

Mr PERRIN (Bulleen) - It gives me great pleasure to speak in the Legislative Assembly as the first member for the new electorate of Bulleen. I am pleased to be here as a member of the Liberal Party and I am pleased that the people of Bulleen saw fit to endorse me, and the Liberal Party, as their representative for the next four years.

I acknowledge the Speech by His Excellency, the Governor, and I understand that it represents the view of the Government. I congratulate Sir Brian Murray and Lady Murray on the excellent service that they give to the State of Victoria. I wish them well and hope they have a long and happy association with the people of Victoria.

I should like to speak about the electorate of Bulleen and about the areas of Doncaster and Templestowe. The electorate of Bulleen encompasses approximately 50 per cent of the area of Doncaster and Templestowe. It is made up of approximately one-third of the previous electorate of Ivanhoe and two-thirds of the previous electorate of Doncaster.

I place on record my thanks for the work undertaken by the previous member for Doncaster, who is well known in the electorate that he represented. Approximately two thirds of the electorate that I represent supported me in the same manner as they supported him. I also thank my wife and family who have given me the support to win a seat in this Parliament.

I thank the electors of Bulleen and members of the Liberal Party who supported me and believed I was the right person to represent the electorate. I intend to work hard for all my constituents and not just for those who voted for me.

The electorate of Bulleen is a diverse one, covering many ethnic, income and age groups and they are all important to its structure. I shall represent the electorate on a full-time basis. I have given a commitment that I will have no other occupation except that of a member of Parliament. It is important that members of Parliament should give that qualification to their constituents so that they can be called on to provide assistance at any time and so that constituents can rely on the full resources of their member.

The electorate of Bulleen is wide ranging. It has an affluent area where large estates may be around the \$1 million mark, but in the western end of the electorate there is a vast diversity of people. Bulleen has a very old population and many are what I call "working folk". The electorate is almost totally residential, with little industry and commerce, with few shopping centres. People are attracted to the City of Doncaster and Templestowe and the electorate of Bulleen. The Yarra River is the boundary for approximately half to two thirds of the electorate. I express my appreciation to the former Liberal Government for developing the best Yarra park in the City of Melbourne. It is a magnificent resource for the electorate and for all Victorians. It has been developed with enormous skill and dedication to preserve its natural environment.

However, the electorate of Bulleen has some disadvantages and difficulties. The first is transport. The City of Doncaster and Templestowe is linked with the City of Melbourne by the Eastern Freeway. It may surprise honourable members to learn that that freeway actually terminates in the electorate of Bulleen at Thompsons Road, and also Doncaster Road and High Street. The electorate incurs an enormous number of traffic problems because the freeway has never been extended. It was intended that an extension of that freeway would occur but, by not extending it, the electorate I represent is bearing a burden of traffic that it should not have to bear. A large amount of commuter traffic that does not belong in the City of Doncaster and Templestowe travels through the electorate to the eastern suburbs. Those commuters are entitled to do that, but

there must be some way of relieving the traffic problems.

A number of honourable members on the Government side of the House represent seats in eastern suburbs and it is interesting, when Parliament adjourns late at night, to travel behind them because they use the Eastern Freeway and travel through the electorate of Bulleen to get to their residences.

In 1981 a census was conducted which found that 64 per cent of people in Doncaster had two or more cars. That is necessary because there is no other form of transport except for a bus service. The electorate also has many unmade roads. The funds that have been spent on roads have decreased in the past few years. I was disappointed that public transport was only mentioned in a cursory way in the Governor's Speech. Public transport is one of the tragedies of the second Cain Labor Government.

The people of Bulleen want the freeway extended. They appreciate that the extension of a freeway is a costly option, but if one considers a freeway in terms of safety and recognizes that all freeways have fewer accidents and, therefore, a lower road toll, one can understand why on that fact alone the freeway should be extended.

Public transport should also be upgraded. The City of Doncaster and Templestowe has only buses to service the surrounding area. At one stage it was to have buses and a light railway, but in the past three years the railway option was lost because the Government, for expedient, short-term financial reasons, decided that it wanted the land and it sold off every square centimetre of land that was reserved for the light railway in Doncaster and the electorate of Bulleen. The \$10 million received by the Government for this giant land sale was not returned to the people who lost a valuable resource. I suggest the Government should refund part or all of that \$10 million to the electorate in the form of increased public transport resources. I do not believe that is an unfair request and it is vital that the Government understands the position.

I ask the Minister for Housing to convey my request to the Minister for Transport to R visit the Bulleen electorate so that he can observe the traffic problems, road problems and public transport problems and can implement changes for the better for my constituents. The eastern end of Bulleen was once orchards but it is rapidly being turned into housing estates, which is creating tremendous problems for the area.

I have a report on the siting of schools in the city prepared by the City of Doncaster and Templestowe, which I understand has been given to the Minister for Education. The thrust of the report is that one further secondary school and two further primary schools are needed for the eastern part of the municipality.

In the past three years there have been a number of other sales of land in the area.. At the moment, land which was formerly owned by the Board of Works in Reynolds Road, Templestowe, is up for sale. It is community property and the Government has made it clear that it will sell it off for housing estates. Land in Porter Street, Templestowe, which was reserved previously for a school, has been deemed unnecessary and that land will be also be put up for sale for housing estates. There is land in Manningham Road, Lower Templestowe, which was to be used for a hospital which would have been the only one in the area of Templestowe and Doncaster. It was also decided that that land was of no further use to the Government and there are now wide-ranging arguments as to what would be the best use for the land.

The key to those four parcels of land-those in Porter Street, Manningham Road, Reynolds Road and the railway land - is that they were previously community resources but are now rapidly being sold off. The people of Bulleen made it clear, because of my election, that they want some, or all, -of that land retained for community use.

The electorate of Bulleen has had a number of other problems, especially with crime. I highlighted during my election campaign the problem of the increase in crime, especially burglaries. It may interest the House to know that there are no Neighbourhood Watch areas in the City of Doncaster and Templestowe. Over the next four years, I intend to ensure that every part of the electorate I represent, if it is at all possible, will be covered by the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. The area is attracting criminals and crime and we must protect ourselves, otherwise there will not be a reduction of crime in the area.

It would be remiss of me if I did not comment upon the economic situation in Victoria and on the direction in which I believe the State should go. Victoria has an unenviable reputation as being the highest taxing and highest borrowing State in this country. The events since the election pose grave threats for Victoria and Australia. I am especially concerned about the fall in the value of Australian dollar. In my studies for a business degree I studied economics and my understanding is that the fall in the value of the Australian dollar will lead to increased interest rate and increased inflation. In a State that has gone out of its way to become the highest taxing and the highest borrowing State in the Commonwealth of Australia, that will bear extremely hard on the people, especially the higher interest rates.

Many of my constituents have mortgages and they will not tolerate an increase in the mortgage interest rates. The Government has failed to understand one basic premise; that is, that there can be a redistribution of wealth only after there has been an increase in the creation of wealth. In other words, the cake must be bigger before it can be cut up in larger slices. If that message is the only one that I pass on in my speech, it will be worth while.

I now turn to my philosophy, I believe it is important for members of Parliament to state what they believe in. I have a strong commitment to free enterprise, I believe it is the best way for people to direct their lives. There is a need for smaller government in Victoria and that can be brought about by better government management. There is a valid need for less regulation of the individual; that is evident to me because, as a company secretary and accountant for many years, I was on the receiving end of many Acts of Parliament, which I had to interpret on behalf of my employers. No one is more aware of the overregulation in Victoria than I am. There is a strong need, given the fact that this is the highest taxing State in Australia, for a lower tax in Victoria. I hope my wish in that regard comes to pass.

I have a strong view about the need to maintain traditional values. I wear a badge of the Australian flag on my lapel. I do so because I am proud of it and I am happy that it should be shown wherever possible. I also have a strong view about the maintenance of the family tradition. Support of the family should be extended as far as possible and for as long as possible.

I recommend to the House a book that should be in the Library, In Search of Excellence. I have read that book from cover to cover and it contains some salutary lessons, although it relates to the business community, for the rest of the community in Victoria. If the message, philosophy and tenets of the book were put into place in this State, Victoria would be the best State in Australia.

It would also be remiss of me if I did not mention the dairy industry because, as is well known to

some honourable members—certainly on this side of the House—for the past two years I was Secretary of the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority. That industry is in crisis. It grieves me to say that I am most disappointed in the performance of the Government. In the mid-1970s, I was working in the sawmilling industry and it was obvious that many dairy farmers were working in sawmills and on the roads because they needed a second income. In the mid-1970s the Liberal Government and the Minister of Agriculture proposed a plan which brought the industry out of its former crisis and restructured it.

The opportunities for second incomes do not exist today because of the high level of unemployment, so, unfortunately, dairy farmers no longer have an alternative. They are confined to the land and there is no way in which they can either send their wives out to work or themselves obtain second jobs. Dairy farmers have no prospect of receiving the dole because they are considered to be self-employed and are therefore not eligible.

As I have closely observed the Cain Government's record in the dairy industry over the past two years, I shall make some comments on it. In October 1982, just some months after the Government came into its first term in office, the Premier decided, for reasons best known to himself, to sack the chairman of the authority. At that time, the secretary of the board resigned. In that same month, the Government instituted a review of the operations of the authority. The result of that review was revealed in this place in March 1983. It was an interesting report. It was prepared by three bureaucrats and the effect of the report was to suggest that the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority should have closer links with the bureaucracy. It should be remembered that in 1977 the previous Government acted to separate the authority from the bureaucracy.

A despicable train of events then followed when three people were charged and sent to trial but the charges were subsequently dismissed. I am fully aware of the background to the matter but at this stage I will not reveal the details. However, I was most upset and disappointed by the role played by the then Attorney-General.

In December 1983 the Government again interfered by ordering a price methodology review by the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority. That review caused the authority to delay giving a pricing decision, so no pricing decision was given to support the dairy industry between October 1983 and January 1985. When a decision was made in January 1985, it was to grant a miserly increase of 2 cents a litre, which was hardly enough to solve the problems of an industry that was in crisis.

All of these actions destabilized the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority at a time when the dairy industry faced a crisis. The authority was unable to provide leadership and solutions because it had been politicized. Since June 1983 a temporary board has managed the authority, which has operated under destabilized conditions.

Prior to the last State election campaign a magnificent example occurred of one of the greatest hoaxes ever pulled on the dairy farmers. That hoax will return to haunt the Cain Government time and again unless the Government can provide meaningful solutions.

I turn now to deal with some constructive ways in which the Government could restructure the dairy industry. It is obvious the industry needs access to interstate and export markets, special appointments to the board and no Government interference in the management of the authority.

With regard to interstate markets, there is a need for an east coast milk marketing pool between

the States of Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. This would be the only possible way in which there could be orderly marketing whereby all dairy farmers could share equitably in the returns for higher premium market milk. A standard price should be set for the processors in those States and more efficient transport provided across State borders.

Section 92 of the Constitution definitely protects interstate trade. What happened the last time milk was transported across the border? Interstate trade was stopped by the Transport Workers Union, not through the legal process but through union activity, and that is the practical barrier one faces. An east coast market milk pool is the only way dairy farmers could obtain an equitable return for higher premium milk.

Such a milk market pool would be easy to administer because the majority of farmers on the east coast are located in Victoria and already operate in a pricing pool. However, a solution must be found because there is no way the New South Wales dairy farmers would lose their share of the lucrative Sydney milk market. Out of such a pool the authority would have to create a fund similar to that established for the payment of milk contracts, and this could be used to pay compensation to the dairy farmers in New South Wales and Queensland for the loss of their markets. Such a pool would not have to be big and should not have to operate longer than three years. That is the only practical way in which the Victorian Government could implement interstate trade without provoking industrial action and starting a price war.

With regard to the export market, I point out that the present value of the Australian dollar indicates that Victoria should be exporting both its market milk and its dairy products. I remind honourable members that the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority already has power under the Act to export and trade in dairy products. There is a need for the Government to appoint a new board member who is skilled and qualified in export marketing. That is the only avenue open, because Victoria has a static per capita consumption of milk.

The Government must not interfere in the management of the authority, which must be left alone to get on with the job. I refer honourable members to the report of the Insurance Commissioner which was tabled recently. In that report the commissioner complains of exactly the same things as I am complaining about. I refer to page 4 of the report for the year ended 30 June 1984, where it states:

In previous reports I have commented upon the difficulties of operating a competitive and commercial organisation within a Public Service personnel system. In the last year the Government has given a new look to the Victorian Public Service and directed that new initiatives be followed.

These initiatives are, undoubtedly, going to be of great assistance in speeding the bureaucratic process. However, the very nature of a Public Service system requires the maintenance of a tight system of control and a major initiative in the Board's area, namely, delegating substantial parts of its personnel responsibilities has involved the setting up of such a tight system of recording and control. This coupled with other and numerous enquiries and initiatives, all of which require additional information or a changed format for information, have committed my personnel group to hundreds of hours of effort in which they are not concerned directly with State Insurance matters. In fact, there is a dichotomy of responsibility so far as this group is concerned, which has meant that at times I have had to direct that SIO responsibilities be discharged to the detriment of urgent tasks set by the Public Service Board.

I commend these initiatives but a competitive environment has different and generally more economical solutions to staffing problems than those which are appropriate to a public sector bureaucracy. In summary, staffing procedures are still costing SIO extra money and time, which our competitors do not have to meet. The logical solution is to place us outside the system and allow our staffing arrangements to be judged by comparing our expense ration with those of our competitors.

The Government should allow the management and board of the authority to be left alone so that it can provide the necessary leadership to enable the dairy industry to extricate itself from the present crisis. I was disturbed to read in today's newspapers that there will be more trouble, violence, police and blockades in Victoria.

Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for your time and indulgence in this matter. I have been somewhat provocative, but I felt that because this was the first occasion on which I was able to speak in the House, it was necessary for me to make the comments that I did.

I wish to place on record again my thanks to the electors of Bulleen, to whom I pledge my continuing support and loyalty for the next four years.