

Mr McNAMARA (Benalla) - In formally speaking to the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor, I do so with the exultation of a newly-elected member, mingled with the trepidation of one rising to speak in this august Chamber on his first occasion.

I congratulate the Premier on the success of his party at the recent State election. Mr Speaker, I congratulate you on your elevation to the high office of Speaker of the Victorian Legislative Assembly. From the comments of many long-serving members of this Chamber who know you better than I do, I am sure you will leave your mark as a Speaker of some stature.

My appearance in this Chamber is made possible only by the decision of Mr Tom Trewin to retire after 21 years as the National Party member for Benalla. After more than two decades in the "hot seat", possibly one of the greatest satisfactions for a member of Parliament is to be able to see his electorate grow and see it gain some benefits as a result of his work. There is no doubt this electorate has grown and it has achieved many benefits.

Tom often said he wished he could say that he had a win every time he went into bat for the electorate, but that just was not so. In cricketing terms one could say that he scored well a lot of the time, sometimes poorly and, like some Test captains, got the occasional "duck".

Tom Trewin made many good friends both in Parliament and outside it. He enjoyed seeing his region prosper and it gave him much pleasure to see some of his work come to fruition.

No honest politician can claim that all that has happened in his region has been solely through his own work. Some of it would have happened no matter who was the member, but I am sure Tom is particularly pleased with his work to get water storages built throughout north-eastern Victoria and his efforts towards the duplication of the Hume Highway. It has nearly reached a stage where it is a pleasure to drive along the highway to Melbourne