

**THE STATES assembled on Monday,  
9th May 2005 at 1.40 p.m. under  
the Presidency of the Bailiff,  
Sir Philip Bailhache.**

**His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor,  
Air Chief Marshal Sir John Cheshire, K.B.E., C.B.,  
was present.**

All members were present with the exception of –

Senator Richard Joseph Shenton – ill  
Gerard Clifford Lemmens Baudains, Deputy of St. Clement– absent  
Jeremy Laurence Dorey, Deputy of St. Helier– ill  
Celia Joyce Scott Warren, Deputy of St. Saviour– ill.

Prayers

**Liberation of the Island – statement**

Senator Jean Amy Le Maistre made a statement in the following terms–

“I was born towards the end of the War so I have no personal memories of those five difficult years but I remember many of the stories told by my parents and their generation about the challenges and the difficult they endured.

Our liberation from that Occupation remains the most significant event in the recent history of the Island certainly of the past century. For those who went through that period it was clearly a cathartic experience. It is therefore of great importance that we the members of this Assembly together with the entire Island community should remember those who endured the suffering and deprivation of five long years of isolation, of deprivation without adequate medicines or medical facilities, food, clothing and above all, all social contact with the outside world. All aspects of life we now take very much for granted. Above all they were without the one thing that should value above everything else that is personal freedom. We must also remember those who served in armed forces who brought us our peace and freedom, those who suffered through evacuational deportation and in particular those who lost their lives and those who lost loved ones as a result of that War.

Today is indeed a day of remembrance, but it is also a day of celebration. It is Jersey's special day. One thing we often take for granted, but which we all enjoy without necessarily thinking about the benefit that freedom has given to this Island for the past 60 years. It is very important that everyone living in Jersey irrespective of their origins should recognise the genesis of this freedom. They should feel included in the celebrations and in turn be proud of their contribution to our prosperity and the opportunities that freedom brings to them. It is particularly important for us to recognise the remarkable efforts of everyone in the Island during the post War years. The rebuilding of the core industries of agriculture and tourism was rapid, followed by important reforms of this Assembly in 1948 and the advent of our Social Security system in 1951. This Island community had to work extremely hard to re-establish itself, to lay the foundations for the many benefits and the prosperity we now enjoy.

Indisputably the focus of that generation brought about by the catharsis I mentioned earlier, laid the foundations for what we enjoy today and I salute them.

Liberation and celebration are the two words that we should hold in our hearts and minds throughout to

adding to them the peace and opportunity that came from that day, 9th May 1945. We have a wonderful program of celebrations that lasts throughout this year and for the first time our celebrations are supported by more sponsorship funds than public money. To those generous sponsors I give our heartfelt thanks. Their partnership with government typifies what is good about our Island and we are truly grateful.

I invite the members of this Assembly and the entire population of the Island to join in the celebrations in a Jersey spirit, rekindling that feeling of warmth, of friendship and of jubilation that swept through the Island years ago today.”

THE STATES rose at 1.55 p.m.

**M.N. DE LA HAYE**

*Greffier of the States.*