

question touches directly on matters of health and safety, which are State questions. The nuclear-free zone policy reflects the growing concern of Victorians about the dangers of the nuclear industry.

I look forward to the Cain Government acting to exploit every possible constitutional channel to keep that policy active and in place, and reject these ships, as did the Governor of New York. The stand of Premier Cain, when he clearly rejected the MX missile tests, shows that our Government recognizes that if we do not continue to show such concerns the rest of the political agenda could well be irrelevant.

I became a member of the Australian Labor Party because of pre-eminent concern for such questions. I do not hide or apologize for such parts of my life as opposition to conscription or to aggression against the peoples of Vietnam. My politics have not changed and I shall continue to work for justice for people who are oppressed, whether in Australia or elsewhere.

I think that when members of this House are able to interject, they will challenge my view that legislative powers and the right to destroy governments are not legitimate prerogatives of this House. We shall argue that out later, but I shall not resile from that principle, which I believe to be absolutely inherent to the Labor Party's view of constitutional change in Victoria.

Stands must be made, and Parliamentary preferment gives members of the Labor Party the chance to make them, just as the New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange has sparked a world wide response of support and admiration for the blow he has struck against nuclearization and war.

Strangely enough, and against all so-called political wisdom, there is evidence to suggest that a strong factor in my election was my identification with these positions.

I am glad to be one of a growing number of Labor women elected to this Parliament, in contrast to the Opposition's diminished female representation, and collectively we will work with the utmost enthusiasm and purpose in representing women's interests and concerns.

The Hon. REG MACEY (Monash Province)—Mr President, it gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity of congratulating His Excellency on the presentation of the Government's program on the opening of the 50th Parliament. I wish to reaffirm my loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen.

I have been elected to represent Monash Province on new and radically changed boundaries. I pay tribute to my predecessor, Mr Don Hayward, who diligently and effectively represented Monash Province on the old boundaries. He is held in high regard by the electorate that I represent.

Monash Province could, in a sense, be described as the Melbourne metropolitan area in a microcosm. It consists of a wide range of social groups; it has an area which contains the highest percentage of home ownership in the State and it has another area which has the highest percentage of tenants in the State. It contains a number of public housing estates. Indeed, it truly is an electorate which presents enormous challenges to those who seek to represent it.

Monash Province is not an electorate that one can approach with ideological cant. One has to seek to understand the feelings, beliefs, needs and aspirations of the people without superimposing upon them any ideological convictions. The people must be given an opportunity of expressing their viewpoint, and it is my responsibility to do the best I can to represent that viewpoint and seek to attain the objectives that they would want me to attain for them.

The previous speaker referred to a particular issue and explained the reason for her election. I should like to refer to one reason I believe was a strong factor in my election to

the House. It bears upon the Governor's Speech. I noted with interest that part of the Speech relating to hospitals did not refer to Prince Henry's Hospital.

Prince Henry's Hospital is a matter of deep concern to the people of Monash Province. On the streets, the railway stations and in every area I campaigned I met people who are concerned about the issue. One should not find that surprising when one considers that Prince Henry's Hospital has been located on its present site for 100 years. It was not named Prince Henry's Hospital until 1934, and it has not always been a public hospital. It commenced as a private charitable institution and until 1930, 40 per cent of its costs were contributed by the public.

Prince Henry's Hospital continues to be well supported by the public. In the past two years, public donations to the hospital averaged \$519 000 a year. The hospital caters for a great need in the community within Monash Province. I hope and trust that the omission from the Governor's Speech of reference to the removal of Prince Henry's Hospital from St Kilda Road is an indication that the Government is reconsidering its previous commitment to remove it from that site.

The statistics that have been advanced in the past are suspect, because they take no real account of the different demographics of those who live in inner suburbs, a high percentage of them being aged. If one examines the figures relating to the time spent in hospital by those people, one naturally finds that the average length of time is greater. The figures to which I refer are available to the Minister for Health. I ask the Minister to give some consideration to reviewing the Government's previous decision concerning Prince Henry's Hospital because the statistics paint a false picture.

Those of us who are concerned about this issue have sought detailed information to strengthen the case for the retention of the hospital. A matter that has emerged in recent times relates to the extent of industrial trauma attention provided for people who have been injured at work. Last year, for example, some 1500 people were injured at work in the South Melbourne, Port Melbourne and Melbourne areas, but only 8 per cent of those people actually lived within 2 kilometres of Prince Henry's Hospital. The statistics relating to hospitals refer to where people live and not to where they work.

I believe a great mistake has been made regarding the decision previously made by the Government to remove Prince Henry's Hospital. As an indication of the sort of support for the hospital that has existed in the past, I refer to its last public appeal for rebuilding in 1955; it closed within six months, being over-subscribed. This is an issue of great concern, and I believe it is reflected in the vote that the Liberal Party and I obtained in the recent election. The issue will not go away for the Government; it is an issue I shall pursue with vigour, and one that, if justice is to be done, will result in Prince Henry's Hospital remaining where it is.

The other matter to which I briefly allude is the area of local government, an area in which I am much concerned. I have been involved in local government for some eleven years, and I am privileged to have been chosen by my colleagues to be spokesman in this House on local government.

No mention was made in the Governor's Speech about the local government issue, but I realize that, quite properly, there is no way that all matters of concern can be dealt with in such an address, particularly as the matter of concern now arising in the local government area relates to Federal Government funding flowing back through State Governments to municipal councils. Much concern has been expressed and I hope honourable members in this Chamber will be able to take a bipartisan approach in seeking from the Federal Government an assurance that no cutbacks will occur in this area. If cutbacks do occur, local government will face the problems that have occurred so often in the past, where it has been encouraged to take on additional responsibilities, has had dangled before it almost all of the carrot initially, but where, ultimately, the finance offered has not been indexed and, eventually, has been reduced in real dollar terms.

As local government is closest to the people, it does not seek to cut back the services it supplies to the community. However, it has been squeezed by other levels of government, and I hope the House will see fit at a future date to do all it can to ensure that the Federal Government complies with its previous commitment to provide local government with 2 per cent of personal income tax as an untied grant in the coming year.

The Hon. R. M. HALLAM (Western Province)—It is a very proud moment for me to take my place in this Chamber as the representative of the electors of Western Province, and I am pleased that, as the first act in that capacity, I am able to support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech made earlier today and to express the loyalty of the electors of the Western Province to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. I congratulate His Excellency the Governor and Lady Murray for their grace and dignity in representing the Crown in Victoria.

Although I acknowledge the responsibility that goes with my election to this place, particularly as Western Province covers almost one-quarter of the entire State of Victoria, I am not daunted by the task which confronts me in protecting and advancing the interests of western Victorians. I pledge my full co-operation to my colleague, Mr Chamberlain, who shares that responsibility with me. I should like to place on record a tribute to my predecessor, Mr Crozier, who served the electorate with great distinction.

Western Province covers the entire south-western corner of the State, extending from Lake Hindmarsh in the north, to the township of Nelson on the South Australian border in the south-west, and along the southern coast to include the town of Lorne. The province encompasses the major centres of Horsham, Hamilton, Portland, Warrnambool and Colac.

The wealth and stability of the province is very much dependent upon primary production, including as it does the Wimmera grain belt, the famous grazing lands of the Western District, which is most noted for the production of super-fine merino wool, as well as the Heytesbury dairying district. Beef and fat lamb production is also important, as are the industries of forestry and fishing. In addition, the province boasts more than 300 kilometres of the most magnificent coastline and is blessed by the location of both the Grampians and Otway Ranges, which are extremely important in terms of tourism.

If any single feature of the electorate could be described as its crowning glory, it would have to be the port of Portland, which is generally acknowledged as the best natural deep-sea port in the State, if not the nation.

Although the potential of the port has never been questioned, its development over the years has been chequered and has been fraught with charges of parochial interference. However, in recent years, throughput has grown steadily, and, with the port authority recently announcing a record year, I believe Victorians are now seeing activities which at least approach the potential of which I spoke. With the trend being towards larger and larger cargo vessels and with the natural advantages the port has to offer, it is almost inevitable that there will be greater throughput in grains, livestock and woodchips, particularly in the coming years. We look forward to the impact that the completion of the Alcoa of Australia Ltd aluminium smelter will have upon the port.

The advent of the Alcoa project means much more than simply an increased tonnage through the port; obviously, a development of such magnitude will have dramatic and far-reaching economic and social implications for the entire Western District, some bitter and some sweet. The assimilation of a work force expected to reach some 1600 persons being directly involved in that project when the smelter becomes fully operational will place enormous strain upon the local community. This will require the ultimate in co-operation between all tiers of government and the Portland Consultative Committee, which is responsible for minimizing social disruption associated with that development. For example, it is estimated that there will be a demand for the construction of some 300 homes a year during each of the next three years in the private sector alone. If one compares that figure with the capacity of the building industry in Portland as it stands today, which is