



Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
(Y Cofnod Swyddogol)

The National Assembly for Wales
(The Official Record)

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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 9.05 a.m. gyda'r Llywydd yn y Gadair.
The Assembly met at 9.05 a.m. with the Presiding Officer in the Chair.*

Datganiad gan y Llywydd Statement by the Presiding Officer

The Presiding Officer: I must undertake my saddest duty as the Presiding Officer of the National Assembly, and note the untimely death of Val Feld, the Assembly Member for Swansea East.

Y Llywydd: Rhaid imi ymgymryd â'm dyletswydd dristaf fel Llywydd y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, a nodi marwolaeth gynamserol Val Feld, Aelod y Cynulliad dros Ddwyrain Abertawe.

Teyrngedau i Val Feld Tributes to Val Feld

Prif Weinidog Cymru (Rhodri Morgan): Mae'n achlysur o'r tristwch mwyaf ein bod yn dod ynghyd y bore yma, nid er mwyn cynnal ein busnes arferol, ond i dalu teyrnged i Val Feld, chwaer ac Aelod nodedig o'r Cynulliad.

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): It is an occasion of the utmost sadness that we come together this morning, not to hold our usual business, but to pay tribute to Val Feld, a sister and a notable Member of the Assembly.

A hithau wedi ei geni a'i magu yn ardal Caernarfon yn y gogledd, ac wedi rhoi genedigaeth i'w phlant a'u magu yn y de, yr oedd Val Feld yn ddinesydd y Gymru newydd yr ymladdodd mor gryf dros ei chreu, drwy helpu i sefydlu'r Cynulliad. Dywedodd wrthyf, mewn sgwrs bersonol, gymaint yr oedd yn difaru nad oedd hi, merch y deintydd, yn siarad Cymraeg. Ni allai chwarae rhan gyflawn yng nghymdeithas pobl ifanc ardal Caernarfon. Yr oedd hi, a meibion a merched yr optegydd a'r meddygon eraill bron â bod yn gymdeithas ar wahân, yn lleiafrif na allent gymysgu llawer â'r 'Cofis' eraill. Felly, yr oedd Val yn cenhadu i geisio creu Cymru a ddeuai â phawb ynghyd. Ei phrif genhadaeth yn ystod ei hoes a'i gyrfa oedd dod â Chymru ynghyd.

As someone born and brought up in the Caernarfon area of north Wales, who gave birth to her children and brought them up in the south, Val Feld was a citizen of the new Wales that she fought so hard to create, in helping to establish the Assembly. She told me, in a private conversation, how much she regretted the fact that she, the dentist's daughter, did not speak Welsh. She could not play a full part in the society of young people in the Caernarfon area. She, and the sons and daughters of the optician and the other doctors were almost a society apart, a minority that could not mix much with the other *Cofis*. Therefore, it was Val's mission to try to create a Wales that would bring everyone together. Her main mission in her life and her career was to unite Wales.

Val was a distinguished member of the voluntary sector, in the SHAW Housing Association, the first head of Shelter Cymru, and then as the first head of the Equal Opportunities Commission in Wales. She also played a major role as the treasurer of the 'Yes for Wales' campaign, which helped to create this Assembly. That is why it is such a cruel fate for Val to be snatched away incredibly early in the life of the Assembly that she did so much to help to create.

Yr oedd Val yn aelod nodedig o'r sector gwirfoddol, yng Nghymdeithas Tai SHAW, pennaeth cyntaf Shelter Cymru, ac yna yn bennaeth cyntaf y Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal yng Nghymru. Chwaraeodd ran fawr hefyd fel trysorydd yr ymgyrch 'Ie dros Gymru', a helpodd i greu'r Cynulliad hwn. Dyna pam ei bod yn ergyd mor greulon gan ffawd bod Val wedi cael ei chipio mor anghredadwy o gynnar ym mywyd y Cynulliad y gwnaeth gymaint i helpu i'w greu.

She was an assiduous Member for Swansea East and a distinguished Member, albeit for a short time, of the Economic Development Committee. I believe that the business support review that she led so enthusiastically from that Committee, will be a lasting tribute to her efforts to bridge the gap between the Assembly and the business community in Wales.

Today, above all, our thoughts go out to her children, Hester and Bronwen, their children, her father, stepmother and long-term partner, Mick. Today we should think primarily of them as well as of the wider political world and of her huge, legendary circle of friends and contacts throughout every field of endeavour in Wales.

Y mae'n foment o dristwch, ond hefyd yn foment inni edrych ymlaen at sut y gallwn drafod materion ar ran ac er cof am Val Feld, ac er lles y Gymru newydd yr helpodd Val ei chreu. Gwnaeth gymaint o ymdrech i wella bywydau pawb yng Nghymru.

Arweinydd yr Wrthblaid (Ieuan Wyn Jones): Ategef innau'r teimlad o dristwch y teimlwn oll fel Aelodau Cynulliad a phobl Cymru heddiw. Ar ran grŵp Plaid Cymru yn y Cynulliad, yn Aelodau a staff, cyflwynaf ein cydymdeimlad dwysaf â theulu Val yn y brofedigaeth o'i cholli hi.

Yr ydym yn ymwybodol iawn heddiw, mai ei theulu a ddiodeffodd y golled fwyaf, ac yr ydym yn cofio amdanynt yn gynnes iawn. Yr ydym yn meddwl am Val am inni ei cholli ym mlodau ei dyddiau fel gwleidydd ac fel Aelod o'r Cynulliad.

Gan fod Cymru'n wlad mor fach, y mae pawb yn dod ar draws ei gilydd o bryd i'w gilydd. Cofiaf y tro cyntaf imi gyfarfod â Val. Yr oedd yn ystod ei chyfnod yn gweithio i'r Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal. Ysgrifennodd Val ataf yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw, pan oeddwn yn Aelod Seneddol yn San Steffan, gan dynnu fy sylw at y ffaith mai ychydig o ferched a oedd wedi llwyddo i gael swyddi uchel ym myd addysg. Ymchwiliais ychydig i'r pwnc, a chyfarfŵm â hi yn y Senedd i drafod y gwaith ymchwil hwnnw. Dyna pryd

Yr oedd yn Aelod diwyd dros Ddwyrain Abertawe ac yn aelod nodedig, er am amser byr yn unig, o'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd. Credaf y bydd yr adolygiad o gymorth i fusnesau a arweiniodd mor frwdfrydig o'r Pwyllgor hwnnw, yn deyrnged barhaol i'w hymdrechion i bontio'r bwlch rhwng y Cynulliad a'r gymuned fusnes yng Nghymru.

Heddiw, yn anad dim, meddyliwn am ei phlant, Hester a Bronwen, eu plant hwy, ei thad, ei llysfam a'i phartner hirdymor, Mick. Heddiw, dylem feddwl yn bennaf amdanynt hwy yn ogystal â'r byd gwleidyddol ehangach a'i chylch nodedig, enfawr o ffrindiau a chysylltiadau ym mhob maes y bu'n weithgar ynddo yng Nghymru.

It is a moment of sadness, but it is also a moment for us to look forward to how we can discuss matters on behalf of and in memory of Val Feld, and for the benefit of the new Wales that she helped to create. She made such an effort to improve the lives of everybody in Wales.

The Leader of the Opposition (Ieuan Wyn Jones): I endorse the feeling of sadness that we all feel as Assembly Members and as Welsh people today. On behalf of the Plaid Cymru group in the Assembly, Members and staff alike, I express our heartfelt sympathy to Val's family in their loss.

We are acutely aware today that it is her family who have suffered the greatest loss and we send them our warmest wishes. We think of Val because we have lost her in her prime as a politician and as a Member of the Assembly.

As Wales is such a small country, everyone encounters one another from time to time. I recall the first time that I met Val. It was during her time at the Equal Opportunities Commission. Val wrote to me during that time, when I was a Member of Parliament at Westminster, and drew my attention to the fact that few women had managed to obtain senior posts in the education sector. I researched the matter a little, and met her in Parliament to discuss that research. That was when I became aware of Val's total

y sylwais ar ymroddiad llwyr Val i gyfleoedd cyfartal a'i bwriad hi, a'r tîm a weithiodd gyda hi, i sicrhau bod y mater yn cael ei wthio i frig yr agenda wleidyddol.

I mi, yr oedd Val yn berson cwbl ymroddedig ac yn ferch hynod gydwybodol. Daeth llawer ohonom, sydd bellach yn Aelodau o'r Cynulliad, o bob plaid wleidyddol, ar draws ein gilydd pan oeddem yn ymgyrchu ysgwydd-wrth-ysgwydd yn ystod yr ymgyrch 'Ie dros Gymru' adeg y refferendwm. Gweithiodd Val yn galed iawn yn ystod yr ymgyrch honno. Credai ynddo gydag angerdd. Credai hefyd fod angen sefydliad democrataidd newydd yng Nghymru.

In this area, as in so many other spheres of her life, she became totally committed to the cause. The commitment that she showed was a clear inspiration to others. We all knew that devolution could only be delivered if the pro-devolution parties worked side-by-side. Party political differences were put to one side, because for Val, and for many of us, the cause and the campaign in which we were involved was greater than any single political party.

During the referendum campaign, we would meet to plan and to discuss strategy and how the message could be delivered to all parts of Wales. As treasurer of 'Yes for Wales', Val played a vital role and would always plead for additional money to make the campaign more effective.

9:15 a.m.

I am sure that Members remember the mixed emotions felt as the referendum results from different parts of Wales were announced. The Park Hotel that night was not a place for faint hearts. We experienced every emotion imaginable, which were shared by Val Feld. I know how much it meant to her to be elected to represent Swansea East in the National Assembly on such an historic occasion. She made a significant contribution to the National Assembly during her all too short time here. She skilfully chaired the Economic Development Committee. It is not the easiest Committee to chair as its membership is made up of strong characters from all parties,

commitment to equal opportunities and her intention, as well as that of the team that she was working with, to ensure that the matter was pushed to the top of the political agenda.

To me, Val was a totally committed person and an extremely conscientious woman. Many of us who are now Assembly Members of all political parties, came across each other while campaigning shoulder-to-shoulder during the 'Yes for Wales' campaign at the time of the referendum. Val worked very hard during that campaign. She believed in it passionately. She also believed that a new democratic establishment was needed in Wales.

Yn y maes hwn, fel mewn cymaint o feysydd eraill o'i bywyd, daeth yn llwyr ymrwymedig i'r achos. Yr oedd yr ymrwymiad a ddangosodd yn ysbrydoliaeth glir i eraill. Gwyddai pob un ohonom na ellid cyflawni datganoli oni fyddai'r pleidiau a oedd o blaid datganoli yn gweithio ochr yn ochr â'i gilydd. Rhoddwyd gwahaniaethau gwleidyddol y pleidiau o'r neilltu, oherwydd i Val, ac i lawer ohonom, yr oedd yr achos a'r ymgyrch yr oeddem yn gysylltiedig â hwy yn fwy nag unrhyw blaid wleidyddol.

Yn ystod ymgyrch y refferendwm, byddem yn cyfarfod i gynllunio a thrafod strategaeth a sut y gellid cyfleu'r neges i bob rhan o Gymru. Fel trysorydd 'Ie dros Gymru', chwaraeodd Val ran hollbwysig a byddai bob amser yn ymbil am arian ychwanegol i wneud yr ymgyrch yn fwy effeithiol.

Yr wyf yn siŵr y bydd yr Aelodau yn cofio'r emosiynau cymysg a deimlwyd wrth i ganlyniadau'r refferendwm o wahanol rannau o Gymru gael eu cyhoeddi. Nid oedd Gwesty'r Parc y noson honno yn addas ar gyfer y gwangalon. Profasom bob emosiwn y gellir ei ddychmygu, ac fe'u rhannwyd gan Val Feld. Gwn cymaint y golygai iddi gael ei hethol i gynrychioli Dwyrain Abertawe yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ar achlysur mor hanesyddol. Gwnaeth gyfraniad sylweddol i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn ystod ei chyfnod yma a oedd yn gyfnod rhy fyr o lawer. Cadeiriodd y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd yn gelfydd. Nid hwn yw'r Pwyllgor hawsaf

but she carried out the work with grace and dignity.

Bydd colled fawr ar ôl Val Feld. Mae'n dda ei bod wedi cael y cyfle i wneud cyfraniad pwysig i'r ymdrech i sefydlu'r Cynulliad. Fodd bynnag, mae'n drueni o'r mwyaf na chafodd hi wneud mwy. Fel plaid, anfonwn ein cydymdeimlad at deulu Val wrth iddynt ddiodef yr ergyd drom a ddaw yn sgîl ei cholli. Mae'n hynod briodol i'r Cynulliad gofnodi'r teyrngedau hyn fel arwydd clir o gyfraniad Val Feld i'r sefydliad hwn.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives (Nick Bourne): On behalf of the Welsh Conservative group in the Assembly, its staff and the party in Wales, I offer sincere condolences to Val's family and friends. It came as a great shock to hear of Val's untimely death yesterday. When I wrote to her about three weeks ago expressing the hope that we would soon see her back in the Assembly, I genuinely thought that we would. However, I think that many people here—possibly everyone—were not aware of the severity of Val's illness.

Uniquely, I knew Val outside politics before coming to know her within the political arena. That is not even the case with Members of my own group. Val was a governor at the Swansea Institute of Higher Education, where I was a lecturer. Rather curiously, in the light of the political battles that we have fought here since, we found ourselves on the same side of epic struggles at the institute. A truly epic struggle concerning the institute's management reflected all of Val's qualities, including her commitment, verve, passion and deep sense of justice. I came to know her at that time as a trusted friend and ally, who could always be trusted. We won that epic struggle, but not before Val had resigned as a governor on a matter of principle. That was Val at her best; acting with commitment and integrity.

I will certainly miss her. She was a doughty political opponent, but never a political enemy. After any political battle with Val,

i'w gadeirio gan fod ei aelodaeth yn cynnwys cymeriadau cryf o bob plaid, ond cyflawnodd y gwaith yn raslon ac yn urddasol.

Val Feld will be greatly missed. It is fitting that she had the opportunity to make an important contribution to the Assembly's establishment. However, it is a great pity that she was not allowed to do more. As a party, we send our sympathy to Val's family as they suffer the heavy blow of her loss. It is extremely fitting that the Assembly records these tributes as a clear indication of Val Feld's contribution to this institution.

Arweinydd Ceidwadwyr Cymru (Nick Bourne): Ar ran grŵp Ceidwadwyr Cymru yn y Cynulliad, ei staff a'r blaidd yng Nghymru, cydymdeimlaf yn ddiodyll â theulu a ffrindiau Val. Yr oedd marwolaeth gynamserol Val ddoe yn sioc fawr inni. Pan ysgrifennais ati tua thair wythnos yn ôl yn y Cynulliad yn fuan, credais o ddifrif y byddem yn ei gweld hi. Fodd bynnag, credaf nad oedd llawer o bobl yma—neb o bosibl—yn ymwybodol o ddifrifoldeb salwch Val.

Yn unigryw, adwaenwn Val y tu allan i fyd gwleidyddiaeth cyn dod i'w hadnabod yn yr arena wleidyddol. Nid yw hynny'n wir gydag Aelodau fy ngrŵp i fy hun hyd yn oed. Yr oedd Val yn llywodraethwraig yn Athrofa Addysg Uwch Abertawe lle yr oeddwn yn ddarlithydd. Yn rhyfedd ddigon, yng ngoleuni'r brwydrau gwleidyddol a ymladdwyd gennym ers hynny, canfuom ein bod ar yr un ochr yn ymladd brwydrau epig yn yr athrofa. Adlewyrchodd un frwydr wirioneddol epig bob un o rinweddau Val, gan gynnwys ei hymrwymiad, ei hafiaith, ei hangerdd a'i hymdeimlad dwys o gyfiawnder. Deuthum i'w hadnabod ar yr adeg honno fel ffrind ffyddlon, y gellid ymddiried ynddi bob amser. Enillasom y frwydr epig honno, ond nid cyn i Val ymddiswyddo fel llywodraethwraig ar fater o egwyddor. Dyna Val ar ei gorau, yn gweithredu gydag ymrwymiad a gonestrwydd.

Yn sicr, byddaf yn ei cholli. Yr oedd yn wrthwynebydd gwleidyddol pybyr, ond byth yn elyn gwleidyddol. Ar ôl unrhyw frwydr

you knew that there would be no sense of malice or any grudges held and that it would always be possible to laugh and joke with her. All Members will have the abiding memory of a passionate person who did not take sides and was totally without malice. I am glad that we are putting political battles to one side today, as it is the right thing to do. We will all miss a trusted and well-respected colleague. It is right that we unite in grief and tribute to her today. We should also pay tribute to her considerable work on the Economic Development Committee and the Committee on Equality of Opportunity. I will personally miss her greatly. That feeling is also shared by the members of my group.

The Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats (Michael German): I also pay tribute to Val Feld on behalf of the Welsh Liberal Democrats, our Assembly staff and Liberal Democrats throughout Wales. We are paying tribute today to a champion of the great institution that we now represent, to which Val had devoted a great deal of her energies. We all recognise that a thread running through Val's life was the championing of fairness and justice, whether that might be found in equal rights, homelessness or in ensuring that underspoken voices in Wales were heard.

We all know that Val always pursued her interests with vigour and determination. She was a champion of devolution and of equal rights. In that, we can be proud of her, because she has left her mark on the map of Wales. She may have projected to some a solemn and determined exterior, but we all know that inside, she had a heart of gold. She was always willing to accommodate and to listen and worked tirelessly to find a consensus.

Many of us recognised the contribution that Val made to the 'Yes for Wales' campaign as treasurer and some of us had to find the pennies at the bottom of our pockets as a result of the pressure that she exerted on us. Her achievements resulted in this National Assembly becoming a reality. Her

wleidyddol gyda Val, gwyddech na fyddai unrhyw gasineb na dal dig ac y byddai bob amser yn bosibl chwerthin a chael hwyl gyda hi. Bydd gan bob Aelod ddarlun parhaol yn eu cof o berson angerddol nad oedd yn cymryd ochr ac a oedd yn hollol ddifalais. Yr wyf yn falch ein bod yn rhoi'r brwydrau gwleidyddol o'r neilltu heddiw, gan mai dyna'r peth iawn i'w wneud. Bydd pob un ohonom yn colli cyd-Aelod ffyddlon ac uchel ei pharch. Mae'n briodol ein bod yn uno mewn galar ac yn talu teyrnged iddi heddiw. Dylem dalu teyrnged hefyd i'w gwaith sylweddol ar y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd a'r Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal. Yn bersonol, byddaf yn ei cholli'n fawr. Rhennir y teimlad hwnnw gan aelodau fy ngrŵp hefyd.

Arweinydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Michael German): Talaf innau deyrnged hefyd i Val Feld ar ran Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, ein staff yn y Cynulliad a Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol ledled Cymru. Talwn deyrnged heddiw i gefnogwr y sefydliad mawr a gynrychiolwn yn awr, y cysegrodd Val gymaint o'i hegni iddo. Mae pob un ohonom yn cydnabod mai'r llinyn a redai drwy fywyd Val oedd ei hymdrech i bleidio achos tegwch a chyfiawnder, boed hynny mewn cydraddoldeb hawliau, digartrefedd neu sicrhau y clywyd lleisiau gwan yng Nghymru.

Gŵyr pob un ohonom fod Val bob amser yn ymgymryd â diddordebau yn llawn egni a phenderfyniad. Yr oedd yn gefnogwr datganoli a chydaddoldeb hawliau. Yn hynny o beth, gallwn fod yn falch ohoni, oherwydd mae wedi gadael ei hól ar fap Cymru. Efallai ei bod wedi ymddangos i rai fel person difrifol a phenderfynol ar yr wyneb, ond gŵyr pob un ohonom fod ganddi galon fawr. Yr oedd bob amser yn barod i addasu a gwrando a gweithiai yn ddiflino i ddod o hyd i gonsensws.

Cydnabu llawer ohonom y cyfraniad a wnaeth Val i'r ymgyrch 'Ie dros Gymru' fel trysorydd a bu'n rhaid i rai ohonom ddod o hyd i geiniogau ar waelod ein pocedi o ganlyniad i'r pwysau a roddai arnom. Yn sgîl ei chyflawniadau hi daeth y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol hwn yn realiti. Yr oedd y cyfle

opportunity to contribute to its work was all too short, but she has left her mark on how we do our business. She did more than anyone else to set the tone of the Assembly, ensuring that, as I am sure that she would say, it was not a boy's own show, and that we men learned the lesson of a new, more open and less combative style of politics.

An appropriate motto, used on a freedom newspaper in Nigeria, typifies the influence that I think Val had on our work. Under the headline on that newspaper is a motto that says 'show the light and people will find the way'. Nowhere was the light shown and the way found more than in Val's handling of that strange world of male-strength politics in the Economic Development Committee. She faced a difficult decision when she had to give up the reins of that Committee just a few short months ago. Many of us who served on that Committee will have fond memories and will cherish some of the cameo moments when she impressed upon us the important issue of equality and fairness. She sparred with Alun Cairns about the title by which she wanted to be called and about understanding the meaning of the word 'chair' in Committee. I am glad that that change is being pursued. We are all pleased that her influence in that direction, in our Plenary Sessions and in Committee, has borne fruit. There can be no more fitting tribute to her than our continuing her work in the Assembly, making our Committees and our plenary business different in style and in substance from the taunting, male-dominated style of Westminster.

Val was a good friend to me during our time together on the Economic Development Committee. Working with her was a delight. In the terms of my Nigerian motto, she certainly showed me the light and helped me to find the way forward. I feel—probably as all Members here do—that we have lost a dear friend. Our thoughts, our hearts and our minds go out to her family, that they will have the strength to deal with their tragic loss. Wales and the Assembly are the poorer by her passing. She will be sorely missed in the Assembly and in the wider political world.

a gafodd i gyfrannu at ei waith yn rhy fyr o lawer, ond gadawodd ei hôl ar y ffordd y gwnawn ein gwaith. Gwnaeth fwy nag unrhyw un arall i osod cywair y Cynulliad, gan sicrhau, fel yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai hi yn ei ddweud, nad oedd yn sioe i'r bechgyn yn unig, a'n bod ni y dynion wedi dysgu gwers math newydd, mwy agored a llai ymosodol o wleidyddiaeth.

Mae arwyddair priodol, a ddefnyddir ar bapur rhyddid yn Nigeria, yn nodweddu'r dylanwad a gâi Val ar ein gwaith yn fy marn i. O dan y pennawd ar y papur newydd hwnnw mae arwyddair sydd yn dweud '*show the light and people will find the way*'. Yr enghraifft orau o ddangos y golau a dod o hyd i'r ffordd oedd y modd yr ymdriniodd Val â'r byd rhyfedd hwnnw o wleidyddiaeth wedi ei reoli gan ddynion yn y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd. Wynebodd benderfyniad anodd pan fu'n rhaid iddi ollwng awenau'r Pwyllgor hwnnw ychydig fisoedd yn ôl. Bydd gan lawer ohonom a wasanaethodd ar y Pwyllgor hwnnw atgofion melys a byddwn yn trysori rhai o'r adegau cameo pan bwysleisiodd fater pwysig cydraddoldeb a thegwch. Croesodd gleddyfau ag Alun Cairns ynglŷn â'r teitl yr oedd am gael ei galw ac ynglŷn â deall ystyr y gair 'cadeirydd' yn y Pwyllgor. Yr wyf yn falch bod y newid hwnnw yn cael ei weithredu. Mae pob un ohonom yn falch bod ei dylanwad yn y cyfeiriad hwnnw, yn ein Cyfarfodydd Llawn ac mewn Pwyllgorau, wedi dwyn ffrwyth. Ni ellir talu teyrnged mwy teilwng iddi na pharhau â'n gwaith yn y Cynulliad, gan wneud ein Pwyllgorau a'n cyfarfodydd llawn yn wahanol o ran dull a sylwedd i'r dull gwatwarus, wedi ei reoli gan ddynion sydd yn San Steffan.

Bu Val yn ffrind da imi yn ystod ein hamser gyda'n gilydd ar y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd. Yr oedd yn bleser cydweithio â hi. O ran fy arwyddair Nigeraidd, dangosodd y goleuni imi yn sicr a'm helpu i ddod o hyd i'r ffordd ymlaen. Teimlaf—fel y teimla pob Aelod yma siŵr o fod—ein bod wedi colli ffrind annwyl. Cydymdeimlwn â'i theulu o waelod calon gan weddio y cânt y nerth i ddelio â'u colled drasig. Mae Cymru a'r Cynulliad yn dlotach yn sgîl ei marwolaeth. Bydd hiraeth amdani yn y Cynulliad ac yn y byd gwleidyddol ehangach.

The Minister for Environment (Sue Essex): I will make a personal contribution at this terribly difficult time. I knew Val as a friend for many years. She became a good friend during the devolution campaign, a very good friend during the selection and election process to the Assembly and a sister during the two years in which we have been here.

We sat together in the Chamber for many months. We would, as she would say, keep each other going through difficult times. We became like bosom school friends, frequently in fits of laughter. Sometimes, we could not speak because we would start laughing. That was the friendship that we had—it was a kind of safety valve for us. It was not just a question of talking; we passed notes. When I was moved to another seat in the Chamber, it felt like a great loss—the teacher was separating us. We got by through giving each other meaningful looks.

9:25 a.m.

We had long telephone conversations late at night and they would go on for hours. They would be serious and she would go through points that she felt strongly about. She had great political commitment, but inevitably I would end up crying with laughter. That was the fun of the woman. She was so intellectually able. People often forget that she had such intellectual ability and she brought that to everything that she did, whether for Shelter Cymru, the Equal Opportunities Commission or in the Assembly. She was so intellectually strong. She was committed and dedicated and had a sense of duty that has not been surpassed. She would drive everywhere across Wales, wherever she was needed. She was passionately committed to women, speaking out on behalf of those people whose voices could not be heard. She made such a contribution. Above all, her integrity was second to none and with a real bravery underpinning that integrity, it made me feel humble at times. She was a brave and courageous person. She was exceptionally committed to devolution and was so proud to be here. Of all the people in this Chamber, I

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd (Sue Essex): Gwnaf gyfraniad personol ar yr adeg eithriadol o anodd hon. Adwaenwn Val fel ffrind ers blynnyddoedd lawer. Daeth yn ffrind da yn ystod yr ymgyrch datganoli, yn ffrind da iawn yn ystod y broses ddethol ac ethol i'r Cynulliad, ac yn chwaer yn ystod y ddwy flynedd y buom yma.

Bu'r ddwy ohonom yn eistedd gyda'n gilydd yn y Siambr am fisoedd lawer. Byddem, fel y byddai hi'n ei ddweud, yn rhoi hwb i'n gilydd drwy adegau anodd. Daethom yn debyg i ffrindiau ysgol mynwesol, yn aml yn cael pyliau o chwerthin. Weithiau, ni allem siarad oherwydd byddem yn dechrau chwerthin. Dyna'r cyfeillgarwch oedd gennym—yr oedd yn rhyw fath o ollyngfa inni. Nid mater o siarad ydoedd; yr oeddem yn trosglwyddo negeseuon i'n gilydd. Pan gefais fy symud i sedd arall yn y Siambr, teimlai yn golled fawr—yr oedd yr athro yn ein gwahanu. Llwyddasom i ymdopi drwy roi ambell i gip ystyrlon.

Cawsom sgysiau ffôn hir yn hwyr y nos a byddent yn mynd ymlaen am oriau. Byddent yn ddifrifol a byddai'n mynd trwy bwyntiau y teimlai'n gryf yn eu cylch. Yr oedd ganddi ymrwymiad gwleidyddol mawr, ond yn anochel byddem yn dechrau chwerthin yn afreolus. Dyna oedd hwyl y ferch. Yr oedd mor ddeallus. Yn aml anghofiai pobl fod ganddi'r fath allu deallusol a chyflwynai hynny ym mhopeth a wnâi, boed ar gyfer Shelter Cymru, y Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal neu yn y Cynulliad. Yr oedd mor gryf yn ddeallusol. Yr oedd yn ymrwymedig ac yn ymroddedig a meddai ar ymdeimlad o ddyletswydd nad oes neb wedi rhagori arno. Byddai'n gyrru i bobman yng Nghymru, ble bynnag yr oedd ei hangen. Yr oedd yn angerddol o ymrwymedig i ferched, yn siarad ar ran y bobl hynny na ellid clywed eu lleisiau. Gwnaeth gyfraniad mor fawr. Yn anad dim, yr oedd heb ei hail o ran gonestrwydd a meddai ar ddewrder gwirioneddol a oedd yn sail i'r gonestrwydd hwnnw a wnaeth imi deimlo'n ostyngedig ar adegau. Yr oedd yn berson dewr a gwrol. Yr oedd yn eithriadol o ymrwymedig i ddatganoli ac mor falch o fod yma. O'r holl

think it meant more to her. She was so pleased to be here and so much wanted to be a part of it. She would be pained when negative things were said about the Assembly. That really hurt her and we used to say, 'stick with it, Val, you have such a contribution to make'. She has made a contribution, let no-one be mistaken about that. She has made a contribution in many ways across Wales, but it is a tragedy that she has gone when she had so much more to give.

The last time that I saw Val, I told her about the compliments that were being given in this Chamber on the work that she was doing and the work that she had done. Even her old sparring partners were joining in. It was an irony that was not lost on her. I said to her, 'Val, you know, you are becoming a saint' and she started to grin and laugh. She said, 'Saint Val is it?' I said, 'yes', but there was sadness in the laughter this time. Her family should be proud of the way in which they have supported her for so long and of her bravery. I was proud to be associated with her. It would be a fitting tribute to her if we were to say how wonderful this Assembly could be, and if we could turn it into the Assembly that she wanted it to be, and believed it could be. It is a terrible loss for her family and they should be proud of her contribution and live with that. It is a terrible loss for Wales and for all of us here. I have lost the sister whom I did not have. I am richer for having known her, but poorer in that I have lost her now.

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): Val Feld was a remarkable woman of our time. She had formidable strength and courage, as Sue said. She had determination that came from a passionate commitment to social justice and fair play. I have known Val for over 20 years as a friend, as a sister in the women's movement and as a colleague in the voluntary sector, in public life and in politics. I first met Val when she was setting up Shelter Cymru and I was setting up Welsh Women's Aid. We were sitting outside a council chamber waiting to give our presentations to council members. We both knew that getting our messages across about homelessness and domestic violence would not be easy, but she

bobl yn y Siambr hon, yr oedd, mi gredaf, yn golygu mwy iddi hi. Yr oedd mor falch o fod yma ac yr oedd yn dyheu gymaint am fod yn rhan ohono. Byddai'n poeni pan ddywedwyd pethau negyddol am y Cynulliad. Yr oedd hynny'n ei brifo ac arferwn ddweud, 'dal ati, Val, mae gennyf gymaint o gyfraniad i'w wneud'. Gwnaeth gyfraniad, peidied neb â chamgymryd hynny. Gwnaeth gyfraniad mewn sawl ffordd ledled Cymru, ond mae'n drasiedi ei bod wedi mynd pan oedd ganddi gymaint mwy i'w roi.

Y tro diwethaf imi weld Val, dywedais wrthi am y canmoliaeth a gâi yn y Siambr hon ynglŷn â'r gwaith a wnâi a'r gwaith a wnaeth. Yr oedd hyd yn oed ei hen bartneriaid paffio yn ymuno i'w channol. Deallodd yr eironi. Dywedais wrthi, 'Val, yr wyt yn dod yn santes wyddost ti' a dechreuodd wenu a chwerthin. 'Santes Val? meddai. Dywedais, 'ie', ond yr oedd tristwch yn y chwerthin y tro hwn. Dylai ei theulu, ymfalchïo yn eu gofal ohoni ac yn ei dewrder. Yr oeddwn yn falch o fod yn gysylltiedig â hi. Byddai'n deyrnged deilwng iddi pe baem yn dweud pa mor wych y gallai'r Cynulliad hwn fod, a phe baem yn gallu ei droi yn Gynulliad yr oedd hi am iddo fod, ac yn credu y gallai fod. Mae'n golled aruthrol i'w theulu a dylent ymfalchïo yn ei chyfraniad a byw gan gofio hynny. Mae'n golled aruthrol i Gymru ac i bob un ohonom yma. Yr wyf wedi colli'r chwaer nad oedd gennyf. Yr wyf yn gyfoethocach o fod wedi ei hadnabod, ond yn dlotach am fy mod wedi ei cholli yn awr.

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Jane Hutt): Yr oedd Val Feld yn un o ferched rhyfeddol ein hoes. Yr oedd ganddi gryfder a dewrder anhygoel, fel y dywedodd Sue. Yr oedd ganddi benderfyniad a ddeilliai o ymrwymiad angerddol i gyfiawnder cymdeithasol a chwarae teg. Yr wyf wedi adnabod Val ers dros 20 mlynedd fel ffrind, ac fel chwaer yn y mudiad merched ac fel cydweithwraig yn y sector gwirfoddol, mewn bywyd cyhoeddus ac mewn gwleidyddiaeth. Cyfarfûm â Val gyntaf pan oedd yn sefydlu Shelter Cymru a minnau'n sefydlu Cymorth i Fenywod Cymru. Yr oeddem yn eistedd y tu allan i siambr cyngor yn aros i roi ein cyflwyniadau i aelodau'r cyngor. Gwyddai'r ddwy ohonom

taught me a great deal. She taught me that to be effective, we had to change attitudes through persuasion, strength of argument and through the evidence that we could provide from working with people who were homeless or abused and ensuring that their voices were heard. Last night, one of her colleagues was telling me how, in the early days, she and Val went around all 37 district councils in Wales to try to persuade housing directors that Shelter Cymru existed and that it was important that they supported it. Val achieved that so effectively because, as a result of that, housing advice services sprang up all over Wales. So many of the social policies and strategies for housing, homelessness and equal opportunities that we talk about in this Assembly, came from the views and pioneering work that Val undertook 20 years ago. She worked tirelessly over the last 20 years to achieve those aims. The point that I want to make in tribute to Val is about the work that has come about as a result of her passionate commitment to change. For Val, politics was a means to an end. It was not an end in itself; it was about how to achieve change and social justice and how to ensure that people who do not have a voice have power in Wales and power in our society. That is what led to her ambition for devolution in Wales.

Val was always ahead of her time in her thinking. Sue mentioned her intellectual capacity. She always pushed things further. When we thought that we had achieved something, Val would say 'No, we have to go so much further.' From her background in homelessness, she considered how we treat our council tenants in Wales and said that a tenants' movement was necessary. When she set up the Equal Opportunities Commission in Wales, she considered those who were not being heard, particularly black and ethnic minority women. She was the pioneer behind MEWN Cymru—the Minority Ethnic Women's Network. She was always pushing the boundaries and always saying that we had to go further.

na fyddai'n hawdd cyfleu ein negeseuon ynglŷn â digartrefedd a thrais yn y cartref, ond dysgodd lawer iawn imi. Fe'm dysgodd fod yn rhaid inni, er mwyn bod yn effeithiol, newid agweddau drwy berswâd, cryfder dadl a thrwy'r dystiolaeth y gallem ei darparu o ganlyniad i weithio gyda phobl a oedd yn ddigartref neu'n cael eu cam-drin a sicrhau y clywyd eu lleisiau. Neithiwr, dywedodd un o'i chydweithwyr wrthyf, sut yr aeth hi a Val, yn y dyddiau cynnar, o amgylch y 37 cyngor dosbarth yng Nghymru i geisio darbwylllo cyfarwyddwyr tai bod Shelter Cymru yn bodoli a'i fod yn bwysig iddynt ei gefnogi. Cyflawnodd Val hynny mewn ffordd mor effeithiol oherwydd, o ganlyniad i hynny, datblygodd gwasanaethau cyngor ar dai ledled Cymru. Deilliodd cymaint o'r polisïau cymdeithasol a'r strategaethau ar gyfer tai, digartrefedd a chyfle cyfartal y siaradwn amdanynt yn y Cynulliad, o'r safbwyntiau a'r gwaith arloesol a wnaeth Val 20 mlynedd yn ôl. Gweithiodd yn ddiplino dros yr 20 mlynedd diwethaf i gyflawni'r amcanion hynny. Y pwynt yr wyf am ei wneud mewn teyrnged i Val yw pwynt ynglŷn â'r gwaith a ddeilliodd o ganlyniad i'w hymrwymiad angerddol i newid. I Val, yr oedd gwleidyddiaeth yn fodd o sicrhau canlyniad. Nid oedd yn ganlyniad ynddo'i hun; yr oedd yn golygu sut i gyflawni newid a chyfiawnder cymdeithasol a sut i sicrhau y caiff y bobl hynny nad oes ganddynt lais bŵer yng Nghymru a phŵer yn ein cymdeithas. Dyna'r hyn a'i harweiniodd at ei huchelgais o ddatganoli yng Nghymru.

Yr oedd Val bob amser o flaen ei hamser o ran ei meddylfryd. Soniodd Sue am ei gallu deallusol. Gwthiai bethau ymhellach bob amser. Pan oeddem yn credu ein bod wedi cyflawni rhywbeth, byddai Val yn dweud 'Na, rhaid inni fynd ymhellach o lawer.' O'i chefnidir ym maes digartrefedd, ystyriodd sut y triniwn ein tenantiaid tai cyngor yng Nghymru a dywedodd fod angen mudiad tenantiaid. Pan sefydlodd y Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal yng Nghymru, ystyriodd y rheini nad oeddent yn cael eu clywed, yn enwedig merched croenddu a merched o leiafrifoedd ethnig. Hi oedd yr arloeswraig y tu ôl i MEWN Cymru—Rhwydwaith Merched o Leiafrifoedd Ethnig. Yr oedd bob amser yn gwthio'r ffiniau ac yn dweud bod yn rhaid inni fynd ymhellach.

I do not think that the contribution that Val made to social change in Wales has really been understood and recognised. We must remember that that was why she had so much ambition for the National Assembly for Wales and the new Wales that Rhodri and everyone else has spoken about. That is why she campaigned for it. However, she did not just want to give a voice to people in Wales, she wanted to ensure that those people also had power to make a difference.

Val's loyalty to the Assembly and to us, her colleagues, over the past two years was inestimable. Through ill-health, through thick and thin, through the disappointments, the ups and downs and our struggles to make the Assembly something of which we can all be proud and to give it a great future, she put her whole self into her work. We must remember that we owe it to Val's memory to have strength and confidence in what we are doing in the Assembly with—not on behalf of—the people of Wales. That is what Val taught us.

Val's family was with her all the way through all the struggles throughout her life. They loved her for what she was and we loved her for what she was.

The Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities (Edwina Hart): I first met Val when she was director of Shelter Cymru. I remember the hard struggle that she had in that arena. However, I first got to know her well when she started her struggle with the trades union movement in Wales. Val had always been a loyal trade union member. Before the Assembly was set up, I concentrated my work on the trades union movement. That is where I first worked with Val.

Nobody should underestimate the amount of work that Val did to help ordinary working women in Wales, her fight for equality and how she helped the trade unions to advance that agenda. Many of the improvements in the day-to-day lives of thousands of working women were won with the help of Val and the stance that she took in the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Ni chredaf fod y cyfraniad a wnaeth Val i newid cymdeithasol yng Nghymru wedi ei ddeall a'i gydnabod mewn gwirionedd. Rhaid inni gofio mai dyna pam yr oedd ganddi gymaint o uchelgais ar gyfer Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru a'r Gymru newydd y mae Rhodri a phawb arall wedi sôn amdani. Dyna pam yr ymgyrchodd drosto. Fodd bynnag, nid oedd am roi llais i bobl Cymru yn unig, yr oedd hefyd am sicrhau bod gan y bobl hynny y pŵer i wneud gwahaniaeth.

Bu teyrngarwch Val i'r Cynulliad ac i ni, ei chyd-Aelodau, dros y ddwy flynedd diwethaf yn ddifedur. Drwy salwch, doed a ddelo, drwy'r siomedigaethau, troeon yr yrfa a'n brwydrau i wneud y Cynulliad yn rhywbeth y gall pob un ohonom ymfalchïo ynddo a rhoi dyfodol gwych iddo, rhoddodd ei hun yn gyfan i'w gwaith. Rhaid inni gofio bod arnom ddyletswydd i Val i feddu ar y cryfder a'r hyder yn yr hyn a wnawn yn y Cynulliad gyda—ac nid ar ran—pobl Cymru. Dyna'r hyn a ddysgodd Val inni.

Bu teulu Val gyda hi drwy bob brwydr ar hyd ei hoes. Yr oeddent yn ei charu am yr hyn ydoedd ac yr oeddem ninnau yn ei charu am yr hyn ydoedd.

Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau (Edwina Hart): Cyfarfûm â Val gyntaf pan oedd yn gyfarwyddwraig Shelter Cymru. Cofiaf y frwydr galed a gafodd yn yr arena honno. Fodd bynnag, deuthum i'w hadnabod yn dda gyntaf pan ddechreuodd ei brwydr gyda mudiad yr undebau llafur yng Nghymru. Yr oedd Val wedi bod yn aelod ffyddlon o undeb llafur erioed. Cyn sefydlu'r Cynulliad, canolbwyntiais ar fudiad yr undebau llafur. Dyna lle y gweithiais am y tro cyntaf gyda Val.

Ni ddylai neb danbrizio faint o waith a wnaeth Val i helpu merched cyffredin sydd yn gweithio yng Nghymru, ei brwydr dros gydraddoldeb a sut yr helpodd yr undebau llafur i ddatblygu'r agenda honno. Enillwyd llawer o'r gwelliannau ym mywydau miloedd o ferched sydd yn gweithio o ddydd i ddydd gyda help Val a'r agwedd a fabwysiadai yn y Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal.

Val was always available to explain, discuss and engage in debate on problems. She was always ready to offer advice and help but, perhaps more importantly, she was there to give support. Politics is a lonely place for women. I can assure you that the trades union movement is an equally lonely place for women. Val was always available to give help and advice on that.

As a trades union activist, my instinct in the face of opposition was often to try to do business by a majority of the block vote—never mind the arguments on the day; just put our hands up, get the block vote and get the motion through. Val was not like that. She wanted hearts and minds. Ieuan spoke earlier about Val's role in the Economic Development Committee. She did not want to railroad anything through, she wanted to build consensus and she wanted the hearts and minds of the Committee members. That was important. That is why I admired her so much. She was always prepared to talk. She was always the last one up at night arguing the toss and she was always the nicest person in the morning, even if she felt that she had lost the argument. Those are the important things for which I will always remember her.

9:35 a.m.

Val had considerable energy and vitality for a series of causes. They were linked by a fundamental belief in social justice and human rights. I think that her greatest achievement was to be elected Chair. She wanted to put into action everything in which she had always believed. We had many interesting discussions when she was involved with the trade unions and on other political issues concerning the so-called glass ceiling for women. Janet Lee Warman wrote a very nice poem about the glass ceiling. It epitomises what Val felt and what many women feel.

‘They call it “the glass ceiling,”
the barrier in business that women
cannot rise above. If it is glass,
sand heated to silk, it cannot last
long as ceiling. Our fingers know
the weight of bone china as we set it

Yr oedd Val bob amser ar gael i egluro, trafod a chyfrannu at ddadl ar broblemau. Yr oedd bob amser yn barod i gynnig cyngor a help ond, efallai yn bwysicach na hynny, yr oedd yno i roi cefnogaeth. Mae gwleidyddiaeth yn lle unig i ferched. Rhoddaf sicrwydd ichi fod y mudiad undebau llafur yn lle yr un mor unig i ferched. Yr oedd Val bob amser ar gael i roi help a chynngor ar hynny.

Fel aelod gweithredol o undeb llafur, fy ngreddf yn wyneb gwrthwynebiad yn aml oedd ceisio cynnal busnes drwy gael y mwyafrif o'r bleidlais floc—waeth beth fo'r dadleuon ar y dydd; codi llaw, cael y bleidlais floc a phasio'r cynnig. Ni wnâi Val hynny. Yr oedd am ennill calonnau a meddyliau. Soniodd Ieuan yn gynharach am rôl Val yn y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd. Nid oedd am ruthro unrhyw fesur drwodd, yr oedd am greu consensws ac yr oedd am ennill calonnau a meddyliau aelodau'r Pwyllgor. Yr oedd hynny'n bwysig. Dyna pam yr oeddwn yn ei hedmygu gymaint. Yr oedd bob amser yn barod i siarad. Hi oedd yr un olaf ar ei thraed bob nos yn dadlau a hi oedd y person mwyaf dymunol yn y bore, hyd yn oed os teimlai ei bod wedi colli'r ddadl. Dyna'r pethau pwysig y byddaf yn eu cofio bob amser wrth feddwl amdani.

Yr oedd gan Val gryn egni ac asbri dros sawl achos. Fe'u cysylltwyd gan gred sylfaenol mewn cyfiawnder cymdeithasol ac iawnderau dynol. Credaf mai ei chyflawniad mwyaf oedd cael ei hethol yn Gadeirydd. Yr oedd am weithredu popeth yr oedd wedi credu ynddo erioed. Cawsom lawer o drafodaethau diddorol pan fu'n gysylltiedig â'r undebau llafur a thrafodaethau ar faterion gwleidyddol eraill yn ymwneud â'r nenfwd gwydr i ferched fel y'i gelwir. Ysgrifennodd Janet Lee Warman gerdd ddymunol iawn am y nenfwd gwydr. Mae'n ymgorffori'r hyn y teimlai Val a'r hyn y mae llawer o ferched yn ei deimlo.

lightly between silver. Our fingers
know to pinch shards of shattered
tumbler off the floor, from baby's toes
Our fingers know, in frustrated dark,
cool air on the other side of the pane.
We have watched our mothers' hands
Until our own hands learned
glass yields to patience.'

Val had enormous patience. At the National Assembly, she was proud to think that she had helped Labour Party women to get through the glass ceiling in politics.

She was very proud of the amount of female representation in the Assembly's Cabinet. I am very proud of the advances that have been made by women workers in Wales. Val played a full part in those advances. We are all proud of her, as was her family. They stood with her through thick and thin and through her many disappointments. I say farewell to her as a friend and a comrade.

Andrew Davies: Members have paid tribute to Val and her roles in the trade union movement and the equal opportunities campaign, but I want to speak for the people of Swansea. One of the consolations for Val in the long weeks that she was in Singleton hospital was that she had a view of her, and our, beloved Swansea Bay. It is doubly tragic that she died a few hours before the announcement that the green light has been given to a National Maritime Museum in Swansea.

Val was a friend and a colleague. We were selected as candidates on the same evening. We had just opened up an office with our two parliamentary colleagues in Swansea. She was a passionate campaigner for the rights that Members have talked about, but she was also a passionate campaigner for Swansea and the communities that she represented, some of which are the most deprived in Wales. We worked closely on many campaigns and she will be sadly missed.

Many comrades in the Chamber have benefited from the campaigns that she fought. If my party had not decided to have twinning, many comrades would not be in the

Yr oedd gan Val lawer iawn o amynedd. Yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ymfalchïai wrth feddwl ei bod wedi helpu merched y Blaid Lafur i fynd drwy'r nenfwd gwydr ym myd gwleidyddiaeth.

Ymfalchïai'n fawr yn nifer y cynrychiolwyr benywaidd yng Nghabinet y Cynulliad. Yr wyf yn falch iawn o'r datblygiadau a wnaethpwyd gan weithwyr benywaidd yng Nghymru. Chwaraeodd Val ran lawn yn y datblygiadau hynny. Mae pob un ohonom yn ymfalchïo ynnddi, fel y gwna ei theulu. Buont wrth ei hochr, doed a ddelo, drwy lawer o'i siomedigaethau. Ffarwelïaf â hi fel ffrind a chymrawd.

Andrew Davies: Mae'r Aelodau wedi talu teyrnged i Val a'i rôl ym mudiad yr undebau llafur a'r ymgyrch cyfle cyfartal, ond yr wyf am siarad ar ran pobl Abertawe. Un o'r cysuron i Val yn ystod yr wythnosau hir y bu yn ysbyty Singleton oedd fod ganddi olygfa a oedd yn annwyl iawn iddi hi ac i ni, sef Bae Abertawe. Mae'n drasiedi deublyg ei bod wedi marw ychydig oriau cyn cyhoeddi bod caniatâd wedi ei roi i adeiladu Amgueddfa Forol Genedlaethol yn Abertawe.

Yr oedd Val yn ffrind a chyd-Aelod. Cawsom ein dethol yn ymgeiswyr ar yr un noson. Yr oeddem newydd agor swyddfa gyda'n dau gyd-Aelod seneddol yn Abertawe. Yr oedd yn ymgyrchydd brwd dros yr hawliau y soniodd Aelodau amdanynt, ond yr oedd hefyd yn ymgyrchydd brwd dros Abertawe a'r cymunedau a gynrychiolai, ac mae rhai ohonynt ymhlith y mwyaf difreintiedig yng Nghymru. Buom yn cydweithio'n agos ar sawl ymgyrch a bydd colled fawr ar ei hôl.

Mae sawl cyd-Aelod yn y Siambr wedi elwa ar yr ymgyrchoedd yr ymladdodd drostynt. Pe bai fy mhlaid wedi penderfynu peidio â gefeillio, ni fyddai llawer o'r cyd-Aelodau yn

Chamber. She fought for fair representation for women—not just in theory, but in practice.

Many people have said that she was steadfast in her principles and doughty in her campaigns, but she also had a lightness of touch and a sense of humour. Mike German referred to her objection to the use of language when she was addressed as ‘Madam Chair’ of the Economic Development Committee. There is a corollary to that story. Val had borne the irritation of that address for too long and many of those who were at the South West Wales Regional Committee in Newcastle Emlyn decided to hatch a plot against the current Chair of the Regional Committee. To his irritation and embarrassment, we addressed him as ‘Comrade Chair’. For many of us, he will be forever known as ‘Comrade Alun Cairns’.

Val would want to be remembered for her contribution to equal opportunities, to devolution and to the people and communities of Swansea. As a fellow citizen of Swansea, I pay tribute to her.

Rosemary Butler: I indicated yesterday that I would like to speak—as I am sure that every Member in the Chamber did. When I sat down last night to decide what to say, I found that after two hours I still did not know, because I was truly humbled by the list of Val Feld’s achievements. She was absolutely amazing and she was principled. She was ambitious—not for herself, but for her principles. She was fearless in the pursuit of justice. Those of us who stood shoulder to shoulder with her know how fearless she was. Anyone who has taken on the bastions of the Labour Party in deepest Wales will know how fearless she was.

I have only touched on her voluntary work, but yesterday I spoke to four people from different fields in Wales, each of whom said that she was deeply involved in their work. On the radio this morning, Donald Anderson MP and Vivienne Sugar, Chief Executive of Swansea City and County Council, paid tribute to the fact that she was a truly national

y Siambr. Ymladdodd dros gynrychiolaeth deg i ferched—nid yn unig mewn egwyddor, ond yn ymarferol hefyd.

Mae llawer o bobl wedi dweud ei bod yn gadarn yn ei hegwyddorion ac yn bybyr yn ei hymgyrchoedd, ond meddai hefyd ar y ddawn i fod yn sensitif a meddai ar synnwyr digrifwch. Cyfeiriodd Mike German at ei gwrthwynebiad i’r iaith a ddefnyddiwyd pan gyfeiriwyd ati fel ‘Madam Cadeirydd’ yn y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd. Mae canlyneb i’r stori honno. Dioddefodd Val biwisrwydd y cyfarchiad hwnnw yn rhy hir a phenderfynodd llawer ohonom a oedd ym Mhwyllgor Rhanbarth y De-orllewin yng Nghastell-newydd Emlyn gynllwynio yn erbyn Cadeirydd presennol y Pwyllgor Rhanbarth. Er cryn gythrudd ac embaras iddo, cyfarchwyd ef fel ‘Cymrawd Gadeirydd’. I lawer ohonom, caiff ei adnabod am byth fel ‘Cymrawd Alun Cairns’.

Byddai Val am gael ei chofio am ei chyfraniad i gyfle cyfartal, i ddatganoli ac i bobl a chymunedau Abertawe. Fel un o gyd-ddinasyddion Abertawe, talaf deyrnged iddi.

Rosemary Butler: Nodais ddoe y byddwn yn hoffi siarad—fel yr wyf yn siŵr y gwnaeth pob Aelod yn y Siambr. Pan eisteddais i lawr neithiwr i benderfynu beth i’w ddweud, aeth dwy awr heibio ac ni wyddwn o hyd, oherwydd yr oedd rhestr cyflawniadau Val Feld yn gwneud imi deimlo’n wirioneddol ostyngedig. Yr oedd yn ferch ryfeddol iawn ac yn egwyddorol. Yr oedd yn uchelgeisiol—nid o’i rhan ei hun, ond o ran ei hegwyddorion. Yr oedd yn ddi-ofn wrth geisio sicrhau cyfiawnder. Gŵyr y rheini ohonom a safodd ochr yn ochr â hi pa mor ddi-ofn ydoedd. Bydd unrhyw un sydd wedi herio cadarnleoedd y Blaid Lafur ym mherfeddion Cymru yn gwybod pa mor ddi-ofn ydoedd.

Dim ond cyffwrdd â’i gwaith gwirfoddol a wneuthum ond siaradais ddoe â phedwar person o feysydd gwahanol yng Nghymru, a dywedodd pob un y bu’n ymwneud yn helaeth â’u gwaith hwy. Ar y radio y bore yma, talodd Donald Anderson AS a Vivienne Sugar, Prif Weithredwr Cyngor Dinas a Sir Abertawe, deyrnged i’r ffaith ei bod yn

figure—that thread has again come through this morning. Not many of us here can make that claim.

However, rather than mention all the areas that other people know about, I want to talk about her work in the women's movement. As a tribute to her, every woman here has this morning chosen to wear the suffragette colours, and a rose with suffragette colour ribbons has been placed on Val's desk. I have no doubt that had she been born 100 years ago, we would have heard of Pankhurst and we would have heard of Feld. I like to think that I would have been brave enough to do what the suffragettes did, but the thought of being force-fed, throwing myself in front of a horse or being chained to buildings makes me doubt whether I could actually have done it. However, there is no doubt that Val Feld would have done it.

Val Feld was a true icon not only for women in the Labour Party but for women in Wales. In deepest winter, Val was prepared to travel to the remotest parts of Wales to talk to four or five women. She knew that only she could shatter the glass ceiling that was mentioned earlier, which exists not only in the professions but in daily life. She was keen for there to be more women governors, more women in public sponsored bodies and more ethnic minority people in all walks of life. I have attended numerous groups' meetings and different discussions on women and women's issues, which were attended by different people. However, Val was always at each one. When Val Feld's story is written, the women of Wales will understand what she did and what she achieved. She was a woman before her time.

Val was wonderful and was quite fun. People who came up against her and did not agree with her views may not have thought that, but she was great fun. As was already mentioned, she had many laughs and was wonderful. Whenever I went to see her in hospital, she wanted all the gossip and the nitty-gritty of what people were doing in the Assembly. I

ffigwr cenedlaethol gwirioneddol—daeth y llinyn hwnnw i'r amlwg eto y bore yma. Ni all llawer ohonom sydd yma honni hynny.

Fodd bynnag, yn hytrach na sôn am yr holl feysydd y gŵyr pobl eraill amdanynt, yr wyf am sôn am ei gwaith ym mudiad y merched. Fel teyrnged iddi, mae pob merch sydd yma y bore yma wedi dewis gwisgo lliwiau merched y bleidlais, a gosodwyd rhosyn gyda rhubanau o liw'r mudiad hwnnw ar ddesg Val. Nid oes gennyf unrhyw amheuaeth, pe bai wedi ei geni 100 mlynedd yn ôl, y byddem wedi clywed am Pankhurst ac am Feld. Hoffwn feddwl y byddwn wedi bod yn ddigon dewr i wneud yr hyn a wnaeth merched y bleidlais ond mae meddwl am gael fy mwydo drwy orfodaeth, taflu fy hun o flaen ceffyl neu gael fy nghlymu â chadwyn wrth adeiladau yn gwneud imi amau a allwn fod wedi gwneud hynny mewn gwirionedd. Fodd bynnag, nid oes unrhyw amheuaeth y byddai Val Feld wedi gwneud hynny.

Yr oedd Val Feld yn eicon gwirioneddol nid yn unig i ferched yn y Blaid Lafur ond i ferched yng Nghymru. Yr oedd Val yn barod i deithio, ganol gaeaf, i ardaloedd mwyaf anghysbell Cymru i siarad â phedair neu bump o ferched. Gwyddai mai dim ond hi allai dorri'r nenfwd gwydr y soniwyd amdano ynghynt, sydd yn bodoli nid yn unig yn y galwedigaethau ond mewn bywyd beunyddiol. Yr oedd yn awyddus i weld mwy o ferched yn gweithredu fel llywodraethwyr, mwy o ferched mewn cyrff a noddur yn gyhoeddus a mwy o bobl o leiafrifoedd ethnig ym mhob maes. Mynychais lawer o gyfarfodydd grwpiau gwahanol a thrafodaethau ar ferched a materion yn ymwneud â merched, a fynychwyd gan bobl wahanol. Fodd bynnag, yr oedd Val ym mhob cyfarfod a thrafodaeth. Pan ysgrifennir hanes Val Feld, bydd merched Cymru yn deall yr hyn a wnaeth a'r hyn a gyflawnodd. Yr oedd yn ferch cyn ei hamser.

Yr oedd Val yn wych ac yn dipyn o hwyl. Nid oedd pobl a ddeuai wyneb yn wyneb â hi ac a anghytunai â'i safbwyntiau yn meddwl hynny efallai, ond yr oedd hi'n llawer o hwyl. Fel y soniwyd eisoes, bu'n chwerthin llawer ac yr oedd yn wych. Pryd bynnag yr euthum i'w gweld yn yr ysbyty, yr oedd am glywed y straeon i gyd a'r manion bethau am yr hyn yr

always had to think of something new that she had not already heard of. One day, I went to her and asked, 'Is there anything I can do for you, Val?' I thought that perhaps she would want her pillows fluffed up or something like that. 'Yes,' she said, 'you can go and get me *The Western Mail*. I haven't got a clue what is going on.' That just about sums her up.

She was a true friend—not just to me, but to the women of Wales. She will be sadly missed. However, I think that she would really want to be remembered as a scourge of Cardiff and County Club. That was Val.

Christine Gwyther: I am glad that we are able to smile and laugh today, because the news yesterday was so dire and grim and tragic. I cannot begin to say how much Val will be missed inside and outside the National Assembly, nor how much she will be missed inside and outside our party.

Val was always professional and she took her job in public life very seriously indeed. I was quite in awe of the strength of character that she brought to her post. She was always loyal to her constituency. She was a great political tactician. I was quite in awe of the way in which she would see a problem through—she would go to checkmate even before the other player had moved the pawn, which was quite remarkable. As we have heard, before devolutio, she took on and made a great success of some huge roles during her career, not least at Shelter Cymru and the Equal Opportunities Commission. She will be remembered by all of us as a fierce but dignified battler for fairness, decency and justice.

Val fought for justice for others, but she had the courage and the clout to apply those same standards to the way that she herself was treated. I remember her principled stance on many occasions in this Chamber and in the Economic Development Committee. She often tempered her message with a smile, but you always got the message when Val was angry. She would often say to me afterwards,

oedd pobl yn ei wneud yn y Cynulliad. Yr oeddwn yn gorfod meddwl am rywbeth newydd nad oedd wedi clywed amdano eisoes. Un diwrnod, euthum ati a gofyn, 'A oes unrhyw beth y gallaf ei wneud iti, Val?' Meddyliais efallai yr hoffai imi ysgwyd ei gobenyddion neu rywbeth felly. 'Oes', meddai 'gelli di fynd i nôl copi o *The Western Mail* imi. Nid oes syniad gennyf o'r hyn sydd yn digwydd.' Mae hynny'n ei disgrifio i'r dim.

Yr oedd yn ffrind gwirioneddol—nid dim ond i mi, ond i ferched Cymru. Bydd colled fawr ar ei hôl. Fodd bynnag, credaf y byddai am gael ei chofio fel pla ar Glwb Caerdydd a'r Sir. Dyna Val ichi.

Christine Gwyther: Yr wyf yn falch y gallwn wenu a chwerthin heddiw, oherwydd yr oedd y newyddion ddoe mor ofnadwy ac erchyll a thrasig. Ni allaf ddechrau dweud cymaint y collir Val yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol a thu allan iddo, nac ychwaith cymaint y caiff ei cholli yn ein plaid ni a thu allan iddi hefyd.

Yr oedd Val bob amser yn broffesiynol a chymerai ei swydd mewn bywyd cyhoeddus yn ddifrifol iawn. Yr oeddwn yn llawn edmygedd o gryfder ei chymeriad wrth gyflawni ei swydd. Yr oedd bob amser yn deyrngar i'w hetholaeth. Yr oedd yn dactegydd gwleidyddol mawr. Yr oeddwn yn edmygu'r modd y byddai'n canlyn problem i'w therfyn—byddai wedi ei datrys hyd yn oed cyn i unrhyw berson arall gymryd cam, a oedd yn eithaf rhyfeddol. Fel y clywsom, cyn datganoli, ymgymrodd â rhai swyddogaethau enfawr yn ystod ei gyrfa, sef Shelter Cymru a'r Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal yn anad dim a chafodd lwyddiant mawr gyda hwy. Fe'i cofir gan bob un ohonom fel ymladdwr ffyrnig ond urddasol dros degwch, gwedduster a chyfiawnder.

Ymladdodd Val dros gyfiawnder i eraill, ond yr oedd y dewrder a'r grym ganddi i gymhwyso'r un safonau i'r ffordd y cafodd hi ei hun ei thrin. Cofiaf ei safbwynt egwyddorol ar sawl achlysur yn y Siambr hon ac yn y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd. Yn aml, lleddfodd ei neges â gwên, ond byddech yn deall y neges bob tro y byddai Val yn ddiig. Yn aml byddai'n dweud wrthyf

'Don't they realise that I just natter on because I care'?

9:45 a.m.

Others have said that she was ambitious for Wales, within the European community and within the wider community of the world. She was also ambitious for women and most of us as women in this Chamber owe her a huge debt. She was always supportive to me, as an individual and a woman politician. I will not forget that. I have no doubt that Val's legacy will be the continued promotion of equal opportunities in Wales. As an Assembly, we owe it to her memory to uphold those principles that she worked hard to enshrine in the fabric of this institution.

Throughout the Assembly's first two turbulent years, Val remained committed to consensus politics, in which it is sometimes difficult to believe. She passionately believed that a better way of governance lay within our grasp. She was right; it does. In private, Val was one of the warmest people whom I have ever met. She was passionate about her politics, Wales and her family. Our loss is great and we will miss her. Her family's loss is incalculable and we must think of them today and always.

Richard Edwards: Sadly, for the first time in this Assembly's brief life, we find ourselves mourning the loss of a colleague. This first time has come far too soon. I speak for myself when I say that I have not only lost a colleague but a dear and valued friend, someone with whom I bonded closely from the first day I set foot in this building. Obituary tributes are grim, ritualistic affairs. I only want to convey the admiration and affection that I hold for Val and the deep sense of loss that I feel at her untimely death. She was a true and lovely friend and a person of the utmost integrity and compassion who, for me, symbolised all that new politics in Wales should be about but, alas, seldom is: open-minded, big-hearted, non-sectarian, seeking to work consensually but at the same time driven by solid convictions about social justice and equality. Her pioneering work

yn ddiweddarach, 'Onid ydynt yn sylweddoli fy mod yn traethu am fy mod yn hidio'?

Mae eraill wedi dweud ei bod yn uchelgeisiol ar ran Cymru, o fewn y Gymuned Ewropeaidd ac o fewn cymuned ehangach y byd. Yr oedd hefyd yn uchelgeisiol ar ran merched ac mae arnom ddyled fawr iddi fel merched yn y Siambr hon. Bu'n gefnogol imi erioed, fel unigolyn ac fel merch sydd yn wleidydd. Nid anghofiaf hynny. Nid oes amheuaeth gennyf mai'r hyn y bydd Val wedi ei adael inni fydd yr ymdrech barhaus i hybu cyfleoedd cyfartal yng Nghymru. Fel Cynulliad, dylem, er cof amdani, gadarnhau'r egwyddorion hynny y gweithiodd mor galed i'w hymgorffori yng nghyfansoddiad y sefydliad hwn.

Drwy gydol dwy flynedd gyntaf gythryblus y Cynulliad, parhaodd Val yn ymrwymedig i wleidyddiaeth gonsensws, y mae'n anodd credu ynddi weithiau. Credai'n angerddol fod ffordd well o lywodraethu o fewn ein gafael. Yr oedd yn iawn; mae yna ffordd well. Yn breifat, Val oedd un o'r bobl mwyaf twymgalon a gyfarfûm erioed. Yr oedd yn frwd ynglŷn â'i gwleidyddiaeth, Cymru a'i theulu. Mae ein colled yn fawr a byddwn yn gweld ei heisiau. Mae colled ei theulu yn anfesuradwy a rhaid inni feddwl amdanynt heddiw ac am byth.

Richard Edwards: Yn anffodus, am y tro cyntaf yn hanes byr y Cynulliad hwn, yr ydym yn galaru dros golli cyd-Aelod. Daeth y tro cyntaf hwn yn rhy gynnar o lawer. Siaradaf drosof fy hun pan ddywedaf nad dim ond cyd-Aelod a gollais, ond ffrind annwyl a gwerthfawr, rhywun y deuthum yn agos ati o'r diwrnod cyntaf imi gamu dros drothwy'r adeilad hwn. Mae teyrngedau coffad yn bethau annymunol a defodol. Hoffwn ddatgan yr edmygedd a'r hoffter sydd gennyf o Val a'r ymdeimlad dwfn o golled oherwydd ei marwolaeth cynamserol. Yr oedd yn ffrind triw a hawddgar ac yn berson llawn gonestrwydd a thrugaredd a oedd, yn fy marn i, yn symbol o bopeth y dylai gwleidyddiaeth newydd yng Nghymru ei gynrychioli ond, yn anffodus, nad sydd yn digwydd yn aml: eangfrydig, rhadlon, ansectyddol, yn ceisio gweithio ar sail

with Shelter Cymru and the Equal Opportunities Commission will be a lasting testimonial.

Her commitment to devolution was total, exceeded only by a determination that the equality agenda should lie at its heart. Val had a sharp intellect, as Members have already said. However, I was most impressed by how deeply she felt about issues and events and how much she agonised over matters. She was a genuinely caring person. In the political world and the media circus attached to it, there is so much dross, bombast, pretension, posturing and fake emotion that she stood out in stark relief as an authentic human being with genuine feelings and beliefs and a crusading sense of decency, which sometimes in this cynical, brutal world, attracted scorn and mockery. For all the awesome praise showered on her in death, she was, in life, desperately undervalued in this Assembly. What is more, she felt undervalued. She felt that her potential was being frustrated. She threw her heart and soul into chairing the Economic Development Committee—a thankless task if ever there was one—and she received little gratitude when she was alive and well. I remember nerdish comments on one occasion by the national newspaper for Wales, *The Western Mail*, which were unbelievably devoid of insight for that rag. Although I am pleased to see it paying such wholesome tributes to her today.

She was so diligent and conscientious at a great cost to her own well-being, as we now know. However, she also had a sense of irony and of how ridiculous it can all be. I am sure that she would have had a wry smile at the Welsh television news headlines on the day of her death, dominated as they were by stories of diving dogs—albeit from Pembrokeshire—and the television programme *Big Brother*. It says a lot about the crazy, virtual reality world that we all inhabit in the twenty-first century.

consensws ond ar yr un pryd yn cael ei gyrru gan gred gadarn ynghylch cyfiawnder cymdeithasol a chydaddoldeb. Bydd ei gwaith arloesol gyda Shelter Cymru a'r Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal yn deyrnged barhaol iddi.

Yr oedd yn llwyr ymrwymedig i ddatganoli, a'r unig beth a ragorai ar hynny oedd ei phenderfyniad y dylai agenda cydraddoldeb fod wrth ei wraidd. Yr oedd gan Val ddealltwriaeth graff, fel y nododd Aelodau eraill eisoes. Fodd bynnag, yr hyn a greodd yr argraff fwyaf arnaf oedd pa mor gryf y teimlai ynghylch materion a digwyddiadau a sut y byddai'n poeni am faterion. Yr oedd yn berson mawr iawn ei gofal. Yn y byd gwleidyddol a syrcais y cyfryngau sydd yn gysylltiedig ag ef, ceir cymaint o amhurdeb, brygowthan, twyll, smalio a ffug emosiwn fel ei bod yn sefyll allan fel chwa o awyr iach fel person diledryw gyda theimladau a chredoau gwirioneddol ac ymdeimlad croesgadol o wyleidd-dra, sydd weithiau'n denu dirmyg a gwawd yn y byd sinigaidd a chreulon hwn. Er yr holl glod aruthrol a roddwyd iddi ar ôl ei marwolaeth, ni chafodd ei gwerthfawrogi'n ddigonol yn y Cynulliad hwn. Teimlai fod ei photensial yn cael ei rwystro. Aeth ati â'i holl enaid i gadeirio'r Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd—tasg ddi-ddiolch os bu un erioed—ac ychydig iawn o ddiolch a gafodd pan oedd yn fyw ac iach. Cofiaf sylwadau llipa gan bapur newydd cenedlaethol Cymru, *The Western Mail* ar un achlysur, a oedd yn dangos diffyg dealltwriaeth enbyd o ran y rhecsyn hwnnw. Serch hynny, yr wyf yn falch o'i weld yn talu teyrngedau mor iachusol iddi heddiw.

Gwyddom bellach y talodd ei lles ei hun yn ddrud am ei gwaith diwyd a chydwybodol. Fodd bynnag, yr oedd ganddi ymdeimlad o eironi ac o ba mor chwerthinlyd y gall popeth fod. Yr wyf yn siŵr y byddai ganddi wên goeglyd ar ei hwyneb o weld penawdau'r newyddion ar y teledu yng Nghymru ar ddiwrnod ei marwolaeth, a oedd yn sôn yn bennaf am straeon am gŵn yn plymio i'r môr—er mai yn Sir Benfro oedd hynny—a'r rhaglen deledu *Big Brother*. Mae'n dweud llawer am y byd gwallgof, rhithwir yr ydym yn byw ynddo yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain.

My abiding memory of Val predates the Assembly, although it concerns an event that made a substantial impact on this institution. It was the Labour Party conference in Swansea in 1998 to discuss the twinning process. The vote was on a knife-edge, and the atavistic tendency was not to be underestimated. That the vote was won was in no small part due to Val's commitment and her zeal. I well remember her delight in the pub later that Saturday afternoon.

When I visited her in hospital the week before last with Christine Gwyther, she was clearly very ill and, I must say, very depressed, though still looking forward to returning here after major surgery. It is deeply shocking that she died less than two weeks later. It is hard to believe that she will never return to this Chamber. The Assembly is impoverished by her passing—that is for sure. Everyone and everything for which she campaigned is much the poorer. As someone whose life was touched and greatly enriched by knowing her, who was graced by her many kindnesses, stimulated by countless conversations about this place, politics in general and the Labour party in particular, and as someone inspired by her deep humanity, I will miss her desperately.

Words can never be enough. She cared passionately about the world in which she lived and the people around her, and she did her best to make things better. What greater epitaph could anyone ever desire or deserve.

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson): I found out about Val's death yesterday when I was in the BBC studios in Bangor and was told that something awful had happened. Afterwards, I sat down for a minute and tried to take in this awful news. It is awful news for us all here. It is awful news for her family, and for Wales. They then asked me to make a comment. I was able to say something immediately, because I think that most of us here—if not all of us—from whichever party we come, would say that Val is one of the most—if not the most—deeply principled people that we have ever met. That is not something that we

Mae fy atgof parhaus o Val yn mynd yn ôl i'r dyddiau cyn bodolaeth y Cynulliad, er ei fod yn ymwneud â digwyddiad a gafodd effaith sylweddol ar y sefydliad hwn. Daw'r atgof o gynhadledd y Blaid Lafur yn Abertawe yn 1998 i drafod y broses gefeillio. Yr oedd y bleidlais yn un hynod agos, ac ni ddylid tanbrisió'r duedd atafiaethol. Chwaraeodd ymrwymiad a brwdfrydedd Val ran fawr wrth ennill y bleidlais honno. Cofiaf ei llawenydd yn y dafarn yn ddiweddarach y prynhawn Sadwrn hwnnw yn dda.

Pan ymwelais â hi yn yr ysbyty bythefnos yn ôl gyda Christine Gwyther, yr oedd yn amlwg ei bod yn wael iawn ac, mae'n rhaid dweud, yn isel iawn ei hysbryd, er ei bod yn dal i edrych ymlaen at ddychwelyd yma ar ôl llawdriniaeth fawr. Mae'n ddychrynlyd ei bod wedi marw llai na phythefnos wedyn. Mae'n anodd credu na fydd byth yn dychwelyd i'r Siambr hon. Mae'r Cynulliad yn dlotach lle o'i cholli—mae hynny'n sicr. Mae pawb a phopeth yr ymgyrchodd drosto yn llawer tlotach. Fel rhywun y cyffyrddwyd a chyfoethogwyd ei fywyd o'i hadnabod, rhywun a anrhydeddwyd gan ei charedigrwydd, a ysgogwyd gan aml i sgwrs am y lle hwn, gwleidyddiaeth yn gyffredinol a'r blaid Lafur yn benodol, a rhywun a ysbrydolwyd gan ei dyngarwch dwfn, byddaf yn ei cholli'n aruthrol.

Nid all geiriau fyth fod yn ddigon. Yr oedd yn gofalu'n angerddol am y byd yr oedd yn byw ynddo a'r bobl o'i hamgylch, a gwnaeth ei gorau i wella pethau. Pa well beddargraff y gallai unrhyw un ofyn amdano neu y gallai unrhyw un ei haeddu.

Y Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes (Jane Davidson): Clywais am farwolaeth Val ddoe pan oeddwn yn stiwdios y BBC ym Mangor a dywedwyd wrthyf fod rhywbeth ofnadwy wedi digwydd. Wedi hynny, eisteddais am ennyd a cheisio amgyffred y newyddion erchyll hyn. Mae'n newyddion erchyll i bawb ohonom yma. Mae'n newyddion erchyll i'w theulu, ac i Gymru. Yna gofynnwyd imi wneud sylw. Yr oeddwn yn gallu dweud rhywbeth ar unwaith, oherwydd credaf y byddai'r rhan fwyaf ohonom yma—os nad pawb ohonom—i ba blaid bynnag yr ydym yn perthyn, yn dweud bod Val gyda'r person mwyaf—os nad y

can say about everybody we meet as politicians, but we can certainly say it about Val.

Like many of my other female colleagues in the Labour Party, I met Val many years ago. She scared me stiff when I first met her. I met her when she was Director of Shelter Cymru, and I was a new councillor in Cardiff with an interest in housing. She guided the way that I looked at housing. I talked to her on many occasions when we were looking at practising equal opportunities in Cardiff City and County Council, because of her wisdom in her role in setting up the Equal Opportunities Commission in Wales. One of her greatest legacies for us all in Wales is to be found in asking ourselves, where else do we find equal opportunities enshrined in legislation. I remember reading what she was going to say before she went to talk to Ron Davies about the Government of Wales Act 1998, and wanting to see equal opportunities enshrined in the purpose of this Assembly.

When I visited her in hospital, I was deeply shocked. However, I was, as always, so impressed at how she was handling her illness and so impressed that she kept on going in the Assembly. Val was an absolutely extraordinary woman. From the kind of things that we have heard today, I do not think that she will leave us alone in this Assembly. She has too much of a legacy for us. She can be our conscience.

9:55 a.m.

Helen Mary Jones: In preparing this brief personal tribute, I found it hard, as I am sure many who have spoken today did, to choose what to say. I have known Val for so many years and in so many capacities. I knew her as a sister in the women's movement—she was a scary older sister at times—as a comrade in the fight for social justice, as a supportive and challenging manager at the Equal Opportunities Commission and, finally, as a colleague and worthy opponent in this Assembly.

mwyaf—egwyddorol inni ei gyfarfod erioed. Nid yw hynny'n rhywbeth y gallwn ei ddweud am bawb y byddwn yn cwrdd â hwy fel gwleidyddion, ond gallwn ddweud hynny yn sicr am Val.

Fel llawer o'm cyd-Aelodau benywaidd eraill yn y Blaid Lafur, cyfarfûm â Val sawl blwyddyn yn ôl. Cododd ofn arnaf pan gyfarfûm â hi gyntaf. Cyfarfûm â hi pan oedd yn Gyfarwyddwraig Shelter Cymru, ac yr oeddwn yn gynghorydd newydd yng Nghaerdydd â diddordeb mewn tai. Llywiodd y ffordd yr oeddwn yn edrych ar dai. Siaradais â hi ar sawl achlysur pan oeddem yn edrych ar arfer cyfleoedd cyfartal yng Nghyngor Dinas a Sir Caerdydd, oherwydd ei doethineb yn ei rôl o sefydlu'r Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal yng Nghymru. Gellir dod o hyd i un o'r rhoddion mwyaf y mae'n ei adael inni yng Nghymru drwy ofyn inni hunain, ble arall y gallwn weld cyfle cyfartal wedi'i ymgorffori mewn deddfwriaeth. Cofiaf ddarlenn yr hyn yr oedd yn bwriadu ei ddweud cyn iddi fynd i siarad â Ron Davies am Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, ac am weld cyfleoedd cyfartal yn cael eu hymgorffori ym mhwrpas y Cynulliad hwn.

Pan ymwelais â hi yn yr ysbyty, cefais gryn fraw. Fodd bynnag, fel bob tro arall, creodd y ffordd yr oedd yn ymdopi â'i salwch a'r ffordd y parhaodd i fynychu'r Cynulliad argraff fawr arnaf. Yr oedd Val yn fenyw eithriadol iawn. O gofio'r pethau yr ydym wedi'u clywed heddiw, ni chredaf y bydd yn gadael llonydd inni yn y Cynulliad hwn. Mae wedi gadael gormod inni ar ei hôl. Gall fod yn gydwbybod inni.

Helen Mary Jones: Wrth baratoi'r deyrnged bersonol fer hon, fe'i cefais yn anodd dewis beth i'w ddweud, fel sawl un sydd wedi siarad heddiw mae'n siŵr. Yr wyf wedi adnabod Val ers blynyddoedd lawer ac mewn sawl swyddogaeth. Yr oeddwn yn ei hadnabod fel chwaer ym mudiad y merched—fel chwaer hŷn ddychrynlyd ar adegau—fel cydymaith yn y frwydr dros gyfiawnder cymdeithasol, fel rheolwraig parod ei chymorth a heriol yn y Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal ac, yn olaf, fel cyd-Aelod a gwrthwynebydd teilwng yn y Cynulliad hwn.

I learnt so much from Val about campaigning and about which battles to fight and which to leave for another day, particularly in one's own party, and how to achieve real change. She could lead. She could bring others together. She was a shrewd tactician, a side to her that has been mentioned today. She was such a shrewd tactician that you did not often see that on the surface.

She achieved a great deal and other colleagues have listed many of those achievements. I do not want to begin to add to that, except to repeat Jane Davidson's comments, that it is largely due to Val's work that we have a statutory commitment to promoting equality of opportunity in this Assembly. I remember sitting with her in the Equal Opportunities Commission office drafting the clause, and the conversation was always about whether we could achieve consensus and whether we could get the legislation past Ron Davies. She, of course, managed to do both. It was my job to achieve cross-party consensus and Val's job to get the legislation past Ron.

I am grateful to Val for so much. She fought hard in the Equal Opportunities Commission for my right to take leave to fight elections, even though I fought for a party which she opposed. She supported my right, even though it made life difficult for her, because it meant extra work. She also fought for my right to participate in the National Assembly Advisory Group and was a constant source of advice and support to me. She supported me when I returned to work after the birth of my child, which was not an easy time.

I will miss her and her commitment, honesty and strength. I will also miss her capacity to make you feel uncomfortable, even when you knew you were in the wrong. We will all miss her. Wales will miss her. It is up to us to carry on her work for equality, for justice, for a better kind of politics and for Wales.

Dysgais gymaint gan Val am ymgyrchu a pha frwydrau i'w brwydro a pha rai i'w gadael ar gyfer diwrnod arall, yn enwedig yn fy mhlaidd fy hun, a sut i gyflawni newid gwirioneddol. Gallai fod yn arweinydd. Gallai ddod ag eraill ynghyd. Yr oedd yn dactegydd craff, sydd yn ochr o'i chymeriad y soniwyd amdani heddiw. Yr oedd yn dactegydd mor graff fel na fyddech yn gallu gweld hynny ar yr wyneb yn aml.

Cyflawnodd bethau mawr ac mae cyd-Aelodau eraill wedi rhestru nifer o'i chyflawniadau. Nid wyf am ddechrau ychwanegu at hynny, ond hoffwn ategu sylwadau Jane Davidson drwy ddweud mai yn bennaf oherwydd gwaith Val y mae gennym ymrwymiad statudol i hybu cyfle cyfartal yn y Cynulliad hwn. Cofiaf eistedd gyda hi yn swyddfa'r Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal yn drafftio'r cymal, ac yr oedd y sgwrs bob amser yn ymwneud ag a allem gyflawni consensws ac a allem gael y ddeddfwriaeth heibio i Ron Davies. Wrth gwrs, llwyddodd i wneud y ddau beth. Fy ngwaith i oedd cael consensws trawsbleidiol a gwaith Val oedd cael y ddeddfwriaeth heibio i Ron.

Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i Val am gymaint. Brwydrodd yn galed yn y Comisiwn Cyfle Cyfartal dros fy hawl i gael fy esgusodi i frwydro mewn etholiadau, er fy mod yn brwydro dros blaid yr oedd hi'n ei gwrthwynebu. Yr oedd yn cefnogi fy hawl, er bod hynny'n gwneud bywyd yn anodd iddi hi, oherwydd ei fod yn golygu gwaith ychwanegol. Brwydrodd hefyd dros fy hawl i gymryd rhan yng Ngrŵp Ymgynghorol y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ac yr oedd yn ffynhonnell cymorth a chefnogaeth gyson imi. Cefais gymorth ganddi wedi imi ddychwelyd i'r gwaith ar ôl genedigaeth fy mhlentyn, nad oedd yn gyfnod hawdd.

Byddaf yn ei cholli hi a'i hymrwymiad, ei gonestrwydd a'i chryfder. Byddaf hefyd yn colli ei gallu i wneud ichi deimlo'n anghyfforddus, hyd yn oed pan oeddech yn gwybod eich bod yn anghywir. Bydd pawb ohonom yn ei cholli. Bydd Cymru yn ei cholli. Ein lle ni yw parhau â'i gwaith dros gydraddoldeb, dros gyfiawnder, dros fath gwell o wleidyddiaeth a thros Gymru.

Phil Williams: Llywydd, with your permission I will speak from my seat, because it was here that I first got to know Val. The seating arrangements in this Chamber bring people from different parties close together. During Plenary sessions, the television cameras must have picked up on the many occasions when Val and I shared a joke or compared notes on the Economic Development Committee's business—I seem to remember that we mainly shared jokes. For some months, I have been conscious of an empty seat next to me.

As Chair of the Economic Development Committee, Val worked immensely hard and she inspired us, as members of that Committee, to work hard and to work together. It sometimes seemed that we were in permanent session, but Val conveyed strongly her single-minded determination to improve the lives of ordinary people throughout Wales and a determination for justice that she had shown throughout her life. Whatever our differences, Val always convinced us that there was far more that united than divided us. We shared her vision of a fairer Wales.

I remember especially the meetings that we had throughout Wales and abroad, as part of the business support review. That is when we really appreciated Val's special qualities, as leader of the team. As other Members have said, we were not an easy team. We also got to know her as a dependable, sparklingly witty and warm friend.

People outside this Assembly often query whether our Subject Committees can combine scrutiny with policy formation. Val, with her total sincerity and dedication, showed how it could and must be done. She set us a shining example that we will long remember. Today, we all share a deep sense of loss.

Alun Cairns: I pay my personal tribute to Val Feld, and express my deepest sympathy to her family, friends and all her colleagues

Phil Williams: Lywydd, gyda'ch caniatâd siaradaf o'm sedd, oherwydd mai yma y deuthum i adnabod Val gyntaf. Mae trefn y seddi yn y Siambr hon yn dod â phobl o wahanol bleidiau yn agos at ei gilydd. Yn ystod y Cyfarfodydd Llawn, rhaid bod y camerâu teledu wedi sylwi ar nifer o achosion lle rhannodd Val a minnau jôc neu gymharu nodiadau ar fusnes y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd—credaf mai rhannu jôcs yr oeddem yn bennaf. Ers sawl mis, yr wyf wedi bod yn ymwybodol o sedd wag wrth fy ymyl.

Fel Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd, gweithiodd Val yn hynod o galed a bu'n ysbrydoliaeth inni, fel aelodau'r Pwyllgor hwnnw, i weithio'n galed a chydweithio. Yr oedd yn ymddangos ar adegau ein bod mewn sesiwn barhaol, ond datganodd Val ei phenderfyniad diwyro a chryf i wella bywydau pobl gyffredin ledled Cymru a'r penderfyniad a ddangosodd drwy gydol ei bywyd i gael cyfiawnder. Beth bynnag fo'n gwahaniaethau, cawsom ein hargyhoeddi gan Val droeon bod llawer mwy yn ein huno nag sydd yn ein rhannu. Yr oeddem yn rhannu ei gweledigaeth o Gymru decach.

Cofiaf yn arbennig y cyfarfodydd a gawsom ledled Cymru a thramor, fel rhan o'r adolygiad cymorth busnes. Dyna pryd yr oeddem wir yn gwerthfawrogi nodweddion arbennig Val, fel arweinydd y tîm. Fel y dywedodd Aelodau eraill, nid oeddem yn dîm hawdd. Daethom i'w hadnabod hefyd fel ffrind dibynadwy, cynnes â ffraethineb byw.

Bydd pobl y tu allan i'r Cynulliad hwn yn aml yn amau a all ein Pwyllgorau Pwnc gyfuno'r angen i graffu â ffurfio polisïau. Dangosodd Val, â'i diffuantrwydd a'i hymroddiad llwyr, sut y gellid gwneud hynny a sut yr oedd yn rhaid ei wneud. Gosododd esiampl ddisglair inni y byddwn yn ei chofio'n dragywydd. Heddiw, mae pawb ohonom yn rhannu ymdeimlad dwys o golled.

Alun Cairns: Talaf fy nheyrnged bersonol i Val Feld, a datganaf fy nghydymdeimlad dwys â'i theulu, ei ffrindiau a'i holl gyd-

in the Assembly on this sad loss. In spite of the fact that it may have appeared otherwise to a wider audience, Val and I had a very good working relationship with a mutual understanding of how far we could push each other. No-one can question her commitment. References have already been made to the business support review and to equal opportunities, but no-one can question her commitment to the success of the Assembly or to Wales and its standing as a nation in the UK.

The business support review is just one of the lasting tributes to the name of Val Feld, along with all the other work that the Economic Development Committee has undertaken. References have been made to my persistence in calling her 'Madam Chairman' in Committee. Llywydd, there are three occasions that I would like to recall. I asked her to sponsor me in a sponsored run and in typical Val style, she said that she would not sponsor me to run, but to call her 'Chair'. As a result, she won the debate, and for that meeting I called her 'Chair'. On another occasion, to which Andrew Davies referred, I had probably been making a nuisance of myself in the week leading up to becoming Chairman, or Chair, of the South West Wales Regional Committee. Therefore, on the way to a meeting of that Committee, Andrew Davies, Edwina Hart and Val Feld—led by Val, I am sure—devised the plot to nominate me 'Comrade Chair'. Andrew has already said that I will always been known in that Committee as 'Comrade Chair'. I am sure that the people of Newcastle Emlyn must have wondered what was going on, but that was certainly one of the light-hearted moments for which I will always remember her.

My last communication with Val was in a light-hearted letter that I wrote to her around two weeks ago. I had often talked about a book that I threatened to send her, which I then actually sent. The title of the book was *Why Men Don't Listen and Women Can't Read Maps*. I hope that that put a smile on her face when she opened it during her last days. Val Feld will be remembered by many for her driving and for her time keeping, but, most of all, Val will be remembered for her principles and the positive influence that she

Aelodau yn y Cynulliad ar y golled drist hon. Er y ffaith y gallai fod wedi ymddangos yn wahanol i gynulleidfa ehangach, yr oedd gan Val a minnau berthynas waith dda iawn gyda dealltwriaeth o ba mor bell y gallem wthio ein gilydd. Ni all unrhyw un amau ei hymrwymiad. Cyfeiriwyd eisoes at yr adolygiad cymorth busnes ac at gyfle cyfartal, ond ni all unrhyw un amau ei hymrwymiad i lwyddiant y Cynulliad nag i Gymru a'i safle fel cenedl o fewn y DU.

Mae'r adolygiad cymorth busnes yn un o'r teyrngedau parhaol i enw Val Feld, ynghyd â'r holl waith arall a wnaeth y Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd. Cyfeiriwyd at fy nyfalbarhad yn ei galw'n 'Madam Cadeirydd' yn y Pwyllgor. Lywydd, mae tri achlysur yr hoffwn eu dwyn i gof. Gofynnais iddi fy noddi mewn ras noddedig ac yn ffordd nodweddiadol Val, dywedodd na fyddai'n fy noddi i redeg, ond y byddai'n fy noddi i'w galw'n 'Cadeirydd'. O ganlyniad, enillodd y ddadl, a thrwy gydol y cyfarfod hwnnw fe'i gelwais yn 'Gadeirydd'. Ar achlysur arall, y cyfeiriodd Andrew Davies ato, mae'n debyg imi fod yn boen yn ystod yr wythnos cyn dod yn Gadeirydd Pwyllgor Rhanbarth y De-orllewin. Felly, ar y ffordd i un o gyfarfodydd y Pwyllgor hwnnw, dyfeisiodd Andrew Davies, Edwina Hart a Val Feld—dan arweiniad Val, yr wyf yn siŵr—y cynllwyn i'm galw'n 'Gymrawd Gadeirydd'. Dywedodd Andrew eisoes y byddaf bellach yn cael fy ngalw'n 'Gymrawd Gadeirydd' yn y Pwyllgor hwnnw bob amser. Yr wyf yn siŵr bod pobl Castellnewydd Emlyn wedi drysu ynglŷn â beth oedd yn digwydd, ond yr oedd hwnnw'n un o'r munudau ysgafn y byddaf yn cofio amdano am byth.

Y tro diwethaf imi siarad â Val oedd mewn llythyr ysgafn yr ysgrifennais ati tua phythefnos yn ôl. Yr oeddwn wedi siarad â hi yn aml am lyfr y bygythiais ei anfon ati, ac yna gwneuthum hynny. Teitl y llyfr oedd *Why Men Don't Listen and Women Can't Read Maps*. Gobeithio y bu i hwnnw roi gwên ar ei hwyneb wedi iddi ei agor yn ystod ei dyddiau olaf. Bydd llawer yn cofio Val Feld am ei gyrru ac am ei phrydlondeb, ond, yn bennaf, caiff Val ei chofio am ei hegwyddorion a'r dylanwad cadarnhaol a

had on all of us, and on the National Assembly.

Peter Black: As a constituent of Val's and a councillor representing a ward in her constituency, I just want to add a few words to record the respect and affection that she earned in a very short time. She richly deserves that for the hard work that she undertook with her usual commitment, passion and dedication on an individual level and in each of the communities in her constituency, all of which she took to her heart. As a constituency Assembly Member, she brought a new vigour to old issues and old campaigns, such as the Hafod bypass, Swansea's fight to be recognised as a home for new national institutions, and new issues such as the incinerator in Crumlin Burrows, and many more. We also witnessed the strength of her advocacy and her ability to bring people together, and find new solutions.

10:05 p.m.

I have always worked in politics, which was a route that she finally chose. Her work on homelessness and equal opportunities, and in other fields, as has been said, was pioneering, and she was a builder of opportunity for those who had been unable to find their own voice. I only knew her for a short time, beginning with the Assembly elections, when we both sought to win the Swansea East seat. Although there is a great sense of loss now that she has been cruelly taken from us so early on in the National Assembly's history, there is comfort in that she achieved so much during her lifetime and was such a vital and influential Member of this institution.

The Presiding Officer: I am grateful to all Members who have contributed. I draw the Assembly's attention to the letter sent to me yesterday by the Secretary of State for Wales, Paul Murphy MP, which I have e-mailed to all Members. I place it on record.

**Testun llythyr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru:
Text of the Secretary of State for Wales's letter:**

To mark the sad and untimely death of Val Feld I understand that the Assembly will be

gafodd ar bawb ohonom, ac ar y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol.

Peter Black: Fel un o etholwyr Val a chynghorydd sydd yn cynrychioli ward yn ei hetholaeth, hoffwn ychwanegu ychydig eiriau i nodi'r parch a'r hoffter a enillodd mewn cyfnod byr iawn. Mae'n llawn haeddu hynny am y gwaith caled a wnaeth gyda'i hymrwymiad, ei hangerdd a'i hymroddiad arferol ar lefel unigol ac ym mhob un o'r cymunedau yn ei hetholaeth, a chadwodd pob un ohonynt yn agos at ei chalon. Fel Aelod etholaethol o'r Cynulliad, daeth ag egni newydd i hen faterion a hen ymgyrchoedd, fel ffordd osgoi Hafod, brwydr Abertawe i gael ei chydnabod fel cartref i sefydliadau cenedlaethol newydd, ynghyd â materion newydd fel y llosgydd yn Nhwyni Crumlin, a llawer mwy. Gwelsom hefyd gryfder ei heiriolaeth a'i gallu i ddod â phobl ynghyd, a chanfod atebion newydd.

Yr wyf wastad wedi gweithio ym myd gwleidyddiaeth, a dyna oedd y llwybr a ddewisodd hi yn y diwedd. Fel y dywedwyd eisoes, gwnaeth waith arloesol ar ddigartrefedd a chyfle cyfartal, ac mewn meysydd eraill, ac adeiladodd gyfle i'r rhai hynny nad oeddent yn gallu lleisio eu barn. Dim ond am gyfnod byr yr oeddwn yn ei hadnabod, a ddechreuodd gydag etholiadau'r Cynulliad, pan oedd y ddau ohonom yn brwydro i ennill sedd Dwyrain Abertawe. Er bod ymdeimlad mawr o golled wrth iddi gael ei dwyn oddi wrthym mor greulon ac mor gynnar ym mywyd y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, mae cysur i'w gael yn y ffaith ei bod wedi cyflawni cymaint yn ystod ei bywyd ac y bu'n Aelod mor hanfodol a dylanwadol o'r sefydliad hwn.

Y Llywydd: Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar i bob Aelod a gyfrannodd. Tynnaf sylw'r Cynulliad at y llythyr a anfonwyd ataf ddoe gan Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, Paul Murphy AS, a anfonais mewn neges e-bost at yr holl Aelodau. Cofnodaf y llythyr.

marking her contribution in the Plenary session tomorrow. As Secretary of State for Wales and as a friend of Val's I wanted to share my thoughts with you.

As I am sure everyone will agree, Val was a hard-working and conscientious AM for her Swansea East constituents. It is a great tribute to Val's commitment that the Assembly, for which she campaigned and which she served with such distinction, is now pressing ahead with so many of the issues which she championed.

Before her election to the Assembly, Val was the founder and first Director of Shelter Cymru and Director of the Equal Opportunities Commission in Wales. She was an outstanding campaigner—not least for devolution—on so many issues of vital importance to us in Wales. Whether her work was in the field of equal opportunities or housing or economic development, she was always motivated by her wish to improve the quality of life for the people of Wales.

I knew Val for many years as a stalwart member of the Labour Party and I had the greatest respect for her contribution to the party and to Wales in general.

She will be greatly missed.

I draw your attention specifically to one Tynnaf eich sylw at un frawddeg yn benodol: sentence:

'It is a great tribute to Val's commitment that the Assembly, for which she campaigned and which she served with such distinction, is now pressing ahead with so many of the issues which she championed.'

I, like all Members, knew Val well personally. I knew her from the days of Shelter Cymru. I hopefully treat all Members with the respect that they deserve, but I was always a little in awe of Val, especially when threats of points of order came from her seat, which is now strangely empty. She always had a strong class view, a strong gender view, and an international view. However, as the First Minister said in opening the tributes this morning, she also had a national view, which is perhaps a rarer commodity in Wales. Val was a pioneer of the new Wales. I ask you now to stand for a minute's silence in remembrance.

Yr oeddwn i, fel pob Aelod, yn adnabod Val yn dda yn bersonol. Yr oeddwn yn ei hadnabod o'i dyddiau yn Shelter Cymru. Gobeithio fy mod yn trin yr holl Aelodau â'r parch y maent yn ei haeddu, ond yr oedd gennyf ychydig o barchedig ofn tuag at Val, yn enwedig pan fyddai'n codi o'i sedd i fygwth pwyntiau o drefn. Mae ei sedd bellach yn rhyfedd o wag. Yr oedd ganddi safbwynt cryf ar ddsbarthiadau cymdeithasol, safbwynt cryf ar genedl, a safbwynt rhyngwladol. Fodd bynnag, fel y dywedodd Prif Weinidog Cymru wrth agor y teyrngedau y bore yma, yr oedd ganddi safbwynt cenedlaethol hefyd, sydd efallai yn rhywbeth prinnach yng Nghymru. Yr oedd Val yn un o arloeswyr y Gymru newydd. Gofynnaf ichi sefyll am funud o dawelwch er cof amdani.

Safodd AELODAU'R CYNULLIAD am funud o dawelwch.
ASSEMBLY MEMBERS *stood for a minute's silence.*

Y Llywydd: Byddwn yn awr yn gohirio'r Cyfarfod Llawn hyd 10.30 a.m., gan ddychwelyd y pryd hwnnw i ddelio â materion hanfodol dan y Rheolau Sefydlog.

The Presiding Officer: We will now adjourn the Plenary Session until 10.30 a.m., at which time we will return to deal with essential matters under Standing Orders.

*Gohiriwyd y Cyfarfod Llawn am 10.10 a.m.
The Plenary was adjourned at 10.10 a.m.*

*Ailymgynullodd y Cynulliad am 10.30 a.m.
The Assembly reconvened at 10.30 a.m.*

The Presiding Officer: On reconvening the Plenary I inform Members that, in addition to the message of condolence from the Secretary of State for Wales, we have just received a message from the Convener of the European Committee of the Scottish Parliament. I place that on record.

Y Llywydd: Wrth ailgynnull y Cyfarfod Llawn hoffwn hysbysu'r Aelodau, yn ogystal â'r neges o gydymdeimlad gan Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru, yr ydym newydd dderbyn neges gan Gynullydd Pwyllgor Ewropeaidd Senedd yr Alban. Cofnodaf hynny.

The text of the letter from Hugh Henry, Convener of the European Committee of the Scottish Parliament: *Testun y llythyr gan Hugh Henry, Cynullydd Pwyllgor Ewropeaidd Senedd yr Alban:*

It is with sadness that I hear of the untimely death of Val Feld. I met Val during the launch of the informal European Chairs-UK Group, and her input to that meeting was invaluable. Moreover, her personality and warmth were key to ensuring that all the elected representatives present from Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales became more than just working colleagues. I would be grateful if you could pass on my sincere condolences to her family and colleagues in the Assembly.

I draw your attention to the following sentence: Tynnaf eich sylw at y frawddeg ganlynol:

'her personality and warmth were key to ensuring that all the elected representatives from Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales became more than just working colleagues.'

Datganiad am Sedd Wag Declaration of Vacancy

Fy nyletswydd o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 3.6 ac adran 8 o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998 yw datgan yn swyddogol fod sedd etholaeth Dwyrain Abertawe ar gyfer y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn wag.

It is my duty, under Standing Order No. 3.6 and section 8 of the Government of Wales Act 1998, to officially declare that the electoral seat of Swansea East for the National Assembly is vacant.

Cynnig Trefniadol Procedural Motion

The Minister for Assembly Business (Andrew Davies): I propose that

Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies): Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly for Wales, under Standing Order No. 34.4, suspends Standing Order No. 6.3 in relation to the oral questions tabled for answer today.

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 34.4, yn atal Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 6.3 mewn perthynas â'r cwestiynau llafar a gyflwynwyd i'w hateb heddiw.

I thank colleagues in other parties for their co-operation in this matter. I propose this motion in view of the sad circumstances of

Diolchaf i gyd-Aelodau yn y pleidiau eraill am eu cydweithrediad yn y mater hwn. Cynigiaf y cynnig hwn o ystyried

Val's death.

amgylchiadau trist marwolaeth Val.

Questions tabled for answer today will be answered at the earliest opportunity after the summer recess. However, I understand that some of the questions may be time-limited, therefore, if Members wish, I will make arrangements to issue written answers to those questions in the interim.

Caiff y cwestiynau a gyflwynwyd i'w hateb heddiw eu hateb ar y cyfle cynharaf posibl wedi toriad yr haf. Fodd bynnag, deallaf y gallai fod cyfyngiad amser ar rai o'r cwestiynau hyn, felly, os bydd yr Aelodau'n dymuno, gwnaf drefniadau i gyhoeddi atebion ysgrifenedig i'r cwestiynau hynny yn y cyfamser.

Cynnig: O blaid 44, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion: For 44, Abstain 0, Against 0.

Pleidleisiodd yr Aelodau canlynol o blaid:

The following Members voted for:

Barrett, Lorraine
 Bates, Mick
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Butler, Rosemary
 Cairns, Alun
 Chapman, Christine
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, David
 Davies, Geraint
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Davies, Ron
 Edwards, Richard
 Essex, Sue
 German, Michael
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Halford, Alison
 Hancock, Brian
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.

Motion carried.

Cynnig Trefniadol Procedural Motion

The Minister for Assembly Business Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies): Cynigiau fod
(Andrew Davies): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, under Standing Order 6.16, postpones the debate on the Queen's Speech and the debate on the handling of the Wales Millennium Centre contract scheduled for today.

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.16, yn gohirio'r ddadl ar Araith y Frenhines a'r ddadl ar ymdrin â chontract Canolfan Mileniwm Cymru a drefnwyd ar gyfer heddiw.

I will make arrangements to hold these debates, where appropriate, in the autumn. The motions tabled for debate today relating to the approval of Assembly legislation have been withdrawn. I will arrange for the introduction of the Local Government Elections (Wales) Order 2001 in the autumn, so that it may be debated in this Chamber.

Gwnaf drefniadau i gynnal y dadleuon hyn, lle y bo'n briodol, yn yr hydref. Tynnwyd y cynigion a gyflwynwyd i gynnal dadl arnynt heddiw yn ymwneud â chymeradwyo deddfwriaeth y Cynulliad yn ôl. Byddaf yn trefnu i Orchymyn Etholiadau Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) 2001 gael eu cyflwyno yn yr hydref, fel y gellir ei drafod yn y Siambr hon.

With the agreement of the other parties, the other items of subordinate legislation that were tabled for approval today will be made under the executive procedure. We must vote on the remaining items of business today. These are the motion to delegate the functions of the Children's Commissioner for Wales Act 2001 to the First Minister, the motion to approve the Presiding Office's budget and the motion to approve the revision of Standing Order No. 22. If the parties agree, those items will be proposed today.

Gyda chytundeb y pleidiau eraill, gwneir yr eitemau eraill o is-ddeddfwriaeth a gyflwynwyd i gael eu cymeradwyo heddiw o dan y weithdrefn weithredol. Rhaid inni bleidleisio ar yr eitemau o fusnes sydd yn weddill heddiw. Hynny yw, y cynnig i ddirprwyo swyddogaethau Deddf Comisiynydd Plant Cymru 2001 i'r Prif Weinidog, y cynnig i gymeradwyo cyllideb Swyddfa'r Llywydd a'r cynnig i gymeradwyo'r adolygiad o Orchymyn Sefydlog Rhif 22. Os bydd y pleidiau'n cytuno, caiff yr eitemau hynny eu cynnig heddiw.

Cynnig: O blaid 46, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion: For 46, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn

Davies, Jocelyn
 Davies, Ron
 Edwards, Richard
 Essex, Sue
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Halford, Alison
 Hancock, Brian
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty
 Williams, Phil

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried*

Cynnig Trefniadol Procedural Motion

The Minister for Assembly Business Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies): Cynigiau fod
(Andrew Davies): I propose that

the National Assembly for Wales, under Standing Order No 6.16, brings forward the no-named day motion on the delegation of functions of the Children's Commissioner for Wales Act 2001, tabled on 12 July 2001. *Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.16, yn dwyn ymlaen y cynnig heb ddyddiad trafod ar ddirprwyo swyddogaethau Deddf Comisiynydd Plant Cymru 2001, a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 12 Gorffennaf 2001.*

*Cynnig: O blaid 46, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
 Motion: For 46, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
 Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor

Butler, Rosemary
 Cairns, Alun
 Chapman, Christine
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, David
 Davies, Geraint
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Davies, Ron
 Edwards, Richard
 Essex, Sue
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Halford, Alison
 Hancock, Brian
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw
 Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

**Dirprwyo Swyddogaeth y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn Adran 5 (1) o Ddeddf
 Comisiynydd Plant Cymru 2001**

**Delegation of Function of the National Assembly in Section 5 (1) of the
 Children's Commissioner for Wales Act 2001**

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Jane Hutt): I propose that

the National Assembly, acting under section 62(1)(b) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, resolves to delegate the function of the National Assembly in section 5(1) of the Children's Commissioner for Wales Act 2001 to the First Minister, which can be found on the internet at: <http://www.hmsso.gov.uk/acts/acts2001/10018--a.htm#5>, save those which by law cannot be

Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Jane Hutt): Cynigiaf fod

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, gan weithredu o dan adran 62(1)(b) o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998, yn penderfynu dirprwyo swyddogaeth y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn adran 5(1) o Ddeddf Comisiynydd Plant Cymru 2001 i Brif Weinidog Cymru, y gellir ei gweld ar y rhynggrwyd yn <http://www.hmsso.gov.uk/acts/acts2001/10018--a.htm#5> ac eithrio'r rheini na ellir yn ôl

so delegated. Nothing in this motion will have the effect of reducing the pre-eminence of the authority of the full Assembly or of reducing the role of the Assembly Committees in the exercise of the above functions. (NNDM772)

cyfraith eu dirprwyo yn y modd hwnnw. Ni fydd dim yn y cynnig hwn yn lleihau goruchafiaeth awdurdod y Cynulliad llawn, nac yn lleihau swyddogaeth Pwyllgorau'r Cynulliad wrth arfer y swyddogaethau uchod. (NNDM772)

*Cynnig: O blaid 46, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
Motion: For 46, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Cymeradwyo Cyllideb Swyddfa'r Llywydd o dan Reolau Sefydlog Rhifau 19.0 a 19.5A

Approval of the Presiding Office Budget under Standing Orders Nos. 19.0 and 19.5A

The Deputy Presiding Officer (John Y Dirprwy Lywydd (John Marek):
Marek): I propose that Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly, acting under Standing Order No. 19.5A, agrees the change in the level of resources allocated to the main expenditure group established for the Office of the Presiding Officer adopted for the office for 2001-02 and, acting under Standing Order No. 19.0, adopts the draft budget for the office for 2002-03 and provisional allocations for the subsequent two years as set out in Table 1 to this motion laid in the Table Office on 11 July 2001. (NDM755)

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, gan weithredu o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 19.5A, yn cytuno â'r newid yn lefel yr adnoddau sydd wedi'u dyrannu i'r prif grŵp gwariant sydd wedi'i sefydlu ar gyfer Swyddfa'r Llywydd a'i fabwysiadu ar gyfer 2001-2002 a, chan weithredu o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 19.0, yn mabwysiadu'r gyllideb ddrafft ar gyfer y Swyddfa ar gyfer 2002-2003 a'r dyraniadau dros dro ar gyfer y ddwy flynedd ddilynol fel y'u nodir yn Nhabl 1 y cynnig hwn a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 11 Gorffennaf 2001. (NDM755)

Cynnig: O blaid 46, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion: For 46, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Barrett, Lorraine
 Bates, Mick
 Black, Peter
 Bourne, Nick
 Burnham, Eleanor
 Butler, Rosemary
 Cairns, Alun
 Chapman, Christine
 Davidson, Jane
 Davies, Andrew
 Davies, David
 Davies, Geraint
 Davies, Glyn
 Davies, Jocelyn
 Davies, Ron
 Edwards, Richard
 Essex, Sue
 German, Michael
 Gibbons, Brian
 Graham, William
 Gregory, Janice
 Griffiths, John
 Halford, Alison
 Hancock, Brian
 Hart, Edwina
 Hutt, Jane
 Jones, Ann
 Jones, Carwyn
 Jones, Elin
 Jones, Gareth
 Jones, Ieuan Wyn
 Law, Peter
 Lewis, Huw

Lloyd, David
 Melding, David
 Middlehurst, Tom
 Morgan, Jonathan
 Morgan, Rhodri
 Neagle, Lynne
 Pugh, Alun
 Randerson, Jenny
 Ryder, Janet
 Thomas, Gwenda
 Thomas, Owen John
 Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
 Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
 Motion carried.*

Adolygu Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 22 Revision of Standing Order No. 22

The Minister for Assembly Business **Y Trefnydd (Andrew Davies):** Cynigiaf
(Andrew Davies): I propose that fod:

the National Assembly,

y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol

acting under section 46(6) of the Government of Wales Act 1998 and Standing Order No. 34:

gan weithredu o dan adran 46(6) o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Cymru 1998 a Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 34:

(i) considers the report of the Business Committee laid in the Table Office on 11 July 2001; and

(i) yn ystyried adroddiad y Pwyllgor Busnes a osodwyd yn y Swyddfa Gyflwyno ar 11 Gorffennaf 2001; ac

(ii) approves the following revisions of Standing Orders:

(ii) yn cymeradwyo'r diwygiadau a ganlyn i'r rheolau sefydlog;

Standing Order No. 22

Rheol Sefydlog 22

Insert a new section 22.29A:

Ychwanegu adran newydd 22.29A:

'A motion tabled under Standing Order No. 22.29 shall be timetabled under Standing Order No. 5 for consideration by the Assembly within the period of forty working days referred to in that paragraph; except that, if it is not possible for the provisions of Standing Order No. 5 to be met within that period because the Assembly is not scheduled to meet, the First Secretary shall request the Presiding Officer to summon the Assembly to consider the motion on a day within that period, and the Presiding Officer shall comply with that request.' (NDM769)

'Bydd cynnig a gyflwynir o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 22.29 yn cael ei roi ar yr amserlen o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 5 i'w ystyried gan y Cynulliad o fewn y cyfnod o ddeugain diwrnod gwaith y cyfeirir ato yn y paragraff hwnnw; ond, os nad oes modd bodloni darpariaethau Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 5 o fewn y cyfnod hwnnw oherwydd na threfnwyd i'r Cynulliad gyfarfod, bydd y Prif Ysgrifennydd yn gofyn i'r Llywydd gynnwyl y Cynulliad i ystyried y cynnig ar ddiwrnod o fewn y cyfnod hwnnw, a bydd y Llywydd yn cydymffurfio â'r cais.' (NDM769)

*Cynnig: O blaid 47, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.
 Motion: For 47, Abstain 0, Against 0.*

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

Cynnig Trefniadol Procedural Motion

The Presiding Officer: I understand that Ann Jones wishes to propose a procedural motion to postpone the short debate that she was due to hold today.

Y Llywydd: Deallaf fod Ann Jones yn dymuno cynnig cynnig trefniadol i ohirio'r ddadl fer y bwriadodd ei chynnal heddiw.

Ann Jones: I propose that

Ann Jones: Cynigiaf fod

the National Assembly, under Standing Order No. 6.10, postpones the short debate scheduled for today. *y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 6.10, yn gohirio'r ddadl fer a drefnwyd ar gyfer heddiw.*

Cynnig: O blaid 47, Ymatal 0, Yn erbyn 0.

Motion: For 47, Abstain 0, Against 0.

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

Barrett, Lorraine
Bates, Mick
Black, Peter
Bourne, Nick
Burnham, Eleanor
Butler, Rosemary
Cairns, Alun
Chapman, Christine
Davidson, Jane
Davies, Andrew
Davies, David
Davies, Geraint
Davies, Glyn
Davies, Jocelyn
Davies, Ron
Edwards, Richard
Essex, Sue
German, Michael
Gibbons, Brian
Graham, William
Gregory, Janice
Griffiths, John
Halford, Alison
Hancock, Brian
Hart, Edwina
Hutt, Jane
Jones, Ann
Jones, Carwyn
Jones, Elin
Jones, Gareth
Jones, Ieuan Wyn
Law, Peter
Lewis, Huw
Lloyd, David
Melding, David
Middlehurst, Tom
Morgan, Jonathan
Morgan, Rhodri
Neagle, Lynne
Pugh, Alun
Randerson, Jenny
Rogers, Peter
Ryder, Janet
Thomas, Gwenda
Thomas, Owen John
Thomas, Rhodri Glyn
Williams, Kirsty

Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.

Y Llywydd: Diolchaf i Aelodau am eu **The Presiding Officer:** I thank Members for cydweithrediad ar y diwrnod trist hwn yn their co-operation on this sad day in the

hanes y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol.

history of the National Assembly.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 10.37 a.m.
The session ended at 10.37 a.m.