

EMBARGO: 8. 30 P.M.

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR E.G. WHITLAM,
Q.C., M.P., ON THE OCCASION OF THE GOVERNOR-
GENERAL'S DINNER, TUESDAY 9 JULY 74

SIR PAUL HASLUCK'S LONG AND REMARKABLE CAREER HAS BEEN LANDMARKED BY AN EXTRAORDINARY NUMBER OF "FIRSTS". TO OPEN A PARLIAMENT AND FAREWELL IT ON THE SAME DAY IS A RECORD LIKELY TO STAND FOR A VERY LONG TIME. THIS OCCASION IS ABOVE ALL A PARLIAMENTARY OCCASION. WE FAREWELL A FORMER COLLEAGUE OF 20 YEARS. THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, HOWEVER, IS A CONSTITUENT PART OF A PARLIAMENT WHICH CONSISTS OF THE QUEEN, THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. AS THE QUEEN'S REPRESENTATIVE IN AUSTRALIA, HIS EXCELLENCY IS PART OF THIS PARLIAMENT. SO IT IS DOUBLY FITTING THAT THIS MEMORABLE DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE PARLIAMENT AND, I TRUST, A MEMORABLE DAY CROWNING A VERY MEMORABLE CAREER SHOULD END HERE.

AND A GREAT CAREER IT HAS BEEN INDEED -
A CAREER OF HIGH ACCOMPLISHMENT BY A MOST HIGHLY
ACCOMPLISHED AUSTRALIAN. THE LIST IS EXTRAORDINARY -
JOURNALIST, AUTHOR, HISTORIAN, ACADEMIC, CIVIL
SERVANT, DIPLOMATIST, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT,
MINISTER OF THE CROWN, VICEROY- A CAREER
REMARKABLE IN ITS DIVERSITY, YET EQUALLY REMARKABLE
IN ITS CONSISTENCY. THERE HAS NOT BEEN A PRO-CONSUL
OF MORE DIVERSE ATTAINMENT SINCE CICERO.
THIS SHINING CAREER HAS ONE CLEAR, CONSISTENT THEME,
THE SERVICE OF AUSTRALIA AND THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA.
IN ONE CAPACITY OR ANOTHER, HE HAS BEEN IN THE SERVICE
OF THE CROWN AND THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE
FOR AN UNINTERRUPTED THIRTY-FIVE YEARS.
IN THE BRIEF PERIODS WHEN HE WAS NOT HELPING TO MAKE
AUSTRALIAN HISTORY, HE WAS TEACHING IT OR WRITING IT.

AND NO LESS REMARKABLE, LADY HASLUCK,
AN HISTORIAN IN HER OWN RIGHT, OF ELEGANCE AND
CHARM IN HER WRITING AND HER PERSON ALIKE.

AROUND THIS ROOM ARE SCORES OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH HIS EXCELLENCY IN VARIOUS PERIODS OF HIS CAREER, WHO HAVE WORKED WITH HIM OR WORKED UNDER HIM. THERE ARE THOSE OF US WHO WERE HIS PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUES, MANY OF THEM HIS FORMER MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUES. THERE ARE PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO SERVED HIM AS MINISTER. AND THERE ARE PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO WERE HIS COLLEAGUES WHEN HE TOO, WAS A PUBLIC SERVANT. I MIGHT BE FORGIVEN IF I SINGLE OUT FOR MENTION THOSE WHO WERE ASSOCIATED WITH HIM ON A UNIQUE OCCASION OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THIS NATION. HE WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS TO THE FIRST SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

HIS COLLEAGUES IN NEW YORK WERE MR. ARTHUR TANGE, MR. JOHN MOORE, MR. ALAN RENOUF AND MISS JULIA DRAKE-BROCKMAN. SIR ARTHUR TANGE HAS BECOME SECRETARY OF THE DEFENCE DEPARTMENT, MR. JUSTICE MOORE HAS BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION COMMISSION, MR. RENOUF HAS BECOME SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND MISS DRAKE-BROCKMAN HAS BECOME MRS. MOORE. OUR FIRST PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS IS ASSEMBLED HERE AGAIN TONIGHT TO FAREWELL ITS CHIEF.

HIS EXCELLENCY HAD THE UNIQUE EXPERIENCE OF COMING TO HEAD AS MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE DEPARTMENT IN WHICH HE HAD SERVED.

THERE IS A NICE SYMMETRY ABOUT HIS EXECUTIVE CAREER. AS HE HIMSELF RECORDS IN THE PREFACE TO THE SECOND VOLUME OF HIS WAR HISTORY, HIS PROMOTION TO THE MINISTRY WAS HASTENED BY THE DOUBLE DISSOLUTION OF 1951; HIS LAST FORMAL DUTY WAS TO OPEN A PARLIAMENT WHICH WAS CREATED THROUGH A DOUBLE DISSOLUTION WHICH HE HIMSELF HAD GRANTED. HE DID NOT ATTAIN THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP, BUT WITHOUT IN ANY WAY DEROGATING FROM THE DISTINGUISHED CANDIDATES WHO SOUGHT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LIBERAL PARTY AFTER THE TRAGIC EVENT OF DECEMBER 1967, IT IS NO SECRET THAT AT THE TIME I WOULD HAVE REGARDED PAUL HASLUCK AS THE MOST FORMIDABLE OPPONENT. I AM NOT SAYING THAT WE WOULD HAVE LOST THE ELECTIONS IN 1972, BUT PERHAPS WE MIGHT NOT HAVE WON.

HOWEVER THAT MAY BE, HE DID COME TO HEAD ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND EXPEDITIOUS EXECUTIVE COUNCILS WE HAVE EVER HAD. IT WAS A HAPPY, HARMONIOUS, HEADY TRIUMVIRATE. FOR THOSE TWO WEEKS IN DECEMBER, 1972, THERE WAS TOTAL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC UNANIMITY AMONG ALL TWENTY-SEVEN MINISTRIES. AND IN THOSE DAYS WE STRUCK AN ACCORD WITH THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL WHICH HAS REMAINED UNMARRIED, UNDIMINISHED.

HIS GOVERNOR-GENERALSHIP, THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH HE WAS PLACED AS GOVERNOR-GENERAL, CONFIRM CONCLUSIVELY, IF CONFIRMATION WERE NEEDED, THREE GREAT TRUTHS: THE ABSOLUTE FITNESS OF APPOINTING AUSTRALIANS TO AUSTRALIA'S HIGHEST POSITION, THE ABSOLUTE FITNESS OF POLITICIANS TO HOLD THAT OFFICE AND THE ABSOLUTE ABILITY OF OPPOSING POLITICIANS TO BURY PARTISANSHIP IN THE SERVICE OF THE NATION.

SIR PAUL HASLUCK'S CAREER IS ITSELF A TRIBUTE TO THE BASIC STRENGTH AND STABILITY OF THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM WHICH HE SERVED FOR SO LONG WITH SUCH FIDELITY. AT A TIME WHEN PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY IS EVERYWHERE UNDERGOING TREMENDOUS STRESSES WHICH CHALLENGE ITS BASIC ASSUMPTIONS, WHICH CHALLENGE ITS VERY SURVIVAL, IT IS GOOD TO BE REMINDED OF THE TRUE SOURCES OF ITS STRENGTH AND TO HAVE IN THE PERSON AND CAREER OF OUR OWN GOVERNOR-GENERAL, A POWERFUL, LIVING REMINDER OF THE HUMAN QUALITIES BY WHICH ALONE THAT STRENGTH CAN BE MAINTAINED.