



Speech by

Hon. M. FOLEY

MEMBER FOR YERONGA

Hansard 26 October 1999

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE
Death of Sir Charles Wanstall

Hon. M. J. FOLEY (Yeronga—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts) (9.52 a.m.): I join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in supporting this motion and in recognising the important contribution of the late Sir Charles Wanstall to the law, both through this Parliament and through his contribution in the Supreme Court. On behalf of the Government, I had the honour of attending the funeral at St John's Cathedral and heard a powerful eulogy delivered by Chief Justice de Jersey.

I noted the observation of the Premier in relation to Sir Charles' willingness to speak out. It is true that he was a man who had deep respect for the rule of law but, equally, he was not afraid to speak when plain speaking was called for. Thus, as we have heard, he was ejected from Parliament on one occasion, and he was not afraid, in extending congratulations to his successor as chief justice, to express his deploring of the unjust and unsatisfactory treatment of Justice Douglas.

His skill in debate, to which the Leader of the Opposition has referred, included a capacity to support unpopular causes. Indeed, I am reliably told that in this House he even defended the cause of lawyers, which I am sure honourable members will accept is an unpopular cause, and did so in an interesting clash of swords with then Premier Hanlon. Equally, the contribution of Sir Charles Wanstall to the arts should not be ignored. His chairing of the Queensland Ballet board for three years helped to lay a foundation for the excellence which the Queensland Ballet has continued to achieve over the decades and for the enrichment of the cultural life of Queensland throughout modern history. I extend my sympathies to the family for the loss of Sir Charles Wanstall.
