




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Cory, Mr DW, AM

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.36 am): Today this House is paying tribute to David Wheatcroft Cory, the member for Warwick from 1963 until 1977. It is interesting to note that when David Cory was elected, as the Premier said, nearly 60 years ago, Frank Nicklin was premier and leader of the Country Party, Alan Munroe was minister for industrial development and leader of the Liberal Party and Jack Duggan was the leader of the opposition and leader of the Labor Party. There were still three members serving in the parliament who had been members of both the ALP and, after the 1957 split, members of the Queensland Labor Party. Few facts could so clearly demonstrate the very different environment into which Mr Cory was elected.

He was a son of Warwick. He was born in Warwick in 1928. His significant education was undertaken in Warwick. He farmed in the Warwick area and he raised his family in Warwick. He served the Warwick community before his election to this place through a myriad of local organisations—the United Graziers' Association, the Warwick Turf Club, the Warwick Tennis Association and as a councillor on the Warwick Show and Rodeo Association.

Only months after the 1963 state election the Country Party member for Warwick, the minister for agriculture and forestry, Otto Madsen, died and David Cory was elected in the subsequent by-election. It is interesting to note that the ALP campaign director in that by-election was Tom Burns, later the member for Lytton and deputy premier in the Goss government.

David Cory brought to this House a passionate belief in, and an unrestrained zeal for, the needs of his constituents. While he continued to champion the interests of primary producers in Warwick, he was equally conscious of the contribution of secondary industries, principally those involved in the processing of the agricultural products of his electorate such as grains and dairy.

At the core of his concerns was the need to establish reliable water supplies for domestic use and irrigators. He very much favoured the construction of stage 1 of the Leslie Dam and, once that was near completion, he campaigned unceasingly for the commencement of stage 2 to increase storage capacity. That the capacity of the dam was increased is due so much to his tenacity and strength of advocacy.

Along with the need for water supplies, David Cory was equally determined to see improvements in soil quality. He was aware of the growing demand for quality grains and saw the introduction of soil-enriching legumes as a means of achieving this objective. He was a supporter of decentralisation and fought hard to maintain young people in the regions. His speech on the address-in-reply in August 1964 summed up his concerns for Warwick when he said—

We must do everything possible to increase the job opportunities in the area by developing our industries so that when the young people leave school we do not lose them to other areas. We must increase the production of our land as well as the volume of our industries.

David Cory served in this House for 14 years. In 1977—at the relatively young age of 49—he chose to retire, feeling that his prospects of contributing further were limited. He then decided to pursue other options and made a magnificent contribution outside of this place. On the last day the parliament sat before being dissolved that year, then deputy premier and treasurer Bill Knox, referring to David Cory's service on the justice committee, noted—

I appreciated very much his down-to-earth contributions on that committee, and we have all appreciated his company in this House and elsewhere.

... he has always been a major contributor to both the debates and the dignity of this House.

In his retirement, he expressed a view on the proceedings of this House which still apply. The *Warwick Daily News* reported him as saying—

In practical terms, insults achieve nothing—they don't build dams or fix railways.

Mr Cory served this House, his party and his community with distinction and there are many who would no doubt regret he failed to achieve higher office.

After his retirement from parliament, he served 20 years on the Rural Lands Protection Board. He was vocal in his campaign for greater support for research into ways to reduce dingoes, mice and plant pests throughout rural regions. It was in this capacity in 2004 that he was recognised as a Member of the Order of Australia. He remained a stalwart of the National Party and then the Liberal National Party in Warwick after he left the parliament. His retirement did not diminish his passion for his cause. His successor, Des Booth, summarised the views of many when he said—

Wherever David went, he always exhibited the hallmarks of a gentleman.

The opposition places on record our appreciation for David Cory's contributions. We extend our sincerest condolences to his wife, Margot, who cannot be with us today, their son, Ben, and his wife, Margo, who are both in the gallery, and to his entire family. Vale David Cory.