

Mr. JONA (Hawthorn). - Mr. Deputy Speaker, I support the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech, which was so ably moved by the honorable member for St. Kilda and seconded by the honorable member for Lowan. I know that my constituents would desire me to be associated with the expressions of loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen, the Commonwealth, and this sovereign State of Victoria. I desire to pay a tribute to the outstanding services of His Excellency the Governor as the personal representative of Her Majesty, and to Lady Delacombe, for the work that they have done since assuming office on these shores. Sir Rohan has intimately identified himself with all facets of life in this State. He has travelled widely, and on all occasions has attempted to gain an inside knowledge of the life of this community, consistent, I believe, with the efforts of his now famous predecessor, Sir Dallas Brooks. As Governor of this State, Sir Rohan has followed in the line of some very worthy predecessors, and I feel sure that he will not only live up to the high reputation achieved by them, but also set a pattern that will further cement our ties with the Crown of which Victoria, as a sovereign State, is so much an integral part.

After nine years of office, any administration, whether it be a Government administration or an administration at a lower organizational level, could be expected, though not excused, for adopting some air of smugness or complacency. After nearly ten years of office, the Bolte Government has, I believe, characterized itself in a manner which is completely opposite to what one might expect and which has been unjustly alleged from time to time.

Reference to His Excellency's Speech indicates that his advisers are most conscious of their responsibilities to the people of this State. I should like to quote a relevant and a particularly appropriate section from His Excellency's Speech. It is as follows:

Our immediate future offers an exciting challenge; a challenge to maintain our expansion, to diversify our production and to promote the export of the products of our labours.

In the ultimate this challenge must be met by the people but it is for the Government and this Parliament to provide the incentive.

I believe that this Government has shown, by example before the election on the 27th June, and by subsequent events, that it proposes to set a standard and pattern in the Coming years which will be an example not only to the people of this State but to other Governments and to the other peoples of the Commonwealth.

The Government's proposals could not be more, aptly described than as being forthright, courageous and positive - I have deliberately selected these terms. When I speak of the Government's policy, I do not mean only the proposals and the policies which have already been outlined by the Premier in his policy speech and which were highlighted in His Excellency's Speech, but I refer also to the more detailed legislation which is to follow. In fact, already in this House, honorable members have had an opportunity of examining certain of the Government's legislative proposals. I also refer to what must be regarded as a matter of paramount importance in this legislation, namely, the raising of the finance with which to carry out the Government's responsibility. In this way, I suggest, its policy has been most forthright; and certainly not clothed with any ambiguity.

The Government has laid its cards on the table. It has been alleged, both in this House and outside, that the Government did not lay its cards on the table early enough. I would suggest that, if this is correct, in one respect at least, the Government was in harmony with the other parties in

this Parliament. Despite the fact that we all knew that additional finance was required to administer the welfare of this State, no party at any time gave any indication how this finance would be raised. This was probably a good ground for agreement between the various parties, because I do not think we could accurately determine how the finance would be raised until the Treasurer had been able to sit down following the election, prepare the Budget, and determine how much money was required to implement the policies which the Government felt were essential in the coming twelve months.

This Government, I believe, is a courageous one. Its courage was clearly demonstrated when the Premier announced various price increases and the proposed State income tax. Neither of these need have been mentioned at this stage, especially in view of the fact that it was known that a by-election was soon to be held and that the fate of the Government could depend upon the result. This should dismiss from the minds of people throughout the State any thoughts that the Government lacks courage.

I also suggest that the Government's policy is a positive one, because there is an absolute and full assurance of correctness about the things which it proposes to do. I believe the Government's policy is based on the needs of the State; it is directed towards all people in this State, irrespective of their geographical variations or any other differentiations which may occur between one section of the community and another. I believe that this is the fundamental basis of the Government's policy. If there are two things on which all parties in this House agree - and I believe they are the two things on which all thinking persons in the community agree - they are, first, that additional money is needed to administer the wellbeing of the State, whatever party's policy might be implemented, and, secondly, that a decided priority must be given to education.

I do not, at this stage, wish to deal in detail with the financial aspects. These have been reasonably well covered in the Budget debate and elsewhere. However, I wish to speak briefly on education, and direct my remarks primarily to certain matters which have particular reference to my own electorate. The Government's proposal to develop a number of technical colleges to degree status has been received with a great deal of pleasure. We, in Hawthorn, are naturally delighted with the news that Swinburne Technical College has been included in those colleges which are ultimately to be developed to degree status. I should like to pay a tribute to the council of the Swinburne Technical College which, like the councils of other technical and high schools in Victoria, has done such a magnificent job not only in conducting the affairs of the college but also in relieving successive Governments of various responsibilities which for many reasons they have been unable to fulfil. If it had not been for these school councils, the standard of our educational system would be at a much lower level than it is to-day.

It is interesting to note that the Swinburne Technical College was named after the late Hon. George Swinburne who was a member of this Parliament and represented the Assembly seat of Hawthorn, which I now have the honour to represent. It was largely through his initiative and generosity in 1908 that the college came into being. Since that time, it has developed a great tradition. In fact, in the 56 years of its existence it has had only three directors. I believe the college has set a pattern in many ways for the standard of education. In 1916, it opened the first junior technical school for girls in Victoria.

The Government has announced that it proposes to develop a number of technical colleges into degree-conferring institutions, and, in my opinion, this is a positive move, although it may be unpopular in some quarters. However, that is a discussion for another time. I believe that in our

community there is room for both technical institutions and universities; each has a distinctive and practical part to play in our education system. The granting of degree status to technical colleges is certainly not a new idea. So far as I recall, it was probably first raised by the late Sir Frank Beaurepaire in an address to the Melbourne Technical College, as it then was, in the early 1940's.

Since that time, many reports have been made concerning the manner in which technical schools and colleges should be developed to degree status. Numerous debates have taken place in this House and a number of inquiries have been conducted on the subject. To give honorable members an indication of the amount of work which has been done and the reports that have been issued on this subject, I mention that, in 1947, there was the Seitz report; in 1956, the Leggatt report; in 1957, the Nilsson report and the Murray report; in 1961, the report of the College of Education; in 1963, the Ramsay report; and, of course, we also gave much consideration to the Robbins report which was based on the situation in the United Kingdom, but which had much relevance to the Victorian system. We are now awaiting with a great deal of interest the Martin Commonwealth report on tertiary education. I hope this document will be available soon and that it will be the report to end all reports for the commencement of further development of technical and tertiary education in Victoria.

I believe the time has now arrived, irrespective of whether technical colleges are granted degree status, for Commonwealth finance to be made available for technical tertiary education throughout all States of Australia and for taxation exemptions to be granted to industries which subscribe to the welfare and the furtherance of technical education. One of the responsibilities of this Government in the near future will be to give consideration to removing the shackles which at present bind the staff of technical colleges to the regulations applying to secondary teachers. It is my opinion that the conditions of employment and salaries of the -staffs of technical colleges should be related to a tertiary level. That should be done as soon as possible, irrespective of whether or not technical colleges are granted degree status. It should certainly be done in preparation for that inevitable day, whether or not that day comes as quickly as we want it to.

It is true that Swinburne Technical ,College has developed a standard of technological education and performance which is consistent with the technological degrees granted by a number of technological institutions in Australia. This is true also of other technical colleges in Victoria. The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology is an educational institution which grants, after three years post matriculation study, a chemical engineering diploma which I believe everyone in this State would accept as being at university level, and many other instances could. be quoted to show that that institution is a de facto university without Government subsidy or degree status.

Perhaps it is premature for me to express at this stage too many views on the development of technical education, but I am looking forward with interest to the Martin report. I assume that at an early date following the tabling of that report there will be established a central body which will ensure that technical colleges in Victoria will be able to develop as individual colleges within the framework of the central council, rather than follow the line of colleges affiliated with a central university. I believe this latter system would be a dangerous one to follow. I would not be happy to accept it, and I am sure that the technical colleges would not be. In my opinion, technical colleges should be developed as individual bodies able to grant degrees in their own fields under the guidance of a co-ordinating body such as a central council.

I wish now to relate my remarks to the need for a new high school in the eastern suburbs. The

people of Hawthorn - I point out that my electorate includes an extensive part of South Richmond and Burnley - believe the time has arrived for the Education Department to give a great deal of consideration to the erection of a new high school in our area. I believe that the demands from secondary school students in Hawthorn, Richmond and East Collingwood are sufficient to justify this school.

Grade 6 enrolments in the area, which would serve as a feeding ground for a new high school, now total 656. Many hundreds of pupils in this district now receive secondary education. The trend for children in this locality to continue with higher education has shown a marked increase over the past few years and in Richmond alone - I am sure the honorable member for Richmond will be interested to know this - there are already 400 students receiving secondary education. At Cremorne-street State School in Richmond, the grade 6 enrolments number 29 compared with 23 last year; at Victoria Park State School in Collingwood, there are 43 this year compared with 38 last year; at Auburn South State School, there are 55 compared with 43 last year; and at the Glenferrie State School - my old school, I may add proudly - this year there are 49 compared with 43 last year. This pattern is expected to continue in the area.

I realize that the Education Department has given consideration to the need for a new high school in this district and last year, when the matter was being considered, it was a question whether the new school would be erected in the area I represent or in Prahran. The decision was in favour of Prahran, and we do not argue with it. Having discussed the matter with the Assistant Director of Education, I believe that, on the evidence which he was able to consider, the decision was a wise one. I do not believe any person who encourages the development of the high school system would view this unfavourably, but, as the member representing the Hawthorn electorate and as one who has investigated the situation to some extent, I believe there will be strong evidence to produce to the Education Department next year, so that when the location of future high schools is under discussion, the construction of one in my electorate will be favourably viewed.

I should like to say a few words about the effect of the high school situation on the existing central schools. With the development of new high schools, commencing from form L, it is only natural that the existence of the central schools from the viewpoint of their forms I. and II. is jeopardized. I strongly recommend to the Education Department that, when new high schools are built, the central schools be maintained at their present status and that form II. students from the central schools provide a feeding ground into form III. of the high schools to relieve the congestion which will inevitably arise if the sole intake for the high schools is from pupils of State schools. I consider that State school pupils should be able to enter high schools and go into form L, that the central school pupils should go into form III., and that eventually the State schools should be raised to central school status rather than that the central schools should be lowered to the present State school status.

While on the subject of education, I refer to an innovation at the West Hawthorn Central School that was observed by both myself and the Assistant Minister of Education, who accompanied me on a visit to the school a few weeks ago. This innovation, which was largely the brainchild of the headmaster of the school, Mr. Jennings, could well be adopted by the Education Department generally. The school has developed a department which it has designated the Extension and Diagnostic Aids Department. Its purpose is to give specific attention to children who show either a special skill or aptitude well above average in a particular subject while being normal in all other subjects; or, alternatively, who show a marked backwardness in a particular subject, while

being normal in all other subjects. Over a period of time, it has been shown that when a child is particularly advanced in one subject but normal in others, the child tends to find the lessons on that subject monotonous and becomes something of a trouble maker, and as the years go by serious repercussions may result. By the same token, if a child is backward in a particular subject, he or she never gets the opportunity to achieve the standard of education that might otherwise be reached if the matter had been corrected at an early stage. I believe that the setting up of this department and the giving of children in both of these categories special training or consideration during the time normally allotted to the classes in which they show either the particular skill or backwardness, are measures which could well be adopted generally by the Education Department.

I should like to say a few words about the Social Welfare Branch of the Chief Secretary's Department. In my electorate is situated the Training Division of the Branch. If ever a Government Department reflected human understanding, it is the Social Welfare Branch. It co-ordinates the work of the Family Welfare Division, the Youth Welfare Division, the Probation and Parole Division, and the Prisons Division, and is concerned with the Aborigines Welfare Board and other activities. The Social Welfare Branch has set a pattern of human understanding at Government level which perhaps has not been known in this State before, or indeed in few other States or countries. In the Training Division, emphasis has been placed primarily on the training of professional welfare workers in statutory institutions and of a number of welfare workers in voluntary institutions, but I believe that there is great scope for the provision of part-time courses for many thousands of people in the community who do welfare work on a very small scale - perhaps only half an hour a week from time to time with Legacy, Carry-On, the Apex Club and numerous other organizations. If some form of part-time course were conducted to cater for the needs of "amateurs" rather than those who will be working professionally or in a voluntary capacity on a full-time basis, I believe the needs of the community would be more effectively met.

As a matter of interest, I should like to mention that since its formation in 1962 the Training Division has trained more than 400 students from statutory institutions, some 100 from voluntary organizations and some twelve private persons. It is the latter category of private persons that I should like to see developed and I believe that, as one of the functions of the Branch is to give attention to the promotion and encouragement of public interest in social welfare, it would be within the scope of the Branch to encourage this work to a greater extent. The Social Welfare Branch, which has functioned for only a few years, has made tremendous strides, but I shall be happy to see its activities developed even further.

I now wish to mention the Victoria Police Force. The Force is characterized and distinguished from the police forces of other countries by the nature of our policemen. If ever members of a police force were distinguished by a nonmilitaristic approach to the performance of their duties, I believe that is so in the Police Force of Victoria. This is one facet of our Police Force which must not be taken for granted; it is one on which we must pride ourselves. I think this is also true of the police forces of the other States of Australia, something in which we can take national pride.

One of the important aspects of police work is communications. As the representative of an electorate in which the Criminal Investigation Branch members do not enjoy the use of a police car, I am particularly happy to note that in the current Budget an additional amount of £39,000 has been made available for the purchase of motor vehicles for the Police Force. This will mean that the Force will be able to extend its fleet by something like 39 vehicles. I know that the Chief Secretary is most anxious to ensure that, wherever possible, Criminal Investigation Branches are

equipped with motor transport. When the allocation of new vehicles is being made, I trust that Hawthorn will obtain its share of the additional vehicles. I mention this subject because in recent years residents of Hawthorn have been concerned at the increasing incidence of crime. As an illustration, I point out that in the year ended December, 1963, a total of 1,130 criminal offences were detected within the municipality of Hawthorn, and so far this year 959 offences have been detected. I am informed by the local authorities that, without disrespect to neighbouring suburbs or other suburbs of Melbourne, the majority of the criminals involved have come from areas outside Hawthorn. The lack of communications has had an important bearing on the results achieved by the police in their efforts to detect crime and to apprehend criminals. This is not necessarily my view, but it is a view that has been expressed by people who are much more expert in this field than I am, and therefore I believe attention should be directed to this question.

Since the Bolte Government came into office in 1955, the number of police motor vehicles has been increased by 70 per cent. to a total of 487 this year. This is a remarkable achievement, and I believe it is one reason why the over-all incidence of crime in Victoria has not grown at the rate that one might have expected having regard to the increase in population and other factors which might tend to bring about an increase in crime amongst young people. I believe that Victoria is reaping the benefit of the re-organization of the Police Force in recent years and of the added impetus which has been given to the crime prevention and technical departments under the Assistant Commissioners. In the past couple of years, greater emphasis has been placed on communications and on the technical side of crime prevention and detection, and we are already seeing the benefits of this plan.

In conclusion, I wish to say how proud I am to have been elected to this Parliament as the thirteenth member for Hawthorn in the past 75 years. This electorate embraces most of the municipality of Hawthorn and, as I mentioned previously, Richmond South and Burnley. I believe I shall have ample opportunity to do some worth-while work as a member of this House. I trust that by my efforts in the electorate and in Parliament I shall be able to make a contribution for the benefit of the State of Victoria in general and the people of the electorate of Hawthorn in particular.