

Mr. I. W. SMITH (Warrnambool). - I move

That the following Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor to both Houses of Parliament be agreed to by this House:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

I am deeply conscious of the importance of this motion, and of the honour conferred upon me in having the privilege of moving it and thus upon the people of the Warrnambool electorate.

First, the motion expresses loyalty to our Sovereign. Whilst I have no doubt that our loyalty has never been in question, it is right that we should reaffirm our loyalty to our Queen, and so strengthen the ties to our homeland. In so doing, let us be reminded that we are members of the Commonwealth of which Her Majesty is symbolic head.

Secondly, the motion expresses thanks to our Governor for his Speech. I should like, at this stage, to say that Sir Rohan and Lady Delacombe have endeared themselves to the people of this State. May they have a long and enjoyable stay with us.

His Excellency mentioned in his Speech the urgent need for rain in Victoria. With rising costs and violent market fluctuations, farmers at present find it difficult to survive. The prospect of the worst season ever is alarming to farmers and must be viewed with concern by all Victorians. It is heartening to learn that the Department of Agriculture is taking action, with cloud-seeding operations, in an attempt to relieve the situation.

The people of this State, encouraged by the discoveries of vast resources of gas and oil, look forward to an era of enormous development and expansion. There is placed upon us all an extra heavy burden of responsibility to develop these resources to the optimum general good.

I have great faith, based on the past record of this Government, that the promises made to the people of this State during the recent election campaign by our Government will, during the life of this Forty-fourth Parliament, all be carried out.

His Excellency mentioned that, in the near future, legislation would come before this Parliament to establish the Victoria Institute of Colleges as an autonomous body; to provide for the establishment of centres for the reception and treatment of alcoholics; and to amend the Stamps Act to provide exemption from stamp duty on leasehold agreements between a country municipal council and an approved decentralized industry.

To the rural community, a highlight of our Government's election policy was the statement that, over the next three years, the Glenormiston Research Station would be developed into Victoria's third agricultural college. The need for additional one and two--year courses in farm management and animal husbandry is illustrated 'by the number of applicants who have been unable to gain admittance to Dookie Agricultural College. In order to meet the rising cost structure in agriculture and to supply the evergrowing local and international food market competitively, the farmer of the future will be a man skilled in the management of farming as a business. When the proposed Glenormiston Agricultural College becomes a reality, the opportunities that will be available

must, in the long term, be of great benefit to Victoria.

As the youngest member of this House, who by normal life expectancy should outlive other members, and who, therefore, must live longer with the effects of present-day Governments, I view with concern the increasing promises made by all parties at election time. Any one of these promises that is carried into effect must cost the taxpayer something; therefore, it is vital that those members of the community who could be described as producers should not, by excessive taxation or restrictions, lose their incentive to produce the optimum. Whilst care must be taken to protect the less fortunate in the community and adequately educate the future generation, everything possible must be done to encourage and foster people who are prepared to make above-average efforts and greater personal sacrifices. Those people contribute immense benefit to the well-being of the community. If the present trend continues, before the end of this century the incentive will be to achieve the minimum and not the maximum of output. By its fore-sight, wisdom and choice of government, the community must guard itself against any such situations.

As society becomes more affluent, the demand for services will increase. If the competition for labour between the service industries and the industries producing goods forces the price of labour too high, the cost structure of the goods-producing industries will rise. Therefore, there must be a constant examination of this situation to prevent the goods-producing industries from being priced out of the export markets.

Since settlement, Victoria has enjoyed amazing growth. The Forty-fourth Parliament should do nothing to impede this growth; rather, through intelligent, stable and enthusiastic government, it should make a positive contribution to this development. It is with great pleasure that I express loyalty to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II., and thanks to His Excellency for his most gracious Speech.