

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 8 September, 1953.

Printed Question and Answer—Death of the Hon. C. E. Martin, Q.C., M.Ec., LL.B., M.L.A.

Mr. SPEAKER took the chair at 2.30 p.m.

The opening Prayer was read.

PRINTED QUESTION AND ANSWER.

PRICES BRANCH.

Mr. JACK BEALE asked the MINISTER FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER FOR SOCIAL WELFARE:—Will he inform the House,—(1) The cost of maintaining the Prices Branch during the year ended 30th June, 1953? (2) The number of—(a) persons on the staff of the Prices Branch; (b) inspectors employed; (c) prosecutions launched during the year ended 30th June, 1953; (d) shops visited during the same period; (e) other premises visited during this period; (f) checks made during this period; (g) prosecutions launched during this period resulting from (f) above?

Answer.—(1) £285,657 14s. 6d. (2) (a) Persons now on staff of Prices Branch number 209; (b) inspectors employed: 130 officers are engaged as investigating officers; forty-two of these are principally engaged upon enforcement of prices orders. The balance are engaged upon investigation work on applications for price increases, including cost checks and financial reviews, industry surveys, preparation of prices orders and necessary supervision; (c) 1,982; (d) traders visited for price checks, 37,276; (e) statistics are not available to record the number of premises visited by all officers during the year. In addition to the figures quoted in reply to 2 (d), officers are continually visiting manufacturers, wholesalers, boarding houses, hotels and trade associations in the course of conducting inquiries and making inspections for the purpose of price fixations; (f) number of items price checked, 226,486; (g) statistics not readily available to specifically reply. Action on some files for period still incomplete. Attention is drawn to the figure given in reply to 2 (c).

DEATH OF THE HON. C. E. MARTIN, Q.C., M.Ec., LL.B., M.L.A.

Mr. J. J. CAHILL (Cook's River),
Premier and Colonial Treasurer [2.30]: I move:

(1) That this House desires to place on record its sense of the loss this State has sustained by the death of the Hon. Clarence Edward Martin, member for Waverley and Minister for Transport in the State of New South Wales.

(2) That Mr. Speaker be requested to communicate to Mrs. Martin and the son of the deceased the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in the loss they have sustained.

(3) That, as a tribute of respect, this House do now adjourn.

All the pleasure associated with my home-coming has been shattered by the sad death of a trusted and loyal colleague during many momentous years. The sudden passing of Mr. Martin has shocked me and also the community deeply. Clarrie Martin and I had a long and close association in this Parliament dating back twenty-three years. Mr. Martin undoubtedly was one of the most capable and energetic Ministers in the Cabinet during five successive Parliaments, and there is for me, and I do not doubt there is for all members of this House, an ineffable sorrow at the knowledge that a very kindly, generous and courteous gentleman has gone from among us.

Mr. Martin had already made his indelible mark in Australian public life, and though he has gone now for always from these front benches, there is none of us here who will fail to remember him, blithe in spirit, tough but courteous in debate, spontaneous in wit, and a happy friend of us all. Parliamentary work, particularly that which embraces ministerial and administrative responsibilities, takes its severe toll. Clarrie Martin never eased up. He never begrudged that extra effort—those extra, long hours of work in the office and in Parliament—which gave results that always reflected credit on himself and on the Government. Mr. Martin entered this Parliament first as member for Young away back in 1930 when he was only thirty years of age and the youngest of the then members of this House. There

was a gap between 1932 and 1939, and then he was chosen by the electors of Waverley, who not only maintained but increased their confidence in his representation right up to the time of his death. He became a Minister of the Crown in 1941, and his twelve years as Attorney-General has set an all-time record.

It was because of my great confidence in Mr. Martin's administrative ability that shortly after the last elections I asked him to take control of the Transport Department. Even in the short period that he was in charge of rail, tram, bus and ferry services, he had produced results that showed clearly that he had the capacity to grapple with the transport problem in a practical and successful manner, and to get results which presaged even more graphic achievements than those which signalised his first seven months in charge.

Clarrie Martin, as a boy in Broken Hill, enjoyed fewer advantages than did most youths. He came up out of the ranks, under great handicaps, to make a wonderful success of his life by his own unaided efforts and unusual mental attainments. Born at Ballarat in Victoria, he came to Broken Hill with his parents when very young. He lost his father, a hard-working miner, and his mother, when he was only a child, and was thrown on his own resources. He obtained employment at the Barrier and devoted all his spare time to study. Winning a series of scholarships he achieved entrance to the University of Sydney and as a result of further hard study he gained, in succession, the degrees of Bachelor of Economics, Master of Economics and Bachelor of Laws. He won his Master of Economics degree with honours and was awarded the University Medal in Public Administration. Before he won the Young seat he was a high school teacher and a University district tutor. From 1933 to 1936 he was staff training officer with the Australian Gas Light Co. and in 1936 was admitted to practice at the Bar. He enlisted in the A.I.F. in World War II and during his four years of service he rose to the rank of major. He saw service in New Guinea, Papua and Dutch New Guinea. All his army pay went into the State Treasury.

Mr. J. J. Cahill.]

He built up a considerable practice in the Sydney courts until he re-entered Parliament as member for Waverley in 1939. As a distinguished scholar, Clarrie Martin had no peer in this Parliament. He was the author of a number of learned publications and treatises and he won particular distinction as a lecturer in political economics and other subjects. In this House he was one of the Government's outstanding speakers. His life was one long battle. He was successively miner, insurance salesman, statistical officer, research officer, school teacher, tutor and barrister. Those of us who knew him most intimately always held him in high esteem for his buoyant spirit which triumphed to the very last over recurring and worsening ill health.

We shall remember Clarrie Martin as one of the best of good fellows but we shall remember him also as the Attorney-General who served a record term of office and who instituted law reforms including the creation of the offices of Public Solicitor and Public Defender. In a tribute to our late colleague, the Leader of the Federal Labour Party said that Mr. Martin freely gave of his scholarship in the field of adult education as a member of the Senate of the University of Sydney, as a trustee of the Public Library and as President of the New South Wales Fabian Society.

The passing of Mr. Martin is a great loss not only to the Australian Labour Party and to the Government but also to the State which he served so outstandingly and so well. Members on both sides of the House will miss his keen reasoning, his great understanding, his engaging personality, and his unfailing courtesy. The good that a man does lives after him, and much that Clarrie Martin has left will be remembered by posterity.

On behalf of all hon. members I express sincere sympathy with Mrs. Martin and her son Kevin. They have certainly suffered a great loss, because our late colleague's son has not yet reached the school leaving age. Notwithstanding Clarrie Martin's brilliance and the great contribution that he made to the public life of this State he has gone, and the difficulties associated

with the bringing up of his family remain. That seems to be a price that has to be paid in public life.

As one who has been associated for many years with the late member in this Parliament and in the Cabinet I can say that my ministerial colleagues and I will greatly miss his counsels. He always had regard for the views of the other fellow.

The life of the late Minister is an example in the finest tradition of a man who gave himself unsparingly for the public good of this country, and his memory will live after his death to show that no matter what difficulties a public man has to face, whether he is able to overcome all of them or not, the public will remember him as one who tried earnestly and succeeded. The late Clarrie Martin played a great part in the advancement of this young country of ours. He will be sadly missed in this Chamber, especially for his keen wit and his clear method of explanation. Those were only two of the high qualities that commended him to every person in this House. The Government is poorer for the passing of the late Mr. Martin and I sincerely hope that the benefits that he brought to the State of New South Wales, the knowledge that he used unstintingly in its service, and the encouragement that he gave to all sections of the community—the imperishable attributes that he leaves with us—will inspire us to greater and better things. The privilege that we have had of knowing the late C. E. Martin and the benefit that we have had from his many years of service in this House are some little consolation for us in this hour of sorrow.

Mr. TREATT (Woollahra) [2.43]: My colleagues and I wish to be closely associated with the motion that has been placed before the House by the Premier. It gives me deep sorrow that on my return to this House we are lamenting the death of one who was not only my parliamentary colleague but also my personal friend. My association with the late Clarrie Martin goes back for many years indeed. When I first met him he was associated with the Workers' Educational Association, a fine movement, that was very dear to his heart as I know from

my many personal discussions with him. In those distant years I talked with him about his engaging in the practice of law and I was privileged to lend him such of my books as I could spare. I had not been long at the Bar then myself. At his invitation I visited Newcastle and addressed meetings of the Workers' Educational Association, and from those beginnings our friendship ripened. Later it was my happy experience to be the representative of the opposing party in the first legal action that he conducted in court. The friendship between Clarrie Martin and me persisted despite the acerbities and vicissitudes that are naturally but perhaps unhappily connected with public life.

Clarrie Martin's association with the Workers' Educational Association, which I have mentioned, was indicative of his character. His affection for this movement was based upon a deep sense of social justice, which was markedly noticeable, as I believe hon. members will agree, in his administration of the office of Attorney-General of this State. I believe that to him the law was not merely a matter of precedent and of case and statute law divorced from the needs of the community, but rather an instrument by which the citizens, particularly the poorer and less privileged ones, might be protected. To Clarrie Martin the law was a branch of the science of sociology, to which he directed a lot of his attention. I firmly believe that the law of this State has been the better for his record term of office as Attorney-General. I have only to instance the offices of Public Solicitor and Public Defender, and his administrative efforts to provide legal assistance for the poorer members of the community, to exemplify his deep and abiding interest in the sociological aspects of the law.

As a close friend of Clarrie Martin I noticed that in this House he frequently paid generous tribute to the officers of his department and to his personal assistants. There was nothing selfish about our late colleague, and his acknowledgment of the work of others was typical of his generosity. I believe that this attribute, together with his cheerfulness and his courtesy, made him one of the most popular members of this Assembly. To Mrs. Martin and her son

in their sad loss I sincerely extend the deep sympathy of my colleagues and myself.

Lt.-Colonel BRUXNER (Tenterfield) [2.48]: My colleagues and I wish to be closely associated with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in support of the motion and to convey to Mrs. Martin and Kevin our profound sympathy in the loss of a husband and a father at much too early an age. It is a pity that Clarrie Martin, as we in this Chamber knew him, took on his shoulders his last task in the administration of the Transport portfolio—an undertaking to which his health was not equal. I speak feelingly, for I held the portfolio for nearly ten years and well know the exceedingly heavy demands that it makes upon even a fit person's mental and physical powers. Clarrie Martin was a sick man when he accepted the task and he did not give himself a chance. It is possible that had he not undertaken the administration of this portfolio he would be with us to-day.

I knew Clarrie Martin throughout his political life but, unlike the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, I did not know him in his earlier years. I had great respect for our late colleague, because I knew the story of his rise and of the manner in which he overcame difficulties and ultimately qualified himself in many respects to a degree that few of us are able to attain. I remember him in his early days when he contested and won the electorate of Young. He was always a sturdy opponent and one knew that when Clarrie Martin was about one would have a proper fight. He and I crossed swords many times on the hustings at Young—less frequently when he came to the city. I always found him worthy of one's steel, for he was a man who could hit hard. He was logical and courteous and he handled measures in this House probably as well as has any other Minister I have seen in my long period of service in this House. The late Clarrie Martin never lost his temper, and he who keeps that in this place is always hard to combat in debate. We came to know each other very well in the political life.

My colleagues and I are indeed sorry that he has been called away so early. I do not believe that the community generally realises just what parliamentary life means. Only a little while ago I was in the lobby looking at a photograph of members of this House taken in 1924. I was somewhat surprised and shocked to find that of all the persons in that group I am the only one who is still here. In that short period of less than thirty years I have seen men come and go. The toll of public life is severe indeed and, incidentally, it does not bring much grist to one's mill. When a man dies so comparatively early in life, as did Clarrie Martin, and leaves a young wife and young son, their problem deserves the sympathetic consideration of us all. That is why my colleagues and I want to associate ourselves in every way with the motion.

Mr. FRED CAHILL (Young) [3.53]: On behalf of the people of the Young electorate and my own family I want to associate myself with the motion. Probably no section of the community knew the late Clarrie Martin so intimately as did the people of the town and district of Young. I first met him when I went to that town in 1923 to take up a journalistic appointment. He and I became firm friends and we remained so ever since. I can speak of Clarrie and his work, not only in the electorate of Young, but also in the Newcastle and the Sydney metropolitan areas. In 1923 Young was a typical backward country town. It had no water supply and water shortages recurred almost every summer. Indeed, the town had none of the amenities which most country towns now enjoy. The standard of education in the district was low compared with what has since been achieved in this field. Consequently, the late Clarrie Martin found ample scope at Young for the pursuit of those educational and civic ideals which he held so dear.

At the time there was only a central school at Young, and he and other enthusiastic teachers, men and women with university training formed a little band, of which I had the honour to be a member, in order to try to improve local educational

facilities. Our first achievement was to persuade the government of the day to make available that magnificent court-house erected on the site of a former soldiers' camp at Camp Hill. It was handed over to the Education Department and is now a full high school. Thanks to the work of Clarrie Martin and his associates, educational facilities at Young were lifted from the primary to intermediate high school standard. Subsequently, of course, it became a high school. Naturally, Clarrie realised that as a citizen of a town such as Young he had to be concerned with more than just his work. It was owing to the drive of the little team that he formed around him that in those days so much was done for both civic affairs and education.

He then turned to the wider job of lecturing to the Workers' Educational Association's University tutorial classes. They were remarkable classes and attended by persons from all sections of the community, and I was very happy when he asked me to take the job of secretary. On one occasion Clarrie was attacked by a person who suggested that as he had very strong political ideas he might express them through his lectures. I remember that the late Mr. Wareham, who could never be described as a Labour supporter, was the first to spring to Clarrie's defence and say that he had never known him to do anything but set out fairly both sides of the question. That was typical of Clarrie's work in the Workers' Educational Association and the Education Department.

In those days the old gaol at Young was just a pile of stone, used to no good purpose. It is now one of the finest technical colleges in New South Wales. Much was accomplished after Clarrie left Young, but the foundation work was done during those memorable days.

In 1926 Clarrie went to Newcastle, and I can never forget the representative attendance at his farewell in the Southern Cross Hall, Young, on 14th March, 1926. The citizens of Young handed him a magnificent illuminated address, signed by representatives of all sections of the community. Looking at it only this week-end, I noticed upon it the signature of

the brother of the present Leader of the Opposition, whose family was closely associated with the life of Young.

Our late colleague returned to Young later to contest the local seat in the State Parliament. I was his campaign director. Clarrie won the seat for Labour in 1930, but was defeated at the 1932 elections. His application to rejoin the Education Department was rejected, and then Clarrie faced, as did many others, a period of depression and real want.

In those days of stress and trial we met Clarrie Martin the man. He tried to sell insurance when people had no money to buy it. He tried to establish a coaching class when students had no money to pay lecture fees. Finally, he was happy to obtain a six months' appointment with the Public Service Association as research officer. He then went to the Australian Gas Light Co. as staff training officer. In that sphere also he accomplished a great deal. He gave lectures throughout New South Wales and those lectures have since been used as a basis for other staff training courses. He had promised the company that he would take no active part in politics, and, like the gentleman he was, he kept his promise to the letter. That was typical of the man. Despite his strong convictions and affiliations he took no active part in politics but used such spare time as rarely came his way to complete a law course with the assistance of the present Leader of the Opposition and others. When he graduated he set up in practice, but finally returned to his old love, politics.

*Most hon. members knew him during the last twelve years, and they will agree that his greatest monument was his work as Attorney-General. I endorse the statement of the Leader of the Opposition that Clarrie's work as Attorney-General was outstanding and bore the stamp of his ideals and his keen desire to bring justice within the reach of all. As Attorney-General he accomplished more in a decade than any other occupant of the office has in the history of government in this State. He established a legal brains trust within the department, searched for

the best men that he could find, and undertook world-wide research to find improvements in the law that could be incorporated in the legal system of New South Wales. We heard his magnificent speeches on the Legal Assistance Act—referred to by the Leader of the Opposition—which created the posts of Public Solicitor and Public Defender. He also introduced the District Courts Act, widening the jurisdiction of that tribunal and sweeping away legal cobwebs, for which he earned the gratitude of country residents, because that legislation enabled them to obtain justice more expeditiously and economically. The Dormant Funds Act, the Crimes (Amendment) Act and many other reforms resulted from his outstanding ability and his capacity for work. Hon. members have heard his scholarly and humanitarian addresses on measures introduced by his colleague the Minister of Justice, and dealing among other subjects with hire purchase, during which he made reference to hire purchase iniquities, the avariciousness of moneylenders and the need to correct abuses under the Landlord and Tenant Act. There is no need for me to go into those matters in detail.

The brightest star in his firmament when Attorney-General was the appointment of a royal commission to inquire into the conviction of Frederick Lincoln McDermott, who years before was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder. This crime was committed in my electorate, and after McDermott's conviction some doubt arose as to whether justice had been done. Here was British justice at its best, administered by one of the greatest legal brains in the world. Here was British justice spending money and providing machinery to prove itself wrong! The result of the commission is well known, and the late Clarrie Martin was a happy man indeed when he found that the money spent and the work done by the Public Solicitor and other officers had cleared his own doubts about the matter and set McDermott free.

I am able to speak of Clarrie Martin the man because he lived for a time with me and my family at Young. He became almost a second father to my children. He was in indifferent

Mr. Fred Cahill.]

health even in those days, and was on a diet. Here in the home I had ample opportunity of studying him as a man. Always he kept the common touch. He never forgot a birthday and never forgot a friend. If ever Clarrie made a promise he recorded it in a notebook; then, when he returned to his office he or his associates would see that it was kept, even if there had to be an interval of six months. When absent on military service he did not forget his large circle of friends, and always ensured that on their birthdays a letter, card or telegram was sent to them. He spread his kindness as widely as he could, and he lived up to Kipling's high ideal, for he walked with kings and kept the common touch. Everywhere he went he looked about him to find and greet his old acquaintances. After meeting people in authority he would go to the back of a hall and look for old friends and old faces. That was Clarrie Martin the man. The vast crowds that attended the service at St. Andrew's Cathedral yesterday and that lined the streets watching the funeral procession included hundreds of men and women who appreciated Clarrie Martin the man, just as we appreciated Clarrie Martin the Minister of the Crown. The address presented to him by the citizens of Young in 1926 related his qualifications and attainments, but there was something prophetic in its last four lines, which I wrote down because they seemed to summarise his attitude to his job:

Through wind and hail and shower and sun,
Still onward cheerily driving;
There is joy alone in duty done,
And rest alone in striving.

Because of his indifferent health, Clarrie was advised to rest, to take a back seat, to let his job go, but I feel that he was encouraged to keep on with what he felt was his mission by the truth of that motto, which he had proved for himself: there is "rest alone in striving." And that was the way he died. On behalf of my own family and the people of Young I extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Martin and Kevin.

Mr. HEFFRON (Maroubra), Minister for Education [3.7]: The passing of Clarrie Martin so suddenly demonstrates

again how uncertain is life. Three weeks ago to-day, at just about this time, my colleagues and I were sitting around the Cabinet table, and Clarrie said to us, "Well, gentlemen, you will be pleased to know that to-day the doctors have given me a clean bill of health. I have made a complete recovery. All the previous troubles have gone, although I still must watch my duodenal ulcer." He had suffered from a cerebral haemorrhage and a heart attack, and it was great news to all of us that his medical advisers had assured him that he was quite all right again. Those who saw him in the House, particularly at question time handling questions with his old-time zest, shared the hope that his recovery was indeed permanent.

Last Thursday evening before going to Government House for the presentation of the Address-in-Reply, he and I were sitting on this seat, just where the Premier and I are sitting now. During a lull we were concluding a discussion about the future of his position as Minister for Transport. He had felt for some time, and had expressed the opinion to me and to other Cabinet colleagues, that he had mastered transport and was on top of the job, and that it was only a matter of time before he would have it running satisfactorily. If for a little while he could go abroad to study transport in the larger centres in the United States of America and the Old Country, and particularly in New York, he felt that it would help him very much indeed. My reply to him was "Clarrie, you may go now if you wish, or as soon as you wish. That is my view and that is my permission to you. I am sure that if when the Premier arrives you have not gone, he will be happy to concur in any approval that I give you to go." On Thursday we worked out some of the details as to the length of time that he would be overseas. His enthusiasm for this new job knew no bounds; he was taking it in his stride. Indeed, within the last few weeks, in addition to fulfilling all the onerous tasks of that office, he appeared as a lawyer, with my knowledge and approval, for two weeks running in two very important cases in which he held briefs. I might add that he appeared very successfully. His death shocks me all

the more because I had banked so much on his permanent recovery. It is true that what the doctors told him was correct, but he had not expected that something would go amiss internally. But there it is, and a man who was with us at Government House when we presented the Address-in-Reply so recently and who walked out of this Chamber when the motion for the adjournment of the House was agreed to on Thursday last has gone to his reward. I join with the other speakers in extending my sincere sympathy to his widow and son, and trust that we shall know how to look after them.

When Clarrie and I came to this House in 1930, we often received advice, notably from the Leader of the Country Party, and much of it was sound indeed. Clarrie lost his seat but, as a member of a movement with which I was associated, he re-entered Parliament as a "Heffron" candidate, and within a short space of time he became a Minister of the Crown. Clarrie Martin was a great Attorney-General. The appointment of a Public Defender and a Public Solicitor, and the many humanitarian measures for which he was responsible, will be a more enduring monument to him than any edifice of marble or stone that we could erect. I pay my tribute to his memory and to his great work, and again extend my heartfelt sympathy to his widow and son.

Lt.-Colonel ROBSON (Vaucluse) [3.12]: I support the motion moved by the Premier, and pay my respects to the late Clarrie Martin. I knew him before I came into this House, and it was not long after we had met and got to know each other that we realised that we were opposed politically, a state of affairs that has lasted all through the intervening years. However, though we crossed swords inside and outside this House, never at any time did that make any difference to our personal relationships and friendship. I recall that when the by-election took place in Waverley in 1939—and naturally I opposed him there—he won the seat, and I was one of the first to congratulate him.

Only as recently as Friday last, at 2.30 p.m., Clarrie Martin received a deputation, introduced by myself, from members of the

Waverley Council and other organisations concerning some of the involved transport matters in our district. He had at his finger tips the full details of the proposals that we were presenting, and was his usual courteous self. Also, he was most co-operative. Although he pointed out that he, as Minister, was faced with the need to conserve the finances of his department, he promised that he would endeavour to introduce immediately certain measures that would give a trial to the proposals set before him. I mention that to show that the late hon. member was not hidebound, but always endeavoured to alleviate discomfort and injustice suffered by the public.

Mrs. Martin has been a loyal helper through the years, and must find some comfort in the knowledge of her late husband's achievements and record. That record will always be an inspiration to her. It is a pattern that his son might follow; an inducement to him to join in the public life of the community in an endeavour to assist persons who may not have enjoyed the advantages that he has. To both Mrs. Martin and the young man Kevin I extend my deepest sympathy.

Mr. LANDA (Bondi), Minister for Labour and Industry and Minister for Social Welfare [3.16]: As the representative of the electorate adjoining that of the late Mr. Martin, and as one who was elected to this Parliament at the same time as he, in 1930, when I was the "baby of the House" and he was a year or two older, it is fitting that I should add my tribute on this sad occasion by earnestly supporting the motion so sympathetically moved by the Premier and supported by the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Country Party. The Premier, the Minister for Education and the Leader of the Country Party will recall that because of the peculiar conditions that prevailed in the years from 1930 to 1932, more people then visited Parliament House daily, seeking aid and advice, than come now in two or three months.

Clarrie Martin and I had a somewhat similar political fate in that we knew the pangs and bitterness of defeat, but out of that circumstance great lessons were

learned by both of us. Clarrie Martin had to struggle to educate himself and I had a somewhat similar experience. I admired greatly the way in which he faced and endured his trials and tribulations—which were common to some other members of this House who disappeared in the political avalanche in 1932 that swept away so many members of the Labour Party. He made a magnificent effort to earn his living and at the same time educate himself. I had the great pleasure, in my professional capacity, of being among the first solicitors to give him a brief. He could have been spectacularly successful at the Bar had he devoted his whole time and attention to the law, to the exclusion of politics. He was re-elected to this House in 1939, shortly before I was.

I shall not traverse what has been said by previous speakers but shall refer to two outstanding features of our late colleague's work. Clarrie Martin's name will always be held in high esteem for his achievements in law reform. He may not have received much praise, politically, but he certainly had the satisfaction of knowing that he had done something material to better human relationships. The second feature was his great work as a representative of this Chamber on the Senate of the University of Sydney, in which capacity I had the privilege of serving with him. All the tributes that have been paid to his efforts to increase the opportunities for the education of adults can be endorsed by reference to his work on the University Senate. That body was not a liberal-minded body—and I do not use the description "liberal-minded" in a political sense. The Senate was conservative in thought and Mr. Martin and I considered that its outlook should be brought more into line with the progress of general events. Whatever little differences Clarrie Martin and I had in our political lives I am happy and proud to remember that in the field of education and in our association as members of the University Senate, we were as one. We had to struggle hard in our endeavours to bring to that body a breath of the understanding and sympathy that the late Mr. Martin considered it should have. We stood side by side in many fights to bring

about needed reforms. One instance of the late Minister's persistence and success in attaining a human objective was his fight, waged long and hard, to obtain just recognition for professional men who came to this country after having trained in other parts of the world. As a member of the University Senate, Clarrie Martin fought to gain recognition for those men, and I pay special tribute to him for his success. This is but one of his many achievements on the University Senate.

Hon. members know the views of the late Mr. Martin on the press, which he expressed at times forcibly and pungently in this Chamber. The newspapers did not like the opinion that he had of them, but that opinion did not cause him to deviate one inch in his battle to have the press admitted to meetings of the University Senate. He wished to have the newspapers represented at those meetings so that the proceedings of the Senate would be open to the public at large. But the most important of Clarrie Martin's achievements as a member of the University Senate was his sponsorship of adult matriculation. The present adult matriculation provisions will be an everlasting monument to his memory. Matriculation is the gateway to the University, but in this community were many persons who through various vicissitudes in life and the troubles of themselves and their families had been unable to win the key to that gateway during the years when they attended school. Sometimes men with great experience and ability found it impossible to pass through the gateway in later years in their search for higher scholastic and professional attainments. Clarrie Martin opened the gate for those people—men and women who, but for his sponsorship of adult matriculation, would still be waiting anxiously outside the University walls. Indeed, one of my colleagues in this House is such a one. I am sure that he will not mind my telling hon. members of his situation. He is the hon. member for Liverpool, who has gained access to the University because of the reforms in matriculation that Clarrie Martin persuaded the Senate to adopt. I am sure that the hon. member will always remember the fight that Clarrie Martin made which

has enabled him to take his place, as is his just right, in the ranks of University undergraduates.

The constituency of the late Minister and my own are adjoining and for that reason, apart from the other common grounds on which we met, I saw him frequently. I deem it a privilege to join in this final tribute to a colourful political personality, a true friend, and a doer of great things. Only last week I noticed that our late colleague had to answer about ten questions every time the House met, and I marvelled at the strength of voice and the clarity of thought with which he was able to reply. I was especially conscious of this because of the difficulty that I am at present suffering in speaking. Clarrie Martin leaves a wife to whom he was a devoted husband and a son to whom he was a devoted father. I join with other speakers in expressing sympathy in their sad bereavement. They have lost a devoted husband and parent, and the State of New South Wales has lost a great citizen and outstanding parliamentarian.

Mr. WINGFIELD (Clarence) [3.25]: I wish, briefly and sincerely, to associate myself with this motion of sympathy. I enjoyed a close personal friendship with the late Clarrie Martin, who, with his wife and son, holidayed with my wife and me. Clarrie never visited my electorate without spending some time in my home. Especially, my wife and I will never forget his encouragement, advice and inspiration to our son, who is at present in the final year of his medical studies at the University of Sydney. I sincerely hope that Mrs. Martin and Kevin will derive comfort from the knowledge that Clarrie Martin lived respected and that his death has left us lamenting.

Mr. BLACK (Neutral Bay) [3.26]: I wish briefly to add my tribute to those that have already been paid to the memory of Clarrie Martin. It is noticeable that all hon. members who have spoken to this motion have inevitably referred to the late Minister as "Clarrie". I have always known him by that name, and I find it hard to imagine that anyone should not call him by it. I had a long and interesting association with our late colleague.

For more than twenty years he and I disagreed politically, and, certainly, we from time to time disagreed over some of his actions as Attorney-General. But I should like it recorded that throughout this period my respect and admiration for his manifold human qualities steadily increased. Clarrie and I were fellow students at the Sydney University Law School. In those days Clarrie was a convinced and sincere Fabian, and I believe that he remained so to the end of his life. I was then almost a reactionary Tory, though I hope and believe that I have mellowed considerably in the intervening years. For a period immediately prior to my entry on war service the late Minister and I occupied chambers on the eighth floor of Chalfont Chambers in Phillip-street.

I recall that after I was chosen to contest the Neutral Bay seat in this Assembly on behalf of the Liberal Party, Clarrie, meeting me on one occasion at a function, gave me some advice that I, as a budding politician, found to be sound and helpful. It seems to me that he had one outstanding human quality that is perhaps the finest that a man can have—the attribute of kindness. Clarrie Martin was first, last, and always, a kind man. I believe that he became a Fabian because of his innate kindness to his fellows, for he thought that by subscribing to the doctrine of Fabianism he would be able to help those who were downtrodden. Clarrie's cheerful determination in the face of adversity was admired and respected by everyone. All hon. members were impressed by the cheerful and determined manner in which he assumed his duties in the onerous Transport portfolio. I should like, also, to refer to Clarrie's great courtesy to all hon. members. I cannot recall that he ever made a personal attack on any member of this Chamber. As a Minister he always answered questions briefly, courteously, and directly. In my association with this fine old institution of Parliament the passing of Clarrie Martin has left a great gap. I extend to Mrs. Martin and Kevin my sincere sympathy on this sad occasion.

Mr. STEWART FRASER (Gordon) [3.30]: I have to-day a sad and threefold task. First, I pay tribute to Clarrie Martin

in my capacity as a private member of this House, a friend and a colleague. Second, as director of the Building Industry Congress, I acknowledge the debt that the industry and the community generally owe him. Third, as vice-president of the India League, I honour his fine work in bringing together, for the greater good of the world, the people of the young nations of India and Australia. In offering my sympathy to Mrs. Martin and Kevin, I believe that they will find consolation and satisfaction in the knowledge that our late colleague gave so much of himself in the service of his fellow men.

Mr. McCRAW (Lane Cove) [3.31]: I want to join briefly, but with deep sincerity, in the expressions of sympathy that have been heard this afternoon. I knew the late Clarrie Martin before he re-entered Parliament. Like the hon. member for Bondi, I had the privilege of briefing him shortly after he went to the Bar, and of being associated with him in the Rostrum Movement in this city—a movement made the richer for the service that he, as a member, rendered to it. That organisation was designed to teach men in the business world to speak clearly and sincerely the thoughts that were in their minds, as Clarrie Martin did so often in every group of which he was a member. I knew him as counsel in his chambers, as a client in my office, and as a friend in my home and in his club. I also had the privilege of knowing his wife, to whom this afternoon we extend our sympathy. I knew Clarrie Martin, as did all his colleagues in this House and countless thousands of his friends outside, as a man possessed of all those sterling qualities that have been mentioned this afternoon. Like the hon. member for Neutral Bay I valued most that spirit of kindness which always characterised Clarrie Martin in this Chamber and elsewhere.

In his passing the cause of justice has lost a champion, the Government an able Minister, the people of this State a devoted public servant, and we in this House a good friend. A wife and young son have lost a devoted husband and father. "In the night of death Hope sees a star, and listening Love can hear the rustle of a wing." May that star lighten the path for those who

mourn and the rustle of the angel's wing bring consolation to the wife and son as will those many monuments to his memory which have been mentioned this afternoon.

Mr. W. M. GOLLAN (Randwick) [3.38]: I want to associate myself with the motion. The late Clarrie Martin and I became friends in 1941 when I entered parliamentary life. Being new to public life, I always went to him for advice. He gave it freely—and it was practical advice. Before elections he and I would have meetings together and about three weeks before election day Clarrie would telephone me to ask the date of the final meeting, which he invariably referred to as our “traditional” meeting. My late wife and Mrs. Martin were close friends, as were Clarrie and I. Since 1941, he and I had many discussions on different matters and we seemed to work together rather well.

He always had me on his committees to draw up his legal legislation, and, looking back, I regard that as a great compliment. I remember when he told me that he was taking to Cabinet a bill to set up a Public Defender and a Public Solicitor and how enthusiastic he was at the time. His great preoccupation always was what he could do for the underdog. He wanted to ensure that those who could not afford to defend their rights should be provided with legal assistance by a sympathetic government. I feel sure that even if he were remembered for nothing else, he would certainly be remembered as the creator of the offices of Public Defender and Public Solicitor. It must have been a great consolation to Mrs. Martin and Kevin yesterday to hear the great compliments that were paid to him at St. Andrew's Cathedral and the crematorium. Every section of the community, from the highest to the lowest, was represented, and it was plain that all looked upon Clarrie Martin as a great friend.

Mr. WALSH (Coogee) [3.37]: I cannot speak with any knowledge of the parliamentary and administrative career of Clarrie Martin, but as one who first met him when he came to Sydney from Broken Hill at the age of 17, I should like to pay my tribute to his memory. For

many years we were closely associated as fellow evening students, and as active members of the Teachers' Federation, the Workers' Educational Association and the Labour Party. We were together, also, on some of those long holiday expeditions, when one really gets to know a friend. Our paths crossed and re-crossed over the years until this year I had the satisfaction of renewing our old close association, and of representing an electorate that adjoined his own.

In the early days we came to know each other very well. Though we were members of the same party and agreed on matters of principle, we differed greatly on many important matters. However, because we knew each other's faults and realised each other's sincerity we were able to remain friends for over thirty years. Those are the things of which I like to think to-day.

I should like to pay a tribute also to the wonderful work which Mrs. Martin has done, and which is known to all hon. members, and especially to the people of the eastern suburbs. After Clarrie's strenuous and often turbulent life, may he rest in peace and may those that are left behind gain comfort from the knowledge that in the hearts of so many he is remembered with esteem and with great and abiding affection.

Mr. JORDAN (Oxley) [3.39]: I should like to be associated with those who have spoken on this motion. Clarrie Martin was a man of great fortitude. In January, 1951, when I was touring my electorate, he was fighting gallantly for his life at Yaralla Military Hospital, Concord. Often I did not see a paper for days. I wrote to him and said that I was watching with great concern the battle in which he was engaged and hoping that soon he would be well, and back with us in this Assembly. Not long afterwards I received a letter from his wife, as he was not then able to reply. When he was well enough he wrote me himself saying that he felt under an obligation to do so. Last year I had an indisposition, and Clarrie Martin was one of the first to get in touch with me. On more than one occasion he sent an officer of his department to my home with

material with which I could engage my time, and I am not apt to forget such kindnesses. It has been said by great philosophers that the evil men do lives after them, but the good is oft interred with their bones. No evil will live after Clarrie Martin because it has no application, and that calls to my mind another quotation probably a thousand years older than the previous one. It is a Latin axiom *De mortuis nil nisi bonum*, which translated reads, "Of the dead nothing unless good." That is what hon. members have heard this afternoon.

No one remembers Clarrie Martin unless he remembers well of him. He has passed and entered into the greatest adventure of all, but he will always be here and hereafter petitioner in our cause suing. I felt it incumbent upon me to take this last opportunity of paying my respects because I would be letting Clarrie Martin down if I failed to give expression to my thoughts. My sympathy with his widow and son is expressed in the motion.

Hon. members and officers of the House standing in their places,

Motion agreed to.

House adjourned at 3.45 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 9 September, 1953.

Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II: Address of Congratulation—Change in the Ministry (Ministerial Statement)—Questions without Notice—Nurses Registration Bill (second reading)—Pure Food (Amendment) Bill (second reading)—Newcastle Harbour Improvements Bill (second reading).

Mr. SPEAKER took the chair at 2.30 p.m.

The opening prayer was read.

CORONATION OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II: ADDRESS OF CONGRATULATION.

Mr. SPEAKER reported the receipt of the following communication from the Governor:

Government House, Sydney,
8th September, 1953.

Sir,—

With reference to the Address of Congratulation on the occasion of Her Majesty's Coronation, passed by the Legislative Assembly

of New South Wales on the 12th August, 1953, I have the honour to advise you that I have it in command to convey to the members of the Legislative Assembly an expression of Her Majesty's deep appreciation of their message of congratulation.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. NORTHCOTT,
Governor.

The Hon. the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales.

CHANGE IN THE MINISTRY.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

Mr. J. J. CAHILL (Cook's River) Premier and Colonial Treasurer [2.32]: I have to report that on 7th September, 1953, I was appointed by His Excellency the Governor as Minister for Transport.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.

IRRIGATION PROJECTS.

Mr. ENTICKNAP: On 27th August the hon. member for Tamworth asked me a question regarding the cessation of work on the Keepit dam. I undertook to lay on the table of the House reports on the subject and now, with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I fulfil that promise.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: SECRET BALLOTS.

Mr. TREATT: I ask the Premier whether periodically at mass meetings of unionists decisions to strike or to continue strikes are made on a show of hands, and whether periodically great hardship results from these decisions? Is it a fact that only a properly conducted secret ballot ensures full protection to union members in registering their votes on strike issues? If these are facts, will the Premier take legislative action immediately to ensure that at mass meetings facilities are available to union members to register their votes on strike issues by secret ballot?

Mr. J. J. CAHILL: I do not quite know what is implied in the hon. member's question. All I know is that prominent trade unionists to-day are taking most effective action to ensure that ballots are clean in every respect. If the unionists