

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

First Session of the Forty-First Parliament (1973)

The Fortieth Parliament of South Australia having been prorogued until January 11, 1973, and the House of Assembly having been dissolved on February 28, general elections were held on March 10. By proclamation dated May 17 the new Parliament was summoned to meet on June 19, and the First Session began on that date.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, June 19, 1973

The Council assembled at 11 a.m. pursuant to proclamation issued by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Mark Oliphant). The Clerk (Mr. I. J. Ball) read the proclamation summoning Parliament.

THE COMMISSION

The Commissioner appointed by the Governor to do all things necessary to prepare for the opening of the session, the Honourable John Jefferson Bray (Chief Justice), was announced by Black Rod (Mr. A. D. Drummond) and conducted by the President to the Chair.

A message was sent to the House of Assembly requesting members of that House to attend to hear the Commission read. The members of the House of Assembly having arrived, the Clerk read the Commission.

The Commissioner announced that His Excellency the Governor would, in person, declare the reasons for his calling the Parliament together as soon as the new members of the Legislative Council and the members of the House of Assembly had been sworn and the House of Assembly had notified him that it had elected its Speaker.

The members of the House of Assembly and the Commissioner retired.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

The President produced a Commission from His Excellency the Governor appointing him to be a Commissioner to administer to newly-elected members the Oath of Allegiance or receive an Affirmation in lieu thereof; also writes and returns for the election of 10 members.

The Oath of Allegiance required by law was administered to and subscribed by those honourable members except the Hons. B. A. Chatterton and C. W. Creedon, who made an Affirmation.

[Sitting suspended from 11.20 a.m. to 2.15 p.m.]

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

At 2.15 p.m., His Excellency the Governor, having been announced by Black Rod, was received by the President at the Bar of the Council Chamber and conducted by him to the Chair. The Speaker and members of the House of Assembly having entered the Chamber in obedience to his summons, His Excellency read his Opening Speech as follows:

Honourable members of the Legislative Council and members of the House of Assembly:

1. I have called you together for the dispatch of business.

2. Since you were last called together the State has suffered a sad loss in the death of the Hon. Reginald Edwin Hurst, Speaker of the House of Assembly, who passed away suddenly on March 31 of this year. Mr. Hurst represented Semaphore in that House from October 3, 1964, until the day of his death and he was Speaker from July 14, 1970. Speaker Hurst served this State faithfully and well and his untimely departure has only added to the sorrow that his passing has engendered. We also suffered the sad loss of Beasley James William Kearney, a member of the House of Assembly from 1930 to 1933, who died on October 11, 1972. In indicating our appreciation of the services of these gentlemen to this State I know you will join me in expressing our sympathy to the members of their families.

3. Since you were last called together, the House of Assembly lost the services of a most distinguished servant in the person of Mr. Gordon Combe, M.C. He held important offices at the table in both Houses of this Parliament and was Clerk of the House of Assembly for almost 20 years. In December of last year he was appointed to be this State's first Ombudsman. We have no doubt that his service in the high office to which he has now been called will be marked by the same exemplary attention to duty that he displayed throughout his long and devoted service to this Parliament.

4. Since you were last called together a general election has been held. In my advisers' view following their

re-election to office there is a pressing and urgent need for Parliament to consider once again the question of the restrictive franchise on which is based the right to vote for members of the Legislative Council. Accordingly, at an early stage in this session a Bill providing for full adult franchise at elections for the Legislative Council will again be placed before you. My advisers take note of the fact that, in the view of some, the question of the particular system of voting that should be used for the election of members of the Legislative Council is related to the matter of full adult franchise. While my advisers take cognizance of this view, they do not resile from their firm conviction that the question of full adult franchise, being the very basis of democracy, is of paramount importance. Nevertheless, it is also proposed in this session to place before you a further measure that will provide an opportunity for this Parliament to consider the question of the method of election of members to the Legislative Council.

Members of the House of Assembly:

5. Supplementary Estimates for additional expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Account of \$3,020,000 this financial year will be laid before you.

Honourable members of the Legislative Council and members of the House of Assembly:

6. A Supply Bill providing \$110,000,000 for the Public Service of the State during the early part of the next financial year will be laid before you.

7. So great is the importance placed by my advisers on the resolution of the electoral matters, here adverted to, that the measures constituting the remainder of my Government's substantial legislative programme for this year will be laid before you during a further session of Parliament.

8. I now declare this session open and trust that your deliberations will be guided by Divine Providence to the advancement of the welfare of the State.

The Governor retired from the Chamber, and the Speaker and members of the House of Assembly withdrew.

The President again took the Chair and read prayers.

DEATH OF HON. R. E. HURST

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE (Chief Secretary): I move:

That the Council express its deep regret at the recent untimely death of the Hon. Reginald Edwin Hurst, former member for Semaphore and Speaker of the House of Assembly, and place on record its appreciation of his meritorious public service, and that as a mark of respect to the memory of the late honourable gentleman the sitting of the Council be suspended until the ringing of the bells. Reginald Edwin Hurst was born in Peterborough on June 6, 1917. He was elected as member for Semaphore in the House of Assembly on October 3, 1964, as a result of a by-election caused by the death of the late Harold Tapping. He was elected Speaker of the House of Assembly on July 14, 1970, and held that high office until his untimely death on March 31, 1973. He was *ex officio* a member of the Executive Committee and a Joint Vice President of the South Australian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Prior to his election as Speaker, the Hon. Mr. Hurst served as a member of the Subordinate Legislation Committee from July 1, 1965, to April 16, 1968, and as a member of the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement from April 11, 1968, to December 23, 1969.

Before entering Parliament, Mr. Hurst was State Secretary of the Electrical Trades Union for five years before becoming President. He was also a Past President of the Trades and Labor Council and of the Australian Labor Party, and he was a member of the Port Adelaide Development Committee. I was a personal friend of Reg Hurst and had known him for a long time in the industrial movement

before either of us was elected to the Parliament of South Australia. I always found that Reg was a most kindly man, a patient man, and one who was able to speak on behalf of those people he represented with great efficiency; this was demonstrated also in his industrial activities when he was taking part in negotiations on behalf of the electrical trades workers, when he was President of the Trades and Labor Council and when he was a colleague of mine on the Disputes Committee and various other committees of the trade union movement.

Some honourable members on my side of the Council were also colleagues of the late honourable member when they were in the industrial movement, too, and they share with me the high respect for the late honourable gentleman. It was my duty on behalf of the Government to approach Reg Hurst's family on the day that he passed away and to offer to the family a State funeral and the sincere sympathy of the Government on that occasion. I am sure that all honourable members of this Chamber would join with me in expressing our deep sympathy to the Hon. Reg Hurst's family at his recent untimely death.

The Hon. R. C. DeGARIS (Leader of the Opposition): I support the motion and the sentiments that have been expressed in relation to the late Reginald Edwin Hurst. As has been stated by the Chief Secretary, Reg Hurst was elected to the seat of Semaphore in 1964 and to the high office of Speaker of the House of Assembly in 1970. As the Chief Secretary has also said, Reg Hurst was a kindly man, a quiet man, a man who was dedicated to his task of service to his community and to the Parliament of South Australia. I think that, if there was one quality one could see quite clearly in his service, it was his complete genuineness of approach, and it was this genuineness that appealed to all of us who serve in the Parliament of South Australia. He had a distinguished career in the trade union movement, and I know that most people associated with trade union circles with whom I have spoken held Reg Hurst in the highest esteem. I, on behalf of the members of this Chamber, join with the Chief Secretary in extending regret and sympathy to the family in their bereavement.

The PRESIDENT: Before putting the motion, I should like to add my support to the remarks of the Chief Secretary and the Hon. Mr. DeGaris. My association with the late Speaker, Reg Hurst, was always friendly, happy and cordial. The Chief Secretary has related his association with the late honourable member before election to Parliament in industrial, civil and Party matters, but Mr. Hurst's achievements on his election to Parliament were equally meritorious. He was elected on October 3, 1964, to fill an extraordinary vacancy that occurred as a result of the death of Mr. Tapping, and in July of the following year he was appointed a member of the Subordinate Legislation Committee.

He held that position until April, 1968, when he became a member of the Land Settlement Committee, and in 1970, at the beginning of another Parliament, he was elected Speaker. Holding similar positions of responsibility in different Houses, we naturally had numerous discussions on mutual problems associated with our offices. I was impressed by his obvious conscious desire to maintain the dignity and decorum of the House of which he was Speaker. I was also associated with him through our activities on the Joint House Committee, the Library Committee and the Parliamentary Superannuation Committee. During the period of our association I formed a high opinion of the honourable member as being honourable and conscientious in his approach to all matters. I inform

the Council that a message of sympathy has already been sent to the family of the late Reginald Edwin Hurst. I ask that honourable members rise and express their sympathy in a silent mark of respect.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

[Sitting suspended from 2.49 to 3.5 p.m]

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS

The PRESIDENT laid on the table the following reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence:

Blackwood High School (Additions),
 Braeview Primary School,
 Elizabeth Downs East Primary School,
 Gepps Cross Senior Special School,
 Ingle Farm High School,
 Kilkenny Primary School (Replacement),
 Magill Demonstration School (Additions),
 Mitchell Park Co-educational High School (Additions),
 Motor Vehicles Department Building,
 Murray Bridge Primary School (Replacement),
 Naracoorte High School (Additional Accommodation),
 Pimpala Primary School,
 Port Augusta High School (Augusta Park),
 Port Augusta Technical College (Stage 11),
 Port Pirie High School (Additional Accommodation),
 Roofing of Storage Tank at Highbury,
 Rostrevor High School,
 Taperoo High School (Additions),
 West Lakes Primary School.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Sessional Committees were appointed as follows:

Standing Orders: The President, the Hons. R. C. DeGaris, A. F. Kneebone, Sir Arthur Rymill, and A. J. Shard.

Library: The President, the Hons. C. W. Creedon, M. B. Dawkins, and H. K. Kemp.

Printing: The Hons. B. A. Chatterton, R. A. Geddes, C. M. Hill, A. J. Shard, and V. G. Springett.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The PRESIDENT having laid on the table a copy of the Governor's Speech, the Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE (Chief Secretary) moved:

That a committee consisting of the Hons. C. W. Creedon, R. C. DeGaris, A. F. Kneebone, A. J. Shard, and C. R. Story be appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to the Speech delivered this day by His Excellency the Governor and to report on the next day of sitting.

Motion carried.

COURT OF DISPUTED RETURNS

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE (Chief Secretary) moved:

That it be an order of this Council that the appointment of members of the Court of Disputed Returns pursuant to Standing Orders 11 and 420 be not made, in view of the reconstitution of the court under section 43 of the Electoral Act Amendment Act, 1969.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.23 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, June 20, at 2.15 p.m.