



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 29 November 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Uren, Hon. T

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.49 am): I want to pay tribute to an old mate of mine, Tom Uren. Yesterday I had the honour of launching in Queensland his book called *The Fight*, and I was delighted to do that. *The Fight* is about much more than the remarkable life and thoughts of Tom Uren, who, as members would know, was one of our servicemen. He survived the Burma railway. He fought for the heavyweight boxing championship of Australia and was a minister in four federal Labor governments. His book is about economic rationalism; about following the USA into Iraq, which he does not support; about the new IR laws, which he does not support; about the treatment of Indigenous Australians; about the failure to recognise climate change; and about the trampling of state rights. I seek leave to incorporate a tribute to him in *Hansard*. I want to table his book. With a bit of luck, those opposite might benefit from it.

Tabled paper: Book by Martin Flanagan and Tom Uren titled 'The Fight'.

Leave granted.

The *Fight* puts what is happening in Australia today in perspective through the eyes and wisdom of a man who has been on the front line and the front foot for all of his 85 years.

Tom Uren spent 19 years on Federal Labor's front bench.

1969—ALP's first ever spokesperson on the environment.

1972—became Minister for Urban and Regional Development in the first Whitlam Government.

Tom's proudest achievement—creating the Australian Heritage Commission, which led to the compiling of the Register of the National Estate.

Hawke Govt: Minister for Territories and Local Govt and later Minister for Local Government and Administrative Services.

Tom is fondly remembered in Far North Qld for coordinating the Federal Govt response to Cyclone Winifred (Innisfail, 1986)

Retired from Parliament in 1990, the last remaining Member who had fought and suffered in World War 2.

One of Tom's favourite sayings sums him up—There is no progress in hate.

I commend this book to all Australians. Congratulations Tom.