian Yakich, who has worked with me for a number of years. My current research officers are Brian and Greg Roberts. Also over the years I have had a number of very talented young people work for me. I will not mention them all because I am conscious that we are approaching our most important ritual, and that the Leader of the House is keen to listen to Hon Ken Travers talk about the budget, as are we all, I am sure.

Hon Ken Travers: I am glad to hear it.

The PRESIDENT: I will be glad to hear it in due course, Hon Ken Travers. Matt and Taryn have gone on to legal careers and they are doing very well.

In the course of my work in the electorate I have been involved in campaigns. Whatever members may think of my role here, in the electorate I have been pretty partisan. I have campaigned hard over many years, both as a member

of Parliament and for a long time before I became a member of Parliament. I have enjoyed campaigning. I have been on some losing campaigns, as we all have, but I think my campaigning has contributed to some significant wins. I have had the pleasure of having a very close association with the member for Midland, Michelle Roberts, and I consider her to be a close friend. I had a role in the then member for Swan Hills—Jaye Radisich—winning that seat in 2001, and retaining what is essentially a natural conservative seat in 2005. I enjoyed campaigning with Paul Andrews, among other people. I have had a good time in my electorate in campaigning, and, with the assistance of my staff, in seeking to do my electoral work, which has such importance to the people of the East Metropolitan Region.

Over the past few years, I have had the benefit of working very closely with two people without whom this house cannot function. The first person I will mention is Lorraine Coogan. I do not have to worry about matters. I do not have to know what to do. Lorraine is always correct in her advice. She makes sure that I am on time. She does a tremendous job. I am very thankful to her in particular for the courtesy that she shows members in making sure that when I come into the chamber I am not too crotchety—that can change as this speech develops! Thank you very much, Lorraine. Again, it is a pleasure to see you in the President's gallery.

I do not know where Andrew Gardos is, but how on earth can our most sacred of rituals operate without Andrew! In saying that, I am referring to something that Hon Bruce Donaldson tried to abolish once. I know that he gave an account of that last night, and I am not accusing Hon Bruce Donaldson of misleading the house. Andrew not only provides us with afternoon tea, but also he relates well to all members. As my personal steward, he does a fantastic job. I wish him well for the future. He recently suffered from a bout of ill health, but he has recovered and he continues to recover, and he does a tremendous job.

I have had the good fortune to work, in the course of my term as President of this House, with three Clerks of the Legislative Council. The first was the late Laurie Marquet. I first met Laurie shortly after I was elected in 1993. Laurie Marquet was a magnificent Clerk of the Legislative Council and a great servant of the state of Western Australia. I think we all have a lot to thank him for in terms of the robust nature of this institution that he contributed so much to. The second Clerk was Mia Betjeman. Mia provided great service to the Legislative Council. Unfortunately, for personal reasons Mia ceased to be the Clerk after a relatively short period. I was saddened by that, as I was saddened by the loss of Laurie. But if we wait long enough, good things happen, and we now have an excellent Clerk in Malcolm Peacock—an excellent Clerk following on from two prior excellent Clerks. Malcolm Peacock as Acting Clerk and then as Deputy Clerk, and now as Clerk, has played a very significant role in making this house the cutting edge of accountability. We are miles ahead—I will not mention the other place—but we produced an annual report well before that house, and we have key performance indicators; we got them up early. That has all happened over the past four years. Today I had the pleasure of tabling a report titled “Work of the Legislative Council in 2008”. We welcome scrutiny. I also tabled a report titled “Overview—Legislative Council Strategic Plan and 2009 Business Plan”. These are innovative matters for which we should thank Malcolm in particular. He has been a very, very good head of the Department of the Legislative Council.

We have in place a very good team, and I want to go on record as thanking them. I thank in particular the Deputy Clerk, Mr Nigel Lake, and the Clerk Assistant, Mr Donald Allison. I have mentioned our Manager Administrative Services, Mrs Kelly Alcock, in another context. Kelly plays a vital role in the team, and I thank her, as I thank Mr Paul Grant and all the committee staff. Again, I am conscious of the time, so I do not want to do what my friend the late Ted Cunningham did when he mentioned everyone in his electorate —

Hon Norman Moore: Take as long as you need, Mr President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Leader. I also thank the Usher of the Black Rod, Mr Chris Hunt. Chris seems to have disappeared. I do not know what he is up to, but I am sure he is doing a good job, as he has been doing. To our chamber staff—Brian Conn, Peter Gale, Glen Whitting, Lisa Parella, Grant Hitchcock and Alice Muller—thank you very much indeed. I also want to thank our parliamentary officers, Tina Beale and Janice Shaw. They were great to deal with when I was in opposition, and they were great to deal with when I was a minister, and they continue to do a fantastic job for ministers and on behalf of members in making sure that their very essential work is dealt with efficiently. Janeen Robertson has now left us. I understand that Janeen is currently doing some work for Hon Anthony Fels. I was a very pleased to hear of that when I met her at a polling booth last Saturday. Again, I place on the record my thanks to Janeen, and her successor, Corrine Briant. I also thank Hanna Gough, our media, public relations and project officer. Her position is an innovation. Again, that has come about under Malcolm's term. It may have something to do with the fact that from time to time I have been mentioned in dispatches in *The West Australian*! Hannah has been promoting the Legislative Council very well indeed, and I think her efforts will bear greater rewards in the future.

In my role as President I have a very sound parliamentary bureaucracy, headed by Mr Russell Bremner, Executive Manager Parliamentary Services, Mr Rob Hunter, Deputy Manager Parliamentary Services, and Mr Enno Schijf, Manager Catering Services. I thank all of them for their assistance. Parliament House has, I think, one of the best chefs in Western Australia. My wife suspects that I have been putting on a bit of weight. She should not blame my

lack of discipline; she should blame Mr George Webb, for providing me with such excellent cuisine. George is a great staff member, and the leadership team of George, Mark and Preston are people we should all be proud of. I thank Mark Gabrielli and the dining room staff, in particular two people who have acted as my steward from time to time—Deborah and Romeo.

I think the proof of the pudding is in the eating when it comes to Ken Craig, because nothing untoward has happened to any of us, so he has clearly done a good job as Security Manager. He is a very cheerful man, and I thank him and all his staff, including Chas, who plays reserves for Swan Districts, and Basil. There are a lot of them and they are great people. Lance Rosich wanders around from time to time and makes sure the mail does not get lost. I thank him, not only for the service he provides, but also for his great support for the best team in the Western Australian Football League—the mighty Cardinals. We are allowed to talk football occasionally in the Legislative Council—just do not mention too much politics! I thank the Reporting Services Manager, Ms Belinda Corey, and her staff, and Judy Ballantyne and the library staff. They do a great job, and I wish they were better resourced. Sometimes I think that governments current and past would have been much better off if we had got rid of research officer positions for members of Parliament, which account for 95 full-time equivalents, and put the expenditure into providing a first-class research unit in the library. It would save a fortune. I am not being disparaging of research officers, but we would probably end up getting a better job done. Anyway, I will leave that for perhaps my successor to pursue, but I do not think that any politician would say goodbye to a full-time equivalent.

I mentioned Michel Crouche. He gave great service, but he has been replaced by a very good lady in Dawn Timmerman. I thank her and the other finance staff, in particular Mr Greg Jackson, who makes sure that we all get paid on time. I am looking forward to 12 June, as is Hon Bruce Donaldson. I thank the parliamentary education officer, Ms Jane Gray, and her staff. Graham McDonald, the Building Services Manager, is very hands-on and very good; he will make sure that the chamber refurbishment is done properly. He was a first-class acquisition for the Parliament. Peter Pascoe has been here for a long time, perhaps as long as the Leader of the House; I do not know.

Hon Norman Moore: Longer.

The PRESIDENT: Longer; and he is still a young man, so he must have been wearing short pants when he first arrived. It is always a pleasure seeing his smiling face and I thank him very much for his services, as is the case with Mr Dan Cochrane, our projects manager. When we arrive at Parliament house first thing in the morning—some of us do anyway—some of the first people we come across are Marilyn, Cathy and Rosalie, from the post-office. They are cheerful, and they make me feel better in the morning whenever I go to post a letter before Andrew provides me with the most important ritual of the day—my green tea served in a particular teapot.

The Legislative Council has a committee system that is the engine room of the chamber. It is a committee system that actually does something, rather than keeping backbenchers occupied so that they are not plotting against frontbenchers in both government and opposition. I have had the good fortune of serving on a number of committees with some very capable people. In fact, the first committee I was on was the Select Committee on the Limitation of Professional and Other Occupational Liability. It was a unique committee, because most of its work was done in the Parliament between 1989 and 1993, but the committee was re-established in late 1993. Committee members included Hon Peter Foss and Hon Max Evans, both of them ministers at the time, and Hon Mark Nevill. Hon Fred McKenzie was recalled as a consultant. I mention a precedent that Hon Bruce Donaldson and I have discussed! The committee did some excellent work and provided an example of how committees should operate. It led to legislation in New South Wales and Western Australia. I refer to the Professional Standards Act 1997 in Western Australia. For my part, I learnt a lot from dealing with people with the intellects of the four gentlemen I mentioned. It was an example of how, irrespective of party lines, we can get together and deliver good results for the people of Western Australia.

Another committee I reflect on, which produced very good reports and assisted governments in making decisions that enhanced the workings of the police force, is the Select Committee into the Western Australian Police Service. I served on that committee with one of the great speakers of this house in recent times—I am not talking about presiding officers—Hon Derrick Tomlinson, who was a great chairman; Hon Reg Davies; Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm's fellow vigneron, Hon Murray Montgomery; and, to balance matters out, Hon Phil Lockyer. Phil is a great bloke, and it is a pity he left the Parliament in 1997, but he had a pretty good innings. I learnt a lot from dealing with those four gentlemen. Members will note that all of them were from different sides of politics, but we got on well and produced unanimous reports. The sixth interim report of the committee is worth reading by anyone who wants to understand the history of what has taken place with accountability bodies that have evolved into the Corruption and Crime Commission, and what has taken place in the Western Australia Police. I think its recommendations still stand. I note what Hon Shelley Archer has said, and I think there is a lot of merit in it. We have drifted down that path because what was contained in that particular committee report was not adhered to by either side of politics, to the great cost to the Western Australian community, not only financially, but also, I would argue, to civil liberties.

I do not want to go through all the committees and all the members I have interacted with over the years, because that would probably take as many years to do; suffice to say that the house has afforded me the experience of working on committees with many members, and I know first-hand the value of the efforts of members and the worth of our committees. Hon George Cash has said on many occasions, to many people, that our committee reports are first class and worth reading and, more to the point, are worth acting on. Recently, as Chairman of the Procedure and Privileges Committee, it has felt a bit like being on the Committee of Public Safety during the French Revolution and that we have been sitting for an eternity! However, that has been an interesting experience. I trust that when the Procedure and Privileges Committee reconvenes, it will look at some of the issues that we tried to look at, but were distracted by Corruption and Crime Commission issues, which occupied a lot of our time. I trust that the new Procedure and Privileges Committee will once again look at the standing orders. Although they are a pretty workable set of standing orders—I find them so; I suppose one gets used to them after a while—there is a need for reform in a number of areas. I trust that that will come to pass. Noting what was said during a debate on a motion moved by Hon George Cash with respect to the recent report of the Select Committee of Privilege, there is, I think, a reasonable expectation that the report will be acted on for the benefit of Parliament as a whole, and, therefore, for the people of Western Australia.

During my time as a member of Parliament I have had the good fortune of having had the opportunity to serve the state as a minister, and I held a number of portfolios. Whatever I was able to accomplish, I was able to accomplish because I had a first-class staff, led by Graham Burkett and Lenka Jaeger. I particularly thank them, but I also thank Damon, Christine, Madeleine, the two Johns, Jill, Ashley, Neville, Paul, Jan, Yoss; and I suppose I should mention Vince Catania by name! I am not quite in the same category as my former legal colleague Hon Chris Ellison. I know that Chris has a former staffer in the chamber—the Minister for Environment, Hon Donna Faragher—and two former staffers who are due to be sworn in tomorrow. Another of his former staffers is also a minister; the Attorney General is a former staffer of Hon Chris Ellison. When I spoke to him recently, he reminded me that another of his former staffers was a member of the Brisbane City Council. That is a pretty hard act to follow, but I have Vince, and I am sure that Vince is working very hard to maintain my reputation.

In common with Hon George Cash, I do not want to talk about what I did; that is a matter for the record. Members will know that I am on record as saying that I had the opportunity to do something for the racing industry, and issues to do with the casino. I enjoyed my relationship with the liquor industry; in fact, I look forward to enjoying my relationship with both the racing industry and the liquor industry in my retirement! In my time as minister, I held a variety of portfolios and I was well served by very good public servants, who enabled the issues of the day to be dealt with. I find the public service of Western Australia to be very professional, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to have worked with so many good men and women. I should note that for a short period, I was Minister Assisting the Treasurer; in the eyes of the government, I was clearly not very good at that, because I reduced two taxes. Minister Assisting the Treasurer is a euphemism for Minister for Revenue, and ministers for revenue are not supposed to reduce taxes, so I did not last in that job for much more than about four and a half months! I will not go through those matters.

I suppose the main thing I did as a minister, over and above administering departments and having the opportunity from time to time to engage in policy initiatives, was the handling of legislation, which I enjoyed very much. Mention has been made of that by other members, but it is a wonderful thing to pick up a piece of legislation and have the opportunity to study it as a representative minister in the Legislative Council and ask, “What on earth is this about?” It is really hard yakka. Day after day, I had the opportunity to pick up a fresh piece of legislation, study it and endeavour to gain some understanding of it. However, that was nothing, because I then had to deal with a battery of opposition speakers of enormous intellectual calibre. I do not want to embarrass anyone, but they included Hon Norman Moore, Hon George Cash, Hon Derrick Tomlinson and Hon Peter Foss. It was hard work dealing with them, and I forgive them for just about breaking my health, but I think, through our collective efforts, we improved legislation. When I reflect upon it, I was more prone than many ministers to go along with sensible amendments. My view was that if the Legislative Assembly did not like the amendments, it could always send the legislation back, and I do not think it ever did—perhaps because it did not understand it; I do not know! The State Administrative Tribunal Bill 2003 was a classic example; some members will recall the enormous volume of amendments made in this chamber. It went back to the Legislative Assembly and no-one spoke to it—it was passed within a couple of minutes; so much for those who are disparaging of a house of review.

A number of members are retiring, and I will briefly make mention of some members and then conclude my comments, because I know that we are approaching our sacred ritual shortly!

Hon Norman Moore is a great servant of this house and the people of Western Australia, and the future of this house is in very good hands indeed. He is a great champion of the Legislative Council and, I think, a fantastic minister, and I am so grateful that the state of Western Australia has, at this difficult time, Hon Norman Moore as the man in charge of making sure that we have in place an approvals process that will set us up for the next boom because for reasons that were nobody’s fault, we were not ready to take full advantage of the last boom.

I am not being disparaging of others when I say that Hon Sue Ellery is developing into the most competent Australian Labor Party Leader of the Opposition that I have seen in my time here.

We have just heard Hon Kate Doust speak extremely eloquently. She is a good friend and I know that she will have a great future in politics.

Hon Simon O'Brien, in common with my friend Graham Burkett, sometimes does not need a microphone! However, he has a good heart, he is a good man and I think he is doing a great job.

Hon Ed Dermer is a very old colleague of mine—old in terms of the duration of our relationship. It is fair to say that we are founding members of the right wing of the Australian Labor Party in Western Australia, along with Kate. From time to time, we have looked at members opposite and they seemed to us to be a bunch of left-wingers in the views they espoused, but not on everything. Ed is a great Whip, as is Bruce. I wish that Ed was not the Whip, because as Whip he does not get to speak as much as I believe he should, because Ed is a very learned, very well read person, and when he speaks, he speaks with great wisdom. If Ed can afford to give up the extra pay, Ed, please do so. Matt, I thank you for your friendship and your wine, but I think it needs a third opinion. Carol and Shelley have only been here for a short period, but they have done a great job. Jon has been here for quite a bit longer and will be here for a lot longer. Jon and Ken, Ljil, Sally and Adele are part of a pretty good team, and I wish them well for the future.

Bruce, I note what you said in your speech last night, and I am not going to be party to abolishing afternoon tea! But I thank you for your friendship and advice on the state of the world; namely, the airline routes and everything else.

Ken and Brian, thank you for your friendship.

Hon Peter Collier, I think, is one of the developing talents in Western Australia. He is a man of great courtesy. He handles himself well in debate. I do not mean to embarrass Hon Peter Collier but I am fairly impressed.

Hon Barry House was a great Chairman of Committees between 1993 and 1997. I am very confident that he will have a very bright future. I wish him all the best.

Hon Robyn McSweeney and Hon Ray Halligan, I consider both of you to be very good friends. Hon Ray Halligan and I had the good fortune to travel together. I wish you all the best for the future.

Hon Sheila Mills is a first-class member and a person of intellect whose time here in my view was cut short unjustly by the processes of a party that I have had the privilege to serve for many years. Similarly, Hon Batong Pham, in my view, was shamefully treated—no other word for it. He is a person of courage, and I trust the future bodes well for him.

Hon Shelley Archer and Hon Anthony Fels have also been subject of very unjust treatment. They are, in my view, good, honest people. I regret very much what has happened to them, but I believe they will have a happy future.

Hon Kim Chance is my former leader and longstanding colleague and the longest-serving Labor member in the Legislative Council currently; I am the second longest. I do not think many members will stay in this place for longer periods as the years progress. Kim and I have had a very close working relationship, both in opposition and in government. I have valued his counsel over the years and his friendship, and I wish him well for the future.

Hon Nigel Hallett and Hon Helen Morton—I mentioned Hon Donna Faragher in dispatches—thank you very much for your courtesies and friendship. Hon Wendy Duncan has only been with us for a short period, but I agree with the observations about her as an efficient, good, friendly member.

Hon Barbara Scott's contribution has been well summed up by Hon Kate Doust, and I endorse every word spoken about her by Hon Kate Doust.

To my Greens (WA) colleagues, I regret that Hon Paul Llewellyn is going because he has a first-class mind, although I do not agree with him very often. I was encouraged when one day he said he was a climate sceptic, and I thought that at least he is right about half the time! Hon Giz Watson, I wish you well for the future. You and I have worked on committees together from time to time and it has been a most enjoyable experience. It has also been enjoyable debating with you in the chamber and having your friendly company.

Members, I will not fall into that offence that I thought I might fall into.

Hon Clive Griffiths was the first President I served under. He was a great teacher for everyone who served under him—a fantastic President, as is evidenced by the fact that he was our President for 20 years. I then served under Hon George Cash. I consider Hon George Cash to be a good friend. He and I have seen a lot together. We have experienced a lot in terms of committee work. He has been a superb support as Chairman of Committees. He was a

first-class Leader of the Opposition, although I did not see him operate as Leader of the Opposition, and a first-class Leader of the House. He did great service as a minister and has been a mentor for many members in the house today. I have learnt a lot from him. I thank him very much for his contribution over a very long period.

The third President I had the privilege of serving under was Hon John Cowdell. John, as we know, is very learned, and was a very good President—very sound. Members, I have had the good fortune to have served under three very good Presidents, Hon Clive Griffiths, Hon George Cash, and Hon John Cowdell, and insofar as I have in some way followed in their footsteps, I am content.

Question put and passed.
