

Mr. McDONALD (Premier and Treasurer).—I move—

That this House do agree to the following Address to His Excellency the Governor:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, in Parliament assembled, respectfully request that Your Excellency will be pleased to communicate to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations the accompanying Addresses for presentation to Her Majesty the Queen.

Mr. NORMAN (Leader of the Opposition).—I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

It was ordered that the Address be forwarded to the Legislative Council with a message desiring their concurrence therein.

ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. McDONALD (Premier and Treasurer).—I move—

That the House, at its rising, adjourn until a day and hour to be fixed by Mr. Speaker or, if Mr. Speaker is unable to act on account of illness or other cause, by the Chairman of Committees, which time of meeting shall be notified to each member of the House by telegram or letter.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. McDONALD (Premier and Treasurer).—I move—

That, as a further mark of respect to the memory of His late Majesty King George VI., the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 12.7 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, April 29, 1952.

The **SPEAKER** (Sir Archie Michaelis) took the chair at 4.3 p.m., and read the prayer.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO QUEEN ELIZABETH II.

The Oath of Allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. was taken by Lieut.-Colonel A. H. Dennett, Lieut.-Colonel J. A. Hipworth, and Mr. E. R. T. Reynolds.

NEW MEMBER.

The **SPEAKER** (Sir Archie Michaelis) announced that he had received a return to the writ he had issued on the 18th of February for the election of a member to serve for the electoral district of Port Melbourne in the place of Mr. Thomas Patrick Corrigan, deceased, by which it appeared that Mr. Stanislaus Terence Corrigan had been duly elected for that electoral district.

Mr. Corrigan was introduced and sworn.

DEATH OF MR. T. P. CORRIGAN.

Mr. McDONALD (Premier and Treasurer).—I move, by leave—

That this House expresses its sincere sorrow at the death of Thomas Patrick Corrigan, Esquire, and places on record its acknowledgment of the valuable services rendered by him to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as member of the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Port Melbourne from the 18th of April, 1942, to the 19th of January, 1952.

It was with the deepest regret that we members of the House heard of the death of our friend Tom Corrigan. He was one of the quiet, efficient and kindly members. He did not seek the limelight in the fierce battle of politics, but in the cause which he espoused he was a very strong character. He fought for the views in which he believed, and for his fellow men, and he was one of the type of men that makes this House what it is. Mr. Corrigan was an earnest and really sincere man, who endeared himself to us all. I am sure I am expressing the thought of every member of this House when I say that we looked on him as one of the kindest members of this Chamber. Not even in the heat of debate did he ever utter a nasty word. He was well informed on his subject-matter and I am sure that his passing is a great loss to the people of this State, particularly the residents of Port Melbourne. We offer our sympathy to his widow and family.

Mr. NORMAN (Leader of the Opposition).—I desire to associate the Opposition with the motion which has been moved by the Premier and I second it. While we regret the necessity of this motion, we wish to pay a sincere tribute

to our late departed colleague. I use the word "colleague" in the highest sense because Thomas Patrick Corrigan was a man who set an example, in accordance with British parliamentary tradition, by placing his high personal principles above party politics and always he was one of the kindest members of this House. He was as loyal to this Parliamentary institution as any one could wish. I had the privilege of being closely associated with the late member while I was Government Whip, a position which brought me into close personal touch with members on both sides of this House. At all times I found Thomas Patrick Corrigan to be a man of his word. I do not think any one of us ever heard him use an unfair or unpleasant expression about another member. The Opposition party pays great tribute to the manner in which he served for ten years as a member of this House and we join with the Premier in expressing our regret at his most untimely passing, and our sympathy with his widow and family.

Mr. CAIN (Leader of the Labour Party).—I join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in expressing, on behalf of my colleagues of the Parliamentary Labour Party, deep regret at the passing of our late comrade, Tom Corrigan, who was a member of this House for ten years. During that period, as has been well said by both the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, he displayed a kindly disposition and, although he did not take part in fierce fighting debate in this Chamber, he held very strong views. The House is all the poorer for the passing of a man such as Thomas Patrick Corrigan, who had the courage to express his strong political views from time to time.

I desire also to convey our sympathy to the sorrowing widow and family of Mr. Corrigan and our deepest regret at his untimely passing. Mrs. Corrigan has three sons, one of whom now represents the constituency of Port Melbourne. I hope that the kindly hand of time will lessen their grief. After all, the greatest losers in these sad circumstances are the members of the family of the deceased. Members of this House come and go,

more coming and going perhaps in other ways, but when one passes on to the Great Beyond, the real sufferers are his wife and family. I wish to express to Mrs. Corrigan our appreciation of the services which her husband rendered for ten years as a member of this Parliamentary institution.

The SPEAKER (Sir Archie Michaelis).—Before submitting the motion to the House, I desire to express my personal feeling of regret at the passing of our late colleague, Mr. Thomas Patrick Corrigan, whom we held in the highest esteem. We respected his integrity and his sincerity of purpose, and that respect was shared by those whom he served in his own electorate. I am sure that all of us who attended his funeral were impressed by the enormous number of people from all sections of the community of Port Melbourne who were present at the Church service and subsequently at the cemetery to express their sorrow at the passing of one who had served them well. I join with other members in expressing to the widow and family of Mr. Thomas Patrick Corrigan the sincere sympathy of this House at the passing of one we could ill afford to lose.

The motion was agreed to in silence, honorable members signifying their unanimous agreement by standing in their places.

Mr. CORRIGAN (Port Melbourne).—*(By leave)*.—I hope that on the next occasion when I rise to speak in this Chamber I shall find it easier than I do this afternoon because of the circumstances which are responsible for the motion that has been agreed to. I desire to assure you, Mr. Speaker, and members of this House, that no one could regret the circumstances that necessitated my election as a member of this Chamber more than myself and the members of our family. On behalf of my mother and the members of the family, I wish to express our deep appreciation of, and thanks for, the very kind expressions of sympathy that you have tendered to us, and the manner in which you agreed to the motion of condolence.

I realize the difficult nature of the task that confronts me in trying to follow the example that was set by the late

James Murphy and my father as representatives of Port Melbourne in this House but, because of my close association with them for so long, my task, perhaps, may not be as difficult as it could have been. I hope that while I am a member of this House I shall carry on the tradition which they set with the same dignity, tolerance, sincerity and honesty that made them successful members and enabled them to retain the confidence of their electors as well as the respect of the members of various political parties. I hope that I shall be able to carry out my duties in a manner befitting a member of this House in the same way as did my predecessors.

I shall take this opportunity to thank my colleagues in the Labour party and the officers and staff of this House for the kind assistance which they have given me since my election as representative of the constituency of Port Melbourne. I endorse the remarks of those honorable members who have spoken to-day so appreciatively of my father and I desire to say, on behalf of his family, that we shall always remember Tom Corrigan as a loving and devoted husband and father.

ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. McDONALD (Premier and Treasurer).—I move—

That, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Thomas Patrick Corrigan, Esquire, the House do now adjourn until Seven o'clock this day.

Mr. NORMAN (Leader of the Opposition).—I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 4.19 p.m.

The **SPEAKER** (Sir Archie Michaelis) took the chair at 7.7 p.m.

DEATH OF KING GEORGE VI. AND ACCESSION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II.

Mr. McDONALD (Premier and Treasurer) presented the following message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, as Deputy for the Governor of Victoria which was read by the Speaker:—

The Lieutenant-Governor, as Deputy for the Governor of Victoria, informs the Legislative Assembly that the following

telegram has been received from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations:—

“Your telegram 25th February has been laid before the Queen.

“I have it in command to request you to convey to the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and through them to members of the respective Houses, an expression of the deep appreciation with which Her Majesty has received their messages of sympathy and loyal congratulations.”

GOVERNMENT FUNDS.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

Mr. NORMAN (Leader of the Opposition).—I wish to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, “The gross misuse of record funds available to the Government.”

Approval of the proposed discussion was indicated by the required number of members rising in their places, as specified in the Standing Order.

Mr. NORMAN (Leader of the Opposition).—In addressing the House on this motion, the first statement I wish to make on behalf of the Opposition is that I believe there has never been greater justification for the submission of a motion for the adjournment of this House on a matter of urgent public importance. I believe also that there has never been a greater period of stagnation in this State than that which has existed since the present Government took office, and particularly since last August, when the Administration had placed at its disposal the greatest financial resources that any Victorian Government has ever had. This State has since then passed through its blackest period. If honorable members go into any part of Victoria to-day they will hear public criticism of the Government, amounting to despair, and the voicing of grave doubts as to the possibility of its taking any forward action. In areas where settlers rely on irrigation projects for their water supplies the man on the land claims that he cannot increase production because he cannot get water.

Honorable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER (Sir Archie Michaelis).—Order! The Leader of the Opposition has a limited period available to him to