

NEW SOUTH WALES

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

FORTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT—FIRST SESSION

Legislative Council

Tuesday, 26 March, 1968

First Session of the Forty-second Parliament—Opening of Session—Assent to Bills—Leave of Absence—Forestry Act: Revocation of Dedication of State Forests—Legislative Council (Resignation)—New Administration—Law of Evidence Bill (*pro forma*) (first reading)—Legislative Council (Issue of Writ for Election)—Death of Lieutenant-General Sir Eric Winslow Woodward, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., K.St.J., a former Governor of New South Wales—Death of the Right Honourable Harold Edward Holt, P.C., C.H., LL.B., Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia—Canterbury Municipality (Bazentin and Persic Streets Recreation Reserve) Bill (Petition)—Special Adjournment—Adjournment (Resignation of the Hon. J. M. Carter).

FIRST SESSION OF THE FORTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT

The House met at noon, pursuant to the proclamation of His Excellency the Governor convening Parliament.

The PRESIDENT took the chair.

The Prayer was read.

The Clerk of the Parliaments read the proclamation.

OPENING OF SESSION

The PRESIDENT informed the House that His Excellency the Governor had been pleased to cause a Commission to be issued under the Public Seal of the State appointing the Hon. Harry Vincent Budd, President of the Legislative Council, the Hon. Arthur Dalgety Bridges, Minister for Child Welfare, Minister for Social Welfare, Advisory

Minister for Transport and Vice-President of the Executive Council, and Brigadier the Hon. Stanley Louis Mowbray Eskell, Chairman of Committees of the Legislative Council, Commissioners for the opening and holding of this Parliament.

A message was forwarded to the Assembly that the Commissioners desired their immediate attendance to hear the Commission for the opening of Parliament read.

The Assembly being come,

The PRESIDENT: Honourable members of the Legislative Council and members of the Legislative Assembly, His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to cause a Commission to be issued under the Public Seal of the State, constituting us Commissioners to do on behalf of Her Majesty all things necessary to be done in the name of Her Majesty, or in the name of His Excellency the Governor of the State, in and about the opening and holding of this Parliament, to deliver a message to the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, and to do all such other things as may be specially necessary to enable Parliament to perform acts which admit of no delay, as will more fully appear by the Commission itself, which must now be read.

The Clerk of the Parliaments read the Commission.

The PRESIDENT: Honourable members of the Legislative Council and members of the Legislative Assembly, we have it in command from His Excellency the Governor to acquaint you that His Excellency desires

that you take into your earnest consideration such matters as may be submitted to you.

Members of the Legislative Assembly, it being necessary that a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly be first chosen, it is His Excellency's pleasure that you, members of the Legislative Assembly, repair to your Chamber, and there, after members shall have been sworn, proceed to the election of one of your number to be your Speaker.

The Assembly then withdrew.

ASSENT TO BILLS

Royal assent to the following bills of last session reported:

Carcoar Dam Bill
 Copeton Dam Bill
 Crimes (Amendment) Bill
 Liquor (Amendment) Bill
 Lostock Dam Bill
 Mines Inspection (Amendment) Bill
 Permanent Building Societies (Amendment) Bill
 Second-hand Dealers and Collectors (Amendment) Bill
 Toonumbar Dam Bill
 Auctioneers and Agents (Amendment) Bill
 Government Railways (Superannuation) Amendment Bill
 Industrial Arbitration (Basic Wage) Amendment Bill
 Long Service Leave (Amendment) Bill
 Mining (Further Amendment) Bill
 Necropolis (Amendment) Bill
 Pipelines Bill
 Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill
 Stamp Duties (Further Amendment) Bill
 Superannuation (Amendment) Bill
 Survey Co-ordination (Amendment) Bill
 Technical Education Trust Funds Bill
 Transport Employees Retirement Benefits Bill
 Wesley College Incorporation (Amendment) Bill
 Workers' Compensation (Amendment) Bill
 Workers' Compensation (Dust Diseases) Amendment Bill
 Gas and Electricity (Amendment) Bill.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The PRESIDENT reported the receipt of communications from His Excellency the Governor intimating that leave of absence had been granted to the Hon. E. G. Wright, M.L.C., from 10th February, 1968, to 19th July, 1968, for the purpose of proceeding overseas; and to the Hon. R. C. Packer, M.L.C., from 3rd March, 1968, to 16th

April, 1968, for the purpose of proceeding overseas as an official delegate from Australia to attend a meeting of the National Association of Broadcasters, to be held in Chicago.

FORESTRY ACT: REVOCATION OF DEDICATION OF STATE FORESTS

The PRESIDENT: I have to report the receipt of the following communication from His Excellency, the Governor:

Government House, Sydney,
 7th December, 1967.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Resolution adopted by the Legislative Council on the 6th December, 1967, regarding the revocation of the dedication of parts of certain State Forests.

I have the honour to be,
 Sir,
 Your most obedient servant,
 A. R. CUTLER,
 Governor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

RESIGNATION

The PRESIDENT reported the receipt from His Excellency the Governor of a communication notifying the resignation of the Hon. John Markham Carter, C.B.E., M.C., on 18th March, 1968, and intimated that an entry recording the resignation had been duly made in the Register of Members.

VACANT SEAT

The PRESIDENT announced that, in accordance with the provisions of section 8 of the Constitution (Legislative Council Elections) Act, 1932-1961, he had notified His Excellency the Governor that the seat of the Hon. John Markham Carter, had become vacant before the expiration of his term of service through his resignation on 18th March, 1968.

NEW ADMINISTRATION

The Hon. A. D. BRIDGES (Minister for Child Welfare, Minister for Social Welfare, Advisory Minister for Transport and Vice-President of the Executive Council) [12.20]: I desire to inform the House that on 5th March, 1968, His Excellency the Governor accepted the resignation of the

Honourable Robin William Askin as Premier and Treasurer and as a Member of the Executive Council, which action involved the resignation of the whole of his colleagues; that His Excellency thereupon commissioned the Honourable Robin William Askin to form a Government, and that the following gentlemen were appointed and sworn in by His Excellency as Members of the Executive Council: The Hon. Robin William Askin, M.L.A., Premier and Treasurer; the Hon. Charles Benjamin Cutler, E.D., M.L.A., Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Science; the Hon. Eric Archibald Willis, B.A., M.L.A., Minister for Labour and Industry, Chief Secretary and Minister for Tourism; the Hon. Arthur Dalgety Bridges, M.L.C., Minister for Child Welfare Minister for Social Welfare, Advisory Minister for Transport and Vice-President of the Executive Council; the Hon. Davis Hughes, M.L.A., Minister for Public Works; the Hon. Kenneth Malcolm McCaw, M.L.A., Attorney-General; the Hon. Philip Henry Morton, M.L.A., Minister for Local Government and Minister for Highways; the Hon. John Bryan Munro Fuller, M.L.C., Minister for Decentralisation and Development; the Hon. Milton Arthur Morris, M.L.A., Minister for Transport; the Hon. Thomas Lancelot Lewis, M.L.A., Minister for Lands; the Hon. Jack Gordon Beale, M.E., M.L.A., Minister for Conservation; the Hon. Geoffrey Robertson Crawford, D.C.M., M.L.A., Minister for Agriculture; the Hon. Stanley Tunstall Stephens, M.L.A., Minister for Housing and Minister for Co-operative Societies; The Hon. John Clarkson Maddison, B.A., LL.B., M.L.A., Minister of Justice; the Hon. Arnold Henry Jago, M.L.A., Minister for Health; the Hon. Wallace Clyde Fife, M.L.A., Minister for Mines.

LAW OF EVIDENCE BILL (*pro formâ*)

FIRST READING

Bill presented and, on motion by the Hon. A. D. Bridges, read a first time.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

ISSUE OF WRIT FOR ELECTION

The PRESIDENT: I have to report the receipt of a message from His Excellency the Governor intimating that, with the advice of the Executive Council, he had issued a writ for the election, on Thursday, 11th April, of a member of the Legislative Council to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the Hon. J. M. Carter, C.B.E., M.C.

Writ read by the Clerk of the Parliaments.

The PRESIDENT directed that the taking of the votes of the members of the Legislative Council for the election of a member to the Council be set down as an order of the day for Thursday, 11th April, 1968, and intimated that on that day the taking of votes would take precedence of all other business.

DEATH OF LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR ERIC WINSLOW WOODWARD, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., K.St.J., A FORMER GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The Hon. A. D. BRIDGES (Minister for Child Welfare, Minister for Social Welfare, Advisory Minister for Transport and Vice-President of the Executive Council) [12.25]: I move, by consent and without notice:

(1) That this House desires to place on record its sense of the loss this State has sustained by the death of Lieutenant-General Sir Eric Winslow Woodward, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, Knight of the Most Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem, a former Governor of the State of New South Wales.

(2) That the President convey to the family the sympathy and sorrow of the Members of the Legislative Council of New South Wales in the loss they have sustained.

It will be appreciated, I am sure, that the loss sustained by the State upon the death of Sir Eric Woodward has been very deeply felt. We are all well aware of the significant impression that his death has made on the

people generally. Sir Eric Winslow Woodward was the first New South Welshman to become a Governor of this State. He was born at Hay on 21st July, 1899, of an old New South Wales family and was a member of the Australian Pioneers' Club. Sir Eric spent his childhood on sheep stations, his family originally having a big property between Hay and Deniliquin, which was lost due to an extensive drought—one of the many droughts which unfortunately have devastated this State from time to time. His father then took a position as station manager in Queensland, where Sir Eric was educated at the Toowoomba Grammar School. In 1917 he entered Duntroon Military Academy and was commissioned in the Staff Corps in 1920. In 1921–22 he served in India as an officer with the 7th Queen's Own Hussars and on return to Australia was seconded to the Royal Australian Air Force between 1925 and 1927, where he qualified as a pilot. On 7th February, 1927, he married Amy Weller, the daughter of Mr A. J. Weller, Q.C., and when he left in 1936 to attend the Staff College at Camberley she travelled with him to England, accompanied by their small son and daughter.

In October, 1939, he was seconded to the A.I.F. and served with the 6th Australian Division and the 1st Australian Corps in the Western Desert, the Greek and the Syrian campaigns, being awarded the Order of the British Empire after the Battle of Bardia. He also served briefly at A.I.F. headquarters and general headquarters of the Middle East land forces before transferring to the 9th Australian Division. For his services at Alamein with this division he was awarded an immediate D.S.O. He returned to Australia in 1943 and was attached to the Northern Territory forces for a short period, then to land headquarters, and he served with the Morotai force between August, 1945, and March, 1946. In 1947 Sir Eric went to England for a year to attend the Imperial Defence College, following which he was Australian army representative in the United Kingdom for twelve months. He was appointed

The Hon. A. D. Bridges]

Deputy Chief of the General Staff in 1951 and was the General Officer Commanding, Eastern Command, between 1953 and 1957.

Sir Eric was honoured by being raised to Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1952 and to Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath in 1956. He was appointed Governor of New South Wales by Commission dated 17th July, 1957, and took office on 1st August, 1957, following the retirement of Sir John Northcott from that position. Shortly afterwards he was made a Knight of the Most Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem and on 1st January, 1958, was invested as Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George, receiving the further honour of Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in 1963, following the visit of Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. During his term of office, Sir Eric acted as host to more members of the Royal family than all his predecessors combined.

Sir Eric was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Letters at Sydney University and the New England University and an honorary Doctorate of Science at the University of New South Wales. He was a keen swimmer and tennis player, and enjoyed his golf. During his distinguished service as Governor of New South Wales for eight years he also acted as Administrator of the Government of the Commonwealth during the absence of the Governor-General from Australia from 15th June, 1964, to 31st August, 1964, and swore in the first non-Labor cabinet for twenty-four years on 13th May, 1965.

Following his retirement on 31st July, 1965, Sir Eric and Lady Woodward moved to a residence in Wahroonga. It was well known in the area that he thoroughly enjoyed being able to provide swimming facilities for hundreds of children, many of them under privileged. Spastic children and others thus had the opportunity to swim in Sir Eric's private pool, gaining materially in consequence thereof. The former Governor passed away on 29th December, 1967, being survived by Lady Woodward, his son, Mr A. E. Woodward, Q.C., of Melbourne, and his daughter,

Mrs M. Little, of Rose Bay. All those who knew the late Sir Eric Woodward recognized his sterling worth and the fact that he enjoyed the responsibility of the many duties that were thrust upon him from time to time. Undoubtedly his loss will be a most grievous one for this State.

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING (Leader of the Opposition) [12.34]: I should like to join with the Leader of the Government in expressing our sincere sorrow over the loss sustained by the State through the death of Sir Eric Woodward. His distinguished career should cause us to realize how splendid was the service that he rendered to his country. Its extent may not be recognized by many people, for we all tend to forget. For this reason I am pleased that the Minister has reminded us of it today. I had the opportunity of getting to know Sir Eric well. As Attorney-General and adviser to the Crown, I was often required to discuss matters with His Excellency. I always considered Sir Eric to be one of nature's gentlemen, and he performed his duties as this State's representative of the Queen in the best possible traditions. He lost nothing in comparison with his predecessors in this high office. As Governor of this State he was most conscientious, and he sincerely endeavoured to perform his functions to the highest standards. There was scarcely a function to which he was invited in any part of New South Wales that he did not attend. He took a personal interest in any part of the State that he visited. It is to be regretted that after such a distinguished career he did not have the good fortune to enjoy his retirement for as many years as we should all have liked.

It is with a great sense of sorrow that we extend our sympathy to Lady Woodward and to Sir Eric's two children. His sudden death was a great shock to me. At a time like this it is difficult to express adequately our sympathy and our sense of loss to Lady Woodward and his son and daughter. They can be assured that Sir Eric will long be remembered for his distinguished career and his services to Australia prior to occupying the office of Governor of this State as well as for his work in that position. The high standard that he set and the admiration, good feeling and

appreciation of the community for him will no doubt be some consolation to his widow and children. I feel that I cannot adequately express my own sympathy and sorrow, which I am sure are shared by all members of this House, to Sir Eric's widow and children.

The Hon. J. B. M. FULLER (Minister for Decentralisation and Development) [12.36]: I support the motion. Sir Eric served for almost a record term as Governor of this State.

The Hon. A. A. ALAM: What about Sir John Northcott?

The Hon. J. B. M. FULLER: I said almost a record term. As the first occupant of this office born in New South Wales, the manner in which he performed his duties was regarded with great interest. After all, his appointment was certainly a break with tradition. Those of us who had anything to do with Sir Eric Woodward in his early years in his new post immediately realized that we had in him someone who, as the Leader of the Opposition has said, could follow faithfully in the footsteps of other Governors of New South Wales—and we have had some most notable occupants of that office in our history. I know Sir Eric felt that his sudden move from the army to the position of Governor of New South Wales—into what is largely a social position, involving the making of many speeches in somewhat different circumstances—would be for him an arduous task. I know also that he spent a tremendous amount of time preparing the speeches that he made at the many functions he attended so that he could at all times do full justice to his job.

His love was always with the land. He was born at Hay and later moved to Queensland. When he visited a country town he took great interest in the living conditions and problems of the people of the district, whether they lived and worked in the town or on the land. It is indeed to be regretted that Sir Eric and Lady Woodward had such a short time together in retirement at Wahroonga. I know that he was looking forward to the pursuit of gardening, which was one of his close interests. To Sir Eric's son and his

daughter, Mrs Little, I extend on behalf of the Country Party our deep sense of loss as well as our appreciation to Lady Woodward for the fine job that her husband did in serving this State for such a long time during his most distinguished career. One need only refer to the record of Sir Eric to realize what a splendid job he did for the nation as well as for this State.

Honourable members and officers of the House standing in their places,

Motion agreed to.

DEATH OF THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
HAROLD EDWARD HOLT, P.C., C.H.,
LL.B., PRIME MINISTER OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

The Hon. A. D. BRIDGES (Minister for Child Welfare, Minister for Social Welfare, Advisory Minister for Transport and Vice-President of the Executive Council) [12.40]: I move, by consent and without notice:

(1) That this House desires to place on record its sense of the loss this State and the Commonwealth have sustained by the tragic death of the Right Honourable Harold Edward Holt, Privy Councillor, Companion of Honour, Bachelor of Laws, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia.

(2) That the President convey this resolution to Mrs Holt and family, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the Members of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, in the loss they have sustained.

I am sure that it came as a very hard blow to all of us when we heard the news, immediately before the close of the year, that the Rt Hon. Harold Holt had apparently passed away in the seas off the Victorian coast. Of course, it has now been officially declared that he is presumed to have lost his life in the sea near the home of his family and the place that he loved so dearly. Mr Holt's departure from active political life came as a shock to everyone in the community, regardless of political allegiance. Although he was Prime Minister for less than two years, he had been a member of the House of Representatives for most of his life; indeed, he had served in the House of Representatives for thirty years and had been a member of the ministry for eighteen years. He assumed the

highest office in the land at the very prime of his life, and the great tasks that he had set himself were unfinished at the time of his tragic departure. The tragedies of East Asia are still unresolved. It can never be doubted that Harold Holt set himself the task, in Australia's name, of alleviating the problems not only of every section of the community in Australia but also of communities in other countries throughout the world. He dedicated his life and knowledge to enhancing the opportunity of all people to participate in the affairs of the world.

Mr Harold Holt was a modest man. I knew him for many years. As an original sponsor of the Liberal Party, I participated with him in the federal council of the Liberal Party; also, I was one of the people who conferred with him frequently on the policies of our nation. He was modest; he mixed well, and he had no hesitation whatever in discussing the problems of people whether they agreed or disagreed with him. As a young man he soon became a colleague of Sir Robert Menzies, who arranged for him to be withdrawn from the A.I.F. in 1941 to found the Ministry of Labour and National Service. Harold Holt was the architect of child endowment, and his access to the industrial advocates of Australia ensured that, upon the re-election of his party to govern in 1949, he would again be invited to assume the duties and office of Minister for Labour and National Service. He was always progressive and constantly active; he was eminently successful in everything he undertook.

Later Mr Holt was given the task of administering the Department of Immigration. This was at a time when the Commonwealth's immigration policy was being assailed in many parts of the world. While Australia sought to increase its population, it nevertheless had to maintain certain principles as to the type of migrant to be encouraged to come to and remain in Australia. Mr Holt not only preserved the prestige of Australia but also at the same time extended a helping hand to the people who were entitled to assistance from this wonderful country of ours. Some years ago he succeeded Sir Arthur Fadden as the

Treasurer of the Commonwealth—a portfolio that never has been easy to administer. I know that the Hon. R. R. Downing will agree with me that whenever he attended Canberra to confer with the federal Treasurer and other officers concerning problems affecting the financial stability of the State, Mr Holt was always approachable and had a true appreciation of the problems of State governments.

The late Prime Minister passed away at the very peak of his manhood, and we shall never forget what he did to enrich this country and the world. Our thoughts go out to Mrs Zara Holt and her family; also to his legion of friends who were constantly around him. The Commonwealth as a whole benefited greatly from his wish at all times to advance the interests of the country to which he was so dedicated.

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING (Leader of the Opposition) [12.45]: I join with the Vice-President of the Executive Council in expressing our sympathy to Mrs Holt and her family upon the sudden and tragic death of the Prime Minister. The suddenness and the nature of Mr Holt's death came as a shock to the community, for he had been in the public eye for many years. As my federal leader has said, Mr Holt was recognized in the Commonwealth Parliament as a great parliamentarian who was aware of the functions of parliament and how they should be performed. As the Hon. E. G. Whitlam said, he was one of the truly great parliamentarians of the federal Parliament.

The late Prime Minister was not unknown to members of the Labor Party and my colleagues in the industrial sphere in this State. It has been said already that he was Minister for Labour and National Service prior to the election of the Curtin Government in 1941, and subsequently upon the election of the Menzies Government in 1949. I agree that one of his characteristics was that he was always approachable and ready to listen to the problems that were brought to him. Though he might not agree to the solutions that were

suggested, I have been informed by my colleagues that when serious problems confronted Australia and the industrial movement during his term of office as Minister for Labour and National Service, he was at least always approachable and appreciative of the difficulties.

I met the late Prime Minister on many occasions at meetings of the Loan Council, where he displayed the same characteristics as he did when Minister for Labour and National Service. He was a most courteous man, and gave great attention to the problems that confronted the States. Of course, having his duty to perform as Treasurer of the Commonwealth, we could not always persuade him to accept the views of the States, but at the same time I believe that, as a national leader, he had an appreciation of our difficulties.

To the great sorrow of the people, and in dramatic circumstances, we lost a Prime Minister in his full manhood and vigour. I am sure that his loss must have been a tremendous personal shock to his close colleagues, and particularly to Mrs Holt and her family. The unexpectedness of the loss made it all the more tragic. We join with the Vice-President of the Executive Council in extending our sincerest sympathy to Mrs Holt and her family.

The Hon. J. B. M. FULLER (Minister for Decentralisation and Development) [12.50]: I join with my colleague and the Leader of the Opposition in paying tribute to the work of Harold Holt as Prime Minister of Australia. Great tributes to our late Prime Minister have already been paid by leaders from all over the world; indeed, the gathering at the memorial service in Melbourne was probably the only one of its kind ever to have taken place in this country. I believe that almost everything possible has already been said by way of tribute to the service and work of Harold Holt not only in Australia but also in our commitments with other nations. That Sunday in December was a sad and dramatic time for the people of Australia. The suddenness of the disaster upset the average Australian; indeed, I believe it upset more Australians than any similar occurrence in the history of this country. This was possibly attributable to the friendly approach

that the Prime Minister and Mrs Holt had towards so many people. As a result, a tremendous number of Australians felt that they had suffered a personal loss; this was a feeling that was held throughout the nation during that Sunday, Monday and Tuesday in December, 1967.

As the Deputy Leader of the Government in this House, and also as the Leader of the Country Party in this House, I wish to say how much my party sorrows at the passing of the Prime Minister. For many years Harold Holt worked closely in coalition with members of the Country Party. We found him interested in our problems and always receptive to our thinking. I join with my colleague and the Leader of the Opposition in extending our sympathy to Mrs Zara Holt and her family. I support the motion.

The Hon. Sir EDWARD WARREN [12.53]: I join with the two Ministers and my colleague the Hon. R. R. Downing; I shall not call him the Leader of the Opposition for I maintain that there is no Opposition here. I was associated for many years with the Rt Hon Harold Holt. When he was Minister for Labour and National Service he was always a fair man. As Chairman of the Australian Coal Association we were in constant contact on industrial matters. I am pleased that the Hon. Reg Downing used the words he did when he mentioned the manner in which Harold Holt dealt with industrial troubles. Industrial contacts were started off by the Rt Hon. J. B. Chifley, who I always found most fair. Mr Holt was at all times most sympathetic when he was dealing with the coalmining industry, and during his time the coalminers as well as owners got a fair deal.

I have been associated with Mr Holt and Mrs Zara Holt for many years, and I know that Australia has sustained a great loss in losing such an outstanding man. We might be inclined to forget what the late Prime Minister did in the promotion of Australia in Asia. However, I continue to see evidence of how he is missed not only here but also overseas. Only this morning I saw evidence of this when I was speaking to a fourteen-member delegation from Japan;

also, it was evident at a conference I attended in Honolulu, where representatives from the Pacific Basin, America, Japan, Canada, New Zealand and Australia paid compliments and tributes to our late Prime Minister. Mr Holt was a man who could be termed a generous and gracious gentleman. I am happy to have the opportunity of being associated with the sentiments that have been expressed today by the two Ministers and by my colleague the Hon. Reg Downing.

Honourable members and officers of the House standing in their places,

Motion agreed to.

CANTERBURY MUNICIPALITY (BAZENTIN AND PERSIC STREETS RECREATION RESERVE) BILL

PETITION

The Hon. J. J. Maloney presented a petition from the Belfield Sub-branch of the Returned Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) Incorporated, praying that the Canterbury Municipality (Bazentin and Persic Streets Recreation Reserve) Bill, introduced during the previous session and referred to a select committee, be proceeded with.

Petition received on motion by the Hon. J. J. Maloney.

FIRST READING

Bill presented and, on motion by the Hon. J. J. Maloney, read a first time.

SELECT COMMITTEE

Motion, (by the Hon. J. J. Maloney) agreed to:

(1) That the Canterbury Municipality (Bazentin and Persic Streets Recreation Reserve) Bill, together with the Petition and all papers and documents referred to, and the Minutes of Proceedings of, and evidence taken before the Select Committee appointed on 5th December, 1967, be referred to a Select Committee for consideration and report, with leave to sit during any adjournment of the House, and to make visits of inspection, to examine witnesses and take evidence thereat.

(2) That such Committee consist of the following Members, viz., Mr Bridges, Mr Bowen, Sir Hector Clayton, Mr Jackson, Mr Keighley, Mr McKay, Mr McPherson, Mrs Roper, Mr Vickery and the Mover.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by the Hon. A. D. Bridges), agreed to:

That this House, at its rising today, do adjourn until Thursday next at 4.30 p.m., sharp.

ADJOURNMENT

RESIGNATION OF THE HON. J. M. CARTER

The Hon. A. D. BRIDGES (Minister for Child Welfare, Minister for Social Welfare, Advisory Minister for Transport and Vice-President of the Executive Council) [1.3]: I move:

That this House do now adjourn.

I crave a few minutes of the time of the House to refer to a letter that has been received by me from the Hon. John Markham Carter, whose notice of resignation was given to the House today, having been received and accepted by His Excellency the Governor. Our former colleague wrote to me in this way:

Would you please convey to all honourable members my very sincere gratitude for the many kindnesses that I have received during my term as a fellow member. I have enjoyed every minute of it and shall always count it as a great privilege to have known and worked with them. It remains only to extend my best wishes for the future to each and every one of them.

I am sure that what Mr Carter has set out in his letter is typical of the man. At all times he has been a most honoured gentleman, one who is greatly respected by honourable members on both sides of the House for being a person who devoted an enormous amount of effort to the tasks that were entrusted to him. He felt that he did not fulfil his duties unless he spent the whole of his time during the sittings of this House in this Chamber, and he would sit on this side or the other listening intently to every word. He was not one to take the line of least resistance and leave the Chamber to be more comfortable outside; rather was he keenly interested in every measure that came before the House. He spoke with enormous knowledge on a multiplicity of matters and I am sure that every word he uttered was deeply appreciated by everyone here.

We marked and admired his tremendous knowledge of highly technical matters. He spoke on sociological problems as well as

technical subjects and debated matters associated with the medical and pharmaceutical professions as well as the man on the land, and finance. He had a great knowledge of veterinary science. In fact there was scarcely a subject debated here in which he was not fully versed. When he spoke he received the applause of all honourable members, who realized that no member was of greater value to the parliamentary institution than a man with these attributes. We shall indeed miss our former colleague.

It may be remembered that Mr Carter was born in Burma, the son of an Englishman. However, he lived in Australia for many years and worked on the land. He became a member of the Country Party, and contributed greatly to the success of that party, of which later he became president, holding that position from 1952 until 1957. In 1954 he became a member of the Legislative Council. At the expiration of his first term of twelve years he expressed the desire to relinquish the burden and responsibilities of membership. However, he was particularly asked to remain on, and I am sure that the House gained materially from his doing so.

The Hon. C. COLBORNE: Was there something in the offing?

The Hon. A. D. BRIDGES: The Hon. J. M. Carter was never seeking anything for himself. He sought always to give, never to receive. He sought to give us the benefit of his knowledge and great wisdom. I am sure that there is no honourable member who does not now express a great deal of concern indeed that we shall no longer have him in our midst. Therefore, on the motion for the adjournment of this House today, I want to place on record my personal appreciation and, I am sure, the personal appreciation of all honourable members, at the fact that we have had the worth and the benefits that have arisen from our association with this great man.

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING (Leader of the Opposition) [1.10]: All honourable members of this Chamber will agree that members of the Government have suffered a great loss in the departure of the Hon.

J. M. Carter from this House. He is a very knowledgeable man and, as the Minister has said, he gave the whole of his attention to the matters before the Chamber. He is particularly well versed in scientific topics and I am sure that on many occasions we have all listened to him with keen delight and a great deal of interest, and were much better informed at the conclusion of his speeches than we were beforehand. All honourable members will have the misfortune to listen to me and other members who are not so well informed or not so interesting and, to that extent, I am sorry that the Hon. J. M. Carter has left this Chamber.

I have in mind another matter, which I think it inappropriate to deal with at this stage, but I mention it to the Minister now. At a more appropriate stage I propose to say something about the circumstances of the Hon. J. M. Carter's resignation.

The Hon. J. B. M. FULLER (Minister for Decentralisation and Development) [1.13]: I have been a personal friend of the Hon. J. M. Carter for something like twenty-five years. I first met him when he was very active in producer organizations within this State. The Hon. A. D. Bridges has mentioned that the Hon. J. M. Carter, an Englishman, came to Australia very early in life. I think it is of interest to mention that he served in the Australian Light Horse. When he came back, he had a property at Gundagai, on which he did remarkably well. This illustrates that he had a very wide field of ability. It is not often that someone does very well on the land, starting from next to nothing, and rises to heights in other fields, but the Hon. J. M. Carter did. He took a continuously keen interest in organizations associated with his work on the land, and this is how he became chairman of the Country Party from 1952 to 1957, the full five-year term. During that period the Hon. J. M. Carter had a lot to do with Sir Arthur Fadden. Sir Arthur Fadden and he, travelling together on election campaigns or worrying about the Wool Sales Deduction Act, must have been a wonderful combination, for between them they had not only the experience, but also the ability to establish their case.

Many people have served in this Council with the Hon. J. M. Carter for longer than I have, but everyone must realize the ability and intense interest that the Hon. J. M. Carter showed at all times in the workings of this House. His application to his job as a member of the Legislative Council was something that might well be followed by members who come into this House in future. He did what he should have done as a member. The Hon. J. M. Carter looked closely at every piece of legislation that came before this Chamber and, if necessary, went to the library and engaged in sufficient research to ensure that he was properly informed and in a position to speak on the legislation if he so desired.

The Hon. J. M. Carter has been referred to as a gentleman. In this House he set a very high standard that could be followed by all of us in the future. I shall be losing from this Chamber somebody who has been a very close friend for twenty-five years. I know that we shall all miss the Hon. J. M. Carter's contributions to the workings of this House. I hope that in his retirement he continues to take an interest in the government of New South Wales and that on occasion he comes along to the House to see us.

The Hon. T. P. GLEESON [1.15]: I should like to associate myself with the eloquent and well-deserved tributes that have been paid to the work of the Hon. J. M. Carter by the Hon. A. D. Bridges, the Hon. R. R. Downing and the Hon. J. B. M. Fuller. I am sure that every honourable member has learned the Hon. J. M. Carter's value and worth during his membership here. He had very strong views but, in expressing them, he never gave offence or showed malice towards another member. When he had completed his argument, although one might disagree with the opinions that he had expressed, one would have a greater admiration than ever for the man who had expounded them. He was a gentleman in every particular, in and out of the House, and we shall all be the poorer for his resignation. I learned to admire him in this House and I am sure that he made a great contribution during

his term here. It is very fitting indeed that the Hon. A. D. Bridges and the Hon. R. R. Downing should have stated so eloquently and so fully the work that he has done here, and I should like to associate myself with the expressions of appreciation that have been made.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. J. M. Carter and I have been very close friends and colleagues for very many years. I share with all members the great sense of regret that he is not in this Chamber with us any longer, and I shall say no more than that. To me personally, his resignation was a very great loss indeed.

Motion agreed to.

House adjourned at 1.18 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 26 March, 1968

First Session of the Forty-second Parliament—Opening of Session—Oath of Allegiance—Members Sworn—Election of Speaker—Presentation of Mr Speaker—New Administration—Government Whip—Leader and Deputy Leader of Country Party—Country Party Whip—Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition—Opposition Whip—Election of Chairman of Committees—Assent to Bills—State Forests: Revocation of Dedications—Legislative Council (Issue of Writ for Election)—Law of Evidence Bill (*pro forma*) (first reading)—Message from the Commissioners—Questions without Notice—Death of the Hon. E. P. Kinsella, C.B.E., ex-M.L.A.—Death of Lieutenant-General Sir Eric Winslow Woodward, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., K.St.J., a former Governor of New South Wales—Death of the Right Honourable Harold Edward Holt, C.H., Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia—Death of M. B. Cohen, B.Ec., Member for Bligh—Adjournment.

FIRST SESSION OF THE FORTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT

The House met at noon, pursuant to the proclamation of His Excellency the Governor convening Parliament.

The Clerk read the proclamation.

The Clerk announced that he had received a list, certified by His Excellency the Governor, of the names of the members to serve in this Parliament, together with the writs on which they had been returned; with His Excellency's certification that the writs had been returned prior to the day by which they were by law returnable.

OPENING OF SESSION

The Usher of the Black Rod, being admitted, delivered a message from the Commissioners requesting the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Commission for the opening of Parliament read.

The House went, and members having returned,

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

The Clerk informed the House that His Excellency the Governor had issued a Commission authorizing the Hon. Robin William Askin, the Hon. Charles Benjamin Cutler and the Hon. Eric Archibald Willis to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen required by law to be taken or made by members of the Assembly. The Clerk read the Commission.

MEMBERS SWORN

All members took the oath or made an affirmation, and subscribed the roll.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Mr GRIFFITH (Cronulla) [1.11]: Mr Clerk, I move:

That Kevin Ellis, Esquire, Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Economics, do take the chair of this House as Speaker.

The office of Speaker is the highest position to which Parliament can elevate one of its members. The position of Speaker carries a very heavy burden of responsibility and requires a rather special type of person. The Speaker must have a deep and abiding respect for the institution of Parliament, a thorough knowledge and experience of its procedures and standing orders and, above all else, the wisdom to apply this knowledge with fairness to all. The Speaker must have strength of character and self-discipline to tolerate the loneliness which his high office brings him: he is cut off from many day-to-day activities in the party rooms, from the cut and thrust of debate in the House, and from the activities generally experienced by members in this quite fascinating parliamentary life.