



Speech by
Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard Tuesday, 7 August 2007

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: DEATH OF MR EC ROW

Mr SEENEY (Callide—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.36 am): I rise to second the condolence motion that has been moved by the Premier so that this House can extend its sympathies to the family of the late Edward Charles Row. As the Premier has indicated, Ted Row, as he was better known, was born on 26 March 1923 in Ingham. He married on 21 January 1950 and had two sons and five daughters. He lived to see 17 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He was educated at Trebonne State School and the Queensland Agricultural High School and College at Lawes. He was a cane grower. He was very proud of the fact that he was a cane grower and took a very avid interest in the cane industry. He was a member of the committee of the Victorian Mill Suppliers in 1953; he was a member of the Herbert River Canegrowers Executive in 1962; he was a member of the Queensland Canegrowers Council in 1962; he was vice-president of the Queensland Canegrowers Council in 1972; he was director of the Herbert River Canegrowers Cooperative Society from 1962 to 1972; and he was a member of the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations from 1968 to 1972.

Ted had a long career in public affairs. He was a councillor of the Hinchinbrook shire from 1962 to 1972; he was chairman of the Hinchinbrook Electorate Council from 1962 to 1967; he was deputy chairman of the Liberal Country Party Coordinating Committee from 1962 to 1967; and he was the member for Hinchinbrook in this parliament for 17 years. He was first elected to this parliament on 27 May 1972 and retired on 2 December 1989.

During his years in this parliament Ted was parliamentary delegate to Asia in 1976; he was a member of the Australian Constitutional Convention from 1975 to 1976; he was a Chairman of Committees from November 1983; and he was a member of various parliamentary select committees during his term of office. He was a member of many committees in relation to primary industries, water resources, maritime services, local government and racing. He attended CPA seminars in Kuala Lumpur in 1987 and in London and Trinidad in 1988 as the regional representative for the Australasian and Pacific region and was a member of the parliamentary delegation to the USA, Europe and United Kingdom in 1981.

In the years that he was in this parliament, Ted Row was an avid contributor and supporter of the Queensland sugar industry and its development. That is what he was best known for and he is well remembered in the industry for the contribution that he made. Along with his parliamentary colleagues, the late Ron Camm, a former member for Whitsunday, and the late Tom Newbery, a former member for Mirani, he was an extremely strong voice and advocate for the industry that he loved and a proud proponent for the economic benefits it brought to the state.

In conjunction with his colleagues, it was through Ted Row's confidence and persuasion in both state and federal arenas that the sugar industry emerged as the agricultural bastion of coastal Queensland. Ted Row's passion for the sugar industry was reflected in his maiden speech when he stated—

North Queensland, especially the coastal sections whose economy has been built basically on sugar, stands on a vital watershed in its history. For it is in this coastal section of high productivity that the question of whether or not Queensland holds its rural population will be determined. Queensland's strength to date has been in its decentralisation of population, with centres of sound economy

extending along the coast from Brisbane to Mossman ... Because of this Queensland has been freer than any other State of the dehydrating factor of constant urbanisation.

Honourable members, that quote illustrates what, I believe, Ted Row was about. He represented his industry, he represented his electorate and he represented his region. He was a proud supporter not just of his electorate and his industry but of the regions of Queensland. He was zealous in his desire to see the provision of employment opportunities for young people within his electorate. There is a quote from his maiden speech on the topic of the provision of employment opportunities. Ted recognised that, and these are his own words—

... young people will be lost permanently in the drain to the metropolitan area with the inevitable result that Queensland will become just another state with virtually all of its population concentrated in a few concrete jungles and cities as in the south.

He was a fighter for regional Queensland and he was a fighter for those people who sent him to this parliament. Apart from his representation here in this parliament he had a range of community interests. He was a member of the Ingham hospital board from 1953 to 1972, he was a member of the Ingham Bowling Club, he was a member of the aero club—he held his own private pilots licence—he was a member of the Ingham Rotary Club for many years and his other interests included aged care, boating and pistol and trap shooting.

He will certainly be missed by those people whom he represented in this parliament for many years. He will be well remembered in the National Party as a member who represented our party proudly in this parliament. I join with the Premier in extending the sympathies of the House to his family.