

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**TUESDAY, 1 AUGUST 1950**

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# Queensland Parliamentary Debates.

## Legislative Assembly.

### FIRST SESSION OF THE THIRTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT.

#### Appointed to meet

AT BRISBANE ON THE FIRST DAY OF AUGUST, IN THE FOURTEENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI., IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1950.

**TUESDAY, 1 AUGUST, 1950.**

#### OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

Pursuant to the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, dated 29 June, 1950, 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. Edward Michael Hanlon, the Hon. Vincent Clair Gair, 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. E. M. Hanlon, Ithaca) 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 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. Vincent Clair Gair, and the Hon. Thomas Andrew Foley

or any one 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:—

Aubigny—Walter Beresford James  
Gordon Sparkes.  
Balonne—John Russell Taylor.  
Barambah—Johannes Bjelke-Petersen.  
Barcoo—Edward William Davis.  
Baroona—William Power.  
Belyando—Thomas Andrew Foley.  
Bremer—James Donald.  
Brisbane—John Henry Mann.  
Bulimba—Robert James Gardner.  
Bundaberg—Edward Joseph Walsh.  
Buranda—Richard Kidston Brown.  
Burdekin—Arthur Coburn.  
Cairns—Thomas Martin Crowley.  
Callide—Vincent Edward Jones.  
Carnarvon—Paul Jerome Remigi-  
us Hilton.  
Carpentaria—Alfred James Smith.  
Charters Towers—Arthur Jones.  
Chermside—Alexander Tattenhall Dewar.  
Clayfield—Harold Bourne Taylor.  
Condamine—Frederic James Allpass.  
Cook—Carlisle Favell Wordsworth.  
Cooroora—David Alan Low.\*  
Coorparoo—Thomas Alfred Hiley.  
Cunningham—Malcolm McIntyre.  
Darlington—Thomas Flood Plunkett.  
Fassifern—Adolf Gustav Müller.  
Fitzroy—James Clark.  
Flinders—Ernest Joseph Riordan.  
Fortitude Valley—Samuel John  
Brassington.  
Gregory—George Henry Devries.  
Haughton—Colin George McPathie.  
Hinchinbrook—Ceel George Jesson.  
Ipswich—Ivor Marsden.  
Isis—Jack Charles Allan Pizzey.  
Ithaca—Edward Michael Hanlon.

Kedron—Bruce Pie.  
 Kelvin Grove—John Albert Turner.  
 Keppel—Walter Charles Ingram.  
 Kurilpa—Thomas Moores.  
 Landsborough—George Francis Reuben Nicklin.  
 Lockyer—Gordon William Wesley Chalk.  
 Mackay—Frederick Dickson Graham.  
 Mackenzie—Patrick James Whyte.  
 Marodian—James Alfred Heading.  
 Maryborough—David Farrell.  
 Merthyr—William Matthew Moore.  
 Mirani—Ernest Evans.  
 Mount Coot-tha—Kenneth James Morris.  
 Mount Gravatt—Felix Cyril Sigismund Dittmer.  
 Mourilyan—Peter Byrne.  
 Mulgrave—Robert Hodgson Watson.  
 Mundingburra—Thomas Aikens.  
 Murrumba—David Eric Nicholson.  
 Nash—Thomas Dunstan.  
 Norman—Louis Wells Luckins.  
 North Toowoomba—Leslie Arnold Wood.  
 Nundah—Frank Edward Roberts.  
 Port Curtis—James Burrows.  
 Rockhampton—James Larcombe.  
 Roma—William Manson Ewan.  
 Sandgate—Eric Paul Decker.  
 Sherwood—Thomas Caldwell Kerr.  
 Somerset—Duncan Macdonald.  
 South Brisbane—Vincent Clair Gair.  
 Southport—Eric John Gaven.  
 Tablelands—Harold Henry Collins.  
 Toowong—Alan Whiteside Munro.  
 Toowoomba—John Edmund Duggan.  
 Townsville—George Keyatta.  
 Warrego—Harry O'Shea.  
 Warwick—Otto Ottosen Madsen.  
 Whitsunday—Lloyd Henry Scurfield Roberts.  
 Windsor—Thomas William Rasey.  
 Wynnum—William Morrison Gunn.  
 Yeronga—Henry Winston Noble.

**The Clerk:** I have also to inform the House that on the 27 July, 1950, an Order in Council was issued declaring the measures taken for the removal of the obstacles of a merely formal nature therein mentioned by which the due course of the election for the electoral districts of Gregory and Warrego might be impeded, and declaring the validity of the election of Mr. George Henry Devries and Mr. Harry O'Shea as members to serve in the Legislative Assembly of Queensland for the electoral districts of Gregory and Warrego respectively.\*

#### MEMBERS SWORN.

The Commissioner, who with other members of the Ministry, had been sworn in before His Excellency the Governor on 27 July, 1950, and subscribed the roll, then administered the oath or affirmation of allegiance to the following other members, who thereupon also subscribed the roll:—

Aikens, Thomas, Esquire.  
 Allpass, Frederic James, Esquire.  
 Bjelke-Petersen, Johannes, Esquire.  
 Brassington, The Hon. Samuel John.  
 Brown, Richard Kidston, Esquire.

Burrows, James, Esquire.  
 Byrne, Peter, Esquire.  
 Chalk, Gordon William Wesley, Esquire.  
 Clark, James, Esquire.  
 Coburn, Arthur, Esquire.  
 Collins, The Hon. Harold Henry.  
 Crowley, Thomas Martin, Esquire.  
 Davis, Edward William, Esquire.  
 Decker, Eric Paul, Esquire.  
 Dewar, Alexander Tattenhall, Esquire.  
 Dittmer, Felix Cyril Sigismund, Esquire.  
 Donald, James, Esquire.  
 Dunstan, Thomas, Esquire.  
 Evans, Ernest, Esquire.  
 Ewan, William Manson, Esquire.  
 Farrell, David, Esquire.  
 Gardner, Robert James, Esquire.  
 Gaven, Eric John, Esquire.  
 Graham, Frederick Dickson, Esquire.  
 Gunn, William Morrison, Esquire.  
 Hiley, Thomas Alfred, Esquire.  
 Ingram, Walter Charles, Esquire.  
 Jesson, Cecil George, Esquire.  
 Jones, Vincent Edward, Esquire.  
 Kerr, Thomas Caldwell, Esquire.  
 Keyatta, George, Esquire.  
 Low, David Alan, Esquire.  
 Luckins, Louis Wells, Esquire.  
 Macdonald, Duncan, Esquire.  
 Madsen, Otto Ottosen, Esquire.  
 Mann, John Henry, Esquire.  
 Marsden, Ivor, Esquire.  
 McCathie, Colin George, Esquire.  
 McIntyre, Malcolm, Esquire.  
 Moore, The Hon. William Matthew.  
 Moores, Thomas, Esquire.  
 Morris, Kenneth James, Esquire.  
 Müller, Adolf Gustav, Esquire.  
 Munro, Alan Whiteside, Esquire.  
 Nicholson, David Eric, Esquire.  
 Nicklin, George Francis Reuben, Esquire.  
 Noble, Henry Winston, Esquire.  
 Pizzey, Jack Charles Allan, Esquire.  
 Plunkett, Thomas Flood, Esquire.  
 Rasey, Thomas William, Esquire.  
 Riordan, Ernest Joseph, Esquire.  
 Roberts, Frank Edward, Esquire.  
 Roberts, Lloyd Henry Scurfield, Esquire.  
 Smith, Alfred James, Esquire.  
 Taylor, Harold Bourne, Esquire.  
 Taylor, John Russell, Esquire.  
 Turner, John Albert, Esquire.  
 Walsh, Edward Joseph, Esquire.  
 Watson, Robert Hodgson, Esquire.  
 Whyte, Patrick James, Esquire.  
 Wood, Leslie Arnold, Esquire.  
 Wordsworth, Carlisle Favell, Esquire.

#### ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

**Mr. DUNSTAN** (Nash) (12.24 p.m.): Mr. Dickson, I appreciate the privilege of being allowed to give hon. members an opportunity to do honour to an estimable gentleman by supporting the motion I now present.

I move—

“That Mr. Samuel John Brassington do take the Chair of the House as Speaker.”

By way of a preliminary remark, Mr. Dickson, I trust that I am not taking a liberty with you when I say that there is more wit in

your one finger than in all the words of Mr. Speaker who determines points of order or the words of an hon. member who speaks long without coming to the point, because you, Sir, as Clerk of Parliament, can initiate a primary essential of Parliament, the election of a Speaker, the filling of a Chair, and the constituting of a house by a mere finger-point. (Laughter). So now, Mr. Dickson, privileged by your point, I proceed with this nomination, for the high and honourable office of the Chair, of a gentleman who has already shown his capacity to display, when occasion demands, the fortitude that is designated in the title of the electorate he represents.

Mr. Brassington, as we know, has the credentials and qualifications for Speakership—experience, judgment, courtesy, wisdom, ability and impartiality. During his occupancy of the chair, as I said on a previous occasion, he is firm, yet impartial; in the exercise of authority he is just and considerate, without being harsh or feeble; he aims always at preserving order and decorum in debate, and in maintaining the prestige of the House.

His studious knowledge of the Standing Orders and Parliamentary practice gives weight to his rulings; and he competently provides for the amenities of members and the social functions that feature popular interest in this House of Parliament.

Mr. Brassington has had experience as member of Parliament and as Speaker of the House. He came into this Legislature in 1927 as member for Balonne, served in that capacity for approximately five years, and after the electoral redistribution of 1932 was returned at a by-election in 1933 as member for Fortitude Valley, which he still represents. He held the position of Chairman of Committee for two years, and was first elected as Speaker of the House in 1944. Besides those credentials he has the dignity and stature of a Speaker; and he has a name, Samuel John Brassington, high-sounding and distinctive enough for him to accompany those who are recorded with honour on the rolls of Parliaments.

Therefore I submit that his qualifications and service fully justify and warrant his nomination for re-election to the chair which he has already filled so well.

Now, Mr. Dickson, I venture to say a few words appropriate to the occasion of electing a Speaker. In these days, when freedom and democracy, in their varying interpretations, sometimes give rise to licence and levity, it is well to remember that in the traditions of the House of Commons, and here, there has been and still is a symbol of authority exceeding that of Kings, who now rule by virtue of the will of the people, as expressed by Parliament. That symbol is the Speaker's Chair. Adapting the words of an old-time commentator, it may be said that the person of the occupant of the Chair, addressed as "Mr. Speaker," is "girt with much of the authority and the divinity that doth hedge a King," because, in his proper self, he represents the hard-won rights and privileges of the elected representatives of the people.

Today, it is true, the powers and authority of the Speaker have been modified by Parliament itself. The principles and precedents of his office are patterned on those of the House of Commons. Now he cannot do what the old-time Speaker was wont to do and had power to do. Erskine May, in his "Parliamentary Practice," guides him along the delicate ways of "Dos" and "Donts." But I shudder to think of what might have befallen reckless members of this House—and herein I make no veiled reference to the Opposition—had they been sitting under a Speaker of the olden time. For there is a record of one Commoner who had the temerity to denounce as "cruel, bloody and desperate" a Bill that had just passed its third reading; whereupon the arrogant and despotic Speaker of that day promptly relegated him to the Tower—and off went his head! In these modern times, of course, Mr. Dickson, the practice is to direct operations against a member's seat rather than his head! (Laughter.)

I need say no more, Mr. Dickson, than that the Speakership is still an onerous and arduous post, in which Mr. Brassington has already acquitted himself with distinction; and so long as he continues to fill it we need not fear any radical departure from the high traditions of the "ancient and honourable Chair."

**Government Members: Hear, hear.**

**Mr. WALSH (Bundaberg) (12.30 p.m.):** Mr. Dickson, I regard it as a privilege to associate my name with the nomination of the hon. member for Fortitude Valley as Speaker of this House and to second the motion. I do so with a great deal of personal satisfaction for the reason that I have known him over a long period of years to be a very loyal member of the Australian Labour Party—and that goes a long way with me. I have some recollection of the fact that he has—as the hon. member for Nash has said in his usual genial way—given very valuable service to this House over a long period of years. He has been a member of this Parliament for over 23 years, Chairman of Committees for some years, and Speaker for the past six years.

I make this observation at this stage, Mr. Dickson, that Mr. Brassington's friends are very pleased that he allowed his name to be submitted once again for the responsible position of Speaker of this House. Those of us who have had the experience of his guidance and authority in this House will agree, I think, that he has shown a good deal of tolerance, a good deal of forbearance and tolerance that can come only from a man who has been linked with a very important and well-disciplined unit of our Parliamentary structure in this State. I only hope that the tolerance that has been exhibited by Mr. Speaker in the past will not be misunderstood and that in his absence an attempt will not be made to take advantage of the position in order to engage in a campaign of blackguardism

against hon. members on this side of the House. I am not going to say the nice things today—the hon. member for Nash has said those—but if we can take the Press reports as being correct we are to have a heated session, a tough one. I think Mr. Brassington will be able to handle such a situation in the future as he has done in the past. The only thing I would be concerned about is that during his absence the undue tolerance that has been shown to members opposed to the Labour Party should enable them to continue to embark upon such a campaign as the Press suggests. However, let me assure them that if they are going to make it tough we will make it tough, too.

**An Opposition Member:** Ah! threats?

**Mr. WALSH:** Not threats. That is only just a plain statement of fact.

I have very great pleasure in seconding the nomination. I only hope that Mr. Brassington will be long spared to occupy the office of Speaker of this Parliament, which is one of the most important positions in our democracy. In these days we can see the direct challenge that has been thrown out to democracy, and it is therefore the duty of every one of us, regardless of the leading article in the "Courier-Mail"—which after all is not much of an authority on the subject (Laughter)—to see that this institution is presided over by a Speaker elected by a democratic Parliament. That is something worth bearing in mind for the future.

**Mr. BRASSINGTON:** Hon. members, I am deeply sensible of the honour sought to be conferred on me and I submit myself to the pleasure of the House.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

There being no other nomination, Mr. Brassington was called to the Chair by the Clerk, and conducted by the mover and seconder to the chair. Speaking from the dais, he said: I wish to thank hon. members for the signal honour they have conferred on me by electing me as their Speaker.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. E. M. HANLON** (Ithaca—Premier) (12.38 p.m.): Mr. Speaker, I am happy in having the first opportunity of congratulating you upon your unanimous selection as Speaker of this Assembly. It was with a great deal of pleasure that I heard you were going to submit yourself for service to the House in that important office. I think all hon. members agree that you were the unanimous selection of this Parliament. It is evident that all hon. members, irrespective of party, appreciate the manner in which you have carried on your duties in the past. You have now occupied that office for six years and during that six years we have had some very difficult times, particularly in the period at the latter end of the war and the very disturbed conditions that existed in the post-war period, when feelings sometimes ran very high in this Chamber. Throughout the whole of that period you preserved your own temper

and thus acted as a modifying influence on the tempers of hon. members. I do offer my sincere congratulations to you on this undoubted honour and I think the House should be congratulated, too, on having your services.

I do not think we need take much notice of the forecast of a stormy session made by a sensational newspaper authority. I have had long experience of newspaper forecasts and I must say that from my own experience, they have been generally wrong.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. HANLON:** To me such a forecast would be regarded as something in the nature of a recent weather forecast in which one of our newspapers forecast sunshine, easterly breezes, and so on. (Laughter.)

Throughout the world there is a tendency to belittle authority. Our own community is not free from that fault today. There is a tendency to show disrespect for authority and this is something that is worrying to anyone who has the interests of the community at heart. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that hon. members will do their best to set an example to the people of Australia in their respect for authority by giving you every possible assistance to enable you to carry out your onerous duties.

**Mr. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Leader of the Opposition) (12.40 p.m.): I wish to join with the Premier in extending to you on behalf of the Opposition congratulations on once again being elected to the very high and honourable office of Speaker of this Assembly. It is a very high office and I know you will appreciate the fact that the position carries with it many responsibilities. It is an office that is tedious, onerous and exacting, but, Sir, with your experience of six years' occupancy of the chair in the previous two Parliaments you should be fitted, by experience, for the office to which you have again been re-elected.

One of the greatest difficulties that you no doubt have experienced as Speaker of this House, is that of holding the scales of justice equally balanced as between party and party and as between individual and individual. To help you in that you have not only the powers of your office but you also have the traditions associated with the office of Speaker in the British Parliament.

The hon. member for Nash, in his usual witty way, when proposing the motion, referred to the powers held by Speakers in the House of Commons in the past. I believe that on the last occasion on which he nominated you he said that at one time the House of Commons had the power to take off the head of the Speaker, but on this occasion he has transferred that from yourself to the Opposition. (Laughter.) No doubt some hon. members opposite would like to decapitate a few members of the Opposition, but I do not think they will have the opportunity. (Laughter.)

The hon. member's reference to the House of Commons brings me back to the practice that is followed in the House of Commons in regard to the election of Speaker, and I believe it could be adopted with advantage here. In the House of Commons the nominee is not a party nominee. When the members of the House of Commons obtain a good Speaker the office is that of Speaker and it is above party; he is not required to face opposition at an election and he dissociates himself completely from party. Unfortunately for you, Mr. Speaker, your seconder today brought party-ism into this House, which is a very unfortunate thing in connection with the election to your office, which should be above party. The hon. member did a grave disservice when he mentioned that your principal qualification was the fact that you were a member of the great Australian Labour Party. You were elected to this House as a member of the great Australian Labour Party, but now that you are elected to the Speakership of this House you are above party and you should be here to hold the balance of power between the parties and between individuals.

**Mr. Walsh:** What about Archie Cameron?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. NICKLIN:** One of the great difficulties you may have—and I hope you will not experience it—is to maintain dignity in this House. In the past you have given a lead that possibly all members of this Chamber have not followed. I should like to refer to the fact that associated with the dignity of your office is also a certain amount of ceremonial. I congratulate you upon wearing the robes of your office; that practice does enhance the prestige and dignity of it and gives it that little touch of ceremonial that many feel should be associated particularly with the opening of Parliament. Perhaps some time during this session you will also wear the wig which, may I suggest, would suit your type of beauty. (Laughter.)

Not the least attribute the Speaker should have is judgment; I think the honourable the Premier referred to that fact. Incidents in this House can be compared with a bush fire; if they are not handled when the outbreak occurs and when they are easily handled, if they are allowed to get out of hand, it becomes impossible to control them. In the last session we unfortunately had incidents that were not a credit to this Parliament. I think that these incidents may be obviated by the exercise of judgment on your part in squashing them as they arise and preventing them from developing into a conflagration, as happened in the past. Unfortunately, if the sentiments expressed by one of your nominators are what we are to expect in the future in this House you will need all the firmness of your office if you are to stop incidents from developing.

You have a great responsibility, and so have hon. members of this House; and it is the duty of hon. members to give you all the possible help they can in maintaining

the dignity of this Chamber and eliminating incidents that lead to Parliament's being spoken of disrespectfully, as it very often is. I congratulate you on your election and assure you that members of the Opposition will give you all the support possible to enable you to carry out your duties as they should be carried out.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. AIKENS** (Mundingburra) (12.47 p.m.): If I may comment on some of the remarks made by one of your sponsors—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I suggest that we might not drift from the business before the Chair.

**Mr. AIKENS:** Very well, I will reserve my comments for another occasion.

**Mr. SPEAKER** (Hon. S. J. Brassington, Fortitude Valley) (12.48 p.m.): I take this opportunity of thanking hon. members very sincerely for the very signal honour conferred upon me to-day.

Looking back over the history of the office of Speaker in this State, I find that very few Speakers have held the Speakership longer than six years; consequently I feel it a very great honour indeed to be appointed again to this very honourable position. And to that position I will bring, as I have done in the past, all that is in me to do my best to live up to it, to carry out its duties and to be fair and impartial to all members in this Assembly.

I listened with interest to the point made by the Leader of the Opposition, and as I have been Speaker for six years which with my election this morning for a further term of three years means nine years in all, I had intended to suggest a reform that might receive the attention of not only the Parliament of Queensland but of all parliaments in Australia. That point is that the office of Speaker should be the same as it is in the House of Commons: that it be put above and beyond the battle of party politics. I am not making that suggestion on my own behalf because I shall perhaps never again submit myself for election to this office. The Premier and the Leader of the Opposition spoke mainly of the impartiality of a Speaker, but the fact remains that under our system members of Parliament who are elected to the office of Speaker are forced to be battlers out in the party ranks, in the electorates, and I maintain that the fairest-minded man in the world when faced as Speaker with certain incidents in Parliament, would have to be a miracle man indeed to carry out the duties of his office without some little tinge of partiality. I think the British system is the best, and is one to which hon. members might give attention and very well bring into being in the years to come. Apparently, nothing is lost by that system in England, but very much is gained and a great constitutional bulwark is the result.

As I have said, I am very happy to occupy this office again. I have made many lasting friends on both sides of the House in the past six years. I admit, as the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition have said, that there is a tendency at times for members to get a little off the track and I admit also that at times it is hard to control them, but I contend and I think quite justly, on behalf of those members who have constituted the Parliaments in which I have been the Speaker, that it is the best-conducted Parliament in the Commonwealth. I am not making that claim lightly; the facts speak for themselves. The record of the proceedings in this House will show that the conduct of the House has been good, despite the little lapses of temper that show up among us from time to time. The conduct of the Parliament of Queensland is an example to democratic Governments and a credit to the splendid system that we have inherited and that we are pledged to support and pass on to our descendants.

I wish to add, my friends, that when all is said and done, despite our differences of opinion, the fact remains that as free men and as the freely elected representatives of the people we can come into this House to-day, express our opinions on behalf of the people we represent, criticise that which we do not like, and make suggestions to improve that which we think is weak. We can do all these things as free men under the wonderful and splendid system that we have inherited, and which we should maintain and improve for those who follow us. We can do well to encourage and inspire the maintaining of this splendid institution so that it will pass on intact to become the property of our descendants. In this country as public men we are not afraid of being struck from behind by a knife wielded or thrown by some individual, as are public men in the dictatorship countries. Nor are public men who say what they feel with the object of improving the conditions of the people afraid of being forced to appear before a tribunal. This unhappy state is unknown in this country and it is our bounden duty to hold to our system, to strengthen it, and to make it all the stronger so that it will withstand all attacks made on it from time to time. There are those who criticise and who would want to weaken it; it is our bounden duty to defend it so that we may leave it as it is, if we cannot strengthen it. It is a splendid system indeed and must be retained for our sake and for the sake of generations to come.

Gentlemen, I thank you for the signal honour conferred upon me because, as in the words of an old saying—"Many are called but few are chosen." I have been one of the chosen few to occupy this high and honourable office and with all my humble mistakes I have tried to do my best. I feel, after listening to the remarks of hon. members this morning, that I have not been a burden for this House to bear. I shall do my honest best in the future and if in doing my duty in the application of the

rules of this House I come into conflict with hon. members I trust that they will take a reasonable view.

There is one point I should like to mention. In this Parliament today there are a large number of new members and I say to them that they have the right of a free and frank expression of speech, a right for which this system of democracy provides. That is something that should be treasured, just as the older members of Parliament treasure it. I am saying also to new members that they can state their case and say what their electors want stated; they will know that this House is a place where a free expression of opinion is allowed and where democracy is tolerated, where justice is the order of the day, and where all men are equal. I, as an old Parliamentarian, should further state to them that in regarding the conditions and privileges enjoyed by members of Parliament today that they would be well advised to look upon privileges as a great trust in their hands and not to treat privilege as the opportunity for licence. There is a tendency for hon. members to drift away from the exercise of privilege towards licence, a fact that we sometimes, however, overlook in new members. An hon. member will occupy his time more fruitfully if he observes the rules of the House and carries out his duty in consonance with those rules, because we are all attempting to strengthen this splendid institution of Parliament.

I thank the mover of my nomination for his usual very able and eloquent address; and in these remarks I include the hon. member for Bundaberg for his forthright remarks about the position that I hold.

I thank you, gentlemen, particularly the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition. I only hope that as time goes on I shall justify the great confidence you appear to have in me.

#### PRESENTATION OF MR. SPEAKER.

**Hon. E. M. HANLON** (Ithaca—Premier): I have to inform hon. 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 2.30 o'clock this afternoon.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I desire to inform the House that at 2.15 p.m. today I shall leave for Government House, there to present myself to His Excellency the Governor as the member chosen to fill the high and honourable office of Speaker, and I invite such hon. members as care to do so to accompany me.

#### SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

**Hon. E. M. HANLON** (Ithaca—Premier): I move—

"That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 11.57 a.m. tomorrow."

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 12.59 p.m.