

Retirement Dinner for Commissioner JP O Sullivan APM
Hilton Hotel
31 October 2000

7pm for 7.30pm

Your Excellency and Mrs Arnison, Minister and Mrs Barton, Commissioner and Mrs O Sullivan, ladies and gentlemen

At the last stroke of midnight, the people of Queensland will lose a Commissioner of Police who has served them, certainly "with honour", and with much more in addition: great courage and unquestionable integrity are but two other features of this signally fine Queensland leader which immediately come to mind.

One tends naturally to focus on the then Detective Inspector and later Superintendent O Sullivan's role during the turbulent term of the Fitzgerald Inquiry in the late 80s. He instrumentally helped lift important aspects of the State's administration from the twilight back into the sunshine. His honesty and courage meant he consequently lost the friendship of many people; but he also thereby gained the substantial respect of persons considerably more worthy.

The Commissioner's contribution to Queensland, now over as many as 41 years, has, however, been much broader. As the "competent detective" he always wanted to be, he worked beneficially over many years for communities to the far north of the State, and into the far west.

That long public service culminated in a distinctively beneficial influence State-wide, through his work over the last eight years as Commissioner.

Leading his team, the Commissioner effectively re-created a respected police service in which the people now have an easy confidence, a service he may now pass with proud satisfaction to Assistant Commissioner Bob Atkinson.

The Commissioner has, in all of this, had the wonderful support of Adele and Avis and Melinda, and I am sure he would acknowledge he could not have achieved, as he has, without them.

That I speak briefly, ladies and gentlemen, must not be taken as suggesting any lack of enthusiasm for my subject: it reflects, merely, the circumstance that I am to be followed by, I think, 10 other speakers!

I am indeed greatly honoured to have this opportunity, on behalf of the judicial arm

of government, to express congratulations and appreciation to the Commissioner and Del, for their conspicuously fine contribution to the good government of the people at its highest levels; and to wish them well as they enter an interestingly different, new phase of their lives together.