



Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Cofnod y Trafodion

The National Assembly for Wales
The Record of Proceedings

Dydd Mawrth, 2 Mai 2006
Tuesday, 2 May 2006

Cynnwys
Contents

Teyrngedau i Peter Law	
Tributes to Peter Law	3
Cynnig Trefniadol	
Procedural Motion.....	23

Yn y golofn chwith, cofnodwyd y trafodion yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynndi yn y Siambr.
Yn y golofn dde, cynhwyswyd cyfieithiad o'r areithiau hynny.

In the left-hand column, the proceedings are recorded in the language in which they were spoken in the Chamber. In the right-hand column, a translation of those speeches has been included.

*Cyfarfu'r Cynulliad am 2 p.m. gyda'r Llywydd yn y Gadair.
The Assembly met at 2 p.m. with the Presiding Officer in the Chair.*

Teyrngedau i Peter Law Tributes to Peter Law

Y Llywydd: Gyda gofid y datganaf inni golli ein cyfaill a'n cyd-Aelod, Peter Law, drwy farwolaeth. Gwahoddaf y Dirprwy Lywydd, Dr John Marek AC, i arwain y teyrngedau.

The Presiding Officer: It is with regret that I note the death of our friend and fellow Member, Peter Law. I invite the Deputy Presiding Officer, Dr John Marek AM, to lead the tributes.

John Marek: We are here on a sad occasion. We are here to remember one of our most distinguished Members, Peter Law, who passed away at the beginning of last week. Peter sat on my left in the Chamber, and became my friend during the sittings following the inception of the Assembly.

John Marek: Yr ydym yma ar achlysur trist. Yr ydym yma i gofio un o'n Haelodau mwyaf nodedig, Peter Law, a fu farw ddechrau'r wythnos diwethaf. Eisteddai Peter ar y chwith i mi yn y Siambr, a daeth yn ffrind i mi yn ystod y sesiynau ar ôl sefydlu'r Cynulliad.

Peter John Law was born in Llanfoist on 1 April 1948. His mother came from Crickhowell and his father from Blaina. He attended King Henry VIII School in Abergavenny. He left school at 15, but studied public relations at the Open University in later life.

Cafodd Peter John Law ei eni yn Llan-ffwyst ar 1 Ebrill 1948. Yr oedd ei fam yn hanu o Grucywel a'i dad o'r Blaenau. Derbyniodd ei addysg yn Ysgol y Brenin Harri VIII yn y Fenni. Ymadawodd â'r ysgol yn 15 oed, ond dilynodd gwrs ar gysylltiadau cyhoeddus yn y Brifysgol Agored yn ddiweddarach.

He was very interested in, and loved, trains. We know that the line to Ebbw Vale from Newport, which is to be opened later on this year, or, perhaps, at the very start of next year, was largely due to his influence and his fight for that train service to his constituency. In the early days, he loved classic cars, and was an active member of the Abergavenny automobile club.

Ymddiddorai'n fawr mewn trenau, ac yr oedd yn hoff iawn ohonynt. Gwyddom fod y rheilffordd i Lynebwy o Gasnewydd, sydd i'w hagor yn ddiweddarach eleni neu, efallai, ar drothwy'r flwyddyn nesaf, yn ganlyniad yn bennaf i'w ddylanwad ef a'i frwydr dros gael y gwasanaeth trenau hwnnw i'w etholaeth. Yn ei ddyddiau cynnar, yr oedd wrth ei fodd â cheir clasurol, a bu'n aelod gweithgar o glwb moduron y Fenni.

He was, of course, always interested in politics. Peter's father encouraged him to join the Labour Party, and he did so at the age of 16. Aneurin Bevan became Peter's inspiration. To make extra money as a young lad, he worked in his father's grocery shop on Saturdays.

Yr oedd yn ymddiddori mewn gwleidyddiaeth erioed, wrth gwrs. Cafodd Peter anogaeth gan ei dad i ymuno â'r Blaid Lafur, a hynny a wnaeth yn 16 oed. Cafodd Peter ei ysbrydoli gan Aneurin Bevan. Er mwyn ennill arian ychwanegol yn fachgen ifanc, gweithiai yn siop groser ei dad bob dydd Sadwrn.

He became Blaenau Gwent's youngest councillor at the age of 22. In 1988-89, he was mayor of Blaenau Gwent. He was also a Justice of the Peace. He became chairman of the Gwent Community Health NHS Trust on

Daeth yn gynghorydd ieuengaf Blaenau Gwent yn 22 oed. Yn 1988-89, bu'n faer Blaenau Gwent. Yr oedd hefyd yn Ynad Heddwch. Daeth yn gadeirydd Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Iechyd Cymunedol

1 April 1998, and, following a merger, resigned his chairmanship of the trust in April 1999 to campaign to become the Assembly Member for Blaenau Gwent.

He became a Minister, with responsibility for local government, at the start of the Assembly, and he held that position while the then First Secretary, Alun Michael, held office. He was a very good Minister; he was competent, and he knew instinctively how to relate to backbench Assembly Members on matters affecting their constituencies.

As we know, Peter was elected Member of Parliament for Blaenau Gwent as an Independent in May 2005. He was very proud of the way in which his wife, children and the people of Blaenau Gwent supported him, and stood up for democracy in the general election of May 2005, following the selection of a candidate from an all-women shortlist imposed on the constituency by Labour. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Trish, and their children and family.

Peter was an honest politician. He had integrity. He had no truck with spin, cronyism, or any sort of political half-truth. I came to know him during our time at the Assembly, and, not least because our paths were in some ways similar at the Assembly, he became a dear friend. He knew my wife from times of old when they sat together on the Welsh Consumer Council in the 1970s. His last outing was to travel to attend Anne's funeral. It sums up his courage and loyalty that, no matter how ill he was, he insisted on being at the funeral in St Giles's Church, Wrexham on 20 March.

Peter was a great fighter for Blaenau Gwent. One of Peter's last statements was,

'For everything I have, and for everything I am, I have to thank the people of Gwent'.

He will be missed by everyone. He will be

Gwent ar 1 Ebrill 1998, ac, wedi iddi gyfuno, ymddiswyddodd fel cadeirydd yr ymddiriedolaeth yn Ebrill 1999 i ymgychu i ddod yn Aelod o'r Cynulliad dros Flaenau Gwent.

Daeth yn Weinidog, a chanddo gyfrifoldeb dros lywodraeth leol, ar ddechrau'r Cynulliad, a daliodd y swydd honno tra bu'r Prif Ysgrifennydd ar y pryd, Alun Michael, yn ei swydd. Yr oedd yn Weinidog da iawn; yr oedd yn alluog, a gwyddai wrth reddf sut i ymwneud ag Aelodau Cynulliad y meinciau cefn ar faterion a oedd yn effeithio ar eu hetholaethau.

Fel y gwyddom, etholwyd Peter yn Aelod Seneddol dros Flaenau Gwent fel aelod annibynnol ym Mai 2005. Yr oedd yn falch iawn o'r modd yr oedd ei wraig, ei blant a phobl Blaenau Gwent wedi'i gefnogi, ac wedi sefyll o blaid democratiaeth yn yr etholiad cyffredinol ym Mai 2005, ar ôl dewis ymgeisydd o restr fer o fenywod yn unig a orfodwyd ar yr etholaeth gan Lafur. Yr ydym yn estyn ein cydymdeimlad i'w wraig, Trish, a'u plant a'r teulu.

Yr oedd Peter yn wleidydd diffuant. Yr oedd yn ddyn gonest. Ni fyddai'n ymhél â sbin, ffrindgarwch, na dim math o hanner gwirionedd gwleidyddol. Deuthum i'w adnabod yn ystod ein hamser yn y Cynulliad, ac, am ein bod yn dilyn llwybr yn y Cynulliad a oedd yn debyg ar ryw olwg, yn anad dim, daeth yn ffrind annwyl. Yr oedd wedi dod i adnabod fy ngwraig ers talwm pan eisteddent gyda'i gilydd ar Gyngor Defnyddwyr Cymru yn y 1970au. Ei daith olaf oedd yr un i angladd Anne. Mae hynny'n dweud y cwbl am ei ddewrder a'i deyrngarwch oherwydd, ni waeth pa mor sâl yr ydoedd, mynnodd fod yn bresennol yn yr angladd yn Eglwys St Giles yn Wrecsam ar 20 Mawrth.

Yr oedd Peter yn ymgyrchwr mawr dros Flaenau Gwent. Un o ddatganiadau olaf Peter oedd,

Am bopeth sydd gennyf, ac am bob dim yn fy ngwneuthuriad, rhaid imi ddiolch i bobl Gwent.

Bydd pawb yn gweld ei eisiau. Bydd pawb

missed by everyone in Blaenau Gwent. He will be missed by us, and all Wales will be the poorer for his passing.

The First Minister: On the seventh anniversary, as it happens, to the day after the elections which elected the original Assembly of 1999, it is a very sad occasion that brings us together today, for only the second time, to mourn the passing of an Assembly Member; Val Feld was the first and Peter Law, sadly, is the second Member to pass away while being a serving Member. While it is an immensely sad occasion, it is a great privilege for me to be able to pay tribute to our sadly departed colleague, Peter Law, as it was an immense privilege for Peter, of which he was always conscious, to serve the people of Blaenau Gwent. He was always very conscious of the people of Blaenau Gwent and what an honour it was to serve that constituency—the birthplace of the industrial revolution and the cradle of the national health service. That unbreakable bond between Peter and the people of Blaenau Gwent, and the empathy he had for them, was matched by the sympathy that they had for him during the period of his eventually fatal illness, and for his widow, Trish, their five children and their grandchildren, when the inevitable blow of his passing finally descended a week ago.

I do not think that there is anyone who can match for length of public service the sadly departed Peter Law—36 years of public service from the age of 22 to 58. For over 29 years he was a councillor, for seven years he was an Assembly Member, and, for the final year, he was also an MP. He was, we would all agree, a glutton for public service. How will he be remembered here?

Yr oedd ymhlith y 60 Aelod cyntaf o Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru a dyngodd eu llw rhyw saith mlynedd yn ôl. Yr oedd yn Weinidog yn y Cabinet cyntaf, o dan Alun Michael ac yna o danaf fi fel Prif Weinidog.

He will also be remembered for the initiatives that he took as a Minister. He would have had the privilege of implementing free bus travel for pensioners—perhaps still the best known initiative that the Assembly has introduced.

ym Mlaenau Gwent yn gweld ei eisiau. Byddwn ninnau'n gweld ei eisiau, ac o'i golli, bydd Cymru gyfan yn dlotach.

Y Prif Weinidog: Saith mlynedd union, fel y mae'n digwydd bod, ar ôl etholiadau'r Cynulliad cyntaf yn 1999, achlysur trist iawn sydd yn dod â ni at ein gilydd heddiw, am yr ail dro'n unig, i alaru am Aelod o'r Cynulliad; Val Feld oedd y cyntaf a Peter Law, gwaetha'r modd, yw'r ail Aelod a fu farw tra oedd yn gwasanaethu fel Aelod. Er mai achlysur trist iawn yw hwn, brait fawr i mi yw cael talu teyrnged i'n cyd-Aelod ymadawedig, Peter Law, fel yr oedd yn fraint fawr iawn i Peter, ac yntau'n ymwybodol o hynny bob amser, gael gwasanaethu pobl Blaenau Gwent. Cofiai bob amser am bobl Blaenau Gwent a chymaint o anrhydedd oedd gwasanaethu'r etholaeth honno—man geni'r chwyldro diwydiannol a chrud y gwasanaeth iechyd gwladol. Yr oedd y cwlwm annatod hwnnw rhwng Peter a phobl Blaenau Gwent, a'r empathi a deimlai tuag atynt, cyn gryfed â'r cydymdeimlad a estynasant iddo ef yn ystod cyfnod ei salwch terfynol, ac i'w wraig, Trish, eu pump o blant a'u hwyron, pan ddaeth ergyd anochel ei farwolaeth yn y diwedd wythnos yn ôl.

Nid wyf yn credu bod neb a all gystadlu o ran hyd ei wasanaeth cyhoeddus â'r diweddar Peter Law—36 mlynedd o wasanaeth cyhoeddus rhwng 22 oed a 58. Am fwy na 29 mlynedd bu'n gynghorydd, am saith mlynedd bu'n Aelod o'r Cynulliad, ac, yn ei flwyddyn olaf, bu hefyd yn AS. Yr oedd, fel y byddem oll yn cytuno, yn un na allai gael digon o waith mewn gwasanaeth cyhoeddus. Sut y cofir amdano yma?

He was among the first 60 Members of the National Assembly for Wales who took their oath some seven years ago. He was a Minister in the first Cabinet, under Alun Michael and then under me as First Minister.

Fe'i cofir hefyd am y camau a gymerodd fel Gweinidog. Byddai wedi cael y fraint o gyflwyno'r cynllun teithio am ddim mewn bysiau i bensynwyr—y fwyaf adnabyddus o'r mentrau a gyflwynwyd gan y Cynulliad o

He initiated the north-south transport study because he wanted to see the divide between north and south Wales bridged. We remember his passionate advocacy of the interests of the homeless, and his visits to people who held vigils during the Christmas period. This was part of his total commitment to Wales as a passionate advocate of devolution. We also remember that he was perhaps our most fluent debater. His debating skills were honed during the decades that he spent on the local council, and also, perhaps, from behind the shop counter; he is not the first offspring of a grocer to show skills as a debater, and I speak as a grandson of a grocer myself.

We should not let this occasion pass without saying that, during his 36 years in public service, what Peter observed in his local area was a cause of great sadness to him. When he started in public office in 1970, Ebbw Vale steelworks was a fully integrated steelworks; during his 36 years, he saw it go down and down, salami style, with the blast furnace disappearing, then the coke ovens, the iron and steel plant, the hot mill, the cold mill and the tinplate works. When that 250-year-long connection between Blaenau Gwent and the iron and steel industry was finally severed, no-one will forget the passionate advocacy that he displayed in the interest of his constituents. The same applied to his own native area in the western valley of Gwent in Nantyglo and Blaina, which would have been full of coalmines when he started in public service; now, there are no coal mines whatsoever.

2.10 p.m.

We will remember Peter for the way that he advocated the interest of his constituents. He saw the heavy-industrial heart being ripped out of his constituency over those decades, but he never gave up the fight to ensure a new future for the citizens of Blaenau Gwent. It is that passionate advocacy that will be his legacy for the future for the good people of Blaenau Gwent.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Mae'n anrhydedd i minnau hefyd gael cyflwyno teyrnged yn dilyn marwolaeth

hyd, o bosibl. Dechreuodd yr astudiaeth o drafnidiaeth rhwng y gogledd a'r de am ei fod yn dymuno gweld pontio'r bwlc rhwng gogledd a de Cymru. Cofiw'n ei ddadleuon angerddol dros fuddiannau'r digartref, a'i ymweliadau â phobl a gadwai wynnosau dros gyfnod y Nadolig. Yr oedd hynny'n rhan o'i ymrwymiad llwyr i Gymru fel cefnogwr tanbaid i ddatganoli. Cofiw'n hefyd mai ef, o bosibl, oedd ein dadleuwr mwyaf huawdl. Yr oedd ei fedrau fel dadleuwr wedi'u perffeithio yn ystod y degawdau a dreuliodd ar y cyngor lleol, a hefyd, efallai, y tu ôl i gownter y siop; nid ef yw'r cyntaf o blant groseriaid i amlygu medrau fel dadleuwr, ac yr wyf yn siarad fel wŷr i groser fy hun.

Ni ddylem adael i'r achlysur hwn fynd heibio heb ddweud bod yr hyn a welodd Peter yn ei ardal leol, yn ystod ei 36 mlynedd mewn gwasanaeth cyhoeddus, wedi peri tristwch mawr iddo. Pan ddechreuodd mewn swydd gyhoeddus yn 1970, yr oedd gwaith dur Glynebwy'n waith dur cwbl integredig; yn ystod ei 36 mlynedd, fe'i gwelodd yn dirywio, fesul tipyn, gan golli'r ffwrnais chwyth, wedyn y ffyrnau golosg, y gwaith haearn a dur, y felin boeth, y felin oer a'r gwaith tunplat. Pan ddaeth y cysylltiad 250 mlwydd oed hwnnw rhwng Blaenau Gwent a'r diwydiant haearn a dur i ben yn y diwedd, ni fydd neb yn anghofio ei ddadleuon angerddol dros fuddiannau ei etholwyr. Yr oedd yr un peth yn wir am ei ardal enedigol yn un o gymoedd gorllewin Gwent yn Nant-y-glo a Blaenau, a fyddai wedi bod yn llawn o byllau glo pan ddechreuodd mewn gwasanaeth cyhoeddus; bellach nid oes dim pyllau glo o gwbl.

Cofiw'n Peter oherwydd y modd y dadleuai dros fuddiannau ei etholwyr. Gwelodd ei etholaeth yn colli'r diwydiant trwm a oedd yn sylfaen iddi yn ystod y degawdau hynny, ond nid ildiodd erioed yn y frwydr dros sicrhau dyfodol newydd i ddinasyddion Blaenau Gwent. Y dadlau angerddol hwnnw fydd ei gymynrodd i'r dyfodol er budd pobl Blaenau Gwent.

The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): It is a privilege for me also to pay this tribute following the death of Peter Law.

Peter Law. Yr wyf yn cofio'r tro cyntaf imi weld Peter, yng nghyntedd Tŷ'r Cyffredin, rai blynyddoedd yn ôl. Nid oeddwn yn ei adnabod ond cerddodd ar draws y cyntedd tuag ataf a chyflwyno'i hun yn Gymraeg. Yr oedd yn amlwg wedi dysgu Cymraeg, ac yn ymdrechu'n galed i wneud hynny, ac yr oedd am i mi a phawb arall wybod ei fod yn falch iawn o'i Gymreictod a bod yr iaith Gymraeg yn rhan bwysig o'n treftadaeth fel cenedl. Wedi hynny, wrth gwrs, gwasanaethodd ar Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg.

Er imi ei gyfarfod yn achlysurol ar ôl hynny, ni ddeuthum i adnabod Peter yn iawn tan inni ddod yn Aelodau o'r Cynulliad cyntaf, fel y dywedodd y Prif Weinidog a John, yn 1999. Fel yr ydym eisoes wedi clywed, daeth yn Weinidog yn Llywodraeth Alun Michael. Ategfaf yr hyn sydd eisoes wedi'i ddweud—yr oedd yn Weinidog hynod o effeithiol.

Fel Gweinidog yn y Cynulliad cyntaf, yr oedd yn eistedd o flaen meinciau Plaid Cymru, a byddai bob amser yn fodlon gwrando ar broblemau etholaethol. Yr wyf yn sicr bod ei brofiad hir fel cynghorydd yn peri iddo sylweddoli, beth bynnag oedd maint y broblem, boed yn fawr neu'n fach, ei bod yn broblem bwysig i'r Aelod etholedig hwnnw. Un peth yr wyf yn ei gofio'n arbennig am y dyddiau hynny yw ei fod yn fodlon mynd allan o'i ffordd i helpu—os oedd unrhyw ffordd y gallai helpu Aelod ar y meinciau cefn i ddatrys rhai o'r problemau lleol mwyaf astrus, byddai Peter yn gwneud hynny. Gwn fod nifer o Aelodau yn ddyledus iddo, nid yn unig am y cymwynasau mawr—a byddaf yn cyfeirio at un neu ddwy ohonynt—ond am y cymwynasau bach a oedd yn help yn yr etholaeth.

Fel yr awgrymodd y Prif Weinidog, un o'r pethau yr oedd yn fwyaf balch ohonynt, fel Gweinidog, oedd yr help a roddodd i sefydlu gwell gwasanaeth trenau rhwng de a gogledd Cymru. Yr wyf wedi codi'r mater hwnnw sawl tro yn y Cynulliad, ond yr oedd Peter yn deall yr angen am well gwasanaeth trenau. Ymladdodd yn galed i sicrhau bod hynny'n digwydd. Er mai byrhoedlog oedd yr arbrawf cyntaf hwnnw, mae ei waith aruthrol i sicrhau bod y gwasanaeth hwnnw yn gwella yn waddol inni heddiw—mae'r sefyllfa wedi

I remember the first time that I saw Peter, in the lobby of the House of Commons, some years ago. I did not know him, but he walked across the lobby towards me and introduced himself in Welsh. He had obviously learned the language, and was putting a great effort into doing so, and he wanted me and everyone else to know that he was extremely proud to be Welsh and that the Welsh language was an important part of the heritage of our nation. Later on, of course, he served as a member of the Welsh Language Board.

Although I met him occasionally after that, I did not get to know Peter well until we became Members of the first Assembly, as the First Minister and John have said, in 1999. As we have already heard, he became a Minister in Alun Michael's Government. I endorse what has already been said—he was an exceptionally effective Minister.

As a Minister in the first Assembly, he sat in front of the Plaid Cymru benches, and he was always willing to listen to constituency problems. I am sure that his long experience as a councillor enabled him to realise that, whatever the scale of the problem, be it large or small, it was an important problem for that particular elected Member. One of the things that I especially remember about those days is that he was willing to go out of his way to help—if there was any way that he could assist a backbench Member to solve some of the most complex local problems, Peter would do so. I know that many Members owe him a debt of gratitude, not only for the large favours—I will refer to one or two of those—but for the small favours that were such a help in constituencies.

As the First Minister suggested, one of his proudest achievements, as a Minister, was the help that he gave in establishing better rail services between north and south Wales. I have raised this issue many times in the Assembly, but Peter understood the need for an improved rail service. He fought tooth and nail to ensure that that happened. Although that first experiment was short-lived, his great work in ensuring that that service improved is his legacy for us today—the situation has improved, although, as Peter

gwella, er, fel yr oedd Peter yn deall, fod llawer o ffordd i fynd eto.

When Peter spoke in the Chamber, he spoke with passion and with commitment. What came shining through, every time that he spoke, was his devotion to his constituency, and how determined he was to fight for the interests of Blaenau Gwent at every opportunity. I agree with the First Minister—he was an extremely fluent, eloquent and witty speaker. I do not remember Peter speaking from notes—he always seemed to speak from memory. The other thing that I remember about him was that he enjoyed speaking in the Assembly and that he was always generous in allowing interventions—sometimes he got the better of us and sometimes he did not, but he was always generous in the way that he would allow a debate to flow whenever he had the floor.

We know of the great hurt that he felt personally about what happened in Blaenau Gwent, and I think that we must record his tremendous achievement in winning the seat in the general election as an Independent candidate. That was a remarkable victory for him. I think that he felt that his passion, commitment and real feeling for his constituency were repaid to him as an individual.

When he sat in the Assembly as an Independent, I probably spoke to him even more. He always mentioned that whenever there was a debate in the Chamber, or whenever he felt that it was necessary to make an intervention, the acid test for him in whatever he said or did was whether it would benefit the people of Blaenau Gwent. He had no other interest in that period other than furthering the cause of his constituents. Whenever there was a discussion on anything, the bargain that he always wanted was an answer to the question, ‘How does this benefit the people who I represent?’, and I think that that shone through in his contributions.

On a personal level, Peter was great company, and he was always kind and generous. He was generous with his time and he would regale us, at some length, with great stories about his experiences. One thing that I

recognised, there is a long way to go yet.

Pan siaradai Peter yn y Siambr, siaradai ag angerdd a chydag ymrwymiad. Yr hyn a ddôl i'r amlwg, bob tro y siaradai, oedd ei ymroddiad i'w etholaeth, ac mor benderfynol ydoedd o ymladd dros fuddiannau Blaenau Gwent bob cyfle a gâi. Yr wyf yn cytuno â'r Prif Weinidog—yr oedd yn siaradwr rhugl, huawdl a ffraeth dros ben. Nid wyf yn cofio Peter yn defnyddio nodiadau wrth siarad—yr oedd yn ymddangos fel pe bai'n siarad o'r frest bob amser. Y peth arall a gofias amdano oedd ei fod yn mwynhau siarad yn y Cynulliad a'i fod yn hael wrth ganiatáu ymyriadau bob amser—yr oedd weithiau'n drech na ni, dro arall nid oedd hynny'n digwydd, ond yr oedd o hyd yn hael yn y ffordd yr oedd yn gadael i'r ddadl lifo bob tro y siaradai o'r llawr.

Gwyddom am y boen fawr a deimlai'n bersonol ynghylch yr hyn a ddigwyddodd ym Mlaenau Gwent, a chredaf y dylem gofnodi ei lwyddiant aruthrol pan enillodd y sedd yn yr etholiad cyffredinol fel ymgeisydd Annibynnol. Yr oedd hynny'n fuddugoliaeth ryfeddol iddo. Credaf y teimlai fod hynny'n ad-daliad iddo fel unigolyn am ei angerdd, ei ymrwymiad a'i deimlad diffuant dros ei etholaeth.

Pan eisteddodd yn y Cynulliad fel aelod Annibynnol, mae'n debyg fy mod wedi siarad ag ef yn amlach fyth. Yr oedd yn sôn o hyd pan fyddai dadl yn y Siambr, neu pryd bynnag y teimlai fod angen iddo ymyrryd, mai'r prawf eithaf iddo o ran beth bynnag a ddywedai neu a wnâi oedd a fyddai o fudd i bobl Blaenau Gwent. Nid oedd ganddo ddim diddordeb arall yn y cyfnod hwnnw ar wahân i hyrwyddo achos ei etholwyr. Pryd bynnag yr oedd trafodaeth am unrhyw beth, y fargen yr oedd arno eisiau ei tharo o hyd oedd cael ateb i'r cwestiwn, ‘Sut y bydd hyn o fudd i'r bobl yr wyf i yn eu cynrychioli?’, a chredaf fod hynny i'w weld yn amlwg iawn yn ei gyfraniadau.

Ar lefel bersonol, yr oedd Peter yn gwmni ardderchog, bob amser yn garedig a hael. Yr oedd yn hael â'i amser a byddai'n adrodd straeon gwych, a phur faith, am ei brofiadau. Un peth nad anghofias yn ei gylch, a hynny er

will always remember is that despite his successes—and he had many of those as a councillor, as the leader of his council, as an Assembly Member, as a Minister and as an MP—Peter never forgot his roots. We, as a group, send our deepest condolences to Trish, his wife, and his family. Quite naturally, the loss of Peter will be most deeply felt by his closest family members. However, I hope that they will find comfort in knowing that, in these most difficult of days, we share their grief as we mourn the loss of a valued friend.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): Peter Law had an outstanding record of public service both to his community and his country. He was, as has been mentioned, a member of the first Assembly Cabinet, in which he was effective, persuasive and helpful. I too can remember him helping me with local issues on many occasions; he was an effective Minister. He subsequently left office, and we all remember those circumstances in the time of the partnership Government—I am sure that no-one who lived through that period will ever forget it—when we saw another Peter who was combative, witty, rumbustious and often, in debate, totally unanswerable. Not many people make effective Ministers and excellent Assembly Members, but Peter was genuinely both.

In private, as Ieuan Wyn Jones has just said, he was clubbable, good company, always courteous and always stuck up for his community. Reference has been made to that lasting monument to Peter, namely the Ebbw Vale railway link. However, he was no class warrior and he had many firm friendships across the party political barricades. He detested unfairness, but he liked people who tried and who did their best. I remember him giving a moving tribute to the Queen Mother's memory, saying that someone who worked well into their 90s was 'all right in his book'. We wish that he could have done the same, but sadly that was not to be. He was, as I have said, a kind man. I remember him coming to see me once to persuade me not to refer an Assembly Member to the Committee on Standards of Conduct, and he successfully persuaded me, as the Member may remember.

gwaethaf ei lwyddiannau—ac fe gafodd lawer o'r rheini fel cynghorydd, arweinydd ei gyngor, Aelod o'r Cynulliad, Gweinidog ac fel Aelod Seneddol, yw nad anghofiodd Peter ei wreiddiau erioed. Anfonwn ni fel grŵp ein cydymdeimlad dwfn at Trish, ei wraig, a'i deulu. Yn naturiol, teulu agosaf Peter a fydd yn teimlo'r golled waethaf. Er hynny, gobeithio y bydd yn rhywfaint o gysur gwybod, yn y dyddiau tywyll hyn, ein bod yn rhannu eu galar o golli cyfaill gwerthfawr.

Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): Cafodd Peter Law yrfa nodedig o wasanaeth cyhoeddus i'w gymuned ac i'w wlad. Fel y soniwyd eisoes, yr oedd yn aelod o Gabinet cyntaf y Cynulliad, yn aelod effeithiol, llawn perswâd a pharod ei gymwynas. Gallaf finnu hefyd ei gofio yn fy helpu gyda materion lleol droeon; yr oedd yn Weinidog effeithiol. Yna gadawodd ei swydd, a chofiw'n i gyd yr amgylchiadau hynny adeg y Llywodraeth bartneriaeth—ac yr wyf yn siŵr na fydd neb a oedd yn rhan o'r cyfnod hwnnw yn ei anghofio byth—pan welsom Peter arall a oedd yn ddadleugar, yn ffraeth, yn hwyliog ac yn aml, mewn dadl, yn gwbl amhosibl ei ateb. Nid oes llawer o bobl yn gwneud Gweinidogion effeithiol ac Aelodau Cynulliad ardderchog, ond yr oedd Peter yn rhagori yn y ddwy swydd.

Yn breifat, fel y mae Ieuan Wyn Jones newydd ddweud, yr oedd yn gwmni da ac yn gymdeithasgar, yn gwrtais bob amser ac yn cadw cefn ei gymuned bob amser. Cyfeiriwyd at y coffâd bythol hwnnw i Peter, sef cyswllt rheilffordd Glynebwy. Er hynny, nid oedd yn bleidiwr dosbarth ac yr oedd ganddo sawl cyfeillgarwch cadarn ar draws terfynau'r pleidiau gwleidyddol. Yr oedd yn gas ganddo annhegwch, ond hoffai bobl a ymdrechai ac a wnâi eu gorau. Yr wyf yn ei gofio yn talu teyrnged deimladwy i goffâu'r Fam Frenhines, ac yn dweud bod rhywun a oedd yn gweithio nes ei bod ymhell dros 90 oed yn 'iawn yn ei olwg ef'. Mae'n dristwch mawr na allai yntau fod wedi gwneud yr un fath. Yr oedd, fel y dywedais, yn ŵr caredig. Yr wyf yn ei gofio'n dod i'm gweld unwaith i'm perswadio i beidio â chyfeirio Aelod o'r Cynulliad at y Pwyllgor Safonau Ymddygiad, a llwyddodd i wneud hynny, fel y bydd yr Aelod efallai yn cofio.

2.20 p.m.

Above all else, we will remember his passion, hard work and commitment, and perhaps beyond even those characteristics, we will remember his courage and the raw willpower that drove him on through that dreadful illness. He showed physical and moral courage. He was a truly astounding man through that awful illness—he won the Blaenau Gwent seat and turned up here and at Parliament when necessary to represent his community.

John mentioned seeing Peter at Anne Marek's funeral, and it was clear then that he did not have much longer, but still, we hoped, and there he was, determined to pay his respects. Many people may not want to remember his being there, but I do, and I will remember his courage and his qualities at their best, such as his determination to be there, where he spoke freely to people. Peter demonstrated that, ultimately, people matter, and matter more, even, than institutions. He demonstrated that in spades.

Our thoughts must be with Trish Law and Peter's family and his entire community. On a personal note, I will miss him immensely.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Group (Michael German): As others have said, our thoughts and best wishes must go to Trish and her family at this very sad time.

Many Members will remember Peter when he supported what we were doing and when he opposed what we were doing. When a person supports you, it is easy to be kind to him or her. However, the difference with Peter was that no matter which side you were on, whether you supported or opposed what he wanted or did, he was always honourable. I will always remember that he behaved in an appropriate manner towards me personally in our representation of the Blaenau Gwent area. At events at which Peter was present and which I attended, he would always ensure that I was seated next to him. Whenever a vote of thanks was to be given or

Yn anad dim, byddwn yn cofio ei angerdd, ei waith caled a'i ymrwymiad, ac efallai yn fwy na'r pethau hynny hyd yn oed, byddwn yn cofio ei ddewrder a'r grym ewyllys a'i hysbardunodd ymlaen drwy'r salwch ofnadwy hwnnw. Dangosodd ddewrder corfforol a moesol. Yr oedd yn ŵr gwirioneddol hynod drwy'r salwch dychrynlyd hwnnw—enillodd sedd Blaenau Gwent gan ddod yma a mynd i'r Senedd yn Llundain, pan fyddai angen, i gynrychioli ei gymuned.

Soniodd John am weld Peter yn angladd Anne Marek, ac yr oedd yn glir bryd hynny fod pethau bron ar ben arno, ond eto, yr oeddem yn gobeithio, ac yn wir yr oedd yno, yn benderfynol o dalu'r deyrnged olaf. Efallai na fydd llawer am ei gofio yno, ond yr wyf fi, a byddaf yn cofio ei ddewrder a'i rinweddau ar eu gorau, fel ei benderfyniad i fod yno, lle y bu'n siarad yn rhydd â phobl. Dangosodd Peter fod pobl, yn y pen draw, yn cyfrif ac yn bwysicach hyd yn oed na sefydliadau. Dangosodd hynny dro ar ôl tro.

Mae ein meddyliau wrth gwrs gyda Trish Law a theulu Peter a'i gymuned gyfan. Ar nodyn personol, byddaf yn gweld ei eisiau'n aruthrol.

Arweinydd Grŵp Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German): Fel y dywedodd eraill eisoes, mae ein meddyliau a'n dymuniadau da gyda Trish a'i theulu ar yr adeg hynod drist hon.

Bydd nifer o Aelodau'n cofio Peter pan oedd yn cefnogi'r hyn yr oeddem yn ei wneud a phan oedd yn gwrthwynebu'r hyn yr oeddem yn ei wneud. Pan fydd rhywun yn eich cefnogi, mae'n hawdd bod yn garedig wrtho neu wrthi. Fodd bynnag, y gwahaniaeth gyda Peter oedd, pa ochr bynnag yr oeddech ami, ni waeth a oeddech yn cefnogi neu'n gwrthwynebu'r hyn a ddeisyfai neu a wnâi, ei fod bob amser yn anrhydeddus. Byddaf o hyd yn cofio ei fod wedi ymddwyn yn briodol tuag ataf fi yn bersonol wrth inni gynrychioli ardal Blaenau Gwent. Mewn digwyddiadau lle'r oedd Peter yn bresennol a minnau hefyd, byddai'n sicrhau bob amser fy mod yn

words were to be said, he would always include me and refer to my presence. That is the sign of an honourable man.

It would be easily understandable if Peter had taken umbrage at his no longer having a ministerial post when the partnership agreement came into being, but he never let that interfere with his relationship with people. His success in Blaenau Gwent largely came about because people knew him so well. I was with him on numerous occasions in the constituency, and the personal recognition and respect that he enjoyed was absolutely enormous.

I remember an occasion during the 'Yes for Wales' referendum campaign. I was speaking at a public meeting in Pontypridd. Peter was seated in the audience at the back, and, as always, the debate was vigorous. Peter was, of course, a vigorous and vocal supporter of what we were doing. The 'No' campaign got quite angry at one point, and someone in the audience started ranting. Peter stood up and tore them off a strip, at which point, one of the 'No' campaigners headed for the back of the hall and started to punch him, only to be pulled off by the editor of the local paper who was presiding at the meeting. Peter could not be intimidated by his opponents then, and he could not be intimidated by his old party when he stood against it, because Peter's brand of political conviction and local passion was one that the people of Blaenau Gwent responded to. He was a man of his own community, dedicated to speaking up for that community, and the support that he had reflected that commitment.

In times of great adversity—he was fully aware of his health problems—he fought with steely determination, never letting himself or the people he represented to be put in the background or forgotten. Up to the last time that I saw him, he retained the cheery disposition that was so well known to me and all those around him. Our politics were not the same, but he genuinely and passionately believed in the causes that he espoused. That is why the Ebbw Vale passenger railway will be a tribute to him. I hope that we find some

eistedd wrth ei ymyl. Bob tro y dywedai air o ddiolch neu eiriau eraill, byddai bob amser yn fy nghynnwys ac yn cyfeirio at fy mhresenoldeb. Mae hynny'n arwydd o ŵr anrhydeddus.

Byddai'n hawdd deall pe bai Peter wedi digio o ddeall nad oedd swydd weinidogol ar gael iddo pan ddaeth y cytundeb partneriaeth i rym, ond ni adawodd i hynny effeithio ar ei berthynas â'i bobl o gwbl. Yr oedd yn llwyddiannus ym Mlaenau Gwent yn bennaf oherwydd bod pobl yn ei adnabod mor dda. Bûm gydag ef droeon yn yr etholaeth, ac yr oedd yr adnabyddiaeth bersonol a'r parch a oedd ato yn anhygoel.

Cofiaf un tro yn ystod ymgyrch refferendwm 'Ie dros Gymru'. Yr oeddwn yn siarad mewn cyfarfod cyhoeddus ym Mhont-y-pridd. Yr oedd Peter yn y gynulleidfa yn y cefn, ac, fel bob amser, yr oedd y drafodaeth yn un fywiog. Yr oedd Peter, wrth gwrs, yn gefnogwr brwd a llafar i'r hyn yr oeddem yn ei wneud. Trodd yr ymgyrch 'Na' yn bur chwyrn ryw dro, a dechreuodd rhywun yn y gynulleidfa arthio. Safodd Peter ar ei draed a rhoi pryd o dafod iddynt ac yna, aeth un o'r ymgyrchwyr 'Na' i gefn y neuadd a dechrau ei ddyrnu, ond fe'i hataliwyd gan olygydd y papur lleol a oedd yn llywyddu yn y cyfarfod. Ni allai gwrthwynebwyr Peter ei ddychryn bryd hynny, ac ni allai ei hen blaid godi ofn arno ychwaith pan safodd yn ei herbyn, oherwydd yr oedd y math o argyhoeddiad gwleidyddol ac angerdd lleol a oedd gan Peter yn un yr oedd pobl Blaenau Gwent yn ymateb iddo. Gŵr ei gymuned ydoedd, gŵr a oedd wedi ymrwymo i siarad dros y gymuned honno, ac yr oedd y gefnogaeth iddo yn adlewyrchu'r ymrwymiad hwnnw.

Ar adegau o drallod mawr—yr oedd yn llwyr ymwybodol o'i broblemau iechyd—yr oedd yn benderfynol o frwydro, gan sicrhau nad oedd ef ei hun na'r bobl yr oedd yn eu cynrychioli byth yn cael eu rhoi yn y cefndir na'u hanghofio. Hyd at y tro olaf y gwelais ef, parhaodd y sirioldeb a oedd mor gyfarwydd i mi ac i bawb o'i gwmpas. Nid oedd ein gwleidyddiaeth yr un fath, ond yr oedd yn credu'n angerddol ac yn gwbl ddiffuant yn yr achosion y dadleuai drostynt. Dyna pam y bydd rheilffordd teithwyr

way of recognising Peter's campaigning for that line when it reopens to passengers in memory of him.

Throughout the time that I knew him, he was a man of conviction and steely determination, and he was an asset to Welsh politics. It takes a particularly strong person to take on the might of a political organisation of which he or she has been a member throughout his or her life.

Peter had a great sense of humour. At a service last summer to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of VE day, he and I laid wreaths at Abertillery war memorial. This was followed by a church service. Somehow or other—I do not quite know how we got into this fix—he and I got moved and dragooned into the front line of the march, where we were under the command of military personnel and a very loud sergeant-major. We found ourselves at the head of the march moving to the church for the ceremony, and Peter wisecracked all the way to the church about his inability to keep in step, because, as he said, he had never done so throughout his political life. I will remember Peter with a smile and as a man willing to be out of step when he believed that everyone else was out of step, but never willing to stop marching for his cause.

Sue Essex: Peter and I were members of the same committee for a great deal of the Assembly's life, and we became very good friends during that time. The association first started when he was a Minister and I was his committee Chair. His ministerial brief was enormous, as it included housing, planning, the environment, local government and transport. He took huge pride in that portfolio, and he did a fantastic job. He would often be here late in the evening tackling what was a set of very difficult subjects. When I took over a large part of that brief as Minister, I was glad and considerably relieved to find that Peter bore no bitterness towards me. In fact, the opposite was true; he was a great and genuine supporter, and he was always there to help and always had an encouraging word. In committee, he was a wonderful supporter and a loyal person

Glynebwy yn deyrnged iddo. Gobeithio y byddwn rywsut yn gallu cydnabod ymgyrchu Peter dros y rheilffordd honno pan fydd yn ailagor i deithwyr er cof amdano.

Drwy gydol yr amser yr oeddwn yn ei adnabod, yr oedd yn ŵr o argyhoeddiad a phenderfyniad diamheuol, ac yr oedd yn gaffaeliad i wleidyddiaeth Cymru. Rhaid cael rhywun arbennig o gryf i herio grym sefydliad gwleidyddol y mae ef neu hi wedi bod yn aelod ohono erioed.

Yr oedd gan Peter hiwmor arbennig. Mewn gwasanaeth yr haf diwethaf i ddathlu trigain mlynedd ers diwrnod VE, gosodais i a Peter dorchau wrth gofeb ryfel Abertylleri. Yr oedd gwasanaeth yn yr eglwys ar ôl hynny. Rywsut neu'i gilydd—nid wyf yn gwybod yn iawn sut y cawsom ein hunain yn y fath sefyllfa—yr oeddwn i ac yntau wedi cael ein symud a'n gwthio i flaen yr orymdaith, lle'r oeddem dan orchymyn personél milwrol ac uwch-sarsiant uchel iawn ei gloch. Canfuom ein hunain ym mlaen yr orymdaith yn symud tua'r eglwys ar gyfer y seremoni, ac yr oedd Peter yn cellwair yr holl ffordd i'r eglwys am ei anallu i gydgamu oherwydd, meddai, nid oedd erioed wedi gwneud hynny drwy gydol ei yrfa wleidyddol. Cofiaf Peter gyda gwên ac fel gŵr a oedd yn barod i ddilyn trywydd gwahanol pan oedd o'r farn bod pawb arall ar y trywydd anghywir, ond na wnaeth erioed roi'r gorau i orymdeithio dros ei achos.

Sue Essex: Yr oeddwn i a Peter yn aelodau o'r un pwyllgor am dalp mawr o fywyd y Cynulliad, a daethom yn ffrindiau da iawn yn ystod yr amser hwnnw. Magwyd y cysylltiad gyntaf pan oedd ef yn Weinidog a minnau'n Gadeirydd ar ei bwyllgor. Yr oedd ei gylch gwaith gweinidogol yn enfawr, ac yn cynnwys tai, cynllunio, yr amgylchedd, llywodraeth leol a thrafnidiaeth. Yr oedd yn ymfalchïo'n aruthrol yn y portffolio hwnnw, a gwnaeth waith rhagorol. Yn aml iawn, byddai yma'n hwyr gyda'r nos yn rhoi sylw i dwr o bynciau anodd iawn. Pan drosglwyddwyd rhan fawr o'r cylch gwaith hwnnw i mi fel Gweinidog, yr oeddwn yn falch o ddeall—ac yr oedd yn gryn ryddhad—nad oedd Peter yn chwervu tuag ataf o gwbl. Yn wir, y gwrthwyneb oedd yn wir; yr oedd yn gefnogwr gwych a diffuant, bob amser wrth law i helpu ac i gynnig gair o

whom you could always rely upon.

We shared a love of railways, and that bound us together in relation to the Ebbw Vale railway line; we both had a wonderful ambition to see that line reopened. I remember the day when we were able to make the announcement that we were going to put in the money to reopen the line. This represented unbridled joy for Peter. He was thrilled that something that he had become aligned with, and recognised for, was going to happen. I remember even clearer the day when the two of us travelled on a small railway—in a carriage put on the back of an engine—following the path of the Ebbw Vale railway. We had tea and cakes in the carriage, and along the route Peter said, ‘You need to look at this, and you need to watch this’. Lo and behold, when we came to a bridge, there were the loyal people of Blaenau Gwent waving flags. Peter had even arranged that—he left no stone unturned. There were supporters and enthusiasts along the length of the railway line, and it was a wonderful day. I will remember that as perhaps one of his best days, because of his enthusiasm as a result of what he saw happening with the reopening of the line. Sadly, he will not see the opening, and, as Members have said, when the line is reopened it will be very much to his memory, and the part that he played and his ambitions will be recognised.

Peter bore his terrible illness with great bravery and considerable dignity. That is not easy in the public eye, and I will also remember him for that. Our thoughts are with his family.

Carwyn Jones: I would like pay my respects to Peter as someone who was his deputy for four months. I was one of the first three Deputy Ministers selected in the Assembly, and I worked as Peter’s deputy. I also speak as someone who enjoyed his company outside and inside the Chamber. There was no-one better than Peter at jousting during a debate—he liked nothing better—and he always spoke with a great deal of humour as he tried to catch people out.

galondid. Yn y pwyllgor, yr oedd yn gefnogwr mawr ac yn rhywun triw y gallech ddibynnu arno bob amser.

Yr oeddem ein dau wrth ein boddau gyda rheilffyrdd, a bu hynny’n fodd i gadw cysylltiad rhyngom ynglŷn â rheilffordd Glynebwy; yr oedd gennym ein dau uchelgais ryfeddol i weld y rheilffordd honno’n ailagor. Cofiaf y diwrnod pan oeddem yn gallu cyhoeddi y byddem yn rhoi arian tuag at ailagor y lein. Yr oedd yn destun gorfoledd amlwg i Peter. Yr oedd wrth ei fodd bod rhywbeth yr oedd wedi’i gyplysu ag ef, ac yn cael ei gydnabod amdano, yn mynd i ddigwydd. Cofiaf yn gliriach fyth y diwrnod pan oeddem ein dau’n teithio ar hyd lein fach—mewn cerbyd wedi’i roi ar gefn injan—yn dilyn llwybr rheilffordd Glynebwy. Cawsom de a chacennau yn y cerbyd, ac ar y ffordd dywedodd Peter, ‘Rhaid i chi weld hyn, dylech edrych ar hyn’. Ac yn wir, pan ddaethom at bont, dyna lle’r oedd pobl driw Blaenau Gwent yn chwifio baneri. Yr oedd Peter hyd yn oed wedi trefnu hynny—yr oedd yn troi pob carreg. Yr oedd cefnogwyr a selogion ar hyd y rheilffordd, ac yr oedd yn ddiwrnod bythgofiadwy. Byddaf yn cofio’r diwrnod hwnnw fel un o’i rai gorau o bosibl, oherwydd ei firwdfrydedd yn sgîl yr hyn a welai’n digwydd gydag ailagor y lein. Mae’n beth trist na chaiff weld yr agoriad, ac, fel y mae Aelodau eraill wedi dweud, pan ailagorir y lein bydd hynny er cof amdano i raddau helaeth iawn, a bydd y rhan a chwaraeodd a’i uchelgais yn cael eu gydnabod.

Dangosodd Peter ddewrder mawr a chryn urddas yn wyneb ei salwech dychrynlyd. Nid yw hynny’n hawdd yn llygad y cyhoedd, a byddaf hefyd yn ei gofio am hynny. Mae ein meddyliau gyda’i deulu.

Carwyn Jones: Hoffwn dalu fy nheyrnged innau i Peter fel rhywun a oedd yn ddirprwy iddo am bedwar mis. Myfi oedd un o’r tri Dirprwy Weinidog cyntaf i’w dewis yn y Cynulliad, a bûm yn gweithio fel dirprwy i Peter. Siaradaf hefyd fel rhywun a oedd yn mwynhau ei gwmmi y tu allan a’r tu mewn i’r Siambr. Nid oedd neb tebyg i Peter am ymrafael yn ystod dadl—yr oedd yn ei elfen—a siaradai bob amser gyda llawer iawn o hiwmor wrth geisio baglu pobl.

2.30 p.m.

I first met Peter in 1995 when we were both seeking the Labour nomination for the Brecon and Radnor parliamentary constituency in the subsequent general election. We met in Ystradgynlais, where two branches were meeting to select their preferred candidate, and we emerged that night with honours even. It struck me at the time that Peter was a particularly warm soul, as his own delight at being selected by one branch was equal to the congratulations that he gave me on being selected by the other. I remember that very well.

I then met him several times during the referendum campaign in 1997. He fought a powerful campaign in Blaenau Gwent in what were difficult local circumstances. The work that he put in there ensured a comfortable victory for the 'Yes for Wales' campaign there, and ensured that we could be here today. I do not think that we would be here now without his work in Blaenau Gwent over the weeks and months of the referendum campaign. I remember him standing on the stage when the declaration was made in Blaenau Gwent; so many people were anticipating what the result would be there. He was a staunch devolutionist and supported the creation of this institution and its development over the years. It is fair to say that, because of what he did for the 'Yes for Wales' campaign, he joins the list of people responsible for ensuring that we saw the birth of our new democracy here.

I became his deputy in 2000 and learned much from him on how to deal with people. Other Members have referred to the fact that he was always courteous and humorous; I certainly saw that when I went to meetings with him. I saw the effect that he could have on the public and on politicians by being courteous and by using humour where that was appropriate. If there is one criticism that can be made of him, it is perhaps that he was too even-handed for some of us on this bench—but that was Peter. When people approached him, he tried to do his best for them, no matter what their political background.

Cyfarfûm â Peter am y tro cyntaf yn 1995 pan oeddem ein dau yn ymgeisio am enwebiad y Blaid Lafur yn etholaeth seneddol Brycheiniog a Maesyfed yn yr etholiad cyffredinol dilynol. Cyfarfuom yn Ystradgynlais, lle'r oedd dwy gangen yn cyfarfod i ddewis eu hymgeisydd, ac ar ddiwedd y noson yr oeddem ein dau'n gyfartal. Sylweddolais bryd hynny fod Peter yn gymeriad arbennig o gynnes, gyda'i hapusrwydd o gael ei ddewis gan un gangen yn llawn cymaint â'r llongyfarchion a dderbyniais ganddo ar ôl cael fy newis gan y llall. Cofiaf hynny'n dda iawn.

Yna cyfarfûm ag ef sawl tro yn ystod ymgyrch y refferendwm yn 1997. Bu'n ymladd ymgyrch gref ym Mlaenau Gwent o dan amgylchiadau anodd yn lleol. Sicrhaodd y gwaith a wnaeth yno fuddugoliaeth gyfforddus i'r ymgyrch 'Ie dros Gymru' yno, a sicrhau ein bod ni yma heddiw. Ni chredaf y byddem yma heddiw heb ei waith ym Mlaenau Gwent dros wythnosau a misoedd ymgyrch y refferendwm. Cofiaf ei weld yn sefyll ar y llwyfan pan gyhoeddwyd y canlyniad ym Mlaenau Gwent; yr oedd cynifer o bobl yn aros i weld beth fyddai'r canlyniad yno. Yr oedd yn ddatganolwr pybyr ac yn cefnogi creu'r sefydliad hwn a'i ddatblygiad dros y blynyddoedd. Mae'n deg dweud ei fod, oherwydd yr hyn a wnaeth dros yr ymgyrch 'Ie dros Gymru', yn ymuno â'r rhestr o bobl sy'n gyfrifol am sicrhau ein bod wedi gweld geni ein democratiaeth newydd yma.

Deuthum yn ddirprwy iddo yn 2000 a dysgais lawer ganddo am sut i ddelio â phobl. Mae Aelodau eraill wedi cyfeirio at y ffaith ei fod bob amser yn gwrtais ac yn llawn hiwmor; yn sicr gwelais hynny wrth fynd i gyfarfodydd gydag ef. Gwelais yr effaith y gallai ei chael ar y cyhoedd ac ar wleidyddion drwy fod yn gwrtais a thrwy ddefnyddio hiwmor pan fyddai hynny'n briodol. Os gellir ei feirmiadu am un peth, efallai mai ei arfer o fod yn rhy ddiuedd o safbwynt rhai ohonom ar y fainc hon fyddai hynny—ond dyna sut un oedd Peter. Pan ddeuai pobl ato, ceisiai wneud ei orau drostynt, beth bynnag fyddai eu cefndir gwleidyddol.

Regardless of the political debates that surrounded Peter's decision last year, he maintained good relations with many Assembly Members on this side of the Chamber. He was a regular source of conversation in the Members' tea room until his illness finally got the better of him. I remember the last time that I spoke to him, which was some two months ago outside the tea room. He seemed well. We had a long chat and it was difficult to understand that he was ill at all, such was the cruel vagary of his illness. Many Members have referred to the fact that one of his last acts was to attend Anne Marek's funeral. Despite the great difficulty that that would have caused him, he was determined to go.

Peter certainly did not lack courage. He represented the constituents of Blaenau Gwent here and in Parliament at the same time, and that is no easy job for someone who is in the best of health, let alone someone who is fighting a serious illness. The fact that he managed to do it for so long is surely a tribute to the support of his family and of all those around him. He will be missed by them. It is also true to say that, in this place, he will leave a gap that will never quite be filled.

Glyn Davies: Thank you, Llywydd, for the opportunity to make a few comments today. I wonder what Peter would have thought of us all paying such tributes to him in the Chamber today, particularly me, as one of the Tories whom he so often launched into. I think that he would have very much enjoyed and appreciated listening to what we are saying about him, and I think that it would have made him chuckle in the way that many of us remember.

When someone dies, the biggest loss is felt within the family and, along with everyone else, I extend my sympathy to Peter's family. I did not know Peter Law, the family man; I knew Peter Law, the politician, who became Peter Law, the good and trusted friend and political opponent with whom it was possible to share confidences.

Peter knew how to do politics. I think that he

Waeth beth oedd y dadleuon gwleidyddol a oedd ynghlwm â phenderfyniad Peter y llynedd, parhaodd ar delerau da gyda llawer o Aelodau'r Cynulliad ar yr ochr hon i'r Siambr. Yr oedd yn sgwrsiwr cyson yn ystafell de'r Aelodau hyd nes i'w salwch ei drechu yn y diwedd. Cofiaf y tro olaf imi siarad ag ef, sef tua deufis yn ôl y tu allan i'r ystafell de. Yr oedd yn ymddangos yn iach. Cawsom sgwrs hir ac yr oedd yn anodd deall ei fod yn wael o gwbl, gan mai peth felly yw mympwy creulon ei salwch. Mae llawer o Aelodau wedi cyfeirio at y ffaith mai un o'i weithredoedd olaf oedd mynychu angladd Anne Marek. Er gwaethaf yr anawsterau mawr y byddai hynny wedi eu peri iddo, yr oedd yn benderfynol o fynd.

Yn sicr nid oedd Peter yn brin o ddewrder. Cynrychiolodd etholwyr Blaenau Gwent yma ac yn San Steffan ar yr un pryd, ac nid yw hynny'n beth hawdd i rywun holliach, heb sôn am rywun sy'n brwydro yn erbyn salwch difrifol. Mae'r ffaith ei fod wedi llwyddo i wneud hynny cyhyd yn brawf o gefnogaeth ei deulu a phawb o'i gwmpas. Bydd pob un ohonynt yn gweld ei eisiau. Mae'n wir dweud hefyd y bydd yn gadael bwlch ar ei ôl yn y lle hwn na fydd neb arall yn gallu ei lenwi'n llwyr.

Glyn Davies: Diolch, Lywydd, am y cyfle i gael gwneud ychydig o sylwadau heddiw. Tybed beth fyddai Peter yn ei feddwl ohonom am dalu'r fath deyrngedau iddo yn y Siambr heddiw, yn enwedig fi, fel un o'r Torïaid yr oedd yn ymosod arnynt mor aml? Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai wedi mwynhau a gwerthfawrogi gwrando ar yr hyn yr ydym yn ei ddweud amdano, ac yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai wedi gwneud iddo chwerthin yn y dull y mae llawer ohonom yn ei gofio.

Pan fydd rhywun yn marw, y teulu sy'n teimlo'r golled fwyaf ac, ynghyd â phawb arall, estynnaf fy nghydymdeimlad i deulu Peter. Nid oeddwn yn adnabod Peter Law, y penteulu; Peter Law, y gwleidydd, yr oeddwn i'n ei adnabod, a ddaeth yn Peter Law, y cyfaill da a chywir a gwrthwynebydd gwleidyddol y gellid rhannu cyfrinachau ag ef.

Gwyddai Peter sut i ymhel â gwleidyddiaeth.

would want to be remembered as a tough, battling and combative politician, which he was. I had quite a few real tangles with Peter. He regularly dismissed me as 'Farmer Poll-Tax', whenever I started to rant about the council tax, which was fairly often. I remember him once even comparing me to one of the Dingles, and I must admit that I was pretty outraged by that. I particularly remember the redoubtable Chair of the Local Government and Public Services Committee, Ann Jones, almost having to keep us apart at one meeting, when Peter was defending Sue Essex and I was not.

However, it was not possible to hold any of this against Peter, because you knew that he was arguing from a position of integrity and standing up for what he believed. You could also see that there was no malice in the 'jousting', as Carwyn put it; the twinkle never left his eye. Despite the fact that you were under attack, you were almost tempted to start smiling. After a rumbustious debate in the Chamber, there was nothing that Peter liked more than to wander off to the tea room and have a cup of tea, a chat and a chuckle about the debate that had just taken place.

Peter Law was a top politician and a really top man. It is hard to believe that Peter will no longer be bustling into the tea room after Plenary saying, 'How are you, old friend?', which was his usual introductory line. Today is my chance to say publicly, 'Goodbye, old friend'.

Irene James: I would like to pay tribute to Peter on behalf of me and my family. Peter was very kind and sincere, and was a true gentleman. He was always generous with his time and support. He also had a keen sense of humour. Today, my thoughts are with Trish and his family.

Peter was helpful to me when I was a new Member. I remember the times I spent with Peter through our mutual dread of computers. Peter would ask me, 'How do I print this?', and I would throw my hands up and say, 'I really do not know'. However, somehow or other we managed. We supported each other

Credaf yr hoffai gael ei gofio fel gwleidydd gwydn, ymladdgar ac ymrysongar, a dyna ydoedd. Cefais sawl ymrafael go iawn â Peter. Byddai'n fy ngwawdio'n gyson fel 'Ffermwr Treth y Pen', bob tro y byddwn yn dechrau pregethu am y dreth gyngor, rhywbeth a byddwn yn ei wneud yn weddol aml. Cofiaf iddo unwaith fy nghymharu ag un o'r Dingles hyd yn oed, a rhaid cyfaddef bod hynny wedi fy ngwylltio. Cofiaf yn arbennig am Gadeirydd nerthol y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus, Ann Jones, yn gorfod ein gwahanu bron yn ystod un cyfarfod, pan oedd Peter yn amddiffyn Sue Essex a minnau'n gwneud y gwrthwyneb.

Fodd bynnag, nid oedd modd edliw dim o hyn i Peter, gan eich bod yn gwybod ei fod yn credu'n gydwobodol yn ei ddadleuon ac yn sefyll dros ei ddaliadau. Gallech weld hefyd nad oedd dim malais yn yr 'ymrafael', chwedl Carwyn; byddai ei lygaid yn pefrio drwy'r cyfan. Er ei fod yn ymosod arnoch, yr oedd yn demtasiwn bron ichi ddechrau gwenu. Ar ôl dadl danllyd yn y Siambr, byddai Peter wrth ei fodd o gael mynd i'r ystafell de a chael cwpanaid o de, a sgwrs a chwerthin am y ddadl a oedd newydd orffen.

Yr oedd Peter Law yn wleidydd gwych ac yn ddyn gwirioneddol wych. Mae'n anodd credu na fydd Peter mwyach yn ymlwybro i'r ystafell de ar ôl y Cyfarfod Llawn ac yn dweud, 'Sut wyt ti, yr hen gyfaill?', sef ei gyfarchiad arferol. Dyma fy nghyfle heddiw i ddweud yn gyhoeddus, 'Ffarwél, hen gyfaill'.

Irene James: Hoffwn dalu teyrnged i Peter ar fy rhan fy hun ac ar ran fy nheulu. Yr oedd Peter yn garedig ac yn ddiffuant iawn, ac yn ŵr bonheddig o'r iawn ryw. Yr oedd bob amser yn hael gyda'i amser a'i gefnogaeth. Yr oedd ganddo hefyd synnwyr digrifwch arbennig. Heddiw, yr wyf yn meddwl am Trish a'i deulu.

Bu Peter yn garedig wrthyf pan oeddwn yn Aelod newydd. Cofiaf am yr amser a dreuliais gyda Peter oherwydd bod arnom ein dau ofn cyfrifiaduron. Byddai Peter yn gofyn imi, 'Sut y mae argraffu hwn?', a byddwn innau'n codi fy mreichiau gan ddweud, 'Wir, does gennyf ddim syniad'. Ond rywsut,

in that respect and got through it. I also remember what Peter said to me when I was a new Member. He said, 'Just remember that the people of your constituency voted for you to represent them'. That is something that I have always remembered, and I know without a doubt that Peter always remembered that too, because his first consideration was always the people of Blaenau Gwent. I would like to say, 'Thank you, Peter', because you worked with me and helped me in lots of ways.

Rosemary Butler: Thank you, Presiding Officer, for allowing me to pay my tribute to Peter. I probably knew Peter longer than anyone else here, because I was the second-youngest councillor in Wales when Peter was the youngest. I worked with him on a range of things—the Gwent district councillors association among others. The term 'old friend', which has just been mentioned, used to drive the older councillors mad, because this young 22-year-old used to address very senior leaders as 'old friend' and it did not go down particularly well.

Many people have talked about Peter, the statesman, and I would like to talk about the Peter that I knew. He was great fun, and had a wicked sense of humour. Whatever I was involved in with local government, Peter had been there before. The service that he gave—from his involvement with health boards to many others right across the board—was phenomenal. Peter could be deliciously pompous when he wished to be. I remember when I was a member of an evaluation panel of which Peter was the chair. We had what seemed to me to be a straightforward case, but the chairman suddenly decided that there was a serious technical issue that we had to withdraw to consider. The clerk looked at me and I looked at the clerk, and we duly got up and went out. Peter told us, 'I am in terrible trouble; Trish is about to give birth and I was supposed to buy nappies, but I forgot'. I was then delegated to Boots in Chepstow to buy the necessary items and, upon my return, it was deemed that we had discussed the serious issue and that it had been resolved. He was just superb.

rywfodd, llwyddasom i ymdopi yn y diwedd. Yr oeddem yn cefnogi ein gilydd felly ac yn llwyddo yn y diwedd. Cofiaf hefyd yr hyn a ddywedodd Peter wrthyf pan oeddwn yn Aelod newydd. Meddai, 'Cofiwch fod pobl eich etholaeth wedi pleidleisio drosoch er mwyn i chi eu cynrychioli'. Mae hynny'n rhywbeth yr wyf yn ei gofio byth, a gwn, heb ddim amheuaeth, fod Peter yn ei gofio bob amser hefyd, oherwydd pobl Blaenau Gwent fyddai ei ystyriaeth gyntaf bob amser. Hoffwn ddweud, 'Diolch, Peter', gan eich bod wedi gweithio gyda mi a'm cynorthwyo mewn llawer o ffyrdd.

Rosemary Butler: Diolch, Lywydd, am ganiatáu imi dalu fy nheyrnged i Peter. Mae'n debyg fy mod wedi adnabod Peter yn hwy na neb arall yma, oherwydd a minnau'n gynghorydd ieuengaf ond un yng Nghymru ar un adeg, Peter oedd yr ieuengaf. Bûm yn gweithio gydag ef ar bob math o bethau—cymdeithas cynghorwyr dosbarth Gwent ymhlith pethau eraill. Yr oedd y geiriau 'hen gyfaill', sydd newydd gael eu defnyddio, yn arfer gyrru'r cynghorwyr hyn yn benwan, gan fod y gŵr ifanc 22 oed hwn yn cyfarch yr arweinwyr hyn fel 'hen gyfaill', ac nid oeddent yn hidio am hynny o gwbl.

Mae llawer o bobl wedi sôn am Peter, y gwleidydd, a hoffwn sôn am y Peter yr oeddwn i'n ei adnabod. Yr oedd yn llawn hwyl, ac yr oedd ganddo synnwyr digrifwch direidus. Beth bynnag y byddwn yn ei wneud ym maes llywodraeth leol, yr oedd Peter wedi ei wneud o'm blaen. Yr oedd y gwasanaeth a roddodd—o'i gysylltiad gyda byrddau iechyd i lawer o gyrff eraill ym mhob maes—yn anhygoel. Gallai Peter fod yn hyfryd o rwysgfawr pan fynnai fod. Cofiaf fod yn aelod o banel gwerthuso a oedd yn cael ei gadeirio gan Peter. Yr oedd achos ymddangosiadol syml gerbron y panel, ond yn sydyn penderfynodd y cadeirydd fod mater technegol difrifol wedi codi ac y byddai'n rhaid inni ymneilltuo i'w ystyried. Edrychodd y clerwr arnaf ac edrychais innau ar y clerwr, ac yna codasom a gadael yr ystafell. Meddai Peter wrthym, 'Yr wyf mewn trybini mawr; mae Trish ar fin rhoi genedigaeith ac yr oeddwn i fod i brynu cewynnau, ond fe anghofiais'. Yna dirprwywyd y dasg i mi o fynd i Boots yng Nghas-gwent i brynu'r eitemau angenrheidiol ac, ar ôl imi

ddychwelyd, penderfynwyd ein bod wedi trafod y mater difrifol dan sylw a bod popeth wedi'i ddatrys. Yr oedd yn wych.

Peter liked to do things well. When he was the mayor of Blaenau Gwent, my goodness, he did things well—you will know what I mean if you have ever been a guest at the mayor's parlour in Blaenau Gwent. You did not just have a piece of fish; you had a whole fish. You did not just have a birthday cake; you had a birthday cake with candles. We even had flambéed coffee once, which you should try if you have not already. Peter had been somewhere where he had had flambéed coffee, and so he tried to make it, but of course it went wrong. Instead of having hot coffee, we had coffee with flames coming out of it. Peter was just wonderful.

Byddai Peter yn hoffi gwneud pethau â graen. Pan oedd yn faer Blaenau Gwent, yn wir i chi, gwnaeth bethau â graen—byddwch yn gwybod yr hyn sydd gennyf mewn golwg os buoch yn westai ym mharlwr y maer ym Mlaenau Gwent erioed. Ni wnâi tamaid o bysgodyn y tro; caech bysgodyn cyfan. Ni wnâi cacen ben-blwydd y tro; caech gacen ben-blwydd gyda chanhwyllau arni. Cawsom goffi *flambé* unwaith, rhywbeth y dylech ei brofi os nad ydych wedi gwneud eisoes. Yr oedd Peter wedi bod yn rhywle ac wedi cael coffi *flambé*, felly rhoddodd gynnig ar wneud peth, ond aeth pethau o chwith, wrth gwrs. Yn hytrach na chael coffi poeth, cawsom goffi gyda fflamau'n dod ohono. Yr oedd Peter yn w'r rhyfeddol.

2.40 p.m.

There has been talk of the Ebbw Vale railway line, and Peter had long been an advocate of that. When the Garden Festival of Wales went to Ebbw Vale, he thought that that was the opportunity to get that line reopened. All the councillors came together to try to persuade British Rail to reopen it. British Rail said that it was prepared to do so if the council provided the railway stock, which meant that it had to buy the train and the carriages. Peter's comment was that with what they could afford in Blaenau Gwent, they would not even get the trolley at the back of the train. Even then, he was looking out for the people of Blaenau Gwent. As was said, he was Mr Blaenau Gwent. He was an amazing man, and he could empathise with his fellow man. When I write a letter, I tend to type it and it is usually around a page long. When Peter wrote a letter, it was two or three pages long and always hand-written. Peter was a master of writing to people and of getting to the core of what they felt. He had a true empathy with his fellow man, and there will never be another like him.

Bu sôn am reilffordd Glynebwy, ac yr oedd Peter wedi bod o'i phlaid ers amser maith. Pan ddaeth Gŵyl Erddi Cymru i Lynebwy, credai y byddai hynny'n gyfle i ailagor y lein. Daeth y cynghorwyr i gyd at ei gilydd i geisio perswadio Rheilffyrdd Prydain i'w hailagor. Dywedodd Rheilffyrdd Prydain y byddai'n barod i wneud hynny pe bai'r cyngor yn darparu'r stoc, a olygai y byddai'n rhaid iddo brynu'r trê'n a'r cerbydau. Sylw Peter oedd na fyddai'r hyn y gallent ei fforddio ym Mlaenau Gwent yn talu am y troli yng nghefn y trê'n hyd yn oed. Hyd yn oed bryd hynny yr oedd yn gofalu am fuddiannau pobl Blaenau Gwent. Fel y dywedwyd amdano, ef oedd Mr Blaenau Gwent. Yr oedd yn w'r rhyfeddol, a gallai gydymdeimlo â'i gyd-ddyn. Pan fyddaf yn ysgrifennu llythyr, yr wyf yn dueddol o'i deipio ac fel arfer bydd tua thudalen o hyd. Pan fyddai Peter yn ysgrifennu llythyr, yr oedd yn ddwy neu dair tudalen o hyd ac wedi ei ysgrifennu â llaw bob amser. Yr oedd Peter yn feistr ar ysgrifennu at bobl a mynd at galon yr hyn yr oeddent yn ei deimlo. Yr oedd yn gallu cydymdeimlo o'r galon â'i gyd-ddyn, ac ni fydd neb tebyg iddo eto.

He was so proud of being a Minister in the first Assembly. The only problem was that he felt that his office was not taken seriously

Yr oedd mor falch o gael bod yn Weinidog yn y Cynulliad cyntaf. Yr unig broblem oedd ei fod yn teimlo nad oedd ei swydd yn cael ei

because he had only a box as an office. He did not have a serious Minister's office. He drove Alun Michael and the officials mad because he would hold a meeting, but there would always be too many people to fit into his room, which meant that others had to move out. He never had enough chairs, so he, the Minister, would personally go around other offices to borrow chairs. One day, he turned up with a deck chair because there were not enough chairs. I am pleased to say that the Ministers here now have decent offices, of which Peter would have been particularly proud.

There will never be another Mr Blaenau Gwent. I am sure that there will never be another father, grandfather and husband like Peter. I give my deepest sympathies to Trish, and I hope that they have such wonderful memories that the loss of him will not be too difficult to bear.

Denise Idris Jones: Diolch, Lywydd, am adael i mi ddweud gair neu ddau y prynhawn yma.

I would very much like to pay my respects to Peter and offer my condolences to his wife and family. I knew Peter for a short time through our mutual involvement working together with the Communication Workers Union. I know how highly its members regarded and respected him as a politician, and I would very much like to pass on their respects and condolences.

Leighton Andrews: I will say a few words about Peter Law's role in bringing the Assembly into being. In 1997, when the 'Yes for Wales' campaign was taking firm shape, one of our most prominent opponents was the then Member of Parliament for Blaenau Gwent. However, there was a group of people in Blaenau Gwent who believed in the case for devolution. When the 'Yes for Wales' campaign held its conference in July 1997, a number of those people spoke and were cheered to the rafters. The leader of the Blaenau Gwent 'Yes' campaign was, of course, Peter Law, and I first met him during

chymryd o ddifrif oherwydd mai dim ond boes oedd ganddo fel swyddfa. Nid oedd ganddo swyddfa Gweinidog go iawn. Yr oedd yn gwylltio Alun Michael a'r swyddogion drwy gynnal cyfarfodydd, ond yn ddieithriad byddai ei ystafell yn rhy fach i ddal yr holl bobl a oedd yn bresennol, a byddai hynny'n golygu bod pobl eraill yn gorfod gadael. Ni fyddai ganddo byth ddigon o gadeiriau yno, felly byddai ef, y Gweinidog, yn mynd o amgylch swyddfeydd eraill yn bersonol i ofyn am gael benthyg cadeiriau. Un diwrnod daeth i gyfarfod gyda chadair gynfas am nad oedd digon o gadeiriau. Mae'n dda gennyf ddweud bod gan y Gweinidogion swyddfeydd boddhaol yma bellach, a byddai Peter wedi bod yn arbennig o falch o hynny.

Ni chawn fyth Mr Blaenau Gwent arall. Yr wyf yn siŵr na fydd tad, tad-cu na gŵr arall tebyg i Peter. Estynnaf fy nghydymdeimlad dwysaf i Trish, a gobeithiaf fod ganddynt atgofion mor felys fel na fydd ei golli'n ormod o faich i'w ddiodef.

Denise Idris Jones: Thank you, Presiding Officer, for allowing me to say a few words this afternoon.

Hoffwn dalu fy nheyrnged i Peter a chynnig fy nghydymdeimlad i'w wraig a'i deulu. Deuthum i adnabod Peter am gyfnod byr gan fod gennym ein dau gysylltiad ag Undeb y Gweithwyr Cyfathrebu. Gwn pa mor uchel ei barch yr oedd ymhlith ei aelodau fel gwleidydd, a hoffwn gyfleu eu parch a'u cydymdeimlad hwy.

Leighton Andrews: Hoffwn ddweud ychydig eiriau am gyfraniad Peter Law i sicrhau bodolaeth y Cynulliad. Yn 1997, pan oedd yr ymgyrch 'Ie dros Gymru' yn dechrau datblygu o ddifrif, un o'n gwrthwynebwyr amlycaf oedd yr Aelod Seneddol dros Flaenau Gwent. Fodd bynnag, yr oedd criw o bobl ym Mlaenau Gwent a oedd yn credu yn y ddadl o blaid ddatganoli. Pan gynhaliodd yr ymgyrch 'Ie dros Gymru' ei chynhadledd ym mis Gorffennaf 1997, cafodd nifer o'r bobl a siaradodd fonllfau o gymeradwyaeth. Arweinydd yr ymgyrch 'Ie' ym Mlaenau Gwent, wrth gwrs, oedd Peter Law, ac yn

that campaign.

I recall that the 'yes' vote in Blaenau Gwent was greeted almost as enthusiastically as that final Carmarthen result in the 'Yes' campaign party in the Park Hotel in the early hours of 19 September 1997. After the referendum was won, I recall Peter at a later 'Yes for Wales' event paying tribute to those whom he called the 15 'devo-warriors', who had helped to deliver the 'yes' vote in Blaenau Gwent—it is not often in politics that you can say that you have made a difference. With a majority of 6,721 votes in the referendum, every vote counted, so those 15,000 plus votes in Blaenau Gwent and a majority 'yes' vote of just over 3,000 counted just as much as the votes in other parts of the country. Peter led that campaign and it made a difference. I pay tribute to his work in that, just as I recall his warm words of encouragement to me when I became a candidate for the Assembly.

Finally, I echo the words of others: our thoughts now must be with his family.

Jeff Cuthbert: Like Carwyn Jones, I first met Peter Law when I was trying for the party nomination for the Brecon and Radnor constituency. We were unsuccessful, but nevertheless I remember meeting Peter and talking to him, and, apart from Blaenau Gwent, he was also interested in the constituency in which I lived. I found that he knew many of the councillors, he knew the area and he took an interest in south-east Wales generally. I will remember that first meeting for a long time.

I met him after that at many party conferences and trade union events. He was an active trade unionist as well as a politician. The Labour and trade union movement was very much at his heart.

Peter and I were of the same age; we were both born in 1948. We both joined the party in the mid 1960s, and therefore we grew up,

ystod yr ymgyrch honno y cyfarfûm ag ef am y tro cyntaf.

Cofiaf i'r bleidlais 'ie' ym Mlaenau Gwent dderbyn croeso bron yr un mor frwd â'r canlyniad olaf o Gaerfyrddin ym mharti'r ymgyrch 'Ie' yn y Park Hotel yn oriau mân y bore ar 19 Medi 1997. Ar ôl ennill y refferendwm, cofiaf Peter mewn digwyddiad diweddarach a gynhaliwyd gan yr ymgyrch 'Ie dros Gymru' yn talu teyrnged i'r rhai a ddisgrifiodd fel y 15 'devo-warrior', a oedd wedi gweithio i sicrhau'r bleidlais 'Ie' ym Mlaenau Gwent—nid yn aml ym myd gwleidyddiaeth y gallwch ddweud eich bod wedi gwneud gwahaniaeth. Gyda mwyafrif o 6,721 o bleidleisiau yn y refferendwm, yr oedd pob pleidlais yn cyfrif, felly yr oedd y 15,000 a mwy o bleidleisiau ym Mlaenau Gwent a mwyafrif o fymryn dros 3,000 o blaid yn cyfrif llawn cymaint â'r pleidleisiau mewn rhannau eraill o'r wlad. Arweiniodd Peter yr ymgyrch honno a gwnaeth wahaniaeth. Talaf deyrnged i'w waith yn yr ymgyrch honno, yn yr un modd ag y cofiaf ei eiriau hynaws o anogaeth i mi pan ddeuthum yn ymgeisydd ar gyfer sedd yn y Cynulliad.

Yn olaf, yr wyf yn adleisio geiriau pobl eraill: mae ein meddyliau yn awr gyda'i deulu.

Jeff Cuthbert: Fel Carwyn Jones, cyfarfûm â Peter Law am y tro cyntaf pan oeddwn yn ceisio cael enwebiad y blaid ar gyfer etholaeth Brycheiniog a Maesyfed. Buom yn aflwyddiannus, ond er hynny cofiaf gwrdd â Peter a sgwrsio gydag ef, a, heblaw Blaenau Gwent, yr oedd ganddo ddiddordeb hefyd yn yr etholaeth yr oeddwn i'n byw ynddi. Sylweddolais ei fod yn adnabod llawer o'r cynghorwyr, yr oedd yn gyfarwydd â'r ardal ac yr oedd yn ymddiddori yn ne-ddwyrain Cymru'n gyffredinol. Byddaf yn cofio am y cyfarfyddiad cyntaf hwnnw am amser hir.

Cyfarfûm ag ef lawer o weithiau wedi hynny yng nghynadleddau'r blaid a digwyddiadau undebau llafur. Yr oedd hefyd yn undebwr llafur gweithgar yn ogystal ag yn wleidydd. Yr oedd y mudiad Llafur ac undebaeth lafur yn agos iawn at ei galon.

Yr oedd Peter a minnau yr un oed; cawsom ein dau ein geni yn 1948. Ymunasom ein dau â'r blaid yng nghanol y 1960au, ac felly,

in many respects, in the same political environment. I remember—as I am sure Peter did—the events in Czechoslovakia and France in 1968 and the Vietnam war. Those were defining times for young people as they began to become aware of political events throughout the world. It began to shape the way in which they saw themselves within the world.

Then, in the early 1980s, there was the miners' strike, which hit so bitterly in my constituency and in Blaenau Gwent. In these areas, Peter and I worked separately, but together, to ensure that benefit was brought to the miners and that there was some relief for them in the terrible ordeal that they were going through. These were very important historic events for socialists.

I disagree with the political decisions that Peter took a year ago, but my memory goes back much further than that, over many, many years.

I believe that when we build bridges, we will remember Peter as a man of the people. I will remember him with friendship and fondness.

Mark Isherwood: I always remember that when I arrived at the Assembly three years ago and met many of you for the first time, Peter, in his own special way, made sure that I—like all the other new Members—felt welcome and that we were being judged as individuals and as people rather than according to whatever preconceptions people may have had about us politically. As we have heard, he was always generous with his time, advice, support and in buying a bottle of wine—I think probably all of us have benefited from that at one stage or another.

When Peter attacked you in a Chamber debate, it was always a privilege because he did it with such dignity and aplomb, and—as we have heard—with a twinkle in the eye. As we came to learn over the past year, he was also a formidable ally when he was debating on your side, but always, as we have heard, on the basis of what was good for the people

mewn sawl ffordd, magwyd y ddau ohonom yn yr un amgylchedd gwleidyddol. Cofiaf—fel yr wyf yn siŵr y cofiai Peter—y digwyddiadau yn Nhsiecoslofacia a Ffrainc yn 1968 a rhyfel Fietnam. Yr oedd y cyfnod hwn yn gyfnod diffiniol i bobl ifanc wrth iddynt ddechrau dod yn ymwybodol o ddigwyddiadau gwleidyddol ledled y byd. Yr oedd yn dechrau llunio'r ffordd yr oeddent yn gweld eu hunain yn y byd.

Yna, ar ddechrau'r 1980au, cafwyd streic y glowyr, a fu'n ergyd mor chwerw yn fy etholaeth ac ym Mlaenau Gwent. Yn yr ardaloedd hyn bu Peter a minnau'n gweithio ar wahân, ond gyda'n gilydd, i sicrhau y câr glowyr fudd a bod rhywfaint o gymorth ar gael iddynt yn ystod y cyfnod erchyll hwn. Yr oedd y rhain yn ddigwyddiadau hanesyddol o bwys mawr i sosialwyr.

Yr wyf yn anghytuno â'r penderfyniadau gwleidyddol a wnaeth Peter flwyddyn yn ôl, ond mae fy nghof yn mynd yn ôl ymhellach o lawer na hynny, dros lawer iawn o flynyddoedd.

Wrth inni godi pontydd, credaf y byddwn yn cofio am Peter fel dyn y bobl. Byddaf yn ei gofio gyda chyfeillgarwch ac anwyldeb.

Mark Isherwood: Nid anghofiaf fyth y tro cyntaf imi gyrraedd y Cynulliad dair blynedd yn ôl a chwrdd â nifer ohonoch am y tro cyntaf, pan aeth Peter ati, yn ei ffordd ddihafal ei hun, i wneud yn siŵr fy mod i—ynghyd â'r holl Aelodau newydd eraill—yn cael croeso cynnes a'n bod yn cael ein barnu fel unigolion ac fel pobl ac nid yn ôl pa ragdybiaethau bynnag a oedd gan bobl amdanom yn wleidyddol. Fel yr ydym eisoes wedi clywed, yr oedd bob amser yn hael gyda'i amser, ei gyngor a'i gefnogaeth ac wrth brynu potelaid o win—credaf fod pob un ohonom, yn ôl pob tebyg, wedi elwa o hynny ar ryw achlysur neu'i gilydd.

Pan ymosodai Peter arnoch mewn dadl yn y Siambr, yr oedd hynny bob amser yn fraint gan ei fod yn gwneud hynny gyda chymaint o urddas a hunanfeddiant, ac—fel yr ydym eisoes wedi clywed—â'i lygaid yn pefrio. Yr oeddem wedi dysgu dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf ei fod hefyd yn gaffaeliad ardderchog pan ddadleuai o'ch plaid, ond bob

of Blaenau Gwent rather than what was good for any particular political party or agenda.

In January 2006, I went to the House of Commons on a working visit and bumped into Peter in the lobby before my meeting. He immediately welcomed me with open arms and asked me whether I would meet him in the Strangers' bar for a drink afterwards. I explained my timescale, not thinking that he, as a busy politician with a double responsibility as a Member of Parliament and Assembly Member, could spare time for me. However, when I came out of my meeting at the time that I told him, he was there waiting for me and took me to the Strangers' bar and gave me half an hour of his time. It was only at the end that he told me that other people were waiting to see him. Again, that was the sum of the man—he found the time to greet a fellow Assembly Member and to treat him with friendship and fellowship when he found him in his other place of work.

We have heard many references to his dignified attendance at Anne Marek's funeral. When I saw him standing behind me and turned around and said to him, 'Peter, it is Mark', he insisted that everyone around him, including Trish, were introduced to me. I noticed then and subsequently throughout the day that he spoke continuously in praise of other people, and not once did he mention himself or any of his own problems or issues. That was the true sum of the man. That was my last memory of him. Peter, it was a privilege to have known you.

Y Llywydd: Ar ran y Cynulliad, yr wyf yn diolch i chi i gyd, fel Aelodau, am y cyfraniadau nodedig.

I'r rhai ohonom sydd yma ers y dechrau, a chyn y dechrau fel petai, yn achos Peter, yr ydym wedi colli Aelod nodedig o'r teulu—teulu datganoli a theulu'r Cynulliad.

Deuthum i adnabod Peter pan oedd yn un o arweinyddion llywodraeth leol a gwyddwn yr adeg honno—os caf ddweud hyn heb darfu ar unrhyw un—nad oedd ym mowld cynghorydd confensiynol o unrhyw blaid

amser, fel yr ydym wedi clywed, ar sail yr hyn a oedd o fudd i bobl Blaenau Gwent yn hytrach na budd unrhyw blaid neu agenda wleidyddol.

Ym mis Ionawr 1996 euthum i Dŷ'r Cyffredin ar ymweliad gwaith a digwyddais daro ar Peter yn y cyntedd cyn fy nghyfarfod. Yn ddiymdroi fe'm croesawodd â'i freichiau ar led a gofynnodd imi a fyddwn yn cwrdd ag ef ym mar y Dieithriaid am ddiwedd wedyn. Esboniais fy amserlen wrtho, heb feddwl y gallai ef, gwleidydd prysur gyda chyfrifoldeb deublyg fel Aelod Seneddol ac Aelod Cynulliad, roi o'i amser i mi. Fodd bynnag, pan adewais fy nghyfarfod yn ôl ein trefniant, yr oedd yno yn disgwyl amdanaf. Aeth â mi i far y Dieithriaid a rhoddodd hanner awr o'i amser imi. Dim ond ar ddiwedd y cyfnod hwnnw y dywedodd wrthyf fod pobl eraill yn disgwyl i'w weld. Unwaith eto, dyna hanfod y dyn—yr oedd ganddo amser i gyfarch cyd-Aelod Cynulliad a'i drin â charedigrwydd a chyfeillgarwch pan ddigwyddodd daro arno yn ei fan gwaith arall.

Mae sawl un wedi cyfeirio at ei bresenoldeb urddasol yn angladd Anne Marek. Pan welais ef yn sefyll y tu ôl imi a throï a dweud wrtho, 'Peter, Mark sydd yma', mynnodd fod pawb o'i gylch, gan gynnwys Trish, yn cael eu cyflwyno imi. Sylwais bryd hynny ac wedyn drwy gydol y dydd ei fod yn clodfori pobl eraill yn ddi-baid, ac na soniodd unwaith amdano ef ei hun na dim un o'r problemau na'r materion a oedd yn effeithio arno ef. Dyna hanfod y dyn. Dyna fy atgof olaf amdano. Peter, bu eich adnabod yn fraint.

The Presiding Officer: On behalf of the Assembly, I thank you all, as Members, for your notable contributions.

For those of us who have been here from the start, and even before then, as it were, in Peter's case, we have lost a significant Member of the family—the family of devolution and of this Assembly.

I came to know Peter when he was one of the leaders of local government and I knew then—if I can say so without treading on anyone's toes—that he was not cast in the conventional mould of councillors of any

wleidyddol yng Nghymru.

Yr oedd ganddo ymlyniad arbennig i'r syniad o undod y genedl. Yr oedd hyn yn beth anarferol hefyd efallai, yn enwedig yn y dyddiau hynny. Daeth hynny'n amlwg yn y cyfnod pan oedd yn aelod o'r bwrdd iaith cyntaf, cyn sefydlu'r bwrdd iaith statudol. Cefais y fraint o rannu aelodaeth gydag ef am gyfnod byr yr adeg hynny.

2.50 p.m.

Mae gennyf atgofion da hefyd am ei ymweliadau ag ardal Meirionnydd a gogledd Cymru pan oedd yn gweithio fel ymgynghorydd i Dŵr Cymru. Yr oedd yn hoff iawn o dreulio amser yng nghwmni pysgotwyr—ni chredaf ei fod yn pysgota llawer—a'r cymunedau lleol, gwerinol yn yr ardaloedd hynny.

Fel y clywyd eisoes, yr ydym hefyd yn coffâu rhywun a fu'n Weinidog llwyddiannus, er ond am gyfnod byr. Nid anghofiaf byth ef yn dod i agor yr A494 yn Nrws-y-nant yn ffurfiol ac yn swyddogol. Bydd rhai ohonoch yn gwybod am y lleoliad hwnnw. Dyna lle yr oedd y goleuadau traffig hwyaf eu parhad yn holl hanes y deyrnas hon. Cefais y fraint o gynrychioli'r goleuadau hynny heb allu eu symud am gyfnod hir. Dyma Peter, yn ei ffordd ddihafal eu hun, yn annerch disgyblion ysgol Rhyd-y-main gan ddweud, 'Oni bai am ddatganoli, ni fyddai'r ffordd hon wedi cael ei hagor'.

Dyna'r math o gymeriad oedd. Mae atgofion da amdano. Rhown ein dymuniadau gorau i Trish a'r teulu. Yr wyf yn siŵr y cawn gyfle i wneud hynny'n bersonol yn nes ymlaen yr wythnos hon. Gofynnaf ichi oll fel Aelodau i sefyll er coffâd am un o'n sylfaenwyr, Peter Law.

*Safodd Aelodau'r Cynulliad am funud o dawelwch.
Assembly Members stood for a minute's silence.*

Cynnig Trefniadol Procedural Motion

The Business Minister (Jane Hutt): First, I also wish to add my respects to this

political party in Wales.

He had a particular commitment to the idea of national unity. This was also quite unusual perhaps, particularly in those days. That became obvious during the period when he was a member of the first language board, before the statutory language board was established. I had the honour of sharing membership with him for a short period at that time.

I have fond memories also of his visits to Meirionnydd and north Wales when he worked as a consultant for Welsh Water. He was very fond of spending time in the company of anglers—I do not believe that he spent much time fishing—and the local rural communities in those areas.

As has been mentioned, we are also remembering someone who was a successful Minister, if only for a short time. I will never forget him opening the A494 at Drws-y-nant officially and formally. Some of you will know of that place. It was the location of the longest-standing traffic lights in the whole history of this kingdom. I had had the privilege of representing those lights without being able to move them for a long time. Peter, in his own inimitable way, addressed the pupils of Rhyd-y-main school by saying, 'If it were not for devolution, this road would not have been opened'.

That was the kind of character that he was. There are fond memories of him. We extend our best wishes to Trish and the family. I am sure that we will have an opportunity to do so personally later on this week. I ask you all as Members to stand in memory of one of our founder members, Peter Law.

Y Trefnydd (Jane Hutt): Yn gyntaf oll, carwn innau hefyd dalu teyrnged i'r gŵr

remarkable and courageous man and extend my sympathies to Trish Law and the family. nodedig a gwrol hwn ac anfon fy nghydymdeimlad at Trish Law a'r teulu.

I propose that

Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales, under Standing Order No. 6.19, postpones the following items of this afternoon's business until tomorrow afternoon:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 6.19, yn gohirio'r eitemau canlynol o fusnes heddiw tan brynhawn yfory:

First Minister's questions, the business statement, and the motions to approve under Standing Order No. 24.25 the Education (School Day and School Year) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 and the Plant Breeders' Rights (Discontinuation of Prior Use Exemption) (Wales) Order 2006; and

cwestiynau i'r Prif Weinidog, y datganiad busnes, a'r cynigion i gymeradwyo o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 24.25 Reoliadau Addysg (Y Diwrnod Ysgol a'r Flwyddyn Ysgol) (Cymru) (Diwygio) 2006 a Gorchymyn Hawliau Bridwyr Planhigion (Dirwyn i Ben Esemptiad o Ddefnydd Blaenorol) (Cymru) 2006; ac

agrees that the remaining items scheduled for this afternoon be rescheduled over the next three weeks as shown in the business statement to be proposed tomorrow.

yn cytuno bod yr eitemau sy'n weddill a drefnwyd ar gyfer heddiw yn cael eu haildrefnu dros y tair wythnos nesaf fel y dangosir yn y datganiad busnes i'w gynnig yfory.

Cynnig: O blaid 51, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion: For 51, Abstain 0, Against 0.

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:
The following Members voted for:

Andrews, Leighton
Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Cuthbert, Jeff
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Janet
Davies, Jocelyn
Dunwoody, Tamsin
Essex, Sue
Francis, Lisa
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Gwyther, Christine
Hutt, Jane
Idris Jones, Denise
Isherwood, Mark
James, Irene
Jones, Alun Ffred
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn

Jones, Elin
Jones, Helen Mary
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Jones, Laura Anne
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Lloyd, Val
Marek, John
Melding, David
Mewies, Sandy
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Sargeant, Carl
Sinclair, Karen
Thomas, Catherine
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Wood, Leanne

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Y Llywydd: Dyna ddiwedd ein trafodion **The Presiding Officer:** That brings today's
heddiw. proceedings to a close.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 2.54 p.m.
The meeting ended at 2.54 p.m.*

**Aelodau a'u Pleidiau
Members and their Parties**

Andrews, Leighton (Llafur – Labour)
Barrett, Lorraine (Llafur – Labour)
Bates, Mick (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Black, Peter (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Bourne, Nick (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Burnham, Eleanor (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Butler, Rosemary (Llafur – Labour)
Cairns, Alun (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Chapman, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
Cuthbert, Jeff (Llafur – Labour)
Davidson, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
Davies, Andrew (Llafur – Labour)
Davies, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Davies, Glyn (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Davies, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Davies, Jocelyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Dunwoody, Tamsin (Llafur - Labour)
Elis-Thomas, Dafydd (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Essex, Sue (Llafur – Labour)
Francis, Lisa (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
German, Michael (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Graham, William (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Gregory, Janice (Llafur – Labour)
Griffiths, John (Llafur – Labour)
Gibbons, Brian (Llafur – Labour)
Gwyther, Christine (Llafur – Labour)
Hart, Edwina (Llafur – Labour)
Hutt, Jane (Llafur – Labour)
Idris Jones, Denise (Llafur – Labour)
Isherwood, Mark (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
James, Irene (Llafur – Labour)

Jones, Alun Ffred (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Jones, Ann (Llafur – Labour)
Jones, Carwyn (Llafur – Labour)
Jones, Elin (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Jones, Helen Mary (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Jones, Ieuan Wyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Jones, Laura Anne (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Lewis, Huw (Llafur – Labour)
Lloyd, David (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Lloyd, Val (Llafur – Labour)
Marek, John (Cymru Ymlaen – Forward Wales)
Melding, David (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Mewies, Sandy (Llafur – Labour)
Morgan, Jonathan (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Morgan, Rhodri (Llafur – Labour)
Neagle, Lynne (Llafur – Labour)
Pugh, Alun (Llafur – Labour)
Randerson, Jenny (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Ryder, Janet (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Sargeant, Carl (Llafur – Labour)
Sinclair, Karen (Llafur – Labour)
Thomas, Catherine (Llafur – Labour)
Thomas, Gwenda (Llafur – Labour)
Thomas, Owen John (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)
Williams, Brynle (Ceidwadwyr Cymru – Welsh Conservatives)
Williams, Kirsty (Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru – Welsh Liberal Democrats)
Wood, Leanne (Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales)