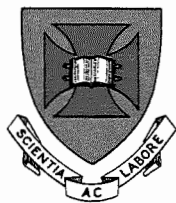


# UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND



## DOCTOR OF LAWS 'HONORIS CAUSA'

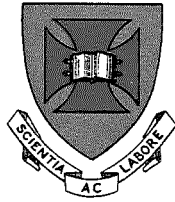
RT. HON. FRANCIS MICHAEL FORDE

MR. CHANCELLOR,

WE LACK BUT A FORTNIGHT FOR THE FIFTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF AN IMPORTANT BY-ELECTION FOR THE SEAT OF ROCKHAMPTON IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. IT WAS A DRAMATIC MOMENT, FOLLOWING A WEEK AFTER THE 1917 FEDERAL ELECTIONS AND IT WAS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE A CRITICAL TEST OF THE YOUNG LABOR GOVERNMENT ELECTED TWO YEARS PREVIOUSLY. FOR US TODAY IT HAS AN ADDED SIGNIFICANCE FOR IT BROUGHT TO THE STATE ASSEMBLY MR. FRANCIS MICHAEL FORDE WHOSE POLITICAL CAREER WAS TO LAST FOR FORTY YEARS OF GREAT ACHIEVEMENT. FOR FIVE YEARS HE SERVED IN THE STATE ASSEMBLY, AND THEN MOVED TO FEDERAL POLITICS AS MEMBER FOR CAPRICORNIA, A DIVISION WHICH HE CONTINUED TO REPRESENT UNTIL 1946. DURING THE DIFFICULT YEARS OF THE 1920s HIS RISE IN THE ESTEEM AND AFFECTION OF HIS PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUES BROUGHT HIM INTO THE SCULLIN MINISTRY FIRST AS AN ASSISTANT MINISTER AND THEN AS MINISTER FOR TRADE AND CUSTOMS. IN 1932 HE BECAME DEPUTY LEADER OF THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY IN THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT AND HELD THAT POST UNTIL 1946.

HIS MAIDEN SPEECH WAS PROPHETIC FOR WHEN ON 9 JULY 1917 HE SPOKE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY, HIS FIRST REMARKS TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CONCERNED THE PART THAT QUEENSLANDERS WERE PLAYING IN THE ALLIED ARMED FORCES. WHEN JOHN CURTIN FORMED A GOVERNMENT IN 1941 MR. FORDE BECAME DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR THE ARMY, AND HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THAT PORTFOLIO CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE SUBSEQUENT PERILOUS DAYS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR. FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF JOHN CURTIN HE SERVED AS PRIME MINISTER IN JULY 1945, AND THEN BEGAN A NEW CAREER AS REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRALIA OVERSEAS, FIRST AS A

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DELEGATE IN THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE AT SAN FRANCISCO, AND SUBSEQUENTLY AS AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER AT OTTAWA. AFTER HIS RETURN TO AUSTRALIA HE RETURNED TO THAT PARLIAMENT WHERE HIS POLITICAL CAREER HAD BEGUN AND SERVED ONCE MORE AS A MEMBER, THIS TIME FOR THE ELECTORATE OF FLINDERS, UNTIL THE GENERAL ELECTION OF 1957.

IN THESE THREE CAREERS, AS PARLIAMENTARIAN, DIPLOMATE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARMY AT A TIME OF GREAT NATIONAL PERIOD, MR. FORDE SERVED AUSTRALIA AND QUEENSLAND WELL. HIS POLITICAL LIFE REFLECTS THE HUMANITARIAN CONCERN AND DEVOTION TO DUTY THAT BROUGHT MANY MEN OF HIS GENERATION INTO POLITICS. IN 1944 HE BECAME A PRIVY COUNCILLOR. DURING HIS TERM AS HIGH COMMISSIONER HE, AND THROUGH HIM, AUSTRALIA WERE HONOURED BY THREE CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES, LAVAL, OTTAWA AND MONTREAL, BY THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS WHICH THIS UNIVERSITY IN HIS OWN STATE NOW BESTOWS UPON HIM.

MR. CHANCELLOR, I PRESENT TO YOU FRANCIS MICHAEL FORDE, PRIVY COUNCILLOR, DOCTOR OF LAWS OF LAVAL UNIVERSITY AND OF THE UNIVERSITIES OF MONTREAL AND OTTAWA FOR ADMISSION TO THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS 'HONORIS CAUSA'.

The Chancellor says:

FRANCIS MICHAEL FORDE BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AND UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, I ADMIT YOU TO THE RANK AND PRIVILEGES OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS 'HONORIS CAUSA' IN THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND.