

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 20 AUGUST 1968

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THIRD SESSION OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Appointed to meet

AT BRISBANE ON THE TWENTIETH DAY OF AUGUST, IN THE SEVENTEENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, 1968

TUESDAY, 20 AUGUST, 1968

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Pursuant to the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, dated 2 August, 1968, appointing Parliament to meet this day for the dispatch of business, the House met at 11.56 a.m. in the late Legislative Council Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. D. E. Nicholson, Murrumba) read prayers and took the chair.

The Clerk read the proclamation.

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH

At 12 noon His Excellency the Governor came in state to Parliament House, was announced by the Sergeant-at-Arms, received by Mr. Speaker at the entrance to the Chamber, and accompanied to the dais.

Honourable members being seated, His Excellency read the following Opening Speech—

“HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

“You have been summoned to this Third Session of the Thirty-eighth Parliament of Queensland to consider important business of concern to the people of our State.

“On 31st July last the State suffered a grievous loss by the death of the Honourable J. C. A. Pizzey. He was sworn in as Premier of Queensland on 17th January last in succession to the Honourable Sir Francis Nicklin, K.C.M.G., M.M., and he carried out the duties of his office with great advantage to the State and credit to himself until his untimely death.

“I join Honourable Members in expressing deep regret at his passing.

“On 1st August the Honourable G. W. W. Chalk was appointed Premier. He resigned on 8th August and the Honourable J. Bjelke-Petersen was appointed to succeed him. I take this opportunity of congratulating Mr. Chalk and Mr. Bjelke-Petersen on attaining that office and I express the hope that Mr. Bjelke-Petersen's term as the leader of Her Majesty's Government in Queensland will be successful and bring continued progress to our State.

“I join Honourable Members in expressing deep regret also at the recent death of the Honourable Sir Alan Munro, K.B.E., who gave such splendid service to this State as Minister for Justice and Attorney-General and as Minister for Industrial Development.

“During the past year, my wife and I have continued to visit various parts of our State, including the North and North West. Wherever we went we found enterprising people and healthy children who are being educated to face the problems and the challenges of the future.

“I had the privilege of making a tour to the Gulf of Carpentaria with the Flying Doctor and I was again impressed by the splendid work these dedicated men are doing for our people of the outback.

“This Session commences the second century of Parliament's occupancy of this House and reminds us of the debt of gratitude owed to the long line of Honourable Members, public servants and people from all walks of life who have laboured over the years for the advancement of Queensland and her people.

"A century is but a relatively short time in the history of mankind and the life of many nations, but it is practically all we have had to people and advance this vast State of 667,000 square miles.

"My Government feels this is an appropriate time, therefore, in the life of separate, independent government in Queensland to observe whence we have come and where we are going.

"Those who know our history well cannot but be overwhelmed with admiration for the magnificent people in all walks of life who have gone before us to establish this State, to nurture and advance its people, to secure its democratic traditions and practices, and to protect it at all times.

"Who were these people? What their methods? There have been thousands upon thousands of them, well known and little known, who called this place home and availed themselves of whatever ingenuity, energy and purpose they possessed to make it a fitting place in which all could happily live.

"They were the people who opened, settled and cultivated an enormous untamed acreage; built vast networks of railways and roads; designed and constructed ports, schools, houses and hospitals; sat in this House, in courts of justice, at conference tables; served in government or local authority capacities; in trade unions, industry or commerce.

"They were, in a sentence, people to whom we are eternally indebted for a State of which we are proud, a way of life in the sun, which we would be loath to exchange, and a standard of living which constantly grows better.

"So, as Honourable Members take their seats in this chamber for another century of responsible parliamentary endeavour in the interests of Queenslanders, they have sure, firm foundations upon which to build and can set a ceiling height of their own selection.

"There are, too, some really fine natural resources at hand for development and construction and, of course, the tearaway advance of knowledge is providing constructional aids not previously known.

"Agricultural and veterinary sciences are lifting the rural potential of this land enormously.

"Its unfolding mineral wealth already has given a great fillip to decentralised development and promises much more in this economically and socially desirable direction.

"Secondary production has outstripped in value those great rural products upon which we traditionally and almost solely depended for our income until fairly recent times, and upon which we still rely for the major part of our overseas earnings.

"The tertiary industries, which, for the statistician anyhow, embrace all other avocations and callings not directly attached to primary and secondary production, are

gaining in virility and economic strength generally and are creating a mounting consumer demand that must return added health, strength and prosperity to the basic industries.

"Queensland's role in Australia's economy has always been one of major importance, and the wealth produced here and exported overseas has been a real contributing factor to the speed and degree of national development. Australian industry depends more than most of us realise on Queensland's ability to expand exports.

"It can be, and will, I am sure, be of much greater importance in the future, provided we work wisely and well to see that it is.

"Honourable Members will, I think, agree that the present is a desirable time to make still greater efforts to secure overseas earnings.

"Through the changing social and economic pattern of the world we are already depending less on the main market to which we were accustomed to sell, and it is obvious from our geographical situation that our trading future will be bound up more with countries in our part of the world.

"To progress in the way we desire we must actively assist in the weaving of a new and even richer trading pattern. This requires the wholehearted, concerted action of all.

"The various commodity boards, the Queensland Division of the Export Development Council and private enterprise generally are doing a splendid job in this regard.

"The Commonwealth is giving a spirited trading lead which my Government will continue to support to the limits of its charter, but we must look to our leaders in all fields of production to think and act in terms of securing still greater income earnings from exports.

"The great importance, too, of import savings must not be overlooked. Queensland was the first State to discover and commercially utilise oil and natural gas, a development that has resulted in reduced import spending on oil, and one which will allow some presently imported goods to be manufactured profitably within the State.

"While today we look back with pleasure at what has been achieved by successive governments and generations of Queenslanders we realise that the years ahead are going to be very demanding of our people.

"Knowledge, its acquisition and application, appears to be a paramount prerequisite to advancement.

"We can no longer let the world go by. We are now too much involved in the affairs of the great human family to entertain dreams of isolationism or independent action.

"History is decreeing that we must play a more communal part in family affairs, and our people need to be strong at all points to do it and still preserve a separate identity.

"Knowledge is a key to future national strength and it becomes a cornerstone of survival as well when a people are few in number, as we are.

"Education must continue to receive top priority in the years ahead.

"Our University, institutes of technology technical colleges and teachers' colleges will continue to expand and develop to meet the growing needs of this State.

"The application of knowledge, special training, skills, and abilities is becoming increasingly important in all avenues of production, and managements as well as messenger boys must now lift their educational sights if they wish to succeed.

"As one of the sparsely populated parts of the earth Queensland is going to attract covetous eyes as the world's population explodes over the next 100 years, and succeeding generations may find it difficult to retain sole possession unless we and they exert every effort of a positive nature to settle and productively employ this domain.

"Morally our tenure of the country will become indefensible unless we can show before many more years are out that we have undertaken great works of development and settlement; that we are moving in expeditious and realistic fashion to eradicate the perennial spectre of devastating drought; that we are conserving and developing our very great natural assets in a fashion which will ensure that Queensland will actually become a home in the foreseeable future for a vastly more numerous population.

"Recently announced plans for the construction of a new railway line to tap the rich coal, pastoral and agricultural areas of the Mackay hinterland and for further developments at Weipa are significant indicators of the State's escalating development, but heartening though it is, still quicker progress must be our constant aim.

"In a rapidly growing and developing State the demands on manpower and capital for the public sector of our economy will, in the foreseeable future, continue to be one of the State's most pressing problems. We must also at all times keep in mind the growing need of the private sector of the economy.

"While continuing development will be possible in every field of Government activity, the full demands of any one cannot be met without prejudicing development in other important fields. Therefore, one of the most important duties of my Government will be the determination of priorities in both capital and recurrent expenditure to achieve a well-balanced development.

"No matter what changes the future does bring, my Government feels that it interprets the feelings, the wishes and the prayers of all Honourable Members and of every Queenslander when it says that nothing must occur which will lessen our attachment to the throne, weaken our true democracy, or impair the functioning of our democratic institutions. Knowing what is happening elsewhere in the world, we must be ever vigilant. The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.

"In recalling our indebtedness to Queenslanders of the past my Government wishes expressly to include in the tribute to their worth and work all still within hearing.

"Several Honourable Members have publicly expressed their intention of retiring from Parliamentary life at the termination of this Thirty-eighth Parliament and the Government takes this opportunity of thanking them now and directly on behalf of the people of Queensland for the sterling service they have rendered.

"Her Majesty has recently honoured Sir Francis Nicklin, one of the most illustrious members ever to enter this chamber, and I am sure all Honourable Members applaud that richly deserved honour.

"My Government is pleased to report that the health of the State's economy is excellent. The breaking of the drought in the Western and South-western Divisions earlier this year and favourable rainfalls in most areas have given Queensland a most heartening rural outlook for the new financial year.

"Improved seasonal conditions have also reflected favourably on the budgetary position, the operations of the Consolidated Revenue Fund resulting in an excess of receipts over expenditure for 1967-68 of \$970,027 compared with an estimated surplus of \$22,600 when the Budget was brought down.

"Government departments and instrumentalities generally reported good progress for the year.

"Of concern to the Government is the failure so far to secure a satisfactory International Sugar Agreement, which it regards as vital and necessary for the future well-being of the State's sugar industry. The major part of our developed coastal lands is based on the economy of this great and efficient industry. However, an agreement is closer now than it has been since the old agreement terminated.

"Negotiations are at present under way for the new Wheat Agreement, and discussions are continuing with the Queensland Dairymen's Organisation and the Federal Government on the proposals for the reconstruction of the Dairying Industry. The price of wool still remains far too low, and the industry will take years to recover from the long and devastating drought.

"The compensating of rural industries for losses incurred through the Commonwealth's decision not to devalue currency will continue to be closely watched by my Ministers.

"My Ministers advise that:—

A remarkable transformation in land usage and settlement is occurring in the State, every new block thrown open for selection being eagerly sought;

Introduction of freeholding, modern land clearing and farm equipment, development of new legumes, grasses and pastures, ability to use formerly unproductive land and the success of the Fitzroy Basin Scheme, a project unparalleled in scope and magnitude which is exciting land men throughout Australia, are responsible for the mounting demand for land;

Areas totalling about 4,000,000 acres are being developed for sheep and cattle production and Crown estates in 44 centres are being developed for residential, industrial and business purposes.

"My Government believes the tremendous potential of the land defies assessment at this time; that the State will continue to provide unique opportunity for the investor, landholder, scientist and technician whose cumulative efforts will result in even speedier progress towards productive capability.

"My Government's policy of encouraging transport to provide efficient services will continue, and my Ministers advise that:—

Since 1959, when an open road policy was introduced, the trucking industry has made enormous progress and, with the rapidly developing network of sealed roads, this will increase;

The Railways have improved services, and long distance road hauliers are making much greater use of co-ordinated rail-road services;

Studies now being completed will result in large movements of containers by train and, eventually, fast block container trains will be travelling between our major cities;

The first intrastate long distance bus services have been licensed to operate between Brisbane and Cairns, providing another service for our people and thousands of visitors;

Proposals for a study of public transport needs for the densely populated south-east corner of the State centred on Brisbane are being examined since, by the year 2000, the population in this region could exceed 2,000,000.

"My Government's recent outstanding success in attracting new industrial undertakings to the State has confirmed it in the wisdom of its developmental policy and strengthened its resolve to continue to the fullest possible extent the attraction of new industries to make Queensland much more highly industrialised and more economically decentralised. It is confident that measures lately announced to assist the spread of manufacturing establishments to country centres will have good effect.

"Honourable Members, I now wish to acquaint you with legislative proposals by my Government for the present sittings of Parliament:—

"A Bill to provide for a Law Reform Commission: My Government considers that the systematic development of the State's law, with a view to its codification, the elimination of archaisms and anomalies and its reform, should be entrusted to a permanent body;

"A Bill for a Mining Act: The Mining Acts in force date from 1896. Today, mining is one of Queensland's largest industries, methods of mining are far more sophisticated, areas required for economic mining have increased, the field of minerals sought and mined has expanded and the administrative function required to regulate this new scheme of things has changed. These considerations prompt my Government to propose the new measure;

"A Bill to amend the *Forestry Acts, 1959 to 1964*: The purpose is to make better provision for the classification and administration of national parks;

"A Bill to amend the *New South Wales-Queensland Border Rivers Act of 1946*: This seeks approval of amendments to the existing agreement the better to provide for the equitable distribution of water available in the Dumaresq and other border rivers.

"HONOURABLE MEMBERS:

"I now leave you to discharge your duties to the people of Queensland and pray that Almighty God will bless your work."

His Excellency then left the Chamber.

Mr. Speaker announced that the sitting would be continued in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, where he took the chair at 2.30 p.m.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

Hon. Sir A. LYELL MCEWIN, K.B.E.,
President, Legislative Council of South Australia.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. members, during this, the postponed centenary of the first sitting of the Queensland Parliament in this building, it has been my pleasure—and I am sure yours—to entertain many visitors, among whom were some very distinguished people. Today it is my pleasure, on behalf of the Queensland Legislative Assembly, to welcome to this House a person who has had long experience in the parliamentary field, a visitor who is, in effect, representing all the presiding officers in other States.

It was with a great deal of regret that we had to postpone the original sitting. On that occasion the Speaker in the Federal sphere, and Presidents and Speakers from the other States, had all accepted invitations to

attend our centenary opening. Today I welcome on your behalf the sole survivor of all those who had accepted invitations, in the person of the Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin, President of the Legislative Council of South Australia, who, in his own words, is playing hockey from his own Parliament.

Sir Lyell, on behalf of the Queensland Legislature, I extend to you a very sincere welcome. I hope that the second half of your stay in this State will be equally as pleasant as I know the first half has been.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

APPOINTMENT OF MINISTRY

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (2.33 p.m.): I desire to inform the House that, following on the untimely death of the Honourable Jack Charles Allan Pizzey on 31 July, 1968, His Excellency the Governor, on 1 August, 1968, appointed the Honourable Gordon William Wesley Chalk to be Premier and Minister for State Development and Treasurer of Queensland and appointed his Ministry.

I lay upon the table of the House a copy of the Queensland Government Gazette Extraordinary of 2 August, 1968, containing this notification.

On 8 August, 1968, His Excellency accepted the resignation of Mr. Chalk and his Ministry and—

(i) appointed Allen Maxwell Hodges to be a member of the Executive Council of Queensland;

(ii) appointed—

The Honourable Johannes Bjelke-Petersen to be Premier and Minister for State Development of Queensland;

The Honourable Gordon William Wesley Chalk to be Treasurer of Queensland;

The Honourable Ronald Ernest Camm to be Minister for Mines, Main Roads and Electricity of Queensland;

The Honourable Dr. Peter Roylance Delamothe to be Minister for Justice and Attorney-General of Queensland;

The Honourable Alan Roy Fletcher to be Minister for Education and Cultural Activities of Queensland;

The Honourable Harold Richter to be Minister for Local Government and Conservation of Queensland;

The Honourable John Alfred Row to be Minister for Primary Industries of Queensland;

The Honourable Seymour Douglas Tooth to be Minister for Health of Queensland;

The Honourable John Desmond Herbert to be Minister for Labour and Tourism of Queensland;

The Honourable William Edward Knox to be Minister for Transport of Queensland;

The Honourable Frederick Alexander Campbell to be Minister for Industrial Development of Queensland;

The Honourable Victor Bruce Sullivan to be Minister for Lands of Queensland;

The Honourable Allen Maxwell Hodges to be Minister for Works and Housing of Queensland.

I lay upon the table of the House a copy of the Queensland Government Gazette Extraordinary of 8 August, 1968, containing these notifications.

Whereupon the hon. gentleman laid the Government Gazettes Extraordinary upon the table.

DEATH OF HON. J. C. A. PIZZEY, B.A., DIP.ED., LL.D., M.L.A.

DEATH REPORTED

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that I have received from the Registrar-General a certified copy of the registration of the death, on 31 July, 1968, of the Honourable Jack Charles Allan Pizzey, lately serving in the Legislative Assembly as member for the electoral district of Isis.

SEAT DECLARED VACANT

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier): I move—

“That the seat in this House for the electoral district of Isis hath become and is now vacant by reason of the death of the said Honourable Jack Charles Allan Pizzey.”

Motion agreed to.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (2.36 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“1. That this House desires to place on record its sense of the loss this State has sustained by the death of the Honourable Jack Charles Allan Pizzey, B.A., Dip.Ed., LL.D., member for the electoral district of Isis and Premier and Minister for State Development.

“2. That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the widow and family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland in the loss they have sustained.”

It is with great sorrow that I record in the proceedings of this House the recent death of our late Premier, Jack Pizzey. I know that all hon. members were deeply shocked at Jack Pizzey's death. Parliament and Queensland are the poorer for his passing. He was a Queenslander by birth and nature. He loved the outdoors, had a friendly disposition and also a warm and sincere greeting for people in all walks of life. In the short time in which he was Premier—just a little

more than six months—he won the affection, respect and confidence of all with whom he came in contact.

Jack Pizzev had the difficult task of assuming the high office of Premier upon the retirement of Sir Francis Nicklin at the end of a record term—a period in which Sir Francis, too, won the respect and affection of all Queenslanders. But Jack Pizzev demonstrated that he had the qualities of leadership so necessary in one charged with the responsibility of leading the Government of a State as big as Queensland.

During his recent visit to North Queensland, and in his attendance at functions throughout the State, Jack Pizzev won a whole new host of friends and admirers. People admired him for what he was endeavouring to do for the State. It was his earnest desire to provide modern amenities for people, wherever they lived in Queensland. He was also admired by his parliamentary colleagues and we all appreciated the fact that he was a fighter to the last, despite earlier warnings that his heart was suspect. He appreciated those dedicated people who gave freely of their time and means and were willing to work long hours to help the underprivileged, those who were sick, and the maimed.

In the affairs of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Country Party, Jack Pizzev was always prominent and he was giving sound leadership to the party at the time of his death.

Jack Pizzev was admired because he devoted a lifetime of service to the community and to our State. He, too, was prepared to work long hours and to give his all to advance the living standards of Queenslanders. In recent months he had warned responsible youth of the community not to forfeit their rights in the future because of complacency. At a recent Cabinet meeting in Mareeba he said that it was an opportune time for people to join with him in a declaration of faith in Queensland. He himself had unbounded faith in Queensland.

Our late Premier was born in Childers and received his early schooling there and also at Bundaberg. He was appointed a student teacher at the age of 15 years and later served as a fully-trained teacher in various country centres of our State. This, perhaps, was his first public expression of service to the State—helping to educate its future citizens. During World War II he served with the 5th Australian Artillery Regiment, rising to the rank of captain. This was his voluntary expression of service to our nation.

Jack Pizzev was never idle. Even during his war service he continued his studies, and in 1942 gained his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Queensland while still serving in the Army. Returning to education at the end of the war he became a district organiser of adult education, establishing

centres in two provincial cities. Meanwhile he obtained his Diploma of Education from the university.

It was in 1949 that he returned to Childers to become manager of the local cane-growers' executive. The intimate knowledge that he gained in the sugar industry helped to equip him for his task as deputy leader of the Australian mission which attended the vital sugar talks in Geneva last May. I know that he had high hopes of the conference reaching an agreement when the talks are reconvened in Geneva next month.

Mr. Pizzev entered the State Parliament in 1950 as member for Isis and was the main Opposition speaker on education matters. With the return of the Country-Liberal Government in 1957 he became Minister for Education and retained that portfolio for a record term until he succeeded Sir Francis Nicklin as Premier on 17 January 1968. For 10½ years he directed the most ambitious educational expansion programme in the State's history. This included the building of many new primary schools and the expansion of the number of State high schools from 30 to 96. He was the driving force behind the provision of a second teachers' college in Brisbane and the planning of two others, one in Townsville and another in Brisbane. While he was Education Minister we saw the establishment of the State's first regional university at Townsville, the planning of a second university in Brisbane and the decentralisation of technical education. For his services to education Mr. Pizzev was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Laws by the University of Queensland.

He also won wide acclaim for his humane approach to matters affecting Aboriginal and Island peoples and for his work in modernising and increasing the efficiency of the Police Force of our State.

In his youth he was a prominent athlete. He was a keen cricketer and represented Queensland in interstate Sheffield Shield matches, he played on the wing for the Bundaberg Rugby League team, and often took part in foot-racing.

Above all, he was a loving husband and a devoted father.

I know that all hon. members will join with me in expressing to Mrs. Pizzev and her family the sincere sympathy of this Parliament in the grievous loss they have sustained.

Hon. G. W. W. CHALK (Lockyer—Treasurer) (2.45 p.m.): It is with a deep sense of sadness that I rise this afternoon to support the motion of sympathy proposed by the Premier in the untimely death of our late colleague, the 29th Premier of Queensland, Jack Pizzev.

The sense of shock and distress occasioned by the sudden passing of one of our close friends completely dulls the outlook, even of those of us who are engaged in the heavy, busy activity of public life and who, admittedly, enjoy the personal friendship of

many thousands of people with whom we come in contact. It is a grim reminder of the great uncertainty of life.

But this sense of sorrow and loss is doubly heavy when the last great call comes in the mid-career of a person who was so actively and zealously engaged in serving, with great sincerity and dedication and in a high and responsible office, his country and its people.

Might I recall that I entered this House three years prior to the late Jack Pizzey. At that time the Premier, the hon. member for Fassifern, the hon. member for Cooroora and I were the only persons now in this Chamber who sat then on the Opposition benches. I recall the entry of Jack Pizzey in 1950. He came as a bright, new face to the Opposition, a man possessed of a great future, a man who had many friends, and a man who very quickly won the friendship of every person in this Chamber. When there was a change of Government in 1957, Jack Pizzey and I were appointed Ministers. Today I am the only one here of those who were appointed to ministerial rank at that time. The hon. member for Fassifern is still in this Chamber, and he also was a member of that Cabinet.

I recall the hours that Jack Pizzey devoted to his ministerial responsibilities. To me his death was a terrific shock—to have been with him at 5.30 p.m. that afternoon when we parted, he apparently in good health, and to learn some five or six hours later that he had passed on.

When Jack Pizzey was elected Leader of the Country Party in January last he automatically became Premier of the State in succession to a man who had served this country so well and whom Jack Pizzey had served very faithfully and ably, and I was very proud and happy to have the opportunity to serve as his deputy because I believed, as he did, that together we could accomplish much for this State and its people. It is true that both of us had our party problems, but there was between us a close comradeship that enabled us to hold our ranks together in our desire to do something to build further this State.

It was a great privilege to serve under Jack Pizzey, and I believe that this State can ill afford the loss of a man of his calibre—a man who, in such a short time as Premier, as our present Premier has said, built around him a spirit of goodwill and affection.

In moving this motion the Premier has outlined not only Jack Pizzey's parliamentary life and his contribution to it, but also the many other fields of endeavour in which he had a never-ending desire to help his fellow-man. I do not intend to try to repeat those details. I feel sure we all recognise that they show that here was a man who had been endowed to no mean degree with the attributes of ability, zeal, loyalty and love of country, all of which he displayed so often in his public life, in this House, and outside it.

All that I can do in conclusion is to say that we can only speculate as to what future contribution he could have made to Queensland, but may his widow and his family derive some consolation in the days and years to come from the knowledge that what he did achieve will long be remembered, not only in this Parliament but throughout the length and breadth of our State, by hundreds and thousands of people to whom he represented, I believe, an ideal, and to whom he was an example and a source of help, assistance and inspiration. This House, this State and this nation are the better for Jack Pizzey's life and work in and for them, because he was a great parliamentarian, a great Queenslander and a great Australian.

I very sincerely, and very humbly, support the motion of condolence moved by the Premier.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (2.53 p.m.): On behalf of the Opposition, I wish to add our condolences to those already expressed to the widow and family of the late Jack Pizzey, and to support the Premier and the Deputy Premier in this motion. On the night on which Jack Pizzey unfortunately died, I was in the company of the present Premier, and I know that it was a great shock to us both to receive word that Jack Pizzey had collapsed and had been taken to hospital. It was certainly a greater shock when we learned that he had passed on.

When Jack Pizzey accepted the high office of Premier, I think most people realised that he did so knowing that he had a heart condition. Those of us who are in public life realised that he was taking quite a chance in allowing himself to carry out the hard and demanding duties of a senior official of this State. However, he accepted that challenge, and I believe that the people of Queensland will give him full credit for putting his State before his personal health. It is for this reason, if for no other, that the Opposition believes that members of his family have suffered a great loss, because by his passing they have been denied his companionship as a husband and as a father; but he did this in the interests of the State in which he had the privilege of being Premier.

I could not say that the Opposition always agreed with Jack Pizzey's views or his administrative decisions. But this is a democracy, and we accepted those decisions as being his honest opinions and for that reason, of course, we accepted the differences in political views. That does not deny us the right to say that we recognised Jack Pizzey as a man who was very friendly to all those who came in contact with him. We also know that he was a very hard debater, that he fought hard in this House and outside it for what he believed was right. I know that others who have differed from him on political opinions have found that he was a worthy opponent. But I suppose that one of the great traits that he showed as a man

was loyalty to his leader and loyalty to his party. I know that many people suggest that the party which I have the privilege to lead is rather severe on the question of loyalty. That is not so; our loyalty is to what we believe in. I believe that Jack Pizzey's loyalty was to what he believed in—his party and his leader.

It is with regret that we have to move and support in this House motions of condolence relative to any person who has served in this House. It is even more regrettable when such a motion relates to a sitting member. He has died in harness; he has not had the opportunity of accepting the rewards for his labours. Those who pass on after retirement have had some opportunity to reflect and to enjoy the company of those near and close to them; but someone who passes on in harness loses all of that.

On behalf of the Opposition, I join in the motion of condolence moved by the Premier and supported by the Deputy Premier.

Mr. DIPLOCK (Aubigny) (2.57 p.m.): On behalf of the Queensland Labour Party, I wish to associate myself with the motion of sympathy moved by the Premier and supported by the Deputy Premier and the Leader of the Opposition. In associating myself with the motion, I wish also to endorse most sincerely all of the tributes that the speakers who have preceded me have paid to Mr. Pizzey.

Having suffered a setback somewhat similar to that suffered by the late Premier, I know of all the warnings that would have been issued to him. I often discussed those warnings with him, but he felt that nothing mattered except his job. Because of that, I think that every Queenslander will agree that he was a man dedicated to his position, dedicated to the welfare of all Queenslanders.

He had a tremendously difficult task in following Sir Francis Nicklin, but I think that, in the few short months that he was Premier, he had proved himself able to surmount the difficulties associated with the importance of that task and to show the people that he was destined to carry on the good work that Sir Francis Nicklin had done for so long. We in this House feel that Queensland has lost a good son. Whether or not he was a good Minister and whether or not we feel that he played his part in the Government is not, in my opinion, the most important thing because, no matter how good a job any statesman or Minister may do, there is always someone ready to take his place and, we hope, to do the job as well as, say, the late Premier did. But the people who will feel his passing most are his wife, his mother and his children, and I end with the thought that God, who saw fit to take Jack Pizzey from them, might see fit to lighten the load that they have been called upon to carry.

Mr. DEWAR (Wavell) (3.1 p.m.): I desire to join in this motion of condolence to the family of the late Jack Pizzey, particularly because, with you, Sir, and the hon. member for Burdekin, I am one of the last three in this Chamber of those members who entered this House in 1950. I am sorry; there is one more who escaped my memory temporarily—the hon. member for Callide.

In the days from 1950 to 1957, when we sat in Opposition, very few in number, we were actually thrown together quite a deal. You, Sir, and I, consequently know the value of the friendship of our late colleague.

Jack Pizzey was called to the Premiership, and during the very short five months or so that he occupied that position he displayed an ability for leadership for which, no doubt, the war years provided a good training ground. The thing that impressed me most was the fact that he was prepared to face up to sticky problems, which was a refreshing change.

Jack Pizzey was a simple man and, as all simple men generally are, he was a big man. It is only big men who are capable of forgiveness. How often, in the cloistered confines in which I once sat, did I hear people outside being criticised and, almost invariably, one of the voices raised in defence was that of Jack Pizzey. He had a great capacity for forgiveness; he had a great capacity for making and holding friends. So, this man, called so early from this life, has left a legacy for good. His attitude to life was such that he might have said to himself, "I shall pass this way but once. If there is anything, therefore, that I can do, let me do it now; let me not defer it, for I shall not pass this way again."

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (3.4 p.m.): On most condolence motions it is usual for members to follow the example as laid down in the Latin proverb, "De mortuis nil nisi bonum." Sometimes speakers do that with silent reservation, but this is one occasion when every speaker should do it without reservation at all, because Jack Pizzey was indeed a man of the people. He was universally liked because he had all those qualities that endeared him to his fellow-men. It has come to all of us at times to meet men in unusual circumstances that are indicative of their real characters, and those are the circumstances in which I fortunately first met the late Jack Pizzey.

He had been sent to Townsville to open an adult education department, and he found when he got there that all he had to operate with was a bare room, a table and a chair. He had no finance and no means at his disposal to publicise adult education or to let the people know about this work. Anybody who knows anything about Townsville knows that in those days there was very little opportunity for him to get any free advertising for such a project. By means that

it is not necessary to disclose here he acquired a quantity of plain foolscap and he borrowed a roneo machine and churned out thousands of pamphlets setting out the aims and objects of the adult education centre in Townsville. Then, in the middle of a steaming Townsville summer—and only those who live there know what that entails—he rode his own bike all around Townsville and put one of those pamphlets in every letter-box. He frequently said afterwards that he knew more about Townsville than anyone else and I believe that statement of his to be true. It was in those circumstances that I met him. One afternoon I went out ostensibly to do some work in the garden but, being what I am, and my nature being what it is, I did not work in the garden very long on this very hot steamy summer afternoon. I took shelter in the shade of one of the trees in my front yard. While I was there, perhaps engaged in meditation and prayer, or contemplating the beauties of nature, this chap came along perspiring profusely on his bike and he put a pamphlet in my letter-box. Seeing me in the shade of the tree, he came in and said, "Are you Tom Aikens?" I said, "Yes." He said, "Well, I am Jack Pizzev. I am the Director of Adult Education in Townsville and I am riding round letting the people know all about the job that I have to do." I said, "Well, is there anything I can do for you? Can I get you a soft drink or a cup of tea?" He said, "No, all I want is a glass of water out of your tap; I do not want any iced water, and I want a loan of your bike pump." I gave him a glass of water out of the tap and a loan of my bike pump and he sat down in the shade of the tree and told me of his work. After he had been there a while he rode on, still perspiring profusely, to do the job, while I sat back in the shade of the tree and thought with considerable sympathy of the dedication of a man who would do that in the middle of a Townsville summer.

He lived not far behind my place just near Corcoran Park, and every morning he doubled his children on his bike to the Hermit Park school and then rode on to his office at the Adult Education Centre. I think it was because of that—because he got to know the Townsville people so well, and got to know Townsville the hard way—that we always thought in Townsville that he was very kindly disposed towards us.

When Jack Pizzev became Minister for Education all that Townsville had in the realm of secondary education was a combined high school and technical college with enough playing area for one basketball court. In 10 years Jack Pizzev erected in Townsville many permanent monuments to his memory. Not only that, but he built up in Townsville perhaps more respect and more genuine liking for himself than probably existed in any other town in the State—and that is a proud boast. In 10 years he built us three new high schools and a university college, and he commenced the building of a teachers' training college.

He built three new primary schools and spent tremendous sums in modernising education buildings and facilities in the Townsville area. In addition to that he performed a public service for Townsville and removed an eyesore that had agitated and concerned the minds of the city fathers for very many years—and I was one of the city fathers for 13 years—namely the tremendous, foetid, stinking mangrove swamps right in the heart of our city known as Monkey Island. Jack Pizzev reclaimed that area in order to build on it the Townsville High School. At a public function in Townsville not long ago, on the eve of his retirement from office, I heard Sir Thomas Hiley say that the story of how he and Jack Pizzev arranged to make the money available for the reclamation of Monkey Island was a magnificent example of genuine Levantine trading. No matter how they did it between them, as Treasurer and Minister for Education, they did something for Townsville that almost 100 years of aldermanic ineptitude had failed to do.

So it is that we think very highly, very sincerely, and very kindly of the late Jack Pizzev. He was a man of the people and a very approachable man. I can remember more than one occasion putting proposals to him about schools in Townsville. One instance concerned the shifting of the head master's residence from the school ground to another site, and everybody was in favour of it except Jack Pizzev. It meant the removal of one grave, one old unidentified grave in the old cemetery of Townsville. Everybody else including the headmaster was in favour of that grave being removed so that the headmaster's residence for the West End school could go on that site, but Jack Pizzev said, "No, I would not like to disturb any grave, no matter who sleeps there." So other arrangements were made. That was the real essence of the man. He was a human man. He walked with kings and still retained the common touch.

I do not know that any tribute I could pay or that any tribute I have ever paid to any man could be more sincere than the tribute I pay to Jack Pizzev. I think I can speak for all the people of Townsville, and with all due solemnity and sincerity I offer to Mrs. Pizzev and her children the deep and sincere condolence of our people. We will remember Jack Pizzev not only as a former citizen and not only as an amazing Minister for Education, but also, perhaps, as one of the finest men who ever lived in our city.

Mr. V. E. JONES (Callide) (3.14 p.m.): I wish to associate myself with the motion of condolence moved by the Premier and supported by many other speakers. I do so as one of the many Country Party members who entered this Parliament in 1950. You and I, Mr. Speaker, can look back upon the sad record of the many members that have been lost to the party since that day.

Our late colleague, Jack Pizzev, has left a mark in this State. His high principle of giving equal opportunity to every child

within Queensland is something that Queensland is the better for. During the comparatively short term of this Government many girls and boys have appreciated what the late Jack Pizzey did in the field of education and many more will do so in the future.

Jack Pizzey had a wealth of knowledge. I know of two different occasions in my electorate when the audiences at sticky meetings at which there were large attendances were much better informed after an explanation had been given on the matters by Jack Pizzey.

Mr. DONALD (Ipswich East) (3.16 p.m.): While I very sincerely agree with the sentiments expressed by the hon. members who have already made a contribution to this debate, I feel that there is one stage of the late Jack Pizzey's life that has not been sufficiently touched upon, although it was mentioned by the Premier. It enabled him to achieve one of his ambitions in life and it gave him tremendous satisfaction and some justifiable pride.

The first time that I met Jack Pizzey was when we brought him down to Brisbane from the country to participate in the Country Week cricket carnival. That was many years ago. Queensland was looking for a left-hand bowler and Jack Pizzey had been achieving outstanding performances with the ball in cricket fixtures in his own district. He came down here and bowled exceedingly well all through that Country Week carnival. He not only justified the confidence that we country selectors placed in him but he also impressed the State selectors so much that they selected him to play with the Queensland Colts against the New South Wales Colts. Again he pleased not only the country selectors but also the State selectors. He bowled himself into the Queensland side, which met one of the strongest batting sides that New South Wales ever fielded, and that State has fielded many strong batting sides.

The ambition of Jack Pizzey that I have referred to was to play in the State eleven. That is an ambition cherished by many Queenslanders, although many go further and wish that one day they will play in the Australian eleven. Well, perhaps Jack Pizzey could have played in the Australian eleven if he had developed the skill and ability that nature had given him. I can remember quite vividly people who knew cricket and had been good cricketers saying to him, "Young man, unless you learn to bowl a wrong 'un you will never go very far."

I was one of a party which was fortunate enough to make a trip, under the leadership of the late Jack Pizzey, to the Torres Strait Islands and native settlements in the Gulf of Carpentaria. On that occasion he proved an excellent host and a good leader, and we all respected him for the assistance he gave us and the pleasure that he brought to us. We were a very happy family. When we were

gathered together on the eve of breaking up, I remember saying to Jack Pizzey, as I said many years ago, "Jack, if you had not taken notice of the experts' advice to learn to bowl a wrong 'un, and if you had developed your natural talent as a left-hand bowler, as I asked you to do at the time, you would have gone further than you did in the game of cricket." That is as it may be; but it gives an indication of the man's anxiety and willingness to struggle and learn. Emphasis has been placed on how he played the game of politics, and how he was a fighter. They are the characteristics that made him a formidable opponent on the cricket field, and the good qualities that he showed there were reflected in his political career.

As we speak and vote on this motion of condolence, I feel that I should re-echo the sentiments expressed by other speakers that not only have Jack Pizzey's widow and family suffered a severe loss; the Country Party has suffered a severe loss; this Parliament has suffered a severe loss; and the State of Queensland has suffered a severe loss. We hope that his widow and family will be comforted in the knowledge that he served them, his fellow-men, his party, and his native State of Queensland very, very well in his parliamentary and sporting careers.

Motion (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) agreed to, hon. members standing in silence.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (3.21 p.m.): As a mark of respect to the memory of the late hon. gentleman, I propose to move the adjournment of the House. I move—

"That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 11 a.m. tomorrow."

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 3.22 p.m.
