

the exploited and the working people receive a better deal and that the economy of this State and country is used for the benefit of all people, not only for a select few. If the Albert Park electorate had as many cows and sheep as it has people, the Government might do something to help it.

Finally, I should like to say—and I make no apologies for saying it—that I am a proud member of the Victorian branch of the Australian Labor Party. I have attended its conferences and participated in the making of its decisions. I believe in its decisions, and so long as I am a member of this House I will adhere to those decisions and policies. I thank the Australian Labor Party for giving me a second opportunity of becoming a Parliamentarian.

Mr GAVIN (Coburg)—Mr Speaker, I congratulate you on your election to the office of Speaker. I also congratulate all new honorable members on their successful election to Parliament. I thank the Clerks, the Serjeant-at-Arms and the attendants of this House who have been helpful to the new members.

I pay tribute to the three former members for Coburg, who served that electorate to the best of their abilities. I recently became aware that the three former members began their Parliamentary careers when they were in their fifties. I am sure honorable members are aware that I am not of that age group.

I turn to that section of the Governor's Speech dealing with unemployment. I am a former public servant of the Federal Public Service and I worked in a department that for many years was known as the labour department—the Department of Labour and National Service.

Unemployment in Victoria is increased when Federal public servants are transferred to Canberra from offices in Melbourne. Currently, three Federal Public Service departments are being press-ganged into transferring major functions of their central administrations to Canberra. The Department of Transport, which has been almost cut in two between Melbourne and Canberra, soon

will be based wholly in Canberra. The Department of Employment and Industrial Relations has some offices in Canberra, and soon 20 per cent of its head office staff, including the whole of the management services branch, will move to Canberra. The Department of Youth and Community Services will soon have only three Commonwealth Employment Service divisions left in Melbourne; the rest of its head office will be based in Canberra.

These proposed moves will hinder an integrated approach to the labour market, to manpower and to industrial relations matters, by restricting contact between those officers who are sent to Canberra and those who remain in Melbourne. The transfer of functions to Canberra will make many departmental elements more remote from the valuable contacts that have been enjoyed between employers, trade union organizations and other organizations such as the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, the Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research and the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

The location of the central office of the Department of Youth and Community Services and the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations in Melbourne has given the Federal Government access to a range of policy advice based on close contact with industry, the labour market and users of departmental services. None of this will be available from Canberra. The location of these departments in Melbourne has meant that advice has been provided promptly to the State Government when it has been required.

It is worth comparing the accuracy of forecasts by the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations on unemployment levels with Treasury forecasts. Compulsory transfers of large organizational elements will inevitably mean a loss of skilled and experienced staff which can be ill afforded in these times of record unemployment levels. The Victorian Government should launch a campaign to stop the proposed transfers and save jobs in Victoria. If the State Government is not prepared

to do that and oppose its counterparts in Canberra, it should offer to take into the State Public Service all those experienced and capable public servants who do not wish to be transferred to Canberra.

The compulsory transfer of about 400 departmental staff of the Department of Youth and Community Services and the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations will have adverse economic effects on Victoria. It will reduce consumer demand, create an immediate loss of rented office space and adversely affect the housing market. Compulsory transfers of public servants are expensive. This is hard to justify when the Federal Government is seeking to reduce Budget deficits. It has been suggested that the costs of the proposed transfer of the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations—which is only one of three departments being transferred—will be approximately \$10 million.

The proposed transfers have damaged the morale of staff in the department, at a time of record unemployment and at a time when this department should have all guns firing to overcome the varied problems of the labour market.

In the City of Coburg, 2087 people are unemployed. This figure can be compared with only 900 unemployed people registered with the Coburg City Council during the great depression of the 1930s. My electorate also includes the suburb of Fawkner which is within the City of Broadmeadows. The Commonwealth Employment Service officials estimate that Fawkner has 400 unemployed persons. High unemployment levels have caused many problems.

In Coburg, the incidents of drug dependency has skyrocketed, according to social workers, youth workers and others who work with young people. Yet, there are no adequate facilities to assist the young unemployed who are affected by hard drugs. The Governor's Speech was silent on this problem.

The incidence of crime has also risen with increasing unemployment. Yet \$6.75 million of taxpayers' funds

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has been wasted on a maximum security section at Pentridge which will house only 24 prisoners. The transformation necessary to make Pentridge into a rehabilitative prison worthy of the 1980s is not likely to occur under this Government. I remind the House that a maximum security section could have been built far more cheaply at Castlemaine, and that it was necessary for the economic viability of that town.

With obvious social welfare needs increasing in my electorate it is vital that community welfare groups continue to have access to the existing facilities of the North West One Stop Welfare Centre, popularly called the NOW Centre, in Sydney Road, Coburg. This centre was established in July 1975 by the Whitlam Labor Government to provide local community groups and welfare sections of the Federal and State Governments with a location from which they could serve the needs of the people in the area.

The NOW Centre is currently funded by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, but apparently this is not to continue and future funding is in doubt. The Department of Youth and Community Welfare Services has a large presence in the centre and therefore shoulders some responsibility to help fund the centre in the future.

The migrant community has strongly supported the concept and operation of the NOW Centre, yet this Government still refuses to recognize the high migrant content within schools. At Fawkner Primary School 54.4 per cent of the student population are migrants but not one migrant English teacher is employed at that school. This is not an isolated example. Schools within Coburg not only lack adequate teaching staff, but also facilities. Coburg's needs are desperate.

Newlands High School, for example, has no library resource centre nor a hall in which the students can assemble. Education is an area of continued neglect by this Government, and another case of continual broken promises. I hope that during my term in Parliament our schools will receive some benefit.

So far, in my discussions with Education Department officials I have been impressed with what these officials have been trying to do with the limited financial resources available to them.

Unfortunately, the Coburg area lacks the open space for both passive and active recreation that a community of its size should have. The open space available is well below the standard set by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works of 7 acres for each 1000 population. In particular, there is inadequate open space for passive recreational use, but there are physical limitations on the acquisition of sufficient suitable land in an older built-up area like Coburg.

Clearly, the open space needs of the Coburg residents would be enhanced by the provision of suitable areas within our region. For this reason, I support the acquisition of additional land for the Gellibrand Hill Regional Park just below Sunbury. The Government should purchase the remaining 942 acres on which Gellibrand Hill is actually located and hand the land over to the National Parks Service.

Not only do I support the purchase of this land by the Government, but I have the full support of the five municipal councils in the region. I, therefore, invite the Minister for Conservation and the Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation to inspect Gellibrand Hill and to make a decision in due course to purchase that land.

If this land were purchased it would be a better investment than those recent land purchases in Melton, Pakenham, Sunbury and now Sale.

Not only has the Government's record on buying land been woeful; so has its performance on public transport. I am a regular user of the railway service—even before I received my gold pass—and can therefore speak with authority on these deficiencies. There is no service on Sunday on the Coburg–Upfield line. That is how the railways have operated or not operated for many years. There is a desperate need, throughout Melbourne, to co-ordinate the various forms of public transport. The same applies to

the Coburg area. There should be some connection from the Sydney Road tram terminus to service the people travelling to Fawkner and Campbellfield.

May I conclude by publicly thanking my colleagues, especially the Labor Party's land deals investigation team, the Honorable D. R. White from the other place and the honorable members for Bundoora, Knox, Niddrie and now Carrum. Without their patience and sheer hard work these disgraceful land deals would still be hidden away in the Government's files. I hope the efforts of such members will continue to provide the honesty necessary for confidence in the democratic processes and in the present democratic parliamentary system.

On the motion of Mr DUNSTAN (Dromana), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until next day.

ADJOURNMENT

Accommodation for intellectually handicapped couple—Geelong meat works—Queen Victoria Medical Centre—Victorian Ambulance Service Association—World Trade Centre—Olympic Games—Williamstown Primary School—Local government income tax sharing—Valuer-General—Kealba Primary School—Housing Commission property damage—Ascot Vale intersections—Dog Act—Geelong public offices

Mr MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport)—I move:

That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, June 12, at half-past three o'clock.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr MACLELLAN (Minister of Transport)—I move:

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr CATHIE (Carrum)—I wish to raise a matter with the Minister of Housing concerning a young married, retarded couple who are living in a caravan on their parent's property because the State Government has ignored their housing needs.

I first raised this matter with the Minister of Housing in February of this year when I pointed out that this young