

**The Hon. D. E. HENSHAW** (Geelong Province)—Mr President, honourable members, I begin by congratulating my predecessor in this Chamber, and would be joined by a number of people in the Geelong area in those sentiments, for his twelve years of service.

I am gratified by the clear manner in which I was elected to this Chamber. I regard it as a clear mandate, both to the Government and to me, and I am conscious of the responsibility to represent and to argue for the problems and concerns of the Geelong area.

Geelong is inhabited by a fine race of people and it is a fine location in which to live. Nevertheless, there are problems which are a result of the present economic circumstances in this country, economic circumstances which have been exacerbated by the present Federal Government. To a greater or lesser extent, these problems exist throughout Australia. They are common in many of the provincial towns in Victoria and the western suburbs of Melbourne.

The greatest problem arising from the present economic situation is unemployment. It is generally accepted in the Geelong region that there is a level of unemployment of 10 per cent. This is an appalling situation. Unemployment of that magnitude generates poverty, misery, family breakdown, increases petty crime, and so on.

I do not propose to talk about these effects. I think Judith Dixon has indicated what some of these effects are. Rather I will speak about some of the causes of this unemployment in the Geelong area and I hope I can indicate some solutions or guidelines for solutions. I highlight three main causes of the unemployment in the Geelong region.

The first is that the Geelong economy is unusually dependent on what I call sunset industries. For example, Geelong was once a centre of textiles and footwear, but under modern-day conditions these industries have relocated or are being relocated in overseas countries where the standards of living are far lower than they are here and where

there is a lower labour cost for those industries. There is also an increasing view that the motor car industry is a sunset industry and this is a matter of much concern in the Geelong area. By and large, Geelong's manufacturing base is an older, more traditional manufacturing base and is subject to the vicissitudes of the general economy.

The second cause of the unemployment in the Geelong region is allied to the first, that there is a structural imbalance in the labour base in the region. The 1976 census figures showed that 33.9 per cent of the working population in Geelong was involved in the manufacturing sector, whereas the figure for Australia as a whole was 21.1 per cent. Conversely, with tertiary sector employment, particularly white collar and entertainment, the figures for 1976 showed that in Melbourne 250 tertiary sector jobs were available per 1000 of population but in Geelong only 195 jobs were available. Under these conditions the Geelong economy is poorly cushioned when changes occur in the manufacturing sector.

The third problem in the Geelong region is the lack of technical sophistication. This problem will affect Australia more and more as the advanced industrialized countries move ahead of us. The Australian community expects the final level of education of its population to be at the secondary level, which is in stark contrast to countries like the United States of America, Canada, Scandinavia, Japan and so on. Geelong has a wide level of technical sophistication but it is very much at the trade apprentice level, the level of sophistication which will service the existing manufacturing industry. There is no sign of the technical sophistication which gave rise to burgeoning industry around, for example, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, or even, on the local scene, around Monash University.

These are several causes of Geelong's problems. I shall now suggest solutions or guidelines for solutions. Although Geelong by and large has a sunset type of industry, it is essential under the

present economic conditions that that type of older industry be maintained. It is a national requirement that that type of industry be maintained until it is replaced by what can be called sunrise industries. I think that replacement will be a long time ahead but it is essential that we find some sunrise industries. We must search the marketplace for goods which can sensibly be manufactured with advantage in Geelong. We must be able to take advantage of what advantages there are in Geelong. Geelong has an established manufacturing sector and a skilled labour force. It has an availability of resources. It has access to port and transport facilities, and it is a good location in which the work force can live. Imagination must be used in looking for new industries. For example, I believe Geelong may be well situated for forms of industry such as hydroponics, or the less exotic forms of bio-technology. More emphasis should be placed on industries which will further the processes of the existing industries, such as the aluminium, petroleum or perhaps limestone industries.

I am pleased to note that the Government has instituted a task force to review decentralization incentives. I hope that task force will seek to encourage new industries in appropriate regions, such as Geelong. The Government has a key role in the encouragement of industry, and Geelong is fortunate to have the Geelong Regional Commission under the very able chairmanship of Mr Colin Atkins. This body should be built on by the Government and I hope it will grow to further strength.

I turn to the structural imbalance of the employment situation in Geelong. There must be a way of increasing white collar jobs and perhaps entertainment jobs in the tertiary sector in Geelong. The Government must find ways of encouraging such employment into the region, both by relocating some of its own operations and by encouraging commercial operations—insurance and banking—to relocate in the area.

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There is a surprising lack of employment in the entertainment sector. Local moves to set up a television station should be encouraged. With care, tourism could well be of much benefit to the area. I note that the Government is carefully considering the City by the Bay project and there will be some development of that, which I am sure will be of help to Geelong in general.

Although I have grave reservations about casinos *per se*, if the present investigation by the Government suggests that there should be a casino in Victoria, under suitable guidelines, I believe there could be an imaginative proposition to suggest the location of that casino in Geelong.

I turn to the problem of technical sophistication. I will speak of this in more detail because Governments of the political persuasion of honourable members opposite have been actively disadvantaging Geelong in this area. All honourable members know the decision of the infamous razor gang. Despite the burgeoning demand for engineers in technically advanced countries, the razor gang took a political decision to curtail the engineering school at Deakin University. It took a similar decision in respect of other provincial centres in Victoria. The razor gang may have thought it had a case for this—I do not believe it did—but it took no account of the fact that it was removing an essential part of the technical environment in which today's commerce and industry will thrive and without that technical environment, that background of expertise, the outlook for Geelong is rather dismal.

I am appalled that a similar exercise is in train, again affecting the Deakin University. The Deakin University in its eighth year life has developed a reputation for excellence in its off-campus studies and has recently undertaken an initiative which is to be highly commended in instituting a degree for a Master of Business Administration. That course began last year. It is a four-year, part-time course. It is one of the first types of off-campus courses in the world leading to a Master of

Business Administration and there has been an avalanche of people seeking to enrol in the course. Students who have enrolled are very impressed and believe they are getting a lot out of it. Indeed leading universities in Canada, the United States of America and the United Kingdom are seeking to emulate that off-campus course leading to a Master of Business Administration. Indeed, there is the prospect of a significant export market developing with the off-campus course being popular in the Pacific basin area.

I stress that one of the advantages of the off-campus course in the business administration area is that it deals with people while they are working in the real world, rather than taking them out of the real world for two years and putting them into an academic climate.

In April 1980 a Federal Government committee, known as the Ralph committee, began preparing a report on the needs of management education in Australia. That report is now with the Federal Government. It recommended that there should be two national schools leading to a Master of Business Administration sited in the universities of New South Wales and Melbourne, and that there be regional schools awarding a degree of Master of Business Administration and the Victorian regional school would be Monash University. The Ralph committee has also recommended that the existing Master of Business Administration course at Deakin University be scaled down to the level of a post-graduate diploma. That is an appalling decision and one that I think should be fought.

In the first place it takes no account of the value of the management school at the Deakin University, nor the importance of the Master of Business Administration course to the local climate within the Geelong community or the assistance that it would give to industry and the business community in the Geelong region.

Secondly, it is my impression that the Ralph committee reached its interim recommendation without even visiting the Deakin University management school.

Thirdly, in the tight economic climate that currently exists the only way in which middle and senior business management executives will aspire to higher qualifications is in a part-time or off-campus situation and I believe these people will not be denied access to such a course.

Fourthly, to recommend that a course be restructured to a post-graduate diploma course does not take into account the effect on the student market that the course at Deakin University has found. Up until now there has been an avalanche of people seeking to enter the course to obtain a Master of Business Administration degree, but I do not believe there will be anything like a significant number of people seeking to undertake the post-graduate diploma course at Deakin University.

Finally, I point out that the potential export market will be lost because effectively the Ralph committee has recommended that there be no off-campus courses for the Master of Business Administration degree. There is some suggestion that the University of Queensland may take up the export market, but that does not help Deakin University, Geelong or Victoria.

There is a salutary lesson to be learnt by Deakin University in both of these matters and that is that Deakin University has a very poor or very weak lobbying strength. The Ralph committee has direct access to members of the Federal Government. One of the main beneficiaries of the recommendations of the committee will be the University of Melbourne and also there are people who have access to the Prime Minister, and when one is speaking about a report from administration experts, which is suggesting a rationalization, that sort of lobbying will carry a lot of weight. On the other hand, Deakin University is only eight years old and has no post-graduate students or students from that campus in a position of influence around the State or the nation.

I hope I will be hearing more from honourable members on the other side of the Chamber in whose electorates

Deakin University is sited. Certainly we have heard nothing from the Federal member for Corangamite, and there is some doubt in Geelong whether he has even heard of Deakin University! There is a crying need to work for the retention of the Master of Business Administration course both for Geelong and for the Deakin University.

It is my intention as a member of the Labor Party in this Chamber to represent people in Geelong on matters like Deakin University and in problems that affect Geelong, and indeed Victoria. I will represent them and argue for them in this Chamber, in the committees of Government and wherever I can in the community.

I am in a new situation today in this Chamber, working with new associates on both sides of the Chamber and with its officers. In other situations I have always found myself able to develop a respect for all my associates and I am sure the same will happen again and I look forward to working with everyone here. Mr President, finally, I look forward to working with you and I congratulate you on being, I hope, the second last President of this Chamber.

**The Hon. B. A. MURPHY** (Gippsland Province)—Mr President, I congratulate you on retaining the Presidency of the Legislative Council, and ask you to convey the best wishes of constituents in the Gippsland Province to His Excellency, Sir Brian Murray, and Lady Murray.

It was a great honour for me on 3 April when at the age of 42 I became the 42nd member to represent Gippsland Province. Gippsland Province has always played a most important part in Victoria's development ever since Captain Cook's *Endeavour* first sighted the east coast of Australia at Point Hicks in east Gippsland on 20 April 1770.

Gippsland Province is the second largest in Victoria, covering more than 38 000 square kilometres, from the forests of east Gippsland, over the snow-filled mountains of Omeo, down to the beautiful Gippsland Lakes, now

part of the Victorian Riviera, and including the coalfields in the Latrobe Valley and the productive farming areas of central and south Gippsland.

I wish to remind honourable members of the great riches that come from Gippsland which are enjoyed by all Victorians, and, indeed, Australians in general are benefiting from Gippsland production.

The excise from the oil wells in Gippsland totals more than 3600 million a year; that is equal to \$10 million a day going to Canberra from Gippsland, let alone the taxes that Victoria collects from the oil and gas fields.

More than 90 per cent of Victoria's electricity is generated in the Latrobe Valley and I pay a tribute to those workers who toil around the clock in hazardous conditions to produce the electricity on which all Victorians rely.

Gippsland produces most of Victoria's sawn timber from the great forests of east Gippsland, and I look forward to the boost that the timber industry will receive when Labor's building programme for houses and schools is fully implemented, thus stimulating the timber industry.

Victoria's primary industry, which injects \$3000 million into the State's economy yearly, is very visible in Gippsland with vegetable growing on the Orbost and Lindenow flats, potato growing around Thorpdale, dairying throughout Gippsland, the largest fishing port in Australia at Lakes Entrance with smaller ports at Mallacoota and Port Albert and a very important lamb, wool and beef-grazing industry, which all play important parts in Victoria's domestic market and help to earn many export dollars for Australia.

Gippslanders gladly share that wealth with other Victorians, but I would like honourable members to recognize the unique problems that exist in the Gippsland Province.

The Orbost Shire Council, so ably led by Cr Brenda Murray, has an area of some 3000 square miles of which 11.5 per cent is rateable, the remainder being Crown land and national parks.