

the brevity in which they have expressed it. I thank Hon Bruce Donaldson in particular for his summing up of the case which refreshed our memories, as it is a long time since we heard the second reading speech.

Essentially the amendments in the Bill are as a result of actions that had their genesis all the way back in 1994, but more particularly in 1999 when the Marketing of Meat Amendment Act was first introduced. The taxation question has been resolved but it took time to do that. As a result, the lamb producers of this State have never had a distribution of shares, which was established as their right by the 1999 legislation. This Bill, when it has passed through the Legislative Assembly, will enable the distribution of those shares and, importantly, for the cooperative to hold its first formal annual general meeting which will formalise the business of the cooperative in a proper way.

I am sorry that I was unable to recall the number of dollars involved; however, it is my recollection that it is around \$6 million. I am able to provide some information on the shareholding and the way in which the shares will be distributed. The board originally resolved to issue three free shares for each lamb purchased directly from a founder producer, plus 100 additional shares and two free shares for each lamb supplied by other producers between 18 August 1999 and 31 August 2000. A founder member is a producer who previously supplied the Western Australian Meat Marketing Corporation in its last two years of operation. To be eligible, producers had to meet a patronage requirement by supplying a minimum of 100 lambs to the corporation in each of the first two years. Current analysis indicates that about 640 producers will then become eligible to receive shares when the legislative changes are made. These producers have supplied the cooperative with around 69 per cent of the lambs that are purchased directly from farms.

The cooperative views the producers as its core members and it intends building its future business around those core members, although this will not be effective until such time as they receive their share entitlements. The board has also resolved, subject to the legislation being amended, to issue three free shares to all producers who have, or will, supply lambs in the period 1 September 2000 to 30 June 2003. The board may choose to set that date back because the letter I have is dated 11 March 2002. That will be the last of the free shares. The patronage requirements will remain unchanged. The board estimates this will equate to the issue of about 5.1 million shares from a total of 12.2 million. Less than half the shares will be issued in that way. The remaining shares will be held by the trust established by the 1999 legislation and will be distributed to producers on a subscription basis over the coming years. From the producers' point of view, that is how the cooperative will raise capital. I hope that provides a more accurate picture of how the cooperative intends to distribute the equity that remains in the business. This is a very worthwhile finalisation of a process that has some history. We now have some years of operation for the cooperative, notwithstanding some of the difficulties that have been referred to by Hon Murray Criddle. It is a cooperative that has proved its performance over time and will be a very effective contributor to Western Australian agribusiness. I thank members for their support.

Hon Murray Criddle: For clarification, I am a farmer and producer and I may well be affected by this legislation.

Hon KIM CHANCE: I am a farmer also.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

### *Third Reading*

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Assembly.

## **ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE**

### *Special*

**HON KIM CHANCE** (Agricultural - Leader of the House) [5.22 pm]: I move without notice -

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 4 March 2003 at 3.30 pm.

I would like to look to the future. As all members are aware, there is a reasonable prospect that the House may enjoy some new sitting arrangements next year including new times, hours and procedures. Moved on the motion of the Leader of the Opposition, the select committee will, hopefully, be able to afford all parties in the House the opportunity to improve the way in which the House deals with its business. The Leader of the Opposition has acknowledged that there is a pressing need for more time in each sitting week for the consideration of government business.

Hon Norman Moore: I do not think I used the word "pressing".

Hon KIM CHANCE: Perhaps I have overstated the views of the Leader of the Opposition. The Government concurs with that, even if it is not quite the view that the Leader of the Opposition intended. I hope all parties will enter into the deliberations of the committee with the view that the many divergent demands placed on the business of the House can be accommodated. We all appreciate that the demands placed on the House and members have increased markedly over the past decade or so.

I trust members are aware that because renovations will be made adjacent to our Chamber, and I believe perhaps even within the Chamber, next year, there will inevitably be some dislocation and we will be forced to sit in temporary accommodation one floor up from this Chamber. I am sure members will approach these temporary arrangements and the difficulties and inconveniences that may flow from these arrangements with the patience and good humour that they have always been able to display in the past, these arrangements being necessary for the long-term improvement of the capacity and working environment of the Parliament.

One issue that will need to be addressed over the summer recess is the amount of time that will be provided on the ringing of the division bells. Clearly the amount of time that is currently provided is insufficient to allow those members on the first floor of the building to get to the Chamber, a journey that I am told takes a minimum of two minutes and 26 seconds unless one is lucky enough to catch the lift. That is an issue that we will need to look at.

Enough of serious planning for the future. It has been a long hard year. I thank you, Mr President, first of all for your guidance and for the stewardship that you have supplied to members this year. Your sense of humour and your impeccable reserve have allowed the Chamber to function in even the most difficult of circumstances, and I know that all members join with me in expressing our genuine thanks for the part you have played in enabling this place to function throughout what has been a difficult year. I also thank the Chairman of Committees, Hon George Cash, who in his inimitable way has been able to facilitate the committee stages of deliberation in the excellent way that we have come to expect of him. My heartfelt appreciation extends likewise to the Deputy Chairs of Committees for their patience and diligence, and in some cases for their rapidly-learned skills in getting up to speed. Some of them are new members, and they have done a remarkable job in catching up to the expectations of the House. My very warm thanks goes also to my ministerial colleagues Hon Tom Stephens and Hon Nick Griffiths for their support and advice throughout the year. As a team I think we have worked extremely well, and their combined wisdom has been of tremendous benefit to the management of the House. I am sure you will agree with me, Mr President, that the parliamentary secretaries, each with their own distinctive style, have developed into willing and able representatives of the Crown, even though one or two of them might dispute who can get legislation through the House faster than the other.

Last year I referred to Hon Ed Dermer as our redoubtable Whip. I am delighted to say that his management of government members has allowed him to retain that title even more so than last year. Hon Kate Doust has also proved to be a more than able deputy Whip. I also thank all of the government members for their patience, support, contribution and discipline. I thank them also for their friendship and understanding throughout the year. My regards and thanks go also to the Liberal Party, and particularly to the Leader of the Opposition for his cooperation and participation during the year. A number of senior Liberals - the Leader of the Opposition, of course, and Hon Peter Foss, Hon George Cash and Hon Bruce Donaldson, just to name four - have offered genuine and sincere advice to me throughout the year, for which I am deeply grateful. In the same vein, I also express my thanks to Hon Murray Criddle, who has also been a tremendous support in many ways, because without the kind of advice that he is able to offer me our job would be so much harder to do.

My warm affection goes to our friends in the Greens (WA) for their efforts in making a substantial contribution in the Chamber and for never letting us be absolutely certain which way they will vote in a division.

My thanks go to the breath-of-fresh-air party - the One Nation party - and its three members for their active representation of their interests - I mean that most sincerely - and for their often lively contributions to the debate, and not just the adjournment debate, which has become the One Nation half-hour. The One Nation members are new to this place. They came to this place not only as new members but also as members of a new party. We all have some understanding of how challenging that role is. In the two years that One Nation members have been present in this House, they have acquitted themselves more than honourably in the manner in which they have taken up the spirit of this place, absorbed some of it, and learnt their duties and the expectations of them.

I take this opportunity to express my appreciation and that of my fellow members of this House for the guidance and advice provided by the Clerk of the Legislative Council and Clerk of Parliaments, Mr Laurie Marquet. I also extend those thanks to the Clerk Assistants, Mia Betjeman, Nigel Pratt and Malcolm Peacock, who also assists as the Usher of the Black Rod. All members of this House would be keen to support my view that the table advice that is available to this Parliament is of exceptional standard.

On behalf of the House I also pass on my congratulations and warm regards to Mr Ian Allnutt, who retired in July 2002 after serving this place for 35 years. We all questioned Ian Allnutt's sanity after we learnt how long he had been here, but he did a great job for us. It has been great to catch up with Ian on the odd occasion when that has been possible.

I also express my thanks for the tireless and professional assistance of the staff of the Chamber and the procedure office - to Chris, Peter, Kerry-Jayne, Donna, Val and the President's Steward Brian Conn, and, of course, my very special thanks go to the Clerks' executive assistant, Janeen Robertson.

Members are ably assisted by the dedicated support of the advisory officer committees, the advisory officer committee clerks and the support staff at the Legislative Council committee office. I am certain that all members will join me in

thanking them for their excellent assistance and advice on the many committee inquiries that have been conducted so far in this Parliament. The committees are, in a sense, the very soul of this Chamber. In many ways they are the reason for its existence. Those of us who are not members of committees regrettably do not get to engage with those people all that much. They make an enormous contribution to the way in which this place is able to deliver on its charter.

Importantly, I also extend my thanks to Teena Beale, Janice Shaw and Rebecca Howlett for their support of the ministers in this place, and to the other parliamentary services staff.

I also thank Chris Hall and the Hansard staff, who so effortlessly - I say effortlessly, but perhaps I should say who so apparently effortlessly - perform the essential task of the recording of debates in this House. It must seem a lot easier now that Tom Helm is not here and one does not need an interpreter, but it is a very significant task, and one that requires enormous skill and which can be carried out only by very special people. The fact that it looks so effortless is perhaps the highest honour that we can provide.

Thanks go also to Andrew Gardos and the catering staff. Thanks go to Russel Bremner for his management of the Parliament, and to his staff. Thank you all very much for your support of this place and its members. My best wishes go to all of you for the festive season.

Finally, I also thank Cathy and Marilyn at the switchboard for their renowned patience, courtesy and ever present ability to answer every query, whatever that query happens to relate to. They are remarkable people.

I give particular thanks to the outside staff, to the gardeners, Charlie and his team, who cheer our lives every day. Importantly, I thank Ken Craig, the security staff and the police officers who work in the parliamentary area, who in the current climate have had a lot of pressure placed on them. They have served the Parliament extraordinarily well. On a personal level, and on behalf of my colleagues, I wish all members and staff inside and outside this Chamber a safe and rewarding Christmas and a happy New Year.

**HON NORMAN MOORE** (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the Opposition) [5.36 pm]: I join with the Leader of the House in expressing best wishes to all the staff involved at Parliament House, both inside and outside the Chamber.

I note with interest that the Leader of the House wants to talk about the future. I do not blame him for that, because the past, particularly the past two weeks, has been anything but pleasant. Sitting in this Chamber at this time of the year in this temperature demonstrates that we still live in archaic circumstances as far as the Legislature is concerned. One can only hope that the decision to extend this wing of the Parliament and to upgrade the place might one day lead to an enlightened decision by the Government to aircondition the Chambers. It has been said many times since I have been a member, and I have been told the same number of times that it is not possible because there is never enough money. There is enough money; it is merely a matter of somebody having the will to do it. It would be a very important step in the right direction to achieving this if the Legislative Assembly were sitting this week as well, because that is where the decisions are generally made.

I say in all sincerity that we need to look forward. I have taken the initiative, therefore, as the Leader of the House has mentioned, to move for a select committee to consider how this House might function in the future. Out of that, I hope that we might create an environment that overcomes some of the difficulties that we have experienced in recent times. That is not to say that one can remove the tension from this place altogether, but perhaps a structural change might reduce the potential for some tension in the future. I do not propose that the select committee will do a lot of work between now and February. I hope that any members who have any particular ideas about how the Chamber might function in the future will contact me between now and early February and write down their views or tell me verbally what they think we should do. I hope that the committee members will get together very early in February to hold an initial meeting to discuss where we might go from there. It would be very helpful to the committee if members who had strong views, or any views for that matter, would let us know in the meantime what they are. We look forward to coming back next year to a temporary Chamber and work being done on the extensions. I look forward to seeing those completed. I believe it will make a big difference to this end of the building.

May I join with the Leader of the House in expressing my thanks to you, Mr President, for your ongoing efficiency in the Chair and your absolute impartiality, which is greatly appreciated by all members of the House. I also thank Hon George Cash and the deputy chairmen of committees. Again, they carry out their duties in a very commendable way. I thank them most sincerely for the work they do. As for my colleagues on this side of the House, as all members now know because they have experienced it, being in Opposition is not always pleasant. Being a minority group in Opposition is even worse. It is a frustrating business at times, but we give an assurance to the House, to our constituency and to the general community that we are here to do a job and that we will do it to the best of our ability no matter how long it takes.

I especially want to acknowledge Hon Alan Cadby. He and Hon Robyn McSweeney are two new members. They have both performed extremely well. In my view Alan handled the Acts Amendment (Student Guilds and Associations) Bill very well indeed. He was able to take a more measured and considered view of the Bill than perhaps I could, because he does not have the same emotional commitment to the issue, but he handled it very well and I congratulate him and thank him for that. Our Whip, Hon Bruce Donaldson, and I have had our ups and downs during the past year and we

prefer to forget the downs. Bruce keeps losing by one, but he lives with the expectation that one day he will eventually have a win, and so do I.

I thank my colleagues for their support of me as the Leader of the Opposition and for the work they do for the Liberal Party and for the State of Western Australia. I also thank Hon Murray Criddle, the Leader of the National Party. It must be nice being the leader of a party who always gets agreement on every issue. His friendship and shared objectives are an important part of what we on this side of the House are doing. I sincerely thank him for that.

In respect of the Greens (WA), the Leader is quite right: we never quite know which way they are going to go, but statistically the Government is doing better than we are by a long way. Before the next election I expect to be in a position to outline the exact number of times the Greens supported the Government and the times they supported us, so everybody knows where we all fit in. I congratulate the Greens on the contribution they make on a wide range of issues that perhaps in the past were not given the attention they deserved. As I said the other day, having minor parties in the Chamber brings another dimension to debates that did not exist before, and that is very important in getting better legislation. I say the same to the members of the One Nation party who have supported us on many occasions. I thank them for the contribution they are making to the Chamber, which is very important, and for the work they are doing in their electorates. I know Hon John Fischer is highly regarded in his electorate, because it happens to be the same as mine; he is doing a very good job out there in the bush.

In respect of the Leader of the House, I guess we should talk about the future and make no comments about the past couple of weeks. I thank him for his friendship and generous nature. He is a person who is very hard to argue with. He has the disarming capacity to dissolve difficulties that might arise from time to time. I do enjoy working with him even if we do not always reach agreement. I thank him for the contribution he is making in the Chamber, and also as a minister of the Crown. I also thank Hon Tom Stephens and Hon Nick Griffiths. Hon Nick Griffiths seems to have drawn the short straw in the legislative program, because he handles most of the Bills that come into this Chamber. He does a very good job indeed. I do not agree with his position on most Bills, but he handles the legislation very well, and I congratulate him. For some reason Hon Tom Stephens drew the other straw, in that he does not have much to do in the House, and he has been fortunate in that respect, but he and I will continue to maintain our relationship.

In respect of the parliamentary secretaries, as the Leader has said they are all different and they are all learning about what it is like to be in government and what it is like to be handling legislation. I have no doubt that it will not be very long before one or more of them are sitting in the front row. There are those who would say it will be sooner rather than later, but I do not know about these things because I am not involved. However, it is good training and I think the Government has made a good decision by having three parliamentary secretaries in this Chamber. It takes the burden off the ministers and also gives backbenchers a chance to learn more about the parliamentary process.

In respect of the House, our Clerk Laurie Marquet has been here nearly as long as I have and has been a marvellous servant of this Parliament. I know that he has enjoyed a large degree of stress in his job in recent times, particularly about one piece of legislation, but he does his job without fear or favour. We are a very fortunate House of Parliament to have a Clerk of the stature, understanding, knowledge and capacity of Laurie Marquet. I want to make sure it is on record that I appreciate very much what he does for this Chamber and has done ever since he has been here. I also thank Nigel, Mia and Malcolm for the hard work they do. The work is now being shared around a bit more than it was in the past. Ian Allnutt was here the other day. He told me that he had just been out to lunch and it was five o'clock in the afternoon; and he had been playing golf in the morning. I said, "What am I doing here, Ian?" He could not work it out either. What a great life he is now having. We said our goodbyes to him earlier.

We appreciate the invaluable work, support and assistance provided to members by all the Legislative Council staff including Chris Hunt, Peter Gale, KJ, Brian Conn, Donna Artingstall, Janeen Robertson and Val Di Giusto in the office. They do their jobs with a smile on their face and they are always happy to be helpful. Members on this side of the House appreciate it. Teena Beale and Janice Shaw in the leader's office have been good friends of mine for a long time. They are delightful people who are very efficient and effective and have done a great job for the leaders of both major parties. If my memory serves me correctly, Teena has been here since way back in Des Dans' day. She is a delightful lady.

A number of other people work in Parliament, including the Hansard staff who perform miracles every day by translating what we say into readable speeches. I congratulate them, as I always do. The security staff have a bigger job to perform than ever because of the nature of today's society. They do an important job. The dining room gets better and better every day and the gardeners keep the place looking good. I thank Cathy and Marilyn on the switchboard who do a wonderful job. They seem to be part of the place as they have been here for a very long time. Those staff members are the sorts of people who should be acknowledged on this occasion.

As we lead into a Christmas break, I wish all members a happy Christmas. I hope it is an occasion for them to be with their families and people they would prefer to be with rather than those people they were forced to be with in the course of their jobs. It is a good time to get away from this set of circumstances in which we now find ourselves and enjoy ourselves for a while and be prepared to come back in March next year for what I hope will be a very interesting and worthwhile session.

**HON GIZ WATSON** (North Metropolitan) [5.47 pm]: As we enter the Christmas break, I will say a few words to this motion on behalf of the Greens (WA). We would like to join with the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition in thanking the parliamentary staff. One of the most enjoyable aspects of working in this place is the humour with which staff members assist members and carry out their tasks, often under great difficulties. They work long hours and are not necessarily brilliantly resourced. In my experience, the services provided by the staff in the Chamber, committees, dining room, services, security, Hansard and reception etc, are second to none.

I thank all my colleagues in this place on both sides and from all parties for working in what I believe to be a very cooperative spirit this year even though it has been a very exhausting and demanding year. I acknowledged that it feels like we have done a lot of hard work this year. We have dealt with some very interesting and important legislation and some not so interesting and not so important legislation. However, that is the nature of the job.

I will briefly respond to Hon Norman Moore's suggestion by saying that he might check how many times the Greens (WA) voted with the Government. I hope he will also check how many times the Liberals have voted with the Government and how many times the Liberals have supported our motions; they would make some interesting statistics all around.

I am aware that during the festive season we will have time to reflect and relax. I am sure that members are as aware as I am that this is a time to consider more serious matters such as world peace. I would feel remiss if I did not make some comments on those matters given the particular circumstances that we find ourselves in with regard to threats of global conflict - I am struggling to come to terms with what it all means. Before we depart, I will share with members a couple of quotes I obtained from the Internet for members to contemplate over the break. The first quote is from Hermann Goering during the Nuremburg war crimes trials and is worth considering. It states -

Why of course the people don't want war . . . But, after all, it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy, or a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the peacemakers for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger.

I will now read a couple of quotes from a more visionary President of the United States, who was in that position in 1963 - John F. Kennedy. He said -

But peace does not rest in the charters and covenants alone. It lies in the hearts and minds of all people. So let us not rest all our hopes on parchment and on paper, let us strive to build peace, a desire for peace, a willingness to work for peace in the hearts and minds of all of our people. I believe that we can. I believe the problems of human destiny are not beyond the reach of human beings.

He also said -

What kind of peace do we seek? Not a 'Pax Americana' enforced on the world by American weapons of war. Not the peace of the grave or the security of a slave. I am talking about genuine peace, the kind of peace that makes life on earth worth living, the kind that enables men and nations to grow and to hope and to build a better life for their children - not merely peace for Americans, but peace for all men and women; not merely peace in our time, but peace for all time.

That quote was made almost 40 years ago now. He also said -

My fellow Americans, let us take that first step. Let us . . . step back from the shadow of war and seek out the way of peace. And if that journey is a thousand miles, or even more, let history record that we in this land at this time, took the first step.

Significantly, that comment was made in a radio broadcast on the nuclear test ban treaty in July 1963. It is interesting that the US has now just reneged on that treaty. The last quote I want to share before I sit down is from Ghandi. He said -

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

**HON MURRAY CRIDDLE** (Agricultural) [5.52 pm]: As is normal, I will be very brief. I thank you, Mr President for your fairness throughout the year. I wrote a card to you and mentioned just that. It has certainly been well and truly appreciated. I also thank the Chairman of Committees, Hon George Cash, and his deputies for the way in which they have carried out their work, and the staff of Parliament. The Clerk, Laurie Marquet, seems to be able to distribute a level-headed approach and wonderful advice to everybody who comes into his office, in a fair and equitable way. That is great. All the staff in the Parliament have been mentioned by everybody. They make this a very tolerant place, if that is the word to use, in the way they carry out their functions. I thank all those people, from the gardeners right through all the people who are mentioned. It has been appreciated.

I thank the Leader of the House and the ministers for the opportunities to get our point across. We do not agree all the time; in fact occasionally we have some heated discussions, but that is the way of this place. I thank all the government members and the Greens (WA). They have introduced an interesting aspect into this place. The environment now gets

a major emphasis right throughout our community, and the Greens (WA) are obvious contributors in this field. I wish them all the best. I thank the One Nation people who constantly look over my shoulder. I appreciate the positions they hold. They have enlightened people in the electorate through the approach they took, and they have a role to play. It will be interesting to see how that all unfolds. I thank my former Liberal Party coalition colleagues for their fellowship and their understanding. It is great being the Whip, the leader, the backbench and the frontbench, but that has given me an enormous challenge, and I am all for taking up that challenge. I appreciate the camaraderie of the Liberal members in this place and the way they have carried out discussions throughout the term thus far.

I wish everyone all the best over the festive season, particularly while driving. I attended a road safety function the other day. I have taken a keen interest in road safety since having been a Minister for Transport. I hope that everybody is patient and that they think of other people on the road, whether they are in a road train, a caravan or just a car.

It has been a very difficult year in my constituency. As everyone knows, it has been a dry year. Everyone in the area is very positive and is looking forward to some rain next year, and I wish all those people well. I hope that everyone has a very merry Christmas and a prosperous time as we move into the new year.

**HON JOHN FISCHER** (Mining and Pastoral) [5.55 pm]: I will make one or two precursory remarks before I thank some people. Yesterday, the Minister for Racing and Gaming commented by way of interjection on the tie I was wearing.

Hon Nick Griffiths: You have really dished it up to me today!

Hon JOHN FISCHER: The minister certainly deserves to be complimented on the tie he is wearing today. I am sure that anyone from the racing industry would be extremely proud that the minister is wearing a tie that is extremely befitting of the position he holds. While I am talking about neckties, it would be remiss of me not to mention the ties worn by Hon Peter Foss on occasion, and certainly Hon Robin Chapple runs a very close second to him. I mention this today because my nine-year-old daughter presented me with a musical tie that is certainly fitting for this occasion. It brings out the Christmas feeling!

Hon Kim Chance: I think the honourable member's tie is out of order!

Hon Ken Travers: I told them not to push your button!

Hon JOHN FISCHER: I think I have a flat battery already, but I am sure I will play it again at a later stage.

Over those harmonious notes, on behalf of my colleagues, I thank all the members of this Chamber. I extend to each of them our best wishes for a safe and joyous festive season. In particular, I thank you, Mr President, for your very admirable administration of the proceedings of this House. I add my thanks to Hon Kim Chance, the Leader of the House, Hon Norman Moore, the Leader of the Opposition, and Hon George Cash, the Chairman of Committees. I extend our thanks for their help and consideration in the past year. To the Clerk of the Parliaments, Mr Laurie Marquet, and all the parliamentary staff, I extend our thanks and appreciation for their excellent endeavours in assisting members of this Chamber during the year. The staff outside this Chamber, from the dining room staff to the security staff, do a fantastic and wonderful job. They make this Parliament the excellent institution that it is, and I thank them for their efforts.

Between Christmas and the new year, and perhaps a day or two after, I intend to have a bit of time off in my electorate in the Gascoyne. I certainly hope that all members do not suffer the temperatures that we will probably have to put up with. I hope that members spend this time with all the people close to them, and I hope they have a very safe and prosperous time. I look forward to catching up with them on 4 March 2003.

**HON FRANK HOUGH** (Agricultural) [5.59 pm]: There are two minutes left in One Nation's half-hour, and I would hate to see it go to waste. All the previous speakers have covered everything that I wanted to say. I just reiterate what they have said. The other night I read a Wesleyan Helen Steiner Rice poem that I thought was quite fitting for Christmas and for the members in this place. I have made a lot of friends this year and have thoroughly enjoyed myself. This is the best workplace in which I have ever worked. One can start from the back door of Parliament, then go to the front door and to the staff and members. Although we all have different views, this is one of the best workplaces with which I have ever been involved. According to my note, Helen Steiner Rice's poem states -

A star in the sky, an angels voice  
Telling the world rejoice, rejoice  
But that was centuries and centuries ago  
And we ask today, was it really so  
Was the Christ child born in a manger bed  
Without a pillow to rest his head  
So question and doubt if you will  
But the story of Christmas is living still  
And though man may conquer the earth and sea  
He cannot conquer eternity

And with all his triumphs man is but a clod  
Until he comes to rest with God

Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

**THE PRESIDENT** (Hon John Cowdell): Members, before I put the question, I would like to thank the leaders for their generous comments and endorse those in respect of the members and the staff. I would like to add my thanks, firstly, to Hon George Cash for his role as Chairman of Committees, for chairing the House and generally for his knowledge of and assistance in a whole range of issues. I would also like to thank the Deputy Chairmen - Hon Adele Farina, Hon Kate Doust, Hon Jon Ford, Hon Barry House and Hon Simon O'Brien - for their role and assistance in handling both the Committee of the Whole and also the House. Obviously, we owe a lot to the House staff, in particular our Clerk, Laurie Marquet, who heads his own party - the most influential in this House. I thank our departed Deputy Clerk, Ian Allnutt, who finally saw the light after 35 and a half years and is now trying to catch up. I thank the new Clerk Assistants in Malcolm, Mia and Nigel. I think they are doing an excellent job and will continue to do so in the future.

I give my thanks to the Chamber staff in particular - to Chris, Brian, Peter, Donna - it is good to have her back - and KJ. Of course, I do not forget all the staff at the Legislative Council Committee Office, particularly Kelly. Of course, we could not overlook in the adjoining offices the Clerk's assistants in Janeen and Val, who have been invaluable to most of us.

We need to say thanks also to the wider network of individuals who serve the Parliament and help us in many ways - to Chris and all the Hansard team, to Parliamentary Services and Russell Bremner, to Judy in the library and her team, and to Ken and Peter in security. It has been commented that their role is an increasing and onerous one. I thank the parliamentary refreshment department under Enno, and those who serve us - Andrew, who is in charge of the dining room, and those in the bar. I must, of course, mention Marion, who I think points out regularly that, unfortunately, 18 years of service does not qualify, and having missed the 15-year bonus, she must wait for the 20-year bonus; but such is life.

We thank all the dining room staff and the kitchen staff - Claude and George in particular. Of course, there is the invaluable service performed by the ladies on the switchboard - Marilyn, Cathy and Rosalie - in tracking people down, finding valid excuses for why they cannot be located even if they are, and generally providing information to the public of a helpful and useful nature, which reflects well upon Parliament.

Outside are Charlie and the gardening staff. We admire the gardens and they do a very good job there. I have to - I would even if I did not have to - pay tribute to the staff in the President's office. Lorraine Coogan no doubt will be listening and watching the monitor at the moment. Lorraine, I hope the rumour that you were staying around only for your five-year certificate tomorrow is not correct. I thank Brian Conn and Steve Sceats for all their considerable help. I thank all those in the ministerial liaison office, particularly Teena Beale. Most members would not be aware that Teena did all the calligraphy for their membership certificates; she, therefore, helps in more ways than is obvious.

I thank all members for their help, support and participation, in particular the Leader of the Government and the Leader of the Opposition. I thank the other party leaders, whether they be individuals such as Hon John Fischer; collective leaders such as the Greens (WA); or both as in the case of Hon Murray Criddle, who embodies individual and collective leadership for his party.

I look forward to the deliberations of the new committee over the break in rearranging our affairs in an orderly fashion, or proposing some scheme of arrangement. Mention has been made of the need to adjust the bells when we go upstairs; indeed, that has been taken on board. Alternatively we could arrange training sessions for members to get there in the appropriate time. I must say, of course, that we will participate in the long march upstairs, albeit for a brief period. One minister has already contacted me with a view to swapping the Legislative Council ministerial office for the Legislative Assembly ministerial offices upstairs. I said I thought that the Assembly ministers would readily agree to that because their office had been demolished and they would get the Council ministerial office in return. The minister is rethinking that course of action at the moment but will, no doubt, come up with other courses of action.

I welcome members now to refreshments in the President's corridor after we have dealt with these motions. I realise that we must get through another motion after this motion. I also welcome members to the staff Christmas party at three o'clock tomorrow afternoon. All members are welcome to attend that function if they are able.

Question put and passed.

## ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

### *Ordinary*

**HON KIM CHANCE** (Agricultural - Leader of the House) [6.08 pm]: I was hoping that we had timed this so well that before I made my favourite speech for the year I would be able to say that we were five minutes early and we might as