

To-night, by asking a question in this House, the honorable member for Hawthorn drew attention to toilet facilities at League football grounds. In the last three or four weeks, I have received many complaints from people in my electorate who attended the Melbourne Cricket Ground, as part of crowds of 100,000 people, at the inadequacy of the toilet facilities there. They point out that the toilet facilities at the ground are just not sufficient for the number of people attending the matches. People had almost no hope of entering toilets during intervals between games or at the half-time interval. Although there are separate exits and entrances to the toilets, people were not correctly using entrances and exits, and there was extreme congestion. This may sound amusing to some honorable members on the Government side of the House, but it was not amusing to people who wanted to use the toilet facilities. It was certainly not amusing to the large number of women who telephoned me because of their concern about people not using the inside of the toilets. Many people could not get into toilets, and as a result there were some very embarrassing scenes. I do not blame those concerned because, if nature calls, one must try to satisfy the call, and if people cannot get to the right places, they are very concerned. I trust that the health authorities will examine the position so that perhaps in 1968 more facilities will be provided for the patrons of the football finals.

I conclude as I began, by expressing loyalty to the Crown and by wishing all new members happy associations so long as they remain in the House.

**Mr. McLAREN** (Bennettswood).—With other speakers to the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to His Excellency, I express loyalty to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II., not only on behalf of the electors of Bennettswood, but person-

ally. I, too, congratulate the honorable members for Warrnambool and Mitcham for the contributions they made to the debate.

I direct attention to the state of libraries in Victoria. All honorable members will recall the significant *Report of the Board of Inquiry into Library Services in Victoria* produced by Sir John Jungwirth in 1964. The major recommendation in that report was carried into effect, the council of the State Library of Victoria was instituted, and the whole organization of the State Library was reviewed and altered. The State Library was at a disadvantage because of the sudden and unfortunate death of its previous librarian, and it was only in April of this year that the new librarian, Mr. Kenneth Horn, was appointed to this, the most important post in this State's library services.

In a letter to the *Australian* newspaper, published on Monday of this week, Mr. Allan Horton, University Librarian, University of New South Wales, Kensington, New South Wales, referred to the difficulties under which Australian libraries are operating at the present time. He particularly mentioned a report published in May, 1966, by the Australian Advisory Council of Bibliographical Services—whose chairman was the President of the Senate, Sir Alister McMullin—entitled, *Libraries for the Public* and sub-titled "A Statement of Deficiencies in Public Library Services and a Plea for Commonwealth Financial Support." I am concerned that this important aspect of library services has not been considered by the public and by Parliament. If the services are to be improved, they must be given constant attention.

A public library must provide, first, information for those who require it; secondly, recreation in the real sense of the word; and, finally, material for

the research that is needed in every field of endeavour—education, Parliament, technology and industry. Information must be provided as to what is happening in Australia and overseas. Public libraries are of immense importance. I am concerned that insufficient finance is allocated to libraries not only in Victoria but throughout Australia. This is a Commonwealth disability as well as a State matter.

I wish to refer to the 33rd report of the Commonwealth Grants Commission on applications made by States for financial assistance from the Commonwealth Parliament under section 96 of the Constitution. Table No. 12 in Appendix No. 3 of this report sets out the State expenditure on libraries from Consolidated Revenue and special funds. The figures for the various States for 1963-64 and 1964-65 are—

	1963-64.		1964-65.	
	Amount.	Per Capita.	Amount.	Per Capita.
	\$1,000'	\$	\$1,000'	\$
New South Wales .. .. .	2,914	.71	3,342	.80
Victoria .. .. .	2,126	.69	2,197	.69
Queensland .. .. .	692	.44	749	.47
South Australia .. .. .	952	.93	1,085	1.04
Western Australia .. .. .	680	.86	767	.96
Tasmania .. .. .	522	1.42	600	1.63
ALL STATES .. .. .	7,886	.72	8,740	.79

The increase in expenditure over all the States from 1963-64 to 1964-65 was just over \$850,000. Tasmania appears to be amply supported by the Commonwealth, with the highest expenditure of \$1.63 per head, and is followed by South Australia with a *per capita* expenditure of \$1.04. Whilst the national *per capita* expenditure for 1964-65 was 79 cents, the figure for Victoria was 69 cents, or 10 cents below the national level.

The report of the Australian Advisory Council of Bibliographical Services, under the chairmanship of the President of the Senate, suggests that the Australian expenditure should be increased by 50 cents per head per annum. This council also recommends that expenditure should be increased progressively over the next five years. Therefore, Victoria would need an additional 10 cents per head each year for five years to reach the national average required for the maintenance of proper library ser-

vices. Victoria has advanced far in the fields of education and general development and should be brought into line with the rest of Australia—in fact, it should be ahead of the other States—in the provision of library facilities.

Last week I had the opportunity of working in the Mitchell and Dixson libraries in Sydney. These libraries compare more than favourably with institutions of a similar nature in other parts of the world. Whilst the La Trobe Library in Melbourne is good, I believe it needs further refinements, and should be developed along the lines of the Mitchell and Dixson libraries in New South Wales. This would provide Victoria with reference material that is in great demand. In the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, provision is made for a 10 per cent. increase for books and publications for the State Library in the current

financial year. This will hardly meet present increases in the cost of books.

Many private librarians in Victoria and throughout Australia are to-day spending from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per annum in their own libraries for the purchase of books relating to early Australian and other developments, and for material which Australian readers require concerning Asia, Japan, the United States of America and other countries with which Australia has strengthened its ties since the second world war. There is now a much greater need and demand for reference books, and it is necessary that increased finance should be made available to overcome the present shortage. I support the suggestion that all States and the Commonwealth—particularly the State of Victoria—should consider the needs of State libraries and should grant the necessary finance to maintain library services at the necessary level.

Mr. SUTTON.—Has the new library council yet issued a report?

Mr. McLAREN.—I understand that two reports have recently been issued. One of the first responsibilities of the new State librarian should be to report on the activities of the State Library up to 30th June, 1967. Further, in order that the information may be made available to honorable members, I suggest that the report of the State Library of Victoria should be printed by this House. The last printed report of the library was published in about 1930. I ask the Government, or the Printing Committee of this House, to give consideration to the publishing of this report so that the people of Victoria may become aware of the state of the library and the needs of our library services.

Finally, I wish to refer again, briefly, to a matter that I raised last year in regard to the Parliamentary Library. Those honorable members who use it—I think most honorable members do—are aware that it has one of the finest collections of reference books in Australia. The material

is there, and the facilities are available, but there is a need for additional staff to provide the type of research facilities that are now current in other countries and in other parts of Australia. The National Library in Canberra has a substantial reference section, and the New South Wales Parliament has a similar reference service. There is an interesting and significant report on this question in the Parliamentary Library.

I am sure all honorable members will agree that the standard of debate in this House is high and that individual members investigate their material before they speak; nevertheless, I feel that debates in the National Parliament have developed to a much greater extent because of the reference section that is able to provide members with information on any subject in which they are interested. If a similar reference section were provided in this Parliament, honorable members could have material prepared for them, but this cannot be done with the staff available.

I return to the point I made at the beginning of my speech, that libraries are provided for the use of the public; they are used for acquiring information, for reference purposes and as the basis of community activities. Unless we, as a Parliament, are prepared to face up to our responsibility of adequately financing the library facilities of this State, we will fall behind the rest of the world and in particular some of the other States and the Commonwealth of Australia.

On the motion of Mr. GINIFER (Deer Park), the debate was adjourned.

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

*The sitting was suspended at 6.23 p.m. until 8.5 p.m.*

### BUDGET DEBATE.

The House, having gone into Committee of Supply, proceeded to debate the Budget submitted by Sir Henry Bolte (Premier and Treasurer) on September 13.