

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, April 16, 1968

The House met at 11 a.m. pursuant to proclamation issued by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Edric Bastyan).

The Clerk (Mr. G. D. Combe) read the proclamation summoning Parliament.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

At 11.5 a.m., in compliance with summons, the House proceeded to the Legislative Council, where a Commission was read appointing the Honourable John Jefferson Bray (Chief Justice) and the Honourable Reginald Roderic St. Clair Chamberlain (a judge of the Supreme Court) to be Commissioners for the opening of Parliament.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

The House being again in its own Chamber, at 11.10 a.m. His Honour Mr. Justice Chamberlain attended and produced a Commission from His Excellency the Governor appointing him a Commissioner to administer to the House of Assembly the Oath of Allegiance or receive an affirmation in lieu thereof. The Commission was read by the Clerk, who then produced writs for the election of 39 members for the House of Assembly.

The Oath of Allegiance was then administered to and subscribed by all members.

The Commissioner retired.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): I remind members that it is now necessary for the House to elect a Speaker, and I therefore move:

That the Hon. B. H. Teusner do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Lands) seconded the motion.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER (Angas): I thank the Premier for his kindness in nominating me, but I decline the nomination.

Mr. HALL (Leader of the Opposition): I move:

That the Hon. T. C. Stott do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

In nominating the Hon. T. C. Stott to preside over this House I am mindful of the long years of service he has given the House since entering it in 1933. Since then he has

observed in detail the conduct of the business of the House, and has served it well as Speaker from 1962 to 1965. I am certain that he is a fit and proper person to be Speaker.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (Mitcham): In seconding the motion I do not think it necessary to add to the reasons given by the Leader of the Opposition. The Hon. Mr. Stott has given long service to this House. He has had previous experience as Speaker when he had the opportunity to show his qualities in that office. In the unusual circumstances in which this House finds itself, the honourable member is a member of neither Party but has signified his support of the Party on this side. I have pleasure in seconding the nomination.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT (Ridley): In compliance with Standing Orders and with the traditions of this Parliament, I submit myself to the will of the House.

The CLERK: Is there any further nomination? There being only one nomination, I declare the Hon. T. C. Stott duly elected as Speaker.

The Hon. T. C. Stott was escorted to the dais by the mover and seconder of his nomination.

The SPEAKER (Hon. T. C. Stott): I approach this honourable seat with much trepidation, realizing the tremendous responsibility placed on me in occupying this position. I will try to carry out the duties of this office to the best of my ability at all times. I did not think that in my lifetime I would twice be in this unenviable position, but I hope that, with the co-operation of members, we shall be able to conduct Parliament with the dignity that it richly deserves. I will try to be as fair as I can during the time I occupy this high office, and I hope that the same position will occur as occurred in the last Parliament of which I was Speaker, and that no-one will be suspended for unruly behaviour during my term as Speaker.

Mr. HALL (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, having the pleasure now to address you as such, I congratulate you on being elected to your high office. I know that the three years' service you have previously given in the House will have helped equip you to fulfil your office and ensure that you again uphold the dignity of the Chamber during your further term as Speaker.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): Mr. Speaker, it is my duty on the part of the Government to tender to you the proper congratulations on your elevation to the post of Speaker. Speaking on behalf of members on this side, I trust that you will show the impartiality in that office which it demands.

The SPEAKER (Hon. T. C. Stott): I thank the honourable the Leader of the Opposition and the honourable the Premier, and all the members on behalf of whom they congratulated me on my election to this very high office. It certainly is a very high office indeed, and I believe its success depends on the conduct of the Speaker and on his being as impartial as he can be. However, members, particularly the older members, as well as I, will realize (and the newer members who have come into this Chamber will learn) that the Speaker does not make Standing Orders. Standing Orders have been adopted by the whole of this Parliament, and if at times the Speaker seems to be a bit against a member, or seems a bit biased, it must be remembered that the Speaker is guided by those Standing Orders at all times. I believe that during my first term as Speaker I was as fair as I could be, and I assure the Leader of the Opposition, the Premier and other honourable members that it will be my aim to be as fair as I can be in the future. Thank you so much, indeed.

[Sitting suspended from 11.47 a.m. to 12.10 p.m.]

The SPEAKER: It is now my intention to proceed to Government House to present myself as Speaker to His Excellency the Governor, and I invite members to accompany me.

At 12.11 p.m., attended by a deputation of members, the Speaker proceeded to Government House.

On the House reassembling at 12.27 p.m.:

The SPEAKER: Accompanied by a deputation of members, I proceeded to Government House for the purpose of presenting myself to His Excellency the Governor and informed His Excellency that, in pursuance of the powers conferred on the House by section 34 of the Constitution Act, the House of Assembly had this day proceeded to the election of Speaker and had done me the honour of election to that high office. In compliance with the other provisions of the same section,

I presented myself to His Excellency as the Speaker and, in the name and on behalf of the House, laid claim to members' undoubted rights and privileges, and prayed that the most favourable construction might be put on all their proceedings; whereupon His Excellency was pleased to reply as follows:

I congratulate the members of the House of Assembly on their choice of a Speaker. I readily assure you, Mr. Speaker, of my confirmation of all the constitutional rights and privileges of the House of Assembly, the proceedings of which will always receive my most favourable consideration.

[Sitting suspended from 12.29 to 2.15 p.m.]

SUMMONS TO COUNCIL CHAMBER

A summons was received from His Excellency the Governor desiring the attendance of the House in the Legislative Council Chamber, whither the Speaker and other honourable members proceeded.

The House having returned to its own Chamber, the Speaker resumed the Chair at 2.39 p.m. and read prayers.

COURT OF DISPUTED RETURNS

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer) moved:

That the House proceed to elect by ballot four persons to be members of the Court of Disputed Returns, pursuant to sections 168 and 169 of the Electoral Act, 1929-1965.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Lands) seconded the motion.

Mr. HALL (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker—

THE SPEAKER: The question before the Chair is the motion, moved by the Premier and seconded, that the House proceed to elect by ballot four persons to be members of the Court of Disputed Returns, pursuant to sections 168 and 169 of the Electoral Act, 1929-1965.

Mr. HALL moved:

That the House do now adjourn.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Flinders) seconded the motion.

The House divided on the motion:

Ayes (19)—Messrs. Allen, Arnold, Brookman, Coumbe, Edwards, Evans, Ferguson, Freebairn, Giles, Hall (teller), McAnaney, Millhouse, Nankivell, Pearson, and Rodda, Mrs. Steele, Messrs. Teusner, Venning, and Wardle.

Noes (19)—Messrs. Broomhill and Burdon, Mrs. Byrne, Messrs. Casey, Clark, Corcoran, Dunstan (teller), Hudson, Hughes, Hurst, Hutchens, Jennings, Langley, Lawn, Loveday, McKee, Riches, Ryan, and Virgo.

The SPEAKER: There are 19 Ayes and 19 Noes. There being an equality of votes, I give

my casting vote for the Ayes, and so the motion passes in the affirmative. The House stands adjourned until 2 o'clock tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.49 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, April 17, at 2 p.m.