



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 14 February 2006

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: DEATH OF MR J MELLOY

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.35 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late John Melloy, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

Mr John Melloy, or Jack as he was better known, was born on 10 November 1908 in Brisbane and educated at Brisbane state primary and secondary schools. He was a dental technician from 1924 to 1950. He married Elizabeth Maude Garner in 1933. Following his service in the Australian Army Dental Corps as staff sergeant from 1942 to 1946, Mr Melloy went on to work as a trade union organiser, an Industrial Court advocate and an air cargo officer.

He was the founding president of the Dental Technicians Association of Queensland, which was formed in 1958, and became a life member of this association. Mr Melloy was the president of the Australian Labor Party branches at Banyo, Wavell Heights and Buranda. He was also president of the Bowman federal district executive from 1948 to 1950, vice-president of the Griffith federal district executive from 1952 to 1954 and president of the Lilley federal district executive from 1955 to 1957.

Following a long relationship with the Australian Labor Party, on 28 May 1960 Mr Melloy was elected as the member for Nudgee at the state election. In his maiden speech in this House on 23 August 1960 Mr Melloy registered the complaints of local farmers, including the proposal to relocate the Brisbane Markets to their current site at Rocklea and the need for reticulated water in the Nudgee district as farmers had to cart water for their crops and household requirements. He also argued for the need for a commission of inquiry into the meat industry, criticising the high cost of meat, particularly in Brisbane.

Mr Melloy was a member of a parliamentary delegation to Japan and South-East Asia in 1972 and was the Deputy Leader of the Opposition from 1975 to 1976. Prior to his retirement on 12 November 1977 Mr Melloy was also a delegate to both the Australian Constitutional Convention and the Australian Regional Conference of the Australasian Parliamentary Association.

Mr Melloy's funeral service was held on 11 January 2006 at Metropolitan Funerals, Aspley. I take this opportunity to extend my sympathy and that of this House to his children and their families.

Mr Speaker, I knew Jack Melloy very well as many others in this House did, including you. He could be defined by that Australian colloquialism as a good bloke. He was a very decent man. One of the things that I admired about him was that he was one of those many Labor members who spent years in the wilderness as they never formed government. He was one of those members who was elected in 1960 and retired in 1977 and who never had the good fortune to serve in a Labor government. That, of course, was one of the disappointments that they all felt. He was loyal as the deputy and he was also one of those people who kept the fire burning, the light burning. He never gave up the faith. He never gave up his belief in the Labor Party and what it stood for.

I recall when Dr Dennis Murphy and I were involved in the reform of the Labor Party. It was a difficult and traumatic time for the party, as many members will recall. Jack Melloy was one of those decent people

who always held the Labor view. He was very much like the Leader of the House's father, Evan Schwarten. He did not agree with everything that I did when I was one of the reform leaders, but, nevertheless, his heart was with the Labor Party. The same goes for Jack Melloy. He certainly kept that flame burning. He was one of the people who did it the Labor way and he is one of the people that this Labor government is very proud of.

Elaine Darling, his daughter, was a very successful federal member of parliament. Vicky Darling, his granddaughter, works in my office as one of my policy advisers and is one of my best. I know that they will be sadly missing their father and grandfather. Elaine's sister was a candidate as well. I know his family will be missing him. I simply say that the Labor family loved him and will miss him, too.