

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 19 AUGUST 1941

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FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTY-NINTH PARLIAMENT

Appointed to Meet

AT BRISBANE ON THE NINETEENTH DAY OF AUGUST, IN THE FIFTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI., IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1941.

TUESDAY, 19 AUGUST, 1941.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

Pursuant to the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, dated 17 July, 1941, appointing Parliament to meet this day for the despatch of business, the House met at 12 o'clock noon in the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

The Clerk of the Parliament read the proclamation.

COMMISSION TO OPEN PARLIAMENT.

The Clerk acquainted the House that His Excellency the Governor, not being able conveniently to be present in person this day, had been pleased to cause a commission to be issued under the public seal of the State, appointing the Hon. William Forgan Smith, the Hon. Frank Arthur Cooper, and the Hon. Edward Michael Hanlon Commissioners in order to the opening and holding of the present session of Parliament.

The Commissioners so appointed being seated on the dais, and the Clerk having read the commission,

The **SENIOR COMMISSIONER** (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay) said: Hon. members, we have it in command from His Excellency the Governor to let you know that, as soon as the members of the Parliament of Queensland have been sworn, the causes of this Parliament being called together will be declared to you; and, it being necessary that a Speaker 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 Governor at such time and place as His Excellency shall appoint.

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The Premier thereupon produced a commission under the public seal of the State, empowering him, the Hon. Frank Arthur Cooper, and the Hon. Edward Michael Hanlon, 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.

RETURN OF WRITS.

The Clerk informed the House that the writs for the various electoral districts had been returned to him severally endorsed as follows:—

Albert—Thomas Flood Plunkett.
Aubigny—James Beresford Gordon Sparkes.
Barcoo—Frank William Bulcock.
Baroona—William Power.
Bowen—Ernest Joseph Riordan.
Bremer—Frank Arthur Cooper.
Brisbane—John Henry Mann.
Bulimba—George Henry Marriott.
Bundaberg—John Francis Barnes.
Buranda—Edward Joseph Hanson.
Cairns—John O'Keefe.
Carnarvon—Paul Jerome Remigius Hilton.
Carpentaria—Alfred James Smith.
Charters Towers—Arthur Jones.
Cook—Harold Henry Collins.
Coorooka—Harry Frederick Walker.
Cunningham—William Arthur Deacon.
Dalby—Aubrey Robert Slessar.
East Toowoomba—Herbert Yeates.
Enoggera—George Cuthbert Taylor.
Fassifern—Adolf Gustav Muller.
Fitzroy—James Clark.
Fortitude Valley—Samuel John Brassington.
Gregory—George Henry Devries.
Gympie—Thomas Dunstan.
Hamilton—Bruce Pie.
Herbert—Stephen Theodore.
Ipswich—David Alexander Gledson.

Isis—William Alfred Brand.
 Ithaca—Edward Michael Hanlon.
 Kelvin Grove—John Albert Turner.
 Kennedy—Cecil George Jesson.
 Keppel—David John Marlais Daniel.
 Kurilpa—Patrick Kerry Copley.
 Logan—John Innes Brown.
 Mackay—William Forgan Smith.
 Maranoa—Charles William Conroy.
 Maree—Louis Wells Luckins.
 Maryborough—David Farrell.
 Merthyr—William Matthew Moore.
 Mirani—Edward Joseph Walsh.
 Mundingburra—John Dash.
 Murrumba—George Francis Reuben Nicklin.
 Nanango—James Braidwood Edwards.
 Normanby—Thomas Andrew Foley.
 Nundah—John Vincent Hayes.
 Oxley—Thomas Nimmo.
 Port Curtis—Thomas Lewis Williams.
 Rockhampton—James Larcombe.
 Sandgate—Eric Paul Decker.
 South Brisbane—Vincent Clair Gair.
 Stanley—Duncan Macdonald.
 The Tableland—Henry Adam Bruce.
 Toowong—Harry Massey.
 Toowoomba—John Edmund Duggan.
 Townsville—George Keyatta.
 Warrego—Randolph Bedford.
 Warwick—John Joseph O'Connor Healy.
 West Moreton—Edmund Bede Maher.
 Wide Bay—Ernest Henry Collet Clayton.
 Windsor—Harry Russell Moorhouse.
 Wynnum—William Logan Dart.

The CLERK: I have also to inform the House that an Order in Council was issued on 12 June last, validating the election of Frank William Bulcock, Alfred James Smith, Arthur Jones, Harold Henry Collins, George Henry Devries, and Thomas Andrew Foley as members to serve in the Legislative Assembly of Queensland for the electoral districts of Barecoo, Carpentaria, Charters Towers, Cook, Gregory, and Normanby, respectively, notwithstanding any delay in taking the poll or returning the writs for the said electoral districts or in the delayed receipt of the ballot-box from one polling place in the electoral district of Normanby.

MEMBERS SWORN.

The Commissioners, who, with the Hon. F. W. Bulcock, Hon. H. A. Bruce, Hon. T. A. Foley, Hon. J. Larcombe, Hon. D. A. Gledson, Hon. E. J. Walsh, and Hon. J. O'Keefe, other members of the Ministry, had been sworn in before His Excellency the Governor on 14 August, 1941, and subscribed the roll, then administered the oath or affirmation of allegiance to the following other members, who thereupon also subscribed the roll:—

John Francis Barnes, Esquire.
 William Alfred Brand, Esquire.
 John Innes Brown, Esquire.
 James Clark, Esquire.
 Ernest Henry Collet Clayton, Esquire.
 Harold Henry Collins, Esquire.
 Charles William Conroy, Esquire.
 Patrick Kerry Copley, Esquire.
 David John Marlais Daniel, Esquire.
 William Logan Dart, Esquire.

The Honourable John Dash.
 William Arthur Deacon, Esquire.
 Eric Paul Decker, Esquire.
 George Henry Devries, Esquire.
 Thomas Dunstan, Esquire.
 James Braidwood Edwards, Esquire.
 David Farrell, Esquire.
 Vincent Clair Gair, Esquire.
 Edward Joseph Hanson, Esquire.
 John Joseph O'Connor Healy, Esquire.
 Paul Jerome Remigius Hilton, Esquire.
 Cecil George Jesson, Esquire.
 Arthur Jones, Esquire.
 George Keyatta, Esquire.
 Louis Wells Luckins, Esquire.
 Duncan Macdonald, Esquire.
 John Henry Mann, Esquire.
 George Henry Marriott, Esquire.
 Harry Massey, Esquire.
 William Matthew Moore, Esquire.
 Harry Russell Moorhouse, Esquire.
 Adolf Gustav Muller, Esquire.
 George Francis Reuben Nicklin, Esquire.
 Thomas Nimmo, Esquire.
 Bruce Pie, Esquire.
 Thomas Flood Plunkett, Esquire.
 William Power, Esquire.
 Ernest Joseph Riordan, Esquire.
 Aubrey Robert Slessar, Esquire.
 Alfred James Smith, Esquire.
 James Beresford Gordon Sparkes, Esquire.
 George Cuthbert Taylor, Esquire.
 Stephen Theodore, Esquire.
 John Albert Turner, Esquire.
 Harry Frederick Walker, Esquire.
 Thomas Lewis Williams, Esquire.
 Herbert Yeates, Esquire.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

Mr. BROWN (Logan) (12.22 p.m.): Mr. Dickson, I have much pleasure in moving—

“That the hon. member for Buranda, Mr. Edward Joseph Hanson, do take the chair of the House as Speaker.”

I know of no hon. member in this Chamber who can fill the position better than Mr. Hanson. I have known him for over 45 years, and I have always found him to be a thoroughly straightforward man—and I am not one to rise in this Chamber and say something about another hon. member if I do not believe that what I am saying is true; I am not a believer in throwing bouquets if a person does not deserve them. Those hon. members who have sat in this Chamber under him as successor to the late Mr. George Pollock must admit that each and every hon. member of this Assembly received from Mr. Hanson an absolutely square deal.

Mr. Hanson's task as Speaker of this Assembly will be a little harder during this session, because he has so many parties with which to deal (laughter). He has one party on this side of the Chamber and five or six on the other side, and in four of the parties opposite the one man has to fill the positions of leader, secretary, and whip (laughter).

I say in all sincerity that Mr. Hanson will be the right man in the right place as the Speaker of this House, and I am sure that after those hon. members who are new to Parliament have passed through this session under Mr. Hanson as Speaker, each and every one of them will be convinced that he is a fair and just Speaker.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MANN (Brisbane) (12.25 p.m.): I have pleasure in supporting the nomination moved by the hon. member for Logan.

During the last two sessions of the last Parliament Mr. Hanson occupied the office of Speaker and demonstrated his ability to maintain the decorum and dignity of this House; I am sure that all hon. members will agree with me in that statement. His attributes fit him to hold the high and honourable position again, and I have pleasure in joining in submitting his nomination to hon. members of this Assembly.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. HANSON (Buranda) (12.26 p.m.): I desire to thank the hon. member for Logan and the hon. member for Brisbane for their nomination of me as Speaker. It is with the deepest sense of appreciation of the great honour it is proposed to confer on me that I submit myself to the will of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER was escorted to the chair by the mover and seconder of the motion, and, speaking from the dais, said: I thank hon. members for the great honour they have conferred upon me in the unanimous selection of me for the high and honourable position of Speaker of this House and I trust that I shall justify the confidence placed in me.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay) (12.27 p.m.): I desire to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on again being unanimously elected Speaker of this House. The office you hold is an historical one, and of great importance; in it you embody the honour and dignity of Parliament.

The Speaker of the House, nowadays, fortunately, has not the difficult position to occupy that Speakers in the past had, for if one reads the history of the House of Commons, one readily acknowledges that in times gone by Speakers undertook not only a very important, but—shall I say?—a very onerous office. With the passage of time and the growth of democracy, however, the office of Speaker, if it is perhaps less difficult, has on the other hand naturally gained in importance, because Parliament to-day deals more and more with the matters that count in the life of the nation.

It is your duty, Mr. Speaker, to interpret the Standing Orders, maintain order in the House, and to see that all the forms of the House are rigidly and properly adhered to. Members of Parliament and visitors to the Chamber may think that the Standing Orders and the procedure of Parliament are

somewhat archaic and could with profit be simplified. To those I would point out that these forms and this procedure are necessary; they are the results of long experience in various Parliaments. The whole basis of the Standing Orders, which govern debate in this Chamber, and the several readings that Bills have to go through before they finally pass, is the principle that Parliament shall enact the laws, and that before any measure is placed on the statute-book it shall have the complete assent of the majority of the members of Parliament.

You, Mr. Speaker, are the guardian of those forms of the House. Your unanimous election is, of course, an expression of appreciation of your past services as Speaker of this Assembly. For a long period you were Chairman of Committees, a very excellent apprenticeship for the greater office that you now hold. While you have been the occupant of the office of Speaker you have carried out your duties with becoming dignity and in such a manner as to gain the respect and esteem of hon. members. Undoubtedly, the rules of the House have to be observed, but a Speaker can control debate by his impartiality and his own personality with greater facility than by a ruthless administration of the Standing Orders. You have been found to have those qualities, and on my own behalf and on behalf of hon. members on this side of the House I congratulate you on your re-election to the position of Speaker. I hope and trust that you will be long spared to continue to enjoy that office and to carry out its duties with benefit to Parliament.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. NICKLIN (Murrumba) (12.32 p.m.): I desire to join with the Premier in congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, upon again being elected to the high and honourable position of Speaker of this Assembly. I am sure that it must be gratifying to you to receive the unanimous nomination of your party as well as the unanimous assent of all hon. members of the House. I am sure that I am endorsing the sentiments of all hon. members when I say that you thoroughly earned the distinction that has been conferred upon you. It fittingly follows the meritorious service that you gave in this House as Chairman of Committees and it places the seal of approval upon the capable manner in which you exercised the duties of Speakership during the last Parliament. The dignified way in which you have occupied the office of Speaker and your fair and impartial rulings have earned for you the respect of all hon. members.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. NICKLIN: That has been fully confirmed by your unanimous re-election to that position. We all realise that you have a difficult task to do, but we also feel that you have the attributes that enable you to carry out your many duties. You certainly have dignity, knowledge of the Standing Orders, and above all, discretion, and these attributes will help you immeasurably to control the

debates in the House. When tempers get ruffled and things appear to be getting a little bit warm you seem to know just when to step in to avert an undignified scene. You also have mercy in your make-up and when some of us are inclined to stray from the straight and narrow path you bring us back to it gently, you do not jerk us back to it as perhaps we may have deserved. We appreciate that quality in you very much.

There is just one suggestion that I respectfully should like to make, and it is that perhaps you should give consideration to the wearing of the robes of your office. Of course, I know that you, like many of us, dislike pomp and ceremony, but I feel that the dignity of your high office would be considerably enhanced if you wore your robes of office.

Mr. Gair: It would not make him any better as Mr. Speaker.

Mr. NICKLIN: No, I know that it would not make him any better as Mr. Speaker, but I do think it would help to maintain the dignity of the office and dignity of Parliament, which, unfortunately, appears to be lacking in many parts of Australia. Whatever you may decide, I again congratulate you and I can assure you of the co-operation of members of our party not only in maintaining the dignity of Parliament, but in assisting you to carry out your duties.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. SPEAKER: I desire to thank the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition for their very complimentary references to me. I feel that I do not altogether deserve them—indeed, after listening to them I shall probably have to go to the city at the adjournment to buy a new hat (laughter).

I also desire to thank hon. members generally for the great compliment they have paid me in electing me unanimously. If I were egotistical I might say that hon. members, having sampled the goods delivered to them during the last two sessions of Parliament, were quite satisfied and had placed an order for the same line again.

The duties associated with the Speakership are not always easy—any hon. member who has occupied the position to which I have now been elected or that of Chairman of Committees is well aware of that fact—and I ask for the help of hon. members in order that the business of the House may be discharged harmoniously and expeditiously.

I have visited most Houses of Parliament in Australia and I can say without hesitation that the Parliaments of Queensland in the past have been at least as well behaved as any other Parliament in the Commonwealth; there is no reason why that state of things should not continue in this Parliament.

I again thank hon. members sincerely for the great compliment they have paid me in re-electing me to this high and important office.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

PRESENTATION OF MR. SPEAKER TO GOVERNOR.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay) (12.43 p.m.): I have the honour to inform the House that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to receive Mr. Speaker and such other hon. members as care to accompany him at Government House at 10.15 o'clock to-morrow morning.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay): I move—

“That the House at its rising do adjourn until 9.45 a.m. to-morrow.”

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 12.40 p.m.