



Speech by  
**Mr DENVER  
BEALAND**

**MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPIILLY**

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Hansard 17 August 1999

**MR T. NEWTON**

**Mr BEALAND** (Indooroopilly—LP) (2.07 a.m.): It is with great sadness that last Friday evening I attended with others a function to farewell Ted Newton, the protocol officer of this Parliament. From March 1973, Ted Newton had worked in this place in a range of positions. Ted was respected for his services to the Parliament and his fellow staff members and members of the coalition have nothing but the highest praise for his work.

Ted had a special history and knowledge of the institution, so necessary when dealing with people in relation to this Parliament. However, I believe that the way in which Ted Newton was forced to leave this place, his place of employment, was a disgrace. Recently, a survey was undertaken into the role of the Education and Protocol Office—a survey in which certainly members from this side to whom I have spoken indicated nothing but the highest support and praise for the role played by the Protocol and Education Office in promoting this Parliament and certainly had every confidence in Ted Newton as protocol officer.

This Parliament can be rightly proud of the work undertaken by the Protocol and Education Office—an area that has played a significant role in better educating and assisting not only visitors but also Queenslanders about this place. Ted was left with no alternative but to accept redundancy. Although a man of some 54 years of age, he could have expected and was still capable of many years of service.

In recent times, what has happened to Ted and others who have given loyal, dedicated service to the complete satisfaction of members, certainly on this side of the House, will be issues that I believe will certainly be canvassed at the forthcoming Estimates committees. Certainly, on behalf of members of the National/Liberal coalition, I extend to Ted Newton our thanks and best wishes for his past services and wish him the very best for a long, healthy and happy future.

I take a few moments to look at some of the roles that Ted has played in this place. He came to the House in March 1973. He was involved originally with the refreshment rooms under the supervision of Marj Glennie. Upon the retirement of the clerk to the Subordinate Legislation Committee, Mr Mervyn Newberry, Ted was promoted to take his place. Very shortly after that, the Select Committee of Inquiry into Education was set up under the chairmanship of Mike Ahern, MLA. Ted was attached to that committee full time, acting as a secretary for the period of its existence. When that committee concluded its deliberations and reported, he was promoted to the position of Clerk of Papers, which is now the Bills and Papers Office.

In 1985, as a result of the reorganisation of the parliamentary service, Ted was appointed as travel officer, coordinating all official travel for members and parliamentary staff. In late 1991, he was advised by the then Speaker, the Honourable Jim Fouras MLA, that he was planning to create a unit known as Education and Protocol. Ted was offered the position of protocol officer—an offer that he accepted with pleasure. Ted took up that position at the beginning of 1992.

From 1992 to the fall of the Goss Government, the position was subject to continual development. With the election of Mr Speaker Turner, the position became one of expanding variety, involvement and challenge both for the Parliament as an institution and for meeting the protocol and related needs of individual Ministers, members and other external client groups. Of course, all of us

have experienced Ted's ability to assist in this area and to make our visitors and the dignitaries who came to this place feel at ease and appreciate the workings of the House.

Upon the election of Mr Speaker in 1998, despite the fact that Ted's responsibilities remained largely unchanged, he was nevertheless informed that, as a result of an administrative decision, most of his work would be allocated to other staff. This has had the effect of making him as a parliamentary officer basically redundant. It is not that the tasks no longer exist, but they have been moved elsewhere by an administrative decision that has led to Ted's redundancy, which occurred last Friday. I believe that it is a very sad situation indeed when people who have given such long and dedicated loyal service to this Parliament are treated in such a fashion. Our best wishes go to Ted for a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Time expired.

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