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PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

13 OCTOBER, 1976.

IVOR GREENWOOD

Mr Speaker: It is with great sadness that I inform the House that Ivor Greenwood, Senator for Victoria, died this morning.

Ivor Greenwood's death is a tragedy that has made a heavy impact on all Members of this Parliament. Ivor Greenwood was a man of very great ability, at the height of his powers, with a major contribution to make to his country.

I know that I speak for all Members of this House when I express our deepest sympathy to his family - to his wife and children. These last months have been a terrible period for them all, and they have our deepest regrets.

All of us who knew Ivor Greenwood respected him as a man of integrity and high principle - a man who sought unswervingly to do what he believed to be right. He could always be relied upon to state his views strongly and openly. He was a most valuable contributor to debates in the Cabinet.

Ivor Greenwood was a man of courage. Even if some view he adopted was unpopular, he refused to be deflected from his stand if he believed an important point of principle was involved. Throughout his life, Ivor Greenwood pursued all his interests with intensity and purpose.

Ivor Greenwood was born in Melbourne in 1926. His early schooling was at Hartwell State School and Mont Albert Central. He won a scholarship to Scotch College for the last four years of his secondary education. Later, at Melbourne University he combined a study of Law with an active interest in politics.

Perceptive in politics from an early age, he joined the Liberal Club and became its President in 1947, at the age of 21. Two years later he became President of the University's Students Representative Council.

His career in the Law was a distinguished one. He first became Associate to Sir Frank Kitto on the High Court, and later to Sir Owen Dixon. He was admitted to the Victorian Bar in 1951.

From then on, he pursued his two interests, the Law and politics, with significant achievement in both. The year after his admission to the Bar he became a member of the Victorian Liberal Executive, serving there from 1952 to 1966, when he became Vice President of the Liberal Party in Victoria.

While his legal career progressed - principally in equity and commercial cases - he entered vigorously into the affairs of the profession, becoming secretary to the Law Council of Australia, a position he held from 1963 to 1968. In 1969 he took the silk.

Ivor Greenwood always had a genuine interest in helping younger members of the Liberal Party to improve their understanding of, and effectiveness in, politics. I know his interest was greatly appreciated by them.

Ivor Greenwood entered the Senate in 1968 and was elected and re-elected in 1969, 1970, 1974 and 1975.

His great ability was rapidly recognised and he became Minister for Health in 1971, and then Attorney General in 1971/72.

During the Liberal Party's period in Opposition, 1972/75, Ivor Greenwood was one of those who worked hard to equip the Party with the policies it needed to return to Government.

He became Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate in 1972.

After the Liberal Party returned to Government he became Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development. He undertook his new portfolio with enthusiasm and dedication.

Throughout his life, Ivor Greenwood had a consuming passion for justice.

He was dedicated to the rule of law because he believed that it was only the law which protected the weak from the powerful.

He believed that the law - and regard for the law - was the greatest safeguard of liberty.

He was profoundly disturbed whenever he believed that the law was being flouted or denied.

Ivor Greenwood was a man who obtained great respect from his colleagues. His was a life that stood courageously for principles of justice and fairness for all.

His death is a great loss to the Parliament and to the nation.

Mr Speaker: I move that this House expresses its deep regret at the death, this day, of Senator the Honourable Ivor John Greenwood, Queens Counsel, Senator for the State of Victoria from 1968, a Minister of the Crown from 1971 to 1972 and from 1975 to 1976, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate from 1972 to 1975, and Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate from 1975 to 1976, places on record its appreciation of his long and meritorious public service and tenders its profound sympathy to his widow and the members of his family in their bereavement.