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## Rear Window

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### Good man in an explosive situation

News that Perth explosives detection and security outfit QR Sciences has appointed former parliamentary speaker Bob Halverson as a director is at the very least a widening of the pool of company directors. Halverson was made speaker when John Howard won government in 1996 and did the job until 1998. He has two specific points in his favour: one, he actually knows about explosives, having been an RAAF officer from 1956 to 1981, and two, he spent four years working as a broker in Melbourne between 1981 and 1984, at retail house Robertson Thompson. His other claim to fame is that he managed to hold down the post of Australia's ambassador to Ireland and the Vatican from 1999 to 2003 without attracting hostile press. Not all of his predecessors, who include Vince Gair and Brian Burke, could say they managed that.