

I hope that I can uphold and maintain the traditions that have been set in Parliament. I hope, too, that I can uphold and maintain the traditions and standards set by the former member for St. Kilda, the Honorable B. D. Snider, now one of the representatives of Higinbotham Province in the Legislative Council.

Since its inception, Victoria has enjoyed amazing growth. Let us of the 43rd Parliament do nothing to impede this growth. Rather let us make a positive contribution to it through intelligent, stable and enthusiastic government. It is with great pleasure that I express this motion of loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. and thank His Excellency the Governor for his most gracious Speech.

Mr. McCABE (Lowan).—Mr. Speaker, as the elected representative of Lowan, I am honoured to second the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor, so ably moved by my colleague, the honorable member for St. Kilda. It is an honour also to the electors of Lowan that they should be associated with this motion. This is something that has not happened to them for a long time, because they were represented for the past nineteen years by the late Honorable W. J. Mibus, who was perhaps better known throughout Victoria as Mick Mibus. I feel very humble in the knowledge that I am to follow in the steps of a man such as he was. Mr. Mibus was untiring in his efforts as a Minister of the Crown and a member of the Legislative Assembly, and he treated everyone as his friend. He will be remembered for that friendship, and his memorial will be the work that he did for the State of Victoria.

I strongly endorse the remarks of my colleague concerning the loyalty of my constituents to Her Majesty the Queen and all that the British Throne represents. We were all greatly pleased at the birth in March of this year of a Royal Prince to Her

Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. We hope that we may have an opportunity in the not-too-distant future of demonstrating our loyalty to them personally and perhaps of greeting the new Royal Prince and the other Royal children.

I feel fortunate to be a member of a party which, after having formed the Government for nine years, has been returned with a complete mandate to govern for the next three years. Much has been done in those nine years, but we are neither smug nor complacent and, as indicated in His Excellency's Speech, legislation covering wide fields is contemplated in the immediate future.

Representing as I do a rural seat, I am pleased that the Government intends to create within the Department of Agriculture divisions of animal health and animal husbandry, to expand the Agricultural Economics Branch and to raise the status of the Information and Publicity Branch. These are measures that must assist the future of farming in Victoria. Grants for agricultural societies for the erection of buildings on agricultural showgrounds for the exhibition of stock will be increased from £25,000 to £40,000 a year. Furthermore, grants of up to £500 are to be made to young farmers' clubs for the erection of meeting places, if built on agricultural showgrounds. This is a move that every thinking person in the farming community must applaud, as the work done by the young farmers' clubs in educating the younger generation of farmers is of inestimable value.

As a resident of a town that has had its share of problems concerning the rehabilitation of aboriginal families, I commend the Government on the work it has done in this sphere in past years, and I should like to comment on the legislation foreshadowed in the Governor's Speech. It has been said that these families cannot be assimilated into the community, but in the town of

Dimboola, where I reside, seven houses have been built for them. These houses have not been grouped together but have been located in different areas within the township. This is a step in the right direction, as most of the families that have moved into these dwellings have come from what can only be described as humpies on the river bank. They now live in decent homes provided by the Aborigines Welfare Board. Their biggest problem is that of environment, but now that they have been placed in these houses they are living the same sort of life as any other person.

It is to the younger generation that we look concerning the future of the aboriginal people. A "Save the Children" welfare officer is stationed in Dimboola, and the work that she is doing with the younger aborigines must improve their chances in life. The biggest problem is the finding of suitable employment for these people. The proposed reorganization of the Board's activities and the transfer of certain of its functions to the Social Welfare Branch of the Chief Secretary's Department are two moves that must have lasting effects on the future of the 3,000 part-aboriginal people in Victoria.

A report of the State Development Committee on the underground water resources of Victoria has proved the urgency of further research into this matter. Development of the part of the State that I represent is greatly dependent on underground water. Uncontrolled pumping of this water has caused alarm in a number of places. Many farms as well as some large towns are absolutely dependent on underground water, and in some areas supplies have begun to dwindle. Consequently, wells have to be deepened and even then some cannot give as much water as in the past. This matter is receiving the consideration of the Government, but I should like to remind those concerned that the longer control of underground water is left, the harder it will be to control when the time comes,

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as it surely must, for development to take place in those parts of Victoria which are dependent upon subterranean water.

I fully endorse the remarks of the honorable member for St. Kilda relating to education and housing. It is pleasing to know that the two aspects of life that interest young people most—where and how they are going to live, and how their children will be educated—are being well catered for in the plans of the Government.

I am most conscious of my responsibilities as a member of Parliament, and I assure the House that I shall do my utmost to uphold the traditions of this great institution, and further the interests of all sections of my electorate. It gives me great pleasure to formally second the motion before the House.

On the motion of Mr. STONEHAM (Leader of the Opposition), the debate was adjourned until next day.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

The SPEAKER (Sir William McDonald).—The House will now proceed with the appointment of a Chairman of Committees.

Mr. BORTHWICK (Scoresby).—I move—

That Joseph Anstice Rafferty, Esquire, be appointed Chairman of Committees of this House.

When I was asked to submit this nomination, I gave considerable thought to the type of man needed to occupy the most important position of Chairman of Committees. It seems to me that he requires rare and very decided qualities, because in your absence, Mr. Speaker, and also when the House is in Committee, the rights of individual members, the rights of Her Majesty's Opposition and certainly the rights of minority parties must be upheld. Certainly, he must have a sound knowledge of Standing Orders, procedures and indeed the traditions of