

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF HOUSE OF KEYS

Douglas, Tuesday, 16th March 1998
at 10.00 a.m.

Present:

The Speaker (the Hon N Q Cringle) (Rushen); Mr L I Singer and Hon A R Bell (Ramsey); Hon R E Quine OBE (Ayre); Mr J D Q Cannan (Michael); Hon H Hannan (Peel); Mr W A Gilbey (Glenfaba); Mr S C Rodan (Garff); Hon D North (Middle); Mr P Karran and Hon R K Corkill (Onchan); Messrs J R Houghton and E A Crowe (Douglas North); Hon D C Cretney and Mr A C Duggan (Douglas South); Mr R P Braidwood and Mrs B J Cannell (Douglas East); Messrs J P Shimmin and A F Downie (Douglas West); Hon J A Brown (Castletown); Hon D J Gelling (Malew and Santon); Sir Miles Walker CBE LLD (hc), and Mrs P M Crowe (Rushen); with Prof T StJ N Bates, Secretary of the House.

The Chaplain took the prayers.

Election To The Legislative Council

The Speaker: Hon. members, we just have the one item on the agenda paper this morning, one item to deal with which is the election of one person to serve as a Member of the Legislative Council from 1st March 1998 for a period expiring on 28th February 2003. I call upon the hon. member for Douglas East, Mrs Cannell.

Mrs Cannell: Mr Speaker, hon. members, it gives me great pleasure to propose Adrian Carlos Duggan, the hon. member for South Douglas, for a seat on the Legislative Council.

Adrian Duggan was born in Douglas in 1942 and educated at Douglas High School. He is happily married to Marian and they have three children.

Adrian has assisted in the family business of funeral directors, along with his father who was himself a former town councillor of Douglas for many years. Not surprisingly, Adrian followed in his father's footsteps, being elected to represent the people of Hills Ward from 1976 to 1981 as a Douglas town councillor. Having spent five years cutting his teeth, one might say, he went on and was successfully elected to represent the people of South Douglas in the House of Keys general elections of 1981 and 1986, topping the poll on both occasions. The people returned him again in 1991 and 1996. He has represented the people well for a total of 22 years and it can be truly said that he does have the people's mandate.

Adrian Duggan has gained a wealth of political knowledge and expertise during his time in the House of Keys. He has served on the Local Government Board, the Board of Education. He has been Chairman of the Water Authority, Chairman of the Assessment Board, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Consumer Affairs, Chairman of the Buildings Trade Council, Chairman of the Fire Rescue Services and more recently a member of the Department of Home Affairs and member of the Public Accounts Committee.

During my short time in this hon. House I can honestly say that I have always found him to be a most courteous, conscientious person, a true gentleman and a man of the people, one who listens at grass roots level and knows how to fight his corner well, a man of great patience and integrity.

I believe Adrian Duggan is a most suitable candidate for a seat on the Legislative Council, where I know that he will continue to serve the people of the Island, always with their best interests at heart. I beg to move, Mr Speaker.

Mr Cannan: Mr Speaker, I have much pleasure in seconding the hon. member for South Douglas. Like all of us here, he is here by right. He represents the people and has the confidence and support of the people and has indeed had that support and confidence since way back in 1976, when for five years he was on Douglas Town Council and consistently and at every election for the House of Keys from 1981 to the present time has enjoyed the support of his constituents. If democracy is to mean anything, then Tynwald must be by the people, of the people, for the people. Thank you.

The Speaker: I call on the hon. member for Rushen, Sir Miles Walker.

Sir Miles Walker: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am privileged to nominate as a candidate for election to the Legislative Council Mr Robert Brisco MacGregor Quayle. When Robert Quayle was approached to see if he would allow his name to be put forward he readily agreed, and I am deeply appreciative to him for that.

The guidance notes for elections to the Legislative Council remind us that the Keys have a statutory duty, within 14 days from the date on which the elected members of the Council go out of office at the expiry of their terms, to elect members to the Council to fill the vacancies so created. It was clear from the results of our first round of elections a week ago last Tuesday that there would be a challenge to all of us to find acceptable persons for nomination. It is my belief that Robert Quayle is such a person and that his background, his interests and his attitude make him an ideal candidate to fill the vacancy.

Serving this House as its Secretary and as Clerk of Tynwald for a little more than 10 years in a very acceptable way, he exercised a particular skill in building personal relationships with parliamentarians both here and throughout the world and enjoyed a particular interest in the work of the CPA. The success of our millennium in 1979 was due in no small way to the energies and interest of Robert Quayle as secretary to the Tynwald Committee.

He left behind his parliamentary responsibilities in 1987 to serve as the first resident partner of Travers Smith Braithwaite, a firm of English solicitors. Since resigning as resident partner Robert has involved himself in the commercial life of this Island and holds directorships in a number of our leading companies and which he has listed in his letter to hon. members. That letter he wrote on my suggestion and at the end of it invited any member who required further clarification or wished to speak to him on any matter to do with his candidature to give him a ring or otherwise get in touch.

Any attempt of mine to describe Robert Quayle's wish to serve the people of this Island would be bound to fall short. I can do no better than list some of the involvements that he has mentioned in his letter. At various times he has been involved with the Salvation Army Advisory Council, the Manx Foundation for the Physically Disabled, the Life organisation, the Scripture Union in Schools. Until 1977 he was acting chief executive of the Manx Blind Welfare Society. He has been a Methodist local preacher and is now lay reader in the parishes of Patrick, St John's and Foxdale. He is currently clerk to the Patrick Parish Commissioners. He has served on two committees of inquiry into the Isle of Man prison and is currently

chairman of the Work Permit Committee. From this long list of interests I am sure it is clear that Robert Quayle's interest in our local community is very real.

He enjoys the support of his wife Clare, has five children and is a committed family man: obviously a busy person, well organised and, to my mind, well equipped to serve as a Member of the Legislative Council, if so elected. So, Mr Speaker, I have the greatest of pleasure in nominating Mr Robert Brisco MacGregor Quayle as a candidate for election to the Legislative Council. Thank you, sir.

Mr Gilbey: Mr Speaker, I have very great pleasure in seconding the proposal that Mr Robert Quayle should be elected a Member of the Legislative Council, for the following reasons.

Firstly, it will mean that once again the west of the Island will have representation in the Council, which it used to have in the past. There are already representatives of the north, the south and the east in the Council and in the past there used to be representation from the four main geographical areas. Indeed such balanced representation was purposefully sought.

Then I believe that Robert Quayle is someone who really believes that to govern is to serve. As is clear from his biography and the letter that has been circulated to hon. members, he has served the community for the whole of his working life. Indeed he has been far more active than most people in helping such worthy organisations as the Salvation Army, the Manx Foundation for the Physically Disabled, the Scripture Union in Schools, and the Manx Blind Welfare Society.

He also willingly stepped into the breach when the acting clerk of Patrick Parish Commissioners resigned in the middle of an election. His work for the commissioners has been so efficient and valuable that six years later he is still their clerk.

I have personal knowledge of the efficient and helpful way in which he carries out his duties. I also personally believe that his wide business experience will be of the greatest value to the legislature and the government, as will be his parliamentary and legal experience.

Finally, I am certain that he is not a person to join any clique but someone who will speak and vote regarding each issue according to his view of the merits of the case, and therefore for all these reasons I have the greatest pleasure in seconding his nomination.

The Speaker: Hon. members, we will distribute the ballot papers. Ballot papers, hon. members, have been provided with the two names, that of Adrian Duggan and Robert Quayle. Hon. member, has everybody got their ballot paper? Can I invite the hon. member for Malew and Santon and the hon. member for Ayre to be the tellers, please?

A ballot took place.

The Speaker: Hon. members, the result of the ballot is that Mr Duggan received 8 votes and Mr Quayle received 8 votes. Hon. members, we will ballot again on the same two names. Again, hon. members, this will be your final ballot on the two names. Has every member got their ballot paper? The same scrutineers, please.

A second ballot took place.

The Speaker: Hon. members, the result of the ballot is that Mr Duggan received 9 votes, Mr Quayle received 7 votes. Hon. members, I think that we will again have to call for new

nominations. I propose to call for new nominations by Friday 20th March and we will conduct the election at our sitting on 31st March.

That being all the business in front of the House this morning, hon. members, the House will stand adjourned till tomorrow morning at 10.30 in Tynwald chamber.

The House adjourned at 10.24 a.m.