

Mr SEITZ (Keilor) - I join with other honourable members in expressing my condolences to Audrey Ginifer and her family. I was privileged in knowing Jack Ginifer for the sixteen years of his Parliamentary life. Jack Ginifer first represented the electorate of Grant, then Deer Park and Keilor, and one common part of the electorate that he represented was the subdivision of St Albans, which has a migrant population.

Previous speakers spoke of Jack's understanding of the migrant community. From the beginning of Jack Ginifer's Parliamentary career he had a close association with the area and contributed to the understanding of the migrants in that area. I worked with Jack Ginifer in the local community. He always contributed leadership in a quiet manner and never sought to grab the limelight. He worked for the needs of the small groups in the area

The electorate had humble beginnings but has now been reasonably developed. In Jack Ginifer's maiden speech to Parliament he mentioned unmade roads, sewerage and drainage in the electorate, which was an expense to the migrant community. Those matters have been attended to, particularly in the subdivision of St Albans.

Jack was known to the electors as "Jack". He did not wish to be addressed as "Mr Ginifer", or "Mr Minister" when he became a Minister. In his younger days, Jack was known as the boy next door and, when he became a teacher, he acted as a guide and mentor to his students. Many of those students came to respect Jack as a teacher and, later in their lives, as an adviser, whom they would visit in his electorate office. Jack was respected for his understanding of the problems of the people in the area he represented. It was tragic that his life was cut short when he became a member of the first Labor Government in Victoria for 27 years.

However, Jack often expressed the view that life had to go on. All honourable members should continue the struggle to improve the quality of life and to improve communications so that all honourable members can speak to each other across party lines and have a common understanding of problems. One of the most impressive assets of Jack Ginifer was his ability to achieve common goals in a harmonious way in the area he represented. Many of the residents of that area came from European countries where they had been bitter enemies with one another. However, those persons were able to meet each other and co-operate in solving problems through the ability of Jack Ginifer to create a harmonious relationship in the migrant community of St Albans. Jack Ginifer served the community at the grass roots level by being on committees of kindergartens, hospitals and welfare centres.

Jack was always present whenever his services and guidance were needed. He had an understanding of people's problems and that understanding will be missed for some time. Jack Ginifer established an understanding within the ethnic communities of St Albans. Indeed, the entire community of Keilor will miss Jack Ginifer and his personal advice that was often called upon.

I extend my deepest sympathy to Audrey Ginifer and her family, who have lost a loving husband and father. It is to be hoped that the condolence motion will make it much easier for his family to realize that Jack was a man whom they shared with the Victorian community.