

with all his opponents and have a drink with them as friends immediately afterwards. He was a great Parliamentarian. It will be surprising if we see his like in this House again.

I add my tribute and condolences to the members of his family.

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

DEATH OF HONOURABLE ARTHUR ROBERT MANSELL, CBE

Hon. D. R. WHITE (Minister for Industry and Economic Planning)—I move:

That this House expresses its sincere sorrow at the death, on 26 July 1990, of the Honourable Arthur Robert Mansell, CBE, and places on record its acknowledgment of the valuable services rendered by him to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as a member of the Legislative Council for the North Western Province from 1952 to July 1973.

Arthur Mansell was a member of the Legislative Council for North Western Province from July 1952 to July 1973; Deputy Leader of the Country Party in the Legislative Council from 1969 to 1973; a member of the Printing Committee from 1952 to 1973; the Standing Orders Committee from 1969 to 1973; the Little Desert Settlement Committee in 1969; and the State Development Committee from 1952 to 1973—a period of about twelve years.

Arthur Mansell was a dried vine fruits growers in Mildura and a cattle breeder. He was also at various stages a member of the Mildura Technical School Council; the Mildura Agricultural Society—and from time to time its president—the Mildura Art Centre; the Mildura Home for the Aged for 22 years; and, in local government, a member of the Mildura City Council from 1945 to 1969 and a member of the Mildura Sewerage Authority from 1945 to 1969.

From that record of service it is clear that Mr Mansell had a career in public service from at least 1945 to 1973, and a long period in the Legislative Council. It is also clear that in keeping with the traditions of the National Party and, prior to that, the Country Party, he was a model for many of the National Party members who currently serve in the Legislative Council.

He was a conspicuous activist throughout his electorate, especially in Mildura, and a conspicuous activist over a long period in building and sustaining the Country Party and the National Party network in Mildura and servicing that community in the Legislative Council.

The model that National Party members today use and prosper by is an extensive community network. National Party members serve a number of individual constituent groups in their own right as well as in a general sense in Parliament. It is that capacity to effectively build community networks in the electorates they represent that has made the National Party so formidable in many parts of the north, north-east and north-west of Victoria. I am sure Mr Mansell's successors, Mr Wright, Mr Dunn and Mr Best, have all prospered from the roots he established.

On behalf of the government and Parliament it is with pride that I place on record the service and contribution of Mr Mansell and pass on the regards of Parliament to his family.

Hon. M. A. BIRRELL (East Yarra)—On behalf of the Opposition I join with the Leader of the House in expressing the sympathy of the House to the family of the late Arthur Mansell. He was born on 19 December 1904 in Mildura and died on 26 July 1990. He was a true representative of the people of Mildura and north-west Victoria.

Arthur Mansell was educated at the Mildura High School and Wesley College in Melbourne. By profession and practice he was a fruit grower and a veal cattle breeder in Mildura. He

married Dorothy Davies and there were three sons and one daughter from that marriage. He has left seventeen grandchildren and sixteen great grandchildren.

As the Leader of the House said, he was a member of the Mildura City Council for 24 years from 1945 to 1969, an uninterrupted period of service to local government. He was mayor from 1949 to 1950 and then for a second term from 1950 to 1951.

In his capacity as a community representative he was a member of numerous district organisations and their breadth indicates how many people he touched through his work. Those organisations include the Mildura Art Centre, the Mildura Agricultural Society, of which he was a member for twelve years and president for five years, the Mildura Technical School, the Mildura Sewerage Authority, where he was a commissioner from 1948 to 1969, and the Mildura Home for the Aged of which he was a supporter for 22 years.

It has been said that because of his love for the area Arthur Mansell spent many hours compiling a pictorial history of Mildura from the records of the Parliamentary Library. In turn he donated a large amount of material on Mildura and the region to the Parliamentary Library. That clearly demonstrates the deep commitment that the late Arthur Mansell held for his constituency. He was elected to represent the then Country Party for North Western Province from 1952 to 1973, a period of 21 years in Parliament, which included being Deputy Leader in this House from 1969 to 1973. He served on a number of committees and was awarded the CBE in 1973 for his services.

On his retirement a motion in appreciation for the services he made to the people of Victoria was moved in this House. It is relevant to repeat the message of another honourable member we have spoken of today, the late Jack Galbally, who expressed his sorrow that Arthur Mansell was leaving the House because he was far too young to be retiring.

It is a pleasure to pay tribute to those who have served Parliament and the people of Victoria and, in particular, to pay tribute to Arthur Mansell. He will be remembered affectionately and long by his constituency and the people of Mildura. On behalf of the Liberal Party I extend condolences to the family of the late Arthur Mansell.

Hon. W. R. BAXTER (North Eastern)—Arthur Mansell represented north-western Victoria, the Mallee area, a harsh and in some ways unforgiving land. However, Arthur Mansell was anything but harsh and unforgiving; he was a gentle and humble man. I did not know him well and I did not serve with him in Parliament because he retired at the first election at which I entered Parliament but being of the same party I had some opportunity of knowing him through party organisations and through annual conferences.

He was held in the highest respect within the party organisation. He served Parliament for a long time and towards the end of his career he was deputy leader of the party. He may well have had other leadership opportunities if circumstances had been different but he was here during the long leadership and deputy leadership of two other great stalwarts of the Country Party, Sir Percy Byrnes and the Honourable Ivan Swinburne. He served his stewardship well in his 21 years in Parliament.

Arthur Mansell was a pioneer in the dried fruit industry in Mildura which is the backbone of Sunraysia and is an important part of the Victorian economy. His extraordinary community involvement has been well described by the Leader of the House and Mr Birrell. He first came to this House after a by-election and he enjoyed a privilege that is not extended to many now and none so far as I can recall in my years in Parliament. He was elected unopposed.

Hon. D. R. White—Half his luck!

Hon. W. R. BAXTER—I live in hope that it might happen to me one day.

He served for 21 years on the State Development Committee, something of a record. It should be remembered that that was during a time of tremendous expansion in this State. The State Development Committee had an enormous workload and Arthur Mansell was a tower of strength on that committee and brought wise counsel to bear on its decisions and recommendations about developmental projects in this State.

His family continues to make a sustained contribution in the Sunraysia area. Arthur Mansell set his family a fine example and they are living up to that by their own contribution. On behalf of my colleagues in the National Party I record our deep regret at Arthur Mansell's passing and place on record our deep appreciation for the sterling service he rendered to Parliament and to the party I represent.

Hon. K. I. M. WRIGHT (North Western)—I appreciate the opportunity of sharing my recollections of the late Arthur Mansell and of saying at the outset that he was a good friend and colleague. As I succeeded him as member for the North Western Province I did not serve with him in Parliament. However, I carry with me the gold pass that was issued to him and his predecessors and that no doubt will pass on to those who follow me.

I understand that you, Mr President, and Mr Haddon Storey are the only honourable members here today who were in this place at the same time as Arthur Mansell served. As has already been pointed out, in those days elections were held in May and the new honourable members took their seats in July. However, they were urged by those who had elected them to go to work immediately, to attend functions and to take an interest in what was going on. By the same token, there was the danger of upstaging the previous member because the newly elected member would be carrying out some of his functions of office.

I served as a councillor of the City of Mildura for eight years at the same time as Arthur Mansell was a councillor; his long and distinguished community service included 24 years as a councillor. As has been pointed out, he was the Mayor of the City of Mildura from 1949 to 1951.

As Mr Baxter said, in 1952 Arthur Mansell was elected to Parliament unopposed, following the sudden death of Colin McNally, the then member for North Western Province. The former Parliamentary State Development Committee was conducting inspections and hearing evidence in Adelaide when Mr McNally passed away.

While Arthur Mansell might have had an easy passage into this House in respect of his election, he obtained preselection by the skin of his teeth. The real contest was to gain preselection to carry the then Country Party banner. At that time North Western Province extended south to Warracknabeal, Nhill and Kaniva and to the east it included Wycheproof, Donald and Swan Hill. It was essentially a primary producing electorate and the wheat-growing branches of the then Country Party had the numbers. Like other political parties, the then Country Party allowed one vote for each twenty branch members and, as I said, the wheat-growing branches were confident that their candidate would win the day.

However, Arthur Mansell decided to stand. He travelled south with Mr Ivan Cameron and my father-in-law, Frank Gallagher. They knew many of the delegates and were able to persuade two key branches to change their vote. Contrary to belief, Arthur Mansell had apparently only recently joined the then Country Party, but with his forthright demeanour and the need for a member from the populated area of the electorate, Arthur won a narrow victory.

Arthur Mansell was a member of the former all-party State Development Committee. He formed close friendships with committee members of all parties. In those days, the committee comprised six members, with only one representing the then Country Party. Ray Wiltshire,

who was a member of the Liberal Party in the other place, and who I understand passed away recently, was a good friend, as was Buckley Machin, who represented Melbourne West Province for the Labor Party. Throughout his life Arthur Mansell was a strong upholder of family, moral and Christian values, and he was highly respected by honourable members on both sides of Parliament.

Although the Liberal Party was in government, he was a close friend of such government leaders as Sir Henry Bolte, Sir Arthur Rylah and Sir Gilbert Chandler. With the assistance of colleagues, he was able to persuade the government to agree to many projects in his electorate, even though, as I said, he was not a member of the governing party but sat on the corner benches. The projects included no fewer than four secondary schools in the Sunraysia area as well as many other projects in the fields of health, education and agriculture.

Arthur Mansell took up literally hundreds of problems of constituents with government departments in Melbourne. He established a position of mutual trust and respect with heads of government departments. In other days it was considered to be quite good going to be able to cover four departments and four problems in one working day, but even so Arthur achieved a high rate of success. During his term of office, there were no electorate offices or secretaries to assist members of Parliament and letters were often written in longhand.

Arthur Mansell was in Melbourne for most of the week. At that time, local members had permanent reservations in sleeping cars on the Tuesday evening train to Melbourne. Saturdays were devoted to various commitments. On Sundays the whole day, apart from attending his church, which was a major part of his life, was devoted to receiving a constant stream of constituents who came to his home—as no doubt they went to the homes of other Parliamentarians—to present him with problems to take up and solve.

Arthur had a close association with his Federal colleague, Sir Winton Turnbull, with whom he shared the platform at many meetings. Sir Winton lived at Boort and usually after lunch on Sundays Arthur had a long telephone conversation with him during which they discussed various issues and matters of mutual concern.

Arthur Mansell had a similar relationship with former honourable members for Mildura, the late Nat Barclay and Milton Whiting, as well as with Harry Broad, a former member for Swan Hill, and the late Sir Percy Bymes, who represented the area in this place.

Arthur Mansell was a strong debater and, like the late John Galbally, his speeches were generally brief but forceful and to the point and his opinions were given from the heart. He spent hundreds of man-hours of his own time compiling a pictorial history of Mildura from records in the Parliamentary Library. Often he was in the library from 7 o'clock in the morning until late at night. Photographs of paddle boats were a feature of his book.

Arthur Mansell loved the land, particularly the irrigated areas. His family were pioneers in the dried fruit industry. His father Stephen owned the Mildura pre-emptive right and was a Mildura city councillor for nineteen years, with Arthur succeeding him. The family had the largest vineyard in the district, comprising 350 acres; in recent years, with extensive subdivision into building allotments, it has become an even more valuable property.

While Arthur was a councillor of the City of Mildura his property was flooded by water from roads and streets from the city. For a while there was a threat that he would sue his own council, but I think the statement was made more in jest than anything else. Certainly nothing came of it.

I understand that Arthur Mansell made a well-known statement in this House when he said that eventually the River Murray would become a huge drain, given the way it was going.

He would be pleased to see the attempts that are being made today to solve the problems of salinity and degradation along the River Murray.

As I found when I accompanied him and his wife, Dorothy, on visits to the south on a number of occasions, Arthur Mansell appreciated also the beauty of the Mallee. They paused en route for cups of tea from a thermos and sandwiches that Mrs Mansell invariably brought along. Usually this was at a wayside stop just south of Tempy, where there is an excellent view of magnificent undulating countryside. Tragically, Mrs Mansell passed away soon after Arthur retired from Parliament. Although she was extremely active in working on local charitable bodies, Mrs Mansell frequently accompanied her husband on his visits to distant electorate centres. She was his greatest supporter and closest adviser—a truly lovely lady.

Arthur Mansell was a member of the Mildura Agricultural Society for twelve years and its president for five years. As other honourable members have said, he was a member of the council of the Mildura Technical School and served for 22 years on the committee of the Mildura Home for the Aged.

Arthur was a member of the Mildura Rotary Club for many years, including a term in 1946–47 as president. He joined the Mildura Rotary Club in 1942 and he last attended a meeting of the club in 1981. Unfortunately in his later years Arthur's eyesight gave way and he was not keen to go out at night.

From 3 July 1945 Arthur was a member also of the Irymple Masonic Lodge. He served as master in 1956–57, which was a notable achievement as he was a member of this place at that time.

Arthur Mansell was an outstanding and hardworking Parliamentarian. He was completely honest and served his electorate with distinction for 21 years, retiring while still Deputy Leader of the Country Party in the Legislative Council.

Arthur Mansell was a primary producer. Although ineligible to serve during the second world war he was a prime mover in the forming of a boys club at Mildura. He spent a great deal of time in the physical training of the sons of servicemen who were away from home. Whenever I meet men who were trained by Arthur during that time they speak highly of the valuable training and experience he gave them. He also loyally served his church—the Church of Christ—teaching Sunday school for many years. Again, many of his former students speak highly of the valuable lessons in life they learnt from him.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited Sunraysia during Arthur's representation of the area; and shortly after his retirement the Queen honoured him by making him a Companion of the British Empire. He is survived by his four children—Ian, a citrus grower at Nangiloc, who is married to Ruth; Russell, who still occupies the Mildura property and is married to Suzanne; Donald, who is married to Heather; and Alys, who is married to Doug Beasy, a retired schoolteacher and former Carlton footballer. There are seventeen grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren, all of whom were very fond of their grandfather or great-grandfather.

His funeral at Mildura was attended by more than 200 people. Unfortunately, because there were important meetings of the Parliamentary parties in Melbourne that day few Parliamentarians were able to attend the funeral. I represented the National Party at the funeral and was invited to deliver the eulogy on that occasion.

It was an honour to succeed Arthur Mansell as a representative of North Western Province. I am proud to speak of his achievements, and I convey to his family the deepest sympathy of all members of the National Party.

The PRESIDENT—Order! I knew the Honourable Arthur Mansell very well, having served in the House with him for twelve years. He was a quietly spoken but effective man, and an expert on problems and issues affecting irrigation areas in the State. He was also a friendly man. When they were in season he brought down gifts of fruits not only for the staff of the House but also for honourable members on both sides—and from time to time I was a recipient of his largesse.

He was an hospitable man. He welcomed honourable members who visited Mildura, usually taking them to his home, of which he was very proud—especially his later home on the banks of the River Murray, which he certainly loved. He made a quiet but effective contribution throughout the time he was a member of the House; and his services to his party and to Parliament were very substantial.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. D. R. WHITE (Minister for Industry and Economic Planning)—I move:

That, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honourables John William Galbally, CBE, QC, and Arthur Robert Mansell, CBE, the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

House adjourned 4.55 p.m.