



Speech by

Mr M. HORAN

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Hansard 18 June 2002

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE—DEATH OF MR W. R. J. BOUSEN, MP

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.02 a.m.): It is a great privilege to join with the Premier in providing condolences through this House to the family of William Raymond James Bousen, or Ray Bousen as we all knew him. Ray was a lovely man. He was a true gentleman and greatly admired throughout Toowoomba. He was born in Toowoomba and worked mostly in Toowoomba and around Toowoomba, although he was transferred to a number of other places in his job as a railway man. He represented the seats of Toowoomba West from 1969 to 1972 and then Toowoomba North from 1972 to 1974. I think it is worth while in looking at the contribution of Ray Bousen to our city and to Queensland to look at the long and loyal service that he gave to Queensland Railways.

Ray Bousen was an employee from 1925 to 1952. He commenced work as a lad porter at Murphys Creek in 1926 and served at Haydon, Cooyar, Roma, Bundaberg and then back to Roma. He was promoted to a shunter at Toowoomba in 1941 and then served the railway at Cloncurry, Cairns and Charleville and was then promoted to a guard at Toowoomba, where he worked from 1946 to 1953. He gave distinguished service to the trade union movement, particularly the Australian Railways Union. He was well known and liked in that area of Toowoomba where the railway men and the police officers used to mingle at the National Hotel in Russell Street. He was often spoken of very highly. He also gave much to our city. The Premier has already mentioned his contributions as Patron of the Subnormal Children's Association, the Senior Citizens Club, the Pensioners League, the Civilian Widows Association and Vice-President of the TPI Association. He was also a member of two icons of Toowoomba recreation and sport—the Toowoomba Bowling Club and the Newtown Rugby League Club.

Anybody who knew Ray Bousen could not help but admire him. He was the sort of fellow who brought great credit upon politicians because he was genuine, he was sincere and he was there simply to work for the people he represented. I think we can all take great honour and heart to know that a person such as Ray Bousen has been a member of this parliament and he has certainly set a high standard for the rest of us to follow. He was a wonderful family man and a wonderful person who loved Toowoomba and loved the people of Toowoomba and loved the railway system in which he worked before coming into politics. On behalf of the National Party and the opposition, I do provide to his family our sincerest condolences.