



Speech by

**Hon. RAY HOLLIS**

**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Hansard 10 December 1999

#### VALEDICTORY

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, at the end of another parliamentary year, I thank all members for their contributions—even during the most hectic of debates—and often their wisdom. My thanks are due to those who have assisted me and the Table staff in the good order of the Assembly. I thank the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, other party leaders, their Whips—and more recently the Independents' informal whip—and the Leader of the House. The Temporary Chairmen have again been of endless assistance. Indeed, it is often difficult to get them out of the chair.

It has been part of my agenda for this Speakership to engage this institution more with the community. Tomorrow I will be pleased to deliver our contribution to the Ulysses Motorcycle Club toy run. Earlier this year, some members and many staff contributed to our successful Charity Golf Day, raising money for cerebral palsy. And on Queensland Day, we opened our doors to many thousands of Queenslanders. For those last two events, I must especially thank Alan Watson and Lynelle Osborne.

After three long weeks, it is difficult to remember life on the outside, but I now reflect on my continuing program of visiting honourable members' electorate offices and, indeed, their hardworking electorate officers. I am sure all members will join me in thanking those people.

When speaking of diligent and talented staff, I support the leaders' comments about the excellent parliamentary staff that we all enjoy. While this year I have become witness to some of the detail of the Parliament's budget, the extent and quality of the services provided to this place earns my admiration. This would not be the case without the high quality of staff in all subprograms.

It is not practical to mention all those staff who have made our lives easier, but I can mention those with whom I worked closest to help achieve those outcomes. The Clerk, Robert Doyle, and Executive Director of Corporate and Property Services, Bob Fick, have led this team well. Over the last 12 months I have also particularly appreciated the work of Neil Laurie and Michael Hickey.

1999 has been a year of challenges, but each of them will ultimately result in a better Parliament. In 2000, I hope all members will support efforts to improve this place as an effective Legislature and efficient workplace.

Finally, I happen to believe that my personal staff deserve a little praise. Col has handled more duties with even more style. Christina's smile remains despite all of our competing demands for rooms and my competing demands for her time. Bob is simply invaluable at all times. Stirling is a tremendous support in fighting the "paper war". Of course, my electorate officer, Juliana, ensures that Redcliffe is always first in my mind, and Val keeps a sure course.

As members, we know that the assistance of our spouse is often vital. As Speaker, my wife, Diane, has become my most valued support and is an excellent hostess on behalf of the Parliament.

My best Christmas and New Year wishes to all members, their staff, Parliament staff and our friends in the media. I conclude by inviting all present to join me, upon the adjournment, by crossing the Green to the Level 4 annexe function rooms for light refreshments.

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