

accompanying effect of achieving the underlying aim which is to denigrate the institution of Parliament. For the good name of Parliament and for our own good names, we should insist, so far as we can, on being called Parliamentarians, valid though the other word is. Parliamentary government is not, never has been and never will be perfect. As Churchill said, "It is the worst form of rule in the world except every other". I have pleasure in supporting the motion.

**Mr. REESE (Moorabbin).**—It gives me considerable pleasure, both personally and on behalf of the constituents of the electorate of Moorabbin, to join in this expression of loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and to her personal representatives in this State, Sir Rohan and Lady Delacombe. As a Victorian, but more importantly as an Australian, it is a privilege to support this motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's opening address to this 44th Parliament. The underlying motive, the basic thought and theme of His Excellency's Speech was of optimism for the continued future development of this State of Victoria and, in a broader sense, the future development of the Commonwealth of Australia in which Victoria plays such an important part.

I have lived in the electorate of Moorabbin since 1949. I have shared in its growth, which undeniably has been rapid in recent years. When I went to live there, the City of Moorabbin consisted of about 30,000 persons. To-day, it has a population of more than 100,000. I have seen the growth of its kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools, youth clubs, elderly citizens' clubs, and all the necessary adjuncts of living in a modern city. This growth is symptomatic of the development that has occurred in recent years in the whole of metropolitan Melbourne. One has only to stand on the steps of this building and look at the city skyline to see evidence of that growth.

I believe that development similar to that which has been evident within the electorate and the City of Moorabbin and within metropolitan Melbourne is occurring throughout Victoria. I was pleased to hear the honorable member for Shepparton mention the growth rate in his electorate, because it reminded me that Shepparton is not the only section of the State in which the growth rate is greater than that of the metropolitan area. In his excellent speech, the honorable member referred to the City of Geelong and its rate of growth. The development there in recent years has exceeded that of the Melbourne metropolitan area. In the City of Wangaratta in the north-east and in the Latrobe Valley, one sees development which provides a broad base on which the future growth of this State may be built.

It is not by accident that this growth pattern is evidenced in Victoria. It is not by accident that Victoria has taken and is taking over 40 per cent. of Australia's migrant intake and that this small corner, which occupies about 3 per cent. of the land area of the Commonwealth, produces one-third of both the primary and secondary production of Australia. I suggest that cognizance must be taken of the stability of Government that Victoria has enjoyed for a number of years. This stability has brought about Victoria's existing state of development which provided the basis for the optimism of His Excellency's Speech.

Just as Victoria is poised for future exciting development—in which the wise counsels of this institution must play a part—so too is the rest of this great continent. We should not forget—nor should members of the Federal Parliament in Canberra forget—that this State of Victoria is the economic base from which much of Australia's future growth and development must spring and that Victoria's continued growth and prosperity are essential to the development of Australia as a whole.

I believe it is true to say that no other country owes more to the discovery and exploitation of its mineral resources than does Australia, and Victoria in particular. Population, towns, roads and railways all sprang from the discovery of gold in the nineteenth century. Many towns in Victoria owe their origin to the existence of mineral resources. As this occurred in the past, so it will happen in the future. I was pleased to hear the honorable member for Shepparton refer to the optimistic assessments of the discoveries of natural gas and oil in the Gippsland basin.

No one dare prophesy what effect the development of oil and natural gas deposits on and from the Gippsland shelf will have on the future of this State for this and future generations. It must be expected that, in the early stages of the piping of natural gas, the largest centres of population such as Melbourne, Geelong and towns in the Gippsland area will have an advantage. As the honorable member for Shepparton mentioned, other means exist by which this boom in natural gas may be made quickly available to other areas. I have every confidence that the developers of this wonderful asset will look after that side of the project.

When one envisages the exciting years ahead, one realizes that the development of Victoria must be pursued to the maximum of our ability as a base for the development of this continent. Economic expansion must occur in both the private and the public sectors of our economy. I have no doubt of the ability of Victorian businessmen to play their part in the effective development of the State and in the development of resources outside Victoria. As members of this Parliament, we must be constantly concerned at the State's ability to generate the growth rate in the public sector which is vital to our continued needs. The needs of our increasing population in the years ahead will

*Mr. Reese.*

cry out for additional expenditure in every sphere of State responsibility. Under the present Federal-State financial relations, how long can we, as a State, get by without seriously affecting our ability in this area?

As a result of the system that has grown up, the major taxation fields that have been enjoyed by Governments throughout history are basically denied to Victoria and the other State Governments of the Commonwealth. Whilst the Federal Government has managed to tuck away in reserve a snowball of some \$2,000 million during the past ten years, this State is hard put to cope with the present development rate. We, in this place, must appreciate the difficulties and dangers that exist. In the interests of future development and for the benefit of future generations, we must accept the challenge and do our utmost to overcome the problems with which we are faced.

I do not wish to canvass this further but rather to turn to one other aspect which I believe also presents a challenge to those of us who have assumed responsibility in this 44th Parliament. It is often said that we live in an unduly materialistic and rather ruthless age. Nevertheless, we are transiently responsible for the preservation and the maintenance of our flora and fauna—the wild-life in its natural habitat—much of which is unique in the world today. Have we during the past 100 years given sufficient thought to this matter, or have we in a more materialistic sense given thought to the very real tourist attractions that we have in much of our flora and fauna in Victoria? As Victoria's development continues, we should give increasing thought to this angle and to the responsibility which we have to those who will come after us, because so much of this natural habitat, once destroyed, can never be replaced.

I shall now return to the central theme of this debate, namely, the expressions of loyalty to Queen Elizabeth II. I believe that in my

adult lifetime the circumstances of world economics, the problems of the United Kingdom and the very development of this country have led us, and will continue to lead us, nearer to independent nationhood in this troublesome Asian area. The need to maintain and strengthen our ties with the Crown, Her Majesty and members of the Royal Family is greater today than ever before, and it will become greater in the future.

If this Address-in-Reply debate is not to become a mere mockery in the years ahead, members of this place, whether Government or Opposition members, must be ever mindful of those influences in our community which seek to break down and deride the respect of members of the community for the Crown and for Her Majesty. I believe that this is particularly important for those in the field of education, who are responsible for moulding the thoughts of our younger generation. In the same way as those who would seek to break down respect for law and order and for this institution of democratic government in which we meet today, those people who tend and seek to undermine and deride the respect for Her Majesty will always be the enemies of the future generations of this State and this country.

It gives me sincere pleasure on behalf of my constituents in Moorabin and myself personally to support this motion. So long as I am a member of this House, whether for a short or a long time, whatever ability, training and experience I have will, I assure the House, be directed to the development of the State, the welfare of its citizens and the maintenance of respect for the Crown, which we now honour.

**Mr. BUCKLEY** (Lowan).—I feel honoured to be able to participate, on behalf of the electors of Lowan, in the debate on the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech. I would respectfully request that the loyalty of the people be conveyed to Her

Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and I give an assurance that, provided some encouragement is forthcoming, food production from that part of western Victoria which I represent will continue to play an important part in the livelihood of the peoples of the world. To the electors of Lowan, I offer my thanks for the confidence they have shown in me by electing me as their representative in this 44th Victorian Parliament. It will be my earnest desire at all times to serve all sections of the community without fear or favour and to the best of my ability.

No doubt, Mr. Speaker every new member who comes to this Chamber has some desire to place before this Assembly at the first opportunity certain matters that concern his or her electorate, and I am no exception in this regard. The shortage of water is an increasing problem in many parts of the world. It is essential not only for drinking and food production, but also for industry and industrial development. Water is the lifeblood of the area I represent. It has been stated that some parts of the Lowan electorate are now experiencing one of the driest periods in living memory. It is a well-known fact that some farms north of Warracknabeal had not cropped an acre of land this year until a week ago, and this is in an area that is generally well known for its grain production.

The water catchment area in the Grampians and surrounding hills, which is the main source of our water supply, is limited. Water is delivered to the farms in the Wimmera-Mallee irrigation system by well over 300 miles of open channel. For many years, repeated requests have been made to have this water delivered by pipe-lines. The cost of such a scheme would be great, but it is now estimated that of the water that leaves the reservoirs, approximately only 10 per cent. reaches the point of its intended consumption on farms at the extremities of the channel