

Mr. MACLELLAN (Gippsland West). - Mr. Speaker, it is an honour and a privilege for me to second the motion moved by my colleague and electoral neighbour, the honorable member for Gippsland South, for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor. I appreciate the opportunity I now have of expressing the loyalty and the respect of the people of Gippsland West to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. The recent Royal visit to this State, to celebrate the bi-centenary of the discovery of the east coast of Australia by Captain Cook, has caused some commentators to reassess their previous positions regarding the relationship between the Australian people and the monarchy - a reassessment which I believe was long overdue. Some of the commentators had assumed that Australians were so materialistic that their loyalty was in proportion to the power and influence of the United Kingdom. The "meet-the-people" tour, as it was quickly dubbed, confounded all those statements and that attitude, because the people of Victoria were anxious, and are anxious, to meet Her Majesty and members of the Royal Family on as many occasions as possible. The electorate of Gippsland West has not had the pleasure of a visit from the Royal Family, and we look forward to having that pleasure on some future occasion.

In this context, the word "loyalty" can be taken to mean mutual obligation, mutual interest and identity. It is the opposite of the problems that we read about in the press-of alienation, of people who feel alienated from society, or people who, to use a modern expression, have dropped out of society. His Excellency stated that that Government's objective was the continued welfare of the people of this State. That is the concern of all members of this Parliament. His Excellency specifically mentioned the establishment of a Ministry of Social Welfare, and some of the questions asked by honorable members earlier indicated an interest in the subject of social welfare. All members of this Parliament share that interest; it is not the monopoly of any one group. Honorable members are interested in social welfare because there are people in this community who need assistance. The establishment of a Ministry of Social Welfare will be the beginning of the machinery by which this Parliament will assist in those areas of need.

His Excellency the Governor referred to "pockets of social distress." Honorable members are aware of these pockets, whether they are urban or rural. It is often forgotten that rural areas have problems, as do urban areas. Those members who are concerned about these matters have a duty to bring them forward forcefully so that Parliament will receive the benefit of their knowledge and experience.

His Excellency also mentioned the establishment of a Victorian Pollution Control Authority and of a Chair of Environmental Studies at the University of Melbourne. A Chair of Environmental Studies is of vital importance because we must avoid hysteria and careless thinking. Sometimes the most obvious forms of pollution are not the most insidious or the most dangerous. Too often we are concerned with a bit of detergent frothing in a stream without inquiring into the aspects of pollution which are not readily visible or easily publicized. There must be a Chair of Environmental Studies at the University of Melbourne to provide the technical advice which is required to make pollution control a reality and not just an appearance. It is not enough merely to abolish frothing and bubbling detergents if we do not look at what is in the water and find means of ensuring that it is pure, or as pure as possible. This is not a matter which needs to be handled with kid gloves; the law which is ultimately passed must be enforced, and enforced strongly. I believe members of all parties in this House will look forward to legislation on this subject.

Another matter mentioned in His Excellency's Speech was the projected analysis of the use of Crown land to make provision for parks, wildlife reserves and forests. It is not my intention to state

what has been done in this field in the past, because I was not then a member of Parliament. I believe the record is very good, but let us look again at the lands remaining within the control and ownership of the Crown and see which sections of those lands can be made available for parks, wildlife reserves and forests. As a country representative, I consider that this is a question on which not solely city voices should be raised. City people, who often take upon themselves the role of critics, assert that farmers have no sense of responsibility in regard to their land. This is not true; it never has been true, and it never will be true. The farmers of this State have had a role to play in conservation; it has been a private and personal role and one which has not been acknowledged sufficiently in this Parliament.

I should like to revert to my earlier remarks about loyalty and its meaning of mutual obligation, mutual interest and identity. The people who feel alienated from society and the people who choose to drop out of society have a problem about their loyalty. I believe the test of the loyalty of every member of this House is the sincerity of his concern for the people who are not sharing in the prosperity which is general in the community and his concern for the people who are anxious to see steps taken to preserve areas of Crown land for future generations. I believe all members of this House are loyal and sincere, and I look forward to seeing demonstrations of that loyalty in the years to come.