



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

TUESDAY, 13 OCTOBER, 1981

CONDOLENCE MOTION FOR THE HON. PATRICK JOHN KENNELLY

Mr. Speaker, I move: "that this House expresses its deep regret at the death on 12 October of the Hon. Patrick John Kennelly, a Senator from Victoria from 1953 to 1971 and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate from 1956 to 1967, places on record its appreciation of his long and meritorious public service and tenders its profound sympathy to his widow and family in their bereavement".

Pat Kennelly had a lifetime association with the Labor movement. Before entering Commonwealth Parliament, he served for fourteen years in the Victorian Legislative Council as Member for Melbourne West, eventually becoming leader of his Party in that Chamber.

From 1945 to 1947 he was the Commissioner of Public Works and Minister in Charge of Electrical Undertakings in the Labor Government. In 1945 he became the Federal Secretary of the Australian Labor Party, a position he retained for eight years. In 1953 he was elected to the Senate.

During his 18 years as a Senator he served on several Parliamentary Committees including the Committee of Disputed Returns and Qualifications, and the Joint Committee on Constitutional Review. He was also temporary Chairman of Committees from 1968.

Senator Kennelly was Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate from 1956 to 1967. Pat Kennelly served his nation, his State, the Senate, and the Labor movement with distinction. He was unstinting in his support for his Labor ideals and a vigorous defender of his Party's policies.

When I entered Parliament in 1955, Pat Kennelly had already won wide respect for his political skills. While Pat Kennelly served in the Senate and I in the House of Representatives, I remember him as embodying many of the qualities of the old-time Labor movement.

He will be remembered as one of the most influential, dedicated and colourful figures in the history of the Labor Party.