

Senator Cooney - I think the seminar has been a quite successful gathering. A lot of people do a lot of work making arrangements, and I want to mention Jacquie Hawkins, Dianne Simpson, Nancy Myles and Sue Blunden. Thank you all very much for the organising you have done. I want to thank the participants for their attendance and for the contributions that have been made. If we conduct another seminar, the general thrust perhaps should be to have more discussion and more exchanges. However, there were plenty of things to say and, as it was an anniversary event, I suppose we all had to leave great words on the record to be read in *Hansard* 1,000 years from now! And I thank *Hansard*. As I say, a thousand years from now they will be got out and read.

There are lots and lots of things that did arise that we have got to think about. Could I just say one thing about the party system and the Executive, which has come in for a bit of stick today. I am perhaps the only politician here that got in as a result of being a member of the Australian Labor Party, in my case, therefore I have to congratulate all the other politicians here who got in on their own merit.

I simply say that to point out a factor that when we are looking at all this and looking at the Executive and looking at the party system that the voters of Australia have, whether we like it or not, opted for the party system. That is the first thing to talk about. Secondly, under the system that we have got, the Executive does need some sort of support from the party that it is drawn from, otherwise it is going to be a fairly hairy business of its trying to administer if it does not quite know what its backbench is going to do and what its Ministers are going to do.

I say that to indicate to you that - and, again, it has been pointed out I think fairly - it is a matter of balance that we are talking about here. That is what makes the exercise fairly difficult. I notice that Hugh Hiscutt is here from the Tasmanian Parliament. If he wanted to go off and do whatever he wanted to do it might be hard for the Executive that he hoped to support I suppose soon to function. Nevertheless, like the rest of us, he has to somehow say 'Look, when you intrude upon civil liberties it is a very heavy onus that you bear'.

To conclude: thanks for all the help, and let us talk about this matter further because it must be talked about. Perhaps the best thing about the Committee is that it has existed for 10 years, it has struck interest and it has, as I say, represented what we as parliamentarians do honestly, as do those who help us. The Public Service has come in for a bit of stick, I think a bit unfairly because the members of the Public Service I have come across are, by and large, intent on the same sort of thing of trying to strike that balance. It is not that any particular group is saying, 'Look, there should not be disregard of civil liberties. There should not be a disregard of peoples' rights'. What they are saying is that when you are looking at those, where is the fulcrum of the balance to be set; closer towards what is regarded as the needs of the community, or closer to individual rights? That is the issue.

Finally, I would like to thank some people that I have not mentioned for coming, and they are the people associated with such bodies as the Administrative Review Council and those from the universities. I will not name them, but they are very much about the same task, and that is the other thing we have got to look at more and more in the future - the co-ordination between those bodies that are doing all that good work.

In fact, we are meeting with the ARC on Thursday week. There was a great battle there for a while about where we were going to meet, whether it would be up here, in which case we would have to pay for the supper, or down there where they would have to pay. We lost, which just goes to show that we do crumble to pressure - and that is probably where John Uhr is right!

Mr Harry Evans - I have an announcement to make with which we will conclude the proceedings. A rash promise was made earlier that the papers would be available at the conclusion of the proceedings. In fact, that has proved to be somewhat rash. I am told that the papers will be made available in the very, very near future to all attendees of the Seminar.

Thank you very much for coming.

Seminar adjourned at 5.06 p.m.