




Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard Wednesday, 16 February 2011

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: SCOTT, MR RW

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.40 am): I rise to speak to the condolence motion on the passing of Robert William Scott, a long serving member of this House, who died on 19 January aged 80. I think it is fair to say that Bob Scott was an old style Labor man. By that I mean he was not a political careerist who knew all of politics but little of life. He had worked, he had got his hands dirty, he had raised a family and he had bettered himself before entering politics. Through ongoing education he rose to the rank of electrical engineer with the North Queensland Electricity Board and at age 46 he won the seat of Cook and represented the electorate for 12 years between November 1977 and December 1989, when he retired.

Bob Scott was born in Gordonvale in 1931. Like Ben Chifley his father was an engine driver. Educated at Gordonvale State School, after sub-senior he took up an electrical apprenticeship and qualified as an electrician in 1952. But he did not stop there. He took on further study and qualified as an electrical engineer by first completing an associate diploma in electrical engineering in 1970 aged 39 and then an MIE Australia to become a member of the Association of Professional Engineers and the Institute of Engineers.

Bob Scott was a staunch member of the Electoral Trades Union, the ETU, and it was through this involvement that he joined the Australian Labor Party in 1960. I know that he was a staunch supporter of the ETU. Bob Scott was active in the Labor Party and was nominated to run for the seat of Cook, which he won at the 1977 state election and held for 12 years. His parliamentary career included serving as opposition spokesman on northern development and Aboriginal and Islander affairs and he served on party committees for culture, national parks, mines, energy and police.

As mentioned, Bob Scott was certainly no political careerist. He qualified as an electrician. He married in 1954 and with wife Jenny raised four children. During those years he studied to become an electrical engineer. He knew a fair bit about life and work and raising a family before he came here. He was a member who represented his electorate faithfully for 12 years. I know that all LNP members join me in noting the passing of Bob Scott and in offering our condolences to Mr Scott's family, his wife Jenny and their friends.