

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 27 JULY 1926

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QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

Legislative Assembly.

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT

APPOINTED TO MEET

AT BRISBANE ON THE TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY OF JULY, IN THE SEVENTEENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V., IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1926.

TUESDAY, 27 JULY, 1926.

Pursuant to the proclamation of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, dated 16th July, 1926, appointing Parliament to meet this day for the despatch of business, the House met at 12 o'clock noon.

The Clerk of the Parliament read the proclamation.

COMMISSIONERS TO OPEN PARLIAMENT.

The Clerk acquainted the House that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, not being able conveniently to be present in person, had been pleased to cause a Commission to be issued under the public seal of the State, appointing the Hon. William McCormack, the Hon. William Forgan Smith, and the Hon. Alfred James Jones Commissioners in order to the opening and holding of this session of Parliament, which Commission he then read to the House.

The Commissioners so appointed having taken their places upon the dais,

The SENIOR COMMISSIONER (the Premier, Hon. Wm. McCormack, *Cairns*) said: Hon. members of the Legislative Assembly, we have it in command from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to let you know that, as soon as the members of the Legislative Assembly have been sworn, the causes of this Parliament being called together will be declared to you; and, it being necessary that a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly be first chosen, it is His Excellency's pleasure that you proceed to the election of one of your number to be your Speaker, and that you present such person so chosen to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor at such time and place as His Excellency shall appoint.

The Premier thereupon produced a Commission under the public seal of the State,

empowering him, the Hon. William Forgan Smith, and the Hon. Alfred James Jones, or any one or more of them, to administer to all or any members or member of the House the oath or affirmation of allegiance to His Majesty the King, which Commission was then read to the House by the Clerk.

MEMBERS SWORN.

The Commissioners and certain other members of the Ministry, having been themselves previously sworn in before His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, then administered the oath or affirmation of allegiance to the following members, who thereupon subscribed the roll:—

Appel,	Honourable	John	George
(<i>Albert</i>).			
Barber,	George	Philip,	Esquire
(<i>Bundaberg</i>).			
Barnes,	George	Powell,	Esquire
(<i>Warwick</i>).			
Barnes,	Honourable	Walter	Henry
(<i>Wynnum</i>).			
Bedford,	Randolph,	Esquire	(<i>Warrego</i>).
Bell,	Ernest Thomas,	Esquire	(<i>Fassifern</i>).
Bertram,	Honourable	William	(<i>Maree</i>).
Brand,	William	Alfred,	Esquire
(<i>Burrum</i>).			
Bruce,	Henry Adam,	Esquire	(<i>Kennedy</i>).
Bulcock,	Frank	William,	Esquire
(<i>Barcoo</i>).			
Carter,	George,	Esquire	(<i>Port Curtis</i>).
Clayton,	Ernest Henry	Collet,	Esquire
(<i>Wide Bay</i>).			
Collins,	Charles,	Esquire	(<i>Bowen</i>).
Conroy,	Charles	William,	Esquire
(<i>Maranoa</i>).			
Cooper,	Frank	Arthur,	Esquire
(<i>Bremer</i>).			
Cooper,	William,	Esquire	(<i>Rosewood</i>).
Corser,	Bernard	Henry,	Esquire
(<i>Burnett</i>).			
Costello,	Edward,	Esquire	(<i>Carnarvon</i>).
Dash,	John,	Esquire	(<i>Mundingberrra</i>).
Deacon,	William	Arthur,	Esquire
(<i>Cunningham</i>).			
Edwards,	James	Braidwood,	Esquire
(<i>Nanango</i>).			

Farrell, George Pritchard, Esquire
(*Rockhampton*).
 Ferricks, Myles Aloysius, Esquire (*South
Brisbane*).
 Foley, Thomas Andrew, Esquire
(*Leichhardt*).
 Fry, James Porter, Esquire (*Kurilpa*).
 Gledson, Honourable David Alexander
(*Ipswich*).
 Hanlon, Edward Michael, Esquire
(*Ithaca*).
 Hanson, Edward Joseph, Esquire
(*Buranda*).
 Hartley, Harold Leslie, Esquire (*Fitzroy*).
 Hynes, Maurice Patrick, Esquire
(*Townsville*).
 Kelso, William, Esquire (*Nundah*).
 Kerr, James Stevingstone, Esquire
(*Knoggera*).
 King, Reginald MacDonnell, Esquire
(*Logan*).
 Land, Edward Martin, Esquire (*Balonne*).
 Llewelyn, Evan John, Esquire
(*Toowoomba*).
 Lloyd, William Field, Esquire (*Kelvin
Grove*).
 Maxwell, James Francis, Esquire
(*Toowoong*).
 McLachlan, Peter Alfred, Esquire
(*Merthyr*).
 Moore, Arthur Edward, Esquire
(*Aubigny*).
 Morgan, Godfrey, Esquire (*Murilla*).
 Nott, Frederick Lancelot, Esquire
(*Stanley*).
 O'Keefe, John, Esquire (*Chillagoe*).
 Payne, John, Esquire (*Mitchell*).
 Pease, Percy, Esquire (*Herbert*).
 Pollock, George, Esquire (*Gregory*).
 Riordan, David, Esquire (*Burke*).
 Roberts, Thomas Robert, Esquire (*East
Toowoomba*).
 Russell, Hugh McDiarmid, Esquire
(*Toombul*).
 Russell, Wilfred Adams, Esquire (*Dalby*).
 Ryan, Cornelius James, Esquire
(*Eacham*).
 Ryan, Henry Joseph, Esquire (*Cool*).
 Swayne, Edward Bowdich, Esquire
(*Mirani*).
 Taylor, Charles, Esquire (*Windsor*).
 Walker, Harry Frederick, Esquire
(*Cooroora*).
 Weir, David, Esquire (*Maryborough*).
 Winstanley, Vernon, Esquire (*Queenton*).
 Wright, Albert Henry, Esquire (*Bulimba*).

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

Mr. H. J. RYAN (*Cool*): Mr. Bernays, I have much pleasure in moving—

“That the hon. member for Maree, Mr. William Bertram, do take the chair of the House as Speaker.”

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. H. J. RYAN: The appointment of Speaker is one of the most important functions to be performed by hon. members of this Chamber, because we recognise that the Speakership is the highest gift that can be bestowed by hon. members on one of their number. Mr. Bertram, the gentleman whom I am nominating, has a commendable record. For fourteen years he has represented the constituency of Maree in this Assembly, and during the occupancy of the Treasury benches by the present Government party he has the unique record of never having missed a sitting. During the past six and a-half years he has occupied the

presidency of this Chamber as Speaker, and prior to that for three and a-half years he acted as Chairman of Committees. During that time not one of his decisions or rulings has been challenged or even questioned. For that reason I consider Mr. Bertram is a fit and proper person to occupy the high position of Speaker. He possesses in a marked degree the attributes of tact, discrimination, courtesy, impartiality, toleration, and a generous chivalry so greatly favoured by the minority party in this House, the Opposition. Those attributes, coupled with the mature experience Mr. Bertram has gained, and which is so necessary in one exercising control over parliamentary practice and procedure, eminently qualify him as a fit and proper person to preside in this Chamber. I therefore have much pleasure in moving that Mr. Bertram be Speaker in this Assembly.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. DASH (*Mundingburra*): I have much pleasure in seconding the nomination of Mr. Bertram as Speaker.

Mr. BERTRAM (*Maree*): I submit myself to the pleasure of the House.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The Speaker-elect was escorted to the chair by the mover and seconder of the motion.

[12.50 p.m.]

THE SPEAKER, speaking from the dais, said: Hon. members, I deeply appreciate the honour that has been again conferred upon me. This is the fourth occasion on which I have been elected to the Speaker's chair, and prior to that I occupied the position of Chairman of Committees of this House for a period of three and a-half years. I shall endeavour, in the future, as I have endeavoured in the past, to deal impartially with hon. members on both sides of the House. (Hear, hear!) I again thank hon. members.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. McCormack, *Cairns*): Mr. Speaker,—I desire to offer my personal congratulations to you upon your unanimous election again to the high and honourable position of Speaker of this House. I feel sure that you will conduct the affairs of the House with impartiality. I know the responsibilities that are cast upon you as Speaker, because I occupied the position myself for four years. I feel sure that hon. members on both sides of the House will pay you that respect which the position deserves, will obey your rulings, and will endeavour to help you in the onerous task of smoothing over the difficulties that inevitably occur in Legislative Assemblies. (Hear, hear!) We are not a Sunday school. We are a body of men selected from all classes in the community to conduct the business of Parliament as representatives of the people, and upon us, as well as upon you, is placed the obligation to see that the traditions of this House are carried out. I again congratulate you, Sir, upon your re-election to the position of Speaker of the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. MOORE (*Aubigny*): I desire, Sir, to congratulate you upon your re-election as Speaker. In the election of Speaker it is absolutely essential that all party considerations should be eliminated, consequently I take the very greatest exception to what has been going on during the past few weeks. We have seen it announced in the papers

[*Mr. H. J. Ryan.*]

that you, Sir, had been selected for the honourable position of Speaker of this House. We have had the Government party assuming that they only had to come to that conclusion and that you were elected. As a matter of fact, the election of Speaker is in the hands of this House, and the Government party had no right to assume, because they have a majority, that you, Sir, were going to be elected Speaker of this House.

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER: You did not nominate a candidate against him.

Mr. MOORE: We did not nominate a candidate. I am not going to say that we would have done so in any case, but we knew perfectly well that it would have been quite futile, because we know that, when hon. members opposite come into this Chamber bound and gagged as they are, the person selected by them outside before we come into Parliament is sure to be elected. I do not say we would have put up anybody in any case, but I say that is the position in which we are placed. The position that you occupy is a very responsible one and confers a very high honour, and I only trust that you will show absolutely strict impartiality, and that you will preserve the rights of every member of this Assembly and see that, although we have a dictatorial Premier with a submissive following—(Government laughter)—the Opposition get their rights in this Chamber. I want to see members of this House have the fullest freedom of speech. We want to see that everything brought before this House is allowed the freest and fullest discussion. I am certain that so long as you, Sir, take up a strictly impartial attitude, every member on this side of the House will be behind you and will assist you in carrying out the duties of this Assembly as they should be carried out; but, if we find, or if we consider, that that impartial attitude is being departed from, then we will take it upon ourselves to enter the most emphatic protest that we possibly can. We trust that you will give us the fullest opportunity that you consider necessary for the proper conduct of the business of this House.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. McCormack, Cairns): I beg to move—

“That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 a.m. to-morrow.”

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER: I beg to move—

“That the House do now adjourn.”
I desire to inform hon. members that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor will receive the Speaker at half-past 10 o'clock to-morrow morning. Mr. Speaker will then report to the House, and, of course, the usual opening ceremony will take place at noon.

The SPEAKER: Before the motion is put, I desire to thank the Premier, the leader of the Opposition, and the hon. member for Cook for their kindly references to myself.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at 12.35 p.m.