

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR. CAHILL

BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THURSDAY, 22ND OCTOBER, 1959

Mr. Speaker, honourable members will be aware of the fact that after an illness which it was hoped was purely minor and temporary, Mr. Cahill, the Premier of New South Wales, died this morning. I think none of us would wish this unhappy occasion to pass without reference to it being made in this House. Mr. Cahill was, of course, much too young to die, but he had for many years worked with great devotion and great energy for the causes that he believed in and for the State over whose political fortunes he was called to preside.

During the time I have been Prime Minister I saw a great deal of Mr. Cahill. I will always be pleased to remember that I had the greatest respect for him, and that we lived, though on opposite sides of politics, on terms of close personal friendship. I think he was a man of integrity and a man of devotion to the cause that he understood and which he did so much to lead. When one knows a man of that kind one inevitably expresses sadness at the news of his death.

It may perhaps be of some comfort to those he has left behind to know, as they will know when the record of these few minutes is produced, that though he was strongly attached to his party, and never unwilling to break a lance in the political lists, he died, nevertheless, holding the respect, and, I think, the affection of everybody in this place. I make only those few remarks. It is difficult to say very much. I have been shocked by this news; so have we all.

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