




Speech By
Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

ADJOURNMENT

Jolly, Mr S

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (4.25 pm): Today we witness an event that can truly be described as the end of an era. The king of the political press gallery, the undisputed stalwart of political journalism in this state, has decided to call it a day. I am sure that everyone in this place knows the name Spencer Jolly. I can report to the House that the name 'Spencer Jolly' is now trending in Brisbane. I am positive that everyone respects both the name and the man himself. Over four decades, his name has become synonymous with first-class political reporting. It has also become synonymous with fairness and accuracy, even-handedness and objectivity. It has also, of course, become synonymous—often, far too many times for the liking of incumbent governments—with the exclusive and the scoop.

Spence is a fixture in this place. He knows everyone and often knows everything. Not a footstep takes place in this parliament without Spencer knowing about it. He is the master of his profession and he has been doing it for 43 years. Twenty-seven of those years have been spent here in Brisbane, reporting on the comings and goings and the antics of this parliament. I am sure he has a very good book in the making and could tell a lot of stories about what has happened here over the past 27 years.

I ask all members to consider this: Spence has spent 43 years in the same profession. Not many people can lay claim to that. That is dedication. It is a reflection of Spencer's dedication, his determination and his never-say-die attitude that he has lasted such a distance.

In this place reporters come and go, but Spence has been here longer than any of us can lay claim to. I know this has been a very difficult decision for him and he makes it with a heavy heart. I wish him all the best. I know that he will enjoy spending a lot more time with Ramilla, Priya and his mother.

I end on this note: I am sure that many members can recall having a drink or two with Spence down at the Victory Hotel. To this very day, I am still absolutely amazed that he could remember every single detail of the conversation that was had the night before when at times, if you were drinking with him, you would not have that same clear memory.

On behalf of everybody here in the House, I wish Spencer all the best for his retirement. If any member is at Straddie over the holidays, I am sure you will bump into him.

Mr Johnson: Or the Victory.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Hear, hear!