

PERSONAL STATEMENT

7. Tribute to Mr. Leonard Picot

The Bailiff:

As I indicated before the adjournment, I want to pay tribute to the memory of a former Member of this Assembly, Leonard Picot - or Len Picot as he was known - who died recently. Len Picot was elected as Connétable of Trinity and sworn into office on 24th April 1987. He was a member of the Harbours and Airport and Occupation and Liberation Committees and, on his re-election to office in 1990, a member of the Agriculture and Fisheries Committee as well. Len Picot followed the traditional route through to the office of Connétable by serving in the Honorary Police in his Parish, first as a Constables Officer and later as a Centenier. By the time he retired as Connétable in 1993 he had given 33 years of honorary service to his Parish. He was also a country man through and through having worked on the family farm since leaving Victoria College. He joined and played a part in the activities of many agricultural societies and associations including the Jersey Farmers Union, the Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society and numerous others. Having lived through the German occupation, Len Picot was keen that people should not forget either the hardships that were endured or the lessons to be learned from that experience. As Connétable he was responsible for the establishment of the Captain Ayton Memorial near Egypt to commemorate the ill-fated commando raid in 1943. As a member of the Occupation and Liberation Committee, he played an important part in the arrangements which led to the erection of the lighthouse memorial on the New North Quay recording the names of those victims of Nazi oppression who were deported from Jersey and who did not return. He was a man of modest and unassuming character who never sought recognition or public acclaim for the things which he achieved in the interests of his Parish and his Island. He did not speak often in the Assembly, but when he did his contributions were succinct and heartfelt and Members listened with respect. He had a quiet and enduring Christian faith. I never heard him speak ill of another. His last years were, sadly, blighted by illness but he never lost his dry sense of humour. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, of 53 years and his 2 sons, to all of whom I express the sympathy of the Assembly. I ask Members to rise for a few moments' silence. **[Period of Silence Observed]** May he rest in peace.