

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

Tuesday, 20 August 2013

(Extract from book 10)

Internet: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable ALEX CHERNOV, AC, QC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

The ministry (from 22 April 2013)

Premier, Minister for Regional Cities and Minister for Racing	The Hon. D. V. Napthine, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Regional and Rural Development	The Hon. P. J. Ryan, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. M. A. O'Brien, MP
Minister for Innovation, Services and Small Business, Minister for Tourism and Major Events, and Minister for Employment and Trade . .	The Hon. Louise Asher, MP
Attorney-General, Minister for Finance and Minister for Industrial Relations	The Hon. R. W. Clark, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ageing	The Hon. D. M. Davis, MLC
Minister for Sport and Recreation, and Minister for Veterans' Affairs . . .	The Hon. H. F. Delahunty, MP
Minister for Education	The Hon. M. F. Dixon, MP
Minister for Planning	The Hon. M. J. Guy, MLC
Minister for Higher Education and Skills, and Minister responsible for the Teaching Profession	The Hon. P. R. Hall, MLC
Minister for Ports, Minister for Major Projects and Minister for Manufacturing	The Hon. D. J. Hodgett, MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, and Minister for Energy and Resources	The Hon. N. Kotsiras, MP
Minister for Housing, and Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development	The Hon. W. A. Lovell, MLC
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Roads	The Hon. T. W. Mulder, MP
Minister for Liquor and Gaming Regulation, Minister for Corrections and Minister for Crime Prevention	The Hon. E. J. O'Donohue, MLC
Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs	The Hon. E. J. Powell, MP
Assistant Treasurer, Minister for Technology and Minister responsible for the Aviation Industry	The Hon. G. K. Rich-Phillips, MLC
Minister for Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. R. Smith, MP
Minister for the Arts, Minister for Women's Affairs and Minister for Consumer Affairs	The Hon. H. Victoria, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, and Minister for Water	The Hon. P. L. Walsh, MP
Minister for Police and Emergency Services, and Minister for Bushfire Response	The Hon. K. A. Wells, MP
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Disability Services and Reform	The Hon. M. L. N. Wooldridge, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Mr N. Wakeling, MP

Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Ms Darveniza, Mr D. Davis, Mr P. Davis, Mr Hall, Ms Lovell, Ms Pennicuik and Mr Scheffer.

Procedure Committee — The President, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr D. Davis, Mr Hall, Mr Lenders, Ms Pennicuik and Mr Viney

Legislative Council standing committees

Economy and Infrastructure Legislation Committee — Mr Barber, Mrs Coote, #Ms Crozier, Mr Drum, Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, #Mr Leane, Mr Lenders, Mr Melhem, #Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pulford and Mr Ramsay.

Economy and Infrastructure References Committee — Mr Barber, Mrs Coote, #Ms Crozier, Mr Drum, Mr Finn, #Mr Leane, Mr Lenders, Mr Melhem, #Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pulford and Mr Ramsay.

Environment and Planning Legislation Committee — Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Elsbury, #Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, Mrs Kronberg, #Mr Leane, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pennicuik, #Mrs Peulich, Mr Scheffer, #Mr Tarlamis, Mr Tee and Ms Tierney.

Environment and Planning References Committee — Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Elsbury, #Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, Mrs Kronberg, #Mr Leane, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pennicuik, #Mrs Peulich, Mr Scheffer, #Mr Tarlamis, Mr Tee and Ms Tierney.

Legal and Social Issues Legislation Committee — Ms Crozier, Mr Elasmr, Ms Hartland, Ms Mikakos, Mrs Millar, Mr O'Brien, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Ramsay and Mr Viney.

Legal and Social Issues References Committee — Ms Crozier, Mr Elasmr, Ms Hartland, Ms Mikakos, Mrs Millar, Mr O'Brien, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Ramsay and Mr Viney.

Participating member

Joint committees

Accountability and Oversight Committee — (*Council*): Mr P. Davis, Mr O'Brien. (*Assembly*): Ms Kanis, Mr McIntosh and Ms Neville.

Dispute Resolution Committee — (*Council*): Mr D. Davis, Mr Hall, Mr Lenders, Ms Lovell and Ms Pennicuik. (*Assembly*): Mr Clark, Ms Hennessy, Mr Merlino, Dr Naphine and Mr Walsh.

Economic Development, Infrastructure and Outer Suburban/Interface Services Committee — (*Council*): Mrs Peulich. (*Assembly*): Mr Burgess, Mr Foley, Mrs Fyffe, Mr McGuire and Mr Shaw.

Education and Training Committee — (*Council*): Mr Elasmr and Mrs Kronberg. (*Assembly*): Mr Battin, Mr Brooks and Mr Crisp.

Electoral Matters Committee — (*Council*): Mr Finn, Mrs Peulich, Mr Somyurek and Mr Tarlamis. (*Assembly*): Mr Northe.

Environment and Natural Resources Committee — (*Council*): Mr Koch. (*Assembly*): Mr Bull, Ms Duncan, Mr Pandazopoulos and Ms Wreford.

Family and Community Development Committee — (*Council*): Mrs Coote, Ms Crozier and Mr O'Brien. (*Assembly*): Ms Halfpenny, Mr McGuire and Mr Wakeling.

House Committee — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*) Mr Drum, Mr Eideh, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, and Mr P. Davis. (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Ms Beattie, Ms Campbell, Mrs Fyffe, Ms Thomson, Mr Wakeling and Mr Weller.

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Committee — (*Council*): Mr Viney. (*Assembly*): Ms Hennessy, Mr McIntosh, Mr Newton-Brown and Mr Weller.

Law Reform, Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee — (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Mr Scheffer. (*Assembly*): Mr Carroll, Mr McCurdy and Mr Southwick.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Council*): Mr O'Brien and Mr Ondarchie. (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Ms Hennessey, Mr Morris, Mr Pakula and Mr Scott.

Road Safety Committee — (*Council*): Mr Elsbury. (*Assembly*): Mr Languiller, Mr Perera, Mr Tilley and Mr Thompson.

Rural and Regional Committee — (*Council*): Mr Drum. (*Assembly*): Mr Howard, Mr Katos, Mr Trezise and Mr Weller.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee — (*Council*): Mr Dalla-Riva. (*Assembly*): Ms Barker, Ms Campbell, Mr Gidley, Mr Nardella, Dr Sykes and Mr Watt.

Heads of parliamentary departments

Assembly — Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Mr R. W. Purdey

Council — Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr W. R. Tunnecliffe

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION

President: The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President: Mr M. VINEY

Acting Presidents: Ms Crozier, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmr, Mr Finn, Mr O'Brien, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pennicuik, Mr Ramsay, Mr Tarlamis

Leader of the Government:

The Hon. D. M. DAVIS

Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. W. A. LOVELL

Leader of the Opposition:

Mr J. LENDERS

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

Mr G. JENNINGS

Leader of The Nationals:

The Hon. P. R. HALL

Deputy Leader of The Nationals:

Mr D. DRUM

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Hon. Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Lenders, Mr John	Southern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Lovell, Hon. Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP
Broad, Ms Candy Celeste	Northern Victoria	ALP	Melhem, Mr Cesar ²	Western Metropolitan	LP
Coote, Mrs Andrea	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Millar, Mrs Amanda Louise ⁴	Northern Victoria	LP
Dalla-Riva, Hon. Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	O'Brien, Mr David Roland Joseph	Western Victoria	Nats
Darveniza, Ms Kaye Mary	Northern Victoria	ALP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Davis, Hon. David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Davis, Mr Philip Rivers	Eastern Victoria	LP	Pakula, Hon. Martin Philip ¹	Western Metropolitan	ALP
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin	Northern Victoria	Nats	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Petrovich, Mrs Donna-Lee ³	Northern Victoria	LP
Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Elsbury, Mr Andrew Warren	Western Metropolitan	LP	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Guy, Hon. Matthew Jason	Northern Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Hon. Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Hall, Hon. Peter Ronald	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Scheffer, Mr Johan Emiel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tarlamis, Mr Lee Reginald	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Koch, Mr David Frank	Western Victoria	LP	Tee, Mr Brian Lennox	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Kronberg, Mrs Janice Susan	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP			

¹ Resigned 26 March 2013

² Appointed 8 May 2013

³ Resigned 1 July 2013

⁴ Appointed 21 August 2013

CONTENTS

TUESDAY, 20 AUGUST 2013

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

Mrs Petrovich 2345

JOINT SITTING OF PARLIAMENT

Legislative Council and Senate vacancies 2345

CONDOLENCES

Hon. Alan John Hunt, AM 2346

ADJOURNMENT 2355

Tuesday, 20 August 2013

The PRESIDENT (Hon. B. N. Atkinson) took the chair at 2.03 p.m. and read the prayer.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

Mrs Petrovich

The PRESIDENT — Order! I have received messages from the Governor in respect of the vacancies in the Legislative Council and the Senate. The Governor's first letter of 1 July 2013 states:

I write to advise that Ms Donna Petrovich, MLC, called on me today and handed me her letter of resignation as member of the Legislative Council for Northern Victoria, effective from today. It seems that section 27A of the Constitution Act 1975 requires a joint sitting of the Council and Assembly to fill this vacancy.

I have advised the Speaker and the Premier in like terms.

I enclose a copy of Ms Petrovich's letter for your records.

Mrs Petrovich's letter to the Governor of 1 July 2013 states:

I write to formally advise you that as of 1 July 2013 I will resign from my state role as the member for Northern Victoria in the Legislative Council.

Under section 30 of the Constitution Act 1975 my resignation will take effect immediately when received by the Governor.

I take this action to concentrate my efforts on the upcoming federal election as the endorsed Liberal candidate for the seat of McEwen.

I am very appreciative of the time I have spent representing the constituents of my electorate and look forward to continuing this representation if I am successful in winning the federal seat of McEwen.

Please consider this letter formal notification for my resignation from the Victorian Parliament and the member for the Northern Victoria Region.

JOINT SITTING OF PARLIAMENT

Legislative Council and Senate vacancies

The PRESIDENT — Order! I have received further notification from the Governor in respect of a Senate vacancy. The letter states:

I write to advise that I have been informed by the President of the Senate that a vacancy has occurred in the representation of the state of Victoria in the Senate through the recent resignation of Senator the Honourable David Feeney.

Accordingly, I enclose a message to you as President of the Legislative Council in relation to this.

I have written to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in like terms and have also informed the Premier of this correspondence.

That communication to me was dated 19 August.

Mr Chernov, as Governor of Victoria, has also indicated to me:

The Governor transmits to the Legislative Council a copy of a despatch which has been received from the Honourable the President of the Senate notifying that a vacancy has happened in the representation of the state of Victoria in the Senate of the commonwealth of Australia.

In that respect the letter from the President of the Senate, John Hogg, to the Governor of Victoria, under the heading 'Vacancy in the representation of Victoria', reads:

Pursuant to the provisions of section 21 of the commonwealth of Australia constitution, I notify Your Excellency that a vacancy has happened in the representation of the state of Victoria through the resignation of Senator the Honourable David Feeney on 12 August 2013.

Hon. D. M. DAVIS (Minister for Health) — By leave, I move:

That this house meets the Legislative Assembly for the purpose of sitting and voting together —

- (1) to choose a person to hold the seat in the Legislative Council rendered vacant by the resignation of Mrs Donna Petrovich; and
- (2) to choose a person to hold the place in the Senate rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator the Honourable David Ian Feeney;

and proposes that the time and place of such meeting be the Legislative Assembly chamber on Wednesday, 21 August 2013, at 6.15 p.m.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered that message be sent to Assembly informing them of resolution.

The PRESIDENT — Order! I take this opportunity to indicate that the nominee for Mrs Petrovich's seat in Northern Victoria Region, Ms Amanda Millar, is in the gallery today. On Thursday morning no doubt she will switch places and come through the barricade, and we will welcome her formally on that occasion.

CONDOLENCES

Hon. Alan John Hunt, AM

Hon. D. M. DAVIS (Minister for Health) — I move:

That this house expresses its sincere sorrow at the death, on 19 July 2013, of the Honourable Alan John Hunt, AM, and places on record its acknowledgement of the valuable services rendered by him to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as a member of the Legislative Council for the South Eastern Province from 1961 to 1992; as Minister without Portfolio in 1971, Minister for Local Government from 1971 to 1979, Minister for Planning from 1973 to 1976 and 1978 to 1979, Attorney-General in 1976, Minister for Federal Affairs from 1976 to 1978 and Minister for Education from 1979 to 1982; and as President of the Legislative Council from 1988 to 1992.

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Alan John Hunt. Many of us in this chamber knew Alan Hunt extremely well. He was a strong liberal, somebody who contributed to his community, a legislator and a parliamentarian in the true sense of the word. He was also a minister, a leader in this chamber and ultimately its President. It is important to note that his contributions were wide, and I will seek to document them, as I am sure many others in this chamber and across the political divide will seek to do.

Alan Hunt was born on 9 October in Peterborough, South Australia, and educated in South Australia. His parents moved to Victoria into what is now Southern Metropolitan Region, and he was educated at Canterbury and Hawksburn state schools, Mont Albert Central School and later Melbourne Grammar School. He won an academic scholarship to the University of Melbourne and graduated with a bachelor of laws. At university he showed early interest in political activity, serving as the secretary of the National Union of Australian University Students. He was an outspoken opponent of the Menzies government's referendum to outlaw the Communist Party, which perhaps marked him as a liberal rather than a conservative and, it is fair to say, possibly diminished early his chances at a federal parliamentary career.

He was a solicitor in practice in the 1950s. He moved to Mornington in 1954 to become a partner of a new firm, Frost & Hunt, which later became Hunt, O'Sullivan & Daniels. He was immersed in community life as well, being a strong member of the Apex Club and the Peninsula regional committee of the Spastic Children's Society. He also served on local school councils and railway advisory committees in the local region. He was involved in a range of other community activities with a local profile. He was particularly active

in the Mornington branch of the Liberal Party, a branch that is still strong and active. I might add it is a branch that my father was a member of for many years. He was also chairman of the Flinders electorate committee, and 50 years later his son Greg would represent that electorate. He represented the South Eastern Province from 1961 until 1992, which was a very long period. He gave great service over a long period not just to his community but to the Parliament and the people of Victoria. He made early speeches that were not always popular, some criticising the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission's plans to build a reservoir on land at Mount Eliza owned by Sir Reginald Ansett.

Alan was a great committee worker as well. In fact it was not until 1971 that he was brought into the ministry as a minister without portfolio and then later as Minister for Local Government from 1971 until 1979. He was Minister for Planning and was known by our current Minister for Planning both before and during his current term as planning minister. Alan Hunt was briefly Attorney-General in 1976, Minister for Federal Affairs from 1976 until 1978 and Minister for Education in the latter period of the Hamer government and into the period of the Thompson government.

But it was planning and local government where Alan Hunt made his mark and where he was extremely well known for the causes he championed and for his determination to protect the community and put in place good processes and outcomes that would see the proper development of the community. He did so in a way that looked to the future and that would maximise economic growth but also see our environment protected and economic growth managed to ensure the growth of our city.

Alan was somebody who worked very hard at his portfolio and was across much of the detail. That was recognised in his period in those portfolios and later when he was made an honorary fellow of the Australian Institute of Urban Studies. He won awards from the Town and Country Planning Association for notable contributions to planning. He succeeded Dick Hamer as planning minister and built on a heritage that was left when Dick Hamer became Victorian Premier, a Premier who I think Victorians look back on as a great Premier who did a good deal for our state in terms of planning and environmental focus.

Alan was determined to be more transparent in planning and local government, and he certainly understood the importance of planning. He made a comment to me at one point in a lengthy conversation when I was shadow planning minister and shadow environment minister. He said one of the important

things in planning is that there be a bipartisan basis for planning — that is, that we seek an outcome where the community can look forward with predictability and certainty in planning and where planning arrangements are put in place that have broad community support and broad support across the Parliament. I think that was a very wise view, and I certainly was influenced in the period when I was shadow planning minister in the lead-up to the 1996 election. I think that had some influence on our policy beyond that in terms of the Mornington Peninsula, an area he loved and protected.

Mr Lenders — 2006.

Hon. D. M. DAVIS — Sorry, I should say it was 2006 and beyond, thinking very much of the area on the Mornington Peninsula that he respected, loved and was determined to protect. A number of steps were taken at that time to push for a stronger set of protections on the peninsula.

Importantly he was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1992 for his valuable contribution to the Victorian Parliament and was also awarded a Centenary Medal. In 1988 he became President of the Legislative Council, an office that he served in with distinction. It is an unusual situation to have been a minister of the Crown, a party leader and also a Presiding Officer; as I say, he was a great parliamentarian in the true sense of that word.

He was also a commissioner on the inquiry into the Shire of Strathfieldsaye, and he served from 2001 to 2002 as a member of the Constitution Commission Victoria. He took an honorary academic appointment at the governance unit at Monash University. His contribution on the constitution commission is something that is recognised by both sides of the house. Whilst many on this side of the house still have different views from the recommendations of that commission and would still see something different — —

Honourable members interjecting.

Hon. D. M. DAVIS — I am being generous. Mr Davis. Is that a fair description? I am trying to recognise a sincere contribution where there may be disagreement with the conclusions that were reached by that commission. The views of many members on this side of the house were made known at the time when the bill to change the constitution was passed. I see Mr Davis nodding and no doubt he will say something in a moment, but he made his contribution at the time about the direction of the Legislative Council and the way changes to the constitution of Victoria were heading. What had been a very good and functional

system is now a different system, and not necessarily a better system, if I can put it that way.

Equally I also remember him having conversations with Alan Hunt around that time on the need for strong independent officers — the Auditor-General and others — and he talked at the time about something that I was talking about a lot at that time, which was the surveyor-general, and the need to strengthen the position of the surveyor-general. Alan said to me that if they had seen the work that we had done in time, they would have incorporated that into the work of the Constitutional Commission and sought to put the surveyor-general on a more firm footing in terms of the constitution.

I provide that example to give the house and the community some idea of the thought processes that Alan Hunt had and the way in which he viewed the chamber, the constitution and the checks, balances and protections he sought to put into the constitution. Interestingly I will quote from what is perhaps something people have forgotten he was involved in — the Electoral Commission Bill of 1982. Reading the steps of that bill in debate on 26 May 1982, he cited the statement:

The bill will establish an independent electoral commission to ensure that parliamentary representation reflects the wishes of the Victorian people as close as is humanly possible. It seeks to remove the power of the government, under the Electoral Province and Districts Act 1974, whereby the government decrees such vital considerations as the percentage allowance in the number of voters between electorates. Put simply, the bill will remove the influence of politicians over electoral boundaries and raise the voting system to a new level of independence and impartiality.

In many respects Alan Hunt had a very remarkable and broad legacy, but arguably this is one of his main legacies — a commitment to ensuring that that change was made. It was a commitment to ensuring there was a fairer electoral system where boundaries and weightings of boundaries were set or undertaken in a fair way by the electoral commission and through the boundaries committee process.

I want to pay my respects to his family; I want to indicate that Victorians regard the passing of the Honourable Alan Hunt, AM, as a sad moment; and I want to reflect both very positively on his heritage, something of which the Liberal Party and the community can be proud, and on the passing of a great parliamentarian.

Mr LENDERS (Southern Metropolitan) — The Labor Party supports this motion, and I would like to associate myself with the comments made by the

Leader of the Government. Alan Hunt was a larger-than-life figure. In terms of trying to work out his role I will start off with some statistics. Since its formation in the mid-1850s, this house has had 578 members. Alan Hunt was one of only two who served in the triple roles of President, Leader of the Government and Leader of the Opposition; the other, of course, was Monica Gould. Alan Hunt was 1 of 20 presidents, 1 of 46 leaders of the government and one of an indeterminate number of leaders of the opposition — records do not show exactly how many opposition leaders there have been. In each of those roles he served for four years. He would therefore have come to this place with a perspective that probably nobody else — or very few others — would have had on the role of the chamber, the role of government and the role of opposition.

He was a minister for 11 years, which included 3 in education, a matter that I have looked at with particular interest, having myself held that portfolio. With great interest I found something indicative of the different times and different spaces, and I look at Mr Hall with great interest on this one. When there was a teachers industrial dispute, Mr Hunt got a bit frustrated. He told all the officials to leave and sat down and brokered an agreement with the union. Perhaps there is something in there that we can reflect on!

Alan Hunt was a member of Parliament for 31 years. Let us think on that. I was three years old when he was elected to this Parliament. He served all of those roles in this Parliament. It is such an extraordinary length of time. When you read through some of the material the parliamentary library provided, the term ‘wise elder’ is probably what comes to mind, if you are trying to synthesise in a couple of words what Alan Hunt was during that period of time.

His activism was also quite unusual. As Mr Davis said, he was secretary of what became the Australian Union of Students and the National Union of Students — hardly something people normally associate with Liberal Party activism. He was there in the very early years. As Mr David Davis said, Alan Hunt opposed the Menzies government on the anti-Communist referendum. He was involved in a series of non-portfolio charities, to which Mr Davis also referred. One thing Mr Davis did not refer to — and this is something that shows how different the times were — is that Alan Hunt was a member of the Victorian committee of the Miss Australia Quest. That shows how different the times were.

Speaking of people who have served for a long time, Tim Colebatch wrote an article profiling Alan Hunt in

the *Australian Municipal Journal* of January 1979. In it he talked about Alan Hunt’s social liberalism and how he was one of the first people to oppose capital punishment. He talks about Alan Hunt’s early role in environmental issues, which Mr Davis also mentioned, and his opposition to the Menzies government’s anti-Communist referendum.

Tim Colebatch also talked about the seminal role Alan Hunt played in getting the dying with dignity legislation through this house during the Cain government years. The legislation was not going to get through. Then Alan Hunt exercised a conscience vote and abstained from voting at a couple of critical junctures, which enabled that legislation to get through the Legislative Council. The Tim Colebatch profile goes on to indicate that that let the then Premier off the hook; it was a very difficult situation. It was a social issue and there was a great deal of division over it at the time. Alan Hunt’s decision to walk out of the chamber and abstain from voting at a critical moment meant the legislation got through.

In his inaugural speech Alan Hunt spoke about the importance of school halls and how they made a school a vibrant part of the community. Some issues that Alan Hunt was involved in happened a long time ago and are quite remote, such as his involvement on the Miss Australia committee, but others are relevant and contemporary. It is interesting to go through some of the advice Alan Hunt gave members of Parliament. Lest I make him out to be a modern-day Mother Teresa or Dalai Lama, I will come to the more robust Alan Hunt shortly.

Alan Hunt said there were four things that a member of Parliament should have, humility being the main one. He said the first thing you should think of is your electorate, the second is your state, the third is your party and the fourth is yourself. In an article in the *Sunday Herald Sun* of 2 June 1991 Alan Hunt called for humility. Without putting it all on the record, in the same article he listed 10 points of advice for members of Parliament. They are particularly salient. I will not go through all of them. He talks about 10 things an MP should do. The first is:

Service is the key.

The second is:

Become a true professional —

and he outlines why a person should be professional as an MP. The third point is a very sage one, and that is:

Listen rather than talk! Talk too much and nobody listens to you! Listen, and you will learn a lot ...

That is very salient advice; I wish I could follow it a bit more sometimes. The fourth point is:

Don't judge others or criticise them. You would be surprised how often it gets back to them.

That is his advice. The fifth point is:

Where disagreement exists, don't emphasise it.

Look for areas of common ground if you want to move forward. The sixth point is:

Honesty isn't just the best policy: it's the only policy.

If you are dishonest, you will be found out. The seventh point is:

There is no such thing as a free lunch. If you are not prepared to return the favour, don't accept it in the first place.

The eighth point is about nurturing friendships and mutual loyalties. The ninth point is about building bridges to your doubters and opponents. If you get them on board, you will do very well. The tenth point is to 'jealously guard your reputation' because it is incredibly precious.

Alan Hunt is certainly a remarkable figure. But lest I make him sound like a modern-day saint, he was also a robust political operator. He brawled with lots of people on the Mornington Peninsula. He had massive clashes with Sir Henry Bolte. It took a decade for Alan Hunt to get elected to the Liberal Party cabinet, because of opposition from Henry Bolte.

Alan Hunt fought endless battles over some of the social issues I mentioned earlier and over the role of government. If we go through the record, we see that a lot of the battles Alan Hunt had with Doug Jennings, the Bond Corporation and Sir Reginald Ansett — as Mr Davis outlined — were over the direction of the government, the Liberal Party, development versus the environment and the role of citizens versus corporations. Alan Hunt was not afraid to go into battle.

Alan Hunt was also not afraid to use the privilege of this place to put on the record what he thought of some of his opponents. Sir Reginald Ansett and Doug Jennings were two opponents who received fairly strong backhanders from Alan Hunt in this place. He saw this as part of his advocacy role — to use the Parliament to stand up for citizens. He was fearless in those battles.

Alan Hunt was moved in and out of the planning portfolio. Two premiers battled to deal with problems over land deals on the Mornington Peninsula, and Alan Hunt was very much part of dealing with those issues.

It is interesting that Alan Hunt also played a very prominent role in first sponsoring and then trying to unseat Jeff Kennett from the Liberal leadership. In many senses it was an ironic end to a political career that after 10 Parliaments this man who fought the numbers as vigorously as he did went down in a preselection for South Eastern Province to Ron Bowden and left this place.

Often when we are condoling people we do not know them. For most of Alan Hunt's career I did not meet him, but I did meet him in his post-parliamentary career. Mr Davis talked about the Constitutional Commission, and I certainly dealt with Alan Hunt in those matters but also in what some people called the Alan and Ken show — the Monash University duo of the former President and former Speaker. Alan gave incredibly wise counsel and advice on governance and the operation of the Parliament. Many a student who went through the Monash postgraduate courses heard Alan Hunt and Ken Coghill speak.

I will close on the legacy of the Constitutional Commission. Alan Hunt was a part of this, and obviously it was not just Alan Hunt. We now have in our constitution fixed four-year terms of Parliament. That was a recommendation of the Constitutional Commission. We have the inability of the Legislative Council to block the budget. That was a recommendation of the Constitutional Commission. We have the deadlock provisions, which in the last Parliament we met to discuss for many hours to try to work out how they operated. They were all recommendations that came out of the Constitutional Commission. The one recommendation that has not been dealt with — and I look with interest at the six ministers opposite — was that ministers not serve in the Legislative Council. It is one of the unfinished items from the Constitutional Commission.

In all of this Alan Hunt was a person who thought about how this place operated. As I said, he was unique. During a long and experienced career he served in the roles of Presiding Officer, Leader of the Government and Leader of the Opposition in the Council. We in the Labor Party acknowledge a distinguished elder. We acknowledge 86 years of a life very well lived and his lasting contributions to society. We extend our condolences to his family.

Hon. P. R. HALL (Minister for Higher Education and Skills) — I wish to associate my colleagues in The Nationals with this condolence motion today for the late A. J. Hunt, AM. Mr Davis and Mr Lenders cited the very extensive and impressive record of service the late Alan Hunt provided to the Parliament of Victoria. I

do not wish to repeat all of that information, apart from saying that to serve 31 years in the Victorian Parliament, 11 of those as a minister of the Crown, serving in the positions of government minister, President of the Legislative Council, Leader of the Government and Leader of the Opposition in the Council, is a record that very few in the past could ever claim to have matched, and I suggest that very few members, if any, in the future will achieve that level of service.

Alan Hunt's record is a most impressive one. I was very fortunate that the term he served as President of the Legislative Council in the 51st Parliament of Victoria, between 1988 and 1992, coincided with the period when I was first elected to this Parliament. I had the benefit of serving with Alan Hunt in this chamber. He wore the full traditional attire of the President, from the wig right down to the breeches and boots. At times I understand he had some difficulty fitting into that attire, and I am advised there are some famous incidents relating to that.

The most impressive component of Alan Hunt's chairing of this house was the very learned and highly respected and dignified way in which he went about that particular task. At times his demeanour could be described as being very stern, and as a young person in this chamber he set a tone which was sometimes quite intimidating. However, the fact that he did his job so well is evidenced by the *Rulings from the Chair* document utilised from time to time by the clerks and those who are President. Members will see the name of the Honourable A. J. Hunt littered throughout this particular document because his rulings are very much still valid and used today.

One of the rulings Alan Hunt is given credit for is one that many of us who have the opportunity to sit in the chair on a temporary basis frequently use as a 'get out of jail' card — that is, the ruling commonly applied to interjections in this house. We have all repeated the words of Alan Hunt, who said that all interjections are disorderly but that some tolerance is given to those that are apposite.

The clerks told me that at the time they went scurrying to the *Macquarie Dictionary* that was lying on the table to ensure that their interpretation of that word — apposite — was what Alan Hunt intended. Of course being the very knowledgeable and learned person he was, Alan Hunt was absolutely spot on with his description and the use of that particular word. As I said, I think many of us who have had the opportunity to sit in the chair rely on that ruling still today.

I found Alan Hunt also to be a very courteous and respectful person. You only need to reflect on *Hansard* and the way in which he responded to questions without notice when he was a minister of the Crown to see that. Some of us in more contemporary times seek to use the opportunity to respond to questions in a way that suits our own ends and often not in the most respectful way. During the 11 years Alan Hunt was a minister, I do not think anyone could fault him on the dignity with which he conducted himself in Parliament or on the respect he had for members no matter which side of the chamber they sat on.

As has been said, Alan Hunt was a minister from 1971 to 1982. During those 11 years he held five different ministerial portfolios, being local government, planning, Attorney-General, federal affairs and education. I have a particular interest in his role as education minister; he held that portfolio between 1979 and 1982. During that time he was credited with the first review and restructure of the education department in 80 years. Unfortunately since that time ministers have virtually all adopted that practice of review and restructure, but certainly Alan Hunt was one of the first to do it. I found it of interest that his vision for education was set out in a ministerial statement that he delivered to the Legislative Council on 12 December 1979. That statement was titled, 'Aims and objectives of education in Victoria'. As was said in the background to that ministerial statement, this was probably the first time ever that a government department had stipulated its aims and objectives and the purpose of its being; it was probably the 1979 version of what we would describe today as the 'corporate plan' of the department.

I read that statement; it is in the volume of *Hansard* in front of me. It is an extensive statement, and time prevents me from commenting on each particular aspect of it. However, I did notice a lot of similarities with issues and processes that we employ today, right down to a consultative committee that Alan Hunt, as then minister, used to assist him in formulating that plan. Membership of that committee included Professor Kwong Lee Dow, a person whose skills many subsequent ministers have utilised, me included, in terms of shaping policy in that particular area.

In reading that statement in the *Hansard* of 1979 I could not help but be drawn to reading the surrounding *Hansard* text, particularly because Alan Hunt, as Leader of the Government and Minister for Education at the time, featured prominently in the day's activities.

As an aside, I think members would be interested to know that on the particular day I have been discussing,

12 December 1979, the Legislative Council commenced at 10.33 a.m. and rose at 10.20 p.m. In the course of that day the Legislative Council transacted 13 questions without notice, had a substantive debate on a paper based on a public health report that was tabled in the Parliament and dealt with 5 bills that were introduced and second read on the day, 5 bills that were introduced and passed on the same day and 10 further bills that were debated and passed on the same day. In total that is 20 bills, 15 of which were passed and 4 of which included a committee stage. In addition two personal explanations were given — one by James Guest, which is an interesting read — a ministerial statement was made, to which I have referred, and 10 adjournment items were transacted on that day of business. As the Leader of the Government in those days, the late Alan Hunt had a way of conducting business that ensured that the Parliament was very productive. I found that of great interest.

After Alan Hunt left the Parliament at the end of 1992 — at the 1992 election — I did not come across him again until his involvement in the Constitution Commission Victoria in 2001–02, which has been referred to by previous speakers. I did not agree with Alan Hunt on that matter, but suffice it to say that that just proves to me that we do not have to agree with somebody in order to respect them. I respected Alan Hunt and admired him greatly, and today we all still benefit from his legacy in this Parliament. On behalf of my colleagues in The Nationals I am pleased to honour the contribution made by Alan Hunt to the Parliament of Victoria and to join all members in extending our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Mr BARBER (Northern Metropolitan) — Alan Hunt was one of the good guys. My conversations with him started after he commenced his role with the Constitution Commission Victoria, before my time in this Parliament, and continued through my early years here, particularly around his advocacy for integrity in government. I found him to be both considered and considerate, thoughtful and articulate and equally comfortable as a listener and an advocate. That is how I found him to be, and it seems that many others found him the same way. Notably, as all have stated, his convictions ran consistently through his entire career, straight as an arrow, and his life of public service is not only to be admired but aspired to by members of this place who follow in his footsteps. The Greens join with other members of the Council in offering condolences to Alan Hunt's family and friends.

Hon. M. J. GUY (Minister for Planning) — I also rise to make some brief remarks about the passing of a former planning minister, the Honourable Alan Hunt.

As many members would know, Alan Hunt served as a minister in a number of portfolios and was President of the Legislative Council at one point. Some may think that I have referred to Alan Hunt's role as planning minister due to self-interest, but I think history will best remember him for his legacy in this area of government. While Alan left a number of legacies — many legacies — to this state, I believe the most profound of these was the legacy he left as planning minister from 1973 to 1976 and 1978 to 1979, during the Hamer government. I will refer to the changes he made to planning policy. He was the driving force behind the inception of localised planning statements, which this government is seeking to replicate 40 years later. He also advocated for the establishment and identification of an environmental and agricultural belt around Melbourne in the form of green wedges.

Statements of planning policies, particularly for the Macedon Ranges and for his beloved Mornington Peninsula, were conceived during his term as minister. Those statements recognised specific areas of Victoria as being unique and worthy of individual protection. Those policies were a reflection of a planning system that was pragmatic enough to realise that all Victoria was not the same. Height controls, setback controls, green and open space controls, clarity on land use now and in the future were all reformed under his watch. He left a legacy for ministers in the planning portfolio who came after him to learn from and to appreciate.

Alan Hunt had a vision for a Victorian planning system that spanned land use planning, the economy and the environment. Many decades on we can all see that this concept was ahead of its time. Even today many people see those three elements as being in direct competition with each other, but they are far from being so. During the 1970s, aided by his loyal policy adviser, Geoff Underwood, Alan Hunt implemented a metropolitan planning strategy that has guided all three of these elements and has set the framework for livability in many areas of Melbourne, particularly in what are now our middle and outer ring suburbs, including such places as the city of Knox, the outer areas of Banyule and Manningham and the south-eastern suburbs. Mr Hunt was recognised by the planning fraternity a number of times; importantly, he was made an honorary fellow of the then Royal Australian Planning Institute and, as we know, a Member of the Order of Australia.

As has been said, he served an extraordinary 31 years in this chamber. He was a liberal student, a Liberal MLC, a Liberal minister, Leader of the Liberal Party in the Legislative Council and President of the Legislative Council. Dedication to public service and the Liberal

Party, as we know, clearly runs in his family. Members will know that his youngest son, Greg, is the federal member for Flinders and a senior coalition frontbencher. Indeed in a few weeks time he might even be a little more senior. There is no doubt that his father would have been exceedingly proud of where his son is and where he may be in just a few weeks time.

Future generations of Victorians owe a great debt of gratitude to the Honourable Alan Hunt, and I extend my sympathies to his family at this time.

Mr JENNINGS (South Eastern Metropolitan) — I am grateful for the opportunity to mark with respect and regard the life and contribution of Alan Hunt. At the time of his passing, his son Greg referred to the fact that his father lived a wonderful life of 85 years and died in the company of his family. It is probably a peaceful, reassuring message in terms of the life of any public figure or member of our community if they can die in peaceful circumstances in the company of those they love at the end of a long and fruitful life. That is something we can all aspire to and certainly something I aspire to.

Beyond that I aspire to die in circumstances where there is no contemporary colleague of mine remaining in the Parliament of Victoria to eulogise and reflect on my passing. If that is the case, I would encourage those members to immediately resign on my passing to prevent them from taking up that opportunity. I sympathise and at the same time congratulate Mr Hall for being in circumstances where he can say that he and Alan Hunt served together, but by design you would hope that would not be the case. By design I would hope all of us, regardless of our contribution to public life, have a long and productive life after leaving here.

Part of Alan Hunt's contribution to public life after leaving here was to demonstrate some after-care for the wellbeing of this chamber, the Parliament of Victoria and our constitution. He played a very constructive, positive role in a brief given to him by the Labor government in 2001 to consult with the Victorian community about its hopes and aspirations for this parliamentary chamber, the constitution and the ways in which we could better function as a democracy in the years ahead. As we have already heard in the course of today's contributions, there are divergent views about the calibre of that work in terms of its design features but not an argument about the calibre of the consultation and the inclusive nature of the deliberation.

My residual message about Alan Hunt's reputation has not been gained from personal experience but rather from people I know and have worked with for a long

period of time who served with Alan Hunt in this chamber. The people I am most mindful of — the Evan Walkers, the Caroline Hoggs, the Joan Kirners of their day — who shared a professional political engagement with Alan Hunt have commented to me over the years on the respectful nature of their interactions with him and the appropriateness of the discipline and protocols of parliamentary behaviour and the way in which a member acquits their responsibilities. That is a hallmark that I think every member has commented on today in their contribution. That is the key uniting element of the contribution of everybody I have heard so far and I anticipate hearing.

I have also heard what is almost an appropriation by members on this side of the chamber of some of the policy settings, policy concerns and issues that Mr Hunt pursued during the course of his political life, and those issues may not have travelled so well within his party. I know there is a broad church in political organisations — and they are respectful, robust organisations — but I imagine it came at quite a cost for a member of the Liberal Party to stand up in the 1950s or 1960s to oppose the banning of the Communist Party and for people to stand up and take on what they perceived as vested interests in relation to planning decisions to protect conservation and heritage values of the natural landscape and built form of Victoria. And that has been reflected on today.

Alan Hunt may have been the anti-Dale Carnegie in the Liberal Party, because he was not interested in winning friends and influencing people. In fact he lost some friends, but he still had the ability to influence people. Despite those policy tussles and battles, he maintained the ability to be extremely influential within the Parliament of Victoria and the government he served. Even after leaving the Parliament he was influential in the reform of this chamber and the constitution. He possessed the endearing qualities of being prepared to step up and engage in a respectful way and to take on some of the big progressive issues. As Mr Guy has indicated, he was a man ahead of his time. He was somewhat of a contradiction, coming into this chamber dressed as Charles I, but nonetheless he overwhelmingly demonstrated his concern for contemporary issues, appropriate policy settings and the wellbeing of this Parliament.

Indeed if there were a Brownlow best and fairest award within this chamber for adherence to parliamentary procedure, I am sure Alan Hunt would have been close to winning it on a couple of occasions. Some of us may go through our parliamentary careers never getting a vote, but I think he would have done reasonably well and would have been held in high esteem by those who

served with him and those who have followed. I join other members of the chamber in celebrating his life, and I express my sympathies to those who love him.

Mrs PEULICH (South Eastern Metropolitan) — I also wish to be associated with the motion:

That this house expresses its sincere sorrow at the death ... of the Honourable Alan John Hunt, AM, and places on record its acknowledgement of the valuable services rendered by him to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as a member of the Legislative Council ... from 1961 to 1992 ...

Ironically, I did not know Mr Hunt for any of the 31 years he served Parliament in many capacities, but I did have the opportunity of meeting him between the 2006 and 2010 elections, when I attended a public meeting in Patterson Lakes, a suburb that he was instrumental in establishing. He knew the intricate details of the legislation and the arrangements that led to that suburb being established. I met Mr Hunt at a public meeting of some 250 people. He was belting out an impassioned address and had clearly not lost any of his passion for community affairs or for giving the underdog a voice — something that was the driving principle and motive throughout much of his life.

From the early years to his death, his life demonstrated that he was a person who became involved in things. He was a man of ideas who was passionate and articulate and often, as I said, sided with the underdog. As a result of that, he gave rise to many of the reforms that Mr Barber and others have alluded to in terms of how the institution of democracy operates, the reform of the upper house and, of course, giving the planning system greater emphasis on community consultation.

Many of us would not necessarily agree with all of those reforms or the manner in which they have turned out, but it is now many years since those reforms were made. Sometimes that is what happens: you bring in a reform and then you have to change it or wind it back a little bit, because perhaps a balance may not have been struck. However, that is not to say that we should not admire what Mr Hunt did or the contributions he made in public life, in his own community and in so many capacities.

On the way in here today I spoke with a colleague who served with Alan Hunt. He said that there were probably a number of things that stood out as far as Alan Hunt is concerned. First of all, Mr Hunt served for 31 years in Parliament. That is obviously very unusual. I believe the average length of service in the Victorian Parliament is seven years, so that was certainly a stellar achievement.

Despite Mr Hunt's lack of popularity amongst some of his branches, especially when it came to planning laws and some of the initiatives for which he is well known that put him offside with some landowners, property owners and so forth, the bottom line is that he must have had some of those branches well stitched up, so clearly he had some skills that the rest of us could still learn from.

The other matter mentioned by my colleague, who knew him quite well, was the reform of the upper house. The reform of the upper house is not something that I personally would endorse. However, Alan Hunt clearly left his legacy. One of the failings of the reform of the upper house is the concept of even numbers. Even numbers, especially in the lower house, can lead to a precarious balance of power, and where possible democracy should try to avoid even-numbered chambers.

In regard to planning and the environment, Alan Hunt believed in looking after the environment and, where possible, restoring the damage done. Some would argue that perhaps he went a little too far, but others appreciate what he did. Many of those legacies still continue. The green wedges are often mentioned by the Minister for Planning and others. In talking about Alan Hunt, members often talk about the adoption of the green wedges and criticise anyone seeking to make changes to what was established a long time ago. What has to be acknowledged is that both sides of the chamber have made changes to those green wedges. This is what happens with legislation and reform: over time things are reformed and evolve, sometimes dramatically and sometimes only at the edges.

Mention was made of Mr Hunt's education portfolio. In 1980 when I graduated as a teacher and began teaching, Alan Hunt was the Minister of Education. I remember some of the highlights of that career, and I must commend him on the restructure that he instigated and the ministerial statement which, as Mr Hall mentioned, would have been an early version of a strategic plan.

What sums up Alan Hunt very well is a quote from him in an article of 1978 in the *Australian Municipal Journal*. The article was based on an interview, and I would like to quote from it. Mr Hunt said:

Philosophically, I think I've been very much influenced by John Stuart Mill, and the basic tenet of my political philosophy is a belief in the worth and dignity of the individual human being.

When it came to his portfolios, that was an underpinning motive for reform and his involvement in

public policy. The article also says Mr Hunt's objectives as the Minister for Planning were:

... to make the system and language less complex and less time consuming and frustrating to the man in the street.

Mr Guy would completely endorse that objective. However, our particular iterations, versions and understandings of how that is to be achieved are often a reflection of the time and the context.

Mr Hunt was also involved in local government. He believed in much stronger, autonomous local government, and whilst that is a noble aspiration, there are some who possibly have too much autonomy.

I must commend Mr Hunt for the strong stance he took against capital punishment. It was possibly out of kilter with the time, but I believe there would be very few members in this chamber who would support the reinstatement of capital punishment in our society.

Last but not least, I would like to pay tribute to Mr Hunt and extend our condolences to his family. He had a large family because he had been in three relationships. On behalf of all the Liberals and all the communities he served across the south-east, I would like to extend our sincere condolences and our recognition of and respect for the work he undertook over a very long period of time, not only in the Parliament for the 31 years that he served but right up until his death. Vale to a great Victorian.

Hon. E. J. O'DONOHUE (Minister for Liquor and Gaming Regulation) — I welcome the opportunity to be part of this debate and to acknowledge the contribution of the Honourable Alan Hunt. It was an amazing career of 31 years. As other speakers have said, he was a minister for 11 years, Leader of the Opposition, Leader of the Government and President of this place. Alan Hunt had a deep belief in the Parliament, our democracy and its processes. That is reflected in his inaugural speech, which he finished with:

I trust that we shall always function as a house of initiative and review, and also as a guardian of the people's rights.

I was lucky to know Alan Hunt through my involvement in the Liberal Party on the Mornington Peninsula. To pick up the reference made by Mr Lenders, Alan was indeed the wise elder of the party on the Mornington Peninsula. He was always ready and able to give good advice in a very frank and honest way. He was a great believer in preparation and hard work.

At Mr Hunt's state funeral, which was held in Mornington on 22 July, his son Greg, who as members have acknowledged is currently the federal member for Flinders, reflected on Mr Hunt's intellect and his ability to engage with people. He recounted a story about a time when the issue of broiler farming was significant. Mr Hunt brought together the leaders of the chicken farming industry, some people from government and other interested parties and sat with them at the kitchen table in the family home on a Sunday afternoon and that group drafted a document which was the basis of the broiler code, which has stood the test of time. It is a great example of not only his intellect and ability to write and craft an argument but also his engagement with his community and his electorate.

It has been a great privilege for me to know Alan Hunt. I am grateful for the advice and wise counsel he provided to me over many years. I pass on my sympathies to his children, his grandchildren and his extended family.

The PRESIDENT — I take this opportunity to make some remarks in regard to the motion moved by the Leader of the Government to acknowledge the contribution of Alan Hunt to both the Parliament and the community over an extended period.

I am not sure whether in this day and age Alan Hunt would have been able to achieve 31 years of service in the Parliament. There are a number of reasons for that. Few if any of us will go on to that length of service in this place. However, there is also the aspect that, as a man who spoke from the heart rather than from a script, Alan Hunt might well have been out of step with today's politics, where so much of the effort of parties is spent on massaging opinion and managing the sorts of things that members can say both in this place and more broadly in public. Alan Hunt was perhaps out of step with many of his colleagues at the time he first took an interest in politics, as has been reflected on by a number of members in their remarks today. His contribution was obviously exemplified by tremendous service in a number of organisations related to the Liberal Party, but he often took a different pathway to that of many of his colleagues in terms of some of the issues that confronted the party at that time.

My observation at this juncture is about not just the time Alan Hunt served and the contribution he made here, which has been commented on quite generously by members of this place — and rightly so — but also his contribution in the context of the changes in Victoria, Australia, and more broadly, globally that occurred over the time of his service. For instance, consider that at the time Alan Hunt came to this place

this house used to meet from 4.45 p.m. on a Tuesday, from 4.15 p.m. on a Wednesday and sometimes on a Thursday — Thursday was a bit more difficult because members had to come in at 11.00 a.m. Many members had other jobs outside their work in the Legislative Council.

We have seen this house change in response to changes in the community, and Alan Hunt was one of the people who understood better and picked up more quickly than most some of the changes in the community's attitudes — what people wanted and expected from their government and the things that mattered to them beyond some of the legalese that the Parliament perhaps pursued in terms of many of the debates in this place in previous times.

Alan Hunt was what we often refer to as a small 'I' liberal, and he was true to the cause of the small 'I' liberal. He was visionary, strategic and principled. He was incisive, articulate and very independently minded. I had the privilege of knowing Alan Hunt quite well through some of the work I did in the Liberal Party organisation before I came to this place. He was a tremendous mentor to many people. When Alan Hunt spoke, people listened because they knew that, as some members have commented in their contributions today, what he said was considered — he had thought it through.

Alan Hunt had a tremendous knowledge of the procedures of the Parliament — not just of precedents and history, although they are obviously important in terms of guiding members in this place, but also of how this chamber could do more, could be better, could function more effectively and could be relevant to a community that was changing so dramatically during the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. And no doubt it will continue to need to evolve to meet the needs and expectations of people going forward.

Alan Hunt's contribution could be measured very generously in the context of the times in which he served and the contribution he made beyond his time in this Parliament. He set us a very good example of what we should all aspire to in terms of being true to ourselves and our vocation and certainly speaking from the heart a little more frequently rather than from a script. Alan Hunt was a parliamentarian more than a politician, and his contribution to this place ranks amongst the most significant contributions that have been made by members since its inception in 1856.

I wholeheartedly endorse the motion moved by Mr Davis and join with other members of this Parliament in expressing my sincere condolences to

Alan Hunt's family, who have lost a father, a partner, somebody they shared with the public of Victoria for many years and certainly somebody who was an outstanding Victorian.

Motion agreed to in silence, honourable members showing unanimous agreement by standing in their places.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. D. M. DAVIS (Minister for Health) — By leave, I move:

That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honourable Alan John Hunt, AM, the house adjourn until tomorrow.

Motion agreed to.

House adjourned 3.11 p.m.

