



Speech by

Andrew Cripps

MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

Hansard Tuesday, 7 August 2007

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: DEATH OF MR EC ROW

Mr CRIPPS (Hinchinbrook—NPA) (9.43 am): I rise to make a contribution to the condolence motion to mark the passing of one of my predecessors in the electorate of Hinchinbrook, Edward Charles Row, known as Ted. Ted Row held the electorate of Hinchinbrook for the Nationals from May 1972 to December 1989 when he chose to retire. Ted Row had succeeded his uncle, Sir John Row, in the Hinchinbrook electorate who had held the seat from 1960 to 1972 and was the minister for primary industries between 1963 and 1972.

During Ted Row's parliamentary career some notable achievements included appointment as a delegate to the Australian Constitutional Convention in 1975. Ted served on the panel of temporary chairmen of committees from 1975 to 1983 and was Chairman of Committees in the Queensland Legislative Assembly from November 1983 until his retirement in December 1989.

Ted Row had given service to his local community prior to his election to state parliament as a councillor on the Hinchinbrook Shire Council from 1962 to 1972. As a member of the Country Party, Ted Row had served as chairman of the Country Party's Hinchinbrook electorate council between 1962 and 1967. Ted Row had also served on the board of the then Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations between 1968 and 1972 and also served as senior vice-president of the Queensland Canegrowers Council between 1962 and 1972.

Ted Row was born in Ingham on 26 March 1923. As a cane grower in the Herbert River district Ted Row was active in his local mill suppliers committee and local Canegrowers organisation. He also served on the Ingham hospital board from 1953 to 1972 and was a member of the local bowling, aero and Rotary clubs.

As a relatively new member of this place, most members would be aware that I am not Ted Row's immediate successor in the electorate of Hinchinbrook. I did not know Ted Row personally but I recently contacted the former member for Hinchinbrook, Marc Rowell, to offer him the opportunity to provide a message for incorporation during this condolence motion for Ted Row, whom he succeeded in 1989. Marc Rowell provided the following message—

It is with great sadness that I learnt of the passing of Ted Row, who had been the Member for Hinchinbrook from 27 May 1972 to 2 December 1989. Ted had been a loyal supporter of the Country Party and later the National Party. He had served the Ingham and Tully districts in the Queensland Legislative Assembly carrying out a wide range of duties.

He was a strong advocate for the sugar industry prior to him succeeding Sir John Row on 7 May 1972, and this continued during his parliamentary career. I had the good fortune to be elected to the Queensland Parliament when Ted retired at the December election of 1989. Ted and his wife Connie had a sound understanding of the electorate and the people they represented. They both were aware of the pioneering spirit and major contributions that so many had made to North Queensland.

Ted will be sadly missed by his close friends and family. My wife Sandy and I pass on our condolences to them at the loss of Ted as will many who associated with him during his 84 years.

For my own part, it was interesting and instructive to read Ted Row's maiden speech in this place in September 1972 and consider it in comparison with my own in October 2006. Ted Row reflected extensively on the importance and achievements of the sugar industry to Queensland's economy and the contribution it makes to many regional communities. Like all National Party members for the electorate of

Hinchinbrook, Ted Row's maiden speech extolled the many virtues of northern Queensland and its potential for development. Northern development as a means of decentralising the state was a prominent theme throughout Ted Row's first contribution to debate in this place. Ted Row also spoke strongly about the timber industry and the development of extensive pine plantation forests in the Hinchinbrook electorate near the townships of Kennedy and Cardwell making it the then timber capital of Queensland, sustaining many jobs and other industries.

Ted Row passed away peacefully on 4 July 2007 at the Canossa Care Home for the Aged in Oxley in Brisbane aged 84 years and is survived by his wife, Connie, his seven children and their families, including Eddie and Dulce Row who live in the electorate of the member for Lockyer. He was laid to rest at the Brookfield Cemetery on 9 July 2007 after a requiem mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church in Kenmore. I join with the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and all the members of this place in extending my sincere sympathies to Mrs Row and her family following Ted's passing.