

Hon Kim Chance; Hon Norman Moore; Hon Simon O'Brien; Hon Robyn McSweeney; Hon Ray Halligan; Hon Peter Collier; Hon Barry House; Hon George Cash; Hon Donna Faragher; Hon Murray Criddle; Hon Nigel Hallett; Hon Bruce Donaldson; Hon Anthony Fels; Hon Ken Baston; President

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**PETER WELLS, MLC**

*Condolence Motion*

**HON KIM CHANCE (Agricultural - Leader of the House)** [3.32 pm] - without notice: I move -

That this house expresses its deep regret at the death of Hon Peter Wells, a former member of the Legislative Council for the North Metropolitan Province, and tenders its profound sympathy to members of his family in their bereavement.

Mr President and members, on behalf of the government I extend our sympathy to the family of the late Hon Peter Wells, and in particular to his wife, Dorothy, and his children Joan, Stephen and Peta.

Peter was one of those individuals who over the course of his life devoted himself to the betterment of our community. In doing so, he did not rely just on his activities as a representative and activist in the political sphere; he also contributed meaningfully in other ways, such as through the Salvation Army, of which he was Chair of the Red Shield Appeal, and also for a time as a minister of religion.

Peter's maiden speech spells out some of the principal concerns and activities of a long career in public life: the family, appropriate housing and development of our suburbs, and alcoholism. Drawing on a wealth of personal experience and very practical knowledge, Peter was able to offer us advice in that speech which is still relevant to this day, such as the need for housing development to be done in a way that brings neighbours together and encourages community participation; something that will never lose its relevance.

As many of my colleagues will attest, Peter had a varied and interesting working life, starting off as a cartographic draftsman working principally in the mining sector, and then later in his life moving professionally to the political sphere, where he became the member for North Metropolitan Province from 1980 to 1986 and notably served as Director of the Liberal Party in Western Australia from 1995 to 2002. I am sure that his wife, Dorothy, his children and, I understand, his four grandchildren can look back at Peter's achievements with pride. In working for the betterment of the community in so many ways, Peter has left our community a better place. We acknowledge his contribution and deeply regret his passing.

**HON NORMAN MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the Opposition)** [3.35 pm]: I indicate my support for the motion moved by the Leader of the House. On behalf of the Parliamentary Liberal Party, I pay tribute to an outstanding Western Australian, who sadly passed away on Christmas Day. I refer, of course, to an old friend, Peter Henry Wells. Peter Wells devoted his life to community and public service, including six years in which he worked hard as a member for North Metropolitan Province in the Legislative Council from 1980 to 1986. However, Peter was one of those few members of Parliament whose most memorable achievements in public life, notably as an exceptionally dedicated state director of the Liberal Party, occurred after he had left the Parliament.

Peter Wells was born in Bendigo in 1937, the son of a railway worker who left the family when Peter was only 10 years old. Peter was a very private man. He did not talk about the hardships of his early life. These hardships were revealed to us only during his deeply moving funeral service, which was held at the Floreat Salvation Army church on 3 January. It seemed that Peter's mother was not able to cope with these difficult family circumstances, so Peter and his brother were placed in an Anglican boys' home. We were told on the occasion of Peter's funeral that he was later transferred to a Salvation Army boys' home because he was such a naughty boy in the Anglican home that he had to be shifted somewhere else. I cannot believe that from what I know of Peter. It was not a promising start in life. However, at a young age Peter Wells accepted the unshakeable Christian faith that was to guide him for the remainder of his life. At the age of 18 Peter Wells became a full-time Salvation Army officer, and in the late 1950s he was transferred to Western Australia. In Kellerberrin he met Dorothy Clark, and when he was stationed in Norseman, with no such luxury as a car, he would hitchhike back and forth to Kellerberrin visit her. In those days, a Salvation Army officer was not permitted to marry anyone other than a fellow officer, so Peter had to find another job in order to provide for his wife and future family. It is a mark of the man that Peter rode his bicycle to the gates of the Central Norseman Gold Corporation mines every day for a week until someone offered him a job working underground. In subsequent years he studied as a draftsman and became chief draftsman of the exploration division of International Nickel, establishing his family home in Balga.

Peter was an active supporter of the Liberal Party in Norseman, and he continued his involvement when he moved to Perth. As a member of the Stirling Division of the Liberal Party, Peter Wells was a campaign chairman for Ian Viner in 1975 when Ian Viner was re-elected Member of the House of Representatives for Stirling with a large majority. Peter was the president of the Stirling Division of the Liberal Party between 1976

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and 1980 and was always noted for his hard work and enthusiasm. At the 1980 state election he contested North Metropolitan Province for the Liberal Party. This province had nearly 100 000 electors and was the largest and most marginal of the 16 two-member provinces that existed at that time. The province consisted of the Legislative Assembly seats of Whitford, Karrinyup, Scarborough, Mount Hawthorn and Balcatta. Peter Wells opposed a sitting Labor MLC, Hon Roy Claughton, who had held that half of the province for 12 years. However, with a great deal of hard work, including winning the votes of many people who voted for Brian Burke in the Legislative Assembly, he was elected by 3 100 votes. Peter Wells continued to work hard as a member of the Legislative Council for the next six years, treating his province as though it were a marginal Legislative Assembly seat, only much larger. His concentration on his electors allowed for only a brief time as a frontbench spokesman in 1983-84. Peter was a voracious reader and researcher. When he made speeches in the house, he always had in front of him a huge stack of research material and copies of *Hansard*, to the point that members often could not see him behind his material. Peter's booming voice meant that he was never asked to speak up. Those members who have heard Peter speak will know what I mean when I say that.

The boundaries of his province contracted to the coast, but it remained politically volatile, with its growth exceeding 90 000 people by 1986. However, despite Peter's hard campaigning, with the continuing unfavourable electoral tide from 1983 and with preferences directed against him, he was defeated by 4 800 votes. When members are defeated at the polls, they are likely to either seek re-election or choose a new career. Peter Wells maintained his commitment to politics and to the Liberal Party, and put his own ambitions to one side. His skill as a draftsman was redirected to the growing field of computer technology, and from 1986 he was employed as a researcher by Hon Gordon Masters and Hon George Cash. The reason that the 42 steps from the Summer Palace down to the Parliament are illuminated is that during the long hours on sitting nights, when Peter worked late, he would have to walk to and from Parliament House.

After 1989 Peter Wells moved to the office of the Liberal Party of Western Australia as director of computer technology; in effect, as second in charge. He played a significant role in the Liberal Party's success in the 1993 state election and in the revival of the party's fortunes in federal elections after 1990. In early 1995, when the then state director resigned after less than a year in the position, Peter Wells was appointed by the state executive as acting state director, on the understanding that if after 12 months a new state director was sought and appointed, Peter would revert to his former role. I am told that one member of the state executive meeting argued that this was, surely, too much to ask, because no-one given the top position would then willingly assume a subordinate role. The response given was that Peter Wells was an exception to this because of his political commitment and his ethic of humility and self-sacrifice. After his period of probation, there was no suggestion of looking for any alternative. Peter Wells was an outstanding state director, serving for nearly eight years until his retirement. Previously, between 1987 and 1995, there had been four state directors, not including some temporary appointments. The facts speak for themselves. As state director, Peter was deeply respected for his impartiality and dedicated hard work, almost seeming to lose the concept of his own private time. He enjoyed great support from his wife, Dorothy, who would be with him late at night at Menzies House doing the cleaning while Peter continued working. Peter Wells' computer skills were of great value to the Liberal Party, particularly when computerised mapping became essential in redistribution submissions.

Although state directors do not usually act as spokespeople for the Liberal Party, there were times when Peter Wells had to deal with the media, and his sincerity and honesty were great assets. For example, in the closing weeks of the 1996 state election campaign, a Liberal candidate in a strong Labor seat resigned - a potential embarrassment that could have skewed the impact of the policy launch that was to take place that weekend. Peter, in his inimitable style, smiled gently on camera and said that hiccups will always occur in election campaigns. The issue then died rapidly. It was a measure of Peter Wells' devotion to the Liberal Party that on one occasion when he attended a parliamentary Liberal Party retreat in Busselton, he realised late one evening that the material for the next morning's presentation was still on a computer in Perth, so he and Dorothy then spent the night driving to Perth and back to obtain it.

A senior Liberal and former colleague of Peter Wells once remarked how fortunate the Western Australian Liberal Party was to have the Salvation Army ethic working for it in Peter Wells. At state conferences he would inspire delegates with his enthusiastic preaching style, when he would compare his commitment to the Liberal Party as second only to his decision to commit his life to Jesus Christ. No matter how busy and stressful the demands of politics, Peter always made time for worship and also for the needs of others in his church, even if it meant driving from Balga to Willagee to keep a promise to preach there once a month. He was never censorious or self-righteous. Peter maintained the principle of neither drinking alcohol nor providing it in his home, but he would ensure that defeated as well as successful candidates were honoured at a post-election dinner by way of thanks from the Liberal Party. Peter Wells took the Liberal Party organisation through two state and three

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federal general elections as state director. He was, at the time, the longest-serving Liberal Party state director anywhere in Australia.

Following his retirement, he was able to spend more time with his family. Tragically, this time was all too short. We can, however, be thankful for this life of public service. Peter was a deeply good man, respected by all who knew him. He is sadly missed by his loving family, his church community, Liberal Party members and all those who were fortunate enough to encounter Peter Wells on their life's journey. We extend our condolences once more to Dorothy Wells and to the Wells family.

**HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan)** [3.43 pm]: I thank the Leader of the House for his motion. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his wonderful description of the life of the late Hon Peter Wells and for his reflections upon that life. I thank the chamber for the opportunity via this motion to add my personal message of condolences to Dorothy and the other members of Peter Wells' family. Finally, I take the opportunity provided by this motion to associate myself closely with the sentiments that have been expressed by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition. Peter Wells touched my life, as he touched the lives of many others. I am definitely better for having known him, and I commend this condolence motion to my colleagues in the warmest possible terms. Peter Wells was indeed a man whose memory should be honoured, and I am very glad that we have the opportunity to do so today.

**HON ROBYN McSWEENEY (South West)** [3.46 pm]: I am very pleased to support the motion moved by Hon Kim Chance. When I first joined the Liberal Party, Hon Peter Wells was its state director. Previous to that he was a member of the upper house for North Metropolitan Province. Peter and his wife, Dorothy, used to trek all over the countryside to Liberal Party annual general meetings and preselections. He was extremely thorough about checking who could come in and who could not. He ran a very tight ship and was very well respected for the way he organised these events and ran Menzies House. Nothing was too much trouble, and his specialty was preaching about how to attract members - and I do mean preaching. I had known him for some time before I learnt that he had been a Salvation Army minister, and that made great sense to me once I found out. He was, by all accounts, very passionate about two things in life: one was the Liberal Party and the other was the Salvation Army. Of course, his family was his top priority. I came to know Peter when I was a state vice-president of the Liberal Party. However, I only knew him as our state director. I did not know him as a committed Christian and a wonderful family man, nor was I aware of the great love he had for his children, his wife and other people's children. He was a foster father to many children, because of his past. I found this out only after I had been to his funeral, and I wish that I had known him better. He was a wonderful human being, and one of whom I would have been very proud, for his humanitarian qualities. It is always sad to me that we often learn about the lives and paths chosen by people only after their death. The first year I was in Parliament, I went to Kalgoorlie for an annual general meeting. Peter was also in Kalgoorlie, and I had my photo taken with him, Hon Norman Moore, Hon Bruce Donaldson and Hon Bill Stretch. I have had that photo on my refrigerator for all of that time. After the funeral, I came home and looked at the photo and decided that, since it had been there that long, it could stay on the fridge, as a reminder to me that we should really get to know people, not just as work colleagues but also as human beings. I think Peter would like to know that he has done that for me. This was how he was all his life - always giving, and getting to know people. Rest in peace, Peter, you were put on this earth to do a job and, from all accounts, it was very well done.

**HON RAY HALLIGAN (North Metropolitan)** [3.48 pm]: I am thankful for the opportunity to join in this condolence motion. I first met Hon Peter Wells in about 1990, and was involved with him during my period as branch president, divisional president and state councillor. I visited Peter on many occasions, in his capacity as state director. Inevitably, whenever I entered Menzies House, I would either hear or see Peter. He was always there, even when the sun was down, as Hon Norman Moore has said, and the lights were on. When I entered, if he heard my voice he would come out of his office to greet me. Invariably, I would be ushered into his office at some stage, and he would talk about anything I wished to bring to his attention. He would listen intently, and offer wise counsel if he thought it appropriate. Peter was, as far as I am concerned, an absolute gentleman. In my recollection, he did not have a bad word to say about anyone. As members would know, that is not easy in politics. It mattered not whether we were talking about members of our own or of other parties; he did not have a bad word to say about anyone. He always provided people with the benefit of the doubt. He was also particularly humble when any accolades were placed upon him. I am thankful for having had the opportunity to know Peter Wells. I offer my sincere condolences to Dorothy and family.

**HON PETER COLLIER (North Metropolitan)** [3.50 pm]: I support this condolence motion and I thank Hon Kim Chance for bringing it to the house. I knew Peter Wells for some 12 years during his association with the Liberal Party. I always found him to be a genuine man of extraordinary integrity. My association with Peter was most pronounced during his time as state director of the Liberal Party in the 1990s and the early part of the

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new century. I found his level of commitment to his many and varied interests most admirable. He was devoted to his wife, Dorothy, his children and his grandchildren. In addition, he was a deeply spiritual man whose devotion to the Salvation Army and God was quite profound.

Personally, he was a valued friend of mine. He was particularly supportive during an extremely difficult time of my life. He offered sound and compassionate advice, which contributed significantly to my personal wellbeing at that time and beyond, and for that I will be eternally grateful. I acknowledge Peter Wells for all that he was. He was a warm, sincere and honest man whose motivation in life was always altruistic, and he will be sadly missed.

**HON BARRY HOUSE (South West) [3.52 pm]:** I also want to pay my respects to Peter Wells and extend my condolences to Dorothy and his family and many friends. I met Peter in the early 1980s at Liberal Party conferences, but I did not really get to know him until the campaign for the 1987 by-election, at which I was first elected to this place. Peter was allocated or volunteered - I never quite found out the truth behind the matter - to be my campaign manager. He came to Bunbury for seven weeks and devoted an enormous amount of energy and expertise to that campaign, which was ultimately successful. Peter stayed in a little unit in Bunbury owned, I think, by Barry Payne, a former president of the Liberal Party of Western Australia in Bunbury. He made such an enormous commitment to that campaign that I have been eternally grateful to him. However, I realised once I got to know Peter that that was the way he approached everything in life, including everything associated with the Liberal Party, his church and the community in general. That election campaign was obviously important to me, but it was also important to the Liberal Party, because upon Vic Ferry's retirement a by-election was called, and if the Labor Party had won that seat, it would have gained the majority in the Legislative Council for the first time in history. It was a real possibility that the Labor Party would win the seat, because at the previous general election in 1986, at which Peter lost his seat and the Labor Party was returned to government, the Liberal Party also lost a seat in South West Province, which under the old boundaries incorporated the electorates of Bunbury, Vasse and Mitchell. Following the retirement of Hon Graham MacKinnon, new candidates faced up and the ALP's Hon Doug Wenn was elected. There was a real possibility that the Liberal Party could have lost that seat. I was fortunate enough to win the preselection and be the candidate. We won the election with a margin of about 10 per cent, and I certainly put that down in very large part to Peter Wells' organisational skills and his huge enthusiasm. Peter brought an amazing capacity of work to that campaign and to everything he did in life. I do not think he ever slept. He would often work all night. Peter had our campaign headquarters in Forrest Avenue, Bunbury, overloaded with mail-outs and letters and projects on the go. He was trying to master the emerging technology and electronics of the day. During that campaign I saw my first fax machine. It was a rather big, old-style, heat-imaging fax machine that Peter, in his typical style, lugged into campaign headquarters. He was at the cutting edge of trying to interpret and master the technological advances that were being made in computerisation and other communications.

I certainly owe a personal debt of gratitude to Peter Wells. The Liberal Party owes a debt of gratitude to Peter Wells and his family, because it was a family effort; it was not just Peter. As other members said, there was not a bad bone in Peter Wells' body. He never had a bad word to say about anybody. He made an enormous contribution to the welfare of this state and he will be sorely missed.

**HON GEORGE CASH (North Metropolitan) [3.57 pm]:** I join with those members who have already spoken to offer my sympathy to Dorothy and the children and grandchildren of Peter Henry Wells. Peter Wells and I knew each other more than 20 years ago, prior to both Peter and I joining the Parliament. In those days we worked together on many occasions doorknocking for the Liberal Party. Peter was always a committed Christian community worker; one who gained the great respect of everyone who met him during that and ensuing periods.

I well remember his election to the Legislative Council in 1980. Members may not be aware, but in those days Peter was known as "War Cry". The "War Cry" nickname, of course, was related to his association with the Salvation Army, but it was also related to his great booming voice. Having been a member of this place in the 1980s, I remember that the *Hansards* were stacked in front of members and members would speak from behind them. Peter Wells would stand behind a great stack of *Hansards* and his booming voice would carry throughout the chamber and beyond. Such was his booming voice that those who sat in front of Peter would move away. They would not ask him to be quiet; that was an impossibility for Peter Wells. It was easier for them to move and let Peter control the show, as he did in those days.

As a member of the Legislative Council he worked inordinately long hours and extremely hard for the community that he represented. I remember that prior to his leaving the Parliament in 1986 he would bring to a party meeting case after case of documents, generally in the form of letters to his constituents. He would spend three or four hours during the meeting signing these letters so that they could be posted to those with whom he was communicating in the community.

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Peter Wells was unquestionably not only a very humble person, but also a very skilled person in both his political and community life. The Liberal Party owes a great debt of gratitude to him as do many members of the community in the North Metropolitan Region who came into contact with Peter during that time.

It has already been noted that after leaving the Parliament Peter went on to work closely with the Liberal Party. In 1989-90 Peter worked as research officer for me when I was Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, and he was extremely efficient. As the now Leader of the Opposition, Hon Norman Moore, said, he was a voracious reader and researcher, to the point that I would be walking down the corridor at night, hoping to go home and later to a meeting, and I would bump into Wellsy on the way. He would waylay me for an hour or so to explain everything that he had been doing during the day on various research projects. At one stage he commented to me - I have mentioned this to Dorothy in the past so she well knows the situation - that at times he used to see me walking down the corridor but then I would disappear. I had to acknowledge to Peter later that I used to hide behind one of the pillars so that he could not waylay me on my way to a meeting that I had to be at within a short time.

We worked well together. I have happy memories, as I am sure Peter did, of the time we worked closely together when he was a member of the North Metropolitan Province and I was the member for Mount Lawley in the Legislative Assembly. In the 1989 election, Peter stood for preselection for the North Metropolitan Region in the Legislative Council. He was not successful. He then devoted himself unquestionably to the administration of the Liberal Party. For that, as I said earlier, we are very grateful. To Dorothy, their children and grandchildren, I extend my sincere sympathy. Like other members of this house, I am the better for knowing and working closely with Peter Henry Wells.

**HON DONNA FARAGHER (East Metropolitan)** [4.02 pm]: I also rise in support of the motion and I wish to make a few brief comments about the late Peter Wells. I first met Peter in 1993 when I was a young university student at the University of Western Australia. I recall our first meeting and will always remember his warm and caring nature in welcoming me into the Liberal fold. He often jokingly told me that I was a favourite because I had red hair, just like his lovely wife, Dorothy, to whom he was married for nearly 45 years.

Over the years I worked closely with Peter in his capacity as state director, particularly during my time as president of the WA Union of Liberal Students and later as president of Perth Women's Division. In that capacity, I saw first-hand his campaigning skills and his loyalty and dedication to the Liberal Party, its members and the beliefs and values that we all hold dear. We always had a laugh when I visited him at Menzies House. As busy as his role as state director was, he was always available to answer queries and provide advice with a smile and a joke. I suppose that I can best sum up Peter as being extremely jolly, not only because it seemed to be his favourite word, but also because he always had a smile, was always ready to have a laugh, was always ready to take one's call and, most importantly, was always a very giving and caring person. Unfortunately, I was interstate at the time of his passing, but I extend my condolences to his wife, Dorothy, and his children.

**HON MURRAY CRIDDLE (Agricultural)** [4.04 pm]: I support the motion moved by the Leader of the House and endorse the remarks of Hon Norman Moore about Peter Wells, and I also pass on my condolences and those of the National Party. Obviously, we had quite a deal of contact with Peter Wells over the years as director of the Liberal Party, and I got to know him over those eight years as a happy and very enthusiastic person. That was reflected in his six years in the Legislative Council, during which time he was a dedicated member. He was also dedicated to his community throughout those years. As I said, I remember Peter as a very happy person. It was a pleasure to know him. He always put his point of view very, very keenly during negotiations with us. On behalf of my colleagues, I pass on condolences to his wife and family.

**HON NIGEL HALLETT (South West)** [4.04 pm]: I wish to thank the Leader of the House for the opportunity to acknowledge the contribution made by the late Peter Wells. I first met Peter when I was state senior vice-president of the Liberal Party. His dedication, loyalty and honesty to his family and all those around him became very obvious. I had the privilege - worry at times - of driving with him to many preselections through the country, and the word "jolly" came out many times. The words "jolly close" signify how we felt when Peter was driving his car. While driving he talked a lot, his hands moved around a lot and he moved around in the car. His colleagues always wanted to drive when they were going somewhere with him in his car, but Peter always said, "No, I can't sleep if someone else is driving." However, as passengers, we could not sleep either. Nonetheless, it was always a privilege to be with him. Peter always arrived at work early, usually after a quick snack at McDonald's; his door was always open; he always returned phone calls promptly; and was always available to give advice to any new divisional office holder. He was also the last to leave his office at night and Dorothy was often there with him, helping him to pack up and clean up.

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Peter has been a wonderful servant to the people of Western Australia. I record my condolences to Dorothy and family through this house.

**HON BRUCE DONALDSON (Agricultural)** [4.05 pm]: I add my support to the condolence motion moved by the Leader of the House in light of the passing of the late Peter Wells. I came to know Peter in 1984 when I stood for Parliament in the then Central Province by-election. As a member of Parliament at that time, Peter arranged for many of the Liberal Party members to travel to Merredin to help me with doorknocking. Over the years, one could not help but admire his integrity, sense of responsibility, dedication and passion for what he believed in.

I was reflecting earlier on the sad passing of Mr Bill Wylie and the importance to him of the Salvation Army when he was very young, and, later, his success as an adult. Peter Wells had a similar connection to the Salvation Army when he was young. His achievements as an adult were testimony to his calibre as a man. The atmosphere at his funeral illustrated the huge respect in which he was held. Although I can recall Peter organising matters at preselection meetings that were held at Menzies House on a couple of occasions and at a number of other meetings, I especially recall Dorothy's presence in the background at those meetings doing the catering.

As Liberal members, both Peter and Dorothy played a great part in our lives. When I contested the 1993 state election, Peter was on the campaign trail helping and advising me. He never refused to provide advice when people sought it. If anyone sought a meeting with him at Menzies House, he made himself available. He had a grand vision for the Liberal Party. It is a pity some of the plans in that vision were not picked up and run with. Through his passion and commitment, he achieved in his lifetime what many of us aim to achieve; namely, to be responsible citizens and to be dedicated to our family and friends. Like other speakers, I never heard Peter Wells speak disparagingly of anyone.

I offer all members of his family, particularly Dorothy, my sincere and deep condolences; this is a sad time for them all.

**HON ANTHONY FELS (Agricultural)** [4.08 pm]: I thank the Leader of the House for moving this condolence motion. Like all members of the Liberal Party, including those in this chamber, I have known Peter Wells through my involvement with the Liberal Party for almost 20 years. He was always a very easy person to deal with. If one description of Peter sticks in my mind it is that he was a fair-minded person. The role of state director of any political organisation is very difficult. I am sure all members will agree that Peter always acted fairly when addressing any of their issues within the party. He would not intervene in an issue unless he was requested to do so by the person concerned, and only if it was fair and within the rules. Another reason that he was so good in that position is that he had spent time as a Liberal Party member of the Legislative Council; therefore, he knew how it worked. He spent a lot of time in the country. During many annual general meetings when either a ballot was being held or there was a delay in the proceedings, Peter would tell us stories that were always humorous or informative. His stories usually related to his days in the Salvation Army, the time he spent in Norseman or the way in which he met Dorothy. He was a man of great faith who believed in the resurrection, and for that reason he was fair with everyone. Even when things were occurring within the party that he did not think were right, because of his faith in God and in the rules, he believed they would work out in time.

The Liberal Party enjoyed success while Peter was its state director. It is a great loss to be without him. I am sorry that I was not in Perth to attend his funeral service. I live about 100 metres from the Floreat Salvation Army church. Two or three times a year I am woken up by the Salvation Army jazz band on a Sunday morning when it plays at the front of my house, and I always send out the kids to give the Salvation Army a donation. I have always supported it and I think about Peter Wells when I go past the church. I always thought of the Salvation Army when I thought of Peter wells.

**HON KEN BASTON (Mining and Pastoral)** [4.11 pm]: I rise to thank the Leader of the House for moving this condolence motion for Peter Wells. I express my personal condolences to Dorothy and his family. When I first met Peter, he was the state director of the Liberal Party. I found Peter to be a man of very fair judgment who favoured no member of our party over another. His church background always gave him the licence to give us many sermons and rev-ups, as we used to call them. Many members from Kalgoorlie central gave Peter the nickname Rumpole of the Bailey. He was also available for sound advice, and he will be sadly missed. I pass on my condolences to his family.

**THE PRESIDENT (Hon Nick Griffiths)**: I extend my condolences to Mrs Wells and the Wells family. I thank honourable members for their observations and ask them to stand as a mark of respect to the late Hon Peter Henry Wells.

**Extract from *Hansard***  
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Question passed, members standing.