

attended His Excellency the Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber, when His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament of which, for greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy. As the Speech is printed, and copies are in the hands of honorable members, it will not be necessary for me to read it.

Mr. J. A. TAYLOR (Gippsland South).—I move—

That the following Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor to both Houses of Parliament be agreed to by this House:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the Legislative Assembly of Victoria in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

I acknowledge the honour which has been bestowed upon me and the people of the Gippsland South electorate in my being given the opportunity to move the adoption of this motion. I am deeply conscious of the importance of the motion because, firstly, it contains an expression of loyalty to our Sovereign, a loyalty which has not diminished over the years of hardship suffered by our forebears in building the basis of this great State of Victoria and the Commonwealth of Australia. This loyalty will not diminish as we move into the faster and more affluent world of the 1970s. Recently we were fortunate to be favoured with a visit by our Queen and her family.

Secondly, the motion gives me the opportunity to extend our thanks to His Excellency for his Speech and also to express our appreciation to Sir Rohan and Lady Delacombe for the manner in which they have carried out their respective duties as Her Majesty's representatives in this State. Over the years, they have endeared themselves to the hearts of all Victorians, and we wish them many happy and fruitful years with us here in Victoria.

His Excellency also mentioned in his Speech the death of the Honorable Sir Herbert Hyland. Known as the

father of this House for many years, the late Sir Herbert Hyland represented his electorate with dignity and dedication. During his 41 years as a member of this House, he acquired a profound knowledge of politics and the art of representation. It is with humility that I have accepted the task allotted to me by the people of that same electorate, Gippsland South, to follow the late Sir Herbert Hyland in this Chamber as their elected representative. Many new members are judged by their electors by comparison with the performances of their previous representatives, and I realize that in following the late Sir Herbert Hyland in this House my task is not an easy one.

Gippsland South is an electorate in the eastern part of the State, and as part of Gippsland it is an area which has great potential. With the growth of the Latrobe Valley and the great oil and gas discoveries off the Victorian coast, Gippsland can look forward to a substantial increase in secondary industry. Primary production within the area, particularly in the dairying industry, is second to none. The Government has announced that a new agricultural college is to be built and that it will be established in Gippsland. Over the years the forests of this area have carried an excellent timber industry, and it is pleasing to note that the present output in softwood and hardwood timbers is maintaining a satisfactory level. With its lakes, its beaches and its mountains, Gippsland can look forward to a steady influx of tourists over the next few years. It is foreseeable that the tourist industry in Gippsland will become one of the major industries in the eastern part of this State.

His Excellency outlined in his Speech several of the major policies which the Government proposes to implement in the next three years, and at this stage I should like to reiterate some of these policies. In this day and age the hardships and burdens placed upon people by age and illness are a reflection not only

on our social upbringing but also on our society. Therefore, with the establishment of a separate Ministry of Social Welfare, the people of Victoria can be assured of an all-out battle on areas of social distress within our community.

Added to this are the advances that will be made by the Government in the field of education. An intensive programme of teacher training and of recruitment of qualified teachers will be initiated. A fourth university will be established. The Government will set up regional directorates in country areas to decentralize the administration of the Education Department. These are some of the many forward steps that the Government will take to ensure that every student in this State receives the best possible education.

With the establishment of a Chair of Environmental Studies at the University of Melbourne and of a Victorian Pollution Control Authority during the term of this Parliament, and with the increase in our already substantial national parks, State forests and wildlife sanctuaries, the people of Victoria can rest assured that this Government will give them the protection which they require in respect of natural resources and natural environment.

We are all aware of the situation that has arisen over Commonwealth-State financial relationships. Since the second world war, the present system of uniform taxation has deprived the States of their financial independence. With sound management, the Victorian Treasury has provided the people of Victoria with more than the basic essential services, and it is hoped by all members of this House that an easing of the purse strings attached to the Federal coffers will lighten the burden on the financial structure of the States.

For the past fifteen years, this Government has given the State of Victoria growth and stability never previously achieved. The policies that I have mentioned and many more will be carried out by this Government, as

Mr. J. A. Taylor.

have all previous policies, with intelligence, with responsibility and with an aim to the improvement of our State.

Finally, I again express to the Governor our thanks for his gracious Speech, and assure His Excellency that the dignity of this Parliament will be upheld and that when the term of this Forty-fifth Parliament concludes, Victoria will be richer as a result of decisions made in this Legislative Assembly.

Mr. MACLELLAN (Gippsland West).—Mr. Speaker, it is an honour and a privilege for me to second the motion moved by my colleague and electoral neighbour, the honorable member for Gippsland South, for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor. I appreciate the opportunity I now have of expressing the loyalty and the respect of the people of Gippsland West to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. The recent Royal visit to this State, to celebrate the bi-centenary of the discovery of the east coast of Australia by Captain Cook, has caused some commentators to reassess their previous positions regarding the relationship between the Australian people and the monarchy—a reassessment which I believe was long overdue. Some of the commentators had assumed that Australians were so materialistic that their loyalty was in proportion to the power and influence of the United Kingdom. The “meet-the-people” tour, as it was quickly dubbed, confounded all those statements and that attitude, because the people of Victoria were anxious, and are anxious, to meet Her Majesty and members of the Royal Family on as many occasions as possible. The electorate of Gippsland West has not had the pleasure of a visit from the Royal Family, and we look forward to having that pleasure on some future occasion.

In this context, the word “loyalty” can be taken to mean mutual obligation, mutual interest and identity. It is the opposite of the problems that