



Speech by

## Hon. Ken Hayward

MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

Hansard Tuesday, 9 May 2006

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### MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: DEATHS OF MR ED CASEY AND MR WCR HARVEY

**Hon. KW HAYWARD** (Kallangur—ALP) (10.31 am): It is with great sadness that I speak to this condolence motion for two great Labor people. I have met Roy Harvey on only a few occasions, but I know his son Noel quite well and we meet and talk often. My condolences go to the Harvey family. Edmund Denis Casey I knew very well and spent a lot of time with. He was known as Edmund to me, Edmund Denis to some people, Ed to others and Eddie to a few as well. I was fond of him and I enjoyed his company.

What can you say in these condolence motions? The member for Rockhampton spoke earlier of Edmund Casey and recounted some stories about him. I know a lot of stories about Edmund. I was personally involved with him particularly during the period from 1986, when I was first elected, to 1989, when we came into government. There are a lot of stories about Edmund, but all of them are good. To me, what came through about Edmund was his diligence and his determination.

What I first noticed about Edmund Casey when I came into parliament was how hardworking he was as an opposition member of this parliament. I am not sure whether or not it is true—I guess it is recorded in history—but I was led to believe that by 1989 Edmund Casey was the longest serving opposition member of parliament in a Western democracy, which tells you about the time that he spent in opposition in this parliament. It is a long time from when he was first elected.

It has been spoken about before that primary industry was a passion of Edmund's. I served on the shadow primary industries committee with him. He treated that committee and the task that he had as shadow minister for primary industries very seriously. He travelled extensively throughout Queensland—as members have said, he was very fond of saying 'up and down the length and breadth of Queensland'—often with committee members extolling Labor's approach to primary industry. He rarely spoke to an audience that was converted. It was often two steps forward and one step back.

The Premier spoke earlier about Edmund's passion. He certainly was passionate. He was passionate about this parliament, he was passionate about his politics and he was passionate about his family, but what stood out to me was his persistence and his diligence—his determination to the task. Think about how long he was in opposition and what it is like to be a shadow minister over that period of time.

I want to tell the House a story about him which demonstrates the difficulty of being in opposition as a shadow minister. I remember travelling with him and other committee members—I think the member for Inala, Henry Palaszczuk, was one of them. We went up the coast of Queensland with the purpose of meeting every mill owner, mill suppliers group and cane grower executive, starting from Brisbane to Nambour right through to Mossman. That was the plan. We started in Brisbane. We went to meeting after meeting and finally into the Mourilyan district on federal budget day. It is the same day, in a sense, because the federal budget is to be brought down tonight. I will never forget it. At the meeting in Mourilyan the chairman of the Mourilyan cane growers association listened to what Edmund had to say. The meeting went on and on. We have to remember that at the time a federal Labor government was in power. He said,

'Whatever happens in this federal budget, what must not happen is the embargo on imported sugar must not be lifted.'

It means nothing to us now but at the time you could not import sugar into Australia. It was more an icon issue because the reality was that we were a net exporter—a very serious exporter of sugar. I think 90 per cent of our crop was exported, but there was this issue of not importing sugar. Edmund strongly agreed, as only Edmund could. He made his view very clear that the embargo must stay. He said that this would not happen and that would not happen. By that evening the budget announced that the embargo was gone. I see the member for Mirani nodding, because he would remember the time. Edmund observed to me that night, and it is something that has always stuck with me, and I guess it is something that can stick with an opposition, that it is often not very helpful to have a federal government of your own political colour. That was a grim old night. That announcement put our tour and meetings into disarray, believe me. This is my point about Edmund Casey and his diligence and determination. Despite that setback, Edmund fronted the mill suppliers meeting in Cairns the next morning. They turned up the next morning and they gave it to him. He simply wore it. Despite the work and the effort that he put in, in this particular case there was one step forward and two steps back.

Edmund gave me much advice, some of which I took notice of and some of which I did not. He was a guy who would provide advice if asked and even if not asked. I had the honour of working with him in the Wayne Goss cabinet. He introduced me to two people whom I know and who will remain lifelong friends of mine—the member for Mackay, Tim Mulherin and Graham Davies. Every year the three of us, along with the member for Southport, tour various country areas throughout Queensland. My condolences go to Edmund's wife, Laurie, and their family. He will be sadly missed.