



Speech by

Hon. D. HAMILL

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard 29 February 2000

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Death of Mr B. P. Hansen

Hon. D. J. HAMILL (Ipswich—ALP) (Treasurer) (10.02 a.m.): I wish to join in this motion of condolence to the family of Brendan Hansen. I am pleased to see his wife Moira, together with members of his family, in the Chamber this morning.

Brendan was a great mate. I did not have the privilege of serving in the Parliament with Brendan, but I knew him quite well. As has been mentioned by previous speakers, Brendan was first elected to the Federal Parliament in 1961 during what was known as the credit squeeze election. That was the election where the Menzies Government held onto office as a result of gaining Communist Party preferences. Jim Killen claims credit for that.

In Brendan's maiden speech in 1962 he expressed his deep-felt concern about employment. Brendan was a great stalwart of the Labor movement and a great traditionalist with regard to both the political and industrial wings of the party. Brendan was a great Federal member. Wide Bay has never been an easy seat for the Labor Party, but Brendan held the seat for five elections from 1961. He finally lost the seat in the 1974 election.

The Wide Bay area has been experiencing considerably change over the past two or three decades. There is no better example of this change than in Brendan's home town of Maryborough. Maryborough was traditionally a very safe Labor seat. The seat of Maryborough was lost to the Labor Party in the by-election which occurred in 1970 or 1971 as a result of the death of Horrie Davies. Who better to take up Labor's cause and try and win back the seat of Maryborough than Brendan Hansen, who had served with such distinction in the Federal Parliament throughout the 1960s? Brendan won the seat.

Maryborough has proved to be a very marginal seat. I have no doubt that it was Brendan Hansen's strength of character that enabled him to continue to win the majority of votes in that electorate. Brendan retired in 1983. Representation in this Parliament for the seat of Maryborough has tended to move about a bit between parties since then.

Brendan was a real stalwart of the local community. He was well respected in Maryborough. Both Brendan and Moira have been involved in numerous facets of community life. The honourable member for Chatsworth referred to a fishing expedition. I remember having consultations with Brendan and Moira a few years ago in a building in Elizabeth Street. I believe this occurred on 17 March of that year. I found my way to those premises as a result of being lured by the smell of a black potion of which I am rather fond. I found myself at the Irish Club. I do not recall whether it was Brendan or Moira who was wearing a rosette which said "Kiss me; I'm Irish".

An honourable member interjected.

Mr HAMILL: Of course I did. All sorts of compliments were exchanged, as well as a couple of pints of the black stuff. To Moira and her family, Pat and I extend our deepest condolences. Brendan was a great fellow and will be long missed.
