



Speech by

**Mr M. HORAN**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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Hansard 4 March 1999

**MR J. MCCAFFERTY**

**Mr HORAN** (Toowoomba South—NPA) (7.06 p.m.): On 12 January, Toowoomba, Queensland and Australia lost one of this country's greatest transport pioneers ever with the sad passing of Mr Jack McCafferty. Jack McCafferty started business in Toowoomba with a small milk run, then moved to a single bus which he ran in the Picnic Point area. That bus service, McCafferty's Coaches, has now blossomed into Australia's great national coach line, with 16 services a day from Toowoomba to Brisbane; well over 100 coaches operating along the coastline of Australia, the inland of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory; a service that runs for over 30 million kilometres per year; a service that employs 700 people throughout the length and breadth of Australia; a service that operates through big transport terminals in the capital cities to little cafes in places like Morven in western Queensland and every other little centre throughout the middle of Australia.

There have been some great transport pioneers in Australia, and I think that people such as Jack McCafferty stand tall with the likes of Reg Ansett, Noel Bluntine and Ken Thomas. Not only was he a great transport operator; Jack McCafferty also served Toowoomba well as a civic leader—as an alderman for three years and as mayor for nine years—and was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for his services not only to the transport industry but also to the community. But his great asset was his love of his family—of his wife, Lorna, and their six children. In particular, the McCafferty family became an extended family to all those who worked for McCafferty's Coaches.

Jack McCafferty truly led one of the great lives of Australia—a life of great leadership, a life of great achievement. He was a man very close to his church—a very devout Catholic—and very loyal to his friends. He was perhaps one of the greatest examples we could ever see of leadership, of business achievement, of love of family, of faithfulness to his religion and also untiring commitment to the people of his community.

Time expired.

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