

Legislative Assembly. From those days on, he and I became firm friends. Many years later I followed him in the important office of chief president of the Australian Natives Association. He had been a member of the Board of directors of that body for approximately 40 years. I had served with him on the Board for a period of only sixteen years, but I realized his great capacity for doing all that could possibly be done for the advancement of Australia. I should like it recorded that I, as a member of the Australian Natives Association, speak these few words on behalf of that organization, because I am in a position to know the respect in which he was held. Year after year, he was elected to the Board of directors and, usually, he occupied the position of its head. His achievements and his debating ability were undoubted. In his political career, he was adamant in his views, and we respected him for that. Victoria, Australia, and even the Empire, were enriched by the public service rendered by the late William Slater, and his passing is therefore a great loss.

The Hon. J. M. TRIPOVICH (Doutta Galla Province).—I should like to take this opportunity of placing on record my tribute to a great friend and a very great man. If I may, I should also like to extend, on behalf of Mrs. Slater, sincere thanks to the Leader of the Government, and other honorable members who supported him, for their kind remarks concerning the late William Slater. The Leader of the Government spoke of the late Mr. Slater's skill as a Minister. I think that remains unchallenged, and his services to Victoria will go on record as everything that a man could give.

Mr. Galbally mentioned Mr. Slater's services to the trade union movement and, on behalf of that movement, I can say that Bill Slater gave of his utmost in that regard. Furthermore, on behalf of various charitable organizations with which the late Mr. Slater was associated, I should like to express appreciation of his splendid work. Mr. Slater had a background that taught him a great deal and, throughout his life, he did his utmost to see that no children should

suffer as he had suffered in his boyhood days. It was Bill Slater's ambition in life to see that future generations would not have to suffer needlessly, and his activities on behalf of the Try Boys' Society stand as a monument to the useful service that he rendered to the community. His efforts in the social welfare field, such as his work in connexion with unmarried mothers, bear silent tribute to him. It is indeed a privilege, on behalf of Mrs. Slater, to thank all honorable members who have spoken concerning her late husband.

The PRESIDENT (Sir Gordon McArthur).—Before putting the motion to the House, I should like to add my tribute to the late William Slater. There is no question that he was a vigorous debater in this Chamber, but he was always courteous to his opponents and to those who held differing views. He had a great knowledge of the forms of this House, probably through his experience as a Speaker in another place. I cannot remember any occasion when the late William Slater offended against the Standing Orders of this House. He was a very able lawyer, and he assisted this House greatly in its handling of technical Bills of a legal nature. He commanded the respect of all honorable members.

The late William Slater had a long period of service in Parliament. Mr. Byrnes pointed out that he was elected *in absentia* to represent the electoral district of Dundas; at the time, he was serving with the first A.I.F. in France. Such an extraordinary event revealed that the late William Slater commanded great respect. Both as a Minister, and as Speaker in another place, Mr. Slater gave great service to the party he represented and to this Parliament. We mourn his passing, and I offer my tribute to his memory and my sympathy to his widow and his family. I shall accede to the request of the Leader of the House that the expressions of sympathy concerning the late William Slater be forwarded to his widow and other members of his family.

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