

passion and purpose. It is the responsibility of members of the Labor Party to ensure that this trust is not misplaced. The trust of the public is of great concern to members of the Labor Party. We represent the hopes and aspirations of the great mass of Victorians—the wage earner, the small business person, the family farmer, the pensioner and the working poor. These people have invested their trust in the Labor Party and it is a trust worth fighting for.

I am confident that the Government will mark a watershed in the political history of Victoria. Already, it has demonstrated the capacity to make tough decisions and to make those decisions stand. Election promises are being fulfilled. The Budgetary situation is being approached with a keen and innovative sense of political and economic awareness. The Treasurer stated that the Government has embarked on a programme of fundamental economic reform.

The winds of change are being felt in the electorate of Ivanhoe. The Labor Party has commenced a series of discussions with local community leaders, Community Youth Support Scheme groups and church organizations to draw together the resources of the community and has initiated a series of projects to relieve the local unemployment situation. Local traders have had their interests represented by delegations to Ministries as diverse as Agriculture, Local Government, Conservation and Planning. These people have a renewed sense of confidence for they know that the Labor Party is committed to proper planning policies and to the protection of small business.

Schools and school teachers now have a Minister to whom they can speak, a Minister who represents a Government that is committed to an improved education system and a Minister who will not deal in duplicity for the sake of political advantage. The Minister of Transport has announced already an on-going and accelerated programme of refurbishing public transport facilities that will reduce many problems in the electorate.

The Minister for Local Government has introduced a series of Bills that demonstrate the Labor Party's realization of the importance of local government and the need to free this level of government from unnecessary constraints. The Minister for Conservation, who is also the Minister for Planning, has introduced the Historic Buildings (Amendment) Bill that is of particular interest to a city such as Heidelberg, which is fortunate in possessing an active and competent body, the Heidelberg Heritage Advisory Committee.

From 3 April, first home buyers will benefit from the Stamps (First Purchases of Land) Bill introduced by the Treasurer yesterday. As a result, first home buyers will be exempt from stamp duty on homes costing up to \$50 000. On 3 April, the people of Victoria showed that they wanted a new Government. They have given the Government the greatest popular mandate of any Government for more than 60 years. The Labor Party shall proceed with courage and with confidence.

Mr McDONALD (Evelyn)—I am proud and honoured to be given the opportunity of contributing to the debate. The greatest Government in Victoria, under the leadership of the late John Cain, is remembered by the people of Victoria with great respect and now, 27 years later, the leadership of the new Labor Party Government is being given by his son, John Cain. I am confident that in the years ahead the people not only in Victoria but also throughout Australia will be looking at this Government with similar respect.

I am also confident that not only the Premier but also the energetic and keen Ministers will leave their mark in the history of this Victorian Parliament. As the honourable member for Evelyn, I represent a large and diverse electorate which extends from Craigieburn in the west to above Upper Yarra dam in the east. It takes in the towns of Yea and Buxton in the north. The closely settled urban areas are Craigieburn, Epping and Lilydale, while the semi-urban areas are situated in the Yarra Valley. There is an extensive rural sector, from Yarra Glen to Yea, and there are large forest areas from

Warburton to Marysville and from Hurstbridge to Yea. Because of the nature of the electorate the problems are many and varied but one of the major issues that was brought to my attention during the election campaign and since was in the area of education. I believe the problems facing education in Victoria at present have been created by 27 years of neglect and confrontation by the previous Liberal Government. The conditions under which our children are being trained for employment opportunities in the future are, to say the least, archaic. The Australian Schools Commission recommends maximum primary school class sizes of 30 students. When this Government came to office, nearly 30 per cent of primary schools in Victoria had classes above this recommended figure. For example, Healesville Primary School has ten classes of between 31 and 38 pupils.

The causes of this situation are, firstly, that not enough teachers are being employed and, secondly, that not enough accommodation is available for the distribution of the children. Many small primary schools in the electorate that I represent are unable to provide classes in arts, music, library and physical education because of the lack of specialist teachers.

The migrant education programme has been severely curtailed. Remedial classes in maths and English are not being mounted because of staff shortages. This Labor Government is committed to staffing schools on a needs basis. It will provide sufficient teachers so that no primary school in Victoria has a class size in excess of 30 pupils.

Many schools operate in portable and other sub-standard accommodation and, in some cases in Evelyn, corridors and shelter sheds have been converted.

Healesville Primary School, which has 433 students, was built in 1890 and extended in 1921. Since then numerous relocatables of varying styles and construction have been added. The school is built on a steeply sloping site and these extra class-rooms have resulted in little level playground remaining at the school. There are no

toilets for the male staff. The administration building is inadequate for a school of this size and there are no facilities for indoor physical education activities.

St Andrews Primary School is in an appalling condition. The main school building is more than 100 years old and was supposed to be replaced about eight years ago. The school was also built on the side of a hill, and most of the previous flat playing area is taken up with relocatables. It is a poorly equipped school with no maths equipment for some grades and a lack of reading material as a result of inadequate education allowances.

Woori Yallock Primary School, built at the turn of the century to accommodate 30 students, now has more than 200. The playground is overcrowded with relocatables and the school is situated many kilometres from the housing estates. The children have to walk along dangerous roads, including the Warburton Highway, to get to the school. Relocation of this school closer to the estates was promised more than three years ago. I have had meetings with representatives of the school council, and investigations are under way for the relocation of the school on an alternative site. While the relocation is taking place, and the investigation is under way, a bus service will be provided to the estate.

Whittlesea Technical-High School was opened in 1977 with 150 students. This school year it has 970 students, 7 permanent class-rooms and 58 relocatables. Even the toilets are portable. During winter the playground is a quagmire, owing to lack of proper drainage, and the children are forced to attend classes in permanently wet footwear.

Craigieburn is a rapidly growing urban area without any facilities for secondary education. Students are being forced to travel, in the case of secondary schools, to Fawkner, Broadmeadows and Whittlesea and, in the case of high schools, to Upfield, Epping, Fawkner and Whittlesea Technical-High School. This entails their leaving home at 7.30 a.m. and arriving home at 5

p.m. The extensive commuting time cuts back on study time, sport and community activities. In other words, the children of Craigieburn are being deprived, compared with pupils from other suburbs with secondary education facilities.

The Minister of Education has stated that a permanent secondary school will be built at Craigieburn for the opening of the 1984 school year, and planning will commence immediately. Temporary class-rooms have been promised for the 1983 school year.

Epping High School has 33 relocatables of various ages, shapes and sizes. Reported faults in these buildings have still not been attended to, even though the relocatables have been on site for twelve months. The school building has no toilet facilities, and the existing portable toilets are an utter disgrace. The school has never been completed; so areas in stage 1 have had to be used for purposes for which they were never intended.

Maintenance has not been carried out in some schools for more than fifteen years. The Pantan Hills Primary School requires one complete exterior wall to be replaced. This has been caused through lack of maintenance. The school has not been painted for more than fifteen years. Private individuals would not allow this deterioration to take place in one of their assets, yet this waste and damage through insufficient maintenance is prevalent in nearly all schools in the Evelyn electorate. Angry parents at Yarra Junction school have decided to paint the building because of their frustration and disgust with its condition.

Since 1979 funding for Government schools in Victoria has decreased by 18.7 per cent. Over the same period funding for private schools has increased by 12 per cent. There is no way the Government education system can continue to operate with this kind of funding. I believe it is the policy of the Federal Government to encourage parents to send their children to private schools. This will take us back to the period before 1972 when the

only children in Australia to receive a top education were those belonging to wealthy parents.

The Australian Labor Party believes all schools, Government and private, should be funded on a needs basis. It also believes a top quality education should be available to all Victoria's children, irrespective of whether they attend Government or private schools. Over the next three years this Government will inject an additional \$100 million from the Victorian Development Fund into school buildings and maintenance work.

Another problem which is causing concern is the unavailability of clerical staff in many schools, placing work loads on principals and teachers which interferes with their normal responsibilities. The Labor Government has promised to provide a full-time clerical assistant for every school with more than 200 students, and part-time assistants will be provided for smaller schools. I am pleased that the Minister of Education has cancelled, with the stroke of a pen, the limited tenure policy of the former Liberal Government. This confrontationist and iniquitous policy has caused strikes and trauma since its introduction. The Labor Government will also repeal the stand-down regulations and introduce a new industrial agreement based on consultation, negotiation and arbitration. These policies will form a base for industrial peace in the teaching profession.

I have mentioned a few of the problems facing education in the Evelyn electorate. There are many other problems. I am aware that similar problems exist in other electorates across Victoria. I will not rest until solutions are found to these problems.

The Labor Government has received a mandate from the people to replace the present outdated system of education with a system that will ensure that all Victorian children receive a top quality education which will allow them to compete successfully in future job markets. There are many problem areas in the electorate I represent. The most pressing problems can be found

in the areas of employment, transport, sewerage, water and social welfare. I will deal with them at a later date.

Finally, I take this opportunity of thanking all those people in the electorate I represent who showed their confidence in me and gave me their vote at the election. I advise each and every one of them that I will do everything in my power to honour that confidence.

Mr SALTMARSH (Wantirna)—It is an enormous pleasure and privilege for me to speak in the debate tonight as the newly-elected member for Wantirna, which, in numbers of constituents, is the largest electorate in Victoria. Firstly, I congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your election and trust that honourable members will have many interesting and important occasions when you are able to display your wit and skill as Presiding Officer.

I also indicate my loyalty to the Crown as well as that of the constituents in the Wantirna electorate which I represent. I convey the same loyalty and congratulations to our newly-appointed Governor, His Excellency Rear-Admiral Sir Brian Murray and Lady Murray. I certainly anticipate welcoming them to the premier electorate in Victoria when they visit the cities of Waverley and Knox.

I am proud to be the successor to Mr Geoff Hayes, the former member for Wantirna. He is a man of considerable distinction and was an untiring worker in the electorate. He possessed a great knowledge about local people and was extremely enthusiastic in his work, especially concerning the educational needs of the electorate.

Mr Hayes first represented the electorate of Scoresby and more lately was the member for Wantirna. He was deeply interested in planning and all matters affecting growth and development of the large new communities in the developing eastern suburbs. His skill and understanding of a number of planning issues made a significant contribution to the shape, complexion and composition of the electorate.

Mr Hayes understood well the role of local government and undoubtedly is held in high regard because of his contribution, support, involvement and

encouragement of local community groups. Mr Hayes represented the area ably and was able to secure considerable resources covering such important needs as transport, especially road funding, education and the encouragement of industry to the area.

Mr Hayes also served as a Minister of the Crown, both as Minister for Planning and as Minister of Housing. I only hope that I might be able to serve in some measure with the dedication, capacity and enthusiasm he displayed.

I am honoured now to represent the electorate of Wantirna. It is also a pleasure to be able to indicate strongly that for 27 years Victoria was under an able administration. Although in the past few years it was clear that a disenchantment with the Government was occurring within the electorate, up until that stage the Liberal leadership made certain that Victoria was established as the premier State of this nation, despite the logos on certain car number plates!

For many years Victoria has been the financial centre of Australia as well as one of its most significant manufacturing centres. Victoria produces far and away the largest proportion of primary products *per capita* in Australia, and Victorians have enjoyed the highest standard of living in Australia. That also means that Victoria also enjoys one of the highest standards of living in the world. It is no mean achievement that for 27 years there was leadership, understanding, encouragement, incentive and support which enabled significant achievements up until this time.

However, time for the Liberal Government had run out and I congratulate the Labor Party on its victory and achievement in April. From now on many occasions will arise when honourable members will have to seek not partisan solutions but community solutions to a number of significant problems confronting society. The community is passing through one of the most dramatic periods of social, economic and political change that has faced Western civilization.

Some commentators would regard the first major change affecting society as that which heralded the agrarian revolution. The second major change