

that funding has declined by up to 22 per cent, whilst road travel has increased by 66 per cent. Further, Victoria received the lowest *per capita* and per vehicle road grant from the Commonwealth in 1979-80. A substantial increase in the real value of road funds is needed to prevent a further deterioration of Victoria's road network.

The National Party accepts the mandate of the Labor Government. The National Party accepts the responsibilities placed on its members of Parliament. Members of the National Party campaigned strongly on those issues that affect the community, especially the aged. The National Party also has a mandate to continue promoting the policies on which its members were elected to Parliament.

The National Party will use its position in this House and in another place in the best interests of those people who elected the National Party for the betterment of all country people. The Benalla electorate has been represented by the National Party for more than 60 years. The electorate covers eleven municipal areas and all types of agriculture and grazing can be found in the area.

The Benalla electorate is the home of many Government departments and the industries in the area range from timber mills to motor vehicle manufacturing. It is also the home of a major Army base at Puckapunyal. There is certainly no lack of variety of industry in the electorate and I look forward with enthusiasm to representing the electorate of Benalla.

Mr HILL (Warrandyte)—Mr Speaker, I wish you well on your appointment as Speaker. Like other honourable members of this House, I am confident that you will be a Speaker of great distinction. In joining my fellow honourable members to thank His Excellency the Governor for the Speech he made to the Parliament, I take the opportunity of wishing His Excellency, Sir Brian Murray, and Lady Murray well in serving the State of Victoria as required by the Constitution.

The motto of the 1981 International Year of the Disabled, "Break down the barriers" has been applied by the people of Victoria who have elected a Labor Government to break down the barriers of conservatism and reaction. The people of Victoria have demanded access to social justice and to conditions and services that are not privileges but rights. The people of Victoria have demanded access to housing, employment, transport, education, health and justice—that is, access through consultation and co-operation. It is extraordinary that these conditions and services that are considered to be the rights of people in Western democracies have been denied for so long to so many people in Victoria.

If any honourable member doubts this state of affairs, I invite that honourable member to visit the electorates situated in the outer eastern suburbs. I invite those honourable members particularly to the electorate of Warrandyte, which I have the honour and the privilege to represent in this Parliament.

Those who look and listen will see and hear clear evidence that the people of the outer east are demanding access to services taken for granted elsewhere.

I am proud to be part of this Government elected to provide services and improve the well-being of people in the Warrandyte electorate and throughout Victoria.

No one would deny that shelter is a basic need of all people. Yet in the outer east housing is in such short supply that the average time a house to rent remains vacant is two hours.

The policy of the former Liberal Government was that unless one can purchase a house in the outer east, one cannot live there. That policy has caused great suffering not only to the poor, the unemployed, the single parent and the aged, but also to the middle income people who simply cannot bridge the deposit gap or keep up with increasing interest rates and living costs.

These people welcome the Government's commitment to housing as indicated by His Excellency the Gov-

ernor's Speech. I refer particularly to the stimulation of the building industry and the increase in provision of rental accommodation and homes for purchase within reach of all people.

In his maiden speech in the last Parliament, my colleague the honourable member for Oakleigh, and now Minister for Police and Emergency Services, and Minister for the Arts made a thorough analysis of the problems of unemployment. He said then that unemployment would destroy the Liberal Government in 1982. The Liberals did not take heed.

In the past three years of Liberal rule, thousands of words were spoken and printed about unemployment and many positive approaches suggested, but the electorate wanted action. It would not tolerate the Liberal Government's lack of planning and lack of decisiveness.

Victorians want jobs that are socially useful. They want jobs which use the talents of individuals and which draw on and build up community resources.

They want their elected representative to do more than talk. They want him or her to get to know how local people see issues by getting involved in local projects.

In Warrandyte, I saw how local people were prepared to use local resources to create local jobs. I became involved with the Warrandyte people in organizing their resources to provide local jobs.

They want to take action themselves. They need support to do so. This Labor Government will give that support. The Government's policy is not just to help the unemployed, but more positively to create jobs by using State and local resources.

In Warrandyte, we have a community job project which can be a model for other communities. When the outer eastern suburbs were settled it was assumed that people either had access to motor cars or they were able to walk to work. Those assumptions were patently false. Much of the area is crying out for a rational public transport system.

Trains serve only a narrow corridor of the area. But even those who are fortunate enough to have access to trains, are well aware of the poor service. Trains are either constantly late or cancelled.

Buses also serve only narrow corridors. Except for a brief peak period, buses are few and far between. They are often non-existent when young people and the aged most need them.

The Liberal philosophy of Government was one of, "We know best". They did not care what local consumers of services wanted.

Under the former Liberal Government, bureaucrats, particularly transport officials, discouraged approaches by people in the electorate I represent who wanted a more flexible and appropriate local transport system.

I am working with groups that have struggled for years to put across their points of view. In the Warrandyte electorate, these groups are now studying the transport needs of the area with the co-operation of transport officials. They want to develop the most efficient, effective and economically viable transport system possible, particularly for young people. They will put a submission to the Labor Government for a transport system that really meets community needs and not the needs of bureaucrats.

Since 3 April there has been a refreshing change in the way in which the State Government relates to people. Officials have been encouraged to consult consumers, to work co-operatively with local groups who want to develop resources. Already we have a more open Government and the chance to develop services in a way which genuinely meets community needs.

Similarly, in the area of education the new regional organizations will not just appear to involve parents but will in fact do so. Parents will be able to participate in their children's education, together with trained and experienced teachers. At present the Warrandyte electorate has the largest classes in the State. This Government will ensure that no child suffers from overcrowded classes. Teachers and parents will be

encouraged to work together in classes of no more than 30 children. This Government cares about the right of its children to a decent education in a personal and caring school environment.

In any electorate consisting mainly of families, health is always an important issue; not only physical health but also psychological and social health. Lack of services such as housing, transport and education leads to poor psychological and social health.

Give a community basic services and its health will improve dramatically. However, in placing emphasis on young families, the health of another group cannot be ignored. In fact the health of this group requires immediate action. I speak of the aged. The aged, in particular, need services for their psychological and social health. Again, it is partly a matter of providing housing and transport, but of a particular kind.

The old Liberal Government neglected this area, but the Labor Government will actively promote services for the aged. The aged need accommodation close to transport and community services. They need to live in communities where they have long social and personal ties, not to be shipped out to some new estate in yet another underserved area. Particularly when alone they need the company and support of their families. Those who do not have immediate help from families need access to domiciliary and home nursing care. This Labor Government is committed to providing services to keep the aged in their own homes in their own communities.

Any Government that ignores the needs of the aged has no future. Because this Government has a comprehensive and rational programme for its elderly citizens it can be assured of a long and fruitful life.

I have talked about my concern for jobs, housing, transport, health and education. I have actively worked to increase the provision of these services in the Warrandyte electorate. I come from a migrant background. While advancing my education I worked in a number of jobs from unskilled to professional. Everywhere the issues are

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the same. People want a fair deal, they want Governments to listen to them, they want honest and hard working government and they want justice.

I am proud to be a member of a Government party that is committed to social equity, to the equitable distribution of resources and to the just administration of the law. Ten years ago I worked to establish the first free community legal service in Australia. We worked to give people access to the law, to justice, to make access to the law a right, not a privilege. Since then I have worked with other groups to get access to other services—to establish that jobs, schools and housing are a right, not a privilege. This Government will run Victoria honestly not just for Victorians, but with Victorians. It is dedicated to providing community services that are a right, not a privilege, not just for people but with them. Through consultation and co-operation it will know what people really want and work with them to provide services when and where they are needed.

I have the honour to work for and with the Warrandyte electorate as part of the Cain Government, a Government that cares about communities, cares about Victoria.

Mr RAMSAY (Balwyn)—It is traditional during the Address-in-Reply debate for honourable members to express their allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen on behalf of an honourable member himself or herself and on behalf of the electorate represented by that honourable member. This I do whole-heartedly on behalf of Balwyn, and, in doing so, I express my congratulations to the new Governor of Victoria, His Excellency Rear-Admiral Sir Brian Murray. We are fortunate to live in a democracy, and under a constitutional monarchy, where one's allegiance to the highest office in the land is not an allegiance just to an institution but is an allegiance to a person and, in a sense, expresses something that must be at the heart of every democracy—a genuine care of one person for the other.

I also take this opportunity of congratulating the newly-appointed Speaker and the Premier, not only on