

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 29 JUNE 1909

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the late Hon. John Leahy, and for the electoral district of Moreton, through the resignation of Mr. John Dunmore Campbell; that writs of election to fill these vacancies had been issued by the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor respectively; and that these writs had been returned endorsed as follows:—For the electoral district of Bulloo, Barnett Francis Samuel Allen; a proclamation had been issued by the Lieutenant-Governor validating the election, notwithstanding the late return of the writ; and for the electoral district of Moreton, James Forsyth; also that the two members had taken the prescribed oath and signed the roll before the Lieutenant-Governor.

DEATH OF MEMBERS.

HON. R. PHILP (*Townsville*) said: Mr. a'Court,—I am sure that every member of this House will join with me in regretting the death of the Hon. John Leahy, the late member for Bulloo, and Mr. John D. Campbell, the late member for Moreton. They were both intimate friends of mine. Mr. Campbell and I were boys together, and without doubt every member of this House will say that they were both men—(hear, hear!)—and I am sure that everyone regrets their death.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

At three minutes past 12 o'clock,

The House proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber for the purpose of hearing the Commission opening Parliament read.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

On its return,

HON. R. PHILP said: Mr. a'Court,—It now becomes the duty of this House to elect a Speaker, and in electing a Speaker I think we should cast aside all personal feeling and elect a member we consider competent to do the work. (Hear, hear!) I therefore propose that Mr. Bell, the member for Dalby, do take the chair of this House as Speaker. I think it will be agreed by members who have known Mr. Bell as Chairman of Committees that he acquitted himself in that position with credit to the House and to himself, and I think he is a very capable member to fill the position of Speaker. I regret the untimely death of Mr. Leahy, the late Speaker, and I think all sides of the House will admit that from being a strong party man Mr. Leahy became one of the most impartial Speakers we have had in the chair.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. R. PHILP: I have no wish to make a long speech, but I certainly think Mr. Bell is fully competent to fill the high position of Speaker—the highest position which this Chamber can give to any member—and I have great pleasure in proposing that he be Speaker of this House.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. PETRIE (*Toombul*): I have very much pleasure in seconding the motion proposed by the Hon. R. Philp—that the Hon. J. T. Bell be Speaker of this House. I regret very much the circumstances under which it is necessary for us to elect a Speaker—the death of our late lamented and esteemed friend, the Hon. John Leahy. There is no doubt that in Mr. Leahy and in Mr. J. D. Campbell, whose death I also regret very much, we have lost two good men. The Hon. R. Philp spoke of the late Mr. Campbell as having been associated with him as a boy. I also was not only associated

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, 29 JUNE, 1909.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The House, pursuant to proclamation, met at 12 o'clock this day.

VACANCIES DURING THE RECESS.

The CLERK announced that during the recess two seats had become vacant—namely, for the electoral district of Bulloo, through the death of

[*Hon. P. Macpherson.*]

with him as a boy, but had the honour and privilege of being christened with him and receiving the name—the honoured name—of the late John Dunmore Lang. (Hear, hear!) I have no wish to speak at any length; I simply say that in Mr. Bell we have a man well up in parliamentary procedure and the forms of the House, and I don't know a man in the House better fitted for the position.

Mr. MURPHY: The worst-tempered man in the House.

Hon. R. PHILP: What are you?

Mr. PETRIE: I don't know about that. During the three years he was Chairman I believe he gave satisfaction to every hon. member, and I have very great pleasure in having the privilege of seconding the nomination of the hon. gentleman as Speaker. I trust that this nomination will be acceptable to the House as a whole, because at this time it is in the best interests of the House that we should have in the chair a man well acquainted with parliamentary procedure and forms, as there is no doubt the position will not be a very pleasant one, but a very arduous one. I therefore have very much pleasure in seconding the motion.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. AIREY (*Brisbane South*): This is a most important function, Sir, that we are called upon to perform. The position of Speaker is certainly the most important in the gift of this House. It should be given, of course, to a gentleman who has some parliamentary reputation in this House, and also a gentleman on whose fair fame outside nobody can cast a breath of aspersion. I think we can all agree upon that, and I have no doubt that the Premier and the mover of this motion considered the matter before they decided to nominate the Home Secretary for the position. I think we are all agreed that in a matter so important as the highest position in the gift of the House, of all things that position should not have been dangled before members for weeks and months past in order to secure support for the Government.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: Hear, hear! and laughter.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Dangled by your side.

Mr. AIREY: I view this nomination with very mixed feelings. If we had to consider only the qualifications and knowledge of parliamentary practice possessed by Mr. Bell, there might be no second word to be said; and it would be the same if we had only to consider the personal aspect. But there is another aspect, and it is this: It is an open secret that Cabinet storms have been raging for a considerable time past.

Hon. E. B. FORREST: Not since you left.

Mr. AIREY: It is an open secret that there is a section of the Cabinet and of the Conservative party—

An OPPOSITION MEMBER: And the *Courier*.

Mr. AIREY: To say nothing of the *Courier*—who would be glad to see Mr. Bell out of the Cabinet. As a matter of fact, the real trouble appears to be that the present Home Secretary is a man who is endowed with some liberal principles, and there appears to be a strong desire to get every man of liberal principles out of the Cabinet as soon as possible. There is apparently a plot going on to paint the Cabinet a deep Tory blue as soon as possible—it is not blue enough for them.

Mr. THORN: You were blue enough yourself at one time.

Mr. AIREY: It is no doubt considered that the record of the present Home Secretary is too liberal. As a Minister in the Morgan-Kidston combination, and in the Kidston Administration as long as it was democratic, he assisted to put through a great deal of democratic legislation, including one man one vote and the Wages Boards Act. He also voted in favour of a tax on land monopoly, and was in favour of perpetual leases, and in half a dozen other directions he showed himself a man of marked democratic opinions. But a man cannot do that in this Assembly without giving offence in certain directions, and the hon. member is not looked on with too kindly an eye by the *Courier*. We know that some time ago the hon. member, who was thought by the Premier to be the ablest Minister for Lands the country had ever seen, had to go out of the Lands Office, where he had shown such conspicuous ability, and go to the Home Office; and apparently the migrations and peregrinations of the member for Dalby are not yet at an end—he is now to go to the Speaker's chair, the nomination having been made for a precisely similar reason.

An OPPOSITION MEMBER: At the dictation of the *Courier*.

Mr. AIREY: No doubt at the dictation of the *Courier*. I pointed out to the democratic remnant, when the present coalition was formed, that it would only be a short time before that party was absolutely conservatised.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. AIREY: The present proposed nomination for the Speakership of this House is simply made so that there may be a vacancy in that Cabinet for another member of the Philp party.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. AIREY: Now, I am not for one moment condemning the Philp party; they are perfectly right in demanding it, and they are foolish if they do not demand a great deal more. They have now in that party some twenty-four members, as against some thirteen or fourteen of the Kidstonites. They have in the Cabinet only three out of eight seats, and they are perfectly right to say that they will have their due—that they will have their pound of flesh. I hope they will have it, and as soon as possible.

Mr. MURPHY: Barlow has got to go out, too, you know.

Mr. AIREY: I wish to make one or two remarks here. When the coalition was formed there went out of the Ministry some three persons of democratic opinions, and three Tories—comparative Tories—were taken in. Now that process is to be continued; another gentleman of liberal opinions has to go out, and another Conservative to be taken in. If the democratic remnant over there cannot see what it all means, then they must be very blind and very obtuse indeed. Against the hon. member for Dalby himself I have nothing to say. When I was a colleague of his in the Cabinet we were always excellent friends, I am glad to say. It is his peculiar qualification as a gentleman to preside at functions of society, at which he has a superior. At an after dinner speech he is *facile princeps*. I hear they have found that he is somewhat scarce at the Home Office of late, but we must forgive a man for having these several qualifications. (Opposition laughter.) If it be possible to divide this House when there is only one nomination I shall most certainly try my best to do so.

Mr. LESINA: You have no chance.

Mr. Airey.]

Mr. AIREY: Just so. I say if it were possible I should be pleased to do so, in order to emphasise my opinion that the Cabinet ought to be kept as liberal as possible.

Mr. LESINA: Why not nominate a man? (Opposition laughter.)

Mr. AIREY: Nominate you?

Mr. LESINA: No.

Mr. MANN (*Cairns*): When speaking last session, I gave it as my impression that the hon. member for Dalby would make a fit and proper Governor. (Opposition laughter.) I am not prepared to say this afternoon that he will make a fit and proper Speaker, for the reason that I have always noticed in this House that while intending to see the procedure of the House carried out on the best lines possible, the hon. member has interrupted and tried to dictate to the Speaker more than any other member. But I suppose needs must when a certain person drives, and this Government is in a very parlous state indeed. They must get the hon. member for Dalby out of the Ministry at any cost, simply, as my colleague, Mr. Airey, said, to placate the *Courier*. There is perhaps another reason, and in looking over those benches, and knowing a little of the intrigue that has been going on for the last month or two—

The TREASURER: You ought to.

Mr. MANN: Motor-cabs have been sent after members in the dead of night; the Government "Whip" has been roused out of his bed and sent down to Clayfield or Toombul to round up the hon. member for Toombul, for the last time before the House met; and to show they were not quite clear about his allegiance, even this morning, he has been duly placated to second the nomination made by his leader, the hon. member for Townsville.

Mr. PETRIE: Very glad to do it.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. MANN: I am very pleased the hon. member is glad to do it; he was not always so good-natured. At the time the coalition was formed, he gave expression to his opinions in a forcible manner, so that all and sundry could hear what he thought of the Government. He gave his opinion of the nominal Premier in a cheeky way, but it seems the hon. member for Townsville has managed to get a ring in his nose, and make him second the motion. However, it is very well known that the Cabinet had to get rid of the hon. member for Dalby for certain reasons. I do not know whether I am in order in mentioning it, but I was prepared to ask, when the House met, for information in regard to the travelling expenses of the hon. member for Dalby—to see if we could not get some definite statement from the Government as to what it has cost for his tours through the country. I have an admiration for the hon. member, because while he was in office as Minister for Lands, I believe he tried to do the best he could for settlers in Queensland. I remember when the Railways Guarantee Bill was passed, the hon. member pledged himself in the most solemn manner that the people who had taken up land just previously to the passing of the Bill would, now that they had to guarantee the interest on the railways, have the price of their land reduced, and I know he has been trying to get the Premier to honour that promise. The hon. member takes an interest in settlement, and has been trying to get settlers on the land, but he has been handicapped by the Premier, who insists on having his pound of flesh. The Premier tried to pass a Land Monopoly Bill, he tried to pass a Betterment Bill, and failed, and he now attempts to screw as much as possible out of the unfortunate settlers.

[*Mr. Airey.*

Mr. WHITE: What has this got to do with the Speaker?

Mr. MANN: It has a great deal to do with it. I am pointing out that the hon. member for Dalby was driven out of the Lands Office because of his sympathy with the settlers, and is driven out of the Home Office because some Philp supporter wants a portfolio. I am trying to show they are not driving out a man because he is the best man for the Speaker's chair, but because he is a millstone round their neck, because he has liberal views. He wants to see cheap land, he wants to see Queensland go ahead, and those conservatives sitting on the front Opposition benches—(loud laughter)—

Mr. THORN: You are right.

Mr. MANN: Sitting on the benches opposite, we remember the Hon. the Premier himself, away back in 1902, trying to burst up the Labour party in favour of big squatters. He voted for granting to squatters long leases of forty years, and brought over three or four men with him from the Labour party. He tried to burst up the Labour party in favour of land monopolists, and he has got the same views today, only they are more accentuated. He is an apostate from the party, and, like other apostates, he is very bitter, and wishes to grind and squeeze the small man. He is in sympathy with the British India and Queensland Agency Company, McIlwraith, McEachern, and Co., and every other big financial institution in Queensland—(Government laughter)—and wants to help them and squeeze the small man. The hon. member for Dalby has been trying to get the land in Atherton reduced in price. I got a letter the other day saying the land had gone up during the last few years from £1 to £3 10s. an acre. I know the hon. member for Dalby, in accordance with the promise made, attempted to keep the price down, but the Premier says he must have his pound of flesh. It does not matter to him whether it is £4 or £5. He says, "The land is good; you must not put any taxation on the big man, but I have got to squeeze the little fellow, the small settler, to make ends meet." It is monstrous and ridiculous that a Government who pride themselves that they are "boosting" settlement should try in every form to produce an artificial value for land. They bring settlers in dozens, they show plans of the land, and when the men go they have to wait quite two years or longer, and then they pride themselves that they are promoting settlement, and they do this deliberately to penalise the small man the more. The hon. member for Dalby, whatever his faults may be, is a member who has always fought for the small settler, and tried to make land as cheap as possible, and for that reason he is to be harried off the Treasury benches and put into the Speaker's chair, to make way for some squatter's nominee. If we had a drought again, as we had in 1902, they would ask for a twenty years' extension of lease on account of their losses, and thus block settlement. That is the simple reason why the hon. member for Dalby is to be forced into the Speaker's chair. I intend to protest against it as loudly as I can, because while I have no regard for the present Government, and while I do not care how much more conservative it becomes, as the more conservative it becomes the better it will be for the country. (Hear, hear! and Government laughter.) Yes; I say that it will be better for the country, because the people will understand, as they did in 1904, when there was no hope for the old continuous Government, [12.30 p.m.] and this Government is going the same way. The next time they appeal to the people they will understand what

it means. They will understand that the continuing of this Government in power means the paralysing of the industries of Queensland. When Deakin turned out the Federal Labour party, why did not the Premier wire to him asking him what he intended to do? He did not wire to Deakin asking him, "Are you going to conserve the sugar industry for Queensland?" or "Are you going to put a duty on timber for the benefit of Queensland?" or "Are you going to assist the banana industry of Queensland?" No; he did not ask any of these things, but simply wired, "My congratulations for selling your principles, as I did myself." When the Premier sent that wire he did not trouble the least little bit about Queensland at all. He did not trouble about the black labour party at all. On one occasion when we were in caucus the Premier said that he agreed with the Federal Labour party's platform, and that he would sign it and fight for it, but the State Labour party were going further, and he could not go with them. But now, in his eager desire to curry favour with his new-found friends, he wires and congratulates Deakin for turning out the only possible party that would do any good for Australia.

Several GOVERNMENT MEMBERS interjecting, amid general conversation,

Mr. MANN: I am sorry that the Premier will not listen to this, because he has always posed as a friend of Queensland and a patriot, and as a man who always put his country first, yet he never for a moment thought of asking Deakin about his defence policy, or what he was going to do.

The TREASURER: He knew that you would ask him that.

Mr. MANN: It wants someone with brains to ask it, and that is why the hon. member never asked it himself.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: And that is why you didn't ask it.

Mr. MANN: When the Premier sent that wire congratulating Deakin, he might at least have asked him what he was going to do. I am sorry that the Premier did not do that. However, we are getting away from the hon. member for Dalby.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. MANN: The member for Dalby—the man who is to be shifted from the Treasury benches to make room for a conservative. I want to know was it the Pastoralists' Association or was it the *Courier* that suggested to the Premier who was going to be put into the hon. member for Dalby's place. We have heard rumours that the hon. member for Kennedy is to get the vacant portfolio. I do not think that the Licensed Victuallers' Association will stand that. They will have a word to say about it. We understand that the power behind the throne is the Licensed Victuallers' Association; that they have a very favourable eye on this Government, and it would not be a wise thing to put the hon. member for Kennedy into the vacant place. I hope that if an appointment is to be made the Premier will consult the Licensed Victuallers' Association as to the man who would be best suited to replace the hon. member for Dalby, because it has been said that the Government will be run largely on Licensed Victuallers' Association lines.

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER: Who said that?

Mr. MANN: I have been told that some members of the Licensed Victuallers' Association said so.

Mr. COTTELL: Name?

Mr. MANN: Seriously, I have been told that "Bung" is going to have a very big say in the councils of the Government. Now, I said last session that that was so, and I do not think that the Premier could contradict me. I was just wondering how the Licensed Victuallers' Association would like the hon. member for Kennedy to be given the vacant portfolio. But that is a matter for the Government themselves.

Mr. THORN interjected.

Mr. MANN: I am sorry that my friend, Mr. Thorn, cannot conduct himself. I hope that he will get up and enlighten this House on the subject. I will resume my seat now to give him an opportunity to do so.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. BLAIR (*Ipswich*): Mr. a'Court,—I beg to move that Charles Moffat Jenkinson do take the chair of this House as Speaker. I do not intend to take up too much time in voicing that proposition. I think hon. members will agree that Mr. Jenkinson is a man of considerable ability, who has been a member of this House for many years, and is thoroughly conversant with all its forms and procedure.

Mr. LESINA: He will take it lying down.

Mr. BLAIR: I think myself that hon. members will agree with me that Mr. Jenkinson will make a very fair and impartial Speaker.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. BLAIR: And for that reason I have pleasure in proposing him, and I hope he will allow his name to go to the vote. (Hear, hear!)

Mr. KENNA (*Bowen*): I have very much pleasure in seconding Mr. Jenkinson's nomination.

Question—That Mr. Bell take the chair as Speaker of this House—put; and the House divided:—

AYES, 37.

Mr. Appel	Mr. Hunter, D.
" Armstrong	" Jackson
" Barnes, G. P.	" Keogh
" Barnes, W. H.	" Kidston
" Barton	" Mackintosh
" Bell	" Maxwell
" Brennan	" Moore
" Cottell	" Paget
" Cowap	" Petrie
" Cribb	" Philp
" Denham	" Rankin
" Forrest	" Roberts
" Forsyth	" Somerset
" Fox	" Stodart
" Grant	" Swayne
" Grayson	" Thorn
" Gunn	" Walker
" Hawran	" White
" Hawthorn	

Tellers: Mr. Cribb and Mr. Grant.

NOES, 35.

Mr. Adamson	Mr. Lennon
" Avey	" Leslie
" Allen	" Mann
" Barber	" Maughan
" Blair	" May
" Bowman	" McLachlan
" Coyne	" Mitchell
" Douglas	" Mulcahy
" Hamilton	" Mullin
" Hardacre	" Murphy
" Herbertson	" Nevitt
" Hunter, J. M.	" Payne
" Huxham	" Redwood
" Jenkinson	" Ryland
" Jones	" Sumner
" Kenna	" Winstanley
" Kerr	" Woods
" Land	

Tellers: Mr. Barber and Mr. Land.

In division,

Mr. BELL, having gone outside the bar, returned after conversation with other hon. members, amid great excitement and cries of dissent on the Opposition benches, and cheers by Government members.

Mr. BLAIR: I rise to a point of order.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: There's no point of order.

Mr. BLAIR: I challenge the vote of the hon. member for Dalby.

Mr. MULCAHY: Mr. Bell's vote is challenged.

Mr. JENKINSON: His vote can be challenged as he is an interested party. It will be challenged afterwards. I will tell you what I think about it.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS interjecting, amid considerable excitement,

The CLERK announced the division: Ayes, 37; Noes, 35.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER-ELECT was then conducted to the chair by the Hon. R. Philp and Mr. Petrie, amidst the cheers and applause of hon. members.

Mr. BLAIR, rising to speak—

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Order, order! Question!

Mr. BLAIR: Is the vote of the hon. member for Dalby in order?

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Order, order!

Mr. JENKINSON: The vote of the hon. member for Dalby is challenged.

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: What about you?

Mr. JENKINSON: I will tell you presently.

Mr. BLAIR: It is the vote of an interested party, and I wish a record of that to be made.

Mr. MAXWELL: It is all over.

The SPEAKER, addressing hon. members from the dais, said: I desire to thank hon. members for electing me to this office.

Mr. JENKINSON: By your own vote.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: No, no!

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: Yes, yes; and other interjections.

Mr. JENKINSON: You would not have been elected without your own vote.

The SPEAKER: I greatly deplore the lamentable occurrence that has caused this vacancy. The strenuous parliamentary career of my predecessor in this chair was known to me intimately from the first day on which he became a member. I repeat again, I deeply deplore that this vacancy has occurred. I come to this chair without any idea as to whether I shall make a good Speaker or a bad one. A good Speaker is born, not made. It requires qualifications for the position that cannot be acquired. They must be instinctive. Whether I shall fill the rôle I am absolutely unable to say—I cannot give any assurance as to my fitness or the reverse. I can, at least, most confidently, and without any reservation, say to this Chamber that I shall be an impartial Speaker.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: Sitting in that chair, I can declare that I shall know no party, and my only desire will be, to the best of my ability, to carry out the Standing Orders and the rules and precedents that are laid down in "May" and other recognised text-books.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: May I offer this further remark: I hope this Chamber will never forget that it is not a public meeting—that it is one of

[Mr. Blair.

the two Chambers that constitute the high court of Parliament—that in the whole of our conduct and business we are as much guided by rules and procedure and precedents as any court of law. (Hear, hear!) I shall endeavour to interpret those rules and precedents to the best of my ability, and I can only hope that the way in which I do my duty will not only satisfy my conscience but my country.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. G. Appel, *Albert*): I rise for the purpose of offering you, Sir, congratulations of this side of the House upon your appointment. Before doing so, in common with those hon. members who have already spoken, I desire to say I deplore the sad necessity which has caused the occasion upon which we have just cast our votes. I, in common with those hon. members, desire to express to this House and to the country the opinion that must be held by each and every one of us—that the late Speaker carried out the duties of the high office to which he was appointed with impartiality, and, once more, we can only deplore his sad loss. (Hear, hear!) I desire, to a certain extent, in voicing the congratulations of this side of the House, to speak from the standpoint of one fellow-native Australian to another. As a fellow-native Australian to you, Sir, who are also a native of this State, I say it must be a matter of congratulation that we find men who are born in this State willing to take a part in the political matters affecting the destiny of their native State. You, Sir, have practically gone through an apprenticeship—and a long apprenticeship—so far as this House is concerned. First, as a private member, then as Chairman of Committees, and then as a member of the Cabinet, and I venture to say that even your enemies—if you have any—and I venture to say that after all said and done there are not very many men in this House who have a personal enmity to you—I venture to say that each and every one will admit that according to your ability—and you have great ability—according to your abilities you have faithfully carried out your duties in connection with every office which you have held during the time you have been a member of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland.

Mr. J. M. HUNTER: Is that the reason you put him out of the Cabinet?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: An interjection of the character of that uttered by the hon. member is hardly *apropos* of the present occasion. You, Sir, occupy a seat which has been held by men illustrious in the annals of the political history of Queensland, and I venture to say that you will fill the chair with credit to yourself and with honour to this House. (Hear, hear!) I feel satisfied, from the knowledge which I know you possess of constitutional history and of the forms of the House, that you will fulfil the very best traditions of any previous occupant of that chair, and that you will, as you have already said, carry out the duties of the position with absolute impartiality. We all know that the position to which you have been elected is the highest that your fellow-citizens in this State can offer you. It is a position which, from time immemorial, has been regarded in the political annals of the mother country as the highest honour that any commoner can attain to, and by you the best traditions of that office as they have come down to us from the mother of Parliaments will, I am sure, be carried out. It affords me extreme gratification to have the opportunity to congratulate you upon attaining the position which you have this day attained to.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. BOWMAN (*Fortitude Valley*): It has been determined by the majority that you are to be the Speaker of the present Parliament, and I was very pleased to hear the remarks you made when you said you would know no party while you sat in the chair. As leader of the Opposition, I will do my best to facilitate matters in the way of helping you as Speaker. I want to make a reference to your predecessor in that office, and also to the late hon. member for Moreton. I very deeply regret the sad loss which the House has sustained by the death of those hon. gentlemen. They were always opposed to the Labour party so far as political principles were concerned, but one always knew just where to meet them, because they were straight-out fighters. The House has lost two good men in the persons of Messrs. John Leahy and J. D. Campbell. There were many members of this House who, when your predecessor was appointed, knowing what a strong political partisan he was, thought he would perhaps not be as impartial as they might desire, but I think that during the three sessions that he occupied the chair he filled it as impartially as any man who has held that position since I have been in the House.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. BOWMAN: And, as one of my colleagues interjects, he did that during very trying times. During some of the stormiest times we have witnessed in this Chamber, he exhibited the greatest tact, and I deeply deplore his loss, as I do also the loss of the hon. member for Moreton. All I need add is that anything that I can do as leader of the Opposition to facilitate the business of this House, and to assist the Speaker, I shall be glad to do.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Kidston, *Rockhampton*): I rise to make a formal intimation. I should like to say that it was deemed undesirable on so important an occasion as that of the election of Speaker to submit a formal resolution to the House expressing the regret of members of this House at the death of the late Mr. John Leahy and the late Mr. Campbell, and sympathy with the relatives of those deceased gentlemen. It was, however, thought desirable that the thing should be done in a formal way, and I desire to intimate to hon. members that it will be done to-morrow. I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, very heartily upon your elevation to the chair, believing, as I do, that you are not only a fit man for the office, but also that you are the fittest man for the office that the House at present holds.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The PREMIER: I am quite sure that, however party feeling may run, no man in this House, and probably very few people outside, will question that statement in the slightest degree. I know that you did not aspire to the honour, that you did not seek the honour, and I also know that it was the judgment, undoubtedly the judgment, of the majority of this House that you should be Speaker, and, even if some members for certain reasons voted in the negative, I am convinced that they felt that the new Speaker is likely to add lustre to the very high office he now holds. I have to intimate that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor will receive you as the Speaker-elect of this Chamber to-morrow forenoon at 11 o'clock, and I now move that the House, at its rising, do adjourn till 11.30 to-morrow forenoon.

Mr. JENKINSON (*Fussifern*): I desire to say a few words on this occasion. I reciprocate the sentiments which have been uttered in regard

to the gaps which have occurred in the membership of this House; I regret as much as anyone else that death has visited us in this deplorable manner. But what I rose for was to make an explanation with reference to the nomination of myself for the position of Speaker. The nomination was not made because I was anxious for the position, because I had definitely announced that if the question came to a vote I should decline the position.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. JENKINSON: But it was necessary that a vote should be taken in order to ascertain a certain thing, and I was anxious to record my vote, because I do not believe that you, Sir, are a fit and proper person to occupy the chair. I am perfectly candid in the matter, as I have always been since I have had the honour of a seat in this House. I can only look back at your record in the House—

The PREMIER: Order! That is not the question before the House.

Mr. JENKINSON: You are not the Speaker; wait until you are.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. JENKINSON: I will not stand any bounce from the Premier or anyone else. I shall be perfectly satisfied to be called to order by the Speaker if I am transgressing the Standing Orders. But if we are to understand that we are to keep to ourselves honest opinions because they are going to hurt somebody, then the sooner we shut up this House the better for all concerned. But I am not going to be brow-beaten by the Premier or anybody else. I am going to say what I think whether it suits or does not suit the hon. gentleman. It is a matter of perfect indifference to me what the result may be. For many reasons, I say that you, Sir, have been a failure. When you occupied the position of Chairman of Committees I did not find you an unbiassed Chairman at all. That is the very reason why I do not want to see you in that chair.

The PREMIER: I rise to a point of order. Is it in order to discuss the personal character of the Speaker on a motion for adjournment?

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: The Chief Secretary has risen to a point of order. His point is: Is it in order to discuss the qualifications of the Speaker on this motion for adjournment? As a matter of fact, it most undoubtedly is not; but hon. members will understand that I hesitate, when an hon. member is taking that line, to interfere. I certainly do not want to stop an hon. member merely because he has something unpleasant to say about myself. But I would like to point out to the hon. member that, if he thinks it is a matter of sufficient importance, then distinctly his proper course is to give notice of a definite motion. I am very much afraid that, if he pursues the line he is taking at any great length, I shall be called upon to interfere. (Laughter.)

Mr. JENKINSON: You have risen greatly in my estimation, Mr. Speaker, because I believe you are perfectly correct. As a matter of fact, I waited my turn to speak when the matter was before the House. There was, first, the Secretary for Works, who congratulated you; then there was the leader of the Opposition, who did likewise; and then the Premier rose to his feet, all of whom, you, Sir, will admit were entitled to precedence to myself. It is the Premier's own fault, as he has deliberately blocked any discussion on this matter at the present juncture. It is one of those dirty little tricks for which he is becoming noted—

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The SPEAKER: Order! I must ask the hon. member to withdraw that remark, because I do not think the history of the Queensland Parliament justifies their use in this House.

Mr. JENKINSON: It is one of those subtle little tricks for which he is becoming noted throughout the country.

The SPEAKER: Order! I would ask the hon. member to be good enough to withdraw those words.

Mr. JENKINSON: I have already withdrawn the words, Mr. Speaker, and substituted others which, I understand, are quite in conformity with parliamentary usage and our Standing Orders. I am perfectly satisfied of that.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Withdraw, withdraw!

The SPEAKER: Order! I assure the hon. member that there is a distinct performance attaching to the operation of withdrawing words. An hon. member who wishes to withdraw words does so formally and briefly. If he tells me that he withdrew the words, I can only assure him that I did not hear it, and I ask him to be good enough to do it again. (Laughter and hear, hear!)

Mr. JENKINSON: As there appears to be some little doubt in your mind, Sir, I withdraw the words that I used, and substitute that the Premier, by one of those subtle parliamentary tricks for which he is becoming noted in this House and in the country, submitted a motion that practically blocked any observations that hon. members of this House desired to make on the previous question. I object to this gagging, Mr. Speaker. I have objected in my parliamentary career to the application of the gag in any shape or form, and I object to it now. I merely rose now that I might make the statement that I was anxious to record my vote. On a subsequent occasion—I will not detain you now—but on a subsequent occasion I shall probably have the opportunity of telling you, as well as the country, why I did not want to support you, Sir. There are reasons why I am not doing it at the present juncture. I wanted to record that vote, and, as you know perfectly well, it could not be done unless there was some other nomination made. I announced to members sitting on the other side that I declined to take the position, even if the votes were sufficient to put me there, and I only consented to my name being submitted to the House in order to enable the vote to be recorded.

Mr. AIREY: That is true.

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER: That is too thin.

Mr. JENKINSON: It is not too thin.

Mr. AIREY: I think it is my duty to rise to confirm the statement just made by the hon. member for Fassifern. He came to me and said, "I am allowing myself to be nominated simply that a vote may be taken on the question of the candidature of the hon. member for Dalby. After that," he said, "I shall withdraw my nomination."

Mr. COTTELL: Because he had counted heads then.

Mr. AIREY: It is due to the hon. member that I should mention that. With regard to yourself, Sir, personally I should be very pleased indeed to congratulate you. My relations with you for years were perfectly amicable and pleasant. But, although I congratulate you upon sitting in that chair, I cannot congratulate you upon the method by which your election has been carried.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Jenkinson.

Mr. AIREY: The Premier rose just now, and was very eulogistic of yourself and your fitness for the position. It brought to my mind immediately that some eight or nine months ago I heard him rise in this House and tell the House that you were undoubtedly the best Secretary for Lands he had ever seen, and at that very time you were being removed from that sphere of usefulness. What value one can attach to the hon. gentleman's compliments after that I am sure I do not know. The election of Speaker has been very significant of the position of the Ministry. This coalition was to bring about the formation of a very strong party which would sweep everything before it, and the proceedings to-day are a very significant commentary upon that belief. You, yourself, said just now that a Parliament should be guided by the rules of procedure and precedence as much as any court of law, and in that I think we are all heartily in accord with you. But I think it is almost without precedent, as far as I know, that a Speaker has been elected by virtue of his own vote.

Mr. GRANT: He was not. It is not true.

Mr. AIREY: I believe there is no precedent for such an occurrence, and it is a most deplorable occurrence. Nothing shows the degradation to which this Government have sunk more than what we have witnessed to-day. You yourself said just now that you deeply deplored the unfortunate occurrence—alluding to the death of the late Speaker—by which you had come to be nominated to the position. We all deplore that occurrence, and we also deplore what has taken place to-day. It is a unique occurrence, and if you yourself do not feel saddened by it, then all I can say is that the Government which put you into that position by such means have obtained the very acme of humiliation. The Hon. the Speaker said just now that a good Speaker is born and not made. That is not always correct—sometimes he is self-made—sometimes he is made by his own vote. (Opposition laughter.)

Mr. GRANT: That is not true.

Mr. KERR (*Barcoo*): Before I address you, Sir, I would just like to add my expressions of sympathy to those of other members who have spoken with regard to the late Speaker and the late hon. member for Moreton. I entered the Chamber with the late Speaker and yourself in the year 1893, and I appreciate the remarks that have been made in reference to his attitude after he took the Chair. I do not know whether I should compliment you on your elevation to the Chair or not, Sir, and for this reason: I think there is one phase of the question that has not been taken notice of yet, and that is the pressure brought upon you when outside the bar to bring you into the Chamber to vote for yourself. You rose in my estimation when you went outside, and had you followed your own will you would not have come into the Chamber; but when forced by the Premier and others to come in and record your vote, it was the most humiliating position I ever saw you in during your parliamentary career. I feel it all the more having sat in the Cabinet with you, and having always had friendly relations with you in the Cabinet, and when I left the Cabinet you were the only Minister that had the courtesy to write to me and express regret. I have very kindly feelings towards you, but I must deplore the pressure brought to bear to force you into the position you are forced into to-day. Apart from that, there is a strong reason why you should not be Speaker. There are certain things that came to my knowledge during your administration of the Lands Department, and

there are certain things that have taken place since you became Home Secretary, which can only be ventilated on the floor of this House, and with the Minister who committed those acts on the floor. What position will members be in when they have to criticise your actions as Home Secretary while you are sitting in that chair? We shall have the Premier getting up to a point of order, and saying that we are reflecting on the character and honesty of the Speaker when dealing with matters that ought to be dealt with. That is the position. You have been removed from the Cabinet to make way for a nominee of the Philp party, and you are now in the proud position of being Speaker of this Chamber largely by your own vote.

Mr. LESINA (*Clermont*): Between yourself and myself, Mr. Speaker, there has frequently been something in the nature of friction. We have at times crossed swords on the floor of this House, and the sparks have flown. The position now is somewhat different. In common with those who have expressed kindly sentiments towards you, I desire to express the hope that you will fill the position with credit to yourself, holding the scales of justice evenly on all occasions. You have been elected to the position by a majority of two votes, including your own vote, and you are therefore the elected representative of the whole of this Chamber, just as I, if elected by a majority of one or two of my constituents, would represent everyone in the constituency.

Hon. R. PHILP: Every member votes for himself.

Mr. LESINA: Undoubtedly. I believe in majority rule, but we should not make a fetish of it. Though we on this side are in a minority to-day, the rights we claim are the common rights of every member in this Chamber; and I believe that you, with your knowledge of parliamentary procedure and constitutional government, will give members on this side fair play. We ask for nothing more. We want the Standing Orders applied impartially, and I am positively certain we shall get fair play. It has been said in the past that strong partisans ought not to be put into the chair, but I think it will be admitted that they have generally attempted to be fair. I remember being on the back cross benches a couple of years ago when the late Mr. Leahy was proposed as Speaker, and the statement was then made that on account of his strong partisanship in the past it would be unsafe to place in his hands the administration of the Standing Orders. How quickly did the Hon. John Leahy give the lie to that statement! In spite of his strong partisanship he showed himself a fairminded man, and did his utmost while in the chair to see that the most humble member had his rights. In the same way I believe your tenure of office as Speaker of this Assembly will bring credit to yourself and credit to the House, and I desire again to congratulate you, and to express the hope that your term of office will be a happy one. (Hear, hear!)

Mr. HARDACRE (*Leichhardt*): I am one of those members who have almost invariably differed from you. Mr. Speaker, on political matters, but in spite of those differences we have been friends, and I believe that as Speaker of this House you will exercise your duties in a fair and impartial way. I believe you have the necessary understanding of our Standing Orders, and I believe that on the whole you will fill the position well. What I wish to say is that it is a regrettable thing that the highest office in this House should be made a party question, and dragged down into a dispute as to which party

should win. I regret that instead of being elected unanimously, or by a large majority of members—as you probably would have been if it had been a non-party appointment—I regret that you should have been elected by a mere party vote with a majority of one or two. It is a regrettable thing that this House should be put into a position of degradation such as we have seen to-day. It is a reflection on the Government, and the country should take cognisance of the fact that the Government, with all the influence of party, were only able to secure the appointment of one of their members to the position of Speaker by a majority of one with your own vote as well.

Mr. SUMNER (*Nundah*): I think the exhibition here to-day is very deplorable, and I just want to say one or two words. In the first place, I believe you are the best man in this House to occupy that chair.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

An HONOURABLE MEMBER: And you voted against him.

Mr. SUMNER: Wait a minute. If the hon. member for Dalby had stopped outside the bar he would have had not only myself but many more members on the other side of the House.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh! Question!

Mr. SUMNER: Anyhow, that is outside the question. I believe that to-day we have elected the best man in this House fit to occupy that chair. It only exemplifies to me the curse of party government in this House—

Mr. HARDACRE: Hear, hear!

Mr. SUMNER: That men do not vote according to their convictions. So far as you are concerned, Mr. Speaker, I believe—and I said it before the electors—that you were the best Minister for Lands who ever occupied that position.

Mr. MAY: That is correct.

Mr. SUMNER: I have heard you express this conviction, not only once but many times, that if never an acre of land had been alienated in this country, it would have been the best thing for the country.

Mr. AIREY: He had to leave the Lands Department.

Mr. SUMNER: It is said he had to leave the Lands Department, but I do not believe he had. However, I rise to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your attainment to that office. I believe that you will fulfil the duties of the office as they ought to be fulfilled, and that you will be as impartial a Speaker as ever we have had in the House. In opposition to my then leader, Mr. Kidston, I opposed the appointment of Mr. John Leahy, for conscientious reasons; but Mr. Leahy made one of the best Speakers we ever had in this House, so far as I know, and he was impartial. I believe we have now got a Speaker in the chair who will creditably fulfil the duties of the high office to which he is called.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. MITCHELL (*Maryborough*): I would just like to say, Mr. Speaker, now that it has been decided to place you in that position, that I hope the House will feel that it is their duty, under the circumstances, to support you. While doing so, I exceedingly regret the deplorable state into which the Government was thrown by attempting to place you in that position. The fact of your having the honourable instinct to see that it was your place to leave the Chamber under such circumstances, was certainly commendable on your part, but to think that the Government had to instruct someone to call you back is a most degrading and deplorable position

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for any Government to have to take up at the beginning of a session—and more than that, to think that you, yourself, would establish on the first day of the session the precedent of voting for yourself, a thing that has never occurred, I understand, in the history of Queensland before.

Hon. R. PHILP: How do you know?

Mr. MITCHELL: It is not a question of whether I know or do not know. I am making a statement, and if the hon. gentleman knows anything to the contrary, it is his place to correct me. I hope, as I said on rising, that the House will, under the circumstances, do what is in their power to assist you in every way to carry out the duties which devolve upon you in the distinguished position in which you have been placed.

Mr. SOMERSET (*Stanley*): I do not rise to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on having attained to the high position you now occupy, so much as to place on record the fact that I, as one of the members who endeavoured to induce you to re-enter the Chamber which you had left with evidently the full intention of not voting for yourself, pointed out to you that the other nominee, the hon. member for Fassifern, still retained his seat, and it was therefore placing the party and you, Sir, at a disadvantage.

Mr. LESINA: It is not a question of a man voting for himself—there is nothing wrong about that.

The HOME SECRETARY: Quite so.

Mr. SOMERSET: I may further say I am quite satisfied that the interest of your party alone caused you to come back into the Chamber.

Question—That the House, at its rising, adjourn till half-past 11 o'clock to-morrow—put; and the House divided:—

AYES, 37.

Mr. Appel	Mr. Jackson
„ Armstrong	„ Keogh
„ Barnes, G. P.	„ Kidston
„ Barnes, W. H.	„ Mackintosh
„ Barton	„ Maxwell
„ Brennan	„ Moore
„ Cottell	„ Paget
„ Cowap	„ Petrie
„ Cribb	„ Philp
„ Denham	„ Rankin
„ Forrest	„ Roberts
„ Forsyth	„ Somerset
„ Fox	„ Stodart
„ Grant	„ Sumner
„ Grayson	„ Swayne
„ Gunn	„ Thorn
„ Hanran	„ Walker
„ Hawthorn	„ White
„ Hunter, D.	

Tellers: Mr. Swayne and Mr. Gunn.

NOES, 34.

Mr. Adamson	Mr. Land
„ Airey	„ Lennon
„ Allen	„ Lesina
„ Barber	„ Mann
„ Blair	„ Maughan
„ Bowman	„ May
„ Coyne	„ McLachlan
„ Douglas	„ Mitchell
„ Hamilton	„ Muleahy
„ Hardacre	„ Mullan
„ Herbertson	„ Murphy
„ Hunter, J. M.	„ Nevitt
„ Huxham	„ Payne
„ Jenkinson	„ Redwood
„ Jones	„ Ryland
„ Kenna	„ Winstanley
„ Kerr	„ Woods

Tellers: Mr. Lennon and Mr. Barber.

Resolved in the affirmative.

The House adjourned at twenty-five minutes to 2 o'clock.

[*Mr. Mitchell.*