

other election costs. In addition, honorable members can claim up to \$1500 in personal election expenses, even if they are not elected. The Taxation Department allows these deductions because it is incurred in gaining an income, but the councillor does not even get a postage stamp from the public purse. Many councillors on average incomes are supporting families and they work around the clock in the public interest without even a "Thank you".

I appeal to the Premier to use his close friendship with the tight-fisted Fraser Government to gain some financial and tax justice for local government councillors.

**The Hon. ROBERT LAWSON** (Higinbotham Province)—I add my congratulations to those of other honorable members, Mr President, on your elevation to the position you now hold. As the offering of congratulations appears to be in order, I congratulate myself because I now have the honour of representing that jewel of the south—the province of Higinbotham. The province comprises a very pleasant area bordering Port Phillip Bay between North Road and Mordialloc. It also has some claim to history because it was the site of the Dendy survey and some time ago it sent to Parliament the well-known Sir Thomas Bent.

Mr President, I draw your attention to the fact that Higinbotham Province and Monash Province share the distinction of being the only two Victorian electorates that have been named after eminent members of the community, that is, Sir George Higinbotham and Sir John Monash. Consequently, the honorable members representing the Higinbotham and Monash provinces represent history and the other honorable members represent merely geographic place names.

I have a theme for my maiden speech which I will come to presently but it is my intention first, Mr President, to give you a parable and then to get on with the sermon.

The story I want to tell is this: Some years ago my wife and I knew a young couple whom we met on numerous occasions at various social functions. They

were a striking couple because the young man had a beard and he wore quite unusual clothes—they were not hippy but they were quite unusual. He was the type of person who is good in company. He was accompanied by a young lady who went around with him and who, on every occasion that my wife and I met her, wore on her dress a very large button with quite a memorable message. It is a message which one is not likely to forget because that message was: "Abortion a right—Contraception a responsibility".

As I said, we met them on numerous occasions and the last time we met them was at the local town hall at another social occasion—I believe it was either a mayoral ball or a mayoral dinner. Somehow they received an invitation and they came along and sat at our table, together with a number of local councillors. Apparently in deference to the spirit of the occasion, the young lady did not have the button on her dress but there was no difficulty in getting an opinion from her and from the various bits of information which she let drop from time to time I realized she was not a member of the Right to Life Association.

Even without the button, this couple did not seem to fit into the municipal scene and many of the local councillors were inclined to draw back from this unusual couple who were sitting at the table. One or two of the councillors, out of the sides of their mouths, even asked who they were.

We got talking to them and they told us that they were free spirits, that they would not marry as they believed that in any sexual union there was a right or privilege for either person to withdraw at any time. That was their philosophy, that they did not need to be married as they had the right to withdraw at any time they wished. I had a talk to them and during the conversation I thought it worth while bringing up a few points which I thought may have some bearing on their views.

Talking to the young man, I told him that what he was saying represented the typical arrogance in youth, as he believed that being young was everything.

He also claimed to have the right throughout the rest of his life to withdraw from these partnerships whenever he wished and that if he wanted to change his partner, he could do so. Like the youth of today, he also believed in the freedom of the individual. Of course, as one gets older one is not so keen on absolute freedom. I informed him that as people get older, they want to have families, people around them who care and to have people who want them. I told him that as he got older he would find that his views would be different.

I further said to him, "Listen, fellow, you have not got a great deal going for you, you have youth but apart from that you are not good looking". I do not know how I will go as a politician but I do not think on that occasion I went very well as a diplomat. I further said to this young fellow that it was all very well while he was young to talk about going around, changing partners and so on but when he had grown older and was all wrinkled and did not have a great deal of hair he would no longer be a free spirit wanting to change partners but rather a nasty old man.

Anyway, that occasion was the last we saw of them. However, I was told some time later that this couple had changed their address and had actually got married. I do not know whether the advice I gave had any effect on them, but if they have married and, if they have children, to some degree I will feel that I have been the parent of those children.

By a rather circuitous path that leads me to the subject of my speech, the question of abortion. Honorable members may have noticed from reading the papers in recent weeks that Dr Wainer, the abortionist, is having a bad year. He recently lost a libel action and now he has to sell one of his farms to pay his legal costs. In addition, business is down. Dr Wainer's abortion clinic performed only 4000 abortions last year—those are the figures provided by Dr Wainer and, as it is his business, one would assume that he

would know the correct figure. If that number of abortions is being performed at Dr Wainer's clinic, it would be fair to say that at least an equal number are performed in other clinics, other places and by other people, so that it would not be unreasonable to speak of a figure on 8000 abortions a year.

This may not be of great moment compared with the holocausts that have taken place in the twentieth century, and it is treated in that way. It is given no particular publicity and no great pressure is exerted, except by a few dedicated groups. There is no daily tally of deaths printed in the newspapers, as occurs with road accidents. The work goes on quietly and is paid for from public funds, but it is a tragedy that looms over this State, the consequences of which have not been fully realized.

Firstly, there is the tragedy of the many young people who will never see the light of day, who will never know their parents or be known by them; secondly, there is the tragedy of the parents who have had their children put down; and, thirdly, there is the tragedy of a race that is committing mass suicide. The present rate of abortion is a hæmorrhage in the body of society and we ought to do our best to stanch it.

I understand that under the terms of the motion to which we are now speaking, matters raised by honorable members in their maiden speeches will be referred to the appropriate Ministers for action. I have a few observations to make on the subject of abortion and I hope they will be considered by the appropriate Minister and that he will bring some action, because, as I say, not only is there the tragedy of the abortions that are taking place but there is also the tragedy of the looming spectre of old age creeping up on members of this society. In a few years many members of our community who do these things now will find that they have become lonely old people. They will receive no support from their families because their children have been put down in infancy. This is an appalling calamity facing our society.

We cannot have it both ways: Better and more acceptable sex education should be made available to young people, with the proviso that such education should make them aware of themselves as complete individuals and as part of the human race. It should give them some idea of what will be expected of them and of the consequences of ageing. They should be taught to respect members of the opposite sex and be made aware of the problems and responsibilities that will face them throughout their lives. That is a most important first step.

The second step should be that any young woman who presents herself for abortion should have a mandatory counselling period. Some responsible and trained person, such as a psychologist or social worker, should talk to the young woman about the step she proposes to take and advise her about the supportive services available to her. Many young women present themselves for abortion while, in the meaning of the legal term, the balance of their minds is upset, and if they were to be aborted immediately they could well regret it later.

I also suggest that a one-week cooling off period should be necessary. In that situation a woman could make an appointment for an abortion, but it would have to be made a week before the time. However, if any woman is determined on an abortion, I believe she should have that abortion. Abortion has been around for millions of years, as we all know, and it will not be done away with. Some women will have abortions and the last thing anyone would wish to see is a resurgence of backyard abortions. Abortions should be done properly and in a clinical manner.

I also believe that after 28 weeks of pregnancy no abortion should be permitted, except in grave medical circumstances, because, as I understand it, after that period two individuals are involved, not one, because the child is formed in the mother's womb, although it cannot live outside the womb without intensive medical care. None the less, it is an individual and, as

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I understand the law, one individual cannot be done to death for the convenience of another. Therefore, I believe that after the expiration of 28 weeks there should be grave reservations about abortions.

My aim in making these statements is to try at least to slow down the rate of the slaughter of the innocents. If anything I say here has any effect in the saving of some unborn infants, my period in this Parliament will not have been in vain.

On the motion of the Hon. D. K. HAYWARD (Monash Province), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until the next day of meeting.

### THE PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY PRESIDENT

#### Temporary relief in chair

**The Hon. A. J. HUNT** (Minister of Education)—By leave, I move:

That during any absence of the Deputy President, the President be authorized to call upon any of the Temporary Chairmen of Committees to temporarily relieve him in the chair, and that during any absence of the President, the Deputy President be similarly authorized to call upon any of the Temporary Chairmen.

The motion was agreed to.

### PETITION

#### Protean (Holdings) Ltd

**The Hon. I. B. TRAYLING** (Melbourne Province) presented a petition from citizens of the City of Richmond, who, believing that negotiations between Protean (Holdings) Ltd and the city corporation may result in the expansion of an offensive trade, pray that the House inquire into the affairs and government of the City of Richmond with a view to protecting the interests, health and property of its citizens. He stated that the petition was respectfully worded, in order, and bore 392 signatures.

It was ordered that the petition be laid on the table.

**The Hon. A. J. HUNT** (Minister of Education)—I move:

That the petition be taken into consideration on the next day of meeting.