

The motion was agreed to in silence, honorable members signifying their unanimous agreement by standing in their places.

### ADJOURNMENT.

**Mr. BOLTE** (Premier and Treasurer).—I move—

That, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honorable Sir Albert Eli Lind, the House do now adjourn until five minutes past Five o'clock this day.

I should like to explain that because to-day is the first day of the new Parliament, the period of adjournment of the House as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Sir Albert Lind will of necessity be short. Had this been a regular sitting period, the House could well have adjourned until to-morrow; had it been the end of a session, the adjournment could have been for two or three hours. I want it clearly understood that an adjournment for a period of half an hour does not detract in any way from the motion that has been moved, seconded, and so ably supported concerning our true appreciation of the worthy services rendered by the late Sir Albert Lind.

The motion was agreed to.

*The House adjourned at 4.36 p.m.*

The **SPEAKER** (Sir William McDonald) took the chair at 5.11 p.m.

### COMMISSION TO SWEAR MEMBERS.

The **SPEAKER** (Sir William McDonald) informed the House that he had received from His Excellency the Governor a commission authorizing him to administer the oath of allegiance to such members as had not already taken and subscribed the same since their election.

### THE MINISTRY.

**Mr. BOLTE** (Premier and Treasurer).—I desire to inform the House of the following changes in the Ministry. In this House, the Honorable Murray Porter has been appoin-

ted Commissioner of Public Works; the Honorable James Balfour, Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey, Minister of Soldier Settlement, and Minister for Conservation; the Honorable Thomas Darcy, Minister of Water Supply, and Minister of Mines; the Honorable John Rossiter, Assistant Minister of Education; and the Honorable Vernon Wilcox, Minister of Immigration and also Assistant to the Chief Secretary and Attorney-General. In the Legislative Council, the Honorable Rupert Hamer has been appointed Minister for Local Government.

### JUSTICES (INDICTABLE OFFENCES) BILL.

**Mr. WILCOX** (Minister of Immigration), by leave, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend subdivision (4) of Division 2 of Part IV. of the Justices Act 1958 with respect to summary jurisdiction in indictable offences.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

### GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

The **SPEAKER** (Sir William McDonald).—I have the honour to report that the House this day attended His Excellency the Governor, in the Legislative Council Chamber, when His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, of which, for greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy. As the Speech is printed, and copies are in the hands of honorable members, it will not be necessary for me to read it.

**Mr. DIXON** (St. Kilda).—I move—

That the following Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor to both Houses of Parliament, be agreed to by this House:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign,

and to thank Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

I am deeply conscious of the honour which has been conferred upon me in being chosen to submit this motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to his Excellency's Speech, not only for myself but also for the residents of the electorate of St. Kilda.

First, the motion expresses our loyalty to our Sovereign and to the Commonwealth of which she is the symbolic head. It is timely for us to pause and reflect that we are among one-quarter of the world's population who similarly express their loyalty to the same Sovereign and whose representatives are currently meeting at the Prime Ministers' conference in London. Let us pray that members of the Commonwealth will see their way clear to give practical support to the Commonwealth by assisting Malaysia to solve her problems with Indonesia, and to give those countries of the Commonwealth which are undeveloped the necessary aid to assist in their development.

Secondly, the motion expresses our thanks to the Governor for his Speech. Sir Rohan Delacombe has taken over with great efficiency from Sir Dallas Brooks. In his thirteen years of office, Sir Dallas earned the love and respect of all Victorians. It is indeed a tribute to Sir Rohan Delacombe that he has continued to exercise his office with the same high standard as his predecessor.

The third function of the motion before the House is to provide a forum for the discussion of the Government's legislative and administrative programme. I wish to confine my remarks to education and housing, and to touch briefly upon three world problems which superimpose themselves upon our Victorian environment.

When we realize that one-third of our population is under fifteen years of age and that more than one-half

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of our population is under the age of 30, we have part of the reason why this Government has consistently given top priority to education. In fact, in the last nine years the Government has built nineteen more high schools and technical schools than were built in the whole previous history of Victoria. This State has spent more per student per annum on education than any other State, and the Government is currently allocating 25 per cent. of its total receipts to education. The basis for a third university has already been laid, and provision has been made for more studentships, which in due course will provide more teachers, and for the erection of more class-rooms.

We are concerned with education not only because of the youthfulness of Australia's population; there are also strong economic grounds for our concern. Most businessmen have realized that it is just as profitable to invest in men as it is to invest in machines. In the long run, it may be more so. Secondly, if we take as a criterion of our economic development, growth, full employment and price stability, what we need most is an educated, adaptable and skilled work force. The National Economic Development Council of Great Britain has said that the first prerequisite for growth is education. So far as full employment and price stability are concerned, the most important essential is a skilled and adaptable work force, a work force that can remove the bottle-necks from supply in times of rising demand to ensure that we have price stability. When we realize that automation is looming increasingly large upon the industrial scene, we further appreciate the need for a skilled, educated and adaptable work force.

I turn now to the external sector of our economy. We realize that in this field we are in a strong position. Our first and second line reserves exceed £1,000,000,000. This year, our exports reached a record

amount exceeding £1,300,000,000, and this has been in no small way due to primary production. Primary production contributes some 80 per cent. of our export proceeds, and the increase in the volume of production contained within this figure has been due in large measure to the know-how which has been obtained by primary producers in colleges such as Dookie and Longerenong.

When we consider secondary industry, we find that it, too, has enjoyed large increases in production, but we do find that to a certain extent the know-how has been derived from the inflow of capital. Australia already owes well over £2,000,000,000. Forty per cent. of our secondary industry is controlled by overseas interests, and this is not far away from the 50 per cent. which the Canadians find so embarrassing. Nevertheless, this Government intends to continue to encourage capital inflow. It bases its view on the fact that, by giving degree status to technical schools and colleges, the amount of technical know-how will be so increased that Australian entrepreneurs will be willing to employ Australian technologists in secondary industry, which will so increase production that, although the absolute amount of capital inflow will increase, its relative contribution will fall.

I wish to commend the Premier for saying that Australians should be more ready to support overseas firms that come in to develop our secondary industry. We are concerned with education not only on economic grounds; we are concerned also with the all-round development of the child. Nothing contributes to that development as much as the spirit and character of the school environment, and nothing contributes to the character and spirit of a school more than an assembly hall. For this reason, I congratulate the Government upon the provision of its £3 for £1 subsidy, with a maximum of £30,000, for the construction of school assembly halls.

It is with some pride that we in Victoria can claim to have the highest rate of home ownership in the world. This makes a substantial contribution to the well being of the individual citizen and to his acting as a responsible member of society. The Housing Commission has played no small part in this. The Commission is responsible for the housing of low-income groups, and I should like to touch briefly upon three considerations affecting the central problem, namely, terms of repayment, slum reclamation, and the housing of elderly citizens. We, in this State, are grateful to receive from the Commonwealth Government large sums of money at the Commonwealth bond rate of interest minus 1 per cent. As the length of term of repayment is being extended and as it is proposed to give a subsidy to large families, it will be realized that repayments should not be unduly onerous. However, I think we can go one step further and divorce housing interest rates from the general complexity of interest rates. To my mind, this would serve two purposes: First, if these interest rates were reduced to, say, 3 per cent., the repayments would be even less onerous to hard-pressed families. The second purpose would be that interest would be available to the Governor of the Reserve Bank to deal with economic fluctuations. This would enable him to rely less heavily upon quantity controls through the statutory reserve deposit system.

During the past nine years, the Government has reclaimed 171 acres of slums. It intends to spend £18,000,000 in the next three years on slum reclamation and the erection of new buildings. Within this development will be a spectacular master builders' scheme involving the expenditure of £5,000,000 of private capital in the redevelopment of areas in Carlton, North Melbourne, St. Kilda and Prahran. Within this development, halls will be erected to provide indoor leisure facilities for the youth of the area. Also within this development we



are planning six twelve-storied blocks of flats for the housing of single women pensioners. One of these, I am pleased to say, will be located in St. Kilda. It is interesting to note that, under the rental rebate system, pensioners can obtain single units for 14s. 6d. a week and double units for 29s. 6d. a week. This results in a loss to the Housing Commission of £100 per unit per annum. If housing interest rates were to be divorced and reduced to, say, 3 per cent., this loss would be offset.

We are aware of the specific needs of elderly people, and have requested the Elderly People's Welfare Council to work in conjunction with the Commission's designing architects so as to ensure that the detailed needs of elderly people will be met. It is also realized that there is an increasing percentage of old people in our population and, for this reason, a survey is being conducted, the result of which will ensure that their housing needs will be adequately covered in the future.

Before leaving the matter of housing, I should like to say that many of the magnificent facilities offered by the Housing Commission—particularly those of information and advice—pass unnoticed by large sections of the Victorian public. I suggest that the Housing Commission should advertise its services. I understand that the Minister of Housing is thinking of shifting the premises of the Home Ownership Bureau to a more central location so that, because of its accessibility, it will become more useful to the people of Victoria than it is now.

Mr. Speaker, it is not enough to consider these developments from a narrow parochial Victorian viewpoint. We must become aware of the complexity of these developments on a world-wide basis. Accordingly, I should like to speak briefly upon what I regard as three major world problems, namely, the problem of poverty, the problem of affluence, and the problem of an ideology. So far as

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poverty is concerned, it calls for aid. Affluence calls for a system of priorities and the advertisement of these priorities, whilst an ideology calls for the enthusiastic support of our democratic way of life.

The main cause of poverty is the unequal distribution of the world's income, and this is aggravated by the population explosion, from which it is to be understood that the population of the world will double within the next 36 years. In Victoria, we have a problem of some people being less well off than others. In this category there are two particular groups, namely, elderly citizens and the unemployed. I believe we must provide jobs for those many elderly citizens who wish to work and who can still work. The present retiring age of 60 years for females and 65 years for males was brought into being when our expectation of life was some ten years less than it is to-day. The sort of job I envisage is something like that of a member of the Police Reserve which is currently operating in the Police Force.

If it is our desire to maintain retiring ages at 60 years and 65 years for females and males, respectively, then on humanitarian and economic grounds we must provide jobs for those people—many of them elderly—who wish to work. It has been revealed that 80 per cent. of unemployed people are unskilled, and it is probably for this reason that they are, in fact, unemployed. Therefore, it is obvious that an attempt must be made to train these people, either at a special school or in special classes within existing schools or in colleges yet to be established, so that they may take their place in the work force. This training would enable unemployment to be reduced below the minimum level which economists seem to think will be necessary if stability of prices is to be retained.

I might add, although I have no wish to liken unemployed persons to people who are confined in penal

institutions, that this is the type of scheme which is currently operating in our penal establishments. Prisoners are provided with vocational training so that they may eventually take their place in the work force of the community. Evidence of the success of this scheme is the success of our parole system.

When world poverty is considered, we realize that 2,000 million overseas people have an average national income amounting to less than £133 per annum, which is only one-quarter of the average national income in Australia. Of those 2,000 million people, 750 million are located in the Soviet-Chinese bloc of countries, as compared with 1,250 million people located in the non-Communist and Commonwealth countries. From these hallowed portals, perhaps, we can do nothing to solve these problems, because the matter of Government aid is in the Federal sphere, but we can encourage people in our electorates to make a contribution in a private individual way. What has been called a "Community Aid Abroad" group has been set up for this purpose, and it is my intention to form such a group in St. Kilda.

I pass now to the problem of affluence which, I believe, is the main one confronting us in the State of Victoria. As I read through *Hansard*, I find numerous references to members asking for the construction of roads, schools, and hospitals, as well as additions to the Police Force and the maintenance and furtherance of recreational facilities and parks and gardens. Yet we have affluence. What is the answer to this apparent paradox? I believe the answer is to be found in the fact that affluence stems from an increase in total production. What we may have neglected is a consideration of the types of goods we are producing.

I commend the Government of this State for having the courage to raise State taxes to the level where Victorians pay more State taxation per

head of population than the residents of any other Australian State. We must be sufficiently courageous to say to the people that if we are charged to undertake the responsibilities of education, housing, health, law enforcement, and so forth, we must have sufficient funds to meet those responsibilities. The new formula for tax reimbursement grants to be introduced next year will enable the Bolte Government, with the mandate of the people, to discharge these responsibilities properly. We in this State have a magnificent future, and we cannot afford to tackle it in a parsimonious way.

Finally, I come to the question of ideology—the totalitarian régime versus the democracy. We are certain that democracy will be retained in Victoria, but are we certain that it will survive in the uncommitted nations of the world? For democracy to survive, there must be a well-informed public opinion, but people do not bother to inform themselves about subjects which are remote to them. Therefore, we, as the leaders of the people in this State, must use the press, the radio, the television and all other forms of mass personal communication to inform people concerning politics and to ensure that it will not become a subject which is remote to them. We can then, perhaps, reverse the trend to which James Jupp adverted when he said—

The apparent irrelevance of party politics to the well-being of the Australian people has pushed the Australian party machine to the margins of society.

Let us remember that we have been elected to this Parliamentary institution not merely to serve the people of Victoria but also to lead them.

I think, too, that something must be done about politics in the schools. I should like to point out that the Melbourne Church of England Grammar School has a Parliamentary democracy week in each year of an election. Speakers from all parties are invited to give their views, and these are then discussed by teachers and students in class at their discretion.

I hope that I can uphold and maintain the traditions that have been set in Parliament. I hope, too, that I can uphold and maintain the traditions and standards set by the former member for St. Kilda, the Honorable B. D. Snider, now one of the representatives of Higinbotham Province in the Legislative Council.

Since its inception, Victoria has enjoyed amazing growth. Let us of the 43rd Parliament do nothing to impede this growth. Rather let us make a positive contribution to it through intelligent, stable and enthusiastic government. It is with great pleasure that I express this motion of loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. and thank His Excellency the Governor for his most gracious Speech.

**Mr. McCABE** (Lowan).—Mr. Speaker, as the elected representative of Lowan, I am honoured to second the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor, so ably moved by my colleague, the honorable member for St. Kilda. It is an honour also to the electors of Lowan that they should be associated with this motion. This is something that has not happened to them for a long time, because they were represented for the past nineteen years by the late Honorable W. J. Mibus, who was perhaps better known throughout Victoria as Mick Mibus. I feel very humble in the knowledge that I am to follow in the steps of a man such as he was. Mr. Mibus was untiring in his efforts as a Minister of the Crown and a member of the Legislative Assembly, and he treated everyone as his friend. He will be remembered for that friendship, and his memorial will be the work that he did for the State of Victoria.

I strongly endorse the remarks of my colleague concerning the loyalty of my constituents to Her Majesty the Queen and all that the British Throne represents. We were all greatly pleased at the birth in March of this year of a Royal Prince to Her

Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. We hope that we may have an opportunity in the not-too-distant future of demonstrating our loyalty to them personally and perhaps of greeting the new Royal Prince and the other Royal children.

I feel fortunate to be a member of a party which, after having formed the Government for nine years, has been returned with a complete mandate to govern for the next three years. Much has been done in those nine years, but we are neither smug nor complacent and, as indicated in His Excellency's Speech, legislation covering wide fields is contemplated in the immediate future.

Representing as I do a rural seat, I am pleased that the Government intends to create within the Department of Agriculture divisions of animal health and animal husbandry, to expand the Agricultural Economics Branch and to raise the status of the Information and Publicity Branch. These are measures that must assist the future of farming in Victoria. Grants for agricultural societies for the erection of buildings on agricultural showgrounds for the exhibition of stock will be increased from £25,000 to £40,000 a year. Furthermore, grants of up to £500 are to be made to young farmers' clubs for the erection of meeting places, if built on agricultural showgrounds. This is a move that every thinking person in the farming community must applaud, as the work done by the young farmers' clubs in educating the younger generation of farmers is of inestimable value.

As a resident of a town that has had its share of problems concerning the rehabilitation of aboriginal families, I commend the Government on the work it has done in this sphere in past years, and I should like to comment on the legislation foreshadowed in the Governor's Speech. It has been said that these families cannot be assimilated into the community, but in the town of