

parties. If members and candidates had to resign from any party represented in the Lower House, and if there were some form of public funding of campaigns, there could be an Upper House in which the community would have a great deal of confidence. In those circumstances, the governing party might have to be allowed some appointed members to handle Government business. New South Wales has moved away from the system of appointing members to the Upper House, but in Canada, the Upper House is appointed, and in England, the life peers in the House of Lords are the most effective members of that House.

The very proper emphasis of the Governor's Speech is on unemployment and on efficiency and economy in Government. I have said nothing about that, and for want of time I do not propose to do so. Let me just mention what are comparatively mere details of the Government's programme. I refer to the Residential Tenancies Bill and the Public Works and Planning Compensation Bill because they support so well the case that I have been trying to make. They are complex; they needed reviewing; a great deal of reviewing has taken place—by public servants. I shall welcome the presentation of these Bills in their revised form, but I hope that this House will re-examine them closely in committee—and I do not mean the committee of the whole.

The question of public works and planning compensation brings up a matter which certainly requires vigilance by this House. The decision last year by the Executive Government to build the C3 freeway was, I believe, an error which would have been avoided if members were not so used to saying, "That is a matter for the Executive".

If the Government had said, "We are about to impose an arbitrary tax of tens of millions of dollars on these property owners near the proposed freeway; we are going to do this because in that way the cash costs to the State will be smaller," if the Government had said that—which would have been close enough to the truth—then we would not have tolerated it for a moment. We are

The Hon. J. V. C. Guest

not so far from Magna Carta that the worm cannot still turn. I hope the worm may still turn on that issue, but I would feel more confident that this House would put justice first if honorable members were not so anxious to have five able and agreeable Trojan horses in their midst. Perhaps I should apologize to Mr Jenkins—he too has all the qualities of an agreeable and able Trojan horse.

Mr President, you may have been concerned when I omitted the customary reference to Royalty and Vice-Royalty at the beginning of my speech. If so, you will be reassured to know that it followed sound precedent—I refer to the interesting speech made by the Hon. R. J. Hamer when he moved the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech 21 years ago.

But I want now to depart from this precedent. I have heard His Excellency in court as Solicitor-General; I have appeared before him when he was Chief Justice; I have witnessed the performance of his Vice-Regal duties, and I have enjoyed his hospitality. A system of appointing heads of State which allows us to secure the services of such a man is an excellent system.

I am not always sure what "democracy" means. Even if I thought it always meant approval by more than 50 per cent of voters in a direct election, I should hope that no one would take the risk of adopting that system for choosing heads of State. It is important that Victoria should have men like Sir Henry Winneke as Governors rather than film stars or politicians. I doubt if he or any of his predecessors would have consented to campaigning for election. So, in the end, having said the right thing—because I meant it—it only remains for me to express my pleasure at the opportunity which an accident of chronology has afforded me. I hope what I have said will be accepted as timely.

The Hon. N. B. REID (Bendigo Province)—It is my pleasing duty to second the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply in appreciation of the speech delivered by His Excellency, the Governor, in this Chamber this afternoon. The citizens of Bendigo Province

and of Victoria are indebted to the Governor for his excellent work in representing the people and moving throughout the State on numerous public duties. Sir Henry and Lady Winneke have set a wonderful example for our community and have endeared themselves to all Victorians.

On behalf of all the citizens in my electorate, I thank Sir Henry and Lady Winneke for their untiring work and trust that they will enjoy good health to enable them to continue their fine work and their public duties in the future and also that Sir Henry may have some time to play the occasional round of golf which he enjoys so much.

In the Governor's Speech, one finds a constructive programme of proposed legislation that will be introduced during this first sessional period of the Forty-eighth Parliament of Victoria; legislation which is designed to assist not only Victorians in country areas but also Victorians in urban areas and residents in the heart of Melbourne. As the representative for a large, diverse, country electorate, it will not be unusual if I direct most of my comments to matters that affect people residing outside the metropolitan area.

During my three years as a member in this House, I have seen remarkable changes in the fortunes of people involved in agricultural pursuits. It can probably be demonstrated very clearly by reading briefly two extracts from newspapers from within my electorate. The first newspaper article dated 12 May, states:

PREM: \$5 A HEAD FOR SHOT COWS

A destruction fee of \$5 a beast is to be paid by Victorian State Government for all cattle slaughtered near Tongala on Monday.

State Premier, Mr. Hamer, announced this late yesterday afternoon.

He said the Government would pay out \$5 for every beast slaughtered and disposed of in the pit provided by Deakin Shire Council.

The article of 23 May, carries the headline:

TOP PRICES DAIRY COWS.

According to the report, bullocks sold for \$700 and buyers went for quality dairy cows at \$300 and around that figure. Those articles were certainly not

two weeks apart, but just three short years apart. What a contrast! I will not attempt to convince anyone that the upturn in farm incomes can be attributed solely to legislation adopted by this Government or any other Government. However, the Government has continued to support and assist primary producers through good seasonal conditions and bad.

One of the most pressing challenges for the future is to provide food for the people and to provide that food to the consumer at a price which he can afford to pay, while at the same time ensuring that the primary producer receives an adequate return for his investment and labours to enable him to continue to produce top-quality food. There is certainly a need for greater efficiency and ability in marketing skills, particularly for primary produce, and this has increased because of the large amount of capital expenditure required by a primary producer firstly to procure suitable land and, secondly, to purchase the sophisticated farm machinery equipment required to operate it.

The Government will develop a new young farmer establishment scheme to make it easier for well-qualified enthusiastic young people to acquire their own farms.

The Hon. S. R. McDonald—Does Mr Reid believe I am young enough to obtain a loan?

The Hon. N. B. REID—I am sure Mr McDonald would receive a loan as he operates a very good farm and will continue to do so.

A broadly-based idea along the lines of the Saskatchewan Land Bank Commission to establish an independent land bank has been suggested, one which would operate along commercial lines but be backed by Government guarantee. The idea would include the purchase of viable freehold farmlands which could be leased for a period of approximately five years by a young, enthusiastic, capable farmer, with the option of purchasing the property after that period or in the future. The idea has potential and would enable young

farmers to engage in farming and acquire a freehold property without a large initial capital outlay.

The average age of primary producers continues to rise and many young people from farming areas, unable to purchase their own farms, have drifted to nearby towns in search of work. It is imperative that this drift be reversed, and the Government, having identified the problem, is proposing these initiatives to arrest this drift.

Further Government initiatives proposed to assist primary producers include additional research into the use of pesticides, the development of safer farm equipment, and an allocation of \$15 million for assistance to irrigators and for research into tackling "the creeping menace", as I call it, of salinity. Many hectares of valuable irrigated land and dry land are being lost through salinity problems and it is important that this matter be tackled immediately.

I was impressed to receive through the mail this week a copy of the December 1978 issue of *Victoria's Resources*, which had the sub-title "Understanding Salinity". *Victoria's Resources* is the official organ of the Natural Resources Conservation League of Victoria and that organization devoted the entire issue to the problem of what it termed "The salt of the earth". In days gone by that term, "The salt of the earth" was always used to refer to someone whose influence in society was wholesome, but the meaning of the quote in this issue is quite different. I am sure honorable members who have rural interests would appreciate the problems which salinity is creating.

Salinity is affecting large areas of land in Victoria. The latest figures which have been released reveal that in Victoria 96 000 hectares, with a capital value of \$170 million, are being affected. Of course the salinity question affects a large part of the northern area of Victoria, embracing a large proportion of the electorate I represent. I am gravely concerned about the problem and I was very interested to read a comment in the publication which refers to the salinity question. That statement reads:

The Hon. N. B. Reid

We know of no salting in forest areas, none whatsoever! It is all in the cleared areas.

I was pleased to learn that the Government will be taking further steps to enable farmers and other people to plant more trees in Victoria.

It may have been true to say once that "Australia rides on the sheep's back", it certainly would be fair to say now that this season the Victorian economy will receive a tremendous boost from improved returns for primary produce. A record grain harvest, vastly improved beef prices, improved sheep and wool prices, a steady upturn in dairying and a return to better prices for fruit growers in the Goulburn Valley and other areas of Victoria, have helped Victoria's economic prospects.

Some of the results of the improved rural scene will flow to metropolitan industries with the purchase of new equipment and farm machinery, trucks, cars and perhaps even new washing machines and other household appliances. I hope this will mean the creation of more job opportunities in those industries undertaking the manufacture of these items and their subsequent distribution.

I now direct your attention, Mr President, to a word which we hear quite often, "communication". To city people it means telephoning a friend in any suburb of Melbourne and talking for an unlimited time for a cost of nine cents. Outside the metropolitan area, the mere mention of the word "communication" is enough to send convulsive shudders through most people. People from Bendigo know that if they want to talk to friends or business associates in Melbourne it will cost 81 cents for every three minutes of telephone conversation.

I realize that this matter comes under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government, but it has a serious effect on people living outside the metropolitan area, and the burden must be alleviated to enable future decentralization in Victoria to continue.

I am aware of the need to decentralize industries throughout Victoria and I will continue to encourage and press

the Government to continue its policies of decentralization for the benefit of all Victorians.

The Hon. W. A. LANDERYOU (Doutta Galla Province)—I congratulate Mr Guest and Mr Reid on their contributions to the discussion and compliment them on the way in which they have proposed and seconded the resolution on behalf of their party.

Today the House has heard a Speech delivered by His Excellency, but which was prepared by the Government for the Government and in that sense it is very much a political document. At the outset I join with my colleagues who have spoken previously on this subject in expressing my appreciation of the services rendered to Parliament and other Victorian institutions by His Excellency, Sir Henry Winneke, who in my view performs his duties personably and with great distinction.

The office of Governor in the State of Victoria is intrinsically woven into the Victorian Constitution, as, indeed, is this Parliament and this House of which I shall say more shortly.

As the newly-elected Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition, as the title goes, I follow a man who shall shortly leave this Chamber as one of the most distinguished members in its history. Mr Galbally has been a father figure for many years, rendering service to the Parliament and to this House in particular, and he has earned an enviable record in terms of both reputation and performance within this House and in the community.

Despite the conservative nature of his chosen profession, in my view this discipline did not affect his life-long championing of the poor, the underprivileged or all those who suffer social injustice. Indeed, Mr Galbally's sense of outrage at many of society's injustices has not been surpassed in this Chamber. However, his sense of outrage has always been measured, in my view, by mature common sense in his approach to seeking a solution.

Mr Galbally's enviable record includes a lifelong campaign against death by the rope. No hangman, inside or outside this Chamber, could count

John Galbally amongst his friends. Mr Galbally's record in his fight against inhumane treatment against humanity, his campaign to preserve Parliamentary democracy and how it sees itself and his championing of the underprivileged are all among the life-long and noble deeds to which this man has dedicated his public commitment. So, it is with that realization that I shall attempt to fill this position, which my colleagues have seen fit to bestow upon me.

Believing as I do that there is no substitute for experience, replacing an experienced man with one who is almost half his age in an institution—this House—which spends so much of its time preoccupied with justifying its own existence, imposes a very real, new and onerous responsibility upon me. I was most interested in some of the comments of Mr Guest, and I hope the matters to which he referred do become matters of serious consideration for this House.

Given the co-operation of my colleagues, perhaps without "Gal's" Irish charm and wit and certainly without his experience, my approach to my new responsibilities will be full of enthusiasm for the task before me.

I come to the task sharing my former Leader's concern for and his belief in civil liberties for the average person, his concern about social inequality, not of course as a lawyer, and a distinguished one at that, but as a realist with the invaluable grass roots level training of a pragmatic trade unionist.

I have referred to what was Mr Galbally's crusade—the abolition of hanging. It is thanks to him that the hangman in this State is unemployed. I venture to suggest that is about the only time that my predecessor and I welcome an increase in the level of unemployment.

If I have a crusade, it is one that asserts the right of every Victorian to the opportunity to work, not to struggle and make do on demeaning benefits that keep him and his family below the poverty line, but the right to dignified and productive employment, the right to have a proper place in our community. It should be the right of every