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L. Gray (12)



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

TUESDAY, 17 AUGUST 1982

CONDOLENCE MOTION FOR NORMAN MAKIN

I move "That this House expresses its deep regret at the death on 20 July 1982 of Norman John Oswald Makin, A.O., a member of this House for the Division of Hindmarsh from 1919 to 1946, Speaker from 1929 to 1931, Member for the Division of Sturt from 1954 to 1955, Member for the Division of Bonython from 1955 to 1963, a Minister of the Crown during the Second World War, Ambassador to the United States of America from 1946 to 1951, first President of the Security Council of the United Nations in 1946 and 1947, and it places on record its appreciation of his long and meritorious public service and tenders its profound sympathy to his family in their bereavement."

All of us were saddened to learn of the death of Norman Makin on 20 July. Norman Makin served Australia in a large number of capacities with great distinction. In his maiden speech in this House in March 1920, Mr Makin spoke of his intention to further the interests of the country and to further its general prosperity and progress. He worked to this end in and out of the Commonwealth Parliament with distinction for the next 62 years. In his last speech in this place in October 1963, he returned to that same theme of the need to build up Australia, saying that the Australian people had the capacity and courage to continue to build up their country.

Norman Makin was born on 31 March 1889 at Petersham in New South Wales. He was educated at the Central Public School in Broken Hill and in 1918 was elected President of the South Australian branch of the Australian Labor Party and was first elected as a Member of the House of Representatives for Hindmarsh in 1919. When Mr Scullin became Prime Minister in 1929, Norman Makin was elected Speaker of this House. As Speaker he was committed to this institution and was well respected by all who came into contact with him. Norman Makin also served with distinction on a number of committees of this House.

From 1922 to 1925, he was a member of the Commonwealth delegation to the Empire Parliamentary Association in the United Kingdom and, in 1937, he was a member of the delegation which again visited that country for the coronation of King VI. Norman Makin was also a member of the Standing Orders Committee from 1932 to 1946 and from 1956 until his retirement from this Parliament in 1963.

During the Second World War, Norman Makin was a member of the Australian Advisory War Council from October 1940 to 1945. He served as Minister for the Navy and Minister for Munitions from 1941 to 1946, during which time he presided over the rapid expansion of the Royal Australian Navy. He was Minister for Aircraft Production from 1945 to 1946.

In 1946 he resigned from the House of Representatives to become Australia's first Ambassador to the United States, remaining in that post until 1951. In 1946 and 1947 he was also the first President of the Security Council of the United Nations. In both posts he was able to serve this nation and the cause of international peace and security with distinction.

In the general election of 1954, Norman Makin was re-elected to the House of Representatives as the Member for Sturt.

Following a redistribution of seats in 1955, he was elected as Member for Bonython and retained this seat until his retirement from Parliament in 1963.

Norman Makin gave many years of devoted service to this House and to Australia. He was a Minister, Speaker, a Member for many years and our ambassador in a post which was and still is vital to our interests. Above all, he was a man immensely proud of his country and the movement he so ably represented. He was awarded the Order of Australia in 1980. Norman Makin is survived by two sons. His wife, Ruby, predeceased him. On behalf of the Government and the people of Australia, I extend my sympathies to his family.