

Mr REYNOLDS (Gisborne) - Making one's maiden speech in Parliament is a little like being an opening batsman in wet weather. One has been padded up and has had to wait but there is an awful feeling that it looks as though it might rain again and play might be delayed again. I support the mover and seconder of this motion, the honorable members for Caulfield and Westernport, and endorse their remarks in what must have seemed to them, as it does to me, a fearsome and aweinspiring experience.

I congratulate the Speaker, in his absence, on his election to that post. I also express my loyalty and, more importantly, the loyalty of the residents of the electorate of Gisborne, to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, through His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Winneke. I compliment Sir Henry on his devotion and dedication to duty and on the way in which he performs his tasks. Sir Henry Winneke is warmly accepted throughout the community for many reasons, one of which is his sporting interest, although I do not agree with his bias on Australian rules football. Sir Henry has had great experience in the field of law and he has an ability that is admired by everyone, that of being able to meet all men on a common level. Sir Henry and Lady Winneke were most welcome in the Gisborne township on an official visit last year and they will again be most welcome on 20 July when they will officially open the new Gisborne shire offices.

I have the good fortune to be the third member for the electorate of Gisborne. I follow Mr Julian Doyle and Mr Athol Guy, two worthy former members of Parliament. I thank Athol Guy on behalf of the Gisborne electorate for what he did for the people of that electorate during the eight years he spent in this Parliament and I express my disappointment that retirement because of ill health was forced on a man so young. I also thank him for the help and guidance he has given me in the past months.

It is a challenge to follow two such illustrious men. Unlike my predecessors, I do not have the obvious talents and advantages of youth, height, good looks, a law degree, being able to sing or to play the bass fiddle - perhaps that is an advantage.

To the Clerks and members of the House staff, I express my thanks for the care, attention and consideration they have extended to me as a newcomer. It has been difficult to try to find one's way around this building and I am in favour of any work done by the House Committee regarding fire regulations, particularly those for room 90. The willingness and help of the staff have been most appreciated. I am also grateful for the welcome extended to me by all honorable members of both Houses of Parliament and from both sides of those Houses.

The debate on the Address-in-Reply provides an opportunity for honorable members to ride their hobby horses. One of my particular hobby horses is my concern about the breakdown in the accepted, social and moral standards of our community. The two examples I am about to cite may not be marvellous, but one occurred on the day this Parliament was opened. Years ago, even before I was a boy, every teacher in the community was held in high esteem, as were other professional people. However, a few, a very few, teachers are tarnishing that image.

Last Tuesday week my wife and I and our two children came to Parliament House to watch the opening of Parliament. We were all impressed with the dignity, colour and decorum of the ceremony. We went to the front steps to watch the civic dignitaries leave - they included the Governor, the heads of the armed services, the judiciary and the clergy-before a guard of honour and the military band. It was a colourful and impressive spectacle, but lit was spoiled by a group on the footpath holding a banner bearing some message about staffing numbers. I therefore presumed they were teachers. They provided a strange contrast between the old and the new

thinking and were an example of my point concerning the breakdown of traditions.

The comments made by my children are, I believe, pertinent. The younger, who is ten years old, said, "Why don't they go somewhere else? This is not the place or the opportunity for this sort of demonstration." The older child, who is fifteen years old, said, "Gee, I'm glad none of them are mine." The little fellow then said, "They look a bit untidy, don't they?" The older boy then came up with what I considered to be a succinct remark. He said, "They only teach about sixteen hours a week. That is a short time. Why don't they teach us first—we have to learn—and then demonstrate? That way they can serve both purposes."

I do not believe anyone who was standing on the front steps of Parliament House at that time had any sympathy with their cause. I do not think it furthered their case, but there is some good in everything, and the good thing that came out of it was that as the guard of honour paraded down the street and the military band followed in all the pomp, colour and ceremony, at least two of that group applauded. It might have been in reverse, but someone learnt a little that day.

I defend the right of the public to demonstrate in an orderly manner at the proper place and the proper time, as long as they do not inconvenience their fellow man. There are a minority of agitators in the teaching profession. Every school teacher I know is a professional and dedicated to his profession, but such a demonstration as occurred that day highlights part of the breakdown in our society. I could give other examples but the Leader of the House has said that I have only fifteen minutes in which to speak, and twelve minutes of that have passed already.

I now have an opportunity to speak on my favourite subject, that is, the electorate I am proud to represent. It is a complex, intricate electorate, full of challenge and interest. I intend to tackle its problems with fervour, zeal and pleasure. When asked by members of this place where I live, I say, "Romsey". They say, "Where is that?". Obviously they know nothing about the Gisborne electorate, because Romsey is a premier town in its centre. Two honorable members know where it is.

I must tell the House, in a Fitzpatrick-like travelogue, a little about the place. It covers 6799 square kilometres. It is the thirteenth largest electorate of the 81 Legislative Assembly electorates. It is 130 kilometres by 110 kilometres, and stretches from Daylesford in the west, to within a few yards of Flowerdale in the east, and from 15 kilometres south of Bacchus Marsh to beyond Heathcote in the north. It is covered by three Federal electorates and five provinces. No other honorable member can say that of his electorate. Often, a redistribution is said to be a gerrymander. I do not think that this is a gerrymander. I think a fellow called Goosey--gander did it. It is traversed by three highways, the Western Highway the Calder Highway and the Hume Highway, and three major train-lines, the line to Adelaide, the line to Bendigo and Mildura, and the line to Sydney.

The electorate has 32 000 voters, and it has had a growth rate of 18 per cent in the past three years. Honorable members will agree that it is going ahead. It has flat, open, grazing country and forest-covered mountains. Many varied types of agriculture are carried on in the area. There are plenty of rivers. It is scenic, and a great place in which to live. In fact, two honorable members of the Opposition are on the roll of the Gisborne electorate. I believe members on all sides of the House would agree that it must be a good place in which to live.

There are large towns in the area, such as Sunbury, and then some delightful villages like Musk, Strath Creek, Bullengarook, Monegeeta and Bullarto, it has tremendous tourist potential with

Daylesford, Mount Macedon, Hanging Rock, Lerderderg Gorge and Lake Eppalock. I believe Daylesford will be rejuvenated as one of the tourist centres of Victoria by the development of its natural spa resources. The great growth in this electorate means that its potential is recognized by the people who have moved there and by the Government. The Government's faith is evinced by classing Sunbury as a growth centre. Goonawarra is a reality, and has a high priority. It is the first of its type of Housing Commission development, and is an exciting project.

There are twelve shires in the Gisborne electorate, that is, all of ten, and part of two. The transition with this influx of population over many years has meant that we have in the southern half of the electorate, what is called a dormitory residential population. There is a huge commuter population, and therefore transport is a major problem. Eighteen months ago the public did not want public transport; they were not interested in it. Now it is forced upon them because of the escalation of petrol prices, and they want it tomorrow-no, they wanted it yesterday.

I am glad that the Governor's Speech stated that transport will continue to attract a major share of the Government's financial resources, because I believe a lot of money must be spent in encouraging public transport and building up transport facilities, and I ask the Minister of Transport to take note of that.

I have instigated, through the Minister of Transport, a survey of over nine shires, and 20 000 people are to be circularized. It then will become known where the people live, where they wish to go, how, and when. This will enable us to know the needs of the people in the electorate. The facts must be ascertained and then the Government must be encouraged to do something about it. That is what will be done.

The great growth in this electorate has brought development problems throughout the whole of the area. There are 73 schools in the Gisborne electorate, private and Government owned, and at present five new schools are justified. They are needed immediately. That does not include the rebuilding and extensions, and all the other things that need to be done at schools in a growing area. Sewerage, water, sporting facilities, community health centres and a public hospital and ambulance service for Sunbury are essential needs. There is a need to upgrade rail services to Kyneton, because for the financial year 1976-77 to the financial year 1977-78 there was a 37 per cent increase in annual usage at Woodend, as evidenced by figures from the railways.

The Government's policy is to encourage decentralization and to have people working where they live. That will be of tremendous help in my area. It will save time, and will allow people to work near home. It will assist in the transport problem and the fuel problem, which makes three big pluses.

As stated earlier, three of the State's five main highways traverse the electorate. I am most anxious to see the Calder Highway upgraded. I knew there would be a few "Hear, hear's", from Government party members. I believe many other people also would like to see it upgraded. I hope people do not find out that the route through Romsey, Lancefield, Heathcote to Bendigo is no further and that the road is good; they might clog up my access to Melbourne. I am not being parochial or selfish.

I look forward to assisting the shires and local community groups to achieve their aims and objectives. I was elected on a party ticket, but that ended on 5 May, or on the declaration of the Parliament. I represent everyone in the electorate and I believe, as do all honorable members, that we are out to get what we can for our constituents.

I want to give all Ministers advance warning. I will be writing to them, I will be speaking to them when the opportunity arises, I will be leading deputations to them, and doing whatever I can to make them fully aware of the needs of my electorate. I give this warning right at the outset, and then it cannot be said that they were not told.

I thank you, Mr Speaker, and honorable members, for the indulgence, courtesy and attention extended to me during this speech. I gather it may not be quite the same next time I speak. In fact, the honorable member for Niddrie said I have now had that privilege twice - the first and the last times.