

Mrs SIBREE—The letter, dated 22 April 1982, and signed by the Treasurer, indicates that the Labor Government intends to, in effect, continue the imposition of land tax but, ultimately, of course, it will be at a higher rate. Perhaps, Mr Deputy Speaker, it would be easier for me to table the letter or to have it incorporated in *Hansard*.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER—Order! If the honourable member proposes to quote from the letter, it is the long standing practice to identify the correspondence and to be prepared to make it available to any honourable member who makes a request for it. To table the letter, in the strict sense, would require a motion of the House, and if the honourable member wished it to be incorporated in *Hansard* it would be necessary for her to seek the leave of the House.

Mrs SIBREE—I shall make it available. It was circulated widely amongst the community at the time land tax notices were sent out. That was no doubt done at some cost to the Government, despite the fact that, yesterday and today, we have heard criticisms from the Government about Ministers of the former Government who had distributed material. The point I am making is that it appears that the present Government is criticizing Ministers of the former Government for activities its own members are also carrying out. They are doing exactly the same thing.

I have made it clear that the Governor's Speech was quite misleading because of its omissions. It failed to come to terms with some of the real problems, such as those facing the manufacturing industry and employment prospects in this State. Little, if anything, was mentioned about the support the Government intends to give small business. In fact, by the continuation of the 1 per cent pay-roll surcharge, it is condemning small business to even larger problems.

The Government has taken little heed of the expectations it created within the community when it announced the sorts of things it intended to introduce during this session of Parliament. I

support the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition. As I have already said, I wish Mr Speaker well in his term of office in this Parliament.

Mr HASSETT (Dromana)—I rise in this place for the first time, a very proud and honoured person. It gives me great pleasure to represent the people of the Dromana electorate in extending to Sir Brian and Lady Murray our congratulations on His Excellency's appointment to the much respected office of Governor of Victoria. I also congratulate Sir Brian on a fine Speech in which the important priorities of his Government were carefully outlined. These priorities, I believe, were as soundly accepted by the Victorian electorate on 3 April as the incohesive, extravagant and wanton policies of the former Liberal Government were rejected by the Victorian people.

I also congratulate Mr Speaker on his election to the high and important office of Speaker of this House. I have found memories of an earlier campaign when he was able to visit what is now the electorate I represent. He then helped to raise an awareness which has flowed on and, I believe, in a way contributed to my success on 3 April. I have every confidence that he will carry out his duties in a very able manner, which no doubt will be of great assistance to the many new members here in Parliament.

The Dromana electorate is a microcosm of Victoria. It covers a rural, grazing and agricultural area around Main Ridge and Boneo. It has a tourist and sightseeing playground in its mountainous regions of Red Hill and the many beautiful sandy beaches stretching from Portsea to Mt Eliza along the south-eastern shores of Port Phillip Bay.

Industry is not very strong, although there are a number of small manufacturers in the area. Industry is not all that willing to come to the area because of many factors. It is unfortunate that the work force is there and ready to work, but it does not have ready access to the work place.

Dromana is mostly a residential area, and the cross-section of its residents has been steadily changing for many years.

The opportunity for people to own their own land, build their own houses and have large enough backyards to allow their children to play safely has attracted many people to the peninsula.

However, many of these new residents are now finding this desirable place to live a difficult place in which to put down one's roots. The rapidly escalating petrol costs and housing interest rates have savagely attacked the living standards of many of my constituents. These increased costs were brought about by a mean, reactionary Federal Government.

That Government was described by my predecessor, the Honourable Roberts Dunstan, in somewhat more descriptive words than I am game to use today. He also said that that Government was ruining the Australian economy. Mr Dunstan might have had a brilliant flash of insight. However, I suggest the evidence is now there for all to see. I would like to praise Roberts Dunstan for his contribution to this Parliament and to Victoria over the past 26 years. Roberts is a colourful personality and over the years he developed a strong personal vote in the electorate.

It was interesting to go back to the time when he made his maiden speech in 1956. He was remarkably perceptive then, when he acknowledged that the peninsula was a growing residential area and that new pressures would change the electorate. In that speech, he also referred to the need for a reticulated water supply to the developing areas around Frankston. That is interesting because I also wish to comment on the water supply to the electorate. In 1956 the electorate covered a wider area and took in all of the peninsula. It was called the electorate of Mornington. In 1967 the Mornington electorate ceased to exist, as such, and shrank in area to become the electorate of Dromana. With his personal following, Mr Dunstan was selected to continue to represent the electorate in which he lived. I wish Roberts Dunstan and his wife well and a long and healthy retirement.

The Governor said that his Government will be a Government for all Victorians. The Government will endeavour to carry out this refreshing change by being more open and fairer when dealing with the various sections of the community.

I believe a government has a responsibility to care for those who are socially, emotionally, physically and financially disadvantaged. We have to work at obtaining a fairer distribution of our wealth and resources. However, a fairer distribution of the present cake will go only part of the way towards achieving this objective. We also have to make the cake bigger so that not only is there more to share around but also those with enterprise will still be able to obtain fair rewards for their individual efforts.

Of course, to assist the less fortunate in our society, we need to look deeper than just money rewards. A high quality education is one of the important items that needs to be developed. The quality of this education should not and cannot be measured on the narrow guidelines of the "three Rs". No doubt, to be able to read, write and add up is an important objective. However, it is only important if the child sees it as important to do this and if the child feels able to be able to read, write and add up.

Education is much more than bricks and mortar in a school building. It is much more than how the administration is carried out. The word "education" has only rarely been understood by those who have been responsible for "spooning" it out. The word "education" comes from the Latin *E Duca*—to lead out. To lead out! What have successive governments been pursuing in education? It has been to ram in or spoon feed the students—here is a little bit of reading, here is a little bit of writing, here is a little bit of arithmetic—all wrapped up in a barely presentable relocatable class-room. Sit down Johnny, don't speak, don't think very much, just take your medicine and be grateful.

The Government's policies on education are a model for a modern society, a model which however is capable of changing to meet the demands of our society.

As important as the intangibles are to education, bricks and mortar are still needed. The class-room needs to be a place where teacher and student alike feel that there is some quality and desirability in what they are doing. Shoddy run-down buildings only devalue the respect the teacher and student have for the education that is available.

School buildings have been an important issue in the electorate I represent. The Rye Primary School was a festering sore on the former Government and I was pleased to be able to join the Minister of Education in officially opening the rebuilt school as one of my first official functions. The present Government did not allocate the funds for this school but the then shadow Minister of Education kept up the pressure on the former Government to have it do so. The neglect by former Governments has been very deep and as I progress up the electorate, might I name the Tootgarook Primary School, the Boneo Primary School, the Rosebud High School, the Dromana Primary School, the Dromana Technical School, the Osborne Primary School, the Mornington High School, Mornington Primary School, and at the top end of the electorate in Mount Eliza, Kunyung Primary School. All have inadequate buildings. The neglect will not be corrected overnight but I am pleased that the Government will seriously begin to correct these deficiencies.

I have mentioned water supply in the electorate I represent which has been characterized by shortages and foul smells. The level of chlorine needed to treat the water is so high that I believe water out of a swimming pool would be less objectionable. The supply of water has been inadequate and so has the provision for its disposal. Sewerage and sewerage capital works funding has been an issue of some injustice to many of my constituents. Residents of large areas in the Shire of Mornington have been asked to foot the bill for all of the headworks through a section 120A scheme. Direct charges like this for capital works was soundly rejected by the residents.

Mr Hassett

I listened with envy to some of my colleagues' speeches when they spoke of two railway lines servicing the electorate they represent or even multi-modal public transport facilities, because I am faced with having a temporary rail-bus service discontinued following a hearing into its licensing. This is the only public transport available. Private bus lines service the electorate but this is at a high cost and they are not co-ordinated with the railways from Frankston or are not available during the evening. The bright hope for the future will be the Government's transport policy of carefully investigating and co-ordinating the needs of the people and facilities available on the peninsula. A Mornington race-day train was hijacked at Mornington to highlight the inadequacies of the public transport available. The economical sound approach will be to carry out the transport needs inquiry as soon as possible.

Health and hospital facilities have already been mentioned by the Minister of Health when he referred to the now useless plans, which cost \$1 million, for the Southern Peninsula Hospital at Rosebud and the Frankston Community Hospital at Frankston. The facilities at these two hospitals servicing the electorate are totally inadequate for the demand placed upon them.

They have been totally inadequate because both the Federal and the former State Government acted in a knee-jerk reaction, giving the go-ahead for drawing up the plans and not seriously allocating the capital to build the hospital extensions. If ever the chairman of the "razor gang" needed a "millstone" to drown himself with, the Frankston community hospital will more than adequately fit the bill.

One thing that has not changed greatly with the electorate of Dromana, is the number of retired people who have come to live there. These people were being savagely attacked by the former Government. Their transport facilities were being cut back, their electricity charges took a huge leap with the \$18 per quarter surcharge, a grossly iniquitous tax on the low income earner and

pensioner. Old people do feel the cold more than younger people but they are always frugal with their electricity consumption. The surcharge is only serving to make their long and cold winter nights more of a misery.

As I previously mentioned, the Dromana electorate is a tourist-recreational area and licensed clubs abound. These clubs pressed for poker machines. Some people believe the poker machine lobby misled the electorate, but the electors were faced with a clear choice between a former Government that continually gave an emphatic "No" to even an inquiry and an alternative that was prepared to let the poker machine lobby put its case to an open inquiry.

The most serious issue throughout the campaign and now facing me as the member for Dromana, has been housing. A basic need of every person is to have a roof over his head. Mortgages are now a very expensive item and creating many heartaches. Not only is this a problem, the rental market is completely tied up. Finding a place to rent is almost impossible without paying impossible rents.

The serious matter is that a great number of Government-owned houses are lying vacant and many such as the two railway houses in Mornington have lain vacant for many years. While the mental health of our community suffered, a lazy Government did nothing to correct this scandalous waste.

I wish to say a final few words of thanks to my family, to my campaign workers, to the other supporters who eagerly assisted me throughout the long campaign, and to the constituents of the electorate I represent who have placed their trust in me. I will do my best to represent them in a fair and supportive manner.

Mr TANNER (Caulfield)—It is my pleasure to be able to stand here today and advise His Excellency the Governor. Rear-Admiral Sir Brian Stewart Murray, of the overwhelming loyalty of the residents of the electorate of Caulfield and myself to Her Majesty the Queen.

I had the pleasure of meeting His Excellency at the opening of this Parliamentary session. His presentation on that day and other appearances throughout the State make it obvious that he is going to be an excellent representative of Her Majesty in Victoria. I also had the pleasure of meeting Lady Murray. No doubt she will be of great assistance to the Governor in the execution of his duties.

Of course, Sir Brian replaced Sir Henry Winneke as Governor of Victoria. Sir Henry was also an excellent representative of the Queen. He gave sterling service to Victoria over the years and all Victorians owe him a great deal for his contribution to the development of our State. Lady Winneke was also of great assistance to Sir Henry.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I congratulate the Speaker upon his appointment to his important position and yourself as Deputy Speaker. It is obvious to me, after three years in this House, that you are both considered very senior members by all parties. The elevation to your respective positions is a worthy tribute to you both.

I congratulate the mover of the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply, the honourable member for St. Kilda, and the seconder, the honourable member for Box Hill, and all other new members of the House who have spoken or have yet to speak on their election to Parliament. I particularly mention the two new Liberal Party members, the honourable members for Narracan and South Barwon. No doubt they will make many worthy contributions to the Parliament.

Mr Deputy Speaker, yourself and Mr Speaker have very important roles to play in this House because, if the rights of minorities are not recognized here, it is apparent that the rights of minorities throughout the community will have little chance of receiving fair recognition or due consideration. I trust therefore that during the term of this Parliament, in the tradition of many predecessors, you will continue to be unpartisan and unbiased in your decisions.