

Mr HONEYWOOD (Warrandyte) - Mr Speaker, I congratulate you on your election as Speaker and assure you of my respect for your position. Having experienced a week in the Chamber, I have already come to appreciate the challenge that your position entails.

I express my loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen and congratulate His Excellency, Dr Davis McCaughey, Governor of Victoria, on his competent performance as Her Majesty's representative in this State.

It is with some apprehension and humility that I address the House. I am fully aware that I do not have the experience of the more senior members of this place, but I bring with me a great deal of enthusiasm and energy, and I hope in time I shall gain both experience and wisdom.

I have the distinction of representing the electorate of Warrandyte, a seat which has been served since 1982 by Mr Lou Hill. I know that Mr Hill was well regarded by honourable members on both sides of the House, and I wish him well in his future career.

It is interesting to note that Warrandyte was the only seat to change between the two major parties at the recent State election. To understand the reasons for this change, I shall draw a parallel to a previous Federal administration, the Whitlam government. I believe the Whitlam experience to be a good parallel to make, not only because of its link with the problems of today, but also because it was the Whitlam government that caused me to become a committed Liberal. The parallel can be drawn in three distinct areas. The first area relates to my initial exposure to politics as a twelve-year-old student at a government high school in the town of Gosford, New South Wales. It was 1972, a time which many government members would no doubt remember with some lingering nostalgia.

The "It's time" campaign encouraged many of my teachers to throw caution to the wind and become vocal proponents of a Labor government. As the son of a small businessman, I can remember asking my teachers what the Labor Party would do for small business. The question has remained unanswered for the past sixteen years. During that period I observed my parents and others being forced to cope with the introduction of a bewildering array of new regulations, many of which served no particular purpose other than to glue my parents to the dining room table for many evenings filling out government forms. Since 1972, the situation has worsened.

During the recent election campaign, people throughout the Warrandyte electorate were complaining constantly about the regulations imposed by governments. Their message was clear; governments of whatever political persuasion cannot continue to burden private enterprise with increasing legislation and regulations. The paper chase has to be brought to an end