

Is this democracy, freedom of expression, and liberty of the individual to speak freely on any issue, and to hear all views on a controversial issue? Does it not imply censorship and double standards, and from what overseas source and ideology do these foreign groups derive their strength and their money? Is it possible that there are forces at work representing an ideology repugnant to most Australians deliberately seeking to mislead Australians, and, by preventing any sporting tours, stopping Australians and the world from understanding the true position in South Africa regarding non-racial sport? Surely our democratic system demands that we allow all points of view, even on controversial issues, to be freely heard in our country.

The Gleneagles agreement should be re-examined by Australian governments, with a view to modification. In any case it has been misinterpreted, probably deliberately in some cases. All it really means is that Government signatories should discourage official teams from playing sport with South Africa: If the sporting body does not wish to accept this "discouragement", it can play sport with South Africa, and the Government cannot and should not prevent it.

The current controversy over the proposed New Zealand rugby tour of South Africa is an example of the correct interpretation of Gleneagles by a government. The New Zealand Government has discouraged the tour, and has informed the New Zealand Rugby Union of its opposition to the tour, as a Gleneagles signatory, but has taken no official Government steps to prevent it. I am not sure that successive Australian Governments have interpreted Gleneagles as correctly as has the New Zealand Government. Incidentally, as the *Australian* newspaper said on Monday 15 July, it is a tragedy for the cause of non-racial sport in South Africa, for the cause of international harmony and communication, and for the simple cause of allowing the world to gain first hand information concerning the real progress towards non-racial sport in South Africa, that the imminent New Zealand rugby tour of South Africa may have to be cancelled, due to legal delaying tactics by two Auckland lawyers.

The best proof of progress towards non-racial sport in South Africa would have been for the world to see Springboks versus All Blacks in South Africa, with coloured players on either side.

The point I wish to emphasize, is that in all sports, but notably in cricket, rugby and soccer, there has been considerable progress towards non-racial sport in South Africa, and considerable relaxation of some apartheid laws, due to the courage of South African sporting administrators who, despite earlier threats of persecution, have forced the Government to allow non-racial sport to promote international sporting competition for South Africa.

If the courageous efforts of these South African sporting administrators are not rewarded with some international sporting competition for South Africa, the cause of non-racial sport, and of the liberalization of the excesses of the apartheid policy will be considerably damaged, if not lost, as some extreme right wing forces in South Africa will seize their chance to say that there is no point in any liberalization of apartheid, in sport or in general laws.

On this and other issues, I shall use my sporting experience and knowledge in the interests of my constituents, and my party, and in the interests of improved communication and harmony between all people of all nations, as exemplified in the charter of Lions International.

I thank you, Mr President, for your indulgence. I welcome the opportunity of working with my colleagues in this place. I shall do my best to represent my constituents and the Liberal Party, and to uphold the traditions of this House and the Parliament of Victoria.

The Hon. C. F. VAN BUREN (Eumemmerring Province)—It gives me great pleasure to speak today as a member of an Australian Labor Party Government, particularly when

one bears in mind the number of excellent members who have served the Australian Labor Party in the Victorian Parliament.

Throughout the past 30 years, without having the opportunity of speaking as part of the Government, I should particularly like to pay tribute to those members for their contributions on behalf of the Australian Labor Party in Parliament. Many of them have been my friends and colleagues throughout the 24 years I have been a member of the Australian Labor Party.

I did not realize when I migrated to this country from Sri Lanka that one day I would be elected to the Parliament of Victoria.

When I started to become involved in politics and unions I found resistance to me as a migrant, and was not given the opportunity of speaking at meetings. I well recall being elected to the branch committee of management of my union and attending a number of meetings of the branch committee of management and trying to get the call from the president who continued to ignore me. I then sought the advice of an old trade unionist and explained my problem. He informed me that things were different in Australia and, if I really wanted to have my voice heard, I would have to force the issue with the president. I proceeded to try to get the call at the next meeting and was still being ignored. I stood up and started to speak. The president stood up and told me that I had not received the call and when he stood up I was to remain silent and that, as a migrant, I unfortunately did not know the rules of debate. I told him I did know the rules of debate but, unfortunately he continued to ignore my efforts to speak and, as I had no intention of being ignored this time, I continued to make my contribution. Thereafter I built up a friendship with the person concerned.

Fortunately times have changed for the better and I am pleased to join a growing cross-section of members of Parliament who were born overseas. I thank the people of Eumemmerring Province for electing me as their member. I hope their confidence is well placed and I assure them I will be working hard on their behalf.

I firstly should like to comment briefly upon the electorate I represent. Following the 1984 State redistribution Eumemmerring Province was created. It consists of the four Legislative Assembly districts of Dandenong, Dandenong North, Doveton and Springvale. Dandenong North and Doveton are also new districts created at the 1984 State redistribution.

I place on record my appreciation to my Legislative Assembly colleagues for their support in having me elected to Parliament.

Eumemmerring Province is made up of approximately 65 per cent native born Australians and 35 per cent who were overseas born. Some 20 000 of these migrants have arrived in the past ten years. Of the Australian-born at least 20 per cent have one parent who was born overseas. In total, some 85 000 people in Eumemmerring Province either come from overseas or have direct family links overseas.

I am proud of the fact also that Eumemmerring Province is a strongly working-class area where more than 40 per cent of the work force are skilled and semi-skilled, 20 per cent of the electorate are office or clerical workers, 10 per cent are sales workers and 10 per cent working in service industries.

With my union background I hope I have a close understanding of these people, their problems, needs and aspirations. I look forward to working on their behalf.

The manufacturing sector of Eumemmerring Province provides for 35 per cent of the workforce. The Dandenong area of the electorate has a number of major companies including General Motors-Holden's Ltd, H. J. Heinz Co. Aust. Ltd and Namco Industries (Vic.). The Springvale area has Datsun, Steelmark Ltd and Kelly Lewis. There are also a number of small companies employing a significant number of workers.

Eumemmerring Province is not a wealthy electorate. At the 1981 census only 13.1 per cent of individual workers had an annual income well over the average weekly earnings—that is, 86.6 per cent of the work force earned less than the so-called average weekly wage. Even with the husband and wife both working, when this is taken into account, 53.6 per cent of families in Eumemmerring Province had a combined income of less than the average weekly earnings. I will be working to make sure the Australian Labor Party in government will assist these people to achieve a better living standard. With my union background, I also believe I have the experience to link the needs of the workers of the electorate I represent and the Government's need for a productive State.

For the past ten years I have worked as an organizer with the Australian Labor Party and one of my special tasks was to liaise with the trade union movement. It would be remiss of me if I did not make reference to the trade union movement and the Cain Government's economic and industrial record.

The Australian Labor Party was born from the trade union movement, after the six-month strike in 1891 by the shearers in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria. The majority of unions in the State are affiliated with the Australian Labor Party and play a role in the formation of policy. I am proud to say that the Australian Labor Party has a very special relationship with the union movement. I have been a member of the Printing and Kindred Industries Union for 25 years. Although the unions are currently under attack from the right wing forces in this country, which was particularly highlighted by the recent action of the Queensland Government, traditionally unions in this country have achieved increased wages only in line with the survival needs of their members and improvements in working conditions. These include hours of work, overtime and penalty rates, annual leave and workers compensation.

The Accident Compensation Bill and the Occupational Health and Safety Bill are before Parliament. The Government consulted widely with trade unions, business and other interest groups prior to drafting the proposed legislation. The Government recognized that the present system of workers compensation imposed unnecessary costs on business, and problems for the worker who was making the claim. These matters and anything that affects the worker's daily life is of concern to the trade union movement.

The conservative view is that union leaders are greedy and lack understanding of the rest of the community, but from my experience unions representing a broad section of the community have struggled hard to maintain the real wages and conditions of their members.

The only protection union members have had has been their collective strength expressed through their union leadership. The myth created by the conservatives in this country that union leaders call strikes in this country as they like is false. From my experience the rank and file of the union decides if the union is to go on strike, and generally this decision is taken only after all avenues of settling the dispute have failed.

Traditionally, Governments have intervened on the side of employers. When a Government tries to balance the needs of workers and employees it is creating history. The occupational health and safety legislation is especially important because it is one of the first examples of a Government making the attempt to redress the balance between employers' interests and workers' interests. Also the Cain Labor Government does not believe that industrial relations should be handled by a series of "knee-jerk" reactions to the issues of the day. The Government believes industrial relations are too important to Victoria's well-being to be allowed to just bumble along until a solution emerges.

It must be planned, co-ordinated and structured within a framework of effective economic management. The Government's industrial approach is attracting the interest of other States, as Victoria now has the best industrial record in Australia. Some of the measures that have helped to achieve this record include the setting up of the Industrial Relations Task Force, comprising the Government's senior Ministers who have a good knowledge of the trade unions, business, economics and industrial relations. The task

force has been able to respond promptly and take what action has been required and, with the work of the industrial liaison officers, has been able to defuse most of the industrial issues, which in the past would probably have lead to costly stoppages. The Government has strongly supported the prices and incomes accord, which recognizes the fundamental objective of the maintenance of real wages through a centralized system of wage fixation—a system which aims to maintain real income over time and protect the weaker groups.

In the past Governments have sought advice, but never listened; this Government seeks advice from unions, business and interest groups and is willing to act on that advice in the best interests of the people of Victoria.

In conclusion, I pay tribute to my family and close friends, without whose support I would not be here, and also to the Australian Labor Party and its members for giving me the opportunity of representing in Parliament a great political party.

The Hon. G. R. CRAWFORD (Jika Jika Province)—Mr President, I thank honourable members for the opportunity of addressing the House on this occasion. This address will be somewhat disjointed because I wish to touch upon a number of issues that time would not permit me to deal with in detail. First, I thank my campaign workers and the electors of Jika Jika Province for their support. I take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of my wife and family for their support during the many decades in which I have been involved in public life.

I feel a sense of satisfaction in representing the Jika Jika Province. The name of the province goes back to the establishment of Melbourne. That immediately raises one of the first issues about which I should certainly like to make some declarations. As honourable members know, Jika Jika Province covers the electoral districts of Northcote, Preston, Reservoir and Bundoora. The name Jika Jika is the early name for the area that today is commonly known as Preston and derives from the association of Aboriginal people, with names such as Jaga Jaga and Geelong, who entered into contracts with early white settlers of Australia. Those contracts provided for the taking over of large tracts of this country by migrant to establish the community of Melbourne and establish the white population of Australia.

It is a reflection upon the white people in Australia that the Aboriginal people today are struggling for land rights in their country. Their land rights have been taken away from them by people who migrated to this country. I do not wish to deal in any depth on this occasion with the issue of land rights but it is a major issue on which this Parliament, along with all State Parliaments, must co-operate with the Federal Government to set down a proper form of land rights, which must be acceptable to the Aboriginal people of Australia.

Although honourable members can all be critical of civil rights situations in other countries, and I am certainly guilty of that because I will have a go at civil rights in other countries, surely we should all realize that we have a major responsibility to correct the injustices that have occurred for decades in our country. Time does not allow me to deal with this subject in more detail.

I came to Parliament after 41 years' membership of the Plumbers and Gasfitters Employees Union of Australia. I spent 30 years as a full-time official of that union; parallel with that, I have also been a member of the Australian Labor Party for 40 years and have held administrative positions in that party for some decades. I have attempted to be involved in as many of the issues confronting the ordinary people of Australia as has been possible. Therefore, I have been widely and diversely active in many of these issues which, I believe, will assist me to make contributions to debate in the House in future.

The issues of workers compensation, occupational health and safety and other matters are of concern to me and I will make contributions to debates when those matters are dealt with more precisely.