

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

(HANSARD)

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**First Session of the Fiftieth Parliament  
(2002)**

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The Forty-Ninth Parliament of South Australia having been prorogued until 3 April 2002, and the House of Assembly having been dissolved on 15 January, general elections were held on 9 February. By proclamation dated 21 February, the new Parliament was summoned to meet on 5 March, and the First Session began on that date.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**Tuesday 5 March 2002**

The Council assembled at 11 a.m. pursuant to proclamation issued by Her Excellency the Governor (Marjorie Jackson-Nelson). The Clerk (Mrs J.M. Davis) read the proclamation summoning parliament.

**GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION**

The Commissioners appointed by the Governor to do all things necessary to prepare for the opening of the session, the Honourable J.J. Doyle (Chief Justice) and the Honourable J.W. Perry (a Judge of the Supreme Court), were announced by Black Rod (Mr T.R. Blowes) and conducted to the chairs on the dais.

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 Senior Commissioner (the Honourable Mr Justice Doyle) announced that Her Excellency the Governor would, in person in this place, declare the reasons for her calling the parliament together as soon as the new members of the Legislative Council and the new members of the House of Assembly had been sworn and the House of Assembly had notified her that it had elected its Speaker.

The members of the House of Assembly and His Honour Mr Justice Doyle withdrew.

**MEMBERS, SWEARING IN**

His Honour Mr Justice Perry produced a Commission from Her Excellency the Governor authorising him to be a Commissioner to administer to newly elected members the oath of allegiance or receive an affirmation in lieu thereof, also a writ and returns for the election of 11 members.

The oath of allegiance or affirmation was then administered to and subscribed by the new members, who signed the members' roll.

The Commissioner retired.

**PRESIDENT, ELECTION**

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer):** I remind the Council that the time has arrived for the election of its President. I move:

That the Hon. R.R. Roberts be President of the Legislative Council.

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Leader of the Opposition):** I second the motion.

**The CLERK:** Does the honourable member accept the nomination?

**The Hon. R.R. ROBERTS:** I submit myself to the will of the Council.

**The CLERK:** Are there any other nominations?

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** I nominate the Hon. Julian Stefani.

**The Hon. SANDRA KANCK:** I second the nomination.

**The CLERK:** Does the honourable member accept the nomination?

**The Hon. J.F. STEFANI:** I submit myself to the will of the Council.

**The CLERK:** There being two members proposed and seconded for the office of President, it will be necessary to take a ballot. The bells shall be rung for two minutes, and then ballot slips will be distributed in accordance with standing order 18. Honourable members will please write on the slip the name of the member whom they consider most fit and proper to be the President of the Legislative Council.

*A ballot having been held:*

**The CLERK:** The Hon. Mr R.R. Roberts having obtained the greater number of votes is therefore declared elected as President of the Council.

The Hon. R.R. Roberts was escorted to the President's Chair by the mover and seconder of the motion.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer):** Mr President, colleagues, on behalf of Liberal members in the chamber I congratulate you on your election to the most important office of President of the Legislative Council. In doing so, I acknowledge that the Council was fortunate that it had the choice of two people—yourself and the Hon. Julian Stefani,

a friend and colleague of mine—who I know hold the importance of the Legislative Council very highly. Mr President, I thank you for being prepared to contest the position but I also thank the Hon. Julian Stefani for his preparedness to stand as well.

Mr President, I am sure you will realise that it will be a most important four years for this institution. There are many who have bold ideas about the future of the Legislative Council. Today is not the time—

*The Hon. Diana Laidlaw interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** ‘Or no future,’ as my colleague the Hon. Diana Laidlaw says. I know that you do see the importance of the Legislative Council and its continuing role in our parliamentary system. Now is not the time to canvass those various ideas, other than to acknowledge your commitment to that role of this chamber.

On behalf of the Liberal members in the chamber, I indicate our willingness to work cooperatively with you. I am sure, as you will know from the occasional differences of opinion that you might have had with members of the Liberal Party in the past, that it will not surprise you that occasionally—very rarely—we might take a slightly different approach or take a slightly different view to the view that you might express—

**The Hon. T.G. Roberts:** He’s not into paybacks!

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** No, exactly. Mr President, I indicate that, even if we were to have those occasional differences of opinion, we will do so within the respect of the traditions of the Legislative Council and acknowledging the importance of the role that you fulfil as the President of the Legislative Council for the coming period. On behalf of members of the party, and I am sure I speak on behalf of all members in the chamber, we wish you well for the challenges ahead and we indicate our willingness to work cooperatively with you in this particular forum.

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr President, firstly, may I congratulate you warmly on your elevation to this very important office in the Legislative Council. I also thank the Hon. Julian Stefani for standing as well and providing a contest: it is an important part of the democratic tradition. Mr President, you have been a member of this parliament now for 13 years I believe, and, apart from my front bench colleague the Hon. Terry Roberts, that makes you the most experienced ALP member of the Legislative Council. You have served in a number of important positions, including as Deputy Leader of the Opposition and other important roles in the parliament. In that time you have acquired a very good knowledge of the standing orders of this parliament. Indeed, I believe you have probably tested out most of them over the past 13 years. So, I can think of no-one better than you to run the affairs of this Council and to control we members over the next four years. The honour of serving as President is something which you deserve and we look forward to your upholding the dignity and high traditions of the Legislative Council over the next four years.

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** On behalf of the Democrats I congratulate you on your election to the position of President. My condolences to the Hon. Julian Stefani and we thank him for being prepared to stand for the position. There is no question that the Legislative Council has become a little more robust over the last couple of years than it has been in the past, and I suppose there is some chance that that might continue. That will be a challenge indeed for you, Mr

President, but I would hope that this place will maintain the dignity it has had for most of its years. Once again, congratulations.

**The PRESIDENT (Hon. R.R. Roberts):** I thank honourable members for their faith in electing me to this very high office. I can assure all honourable members that I have a strong commitment to the procedures, the practices and the protocols of the Legislative Council. It will be my intention to uphold the dignity of this Council at all times. I am sure that, as the Leader of the present government has said, we will disagree from time to time on either side of the Council. The standing orders should cover all those situations. However, I can assure all members that I have a strong commitment to the Legislative Council. I have expressed this on many occasions. I am acutely aware that the construction of the Council is somewhat different from what it has been in the past. It would be my intention as President to ensure that you all have the equipment and the procedures to conduct business as best we are able to do, and I look forward to working with you all in the next four years which could well be a very testing time.

I particularly take this opportunity to welcome the new members of the chamber: the Hon. David Ridgway, the Hon. Terry Stephens, the Hon. Andrew Evans, the Hon. Gail Gago and the Hon. John Gazzola. I am sure that you will learn very quickly that there is a difference in the parliamentary system within the Legislative Council. It has always been the practice to conduct ourselves with the utmost dignity, and I am sure I can rely on your support to ensure that that continues.

This is not the time for a long speech. There will be other opportunities when the official opening of the parliament takes place when you will all have the opportunity to express your feelings and your aspirations, and to give your thanks to the people who have supported you in attaining the high offices which you now hold. I would very quickly like to acknowledge the help and support obviously of my family and my staff in particular, and I thank them for that. I look forward to working with this Council in a productive way in the next four years to ensure the continued operation and the dignity of the Legislative Council on behalf of Her Majesty’s government.

At 11.45 a.m., attended by a deputation of members, the President proceeded to Government House.

*On resuming at 12.09 p.m.:*

**The PRESIDENT:** I have to report that, accompanied by honourable members, I proceeded to Government House and there presented myself as President to Her Excellency the Governor, and claimed for the Council the right of free access to and communication with Her Excellency, and that the most favourable construction might be placed on all its proceedings. Her Excellency was pleased to reply:

I congratulate the honourable members of the Legislative Council on their choice of President. I readily assure you, Mr President, of my confirmation of all the constitutional rights and privileges of the Legislative Council, the proceedings of which will always receive most favourable consideration.

*[Sitting suspended from 12.10 to 2.15 p.m.]*

## GOVERNOR’S SPEECH

Her Excellency the Governor, having been announced by Black Rod, was received by the President at the Bar of the Council chamber and by him conducted to the chair. The

Speaker and members of the House of Assembly having entered the chamber in obedience to her summons, Her Excellency read her opening speech as follows:

Honourable members of the Legislative Council and members of the House of Assembly, I have called you together for the dispatch of business. Since the opening of the previous session a number of prominent former state and federal members have passed away. Allan Burdon was the member for Mount Gambier from 1962 until 1975. He was known as a gentleman of politics and served his South-East community with distinction. Gil Langley represented the seat of Unley in the House of Assembly for 20 years and was Speaker of the House from 1977 to 1979. He was also one of South Australia's greatest all-round sportsmen.

George Whitten held the seat of Price in the House of Assembly for ten years from 1975. He also served as Chairman of the Public Works Committee. Geoffrey Virgo was a former Local Government and Transport Minister in the South Australian Government, representing the House of Assembly seat of Ascot Park from 1968 to 1979. Les Hart served in the Legislative Council for ten years from 1962 and held positions on a number of parliamentary committees. Ralph Jacobi represented the seat of Hawker in the House of Representatives in two stints totalling 18 years. He was an ardent conservationist and helped to draw attention to the plight of the River Murray.

John McLeay was a successful businessman, Unley City Councillor and held the seat of Boothby in the House of Representatives from 1966 to 1981—serving as a minister in the federal government. Catherine 'Kay' Brownbill was the first South Australian woman elected to federal parliament. She represented the seat of Kingston from 1966 to 1969 and was also a pioneering force for women in her media career. It is with sadness that we note the passing of all these servants of the people.

Now, as we prepare to begin the Fiftieth Parliament of the State of South Australia, it is an appropriate time to reflect on our good fortune. South Australia continues to be remarkably successful on so many fronts. We will never cease our efforts to improve our performance in all areas. But, all in all, we are a free, just and prosperous community.

In recent years the State has made extraordinary progress in developing export industries. Through the great efforts of all South Australians our annual exports now total almost \$9 billion—more than double what they were just six years ago. The state's economic recovery has helped to create employment opportunities. While efforts in this regard must continue apace, it is important to note that after years of trailing the rest of the country by a large margin South Australia's jobless rate is now extremely close to the national average.

South Australia has a history of resilience and enterprise which is a testament to its people. We begin the Fiftieth Parliament in sound shape with a promising future. My ministers have advised me to call you together at this early date in order to resolve the matter of who will form government in this parliament. Because no party has an absolute majority it is appropriate that the will of the Parliament is tested on the floor of the House of Assembly, as it was in 1968. I am advised that this will occur this afternoon before I take further advice from my ministers.

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.

### MEMBERS, FORMER AND NEW

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer):** I move:

That this Council expresses thanks to former members, the Hons T. Crothers, L.H. Davis, K.T. Griffin, J.C. Irwin and C.A. Pickles, and welcomes new members the Hons A. Evans, G. Gago, J. Gazzola, D. Ridgway and T. Stephens.

In moving this motion, which is a traditional motion, I speak generally on behalf of my Liberal colleagues, although one or two of them may wish to extend some comments of their own and in support. First, I express thanks to former members. Sometimes in this parliament we get the opportunity at the end of the parliament to express thanks to colleagues who are departing. Sometimes—and this last parliament was an example of that—the circumstances are such that the opportunity is not there. Some of us might be grateful—because I do know one or two of our departed colleagues did have extended comments they were going to make as valedictory comments to the Legislative Council but—

*The Hon. T.G. Roberts interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Hon. Legh Davis wants to table it. It is a disappointment, I think, for members who have spent long terms in the parliament that, because of the way in which this does occur sometimes, they do not get the opportunity to make farewell comments to colleagues and the Legislative Council. So, I am pleased we have an opportunity to acknowledge the service of the individual members. First, I highlight the contribution that my friend and colleague the Hon. Trevor Griffin has made to the Legislative Council, to government in South Australia, to the Liberal Party, and to the community generally.

I first met Trevor in the early 1970s when he was the then Liberal Party President with offices somewhere in the CBD and, as a fresh-faced research officer for the Liberal Party, I remember climbing stairs to a dank lawyer's office somewhere in the CBD—

*The Hon. T.G. Roberts interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** He was not a dank lawyer, but it was a dank lawyer's office. I was intrigued to find my way through little piles of legal papers all over the floor and all over the table in the attorney's office. I managed to find my way to his desk to have the conversation with him. I think Trevor will be honest enough to acknowledge that those piles of documents—not the same piles I might add but different piles—stayed with him through his 20-plus years service in the Legislative Council. I suppose it is fair to say that in the early days I did not know Trevor that well, but in the latter days as Leader and he as my deputy I did spend a lot of time with Trevor. A friendship certainly grew and certainly I recognised the excellence of the contribution that Trevor made to his party, to this Council, and to government and governance in South Australia.

I publicly thank Trevor for his contribution. The opportunity is not possible today—because I need to address remarks to a number of other members and welcome some new members—to go through the history of his service to the Legislative Council and to government in South Australia and to his party. However, on behalf of his Liberal Party colleagues and friends, I thank him for his service, and the many reforms that he has instituted stand as testimony to the

excellence of the work in the law that the Hon. Trevor Griffin contributed.

Secondly, I pay tribute to the work of the former President, Jamie Irwin. If my recollections are correct—and it is an unusual confluence of events, I suppose—I travelled to a preselection in a hall in Coonalpyn back in the late 1970s. I suspect that the preselection was for the then electorate of Mallee. The Hon. Jamie Irwin was the raging favourite to win that preselection. If, as the raging favourite, he had been successful, a number of the events of history may well have changed, because the successful candidate in that preselection was Mr I.P. Lewis, the now member for Hammond. I have vivid recollections to this day of that preselection some 20 years ago.

The Hon. Jamie Irwin served this Legislative Council, his Liberal Party and the community with distinction. We have all acknowledged his service as President, so I will not go over those comments again. However, Mr President, you would acknowledge that he was an excellent role model for all future Legislative Council Presidents in terms of his defence of this Council and this chamber. I again pay tribute to the Hon. Jamie Irwin's contribution.

It must have been pure hell for the Hon. Legh Davis to sit not too far from this chamber this morning and not be able to interject. I had a quick conversation with him and he told me that it took admirable discipline—

*The Hon. Sandra Kanck interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** He was not able to say, 'A thousand hours of research' to the Hon. Sandra Kanck or attack the Hon. Mr Xenophon or, indeed, all and sundry, including even you, Mr President, as he was wont to do in the past. Again, my friendship with the Hon. Legh Davis, as with the Hon. Trevor Griffin, goes back to the early to mid 1970s when he was a member of the Liberal Party state executive. I worked with him on a number of projects. He served his party and this Council with distinction. In fact, he was once Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party in the Legislative Council. I recall one fateful event when I think the ballot was tied five all in our party room—which was a large number—for the exalted position of Deputy Leader. One of my supporters was keen to get off to lunch and did not really see the significance of the position, so the re-ballot ended up being six to four and Legh was elected Deputy Leader and I happily remained on the back bench.

**The Hon. A.J. Redford:** You didn't forget that, did you?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** No; I remember some things. Indeed, my colleague was keen to get off to lunch early. The Hon. Legh Davis has served his party and this Council with distinction, reaching the position of Deputy Leader as well as being a shadow minister for a period of time; and he also served on several committees with distinction including, more latterly, the Statutory Authorities Review Committee, which he took to with a passion. As all members would know, the Hon. Legh Davis had issues that were a passion to him. The Hon. Terry Cameron is not here, but the Port Adelaide Flower Farm springs to mind, and a number of others over the years that he pursued with passion.

I worked with the Hon. Legh Davis on projects in the 1970s, the 1980s and the 1990s, and I am pleased to say that, even though he has left this parliament, there are one or two projects of mutual interest on which the Hon. Legh Davis and I continue to work and which we hope will lead to improvements in terms of the governance of South Australia. So, I again pay tribute to the Hon. Legh Davis on behalf of our colleagues.

**The Hon. T.G. Roberts:** You missed the rose garden.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** Yes, and there were many others, such as tourist signs, that the Hon. Legh Davis campaigned on. I pay tribute to the former Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Carolyn Pickles. I am sure Labor members will do greater justice to the Hon. Carolyn Pickles' contribution to her party and to the parliament, but I did make some comments about her at the closing of the last parliament, and I repeat those comments and I wish her well in whatever challenges she takes up in the future.

In terms of departing members, I again acknowledge the contribution made by the Hon. Trevor Crothers to his party, the broader union movement and to the Legislative Council. As members will know, he did make a momentous decision on some legislation in the last parliament which strained some relationships and friendships with some of his colleagues. All through his period in the Legislative Council he proved to be a very well-read member right across the board. One could not fail to be impressed at the range of books and issues that the Hon. Trevor Crothers was branching across at any particular time of the day or week, and I again pay tribute to the Hon. Trevor Crothers' contribution to the Legislative Council.

In concluding, I welcome the new members to the chamber, in particular my colleagues the Hon. Mr Ridgway and the Hon. Mr Stephens. I am delighted to welcome Terry Stephens as a fully-fledged member of the Malcolm M. basketball club. The Hon. Mr Elliott, as a former member of that esteemed sporting organisation of South Australia, will know its significance in basketball history, and I am delighted to see another member of that particular sporting organisation as a member of the chamber. I welcome both honourable members, not only to the Liberal Party Legislative Council team but to the Council generally, and I know that they will make a fine contribution to this chamber over the coming years.

I welcome the Hon. Mr Evans to the Legislative Council. There is indeed a challenge ahead of him as an individual representative of a political organisation. I am sure the Hon. Mr Xenophon has explained all the tricks of the trade in relation to being an advocate for a particular point of view and a particular party that has commenced operations, and I am sure advice has also been offered from the Hon. Mr Cameron as well. We welcome you to the Legislative Council.

As I indicated earlier to the President, from the Liberal Party members' side of things, we promise you our cooperation. There will be occasions, of course, where we agree and where we disagree on policy issues, but you can rest assured we will approach all issues responsibly and will of course always be open to discussion and debate.

I welcome the new Labor members to the Legislative Council. I am sure we will slightly more often have differing points of view on some issues but, again, you can rest assured that the Liberal members are looking forward to a cooperative working relationship in this chamber, even when we do disagree. I think the one thing the President mentioned earlier is that whilst we have had our disagreements—and clearly must have our disagreements in terms of policy and political considerations in this chamber—the one thing that we have managed, I believe better than the other chamber, are our ongoing working relationships, and certainly from the Liberal Party side of things, whatever might happen, we offer that cooperation to the new Leader of the Labor Party in the Legislative Council, the Hon Mr Holloway, and the other

minister, the Hon. Terry Roberts, if that is to be the case later on this afternoon.

With that, Mr President, I thank you again and I welcome the new members and I place on the public record our acknowledgment of the service of all members who have now departed.

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Leader of the Opposition):** I have pleasure in seconding the motion, Mr President. I was just looking through the records of the five members who have retired from this Council at the last election and they had between them up to something like 93 years of service so there is an awful lot of experience that those five members have contributed to this place. I would like to refer firstly to my friend and colleague Carolyn Pickles. I have known Carolyn for many years, from the time that she worked at the Engineering Department at the University of Adelaide, when I was a student there many years ago. Carolyn was also a staff member for a federal MP at the same time as I was, so our careers have followed similar patterns down the years. Carolyn, of course, had a very distinguished career in this place. She had a number of firsts. She was the first woman to be elected Government Whip in the Legislative Council and she was also, in 1994, the first woman elected to lead a major party in any chamber of the South Australian parliament when she was Leader of the Opposition in this Council.

Carolyn held a number of shadow ministerial positions during the past eight years, and before that she was opposition Whip and a presiding member of the Social Development Committee and the Industries Development Committee. Apart from her shadow ministerial responsibilities, Carolyn was passionate about the arts and the advancement of women—and for these causes she put her money where her mouth was. Carolyn has been and remains a tireless and active supporter of the ALP, and we on this side of the Council look forward to working with her in that role in the future.

Trevor Griffin was a member of this parliament for almost 24 years. For most of that time he held the position of Attorney-General or shadow Attorney-General, holding that position, as far as I am aware, for more than 20 years. I am not sure whether that is a record, but it is certainly a remarkable achievement. We on this side of the Council regarded Trevor as a person of great integrity and decency, and he was respected by all.

Trevor was a hard-working member. I think that perhaps half, or more, of the bills that we have debated in this parliament over the past eight years originated from the Attorney-General's office. Trevor held the position of Attorney-General and Minister for Consumer Affairs way back in the Tonkin government from 1979 to 1982. He was the shadow Attorney during a period in opposition from 1982 to 1993, and until recently he was the Attorney-General. Trevor was more than just a good Attorney-General; he was also a very shrewd political tactician, and I am sure that the Liberal Party will miss his skills in that role over the coming period. I wish him well.

Jamie Irwin was the President of this Council for the past four years. I believe he performed that role very well. He was a fair and well-respected President of this chamber and he, too, was regarded as a person of great integrity by all members of the Council. Jamie was committed to defending the Westminster parliamentary tradition. Of course, we will also miss him in his role as a cricket umpire and organiser of all the parliamentary/media matches.

*The Hon. A.J. Redford interjecting:*

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** Yes, that's right, it's an important role. Jamie is someone whom we respected, and I wish him well in retirement.

Legh Davis had a 22 year career in this parliament. He was the Presiding Member of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee, a former member of the Industries Development Committee (when I was a member of that committee), and he was also a former deputy leader of the Liberal Party in the Legislative Council and a member of numerous committees. I first heard Legh Davis's name at, of all things, an ALP meeting in the 1970s when Hugh Hudson, who was the Deputy Premier of South Australia at the time and a person for whom I had great admiration and respect, was making some rather scathing comments about the state of the Liberal Party. He mentioned the name of a then young Liberal called Legh Davis whose virtues he extolled as one of the future hopes of the party. That was the first time that I heard Legh's name mentioned.

Legh has had a distinguished career in the Liberal Party for the past 22 years and, as I said, he served on the front bench as deputy leader during that period. I believe that but for being in the wrong place at the wrong time Legh would have made an even greater contribution to this state. I believe this was a loss to the Liberal Party and perhaps a gain to the ALP, because I think he was one of the best debaters both inside and outside of this parliament. His knowledge of financial affairs was extensive, and he was a master of the interjection. Legh was regarded warmly on this side of the Council, notwithstanding some of the unkind comments that we might have made about him from time to time. Perhaps the best compliment I can make about Legh is to say that he was a worthy political adversary.

Trevor Crothers was one of the more colourful figures to sit in this parliament. Trevor had a very interesting background. He was a member of the British Army in Malaysia, was a carpenter in Melbourne, and so on. He had a long trade union involvement. Indeed, he was one of the very first people to support indigenous land rights way back in the 1960s. He was an influential figure within the ALP during the 1980s. I can recall his being a very effective president of the party during a fairly turbulent period. He was able to control matters by diffusing situations with his quick wit. Of course, Trevor suffered health problems towards the end of his career. As the Treasurer mentioned, Trevor left the ALP in controversial circumstances. I prefer not to dwell on those circumstances but to remember the many positive contributions that Trevor Crothers made to the ALP and the parliament over many years.

I wish the five retiring MLCs and those members of the House of Assembly who are retiring the best for the future. I also welcome the five new members into the parliament. In particular, I mention my two new colleagues, Gail Gago and John Gazzola, who have made their mark in the Labor movement, and I am sure they will also make their mark within this parliament as part of the ALP team. I welcome the two new Liberal members, David Ridgway and Terry Stephens. I am sure we will get to hear about and know more of them over the coming four years. I also compliment the Hon. Andrew Evans on his election to this place. He is only the second person—certainly in living memory—to come to this Council elected outside the major parties or the Democrats. That is a considerable achievement, and I wish him well in the future. In conclusion, I wish all those who have given long service to this parliament the best in their

retirement, and I look forward to working with all the new members.

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** First, I pass on my condolences to the families of those former members of both this parliament and the federal parliament who have recently deceased. I will make a few comments about members who left at the last election. I first met the Hon. Trevor Griffin when he was President of the Liberal Party and I was applying for the job of a research officer. During an interview, I recall his asking me one question regarding what I thought of the Liberal Party at that stage. I said, 'A few things need fixing.' I looked him in the eye and said that. Afterwards, I thought, 'That has pretty well fixed my chances there.' Interestingly enough—and probably much to his great regret later—he gave me the job, and I think it was mainly because I was prepared to look him in the eye and tell him what I thought. That said a few things about Trevor Griffin. In this place he was tough, gritty and determined. He was also a straightshooter. You knew where you stood with him. You knew that you were in for a tough fight, but you knew you were in for an honest fight. I had a great deal of respect for Trevor.

The Hon. Jamie Irwin came into this place at the same time as I did and made an important contribution, particularly during his time as President. I believe he played a fair and impartial role, particularly as this place was changing in nature and behaviour. I do not think it was any reflection on his capacity as President that change was happening. I wish him well. Throughout her time in this place the Hon. Carolyn Pickles wore her social conscience on her shoulder. Even when she did not agree with her own party you knew she was in there fighting in the party room for things, and she was in this place fighting for social justice. I also wish Carolyn well in her retirement.

I say this to new members in this place: I have been here a fair time now and have seen a few new members come in. They always come in bright-eyed and bushy-tailed and probably with great hopes of what they can achieve not just personally but for the state. Time will tell how they feel about things later. One of the biggest dangers for some people in this place is that eventually they believe their own publicity. Some members manage not to do that, and the Hon. Trevor Griffin is an absolutely strong case of that. Others come in and become party people to the nth degree, so much so that one sometimes wonders whether they even fight inside their party room for what they believe because they always do exactly what they are told all the time. That is a pity. I suppose a challenge for the new members is that, with five new members coming in, there has been a quite significant change in the composition of this place.

The question is: what is the future of the Legislative Council? That is the question being posed, and I think its future may well be determined by the next four years and how the Legislative Council performs. I must say that the previous four years were the worst in my memory in terms of general behaviour. I know that when I first came into this place there was respect across party lines. For instance, when we had late nights and the clock was ticking past 11 p.m., members of all parties who were not involved in debate and were beyond doing any more correspondence or any more work on bills could be found playing a game of snooker together. It did not matter from which party they came or which faction they belonged to—there was genuine respect.

It is some five or six years since I can recall the last of those types of games, which petered out a couple of years before that. Members might say, 'What is the shame about losing the snooker?' I do not think the shame was losing the snooker; the shame was what it represented. It represented a loss of respect. The challenge for this chamber—and I hope the five new members take up the challenge—is that we must get cross party respect back into this place, regardless of differences of opinion. I welcome you all.

**The Hon. NICK XENOPHON:** I join with other members in welcoming new members: Messrs Ridgway, Stephens and Gazzola, as well as Gail Gago. I also welcome particularly the Hon. Mr Evans. I believe that I can share with him the frustrations of being a crossbencher. The Treasurer made reference to learning the tricks of the trade. In some respects, I do not think I have been too successful in relation to that, but I am more than happy to work with all members, and particularly my fellow crossbencher Mr Evans as a new member.

In relation to former members, I wish them all well in their retirement. I do appreciate the fair and even-handed way in which the Hon. Jamie Irwin conducted himself as President. Mr President, there are many worse role models in terms of the Hon. Mr Irwin because I believe that he conducted himself admirably.

In respect of the Hon. Trevor Crothers, despite the differences we had on the issue of gambling reform, we always had a cordial relationship and it was always a pleasure to hear from him about his tales of years gone by, his military service and also his enormous knowledge of the classics and Greek history. I always learnt something new from the Hon. Trevor Crothers. If the Hon. Carolyn Pickles reads this, I still owe her dinner, although she has not rung to collect—

**The Hon. M.J. Elliott:** Send her a copy of *Hansard*.

**The Hon. NICK XENOPHON:** I'll send her a copy of *Hansard*. In relation to the Hon. Trevor Griffin, I repeat what other members have said about his integrity and decency. One example which says something about the measure of the man is as follows. For about 18 months we fought ferociously over the issue of the dust diseases bill and the compensation rights of victims of mesothelioma. Throughout that time the Hon. Trevor Griffin conducted himself fairly. He fought the issues and at the end, when the bill was eventually passed against his wishes, he took the step of ensuring that a technical flaw in the bill was corrected. I think that says something about the measure of the man and his fundamental decency. That is something that I have never forgotten, and I will miss his fundamental fairness.

In relation to the Hon. Legh Davis, I think Jesus said, 'Love thy enemy'. My love for the Hon. Legh Davis has grown immensely over the years. Having said that, I again welcome all members.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW (Minister for Transport and Urban Planning):** I welcome all members and acknowledge my colleagues who have retired from this side of the Council, along with the Hon. Trevor Crothers and the Hon. Carolyn Pickles. I came into this place over 19 years ago, and the Hon. Robert Lucas and I are the longest serving members here. One of my enduring memories from those early years is the fantastic debates between the then Attorney-General Chris Sumner and the shadow Attorney Trevor Griffin. That is something that I have missed over the years. It was theatre in a sense because of the activeness of the minds, the debate

and the goodwill. There was sparring, but they were prepared to give and take and accept on the move really interesting points of law, and I think many of us came into the chamber to hear those debates.

I hope with time we will get back to quality debating in this place. Not always do we see debates of that quality, and it is not because we are not able to do so—we have just not made it a priority, I suspect.

The Hon. Trevor Griffin was a very conservative man, therefore you can imagine that, from time to time, we did not agree on many issues, certainly on conscience issues but also on a whole range of other matters. What the Hon. Trevor Griffin taught me very early in the party room and beyond is that, if I wanted my way, I had to research my subject thoroughly, do my homework and be prepared to lose on occasions, but to win the big issues that really mattered to me. It was a wonderful lesson for any member of parliament early on, in the way in which one should win their argument, the hard work that was required and the research, and Trevor and I became very good friends over time, notwithstanding an extraordinarily diverse range of views on almost every subject.

I think that the respect is mutual, and I think that that is what I have really liked about working in the Liberal Party, that it has been able to accommodate such a diverse range of views, and we have remained friends and had respect although we do not win our view every time we express that view. I want to say a brief few words about the Hon. Carolyn Pickles.

Over the past four years, in particular, of the eight years that I have served as Minister for Transport and Urban Planning and for the Arts, Carolyn Pickles has shadowed me in transport and the arts and we have had a fantastic working relationship, which has been one of respect between the Hon. Sandra Kanck, the Hon. Carolyn Pickles and me, in terms of the way in which members of parliament work. There has been a lot of respect. We do not always agree but we work it through. We do not become angry and it has not become personality based.

We can accommodate differences. In terms of the reforms we want to see made to this parliament—and I think that everyone would like to see some form of reform (some more than most)—some of the working relationships that we have been able to establish across party lines and on important issues are the ways in which—and perhaps it is more a committee based system—I would love to see this place advance in the future and become not just relevant for us, the members, but also particularly relevant to the wider community.

I wish the Hon. Carolyn Pickles well. She tells me that she is doing a lot of walking and losing a lot of weight, and I am envious of both those things. I thank her for the work we did together on the prostitution and euthanasia bills and hope that there may be further opportunities for those important issues finally to be addressed with some justice in this place.

**The Hon. IAN GILFILLAN:** May I welcome you to your eminent office, Mr President, and wish you well. I will not add to what has already been extensively covered in the motion other than by giving general support, but I want to refer in particular to two people, one being my friend Jamie Irwin, who I think served with distinction in both his professional role as a politician and also with the grace and dignity with which he fulfilled your role. It was amazing that he actually went through that period without throwing you

out of the Council, Mr President, which stands as incredible testimony to his patience and forbearance, and I hope that you will follow the same practice.

He was a wonderful ambassador for the state in his role as a leading citizen meeting overseas delegations, and I am pleased to record in *Hansard* my enormous respect for him and his wife and the role they played while he was both a member of parliament and the President. The second member I want to refer to is Trevor Griffin, who has been referred to frequently. The Hon. Diana Laidlaw spoke about the wonderful degree of debate between Chris Sumner, when Attorney, and Trevor Griffin as shadow. I was the meat in the sandwich.

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** You were there too: I had forgotten.

**The Hon. IAN GILFILLAN:** I was. I did not contribute to the debate much but I held the balance of power, so instead of the debate being addressed to the chair it was addressed to where I was sitting, with unabated vigour.

Chris Sumner was a brilliant member of parliament and a wonderful debater, but occasionally he had a short fuse. One of Trevor Griffin's traits that Chris Sumner could not abide was that Trevor believed that he personally had to put in chapter and verse every detail of any piece of legislation or amendment which was being dealt with, and that meant there was a certain amount of repetition. Chris found it very hard to sit still in his chair—in fact, he didn't—and he interjected quite vigorously. But it was one of the most challenging and exciting scenarios, because it was debate in the raw with two very intelligent and motivated people discussing issues of vital importance.

I refer to my colleague Mike Elliott's earlier remarks. It is a wonderful contribution that this Council makes—I think more distinctly than the other place—in terms of the committee work. It is a crying shame that the media, who bay vigorously and loudly about the faults of politicians, are never here, never watch and never report the real value of the work that this chamber contributes to legislation in this state during the committee consideration of bills. I would like to think that through the course of the next four years we will remind the media to actually focus on that, so that the public—who are entitled to know that the money is not entirely wasted—are aware that people are working on their behalf during this committee consideration.

I emphasise that Trevor Griffin's contribution to that role was unique. I found him an amazingly hardworking politician, always approachable and courteous even, as Diana Laidlaw said, when he may be in vigorous opposition to your point of view. I think he became more liberal, in the good sense of that word, as he got older.

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** I did not think that.

**The Hon. IAN GILFILLAN:** I am not sure whether that reflects on any sort of movement in the Hon. Diana Laidlaw's position. With those words, I support the motion.

**The Hon. R.D. LAWSON (Attorney-General):** I would like to associate myself with the remarks made by the Leader of the Government, the Leader of the Opposition and other members in relation to those members who retired at the end of the 49th parliament, and also to welcome the new members of the Legislative Council.

The retiring members, as other members have already commented, each made a distinctive contribution to the parliament of this state and to the wider community. First, I mention Trevor Griffin. The tributes paid to Trevor today are

entirely justified. He did make a significant contribution to legal policy and to the law of this state for over 10 years as Attorney-General and as shadow Attorney-General for a similar time.

The admirable qualities that Trevor had of integrity and commitment I first saw when I was an undergraduate student at the University of Adelaide and Trevor was one of the very few students who undertook post-graduate work. He was undertaking studies for a Master of Laws degree. As undergraduates we could not understand why anyone who had graduated would bother to come back and work long hours in the evenings on a Master's thesis. The fact that he was prepared to do that at a time when very few people did it is an indication of his dedication and commitment to hard work and his attention to detail throughout his life. I believe that his integrity and commitment to the parliamentary process are unparalleled—certainly in my experience.

Jamie Irwin—the former President, of course—was greatly dedicated to our constitutional monarchy and to the Westminster system of government. He was thoroughly committed to it and was always true to his principles. He is a man of great fairness, something that was amply demonstrated during his term in the chair.

I also encountered the Hon. Legh Davis at university. He and I were members of the Kingston debating team; Legh Davis was the leader. Dean Brown was another member of that team. It was there that Legh demonstrated early on his great debating capacity, such as his capacity for interjection and good humour. Legh Davis and I were also members of the Young Liberal movement at the same time. He was a state and, I think, a national president of that movement. His dedication to the Liberal Party in very many causes, not only in parliament but outside, has been considerable.

As Leader of the Upper House, Carolyn Pickles was, in many respects, a trail blazer and an uncompromising fighter of the causes that she espoused.

I first met Trevor Crothers when I entered parliament as a new backbencher. We were on the re-formed Marineland Select Committee, and his interactions with his parliamentary colleague Ann Levy on that committee were something to remember. Trevor Crothers had a great capacity for friendship across the political divide. I believe that he, too, made a most distinctive contribution to our parliament.

I welcome all the new members, both the members of my own party, David Ridgway and Terry Stephens, and John Gazzola and Gail Gago from the Labor Party, and Andrew Evans as the first member of the Family First Party in this chamber and, indeed, in this parliament. I congratulate them all, Andrew in particular, on the singular achievement that he has attained in being elected to this parliament.

I congratulate you, Mr President, on your election to office and extend to you my very best wishes. To the retiring members I extend, as I am sure to all members, my good wishes for a long, healthy and happy retirement.

**The Hon. SANDRA KANCK:** I want to single out two people who have retired: Trevor Griffin and Carolyn Pickles. I think that in the eight years that I was in the same parliament as Trevor Griffin there are three things for which he will be remembered, that is, the stalking legislation, the domestic violence legislation and the native title legislation. One usually expects that radical legislation such as stalking and domestic violence legislation would come from a Labor government, but it did in fact come from a Liberal government and was very progressive. Trevor and I clearly

had a very different point of view in relation to native title. Nevertheless, I believe the way that he approached it was exemplary.

He would place legislation on the *Notice Paper* and was prepared to let it sit there for many months to allow the issues to be teased out and to allow the various interest groups that were involved in the issue to lobby MPs and for amendments to be considered. On a number of occasions, he was even prepared to withdraw the legislation and start afresh. I do not think that there are very many MPs or ministers who are prepared to do that, because politics is done as a win-win situation, whereas he looked at legislation in terms of what was possible to be achieved. As I have said, I did not always agree on the outcomes that came from the native title legislation, nevertheless in the discussion and debate that occurred I believe we were able to come up with native title regimes that bettered the other states.

If the incoming Labor government finds itself in a position where it is having to run deadlock conferences on legislation, I would suggest that ministers consult with Trevor Griffin on how to run a deadlock conference. I was involved in a number of them, and none of them did it better than Trevor Griffin.

Carolyn Pickles is the other person I want to single out. As the Hon. Ms Laidlaw has indicated, Carolyn Pickles, Diana Laidlaw and I worked together on Transport, Arts and Status of Women issues, and it was always done with the greatest of respect even when we were not always able to agree on a position. Carolyn was prepared to work in that group; and she was prepared to brook any criticism which might have come from her own party so that between us we were able to progress these issues. In fact, when I became aware that she would not be represented in this parliament, I told her that she needed to ensure that she had an adequate replacement so that we could continue with such a grouping. She told me that she thought that the Hon. Gail Gago, who has been installed today, would fulfil that role, so the Hon. Ms Gago has a lot riding on her shoulders. I believe that that grouping was and is an example of how we can work across parties to reach a consensus on issues. I welcome the new MPs and hope that they will also take on such a model.

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** First, Mr President, I congratulate you on your elevation and endorse the comments made by my leader this morning about your election. Secondly, I briefly pay my personal tribute to the Hon. Mr Griffin and endorse the comments that have been made in terms of both his personal integrity and also his significant legislative achievements over the past eight years. Indeed, I might say, and I am sure the Hon. Rob Lawson would agree with me in this respect, that there were often occasions when the Hon. Mr Griffin, as Attorney-General, came into this place and presented arguments on behalf of the government which perhaps might not have been in accordance with the personal position that he put in the party room. To his everlasting credit, that did not prevent him from putting arguments, legislation and other matters forcefully to this place and advancing the party room decision on our respective behalf, and that indeed is a great tribute to him and his capacity as a lawyer, in which he was a true believer.

Secondly, in relation to my former colleague the Hon. Jamie Irwin, Jamie was a very decent man, a straight up and down man and a straightforward man to deal with. Indeed some of my fondest memories are of sitting outside the Blue Room with Jamie Irwin and George Weatherill, with the two



of them organising everything that was going to happen in this chamber for the next 24 hours. With rare exceptions, the two of them had us pretty well covered as whips. I know that there were many occasions where things threatened to go off the rails and Jamie and George would bring them back on line.

**The Hon. T.G. Roberts:** Is that where George was?

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** I see that he's returned. I don't know why he's come back, but I see that he has. In relation to the Hon. Legh Davis, I endorse my leader's comments. He was a strong and forceful debater, and I know that when newly-elected members came into this place it was his self-appointed position to spend considerable time with them providing both personal and political advice. Of course, Legh, I think, was most famous for his poetry. At the end of each session we all used to go up to Hansard to celebrate, and the attendance of people at the Hansard party was enlarged on the basis that Legh was going to present us with a poem about what had occurred over the previous two or three months.

Legh Davis was courteous to all the staff of this place and spent a considerable amount of time with members of the Hansard staff which, I understand, was not without benefit in terms of his interjections. As the new members will come to realise, many of our interjections rarely make it into *Hansard*, but Legh's always did. I understand that Legh was very helpful to the Hansard staff in ensuring that his interjections were properly and fulsomely recorded for posterity.

I pay tribute to the Hon. Trevor Crothers who also took a lot of interest in younger members, giving them advice and helping them out. My history with the honourable member, which extends only to the eight years for which I have been fortunate to be here, is limited, but I well remember the evening when he resigned from the Labor Party and made his speech to this place justifying his position in relation to the sale of ETSA. It was a colossal speech. He stood astride this place and smacked back the interjections from his own side.

We on this side of the chamber had not seen that from the other side of the chamber before. He gave members on this side a glimpse of his wit and intellect in dealing with some of the interjections and comments directed towards him as a consequence of his resignation from the ALP and his support of the proposal to sell ETSA. It was only then that it became apparent to a number of us why he had achieved the position of State President of the ALP and the high position that he occupied in that party for a considerable period of time.

I also welcome David Ridgway, Terry Stephens, Gail Gago, John Gazzola and the Hon. Mr Evans. I do not know whether this is a blessing, but you do not have the Hon. Legh Davis and the Hon. Trevor Crothers to give you advice (both solicited and unsolicited) over the next couple of years. I suppose that if something goes wrong you might have an excuse that you did not get their advice, but I am sure, if I know this place well, that you will receive advice from all quarters as to what you should or should not do, how you should and should not vote, and what you should or should not say. So, I suspect that there will not be any shortage of advice.

Finally, being aware of the political scenario that is existing in another place and outside, I would like to ask a question of the Minister for Primary Industries: does she agree that these people served this chamber well and does she wish these other people all the success in the future?

**The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER (Minister for Primary Industries):** Mr President, I congratulate you on your elevation to your position, which I am sure you will carry out with your normal dignity. I think this is perhaps a set-up because I have been bragging somewhat that I may be the only minister in the history of this state never to have been asked a question. Now I have been asked a question—

**The Hon. T.G. Roberts:** Refer it to a minister in another place.

**The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER:** I could do that. I am reluctant to delay these proceedings, but I would also like to add my congratulations to and welcome the new members. This chamber, in the eight years in which I have been a member, has almost always conducted itself with a degree of dignity. Even when the debate is most heated I do not think there has been anyone in this chamber with whom I have not been able to have a cup of coffee afterwards in a friendly fashion. I hope that continues into the future.

Again I welcome the new members: the Hon. Gail Gago, the Hon. John Gazzola and the Hon. Andrew Evans and, in particular, my two friends from the South-East and Whyalla: the Hon. David Ridgway and the Hon. Terry Stephens. I think you will all find that these particular two new members have the considerable ability to be very worthwhile members of the upper house, and I welcome their future contributions.

Of the people retiring, probably what needs to be said has been said. I always regarded Trevor Griffin as an eminently fair and intelligent man to whom I could go for unbiased advice, particularly on the proceedings of this chamber. I would like to publicly thank for him for that. As we have all said, Jamie Irwin is probably one of the most principled people I have had the honour to meet, and mix and work with. The Hon. Legh Davis, who sat next to me, was probably one of our best researchers and certainly one of our best debaters. Speaking as a whip, I would have to say that he was also one of the worst to get in here to do backbench duty. In the end, I threatened to get little stamps with smiling faces so that I could say, 'Good boy!' when he came in here. I will miss Legh for his friendship, wit and advice.

The Hon. Carolyn Pickles and I certainly did not have the same close friendship that the Hon. Diana Laidlaw and Carolyn Pickles had. We tended to disagree, particularly on conscience bills. However, there are so few females within this place that we all develop personal friendships. I wish her well. As we all know, during the last four years of her time in here she suffered personal tragedy with the loss of her husband. During that time, we all felt for her, and admired the way she carried on as Leader of the Opposition in this place. I hope that she is able to enjoy her retirement and look forward to happier personal times.

I will miss the Hon. Trevor Crothers for his wit. He used to come over to me, again as whip, and tell me all sorts of very funny stories. However, from time to time I had a lot of trouble understanding Trevor's accent, and I was never quite sure when I was meant to laugh. I used to have to wait until he laughed; then I knew that I could laugh. Some here would disagree with Trevor's decision. Obviously those of us who agreed with his decision admired him very much. The courage he displayed when he took that decision will live in all our memories as one of the most historic occasions we have seen in our time here. That is certainly the case with me. I wish all our retiring members well for the future. In the time I have been here, historically when people leave this place—as much as we say it is a dreadful place to be—they are not quite sure what to do with the rest of their lives and, indeed,

do not enjoy their retirement very much. I am sure the group who are retiring this time are not like that. We wish them a happy future.

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS:** Mr President, I commence by extending my congratulations to you on your election. I will be brief because many other members have made similar comments to those I will make. I shall briefly comment about some of the members who have retired.

Like the Hon. Mr Elliott, I first met the Hon. Trevor Griffin when he was the President of the Liberal Party. I have known him for many years and always respected his sincerity, hard work and integrity. I first met the Hon. Jamie Irwin when he was Chairman of the Liberal Party's rural council, and I was lucky enough to follow him later in that position. Jamie and I shared quite a few memories of and stories about our various experiences in country football. As members who have been here before now, I sat next to the Hon. Legh Davis and he gave me a degree of guidance from time to time. I was a member of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee under his chairmanship. I will miss Legh's involvement in this place, as I will with the Hons Trevor Griffin and Jamie Irwin.

The question I ask of the chamber is: who will be the one to follow Legh's lead and wear a bow tie every day? It will not be me. The Hon. Carolyn Pickles was Leader of the Opposition in this place for the entire period that I have been here to date, and while Carolyn and I did not have a lot to do with each other whatever we did was on a cordial basis and I thank her for her efforts in this chamber. We all have some stories about the Hon. Trevor Crothers, but I first met Trevor during the 1989 state election when he and I were handing out cards together at an Elizabeth polling booth. I was handing out cards for one of the series of Liberal candidates who stood unsuccessfully in that area. Trevor was handing them out for the official Labor Party candidate against one Martyn Evans, who, of course, in those days was an Independent member. He started telling me stories then and continued over many years.

I do express my appreciation to the contribution that each of those members has made to this chamber. In closing, I welcome my Liberal Party colleagues the Hon. David Ridgway and the Hon. Terry Stephens, the new Labor members the Hon. Gail Gago and the Hon. John Gazzola, and, of course, the new member for Family First. I know the Hon. Nick Xenophon does not represent a party, but I think it would probably be a record that the Hon. Andrew Evans is representing his party in a parliamentary chamber only a matter of months after that party was founded, so I do welcome him along with other members.

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** Thank you, Mr President, newly elected. I will congratulate you first and start my snivelling early for perhaps a bit of extra protection that I might get at a later date, but I suspect it will not do me any good. I think you are probably as fair and as free as the previous president. Jamie Irwin was an excellent president. There were times when his patience was tested and I am sure your strength in the chair and your experience from the floor of how to aggravate presidents over a long period will stand you in good stead in dealing with some of the trickier—

**The PRESIDENT:** I'm sure you'll get what you deserve.

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** I did not hear that interjection because I know under standing orders presidents are not allowed to interject. Mr President, I wish you well in your

deliberations and hope all our nights are short ones. I offer my condolences to the friends and relatives of those members of parliament who have died, both at state and federal level, since the life of the last parliament, and I welcome the new members on both sides of the Council and on the crossbenches to parliament. I hope that their stay, the debate and the contributions they make are worthwhile not only for their party but for the state as well.

Words have been said about the Hon. Trevor Griffin in his role as the Attorney-General, and I have to echo those sentiments. When I first came into parliament Trevor's reputation was that he was a very conservative individual and a very conservative person in his private life. I found that, to some extent, he did have a history of conservatism in his personal life and in carrying out his portfolios. But he was open for debate, he was open for discussion and he did not close his mind. Although he was conservative, he was prepared to open his mind to different views and ideas. In many cases he may not have agreed or acted upon the extra information you provided to perhaps move him from his original conservative position, but he never closed down and never shut doors. That was my experience—it may be different for other individuals—and I respected that.

I accept what the Hon. Sandra Kanck said in relation to, particularly, the important bill on native title, which could have been rushed through without the stakeholders having what was regarded as an unusual time for discussion. In relation to dealing with indigenous people and the issues that face them in remote regional and metropolitan areas, it is important that those time frames be extended so that the tyrannies of distance and isolation are taken into account when negotiations are continuing for and on behalf of those people who represent their interests. In many cases—and the Hon. Trevor Griffin understood this—English is their second language, particularly in remote regional areas, and in many cases the representation that they get from metropolitan representatives takes a long time before it actually gets to the outposts where a lot of the people who will be impacted upon, particularly in native title and other major issues, are able to debate and understand those issues.

I had a lot of respect for Trevor in the way in which he handled those sensitive areas of legislation, and I think that the proof of the pudding is in the eating, because we now have an opportunity to introduce land use agreements that will have a negotiated base rather than a legislative or a legal outcome. Only time will tell about those sorts of outcomes, but it has put us on a good footing in this state, and Trevor Griffin, in his conservative approach to that style of legislation, was carrying out some of the work that his predecessors Don Dunstan and the previous Liberal government of 1979 to 1982 had put in place. I think that his work consolidated that.

I heard the Hon. Ian Gilfillan say that there was some debating in the raw, as he described it, when the two giants of the portfolio, the Attorney-General and the shadow, met. I must have missed that debate. I was not in the chamber when the debate in the raw was being carried out but—

**The Hon. Ian Gilfillan:** You were one of the younger ones!

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** Okay. Trevor Crothers, I know, does not mind my being disingenuous to him, because I was disingenuous to him on most occasions!

**The PRESIDENT:** Always within the standing orders, of course.

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** Of course. He is an absent member now and probably will not mind my telling this story, which I told to him because he had not remembered it. It was on the occasion of a national conference. Trevor had a long history of centre activism within the Labor Party, and at a national level his union held a base of respect in the factional power plays. Trevor was involved in those back-room negotiations.

On this occasion I was in some of the smoky backrooms—this was early in my career—and the discussion between the factions was rolling on while the debate was on the floor of the convention. I was not quite sure whether I was being trapped into a position of still negotiating in a room while the vote was about to be taken, so I got a bit nervous, took my leave of the meeting and headed to the debating arena, which was quite a walk in the casino area in Hobart.

I had been hurrying along towards where we had to show our credentials, and when I looked over at a small cafe bar that was not serving much coffee but serving lots of other refreshments I saw the Hon. Trevor Crothers in a crouched position. Mobile phones were not around then, and on reflection he may have been talking to himself or to the bar! Anyway, I went over and had a chat to him. I tapped him on the shoulder and said, ‘Trevor, has the vote been taken on the uranium three mines policy? Has the debate finished and has the vote been taken?’ I know he had not had much sleep because the discussions had been going on, and I know he had not had much to eat because he had not been seen anywhere near the restaurants, but I knew that he had had quite a bit to drink. He looked at me and, as clear as a bell, he said ‘Blah, blah, blah’. With that, I did not tarry. I rushed straight to the conference floor and, sure enough, he was right: the vote had not been taken and the debate was continuing.

I do sympathise with all those other people who had trouble understanding him. Some days he was as clear as a bell. When he wanted to be understood, and if he had a request that he wanted implemented or he wanted you to understand, he knew how to slow down and he knew how to ‘strine-ise’ his Irish brogue. On other occasions, when he did not want you to understand, when he wanted to converse but did not want you to understand the sentiments of what he was trying to express, it was quite thick. You would think he had stepped off the boat 24 hours previously.

He did make a good contribution in his lifetime, as the leader said, in relation to the protection of working and living standards for working-class people. His contribution in this Council changed somewhat in relation to what he saw as his role. I make no comment on that. He is an individual within a parliamentary process. He made a consideration with which I did not agree. He obviously had a different philosophical view on that and made the decision to cross the floor—and that was his decision. I took an opposing view—and I remind members that the New South Wales generation and corporate sale of electricity has changed considerably since the debate started.

Another member to whom I pay some tribute is the Hon. Legh Davis. Legh was not only the master of the interjection, as other members have stated, but also the master of not hearing interjections. It is a pretty strong thing to be able to do. He was probably the most effective debater on the floor—not in content, because I did not agree with a lot of what he said, but the way in which he said it had you convinced. He was able to use *Hansard* in a way in which not many of us go to the trouble of doing, that is, to ensure that interjections he

wanted placed on the record were picked up—because a lot of interjections do not get above the hubbub on the floor—and if there was an interjection that he thought he would be able to absorb without its being put on the record that is the tactic he would use. He was quite clever because it would be quite frustrating if you wanted to make a point and bounce one off him and get a point scored in the *Hansard* so when he sent it out someone might find there is a point of view other than Legh’s. It would be completely lost in Legh’s ability to absorb that.

He was a very good committee operator and member. I must say, in terms of open government, which I think we have lost somewhat over the past four years, on one committee on which I was chair when we were in government Legh opened up a whole department’s archives and their office material. Most of it was not on computer in those days, and I think the leader of the house would recognise the committee which looked into Scrimber and all aspects of the Woods and Forests Department (as it was then called). Legh moved a motion on the committee that certain material become available to the committee. Well, most of us were quite busy about identifying the material and we did that on a list system. But that was not good enough for Legh. He went around to the departmental offices, introduced himself as a member of the committee where a motion had been moved that certain materials be shown to and viewed by members of the committee, and then proceeded to go through all the material in every filing cabinet within that building.

It was at a time when the inquisitorial nature of truth finding was respected on both sides of the Council—which I think we did lose a little, perhaps, in the last parliament. We were trying to come to a conclusion based on best evidence. We knew that a lot of departments were not that forthcoming in providing information to committees—which is a problem parliament has to face in the future. That was Legh’s way of having open government: to open up the files and make himself at home, I think, for about eight hours taking notes and photocopying at will. He did bring some stuff back to the committee, I must admit, and we did see some evidence that correlated with our request, but it was a personal search which he had been able to pull off.

He was a terrier when he got something in his teeth; for example, the flower farm, as we found out, 2.5 hours on one side, two hours on the other side, and a report from the Auditor-General. It was quite expensive and, on reflection, I am sure there are better ways of dealing with problems in communities when public investment or ratepayers’ funds are misdirected or misused. That is by the way.

I will pay some tribute to Carolyn Pickles. Carolyn came in at the same time as I did. Carolyn had strong views on many subjects, including bringing about change in the laws of prostitution and supporting euthanasia changes. She was quite frustrated by the process. In terms of numbers, people would do straw votes, the bills would roll up and, ultimately, there would be changes to configurations of agreements in relation to amendments and she lost patience in the end. She was very disappointed in not being able to get the required changes she thought were needed to make the prostitution bill more humane and more practical in terms of its operations—and the same with the euthanasia bill.

I am sure she will use her influence from outside the parliament on those inside to continue to pursue matters of substance which she finds important. We wish her well in her retirement. As someone has indicated, we all should take a leaf from the book of those people who make a point of

retiring so they can enjoy life thereafter. There are many other things that we as parliamentarians on retirement can do and contribute to in our communities.

**The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO:** I add my very best wishes to all those members of parliament who retired at the last state election. I wish them a long, happy and healthy retirement. In relation to the Hon. Carolyn Pickles, I would like to echo the comments made by the Hon. Paul Holloway, the leader of the Labor Party. Certainly, I do not have any notes or dates in front of me, but the Hon. Carolyn Pickles had a very long and distinguished career in the Labor Party. She did achieve many firsts. She felt very passionate and was committed to the cause of equality for women and she needs to be congratulated for that.

In relation to the past four years when I was in the parliament with her, I think she needs to be congratulated on her leadership. It was a very challenging time, I think, for those of us on the Labor side of politics with two of our number crossing the floor. I believe she always behaved in what I consider to be a professional manner. I know she will continue her interest in the Labor Party and be involved in many forums, so I look forward to seeing her on many occasions in the future.

In relation to the Hon. Trevor Griffin, whilst we did not always agree on ideology, he is someone I did respect in this chamber. He had an enormous capacity and commitment for hard work, and he introduced great quantities of legislation. I wish him well.

In relation to the Hon. Jamie Irwin, I must admit that I found him to have a strong passion for the traditions of the Westminster system. I usually found him fairly fair and even-handed. I guess it is not always easy to be in that chair, as I am sure you, Mr President, will find in the next four years. As I have said, I did find him to be pretty much even-handed.

As I think someone has already said, the Hon. Legh Davis was a good orator, and he certainly was a great debater. In case he gets too excited, I have to say that, at times, it had nothing to do with substance but with performance. I think he is someone this chamber will miss as well.

The Hon. Trevor Crothers was a larger than life figure, as it were. I always found him very polite outside this chamber but, in relation to his behaviour in this chamber, it was always very interesting. I used to feel sorry for the Hon. Terry Roberts, who used to sit in front of him and was daring enough to occasionally interject and received a little bit of—

*The Hon. T.G. Roberts interjecting:*

**The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO:** Yes, whatever you wish to call it. Nonetheless, you were always very gracious when receiving it, weren't you? Of course, there was certainly difficulty in some relationships when he crossed the floor. Nevertheless, I do wish him the very best as well.

I, too, welcome the new members in this chamber, in particular the Hon. Gail Gago, the Hon. John Gazzola, the Hon. David Ridgway, the Hon. Terry Stephens and the Hon. Andrew Evans.

**The Hon. R.K. SNEATH:** First, I say well done and congratulations, Mr President, on your election. I also wish all members who have retired all the best for their future, and I hope that they all enjoy good health. As the Hon. Angus Redford has said, the Hon. Legh Davis certainly welcomed me to the Council as a new member. I served on a committee chaired by the Hon. Legh Davis. I know that he was a much

better chairman than campaign officer for the AWU elections. He has certainly had more success as a chairperson.

The Hon. Jamie Irwin, our past President, was also of great assistance when I first became a member. Jamie was always happy to help with protocol and advice over a cigarette in the Blue Room, which I appreciated.

We have recently heard talk about professional politicians along the lines of Mike Rann. I saw the Hon. Trevor Griffin as a professional politician and one of the most outstanding politicians in both houses. He was a real professional and a nice bloke at the same time. I think the parliament will certainly miss the talents of Trevor Griffin.

Carolyn Pickles, who was the leader of our party in this chamber, is to be congratulated for her tireless work within the party, especially the promotion of women within the party and women's issues. She was a wonderful member of both the parliament and the ALP. I wish her all the best. I would also like to welcome the new members to the Council. I wish them all the best and a fruitful four years and, perhaps, more years beyond that.

**The PRESIDENT:** I take this opportunity to rise and congratulate those people who served this parliament and their parties with honour and wish them all the very best. I will not go over the remarks already made, although I have had the pleasure of working with most of the people who have been mentioned. I will not repeat the remarks that others have made about the majority, but I do want to put on the record an observation about and a mark of respect to the Hon. Legh Davis. Many of you would know that the Hon. Legh Davis and I had many a clash, which I and he enjoyed. Legh Davis had my respect in that you could give him a good old dusting, he would give you one back and he would always say that that was a bit of fun and not hold a grudge.

I want to put one thing with respect to the Hon. Legh Davis on the record. Many want to criticise the contributions of members of parliament, but they do not know the full story. Many of you may remember an incident in the community with a group called RetireInvest where dozens of people lost all their savings in their retirement investments. Legh Davis came to me as he and I both had constituents affected, and he said, 'I am happy to help them.' He used his expertise and advice for a broad range of people and saved them thousands of dollars of their hard-earned savings at not one penny of recompense to himself. I also remember another occasion involving Legh Davis: many years ago when I first became a member, a business went broke in Terowie and Legh Davis single-handedly took up the fight on behalf of that person. He not only took up the fight but also put his money into the business. I want to acknowledge his humanity and the good work in the community that Legh Davis has performed. I am a little disappointed that he is not here to interject from the gallery. He is obviously still intrigued with the parliamentary process.

I ask other members to help me a little in future times when we make these sorts of tributes to our past colleagues to honour their contributions. I would be most pleased if members could stay in the chamber on such occasions—it would help me immensely in recognising them in future when they want the call. There will always be calls of nature and I understand that, but I ask that members respect the dignity and service of those members by staying in the chamber.

Motion carried.

**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The **PRESIDENT** laid on the table the report of the committee on the Inquiry into Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, which was authorised to be printed and published pursuant to section 17(7)(b) of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991.

**PAPERS TABLED**

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the President—

Corporation and District Council Reports, 2000-2001 and Reports of Corporations and District Council in relation to Rebate of Rates—

Adelaide, Alexandrina, Barossa, Burnside, Campbelltown, Ceduna, Clare and Gilbert Valley, Cleve, Coorong, Copper Coast, Elliston, Franklin Harbour, Gawler, Goyder, Grant, Holdfast Bay, Kimba, Kingston, Le Hunte, Lower Eyre Peninsula, Mallala, Marion, Mid Murray, Mitcham, Mount Barker, Mount Gambier, Mount Remarkable, Murray Bridge, Naracoorte and Lucindale, Northern Areas, Onkaparinga, Orroroo/Carrieton, Peterborough, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Prospect, Renmark-Paringa, Robe, Salisbury, Streaky Bay, Tatiara, Tea Tee Gully, Unley, Victor Harbor, Wakefield, Walkerville, Wattle Range, West Torrens, Yankalilla and Yorke Peninsula

By the Treasurer (Hon. R.I. Lucas)—

Regulations under the following Acts—

Authorised Betting Operations Act 2000—

Licences

Licensee Fees

Lottery and Gaming Act 1936—Instant Ticket

Lotteries

National Electricity (South Australia) Act 1996—Civil Monetary Liabilities

Public Corporations Act 1993—

Bio Innovation SA

West Beach Trust

Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia Act 1983—Subjects and Fees

By the Minister for Government Enterprises (Hon. R.I. Lucas)—

Mining and Quarrying Occupational Health and Safety Committee—Report 2000-2001

WorkCover Corporation—Report 2000-2001

By the Minister for Transport and Urban Planning (Hon. Diana Laidlaw)—

Reports, 2000-2001—

Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science

Medical Board of South Australia

National Environment Health Council

Office for the Ageing

Public and Environmental Health Act 1987

Public and Environmental Health Council

Development Act 1993—

Report on the Interim Operation of the urban Growth Boundary Plan Amendment

Report on the Interim Operation of the Organic Waste Processing (Composting) Development Plan Amendment

Regional Council of Port Pirie and the District Council of Mount Remarkable Industry Buffer Plan Amendment Report

Environment Protection Act 1993—

Environment Protection (Motor Vehicle Fuel Quality) Policy 2002

Report on the Interim Operation of the Environment Protection (Motor Vehicle Fuel quality) Policy by the Minister for Environment and Heritage

South Australian Housing Trust—Triennial Review 1997-1998—1999-2000

Regulations under the following Acts—

Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium Act 1978—Admission Charges

Chiropractors Act 1991—Qualifications for Registration

Controlled Substances Act 1984—

Simple Cannabis Offences

Uniform Poisons Standard

Dental Practice Act 2001—Elections

Development Act 1993—System Improvement Program

Gene Technology Act 2001—Genetically Modified Organisms

Harbors and Navigation Act 1993—Speed of Watercraft

Housing and Urban Development (Administrative Arrangements) Act 1995—Functions of HomeStart

Local Government Finance Authority Act 1983—Prescribed Bodies

Local Government (Implementation) Act 1999—By-laws

Private Parking Areas Act 1986—Penalties

Protection of Marine Waters (Prevention of Pollution from Ships) Act 1987—Pollution by Noxious Substances

Public and Environmental Health Act 1987—Notifiable Diseases

Retirement Villages Act 1987—Rights of Retirement Village Residents

South Australian Co-operative and Community Housing Act 1991—Terms of Associated Land

Owner Agreement

District Council By-laws—

Light—

No. 3—Streets and Roads

No. 4—Local Government Land

Onkaparinga—No. 5—Bird Scarers

Playford—No. 6—Bird Scarers

Tea Tree Gully—

No. 1—Permits and Penalties

No. 2—Roads

No. 3—Local Government Land

No. 4—Dogs

No. 5—Moveable Signs

Tumby Bay—

No. 1—Local Government Land

No. 2—Boat Ramps/Cradle

No. 3—Permits and Penalties

By the Attorney-General (Hon. R.D. Lawson)—

The Legal Practitioners Education and Admission Council—Report, 2000-2001

Regulations under the following Acts—

Graffiti Control Act 2001—Prescribed Spray Paints

Summary Offences Act 1953—Graffiti Implements

Rules of Court—

District Court—District Court Act—Victims of Crime

Warden's Court—Mining Act 1971—General

By the Minister for Consumer Affairs (Hon. R.D. Lawson)—

Regulations under the following Acts—

Liquor Licensing Act 1997—Dry Areas—

Alexandrina

Coober Pedy

Mount Gambier

Naracoorte

Port Adelaide

Port Augusta

Port Lincoln

Port Pirie

Retail and Commercial Leases Act 1995—Disclosure Statements

By the Minister for Workplace Services (Hon. R.D. Lawson)—

Regulation under the following Act—

Construction Industry Long Service Leave Act 1987—  
Levy

By the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Caroline Schaefer)—

Dried Fruits Board of South Australia—Report,  
2000-2001 (Ordered to be printed—Paper No. 66)

Regulations under the following Acts—

Fisheries Act 1982—

Giant Crab Quota System

Individual Giant Crab Quota System

Rock Lobster Fisheries

Sand Crab Pots

Livestock Act 1997—Mammalian Material in Animal  
Feed

Stock Foods Act 1941—Mammalian Material in Animal  
Feed.

#### LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** I bring up the report of the committee on the Ombudsman (Private or Corporatised Community Service Providers) Amendment Bill and move:

That the report be printed.

Motion carried.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

**The PRESIDENT** having laid on the table a copy of the Governor's speech, the Hon. R.I. Lucas (Treasurer) moved:

That a committee consisting of the Hons G. Gago, J. Gazzola, D. Ridgway, T. Stephens and R.I. Lucas be appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to the speech delivered this day by Her Excellency the Governor and to report on the next day of sitting.

Motion carried.

#### HART, Hon. L.M., DEATH

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer):** I move:

That the Legislative Council expresses its deep regret at the recent death of the Hon. Les Hart, former member of the Legislative Council in the seat of Midland, and places on record its appreciation of his distinguished public service.

In speaking to the motion, I think I speak generally on behalf of my colleagues, although I think the Hon. Mr Dawkins, coming from the area of Two Wells and Mallala, also may well want to add some comments. The Hon. Diana Laidlaw and I first probably met the Hon. Mr Hart formally in 1982 as part of our Legislative Council preselection when he was a member of our preselecting body (which was the state council), and he was one of the grey eminences, or the elders, of the party at that stage whom we had to go along and see and speak to in terms of seeking preselection. His contributions to the Liberal Party as an organisation (before I talk about his contributions to the parliament) are well known: they extend over many years.

The Hon. Mr Hart was Secretary of his local Liberal Party branch for 19 or 20 years, State President of the rural committee and a delegate to federal council meetings. His contributions to the Liberal Party were recognised by being awarded an honorary life vice-presidency of the South Australian branch and an honorary federal life member, and he was, I understand, the first South Australian to receive that honour. So, he was certainly well known within the Liberal Party organisation for his history of long service to the party.

He was born at Two Wells and educated at Two Wells Primary School and the School of Mines, where he obtained a wool classer's certificate. He worked as a classer and as an

overseer in shearing sheds throughout South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania. In 1925 he and his father started the Glen Devon Dorset Horn Stud, which became a well-known and respected sheep stud not only in South Australia but also throughout Australia and New Zealand. Through that involvement he took on many committee member positions in the industry generally (which I will not go through) and served in a number of offices during that time. Again, he was awarded an honorary life membership for his work for the Society of Australian Breeders of British Bred Sheep during that period. He went on and became a judge of sheep shows and worked in royal shows in Australia and New Zealand. Again, his list of achievements within that particular area are too numerous to publicly acknowledge in detail on this occasion. His community service was further demonstrated by his being a councillor for the Mallala District Council and also its chairman. He also served as chair of both the Mallala Hospital Board and the local ambulance board.

That history of community service in his local region and also his industry associations led to his preselection in the Legislative Council district of Midland. He was elected to the state parliament in 1962 and served in the Legislative Council for some 10 years, serving on a number of parliamentary committees and standing and select committees during that time. On behalf of my Liberal colleagues in this chamber, I pay tribute to his long record of service to the community and the Liberal Party and his 10 years of service to the Legislative Council.

#### **The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Leader of the Opposition):**

On behalf of the Australian Labor Party, I second the motion to express our regret at the passing of a former member of this council, Leslie Rupert Hart. I did not know Les Hart personally, but it is clear that he made a significant contribution to the state and to local government, his local community at Mallala and Two Wells, the sheep industry, sport, the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society and the Liberal party. Les Hart was a member of the Midlands district of the Legislative Council from October 1962 to March 1973 which, of course, was just prior to the major changes to the voting system for this Council which saw the introduction of full adult franchise and a single statewide electorate.

During his term in parliament, Les Hart served on the Industries Development Committee and several select committees. As the Leader of the government pointed out, Les Hart was born and lived for most of his life in the Two Wells area where in 1925 he established with his father the Glen Devon sheep stud. Through his involvement in the sheep industry, Mr Hart became a well-respected sheep judge at royal shows, and ultimately he spent 24 years as a member of the Council of the Royal Adelaide Show Society.

He served for many years as a councillor, and for a time as Chairman, of the Mallala District Council. His community service included a role as Chairman of the Mallala Hospital Board and the local ambulance board, and I note that he was the first South Australian to be made an honorary federal life member of the Liberal Party. Les Hart was also prominent in cricket and football circles and was involved in the formation of the Central Districts Football Club. For 11 years he was the club's first patron. After so many lean years, I am sure that he would have been delighted with the success of that club over the past two years. On behalf of the Labor Party, I express our condolences to Les Hart's family.

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS:** I knew Les Hart all my life. He was well known as a politician, a stud sheep breeder, a judge, a councillor and a servant of the Two Wells and Mallala communities, in particular. He passed away on 7 January this year at the age of 92. As has been said, he was educated at Two Wells Primary School and the School of Mines where he became a certified wool classer, and he went on to use that expertise in shearing sheds in South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania. I think it is worth saying that, although his formal general education only went to primary level, the lack of an extensive education was no barrier to his becoming an informed and educated member of the South Australian community.

As the Leader of the Liberal party indicated, Mr Hart and his father started the Glen Devon Dorset Horn stud in 1925. That stud became very well known and respected throughout Australian sheep breeding circles. In 1960, Glen Devon started a Poll Dorset stud. That has been equally successful and it is now in the hands of Mr Hart's second son, Robert.

Mr Hart became a state committee member of the Society of Australian Breeders of British Breed Sheep and subsequently the South Australian Branch President and Australian Vice-President. He was later awarded an honorary life membership for his work for the society. He was a well-respected judge of sheep and officiated at many royal shows in Australia and at the New Zealand Royal Show in Christchurch, judging a number of breeds other than the ones that he bred himself.

Through his involvement in showing stud sheep, Les Hart was elected to the council of the Royal Adelaide Show Society. As has been mentioned, he served in that capacity for 24 years and became chairman of the Pastoral Committee of the RA&HS. His contribution was recognised by his appointment as an honorary councillor when he retired from the council. He served for many years as a councillor on the District Council of Mallala and, during that period, also spent some time as chairman of the council. He served as chairman of the Mallala Hospital board and as chairman of the local ambulance board. I suppose it was fitting that in the final days of his life he returned to the district in which he grew up and became a resident of the Mallala Hospital. He shared a room, I understand, with one of his brothers.

One area in which I am very interested in relation to the history of Mr Les Hart is his pivotal work developing the current site of the Two Wells oval, which had been a quarry. This was done in the face of a lot of local opposition, but the oval is now recognised as an attractive ground which is a natural amphitheatre. I can attest to that because I have played many games of football on that ground.

Les Hart was always interested in politics and he was secretary of the local Liberal Party branch for 19 years. He was later elected as chairman of the Liberal Party Rural Committee, which was the forerunner of the current Rural and Regional Council, a body that I was privileged to lead in later years.

Mr Hart was also a delegate to federal council meetings, and his contributions to the Liberal Party were recognised by his being made an honorary life vice president of the South Australian branch and, uniquely, an honorary federal life member. It has been mentioned, I think, that there would not be a member of the Liberal Party in this chamber who had not at some stage sought Mr Hart's approval for their candidacy to come to this chamber. I think, probably, that our two newest members did not get that privilege because, even though he was still on the state council list, he was probably

too frail to be involved in pre-selections. But I well remember going to see Mr Hart when I was on the pre-selection rounds. He knew me very well but he put me through my paces, and then wished me all the best and gave me great encouragement.

His political involvement in the organisational wing of the Liberal Party led to his pre-selection for the Legislative Council district of Midland, and he was elected in 1962. As we have heard, he served here for a little over 10 years and in that time served on the Industry Development Committee, the Printing Committee and several select committees. Upon his retirement from politics his former colleague, the Hon. Ross Story, was heard to say:

My former colleague, the Hon. Mr Hart, was a true and loyal friend and played a tremendous part in parliament. Mr Hart, who had an analytical mind, caused the government—of a different political persuasion—much trouble in trying to counter him. Mr Hart retired too soon.

As we have heard, Mr Hart was a keen sportsman who played football and cricket for Two Wells. He was a talented leg spin bowler who frequently won the bowling aggregate and average in the Adelaide Plains Cricket Association. He was also very actively involved in the country cricket carnival, which many members would be aware of, being captain and organiser of the Lower North team on several occasions. His interest in football extended beyond his playing years, being president of the Two Wells Football Club for some time and also secretary/treasurer of the club in a period when Two Wells won three successive premierships, in 1928, 1929 and 1930. In the first of those years Mr Hart recalled that as secretary/treasurer he handled the large sum of £49 on behalf of the club that year. I helped to prepare a history of the Two Wells Football Club some years ago, and he was very helpful in giving me some information about the club because many of the records and minutes of the club had been lost earlier as the result of a fire.

We have heard, also, about his involvement in the formation of the Central District Football Club. He was the first patron of the club and held that position for 11 years. I can well remember his being very strong in his support for Centrals, particularly when times were tough and their wins were fairly rare. He encouraged many other people who lived in the area in which he lived to barrack for Central Districts, but that did not always work. Certainly, he was a great follower of Central Districts to his death. As the Hon. Mr Holloway said, he was delighted with their premierships in both 2000 and 2001.

Les Hart was married to Lily, who passed away in 1986. She was a strong supporter of all his activities throughout their period of marriage. He is survived by two sons and a daughter, and five grandchildren. Throughout his life he displayed a true sense of integrity and commonsense, with a strong commitment to his family and community. He was possessed of a good sense of humour. He was fastidious in his appearance and has frequently been referred to as one of life's true gentlemen.

In conclusion, I would also like to say that he was a great friend of my father, and they were both members for Midland in this chamber. They both bred the same sort of sheep. Their Dorset Horn studs were established in a similar era, as were their Poll Dorset flocks. They were both influential in the commencement of the South Australian Dorset Fair, which was probably the largest sale and display of Dorset sheep in the Southern Hemisphere, and it continued to be so for many years. It was a privilege to know Les Hart. He is certainly

well regarded throughout the Lower North of South Australia and beyond that, and I pass on my condolences to his family.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

### JACOBI, Mr R., DEATH

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer):** I move:

That the Legislative Council expresses its deep regret at the recent death of Mr Ralph Jacobi, former member of the House of Representatives for the electorate of Hawker, and places on record its appreciation for his distinguished public service.

I know that the Hon. Paul Holloway, who had a much closer association with Mr Jacobi than most members in this chamber—be they Labor, Liberal or other—will be able to speak to this motion in much greater detail than I. From my association with the former member—and this is true of most other people who have spoken of him—I can speak with great affection of a true gentleman. He certainly fought very strongly for the views he held; but, nevertheless, he seemed to be able to maintain associations and friendships across the political spectrum. Indeed, people held him in high regard for the issues he pursued.

The record shows that he attended primary and secondary schools in Brompton, Northfield, Nailsworth, Pooraka and Urrbrae. After school he worked in abattoirs, and he worked as a painter before joining the RAN in 1947. He later joined the Merchant Navy before working for the hospitals' department as an orderly. His parliamentary record shows—as people like Christine Gallus and Trish Worth in the electorates of Adelaide and Hindmarsh have demonstrated in latter days—a capacity through thick and thin to hold on to marginal seats in the federal arena. Ralph Jacobi was the past master of that capacity, holding onto his inner southern metropolitan electorate of Hawker for approximately 18 years or so (and I am not sure whether it changed its name during those years). He did that from 1969 through to 1987, perhaps with a break. The Hon. Mr Holloway would be in a better position to indicate his record during that period.

Virtually all those elections were cliffhanger elections. I remember the 1977 election in particular, because the Liberal Party was filled with much enthusiasm for the former Liberal Premier Steele Hall, who was the Liberal Party candidate. With his record in the community, it was generally regarded that if anyone would shake that seat loose from Ralph Jacobi it might be Steele Hall. I remember the campaign office being established at a very prominent location at the service station on the corner of South Road and Anzac Highway, and significant supporters came to the party to support Steele Hall during that campaign. There was much enthusiasm during that campaign that, if anything could shake the electorate loose from Ralph Jacobi's grip, it would be Steele Hall's campaign.

However, as Ralph Jacobi demonstrated previously and afterwards, he had a great capacity to hold on. The reason he did, as many have done and demonstrated, was that he worked at the local community level whilst he pursued national issues, such as his work with the Murray-Darling river system, regulation of insurance agents and brokers, and the National Crime Authority. While he pursued a number of other issues with great interest at the national level, he nevertheless remained a grassroots community based politician who was able to demonstrate clearly to Labor, Liberal and other supporters in his electorate that he was a

member worthy of being returned irrespective of what they might have been doing or thinking in the state election or in the national climate. He was able to hold on and repel Steele Hall's strong campaign in that 1977 election and a number of others.

I remember, as many of us had to do at that time, having to scrutineer a number of recounts in the seat of Hawker, but inevitably Ralph Jacobi would come up trumps for the Australian Labor Party. I defer to the Hon. Paul Holloway, who will be able to speak in much greater detail about his close association with Mr Jacobi, but on behalf of Liberal members in this chamber I place on record a tribute to his long record of service to the Australian Labor Party and the federal parliament and, more particularly, his record of service to his local community, who rewarded him for many years by returning him as their federal member of parliament.

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Leader of the Opposition):**

Ralph Jacobi was a great South Australian and he was also my friend and mentor. It was my great privilege for me to work for Ralph Jacobi for nearly 12 years. The first time I saw Ralph Jacobi was on television during the 1974 joint sitting of the federal parliament; the first joint sitting ever called, following the double dissolution in that year. Because there were no rules governing joint sittings it was decided to televise it, and I think it was the first time in Australia that the proceedings of parliament had ever been televised. It was done in colour, too, the technology for which was just being introduced at that time.

Ralph Jacobi was prominent in a couple of those debates, because they were in areas of his interest; they referred to the Commonwealth Offshore Lands Bill and a couple of other bills in which he had an interest. When we were talking about this several years later he told me that the reason he was brought on early to discuss these debates was that he was the only one ready at the time to speak on these subjects at short notice, such was his interest in them. It was rather ironic that a politician like Ralph Jacobi who did not seek the media spotlight should have been one of the first to appear on television in this country.

Ralph was born at Keswick, as the leader has said. He left school early, as so many working-class people did at that time. Ralph had a number of jobs: he worked in abattoirs and as a painter before eventually joining the Merchant Navy, and he worked as an orderly for the hospitals department.

It was during that time that he became involved in the Labor movement. He became secretary of the AGWA (Australian Government Workers Association) which represented the daily paid state government workers, including hospital cleaners, EWS workers, prison officers and so on. I remember Ralph telling me that, when he took over the office of secretary of the union, it was so broke that it could not afford to pay him for the first few weeks. However, that union did grow, and of course in 1969 Ralph stood for and was granted preselection for the new federal seat that was created.

That new federal seat was originally called Holder after Sir Frederick Holder, who was the first Speaker of the House of Representatives, but I think it was Bert Kelly who sought a change in name of the new seat to recognise Charles Hawker, who was someone whom Bert Kelly had greatly admired. The name was changed to Hawker halfway through the process, so Ralph had to be preselected again for the new seat because its name had changed. The first candidate to oppose Ralph for that seat was Alan Hickinbotham, and there



was a well-funded, long, gruelling campaign because being a new seat it had been created for several years. Ralph finally won that seat. Of course the seat of Hawker, in part, took in the seat of Kingston, which was then held by Kaye Brownbill about whom we will say more in the next motion.

Ralph held the seat of Hawker for the next seven elections; 1972, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1980, 1983 and 1984—there were a lot of elections in that period, as members can see. Of course, during that period Hawker tended to become more and more marginal with every distribution as it moved into the old parts of Kingston. As the leader of the government has said, during the 1977 campaign (which I guess was the tightest call of all because, if the Labor Party had polled the same as it did in the 1975 campaign, it would have lost the seat of Hawker) Ralph campaigned tirelessly with very little money and eventually that seat was won by 770 votes.

The thing I remember most about working for Ralph Jacobi is that politics was fun. Ralph always had a good supply of jokes; he got on well with people. He enjoyed life and he enjoyed people. As I said, it was great fun as well as the serious business of politics because he did have the capacity to enjoy life and people. I wrote an article for the *Labor Herald* when Ralph retired in 1987 in which I highlighted some of the many changes that he achieved as a backbench member of parliament. Ralph certainly had the capacity to be a minister, and I believe that some of his colleagues such as Reg Bishop had tried to persuade him to be elected to the ministry, but that was not his style.

What he showed was how a backbench member of parliament with determination could make great changes to our society—and the list is quite considerable. During Ralph's maiden speech he set his own tradition as a champion of the ordinary elector against unscrupulous business operators, because during that speech he defended one of his constituents against what he saw was the tyrannical behaviour of an insurance company. This was to carry Ralph through eight federal elections. As a result of his work over those many years, even in opposition Ralph was able to persuade the Attorney-General—and I can remember him badgering the Attorneys-General of the day, and I think Robert Ellicott was one of them—to give a reference to the Law Reform Commission in relation to insurance agents and brokers and also the standardisation of insurance contracts. Ultimately, after some years, those recommendations came into law, and I am sure that that would not have happened unless Ralph Jacobi had passionately pushed those issues.

Another issue which he relentlessly pursued was the Murray Darling Basin System. In 1981 he introduced his own private member's bill to establish an Australian Institute of Freshwater Studies to try to improve the research work that was undertaken into the Murray River; and he campaigned vigorously. I remember Ralph visiting every single office of what was then the Murray Valley League along the river to try to get support for his cause.

Another thing he did was to persuade Peter Walsh, who was then the Minister for Natural Resources, to bring out the Executive Director of the Delaware River Basin Commission to try to convince people about how we could improve the management by having better organisational control of the Murray River, and that is what subsequently happened. Those changes that were made in the early 1980s to evolve the River Murray Commission into the Murray Darling Basin Commission and the associated ministerial council have led to the next stage where we are now. Certainly, Ralph Jacobi's

efforts did not cure the problems of the Murray Darling Basin, but they shifted the process forward a great deal.

We are in a position today where, although he did not get his institute of freshwater studies, at least as a result of that some of the other research effort that was put on as a consequence of that report has led to the situation today of much greater knowledge of the river and how to solve its problems.

Ralph was also one of the first members to raise the problem of tax avoidance. I remember him putting literally hundreds of questions on the *Notice Paper* in relation to the growth of tax avoidance in the 1970s. He successfully campaigned for changes to our passport laws to prevent the abduction of children from Australia by one parent against the wishes of the other. There was a convention to which at that stage Australia was not a signatory.

Ralph was also very passionate about foreign affairs. Although he had left school at a very early age, he had a great knowledge of financial matters and, in particular, company law. He worked tirelessly for years to push for changes to those subjects. He was also very well read in relation to the Middle East because his early interests had been in mines and energy. He had some friends who had been involved in the oil industry and from whom he had a wonderful library in relation to the Middle East that, I think, he subsequently left to Flinders University.

As a member of the federal Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, I remember that Ralph once issued a minority report on a Middle East report because he had then come to the conclusion that water resources in the Middle East were absolutely crucial for resolution of conflict within the Middle East. At the time, I think departmental officials and others had somewhat laughed that off as just being his obsession, but within 10 years most people had come around to say, 'He actually had the foresight and he was right in relation to that matter.'

Ralph was also an Australian delegate to international conferences on the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources and he actually signed, on behalf of the government, the historic treaty which was negotiated by that body.

Ralph Jacobi, as well as being a good member, helped thousands of ordinary Australians. He was not a person to whom you could easily say no, and he was a determined and fearless defender of any constituent whom he believed had been wronged. He was not a politician who sought the media limelight, yet surprisingly he was on very good terms with some of the greatest journalists in the federal press gallery. I know, for example, that he regularly had a dinner engagement with Alan Reid from the *Bulletin*, one of the most respected journalists in Australia.

Ralph was also an avid reader. I remember he even read a book in the hospice just a day before he died. He continued his passions right to the very end. A couple of weeks before he died he sent me a file on HIH Insurance (insurance had been an interest through all of his life) and also about the collapse of the Growden companies. He had particular insights on that matter.

Who would have thought that a former trade union secretary who left school at an early age would be the most persistent and effective advocate for reform of corporation and insurance laws in the federal parliament over the past 30 years? Some people more eloquent than I, colleagues of Ralph in the federal parliament, summed up his career. Barry Jones and Michael Duffy wrote an obituary in the *Melbourne Age*, and I would like to read part of that. It stated:

Nobody who sat in parliament with him will ever forget him. Fiercely independent, he refused to join any factional grouping. He never sought the limelight or personal advantage. He campaigned tirelessly on important causes, many of them seemingly remote from issues that spin doctors regard as central to winning marginal seats. He lived by the words of a framed motto he kept in his office at the Old Parliament House: "Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable."

At a time when politics is held in low esteem, and MPs are considered to be far down the food chain, Ralph should be held up as an exception. He was a noble but unrecognised Australian who honoured the profession of politics.

I pass on my condolences to Ralph's wife Stella and his children Malcolm, Andrew, Colin and their families.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

### **BROWNBILL, Ms CATHRINE, DEATH**

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW (Minister for Transport and Urban Planning):** With the leave of the Council I move:

That the Legislative Council expresses its deep regret at the recent death of Ms Cathrine Brownbill, former member of the House of Representatives for the electorate of Kingston, and places on record its appreciation of her distinguished public service.

Cathrine (better known as Kay) Brownbill was a remarkable South Australian. She was the first South Australian woman to be represented in the House of Assembly and, in fact, only the second woman to be represented across Australia in the House of Representatives. She was elected to the House of Representatives for the seat of Kingston in 1966, and in that year was the only woman with 123 men.

I have always thought from my own experience in this place—and I was here when Anne Levy represented the Labor Party—that it felt isolated enough when we were only 22 members: two women, 20 men. I have always had the utmost respect for Kay Brownbill with 123 men in Canberra, she the first woman from here and only the second woman in that house. She was a remarkable woman with a very strong career in broadcasting and the arts, and with a strong community background in the Housewives Association and with history lecturing.

I highlight that in the 1940s and 1950s she was the social editress of Radio 5DN and went on to be the *Advertiser's* event organiser. Many members may have been to the *Advertiser* visual arts show that was held each summer period. I know that the Black Rod is as old as I am, and I can remember the circumstances of being taken as a young girl to the *Advertiser* open air art exhibitions. Ms Kay Brownbill was responsible, as the *Advertiser* event organiser, for those remarkable occasions.

In particular, we find Rotary around the country holding similar exhibitions, but the *Advertiser* Open Air Art Exhibition was the first and Ms Brownbill the leader in that respect. She was very involved in play writing, producing and acting for broadcasts. Her ambition was to write one of the best ever selling novels. She did go on to write a novel about her home state called *Blow the Wind Southerly*. When elected to the House of Representatives, in her maiden speech she spoke on

the subject of tourism and the need to attract more overseas tourists to Australia. She advocated at the time that a woman be appointed to the new tourism commission, and she said, 'In case you think I'm being one-eyed, well, I am.'

She was completely unapologetic and many years before her time in advocating for more women to be appointed to government boards and committees. In paying my respects on behalf of the Liberal Party to Ms Cathrine (Kay) Brownbill for her service to this state, to the federal parliament and to the Liberal Party, I acknowledge, too, that it was the Liberal Party that provided the first women to be appointed or elected to every house of parliament, with Jessie Cooper being the first woman elected as a member of this Legislative Council; Joyce Steele the first woman to be elected to the House of Assembly; Senator Nancy Buttfield the first woman from South Australia to be elected to the Senate; and Ms Kay Brownbill the first South Australian woman to be elected to the House of Representatives.

We have been served well with women's representation from that time, both from the Liberal Party and across parties in the parliament, federal and state, but it was Kay Brownbill who set the pace and I pay her my respects.

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Leader of the Opposition):** On behalf of the Australian Labor Party, I second the motion and express our regret at the passing of Kay Brownbill. I did not meet Kay Brownbill but I certainly knew the name because I was a resident of the Kingston electorate at the time I was first old enough to vote at the 1969 election. Kay Brownbill was the Liberal member for Kingston from 1966 (I think she defeated Pat Galvin) to 1969. She was notable for achieving a number of firsts upon her election. As the Minister for Transport has pointed out, she was the first South Australian woman to be elected to the House of Representatives and only the third woman in Australia to achieve that feat being, in fact, the first woman elected to federal parliament since Dame Enid Lyons back in 1951.

At the time of her election she was also the youngest woman elected to sit in the House of Representatives. Kay was a well-known playwright and radio announcer before entering parliament. As has been pointed out, she was employed as social editress at Radio 5DN and spent some time at the BBC in London. She worked as a history lecturer for the Adult Education Department just prior to being elected. Kay was defeated in the 1969 election by Richie Gunn and she returned to lecturing in history. She was awarded the OBE in 1980. On behalf of the ALP, I extend my sympathy to Kay Brownbill's family.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer):** With the leave of the Council, I move:

That, as a mark of respect to their memory, the Council do now adjourn.

Motion carried.

At 4.55 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday 6 March at 2.15 p.m.