

## RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

**SPEAKER** Honourable Members we reconvene after our suspension on Wednesday and we are continuing debate on the motion that the House by this motion discuss the Petition today lodged in the Legislative Assembly. Before we commence discussion on that particular motion Honourable Members Mr McCoy has indicated that he would care to proceed with condolences

## CONDOLENCE

**MR McCOY** Thank you Mr Speaker. It is with regret that this House records the passing of Spencer Harry Jack Clapp was born on Norfolk Island on Christmas Day, 1912, first born son to Harry and Ethel Florrie Clare Clapp, known as Marg. Jack Clapp married Marg Duffy in 1940. There were no children of that partnership and love which lasted for 57 years until the passing of Marg in June 1997. Jack had a brother Spencer, who also predeceased him. Jack is survived by his nephews Kevin and Ken and niece Yolanda and was grand uncle to their children. In his youth, Jack served a five year apprenticeship with the plumber Mr Stewart, prior to joining the Administration. He commenced work with the Administration at the age of 19 and his working life extended from 1932 to 1972. He started as a plumber then later he was appointed as the Work's Supervisor. Jack lived his whole life on Norfolk Island apart from his wartime service. He served with the Norfolk Island Infantry Detachment, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion City of Sydney Regiment, rising to the rank of sergeant and later he sailed from Cascade on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1941 and enlisted in the AIF in Sydney, of that same year. Jack served as a sapper in the 2.33<sup>rd</sup> field squadron RAE, the 1<sup>st</sup> armour regiment and the 2/2<sup>nd</sup> field company RAE in the campaign in New Guinea. He was discharged in November 1945 and returned home. Jack was a keen cricketer and member of the Bowling Club. He served the community as a charter member and secretary for the Lion's Club for many years and ultimately, he was made a life member. He was also a life member of the RSL and Golf Club. Jack Clapp was one of Norfolk's finest gentlemen. He and Marge in later years lived a quiet and peaceful lifestyle. He did not want people fussing over him, and he was loved and respected by many. To Kev, Landy, Kenny and their families and Jack's many friends on Norfolk Island this House extends it deepest sympathy. Thank you Mr Speaker

**MR SPEAKER** Thank you Mr McCoy. Honourable Members as a mark of respect I would ask us all to stand for a period of silence. Thank you Honourable Members.

## RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON PETITION

Honourable Members in resuming debate on the motion Mr Brown you have the call to resume

**MR BROWN** Thank you Mr Speaker. I seek your leave to move the amendment which has been circulated to Members

**SPEAKER** Is leave granted? Leave is granted

**MR BROWN** Mr Speaker I move that all words after "THAT" (first occurring) be deleted and the following substituted: "this House, in accordance with section 5 of the Referendum Act 1964, resolves to ascertain the opinion of the electors on the question – 'Should a new election be held for the full membership of the Legislative Assembly at the earliest convenient date?' and requests the Speaker to

direct a referendum on this question at the earliest convenient date in October 200. Mr Speaker we are addressing a Petition which was tabled in the House on Wednesday of this week. Different Members have had different interpretations of that Petition but I believe that the overwhelming majority of us are of the view that it is of such significance that the views of the complete electorate should be sought by way of referendum and for that reason I have moved the amendment and I believe that the amendment has the support of a majority of our membership, thank you

MR NOBBS Thank you Mr Speaker. I agree, and I mentioned on Wednesday that I thought it was appropriate to go to Referenda on this particular issue. As we said at the time there are 32% who signed the Petition. 68% didn't sign the Petition but 32% is a significant number. The reasons why people signed, it's coming out that there were a variety of reasons, aimed at individuals not only in the Government but also in the Legislative Assembly itself. There were various reasons put forward for signing as people have started talking about actually signing the Petition and what led to their actually signing the Petition so I think it's clear that we need to look at a wider spectrum within the community. I've always felt that a referendum is fairly easy to run on Norfolk Island, that there are a few dollars involved in it, but it's a fairly cheap exercise in gaining the views of the whole community. It can be done without any pressures from relations or others and there have been instances quoted to me where there has been this type of pressure, you don't want to not sign and all that sort of thing, but in the confines of a ballot box in a referendum situation those things go out the door. There's been talk of course that we should just proceed with it but in reality 68% have not signed it but I think in fairness to the whole community we should offer them the opportunity for the whole community to give its views. I don't think I need to say more at this stage Mr Speaker other than to support the proposal. There were discussions yesterday amongst Members and it was fairly fruitful discussion and I think we can press on until we get a result at least of the Referendum one way or another

MR BATES Thank you Mr Speaker. A lot has been said about this Petition. Who signed it and who didn't, but this motion if it's passed today sends a clear message to the electorate that we are in crisis mode. By not allowing it to take the normal course that most far reaching motions and bills do, and that is to lay on the table for a month to allow public exposure and comment, can only send one message to the community and highlights the very essence of our chaos. I would be far happier to consider this motion to finality at our September meeting and I certainly do not intend to support it today. I have had almost no chance to hear from the community and a Referendum is not even what the Petition seeks. By September we would be back to nine and who knows, the new Member perhaps supported by the Petitioners may make the difference. Mr Speaker at the appropriate time, I would like to move a motion that this matter be adjourned and made an Order of the Day for the September sitting

MR SPEAKER Thank you Mr Bates. Further debate

MR BATES Thank you Mr Speaker. If there is no further debate I will so move

MR SPEAKER The motion before us Honourable Members is that this matter be adjourned and made an Order of the Day for the September sitting

#### QUESTION PUT

Would the Clerk please call the House

MR BUFFETT

NO



Is there any adjournment debate

MR GARDNER Thank you Mr Speaker it's only brief. Between now and the next Sitting of the House there'll be a bi-election held on the Island to fill the vacancy in the Membership of the Legislative Assembly. I look forward to those that have a keen interest to contribute to the workings of the Island to stand up and be counted and I certainly look forward to working closely with the new Member whoever that may be and whoever is successfully elected to the Membership of the Legislative Assembly

MR McCOY Thank you Mr Speaker , I made it quite clear on Wednesday that I support the move to a Referendum to ascertain what the other 68% of the community believes the Assembly should do. Whether this Legislative Assembly should go for a general election or press on. I agreed in informal discussions to a Referendum being held but the reason I voted against the motion as proposed this morning is as Mr Bates said, the community hasn't had ample opportunity to discuss with the Legislative Assembly Members whether they believe a Referendum should be held and I felt Mr Bates was on the right track, that we should not be passing this motion today, but it should be adjourned until the September Sitting and that was just for clarification in case some people in the community are wondering what Minister McCoy is doing when he spoke so much in favour of a Referendum on Wednesday and yet today he has voted against the motion to go to a Referendum. I am simply voting against the motion that we agree today. I was more comfortable with what Mr Bates had to say in that we should adjourn the matter

SPEAKER Thank you Mr McCoy. Further debate

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. I just want to say a couple of words in relation to a small trip I took yesterday as I was rushing to a meeting I didn't quite make it up the steps to the Chambers here. I was talking to Mr Walker. There is no truth in the story that he pushed me. I did need some medical attention and I would like to thank my colleagues who obviously looked after me while I was lying on the floor and I would like to thank everybody else involved, particularly the hospital and the ambulance people. Thank you all

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Smith for your assurances of your well being and your assurances about Mr Walker. Is there any further adjournment debate.

MR NOBBS Thank you Mr Speaker. At the last meeting some reference was made to the departure of Mr Toon Buffett from the Administration after something like thirty or forty years in the Service. At the time I felt it was a little premature as we hadn't finalised the appointments of the Executive Directors at that stage but as has subsequently turned out, Toon will be finishing up as an employee of the Administration after some forty years and that will occur next Friday and I understand that in the process of the normal farewells which will include one from the Legislative Assembly itself as well as the Staff and troops. I would just like to pay tribute to Toon for his efforts over the years in the various positions within the Administration. Also as the CEO in the past three years and eighteen months anyhow as CEO to the current Legislative Assembly. I would like to thank him most sincerely for his help to me personally and also for his efforts in the Service and I look forward to seeing him progress these businesses that he has established, particularly if he intends progressing the farming issues because I think it's most important that we get back into producing primary products within the community instead of importing them and that is an area that I know Toon has great thoughts and also great ideas and I firmly support him in that

particular area and I thank him once again for his support to me and I wish him and his family well in the future

SPEAKER Thank you Chief Minister. If there is no further participation in the adjournment debate Honourable Members I will put the question

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

SPEAKER Therefore this House stands adjourned until Wednesday 26 September 2001 at 10am in the morning.

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