

The trustees desire that they be granted the unrestricted freehold of the Haimes Homes site in order that they may sell that land and apply the proceeds towards the further development of the Austin Homes. The purpose of the Bill is to authorize those land dealings. The present trustees of the two sites are Kenneth Spencer Nall, Donald Geoffrey Neilson, Mary Bishop, Brian Geoffrey Thom and Richard Frank Lloyd Annois.

The Haimes Homes consist of eleven self-contained cottages erected more than 70 years ago. By present-day standards of accommodation for the aged, the cottages are inferior and are most inconvenient for the occupants. The trustees do not have sufficient funds to modernize these cottages.

There are twenty units on the Austin Homes site and these have all been modernized for each to contain bathroom facilities. It is the trustees' intention to erect a further twelve cottages on this site. It is intended that the project be financed by way of grants and the proceeds of the sale of the Haimes Homes site. The ladies occupying cottages at the Haimes Homes will be then accommodated at the Austin Homes.

Because of the service of the trust to the community over more than 80 years and to allow the trustees to upgrade facilities for the elderly, the Government is agreeable to the trustees' request. The Bill expressly provides that the proceeds of any sale of the Haimes Homes site shall be applied only towards the development of the Austin Homes site. A modern survey of the Haimes Homes site has been effected for the purpose of issuing a freehold title.

Clause 1 of the Bill cites the short title and provides for the commencement of the legislation. Clause 2 sets out certain interpretations for the purpose of the Bill.

Clause 3 revokes the existing Crown grant and reservation in respect of the Haimes Homes. Clause 4 provides that all the land to be granted to the trustees

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of the Haimes Homes shall be unalienated land of the Crown. Clause 5 provides that the land shown in the schedule may be granted in fee simple to the trustees of the Haimes Homes.

Clause 6 empowers the trustees of the Haimes Homes to sell the land so granted to them. Clause 7 provides that the proceeds of any sale shall be applied to the Austin Homes. Clause 8 frees and discharges the trustees of the Haimes Homes from any further duties and liabilities under the trust in respect of the Haimes Homes when sale of the land and application of the proceeds of sale have been completed in accordance with the legislation.

Clause 9 is the usual provision that no compensation shall be payable by the Crown. The schedule includes a plan showing the land to be granted to the trustees. I commend the Bill to the House.

On the motion of Mr TREZISE (*Geelong North*), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Thursday 7 June.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Address-in-Reply

The debate (adjourned from the previous day) on the motion of Mr Tanner (*Caulfield*) for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech was resumed.

Mr ROWE (*Essendon*)—Mr Speaker, I commence by offering you my congratulations on your appointment to your high office. I also offer my congratulations to those new honorable members who have already made their maiden speeches in this debate. The matter I wish to raise concerns what I shall term the mismanagement, waste and perhaps the improper use of public funds. The Governor, in opening this session of Parliament, said—and this passage is set out on page 5 of His Excellency's Speech:

One of the Government's major initiatives will be in the area of Government administration and accountability. A Budget Committee of Cabinet has already been formed, and legislation is being prepared for the establishment of an all-party Expenditure Review

Committee, which will examine Budget allocations to departments and ensure the strictest economy and the most effective administration of the financial resources of the State.

The matter I shall raise in this debate should be referred immediately to the proposed all-party Expenditure Review Committee for investigation.

I have spent some time investigating a number of items of expenditure by some departments and authorities on advertising during the period after the election date was announced by the Premier—that is, for some time before 5 May. The authorities I have investigated include the Education Department, the Victorian Railways and the Port of Melbourne Authority. Though it is a limited area of investigation, I have been staggered at the results I have obtained. My research was concentrated on three major areas of expenditure on advertising by those authorities in three major metropolitan daily newspapers during the period before the election.

The newspapers to which I refer are the *Sun News-Pictorial*, the *Age*, and the *Herald*. I have not concentrated on any other form of media advertising.

First, VicRail authorized advertisements that were clearly designed to blame the public for the poor condition of our trains. The cost of those advertisements, which were published in the *Age* on two occasions, was \$2778. The cost of advertising that material in the *Sun* newspaper on two occasions was \$7168.70. Those advertisements were published in those newspapers between 23 and 30 April. During the same period, VicRail published advertisements which attempted to sell the railways as the best public transport system because it was cheap, convenient and gave a service close to shopping centres and ample parking. Advertisements to that effect were published in the *Sun* newspaper on four occasions between 2 April and 30 April at a cost of \$14 663.25. VicRail's advertising bill during that pre-election period amounted to \$24 609.95 of which \$21 831.95 was spent with the *Sun* newspaper and \$2778 with the *Age*.

The other area of expenditure by Government departments or authorities that I examined was in the Education Department. The department placed advertisements in newspapers concerning industrial unrest that was occurring in schools, and in my opinion they were highly provocative. The advertisements in the *Age* cost \$1719.57; in the *Herald*, \$1272.80, and in the *Sun News-Pictorial*, \$3537. The total expenditure by the Education Department in this period amounted to \$6529.37. These advertisements appeared in the newspapers on 11 April and 3 May.

The final area that I investigated concerned advertisements authorized and funded by the Port of Melbourne Authority. These advertisements were in defence of the feasibility and location of the proposed World Trade Centre, and they appeared in the same three newspapers—the *Sun News-Pictorial*, the *Age* and the *Herald*—on 26 and 28 March. The advertisement in the *Sun News-Pictorial* cost \$7885.57; in the *Age*, \$8008, and in the *Herald*, \$12 600—a total expenditure during the election campaign by the Port of Melbourne Authority of \$28 493.57. Over all, the total expenditure by these three authorities or departments was \$59 632.89—nearly \$60 000.

In calculating these individual sums of money, I have assumed that the various departments or authorities used the cheapest available contract rates for advertising space; I worked on the most conservative estimates.

This raises a number of what I consider to be very important issues: Firstly, the impartiality of the Public Service; secondly, the use of public funds for political propaganda during an election campaign; and, thirdly, the concept of responsible government. It is interesting to note also that these advertisements have ceased since 5 May 1979—election day. I have not seen that type of advertisement in newspapers since that time. Other departments may have been carrying on advertising, but those crucial areas have ceased advertising since polling day.

It is significant also that the three areas were prime political subjects during the election campaign. The state of public transport in Victoria, particularly in reference to the efficiency and cleanliness of the Victorian Railways, and the feasibility and location of the proposed World Trade Centre were issues which had been raised by both the Labor Party and the National Party in Parliament and during the election campaign. The industrial strife occurring in schools throughout the community was also an important issue during the election campaign, so what one saw was advertising by departments or authorities on pertinent issues which were raised during the campaign.

I believe, and I am sure members of this House will agree, that it is important to allow the bureaucracy to remain impartial. I further believe that, in the concept of responsible government, if criticism is made of Government administration or management of funds, it must be made by the relevant Minister, not by public servants, as was the case in this instance.

I have referred to the total cost of these advertisements, which runs to approximately \$60 000, and I looked around my electorate of Essendon at a number of areas where that money could have been better utilized. I am sure it would apply anywhere in Victoria.

One significant problem in Victoria and in my electorate is unemployment. At 27 April this year 2253 persons were registered as seeking employment at the Moonee Ponds office of the Commonwealth Employment Service. At that office one vacancy was registered for every 90 people seeking work—a ratio of 1:90. The sum of \$60 000 for employment-generating projects is not a great deal of money, but it could mean half a dozen people getting jobs for a year, and that is far more important than public relations exercises. I am sure it is also more important to the people in my electorate and in other areas throughout Victoria.

I refer next to education. Some weeks ago I visited the Essendon Primary School in Raleigh Street, Essendon, and

was accompanied by the Leader of the Labor Party. We were met by a deputation from the school council and the people were concerned about the condition of the school. They produced an itemized list of facilities that needed to be improved. For instance, the floor in the infants' school is considered to be dangerous and in urgent need of repair; the roof leaks; when it rains the playground is subject to periodic flooding, and the children do not have the opportunity of playing sport on any grassed area in the school grounds. The school council sought to remedy this situation. They referred to a number of other items that I will not go through now, but the ones I mentioned are the major items of concern at that school. That \$60 000 would have gone a long way towards alleviating the problems at the Raleigh Street school in Essendon that the council has been complaining about for many years.

Since being elected as the member for Essendon, I have received a number of items of correspondence about public transport from people in Strathmore, in my electorate. They have written to me complaining about the bus service in the area because the last bus leaving the Essendon station and travelling to Strathmore and Strathmore Heights leaves at 6.2 p.m. and there is no bus service on public or school holidays, Saturdays or Sundays. That means that if children want to go to the pictures in town, they cannot get there because there is no bus service on school holidays. Again, the \$60 000 that I referred to that was spent on public relations could have been better used to subsidize the private bus service in the area to encourage the operator to extend the service so that it would be available later in the evening and at holiday periods.

Some time ago a journalist said, referring to the Victorian Government, that public relations in Victoria had been raised to an art form. What was demonstrated throughout the election campaign is that good government has been replaced by public relations exercises.

I conclude, Mr Speaker, with a quotation from none other than the present Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, who was reported in the *Age* on 13 March 1979 as saying:

I do not think the taxpayers should be asked to pay for the activities of political parties.

Mr McCANCE (Bennettswood)—At the start of my speech I congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on the office you have assumed. It must have been pleasing to you to realize that the choice was unanimous and I know you will receive the support of all honorable members.

I express my loyalty to Her Majesty, the Queen, through His Excellency, the Governor, and Lady Winneke, and I convey those sentiments on behalf of the electors of Bennettswood. I also congratulate the other new members of Parliament who sit in this place for the first time, particularly those fortunate enough to have already made their maiden speeches. They all have my best wishes and I know they will be working hard in the interests of those whom they represent. My thanks go to the older members of this Parliament—I do not mean that they are older in years, but older in Parliamentary experience—who have already assisted me in many ways. The Leaders of both the Opposition and the National Party, as well as other honorable members, have been very kind in welcoming me to this place. I very much appreciate their good wishes, although I understand that I cannot expect them always to be so gracious.

I pay tribute to my predecessor, Mr Ian McLaren, who first entered the Victorian Parliament 34 years ago. In fact, Mr McLaren was a member of this Parliament before any present member of either House. He first entered Parliament in 1945 as the independent member for Glen Iris. In 1965 he was re-elected to the Parliament to represent the electorate of Caulfield. Mr McLaren held that seat until 1967 when, after the creation of the seat of Bennettswood, he was elected to represent that electorate.

In wandering around the various corridors of Parliament House, where I am still getting lost, I have found that all honorable members from all parties appreciate the great and fair work that Mr McLaren carried out while he was in this place. He was appointed Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees in 1973 and was a member of the Privileges Committee, the Standing Orders Committee, and, not inappropriately, the Library Committee. Most honorable members will be aware that not long ago Mr McLaren donated most of his personal library, which had been collected since the war, to the people of Victoria. That collection is now housed in the Baillieu Library for the benefit of the people.

It is an honour to represent the electorate that was so ably represented by Ian McLaren for twelve years. All honorable members are aware of his great knowledge of Parliament and his respect for its traditions. It is good for new members to consider the forms and procedures of Parliament because people are concerned—and I have found this to be so as I move around the electorate that I represent—that Parliament should be the body that governs the State, not organizations outside Parliament. As members, we should pay respect to the forms and traditions of Parliament and ensure that we do not derogate from its performance in the years that lie ahead.

Following in the steps of Ian McLaren I feel a little like Andrew Johnson, who became the President of the United States of America after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. President Johnson said:

I only succeed him—no one can replace him. Although I feel that way in following Ian McLaren as the honorable member for Bennettswood, I should like to thank the electors for the confidence they have shown in me. I make the point clearly—and I have already done so through the local press—that I represent all the people in the area, not just the majority of voters. I shall be opening an office in the electorate very shortly and will be serving the electors full-time.