



Speech by

**BILL FELDMAN**

**MEMBER FOR CABOOLTURE**

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Hansard 19 November 1998

#### VALEDICTORY

**Mr FELDMAN** (Caboolture—ONP) (Leader of the One Nation Party) (9.35 p.m.): As much as I would love to talk as long as the Premier and the Opposition Leader, I will be brief and to the point. Mr Speaker, I want to thank you firstly for the calmness and the demeanour that you have displayed in your job. It has not been an easy one. I thank you for the way you have acted in that capacity. One Nation was new to this Parliament. We came in not particularly knowing where to go. It was pleasing to see so many members who were more than willing to tell us where to go.

I would like to thank the Premier and the Opposition Leader for the courtesies that they have displayed to us in this place. I thank them most sincerely. It has been my pleasure to support the comments of both the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in commending the service of the staff of this Parliament. Parliamentary leaders of all parties appreciate the loyalty, the hard work and dedication and the professionalism of all the staff in this place. We receive in quantity and quality from the staff here in Parliament House. It would be a cold and at times very unpleasant place to be if it were not for the heartfelt and, at times, generous support of the staff here at Parliament House who look after our many needs, especially for the country members. To highlight that point, I point out that my 14-year-old son who attended dinner here was so affected by the warmth and generosity that was displayed to him that he purchased some flowers for one of the staff in the restaurant. He still thinks fondly of Mary even now.

We would like to thank the staff of the cafeteria and the restaurant for the help that they put in in keeping us fed and secure; the staff on security patrols who keep us protected and secure; the night staff who keep us safe and keep our house neat and tidy and spotless and make this a home away from home. The staff who administer our pay and the accounts are vital for keeping us out of financial hot water and forever in the black. The staff of the Parliamentary Library are always on call and provide us with the necessary and useful information that we use in this House. We thank the Hansard staff also. Without them, who would ever know that we were even here. Then, of course, there is the media. While not on the payroll, they are ever present in our mind and we wish them a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

We can never forget our personal office staff who equip us for our duties in the House and who keep us on the straight and narrow at all times. I include both our parliamentary staff and the staff back home in our electorate offices, those who meet the public, answer the phones, work the fax machines and help build and maintain our essential public image as servants of the people.

My best wishes go to our dedicated One Nation parliamentary staff, who work long hours and climb the highest verbal mountains to bring us the essential professional services well beyond the call of duty. Then there are our wives and our families, who put up with us, firstly, and who are ever there in a supportive role attending public meetings with us, the garden parties, and putting up with the endless speech making. To all of those who serve us, I thank them. They are appreciated, they are wanted and they are not taken for granted—not at all. Thankyou, thankyou, thankyou one and all.

Before I conclude, I would like to make mention of two people who are not with us here at the moment. Dorothy Pratt, my deputy, is at home in Kingaroy still recovering from injuries. I last saw Dorothy last week, still in a neck brace with her arm in a sling. We have doctors' reports saying that she will be right in about eight weeks. We wish Dorothy a speedy and full recovery from those injuries.

Along with the Premier, I would like to mention Charlie Rappolt. The Premier saw him on Saturday; I saw him on Friday. Charlie is perhaps not quite the man he was when he first came to Parliament. My heart goes out to Charlie and to his family. We wish him a very speedy and a full recovery. I pray that his family have a very special, a very happy and a very holy new year.

To one and all, I wish both sides of this House a merry Christmas and a very prosperous new year in this the approaching season of the Prince of Peace. May his spirit move upon and among all of us, blessing us one and all. In closing, I do wish all members a very heartfelt, a very happy, a very holy and a very blessed Christmas and a very bright and blessed new year. Thank you.

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