

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, September 22, 1960.

The SPEAKER (Hon. B. H. Teusner) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

NEXT DAY OF SITTING.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer) moved—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, October 4, at 2 p.m.

Motion carried.

DEATH OF MR. M. R. O'HALLORAN.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—I move—

That the House of Assembly expresses its deep regret at the death of Mr. M. R. O'Halloran, member for Frome and Leader of the Opposition, and places on record its appreciation of his public services and requests the Speaker to send a letter of sympathy to his widow.

I suppose that in recent years no event has so shocked honourable members in this House as the sudden illness and passing of our friend, the Leader of the Opposition. For 42 years Mr. O'Halloran was associated in one way or another with this place, during which time he rendered conspicuous service to all that this Parliament stands for. He was a man of great integrity, great humanity and great ability, and he did not spare himself in furthering the interests of this State in the fullest sense. He had no enemies in this place. Every person here liked to feel that he was a friend of the late honourable member because, although Mr. O'Halloran held strong political convictions and was prepared to fight for those ideals he believed to be right, there was no-one in this House who had a more lovable nature or was more helpful or more genuinely on the side of anything for the good of the community. Consequently we all felt the deepest affection for him: we all learned to appreciate his fine qualities and we all valued his friendship highly.

During the period that Mr. O'Halloran was associated with this Parliament the State prospered greatly. Many new institutions were established and old institutions were expanded. There has been a big awakening of the State's potentialities and we have experienced steadily rising standards of living and, I believe, a better community spirit than we previously enjoyed. There is not the slightest doubt that

in all those advances Mr. O'Halloran played a conspicuous part. He was wise and sympathetic and his death will leave a gap in this House that will indeed be very hard to fill. On behalf of honourable members on this side of the House may I express my sympathy to honourable members opposite in the loss of their Leader, a Leader who served with such ability and with such success. I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of honourable members to express to Mrs. O'Halloran our deepest sympathy in her tragic loss. I know how close she was to our late friend and in every sense of the word she was a helpmeet to him.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Acting Leader of the Opposition)—In seconding the motion, may I be permitted to say on behalf of the Opposition that we sincerely appreciate the words of sympathy expressed by the Premier concerning the death of our Leader. My associations with Mr. O'Halloran were always on the most friendly basis. He possessed great wisdom and was great to work with and very sincere. I should like to remind the House that only a few short weeks ago, when Mr. O'Halloran spoke on a similar motion to this, he used the words "Unfortunately, it is a motion that is moved in this House all too frequently."

The sudden passing of Mr. O'Halloran will be deeply mourned by all sections of the South Australian community. He represented the people of South Australia in both the State and Commonwealth Parliaments over a period of 42 years and was Leader of the Labor Party in South Australia since 1949. His courage and the ideals which he represented and fought for will be remembered and appreciated. In his defence of the weak and in his dislike of social injustice he displayed the best attributes of a leader of public opinion. He saw the aim of high ideals as a Christian and had clear ideas on the nature of a Christian—because he was one. With his genial, courteous manner he endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact. The deepest sympathy of the Labor movement goes out to Mrs. O'Halloran and her relatives.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 2.10 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, October 4, at 2 p.m.