

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 1 AUGUST 1944

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Legislative Assembly.

FIRST SESSION OF THE THIRTIETH PARLIAMENT

Appointed to Meet

AT BRISBANE ON THE FIRST DAY OF AUGUST, IN THE EIGHTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI., IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1944.

TUESDAY, 1 AUGUST, 1944.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

Pursuant to the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, dated 6 July, 1944, appointing Parliament to meet this day for the dispatch 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. Frank Arthur Cooper, the Hon. Edward Michael Hanlon, and the Hon. Thomas Andrew Foley 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. F. A. Cooper, Bremer) 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 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 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. Edward Michael Hanlon and the Hon. Thomas Andrew Foley or any one or more of them, to administer to all or any members or member of the Legislative Assembly 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—Walter Beresford James Gordon Sparkes.
Barcoo—Edward William Davis.
Baroona—William Power.
Bowen—Frederick Woolnough Paterson.
Bremer—Frank Arthur Cooper.
Brisbane—John Henry Mann.
Bulimba—George Henry Marriott.
Bundaberg—John Francis Barnes.
Buranda—Edward Joseph Hanson.
Cairns—Louis Joseph Barnes.
Carnarvon—Paul Jerome Remigius Hilton.
Carpentaria—Alfred James Smith.
Charters Towers—Arthur Jones.
Cook—Harold Henry Collins.
Cooroora—Harry Frederick Walker.
Cunningham—Malcolm McIntyre.
Dalby—Aubrey Robert Slessar.
East Toowoomba—Herbert Yeates.
Enoggera—Kenneth James Morris.
Fassifern—Adolf Gustav Muller.
Fitzroy—James Clark.
Fortitude Valley—Samuel John Brassington.
Gregory—George Henry Devries.
Gympie—Thomas Dunstan.
Hamilton—John Beals Chandler.
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—Walter Charles Ingram.
Kurilpa—Patrick Kerry Copley.

Logan—Thomas Alfred Hiley.
 Mackay—Frederick Dickson Graham.
 Maranoa—John Russell Taylor.
 Maree—Louis Wells Luckins.
 Maryborough—David Farrell.
 Merthyr—William Matthew Moore.
 Mirani—Edward Joseph Walsh.
 Mundingburra—Thomas Aikens.
 Murrumba—George Francis Reuben Nicklin.
 Nanango—James Braidwood Edwards.
 Normanby—Thomas Andrew Foley.
 Nundah—John Vincent Hayes.
 Oxley—Thomas Caldwell Kerr.
 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—Charles Gray Wanstall.
 Toowoomba—John Edmund Duggan.
 Townsville—George Keyatta.
 Warrego—Harry O'Shea.
 Warwick—John Joseph O'Connor Healy.
 West Moreton—Edmund Bede Maher.
 Wide Bay—Ernest Henry Collet Clayton.
 Windsor—Bruce Pie.
 Wynnum—William Morrison Gunn.

Paul Jerome Remigius Hilton, Esquire.
 Walter Charles Ingram, Esquire.
 Cecil George Jesson, Esquire.
 Thomas Caldwell Kerr, Esquire.
 George Keyatta, Esquire.
 Louis Wells Luckins, Esquire.
 Duncan Macdonald, Esquire.
 Edmund Bede Maher, Esquire.
 John Henry Mann, Esquire.
 George Henry Marriott, Esquire.
 Malcolm McIntyre, Esquire.
 William Matthew Moore, Esquire.
 Kenneth James Morris, Esquire.
 Adolf Gustav Muller, Esquire.
 George Francis Reuben Nicklin, Esquire.
 Harry O'Shea, Esquire.
 Frederick Woolnough Paterson, Esquire.
 Bruce Pie, Esquire.
 Thomas Flood Plunkett, Esquire.
 William Power, Esquire.
 Aubrey Robert Slessar, Esquire.
 Alfred James Smith, Esquire.
 John Russell Taylor, Esquire.
 Stephen Theodore, Esquire.
 John Albert Turner, Esquire.
 Harry Frederick Walker, Esquire.
 Charles Gray Wanstall, Esquire.
 Herbert Yeates, Esquire.

MEMBERS SWORN.

The Commissioners, who, with the Hon. A. Jones, Hon. D. A. Gledson, Hon. J. Larcombe, Hon. E. J. Walsh, Hon. V. C. Gair and Hon. T. L. Williams, other members of the Ministry, had been sworn in before His Excellency the Governor on 27 July 1944, and subscribed the roll, then administered the oath or affirmation of allegiance to the following other members, who thereupon also subscribed the roll:—

Thomas Aikens, Esquire.
 John Francis Barnes, Esquire.
 Louis Joseph Barnes, Esquire.
 William Alfred Brand, Esquire.
 Samuel John Brassington, Esquire.
 The Honourable Henry Adam Bruce.
 John Beals Chandler, Esquire.
 James Clark, Esquire.
 Ernest Henry Collet Clayton, Esquire.
 Harold Henry Collins, Esquire.
 Patrick Kerry Copley, Esquire.
 Edward William Davis, Esquire.
 Eric Paul Decker, Esquire.
 George Henry Devries, Esquire.
 John Edmund Duggan, Esquire.
 James Braidwood Edwards, Esquire.
 David Farrell, Esquire.
 Frederick Dickson Graham, Esquire.
 William Morrison Gunn, Esquire.
 The Honourable Edward Joseph Hanson.
 John Vincent Hayes, Esquire.
 John Joseph O'Connor Healy, Esquire.
 Thomas Alfred Hiley, Esquire.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

Mr. O'SHEA (Warrego) (12.21 p.m.), Mr. Dickson, I move—

“That the hon. member for Fortitude Valley, Mr. Samuel John Brassington, do take the Chair of the House as Speaker.”

During the time Mr. Brassington has occupied the position of Chairman of Committees he has discharged his duties with conspicuous ability.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Walker: What is wrong with the old man?

Mr. O'SHEA: If the hon. member will be patient, he may hear something about the old man. I am very pleased that Mr. Brassington has consented to accept this high and honourable position although I regret very much the decision of the previous Speaker, Mr. Hanson, not to accept the position again. During his occupancy of that office he reflected a great deal of lustre on this Chamber.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. O'SHEA: However, that is his decision and it is a matter for him and no hon. member, not even the hon. member for Bundaberg, will dissuade him from that course.

Mr. Brand: Why did he make that decision?

Mr. O'SHEA: I am not obliged to answer any questions at this stage and even if I were I might answer them rather rudely. As I say, I regret the decision by

Mr. Hanson but I would add that I believe that Mr. Brassington will prove a worthy successor to him. As Chairman of Committees Mr. Brassington acted very impartially towards all hon. members, despite the fact that there were one or two obstreperous members here. Probably there will be more but the way in which Mr. Brassington carried out his duties as Chairman of Committees would do credit to any occupant of a similar position in any part of the Commonwealth.

Mr. J. F. Barnes: A good Gestapo man.

Mr. O'SHEA: The hon. member will have his opportunity later on.

The Attorney-General: He knows something about their practices.

Mr. O'SHEA: That is so. This Parliament suffers a distinct loss from the fact that Mr. Hanson has decided not to seek nomination to the position of Mr. Speaker again, and we, too, suffer thereby.

Mr. J. F. Barnes: I'll say that we'll suffer.

Mr. O'SHEA: If the hon. member conducts himself properly he will never suffer. The hon. member is starting off very early in the piece.

Mr. J. F. Barnes: I take advantage of the fact that there is no Chairman.

Mr. O'SHEA: I could take advantage of it, too, but it might not be to the hon. member's advantage if I did.

I am pleased to have been afforded the opportunity of moving the nomination of Mr. Brassington and I am satisfied that the majority on both sides of the House will appreciate his elevation to the Chair. I leave his nomination in the hands of Parliament with confidence. Parliament, too, will decide any further points that arise as we go along; hon. members will have ample opportunity between now and December to discuss all the things that may come up for discussion. No debate is stifled in this Chamber. Every member has the opportunity to express his opinion.

I have very much pleasure in moving that Mr. Brassington take the Chair.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. DUGGAN (Toowoomba) (12.28 p.m.): I have very much pleasure in seconding the motion, but before proceeding to speak to it I wish to pay a tribute to Mr. E. J. Hanson, hon. member for Buranda, who relinquishes the office of Speaker at his own request. During the years he has discharged the important duties appertaining to it he has earned the respect and full confidence of all members. He completes his term with the knowledge and satisfaction that he has upheld the high standards and traditions of his predecessors.

I second Mr. Brassington's nomination to the high office of Speaker of the House with confidence because I believe him to be deserving and worthy of the responsibility it entails. We are met this morning, Mr. Dick-

son, to complete an act that is something more than a conventional formality. Those who are conversant with the early struggles of successive Parliaments to gain proper recognition of the rights and privileges of a Speaker will accord the submission the consideration it deserves. To those who by reason of recent election may be less familiar with Parliamentary procedure, custom and tradition, it is necessary to say that the person who will be elevated by members of this House to the position of Speaker will be the representative spokesman of the House in its collective capacity. He will preside at meetings of the House and declare and interpret its law. Of course, the Speaker does not claim power to make or alter the law but merely to be its exponent. But where precedents, rulings, and the Orders of the House are insufficient or uncertain guides, he has to consider what course would be most consistent with the usages, traditions and dignity of the House, and the rights and interests of its members. On these points his advice is usually followed and very rarely questioned. There are some cynics in the community who will perhaps say that this Parliament and others like it are "little other than a red-tape talking-machine, and unhappy bag of parliamentary eloquence."

Mr. J. F. Barnes interjected.

Mr. DUGGAN: Unfortunately, if we had in this Parliament more speakers such as the hon. member there would be confirmation of the statement.

Mr. J. F. Barnes: How do you know? You have been away for three years.

Mr. DUGGAN: I know sufficient of the hon. member's record not to require three years' experience. A very cursory examination of "Hansard" revealed to me the vacuity that exists within the cranium of the hon. member. (Laughter.)

In these days of clear party divisions and independent representation and with a wide variety of subjects open for discussion by speakers of varying calibre and training, it is essential that the Speaker be a man capable of exercising his powers to check irrelevance, prolixity, repetition and obstruction, and to maintain decorum and order in the House. These powers, of course, are defined and strengthened by the Standing Orders, with which all members should familiarise themselves. The degree of success likely to be achieved by Mr. Speaker is determined largely by his personal character and personal qualities—his experience, his readiness, his tact, and his knowledge of the ways and habits of members. If he possesses these qualities in high degree, he will gain the deference that is habitually paid to the occupant of this important office.

There are tendencies that at times reveal themselves of altered modes of procedure tending to enhance the power of the Government of the day at the expense of the private or independent member. Fortunately it seldom, if ever, occurs here. Tradition, however, binds the Parliament together with amazing strength and so long as the peculiar

and essential functions of the Chair lie in ruling by general consent rather than by compulsion, in upholding freedom of speech without allowing it to degenerate into licence, and so long as these the peculiar qualities that we look for in a Speaker are respected by hon. members, I am confident that we shall hand on unimpaired to future generations the heritage that has been given to us as the result of over seven centuries of advocacy and struggle by the Mother of Parliaments in Great Britain.

I believe, Mr. Dickson, that Mr. Brassington complies with the requirements we seek in a Speaker. He has had a wide parliamentary experience and has won his spurs. He has always been a keen participant in debate. His contributions in this Assembly, particularly on the subject of parliamentary form of government, have been given with great clarity, logic and sound reasoning. During this period he has familiarised himself with the forms of procedure of this House. He has, furthermore, gained an invaluable experience in his capacity as Chairman of Committees. In submitting this nomination to the House I am confident that Mr. Brassington will worthily uphold the best traditions of the House and will discharge his duties with dignity, tact, and impartiality and with credit and honour to himself and to this Parliament. I have much pleasure in seconding the nomination.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

There being no other nomination, Mr. Brassington was called to the chair by the Clerk, and having expressed his sense of the honour proposed to be conferred upon him and submitted himself to the pleasure of the House, was conducted by the mover and seconder to the chair. Speaking from the dais, he said:—I wish to thank honourable members for the signal honour they have conferred upon me. I shall do my best to carry out my duty in such a manner as to justify the great confidence you have placed in me.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. F. A. COOPER (Bremer—Premier) (12.35 p.m.): Mr. Speaker, I desire to offer you my congratulations on your appointment to the high office of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, the highest office within the gift of this institution.

You assume the office of Speaker, Mr. Speaker, at a time when the risks running with that office are not as great as they once used to be. The time was when the Speaker's head was not just as safe as it might have been if he had not been Speaker. Today democracy has advanced so far that no risks like that are run now.

In your care has been placed the dignity, honour and uprightness of this magnificent institution called Parliament. It is an institution of which we are justly proud, something that we will do all we can to preserve to those who will come after us to inherit this great land. In this institution there are certain forms, rules, observances and usages that have come to us from ancient times.

The good have survived and those that were not good have gone. I know that you understand, as I understand, that the forms, usages and rules of this House are so because they have been found to be good and of service to the people. You may be assured that I shall uphold your authority in this chamber. I believe it to be the duty of every honourable member of this House to see that the authority of the Chair is upheld, for with your authority stands or falls the whole of Parliament.

I take this opportunity to say a word or two about the gentleman whom you succeeded. I must confess that I was not prepared in any way for the statement Mr. Hanson made to me a considerable time ago that he had had a considerable term in various offices in this House and had decided that he would no longer allow himself to be nominated for the position of Speaker. I regretted Mr. Hanson's decision, for he had discharged the duties of all his offices with great care, great thoroughness and with an impartiality that we all admired. It is all very fine to say, "I will be impartial and I will hold the scales evenly between the contending parties," but only those who have had to hold the scales in times of strain and stress know how difficult it is to do it. I am sure that all honourable members of this House will agree with me that Mr. Hanson in the more difficult times held the balance very, very fairly and very, very evenly indeed. That is an achievement, something of which Mr. Hanson may justly feel proud.

Again, Mr. Brassington, I offer you my congratulations. I know that the dignity, honour and uprightness of this House are in good hands when they are with you.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. NICKLIN (Murrumba) (12.39 p.m.): I desire to join with the Premier in extending to you, Mr. Brassington, congratulations on your elevation to the high office of Speaker of this House. Your party have shown their confidence in you by nominating you to this position and you have been elected unanimously by the honourable members of this House, and that I think is an honour you will appreciate.

As the Premier has said, your office is not a sinecure. It may become an extremely difficult one, but it can be made very much easier for you if you get the wholehearted co-operation of all honourable members of the House. (Hear, hear!)

You have served a long apprenticeship in this Parliament and you have held many offices but your long period as Chairman of Committees has given you the requisite knowledge to enable you to occupy the high position to which you have just been elected. Perhaps you will have some difficulty in endeavouring to maintain the high traditions and the dignity of the House that you know should prevail but I can assure you that so far as I and the members of my party are concerned we shall do everything possible to help you to maintain the dignity of this Chamber, realising, as you

do yourself, that while the world is passing through such troublous times as prevail at the moment there are many people who suggest that Parliament is not all it should be. Therefore it behoves you, Sir, as the Speaker of this House, and the rest of us here to maintain the dignity and the traditions of Parliament so that the general members of the community may not point the finger of scorn at it. The position to which you have been elected is a very important one but we know that you realise its responsibilities and that if you can gain the co-operation of all hon. members you will be able to carry out your duties in the manner expected of you.

I should also like to join with the Premier in paying a tribute to the previous occupant of that high and important position, Mr. Hanson.

Mr. Walker: The best Speaker we have had for 40 years.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. NICKLIN: That indeed is a great tribute, coming as it does from the Father of the House, an hon. member who has sat under many Speakers, a tribute I am sure that will be greatly appreciated by Mr. Hanson. During his Speakership he did much to enhance the prestige of the position that he held. As the Premier has said he was essentially fair in his decisions, firm when occasion demanded it yet lenient to us on many occasions, but he always had the knowledge that in the exercise of his authority he won the respect of every hon. member. His decision not to seek nomination again to that position is very much to be regretted and it is to be regretted too that he is not going to finish his last term in Parliament as Speaker of the House.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I again assure you that so far as my party and myself are concerned, we shall help you in every way to maintain the dignity of this House and in the carrying out of the important duties that you have assumed today.

Mr. CHANDLER (Hamilton) (12.43 p.m.): Mr. Speaker, I desire to join Mr. Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in offering my congratulations on your election to such an important position as that of Speaker of this House and I should also like to assure you that those hon. members who are associated with me will do their very best at all times to uphold your authority, to maintain the dignity of the House, and, something that is perhaps even more important, the traditions of Parliament which mean so much to a British and democratic community. It has been suggested that during the coming session you may have a difficult time. Whether that is so or not, I am not of course able to say but I can only express the hope that every hon. member will do his very best to co-operate with you in maintaining those high traditions. Unfortunately, over the past several years, the dignity of Parliament in

this country has shown a tendency to decline and that is a matter that I am sure we must all regret.

A Government Member: Only since you came here.

Mr. CHANDLER: Whatever some hon. members may be inclined to say or think, I am sure that the public outside agree that what I say is a fact. Consequently, I express the hope that all members will join in doing all they possibly can to maintain the dignity of this important institution.

I should also like to pay a tribute to the ex-Speaker, Mr. Hanson. During the very brief time I was in Parliament under his Speakership, Mr. Hanson was exceedingly fair, exceedingly kind, and on many occasions exceedingly helpful. It is a matter for regret, which I share with my colleagues on this side of the House, that Mr. Hanson is not finishing his term in Parliament as Speaker.

As for you, Mr. Speaker, I can only say that during the very short period I sat under your Chairmanship of Committees I found you were very perfectly impartial and fair. I have every reason to believe you will make an excellent Speaker and that you will make a worthy successor to the man whom you are following, and I wish you the very best of success.

Mr. MAHER (West Moreton) (12.46 p.m.): As an ex-Leader of the Opposition and one who has 16 years of parliamentary membership behind him I should like to say a brief word today. I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation to the high office of Speaker of this Parliament. I take some pleasure in the fact that away back 16 or 17 years ago you and I contested the Balonne seat. I remember when we sat in the cafe in St. George on the night of your success and had a drink of coffee together. Neither of us was able to lift the curtain of the future; certainly you did not expect to be Speaker, nor at that time was I sure I should ever become a member of this House. You fought that election campaign against me in a clean, manly and honourable way and I should like to bear witness to that fact. One of the things that please me a great deal is that you are a man of the West. You embody in many respects the spirit of the West. I have never known a man come through the environment of Western Queensland who was not a regular fellow. We may differ politically but the man who has lived in Western Queensland and absorbed its spirit—he cannot be far wrong as a man. I have observed your progress in this Chamber, and I believe you were always actuated by the highest degree of impartiality when you occupied the office of Chairman of Committees. Now you have become Speaker, and I think you will continue to show the same impartiality that characterised your occupancy of the Chairmanship of Committees. If you model yourself upon the work of your predecessor you cannot go far wrong, for nobody could really expect a better type of man to become Speaker of this House than

Mr. Hanson. He had his obligations to both sides and he discharged them fairly and with justice to all. He held the balance evenly between all sections in this Parliament. He was fair but he was firm. I believe that the man who occupies this Chair has got to be firm; I think members on both sides will appreciate that fact. It is necessary to be fair and to give to the minority as fair a deal as is given to the majority. If you, Mr. Speaker, are able to model yourself on the work of your predecessor you will rank amongst the very able Speakers of this Parliament. I pay that tribute to Mr. Hanson and say that during my period of membership I regard him as essentially a fair and just man who did his best by every section. I am very sorry he found it necessary to resign from the office of Speaker before he concluded his parliamentary term. I wish him everything that is good in his declining years. He has my very best personal regard.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. YEATES (East Toowoomba) (12.50 p.m.): I wish to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, and also to inform members that I first met you in 1917 at Augathella.

Among the crowd assembled in that hall that night, I heard somebody speaking up and I said to the chairman, "Who is that young man?" He replied, "Sam Brassington." You differed from me then, Mr. Speaker. However, in the course of time you came into this House, and today you are placed in a position of honour. I feel that notwithstanding any differences that may occur during this Parliament we shall manage quite well (laughter). I will do my best to carry out the orders of the House, irrespective of how we may disagree.

To the former Speaker, the hon. member for Buranda, I wish to pay my compliments. I may have clashed with him on one or two occasions, but I can say he was a very just Speaker.

I heartily congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation to the office and I wish you every success.

Mr. KERR (Oxley) (12.51 p.m.): I extend my congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, on your attainment to your high office. You have not only been very diligent in your attention to your work in the past but you have carried out your duties in a very dignified spirit and with credit to Parliament. I have had the opportunity of observing your conduct as Chairman of Committees and it appeared to me that you were an impartial man. I remember that at all times you were very considerate to me as a newcomer to the House. I sincerely thank you for that. I know that every hon. member making his first appearance in Parliament will appreciate consideration and encouragement.

I also take the opportunity of extending my congratulations to the retiring Speaker, the hon. member for Buranda, on the manner in which he conducted his high office. I take this opportunity of thanking him for the consideration he extended to me. He

was always willing to give me every consideration and seeing me through the ordeals of my contributions to the debates.

I have very much pleasure in extending to you, Mr. Speaker, my congratulations and I wish you every success.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. S. J. Brassington, Portitude Valley) (12.54 p.m.): I desire to express my thanks to the hon. members for Warrego and Toowoomba, the mover and seconder of my nomination, and to the other hon. members who have spoken, for the kindly sentiments that they have said about me. All I can say is that hon. members should know me by now. I have been here many years. I know my own shortcomings but hon. members have made their choice and I can assure them of this: that I will do my best to live up to the very high traditions of the very high and important office to which I have been elevated.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. SPEAKER: I desire to pay tribute to my predecessor, the hon. member for Buranda, who, might I say, at all times, was fair, courteous and helpful, and if, as hon. members have said here today, I carry out my duties on the same plane as the retiring Speaker then I, too, feel I shall have done well.

Parliament as an institution is founded upon respected traditions and sound practice. The history of its development through the centuries is the history of the struggle of the people to win self-government and pass sound progressive laws for the good of the many. Parliament, too, as an institution, has known the struggle for the principles of free speech, tolerance and justice, and it is not too much to say today that in this State in particular and throughout Australia in general these principles, to a very marked degree, have been won by the people and implemented by Parliament. Therefore Parliament, as an institution, is the people's institution, and as elected representatives of the people we must ever strive to guard its prestige, strengthen its authority, and maintain its effectiveness.

It is worthy of comment that at this hour on this day, in this critical hour of mankind's history, when the forces of reason are locked in a titanic struggle with the forces of darkness, when civilization is opposed to barbarianism, Parliament, as an institution, is the spearhead and bulwark of resistance of all freedom-loving peoples. This Parliament, this institution to which we have the honour of being elected, this institution in which we have the honour of representing the people, although severely tried and tested through the centuries, remains something tangible, something lasting, towards which the millions of people in freedom-loving countries will turn with faith and hope of a future more secure, serene and peaceful.

This, the Thirtieth Parliament of Queensland assembles when the great struggle in which we are engaged assumes more encouraging aspects and I am hopeful that before this

Parliament ends peace will be with us again. Peace, like war, will bring its difficult problems and therefore it may be the privilege of this Parliament to play its part in the great task of reconstruction. If so, I know that I express the earnest thought of every honourable member that this Parliament will serve the people well and effectively in the years immediately ahead. Might I be permitted to add that all problems, however complicated, can be approached with good will and solved by understanding, co-operation and industry? Therefore, let us all co-operate to the greatest degree so that the greatest results can be achieved in this Parliament of Queensland, in this the people's Parliament.

I shall endeavour to carry out my responsibilities in the best traditions of Parliament. I shall be ever mindful of the privileges of honourable members. At all times I shall try to do my best, and in return I know that I shall receive the help and co-operation of all honourable members in carrying out my duties. Again I wish to thank honourable members and desire to add that I am very hopeful that during my term of office my administration of the Standing Orders will conform with that splendid principle laid down by Thomas Jefferson so long ago—“Special privilege for none, justice for all.”

PRESENTATION OF MR. SPEAKER.

Hon. F. A. COOPER (Bremer—Premier): I have to inform honourable members that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to receive the House for the purpose of the presentation of Mr. Speaker to His Excellency at 10.15 o'clock a.m. to-morrow at Government House.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

Hon. F. A. COOPER (Bremer—Premier): I move—

“That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.45 o'clock a.m. tomorrow.”

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.
