

**Tribute to Mr P Karran MHK
and thanks for parliamentary service**

The President: Hon. Members, this is the last sitting of this Court before the General Election and it is not long now until the dissolution of the House of Keys on 11th August. Four Members have indicated their intention to stand down at that election.

Peter Karran, Hon. Member for Onchan, perhaps defies conventional description, but as a parliamentarian for more than 30 years he has been a fighter and a champion of causes he sincerely believes in, and he has exploited with skill every opportunity open to him to speak out fearlessly in pursuit of his political objectives, whether that be the use of Questions, motions or the promotion of legislation.

Peter was elected first as Member in a by-election for the old Middle constituency in 1985, and since then, consistently topping the polls, his constituents have returned him a further six times. He came here when he was 24 and would appear to have lost none of his youthful energy with the passing of the years, or in fact to have aged at all, unlike the rest of us, who have, from time to time, been subject of his verbal onslaughts. He has served constituents and people who have not been constituents; he has served in Government as Member for Health and Chairman of the Water Authority; he has been a Minister for a short period; he has started a political party. Often, he has gone charging over the cliff, leaving behind who might have been his sympathisers, and I have told him this to his face in the past, and he has put his –

Mr Karran: It's putting your head above the kerb.

The President: Unfortunately, when you say you have put your head above the kerb it implies you are in the gutter! *(Laughter)* I know that is not what you meant.

And now his white elephants have come home to roost, *(Laughter)* **(Two Members:** Hear, hear.) because he is leaving us. He has made a remarkable contribution to political life and to the Isle of Man.

Peter, we thank you and we wish you well in the future. *[Members applauded]*

Several Members: Hear, hear.