



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

TUESDAY AUGUST 17 1982

CONDOLENCE MOTION FOR CHARLES EDWARD GRIFFITHS

I move, "that this House expresses its deep regret at the death on 17 May of Charles Edward Griffiths, a Member of this House for the Division of Shortland from 1949 to 1972, places on record its appreciation of his long and meritorious public service and tenders its sympathy to his family in their bereavement".

All Members will be saddened to learn of the death of one of our former colleagues, Charles Griffiths. Charles Griffiths was born on 26 June 1903 at Jesmond in New South Wales. He was educated at the Bribbaree Public School. Upon leaving school, Charles Griffiths joined the New South Wales Railway. He became actively involved in union affairs, and was in turn an organiser and State councillor of the Australian Railways Union and from 1940 - 1952, State Secretary of that union.

He was first elected to this House at the general election of 1949 for the newly created seat of Shortland. In his maiden speech to this House on 28 February 1950, he spoke of the great sacrifices made by the working people of Australia to aid the war effort and the evil influence of communism which he believed could be defeated if people could look to a secure economic future, free from poverty.

Charles Griffiths served as a member of the Printing Committee from 1951 to 1954, and was a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works from 1959 to 1966. He was a member of the Australian delegation to the 9th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1964 and in 1966 was a member of a Parliamentary delegation to South Asia.

In 1969, he was a member of the Parliamentary mission which visited Hong Kong, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan. At the general election of 1972, he retired from this Parliament.

On behalf of the Government and the people of Australia, I extend my sympathy to his widow Jess and his family in their bereavement.

---o0o---