

The words "to repeal" were omitted from the notice of motion and I have now inserted them.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

VICTORIAN MEAT INDUSTRY AUTHORITY BILL

Mr HANN (Rodney) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to constitute the Victorian Meat Industry Authority, to make provision with respect to the objects and powers of the authority, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

CRIMES COMMISSION BILL

Mr LIEBERMAN (Benambra) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to establish a Standing Commission on Crimes, to make provision with respect to the membership, powers and duties of the Standing Commission on Crimes, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (HOUSE BUILDERS' LIABILITY FURTHER AMENDMENT) BILL

Mrs PATRICK (Brighton) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Local Government Act 1958 and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (BOARD OF REVIEW) BILL (No. 2)

Mrs PATRICK (Brighton) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to further amend Division 1A of Part XLIX of the Local Government Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Address-in-Reply

The debate (adjourned from April 27) was resumed on the motion of Mr McCutcheon (St Kilda):

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

YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, assembled in Parliament, wish to express our loyalty to our Sovereign, and to thank your Excellency for the Speech which you have made to the Parliament.

and on Mr Thompson's amendment:

That the following words be added to the proposed Address:

"but expresses its concern at the failure of the Government to inform the people of Victoria fully, truthfully and in advance, of its real intentions, particularly with respect to financial and industrial matters."

Mr WALLACE (Gippsland South)—
In reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor when opening this Parliament, I believe Gippsland South is the most exciting and developing electorate in Victoria. It has an area of 7400 square kilometres and a population of 45 000 people. It is an honour and a privilege to represent the electorate of Gippsland South which has been held continuously by the National Party, with the exception of a period of three years back from 1970 to 1973. The seat of Gippsland South was held for many years by the late Sir Herbert Hyland, who was held in high esteem in the electorate; he was an eminent politician with great foresight.

At this stage, I should like to thank, on behalf of the people of Gippsland South, the previous member, Mr McInnes, who represented the area for nine years.

Gippsland South will be the backbone of Victoria's growth. It has those elusive mineral resources which are so highly prized. It has a timber industry, a fishing industry, and a strong and effective primary industry, but the important growth area will be in the energy field. With the vast coal deposits and with the potential of coal to oil liquefaction yet to be realized, many growing pains will be suffered by our towns.

I urge this Government now to start working to introduce a system of front end financing for these developing towns and cities. The pressure which will be put on councils in places like Rosedale, Yarram, Sale, Foster and Leongatha will be enormous. The rate-payers of today cannot alone be expected to carry the huge costs of the envisaged expansion. Proper roads, sewerage works and other facilities should be met by front end financing. We have seen this system work overseas. We have seen what damage can be done to a quickly expanding area without it. In this respect I could cite the example of Gladstone in Queensland where rapid industrial growth has resulted in human hardship.

High impact areas—like many parts of my electorate—need help to cope satisfactorily.

Help is necessary now to prevent unnecessary strain being put on local councils, rather than help at a later stage to repair the damage.

I urge the Government to back the housing industry to make proper accommodation available instead of the present situation of a mad scramble to charge higher and higher housing rentals. Other areas that go hand in hand with the industrial development must be the provision of adequate social welfare and community facilities.

As I said, Gippsland South has tremendous development potential. It would be a great shame if this development were undertaken on an *ad hoc* basis without full consideration being given to the impact on councils and, more importantly, to the people.

Transport is essential for the future well being of the electorate. The transport facilities involving both road and rail networks need to be improved. Unfortunately, the future of road funding and certain areas involving rail transport look very bleak. This decision must be reversed and the rail service must be returned to at least as far as Leongatha. It is imperative for our collective wellbeing that the standard of existing rail services be lifted to the highest possible level.

Another area that needs urgent attention in the future is water conservation projects in the electorate I represent. During the recent election campaign I attacked the former Liberal Government for not putting enough effort into water conservation, but since then the situation has worsened with the cessation of work on the Mitchell River dam.

The electorate of Gippsland South is primarily an agricultural area. Its food and produce helps in a large way to feed the residents of the cities. Its farmers need water, and lots of it, and a programme needs to be drawn up and acted upon to provide them with security from dry seasons. Water is a great resource, but it is not being used to its best possible advantage.

The electorate of Gippsland South is made up of fifteen towns and one city—the city of Sale, with a population of 14 500. The development of Sale relies on a number of enterprises. These range from the rich oil and gas fields that supply most of Victoria with natural gas, the Royal Australian Air Force base at East Sale, the coal-fields to the west of the city and to its efficient farming and grazing industry.

South of Sale there is the renowned Ninety Mile Beach, which is in part of the electorate and in that area there are two small townships, Seaspray and Loch Sport.

Farther south we come to the Yarram area where the township of Yarram has a population of 2000 and farming is the main industry. However, I foresee that in the future the coal-fields to the west at Gelliondate will influence and affect the development of the Yarram area.

Port Albert and Port Welshpool are the homes of fishing fleets which supply fish to the Melbourne market and the fishing industry also provides employment security for those towns.

Barry Beach is not yet well known and its importance is not yet matched by its size. It is here that the large oil rigs and oil rig platforms are constructed for the Bass Strait oil fields. It is also well known as the terminal for Esso supply vessels servicing the off-shore oil rigs.

Continuing along the South Gippsland Highway to Leongatha, one passes Welshpool, Toora, and Foster, which is one of the larger towns, with a population of 1056. Those towns service the surrounding farming activity and the tourist trade. Farther along the highway, one comes to Leongatha which has a population 3736. Surrounding Leongatha is some of the most productive and interesting country in this State. Dairying is predominant and the prices obtained on the sale of beef cattle often top the prices at the Newmarket cattle sales.

East of Leongatha is Mirboo North which is well known for its potato growing and I suggest in the future it will become a dormitory area for the Latrobe Valley, which is experiencing an expansion in population following the developments being undertaken by the State Electricity Commission.

At Yinnar, there is a big dairying area and this also is becoming an area to which many people from the industrial area of the Latrobe Valley are moving for a better life style.

At Rosedale there is the Nambrok-Denison irrigation system which services some of the largest and most productive dairying farms in Victoria. The coal fields around Rosedale will create exciting and massive developments in the future and I suggest the area will go ahead in the 1990s.

Tourism is becoming big business in the Gippsland South electorate, and to the west of Leongatha, from Inverloch to Wilson's Promontory there are some of the most beautiful beaches and magnificent scenery and views of the coastline and surrounding countryside that one can find anywhere in Victoria.

Mr Wallace

Only a few miles north one moves into the mountain country of the Strzelecki Ranges. There one can see beautiful parks and experience the magnificent scenery of the Tara Valley and the Bulga national parks, areas which thousands of people visit each year.

It takes me two and half hours to travel from one end of the electorate to the other and as honourable members have heard, my interests are many as I travel along the road and I never get bored.

I look forward to working with the Government to improve the electorate I represent and the State of Victoria. I extend to the Premier, his Ministers and all honourable members, an invitation to visit the Gippsland South electorate and to see for themselves this exciting area of Victoria.

I have spoken about the past, the present and what needs to be carried out in the area in the future. Our future really depends on the youth of today and I take this opportunity to bring to the attention to all honourable members the fact that this is the 75th year of scouting. As honourable members would know, the scouting organization is a wonderful movement and perhaps scouting is helping the youth of today to become the citizens of tomorrow.

I also congratulate all newly elected honourable members and those honourable members who have been returned to Parliament and I wish them well in the next three years.

Mr NORRIS (Noble Park)—I am honoured to rise in this Parliament as the elected member for Noble Park, an honour for which I am indeed deeply grateful. I thank the electors of Noble Park for the trust that they have shown in me and I promise them that I will work tirelessly on their behalf.

I congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your election to the high office of Speaker of this House. I am sure your difficult task will be administered with the wisdom and wit for which you are renowned.