

VERBATIM REPORT : MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
JOHANNESBURG HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL,
ON TUESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY, 1972.

COUNCILLOR J.F. OBERHOLZER. M.P.C.

Mr. Mayor, this is the last meeting of the Council, as you've just mentioned, after a five-year term of office. I believe, Sir, that during the past five years much has been achieved by all the Councillors in this Chamber. The Opposition has played its part and ... ek wil hulde bring aan Raadslid De Wet vir sy metode van optrede as leier van daardie kant van die Raad. Raadslid De Wet en sy span het hulle onder andere ook besig gehou met daardie aangeleenthede wat die Raad as sulks diep raak en hy het in meeste gevalle opbouende kritiek gelewer. Vir ons aan hierdie kant van die Raad, het die afgelope vyf jaar baie beteken in dié opsig ... dat ons kon orals sien hoedat ons prestasies om ons verrys. Everyone played a part in that growth ... in the growth of this city. We, from our side, have tried to create the right climate for entry into partnership with private enterprise to build a bigger and better city. I think, Sir, we have achieved that.

Now we come to the end of a five-year period and the doors of an era are being closed. When this Council re-assembles, it will look a little different to what it looks like now. We will see new faces here, signs of new enthusiasm, I think we have brought to bear on this Council, new ideas, new hopes, new aspirations, and may it still be done in a spirit that will augur well for the future of this city. For those, Sir, who are leaving, and who will not be returning, those who have indicated that they do not wish to return, I wish to pay a tribute of thanks for what they've done. I am referring, in alphabetical order to the members who will not be seeking re-election

Councillor Attwell, who has been here for 25 years. He was the Mayor when I entered this Council, he served the Council in many capacities, including that of Chairman of two Committees. Councillor Attwell, you have done your share, and we are grateful for the manner in which you did it, the manner in which you served this City.

Councillor Caldwell, I think, has something like 13 years' service. He is not returning. In the Utilities Committee his voice was heard on many many occasions, he was always furthering the interest of the Department, under whose jurisdiction that Committee fell. Councillor Caldwell we will miss you, I am quite sure that the voters of Bramley, especially the Ratepayers Association there with whom you worked in close association, will miss you.

Councillor Mrs. Olga Cronje, who has been here for five years. I want to pay tribute to her in the manner in which she has played her part. Mr. Chairman, the members on the opposite side wouldn't realise this, but she played her major part in our caucus room, believe you me, she's dressed down many a Chairman of the Committee in that caucus room, because she felt that on occasions things that she had been pleading for were not being done. And I must say Sir, that she brought a flair, and a dignity to this Council, which we all admire, and I wish to thank her for her contribution.

Councillor Dave Dalling ... who is not here ... he too served for five years, and we will miss him, a bright young lad. For business reasons, he is not returning to the Council, and we want to thank him for the sturdy work that he has performed as the Chairman of the Licensing Committee, and those who have appeared before him, will be

able to endorse the manner in which he has conducted the affairs of that Committee from time to time, and so will the people whose applications were rejected from time to time on meritorious grounds, rather than anything else.

Councillor Professor Krige has only been here for a short time, but he fought well for the area that he represented. On many occasions Councillor Magid didn't agree with him, but I must say, Sir, that he did his duty as he saw it, and his duty was of sufficient merit, for us to in fact include him in the thanks for his contribution that he made to this Council.

Raadslid Pieterse, sy baie sagte metode van optrede, daardie voorbeeld wat hy gestel het van sjarmantheid, as lid van hierdie Raad sal ons mis. Hy het ook vir jare gedien op die Utiliteits Komitee, en ek kan getuig, deur sy Voorsitter, dat hy hom baie maal bygestaan het, hom geonderskraag het en hom gehelp het in sy pligte en in sy taak. Ons sê aan hom baie dankie.

Councillor, Dr. Ross-Spencer, Sir, I think it's something like 13 or 14 years that he has been here and that too is a long time. He was honoured by his old university with a doctorate for the services that he has rendered to the City during his period of office. I remember so well, Sir, when he originally came to the Council ... I want to thank him for the work he has done, especially in the interests of the Coloured community. It is for that reason, Sir, that he is serving on that Committee today, I hope he will be able to continue to serve, in this type of capacity, in the work which he finds so interesting, and for which he has a special love. To him we say, thank you.

Raadslid Theunissen, ons kan amper sê Raadslid 'Bloudam' Theunissen. Hy kom ook nie weer terug nie, en aan hom wil ons ook 'n spesiale woord van dank uitspreek. Hy het sy gebied goed verteenwoordig. Hy het gesorg vir die verfraaiing van sy gebied, maar dit lyk vir my groot storms is besig om in die omgewing van Bloudam, die werk te vernietig. Maar ons kan hom die versekering gee dat ons enige skade wat daar aangerig mag word deur storms of stormwater sal herstel sodat die mense in daardie omgewing hom altyd sal onthou as Raadslid 'Bloudam' Theunissen. Baie dankie, ook vir u bydrae en u hulp.

Sir, we come to Councillor Zakar. He and I entered this Council together, and I remembered Councillor Zakar's first speech ... I think his maiden speech ... I believe his only speech! When he got up in this Council Sir, and he said, "Mr. Mayor, they have been speaking high-faluting English and high-faluting Afrikaans today, and believe you me, it's all Greek to me!" Sir, he is one of the backroom boys, he is the type of person who works very quietly behind the scenes, but always looking after the needs of his constituents and the needs of his ward. He takes up matters personally with officials when representations are made to him in respect of his ward. The other day, Sir, ... as I have now taken over a portion of his ward ... I had to remind a voter who complained of never seeing Councillor Zakar's name in the newspaper for making speeches ... I said he was making work, not speeches. Sir, what manner of man is he? We both come from the South, we have known each other for all the years and before he came to this Council ... he has been here for just over 21 years ... the

same as I ... I remember so well when we fought our first election. I think this is indicative of Councillor Zakar's character. He was fighting an old Labourite by the name of Jagger. Jagger had two motor cars on election-day for fetching voters, and both motor cars broke down. He complained that he now had no transport at all for his voters, Councillor Zakar went to his transport officer and he said; "Can you spare ten cars?" and the transport officer said, "With a pinch I could." He said, "Ask ten people to go and collect banners from Mr. Jagger and take down our banners - those days we had enormously big banners on the back of our cars ... "and go and collect Mr. Jagger's voters for him." Sir, I don't think one will find this type of magnanimous gesture today at election time anywhere in this Council. I want to say to Councillor Zakar, personally, what a pleasure it has been for me to work with him over the years, especially on our Committee, the Planning and Technical Services Committee. He has always given me the greatest support, when he had disagreed he had said so and most of the time before the meeting! He has been a tower of strength on that Committee in his quiet particular manner, and I wish to thank him for that.

Sir, Councillor Gorshel is also retiring. I am sorry he is not here because I would have liked to have paid a special tribute to Councillor Alec Gorshel. His is a popular name in Johannesburg, he has served the City in many capacities as Councillor Sklaar had already indicated today, he busied himself with the arts, his contribution there was such that he was honoured in a special fashion, and we want to say thank you to him for his service.

Now, Sir, I come to the last name, and certainly not the least, that is Councillor Dr. Patrick Lewis. Councillor Lewis has been here for 16 years. He entered the Council ... I think it was by way of a by-election ... Mrs. Jean Sinclair having retired from the Council. Hierdie man, Meneer die Burgemeester, het diep spore getrap in die geskiedenis van hierdie stad. Hy het aan hierdie stad ook 'n waardigheid gebring wat vir die stad en dié wat hom sal opvolg van groot betekenis sal wees. Nie net van groot betekenis nie, maar hy het ook vir ons 'n voorbeeld gestel wat almal kan volg, en sal volg. You know, Sir, when he first entered the Council and took over the Chairmanship of the Non-European Affairs Committee, it was at a rather torrid time ... there were many many difficulties, the late Dr. Verwoerd was then Minister of Native Affairs and after him Mr. De Wet Nel. It was Patrick Lewis who, through his personality, and also through his example, and his approach, was able to put the relationship between this Council and those two Ministers on an amiable and sound footing. It was then, Sir, that things began to happen in Johannesburg. I think that at times, the then leader of the Opposition, was a little jealous of the position that he held in the minds of those two gentlemen! I know on an occasion, Sir, het hy Raadslid Lewis gaan verkla by die Minister, en die Minister het nie notisie geneem van gewese Raadslid Cuyler nie. Soveel so dat hy by geleentheid hier gesê het in hierdie Raad, "Yes, I know the reason why, it is because you are the Minister's blue-eyed boy." Dit is wat hy van Raadslid Lewis gesê het. Dit was die soort optrede wat ons van hom gekry het, en wat ons van hom kon verwag. Mr. Mayor, when he leaves he will leave a void in this Council. Over the past year or so, whilst he was the Chairman of the

Management Committee and I the leader of the governing party, I want to state that there has been the closest co-operation between us. Dit is reg, ons het nog nooit mekaar baklei nie, - and I want to pay tribute to him, and convey a special word of personal thanks for what he has done in his capacity as Chairman, and also for the manner in which he has worked with me as the leader of the governing party.

Mr. Chairman, he is a man of high integrity and honesty of thought, he is a man with a sense of urgency when it comes to the interests of the city. He has served the city extremely well, and in his capacity he did not throw his weight around, he did not try to bully anyone, but got people to work together. Sir, some of the things that he has done will be everlasting monuments to his 'memory' ... I think of the Oriental Plaza. He is the father of the thought, of the displaced Indian traders, who will ultimately have to be removed from Pageview ... he thought that something unique should be done to assist these people in their plight, and this was agreed to by the higher authorities, for that too, Sir, we are thankful.

But this is the type of man that he is, thinking of others and their interests. He has worked himself into a state of ill-health for the City, he was warned to either leave the Council, or suffer the consequences. Sir, this is the dedication that we have received from him, he has served the City with greatest distinction, and we want to bring our thanks to him today. It must be a sad moment for him as this is the last Council Meeting after so many years of service. But he has brought to this Council also a dignity, which we can emulate, a dignity which I am sure will permeate through this Council and be transferred to those who are still to come.

I know, Sir, that the officials have indicated to me that they are sorry to see him go, they cannot today stand up and say it to him, but they have all admired Councillor Dr. Lewis. To him as a colleague and a friend, I say, cheerio, deliberately not goodbye, because I believe that in some measure, in some way, we will be able to make use of the vast experience, knowledge and ability of Councillor Dr. Lewis in the service of this City. First of all, of course, he must go and have a rest. To him and Mrs. Lewis, we say, a happy holiday until you come back again. It's sad to see him go, but then Sir, this is life, there is very little that we can do about it.

To all our colleagues then, who are leaving, alles van die beste, mag Gods rykste seën op u daal, mag u genoegsaamheid vind by u families.

Sir, I would like to thank our officials for the manner in which they have helped us during the five-year period. From the Town Clerk down ... especially our heads of departments we have outstanding officials. When we go into election campaigns, we don't like to admit that we have been able to achieve many things because of the calibre of the officials who serve this Council, and who advise Councillors. I want to pay a special tribute to them, and thank them for the service that they have rendered to the Councillors and of course to the City of Johannesburg they did this with such great application.

I want to thank the Press and the S.A.B.C., the eyes and the ears of the world and its mouthpiece as well. They have sat here on many occasions until late at night, they of course also 'phoned me late at night! Generally, by and large, I have no complaints as the leader of this side about the coverage and manner in which the speeches have been carried to the outside world from this Chamber, it's been done exceptionally well, for that Sir, we are very thankful.

We now come to you, Sir, the Mayor of Johannesburg. Like every Mayor, you have had a busy year ... like every Mayor ... you have had a busier year than the previous Mayor ... and this of course, Sir, includes your Deputy, the Mayoress and the Deputy Mayoress. You've had to attend more functions than the previous Mayor, you had to make more time available for your duties than anyone else. Because it is a dynamic City, it is a City that grows, and it will continue to grow until ultimately, someone says ... we think we should call a halt in respect of certain functions ... and have a rearrangement so that our Mayors will be able to cope in the 24 hours of the day which is available to them. Sir, you have carried this office during this year with a special "Alf Widman" characteristic, that "Over here" characteristic, is something which we have always detected. Sir, I want to say that you and the Mayoress have done it with great dignity the reports, Sir, from all over have been most favourable. I believe, Sir, that you and the Mayoress have done your jobs exceptionally well. You will be remembered for a long time in this City, your name has been inscribed in places that will last for 100 years or more, and I am thankful, Sir, that as a friend and a colleague that this happened to be the year in which these things

have been accomplished ... and I want to say on behalf of this Council "thank you" for your service and will you kindly also convey our sincere thanks to the Mayoress, the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress.

Sir, when we leave this Chamber, and we meet our colleagues or ex-colleagues in the years that lie ahead, we will remember only the happy occasions, not the unhappy ones, we will remember how we sat together and thought together in the interests of our great City, and I know that those who are leaving ... not to return ... will continue to be of service to the public ... and I am quite sure ... with the same enthusiasm and application as they have done in the past. With these words I wish to say "Thank you".

COUNCILLOR VENTER :

Mnr. die Burgemeester, in die eerste plek wil ek verskoning vra dat Raadslid De Wet ongelukkig nie nou hier kan wees nie, want hy sou graag hierdie huldeblyk wou gelewer het ... maar weens onvermydelike omstandighede is hy nie hier nie, en toe, op baie kort kennisgewing, moes ek oorneem. Maar dit is altyd vir my 'n heuglike geleentheid wanneer ek moet dankie sê aan mense vir diens wat hulle gelewer het, en veral wanneer die diens goed gelewer is en almal tevrede is daarmee.

Mnr. die Burgemeester, ek wil die volgorde so 'n bietjie verander, ek wil begin deur vir u en Mev. Widman baie dankie te sê vir die jaar van diens wat agter die rug is. U het nog so 'n kort rukkie om te gaan, maar dis nie meer baie lank nie. Ek ken u en Mev. Widman nou al baie jare, en ons ken u ook as 'n man wat weet wat hy wil doen, en wat doen wat hy wil doen. Ons ken u ook natuurlik van die tyd toe u nog hier op die "vloer" gesit het, en u kom nou weer volgende jaar terug, maar ek hoop dit sal met u gaan soos met die ander burgemeesters. Mnr. die Burgemeester, wanneer hulle klaar hulle tydperk uitgedien het en hulle kom terug, dan het hulle 'n bietjie ryper geword, hulle is meer, "mellow" soos die Engelse sal sê, en dan is hulle nie meer so gevaarlik nie ... ons sal in elk geval sien wat gebeur! Ek glo dat u nie soveel sukses sou behaal het as Burgemeester hier in die Raad en buitekant die Raad nie as u nie ten alle tye bygestaan was deur u vrou, wat 'n besonder innemende persoonlikheid het. Aan u en Mev. Widman sê ons baie baie dankie vir die jaar van opoffering wat agter die rug is en vir die waardige en bekwame wyse waarop u die Stad Johannesburg ten alle tye verteenwoordig het, en ook vir die wyse waarop u hierdie Raad gelei het. U het by geen geleentheid eintlik vir die Onderburgemeester

'n kans gegee om die stoel in te neem nie, u is so pligsgetrou dat die Onder-burgemeester nie eintlik 'n kans gekry het nie!

Mnr. die Burgemeester, ons wil vir die Onder-burgemeester en Mevrou Lemmer baie dankie sê vir die waardige en bekwame wyse waarop hulle ook hulle pligte buitekant die Raad uitgevoer het, en vir hulle sterkte toewens vir die jaar wat voorlê, die jaar waarin hulle as Burgmeesters-paar van Johannesburg sal optree.

Ek wil ook die stoute skoene aantrek en baie dankie sê vir die samewerking wat ons gekry het van die Raadslede wat hulle nie weer verkiesbaar gestel het nie, en wat vandag uittree! Ek wil hulle nie alfabeties behandel nie, ook nie in volgorde van senioriteit nie, ek wil net twee mense uitsonder, en graag vir hulle twee dankie sê.

Die eerste ene is, my eie kollega, Raadslid Hennie Pieterse. U weet hy was 16 jaar in hierdie Raad, en as hy opstaan om te praat is dit altyd kalm en bedaard, hy het sy saak gestel sonder vieteriasies, hy het op die man af gepraat, hy het oral waar hy gepraat het en waar hy opgetree het respek afgedwing. Hy was altyd eerlik en opreg om die waarheid te sê ons kan sê hy was ten alle tye 'n heer gewees, en daarvoor sê ons vir hom baie baie dankie, en ek dink die Raad sal armer wees weens die feit dat Raadslid Pieterse nie meer hier by ons sal wees nie.

Dan wil ek ook aansluit by Raadslid Oberholzer om aan Raadslid Lewis hulde te bring. Ek wil vir hom dankie sê vir die bekwame wyse waarop hy die Bestuurskomitee gelei het. Maar ek het hom nou die dag, by 'n geleentheid gesê dat hy moet altyd onthou dat 'n leier kan slegs so goed regeer as wat die Opposisie hulle toelaat om te regeer! As die Opposisie op en wakker

is, soos die Opposisie in hierdie Raad natuurlik is, dan kan ons hulde bring aan hom waar hy uittree. Ons wil ook darem so 'n bietjie van die krediet kry vir die goeie optrede van sy kant af. U weet ek is nou tien jaar in hierdie Raad, van die begin af was ek op die komitee vir Nie-Blanke sake, en hy was die Voorsitter vir meeste van daardie tyd, en daar het ons hom geleer ken as 'n deeglike mens, en ek glo dat ons glad nie kan twyfel dat hy tot 'n groot mate 'n bydrae gelewer het met die opbou van Soweto nie. Daar is min mense wat so 'n geweldige bydrae gelewer het tot die oplossing en verligting van die probleme van die Nie-Blankes in hierdie stad as wat Raadslid Lewis gelewer het en ek wil die hoop uitspreek dat hy na hy uitgetree het uit die Raad, 'n rustige lewe sal lei, en dat hy nog lank gespaar en bewaar sal bly, en 'n goeie gesondheid sal geniet. En daardie wense gaan ook aan al die ander lede van die Raad wat uittree. Ook Raadslid mev. Cronje. Ek weet nie of ons weer dames gaan hê in die Raad nie, ek dink meeste van die lede in die Raad hoop ons gaan nie hê nie!

Mnr. die Burgemeester, dan net ter afsluiting wil ons die amptenare van die Raad ook bedank vir hulle samewerking, en hier wil ek die Stadsklerk uitsonder. U weet, Johannesburg is voorwaar gelukkig om 'n stadsklerk te hê soos mnr. Burger. Mnr. Burger is seker een van die bekwaamste en onpartydigste persone wat ek ken. Mens kon tydig en ontydig na hom toe gegaan het, en hy weet waarvan hy praat, ek kan voorwaar sê hy is 'n man wat sy storie ken.

Dan ook dank aan die Suid Afrikaanse Uitsaai Korporasie, en aan die Pers. U weet, ek beskou lede van die Pers as my goeie vriende, en wanneer hulle lang nagte saam met ons gesit het en moes luister, sonder om te kan deelneem aan die debatte het ek hulle partykeer jammer gekry, want somstyd was die debatte bietjie saai gewees, maar hulle het altyd getrou op hulle pos gebly, en altyd op waardige wyse hulle plig vervul.

Hulle samewerking met ons as Raadslede was altyd van die hartlikste en daarvoor sê ons baie dankie. My persoonlike dank ook dan, mnr. die Burgemeester, aan al my mede Raadslede vir al hulle vriendelikheid en samewerking gedurende die afgelope vyf jaar, dit is die laaste vergadering van die Raad en ek wil hulle almal voorspoed en sukses toewens.

COUNCILLOR LEWIS:

Mr. Chairman, and Colleagues, firstly I would like to thank Councillor Oberholzer and Raadslied Venter, for the kind things that they have said about me. I can't believe that this moment has come, Mr. Mayor, when I am saying goodbye and laying down my office, because for the last 15 years the work in the Council has dominated my goings in and coming out, and also that of my family. Being involved in Council affairs changes one's whole pattern of life and one's family has to be very accommodating to fit in with all the demands that are made on one. Johannesburg is a great City, I have been very fortunate being able to travel to many parts of the world on Council business to municipal conferences. I believe that this City is as well managed as most cities in the world. I believe that this City has an integrity of administration which is rare, and, one of the things that makes it possible to be a Councillor in this City, is the calibre of the staff, the interests of the staff in the work they are doing, in the sense of mission and engagement and desire to improve this City and make adequate facilities available.

The work of a Councillor here would be impossible if everytime a matter was put before a committee, one was looking over one's shoulder to see what is the motive of the official in putting this before one. And it is only because of our trust in our officials - and our trust has not been misplaced - that it has been possible for Councillors to function and bear the burdens that they had to carry. Mr. Mayor, I want to thank all my colleagues for the support they have given me, they've pulled my leg, they've said I always look cross and I don't greet them and I am not civil. My family see me come home with my office face, so my family are at idem with the Councillors that I often look grim and look as though my mind is engaged on other matters.

Sir, to them I would like to say, thank you for bearing with me. I met a friend a short time ago who was having lunch at the club, and I said to him, "I thought you had retired, what are you doing here?" He said, "After I retired I used to go home for lunch until my wife said to me, 'George I married you for love, not for lunch, please don't come home'." So I hope I won't get under my wife's feet and be in the way.

There's one message I was asked to give, Mr. Mayor, and I am quite sure that the traditions of this Council, the calibre of work and the services we have tried to give will be carried on. I have met Councillors who very often have not been prepared to take any risks and I would like to quote from the Bible, "He that would save his life, shall lose it." And I believe that it is only by getting into the market place, by taking part in such things as Council affairs, for one has very many unpleasant things to do such as fighting elections, which are a trial to everybody, which a lot of people shirk from because they don't want to do the work or have the publicity ... Mr. Mayor, if we regard the management of our City as important, we have to be prepared to do these things ... to improve not only the City government, but the government in other spheres in this country. So I say to people, don't try and hide yourself, don't try and live the safe life ... nothing ventured nothing gained. Mr. Mayor, it's only by the work of colleagues such as I have here today, who are prepared to do this work and not to have selfish considerations, that it is possible to run the City, for the benefit of our citizens. And so to my colleagues, to the officials who have helped me so well, I'd like to say au revoir, thanks for what you have done, and I am sure, that I'll maintain contact with you, and if there is anything I can do to help after I leave the Council, please don't hesitate to call upon me. I thank you.

THE MAYOR. (COUNCILLOR A.B. WIDMAN M.P.C.) :

Councillors, I think I'll conclude the proceedings this afternoon by firstly saying thank you to Councillor Oberholzer for the very kind words that he addressed to the Mayoress and to me, en ook aan Raadslid Venter vir die mooi woorde en die bydrae wat hy vanmiddag gemaak het. Ek is baie jammer dat Raadslid De Wet nie vanmiddag teenwoordig kon wees nie omdat sy vrou siek is, en ek is seker dat elkeen in hierdie Raad hoop dat sy spoedig sal herstel. Baie dankie vir die mooi woorde.

I want to thank all my colleagues for placing us in a position to represent you and the Council in this office. A high office with a high tradition ... a tradition set by the predecessors in all the years who have graced this office. Each one adding lustre, each one adding something, each one adding their own particular meaning and interests and their own furtherance to the benefit of the City. As we've heard today, we are all very proud of the City of Johannesburg, we have every right to be proud of this City. Many people that come to Johannesburg from all over the world into the Mayor's office, the letters one receives from all over the world, the tributes one receives show clearly that Johannesburg is a City of world status, nothing short of world status. And therefore it is right and proper and fitting for people and Councillors to make sacrifices in their private lives, in their business lives and in fact their whole lives. It has been said over here, when you become a Councillor you become wrapped into a new world entirely, and this, in fact, changes your entire world and your entire way of living and of your family. If you are prepared to make this sacrifice, do so, for a City, such as Johannesburg.

I am sorry that the Mayoress is not present here this afternoon. She is engaged in helping me in another way, possibly helping to make sure that you still have a Mayor after March 1st. I think this is typical of what the Mayoress has done throughout the entire year, and in fact, throughout my entire political career ... and in fact, throughout my married life. She has stood by me to make her contribution in her own way, in a way that I don't think any man could expect or want any better.

I think we will have further opportunities, I hope, anyway after 1st March to say more about it when induction services will take place, but suffice it to say, thank you very much for your kind words. On behalf of the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress, thank you for those kind words as well. I would also like to say thank you to the Deputy Mayor, Brigadier Lemmer; and the Deputy Mayoress, for all the support, understanding and help and the complete co-operation and loyalty that we have received from both of them throughout the year. It was a pleasure working with them, it was a pleasure working together with them and I think this City can look forward to see that the traditions of this office are in very safe hands.

I would like to say to my Fellow Councillors, thank you very much for all the support, all the understanding, the help that you gave us throughout the year, and the help you have given to the City and made it, as Councillor Oberholzer so rightly said, made your contribution.

There must be many of you here today who are sitting here with mixed feelings. Those 11 who, out of their own choice, are not coming back, each and everyone of you in your own world, in your own lives, your own family, and own circumstances, by way of the circumstances of their own lives, each have made their contribution, each have made their sacrifices to this Council, and each of you are obviously sitting here with very mixed feelings.

For those of us who may be fortunate enough to come back to this Council, we will miss you rather deeply. We got to know you, we got to understand you, we got to know the contributions you've made. Some have been placed in better positions, to make better contributions to the City, others haven't been so well placed, but none the less in the manner that they have been placed, they have been able to made very fine contributions in your own representation. I wish the outgoing Councillors every success, good health and the best of luck in all their undertakings.

To those who might fall in a category who may not come back, not out of their own wishes, but out of forces possibly beyond one's control, I think the remarks that have been made here today, may apply to such people as well.

I would like to thank the Town Clerk, Mr. Burger, for his assistance throughout the entire year, his help and his guidance and it has been a wonderful opportunity to work with him.

Mr. Marshall, heads of departments who have helped during the year ... I don't wish to name each one individually ... they have indeed played their share, made our office much easier, they've helped us to carry the job through on your behalf. Special thanks to Mr. Butler, my Secretary, and his staff for their help and guidance, devotion, loyalty to duty, standing by, the work that they've done at all times on our behalf in the Mayor's office, and helped to try and make it run efficiently and in a praiseworthy manner.

I want to thank the Press who are the bridge between this Council and the world outside, and the S.A.B.C. who carry the messages across verbally. One so very often speaks in a vacuum here, locked within these four walls, and unless this message is brought across to the world outside, then very often this would be a debating chamber without purpose, without goal, without objective.

How you represent this Council, how you spread the story across to the people outside, is in your hands, and I can only say from my part, thank you for your co-operation and thank you for what you have done for the Mayor's office, and indeed for the Councillors.

So in conclusion of this last formal meeting ... sê ek aan elkeen van u baie baie dankie vir die samewerking, vir die opoffering wat hulle gemaak het, vir die ondersteuning wat ons persoonlik van u gekry het en die bydrae wat u aan hierdie Raad gemaak het. Alle beste wense, geluk, voorspoed en gesondheid aan elkeen van u, baie dankie.

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Collection Number: A1132

Collection Name: Patrick LEWIS Papers, 1949-1987

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Location: Johannesburg

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