

VALEDICTORIES

24 July, 2008

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (16:41): On behalf of this side of the house I, too, would like to respond. I thank the Speaker for the excellent job he does in this place, and it can get trying at times. I like to think that I have a very good working relationship with the Speaker, and I do not believe that we have come to blows yet.

The Hon. J.W. Weatherill interjecting:

Mr PEDERICK: Probably not physically, no. I also commend the work of the Government Whip and the Opposition Whip. I appreciate Ivan's candour when we get together and sort things out and get things done. I know that at times there are things we cannot tell each other or what is going on but, at the end of the day, we get the job done. I thank you, Robyn, particularly for your understanding when I stuff things up on this side.

Mrs Geraghty: Not at all.

Mr PEDERICK: Thank you. I, too, thank the Clerk, the table staff and all the attendants who keep this place running. I also thank parliamentary counsel and Hansard who, as the new Minister for Environment and Conservation noted, try to understand our gibberish. I note that occasionally they have wads of my notes and come back because I have to spell things or print them in English. I appreciate their work and note, too, the work of Carmel Moriarty over 46 years. I think that is an incredible amount of time to spend in this place.

I would like to spend quite a few more years here yet. That will be up to the electorate, but I promise my wife that it will be nowhere near that term. I commend Carmel's dedication to the job, and I think it is fantastic in this day and age, when people do not stay in jobs too long and transition through jobs seems to be fairly frequent.

I certainly note the catering staff and the excellent work they do. Some people would argue that I should not see them as often as I do! I also thank the security staff, who keep us safe; the maintenance staff, who seem to have a job that goes on and on; and the cleaners, who keep the place neat and tidy around us.

I acknowledge all political staffers for the work they have to do for MPs of all colours and sides. They are well and truly under the pump to find things when they are needed in a hurry, and I know what I am like: I say, 'I need this now.' I thank our electorate staff, who are also under the pump at times and do a fantastic job over many hours.

I thank parliamentary colleagues from all sides, not only in this chamber but also in the other place. If I have missed anyone, I apologise. I thank everyone in this place and in the other place, and anyone to do with parliament, for their service. On behalf of the Liberal Party, I wish everyone a good, refreshing break and safe travel for those who are going away.