

contribute, along with any Government guaranteed funds, towards providing finance, particularly venture capital to small business. These funds should be allocated to small business and administered by the free enterprise system to ensure that the funds are utilized to maximum advantage. This would allow for a continual check to be kept on the performance of the business to which money was advanced.

If we bear in mind the pressures that I mentioned earlier, particularly those relating to political parties, common sense tells us that we simply cannot do everything at once, and although this legislation is long overdue the Government has not been pressured into producing a toothless tiger or another bureaucratic department simply to appease a section of the community. This legislation, I am sure, will restimulate activity among small and medium sized business in this State.

At this stage I do not want to give the impression to the House that I am pushing the cause of small business, but obviously there have been areas within industry over the past three years that have suffered greatly. I believe the suffering that has gone on, not necessarily in small business but through the free enterprise system generally, has been a rationalization which basically has been good for industry. Industry must relook at its terms of operation and its management of staff and problems. I believe the businesses that have survived the past four years have come through with a better appreciation of management and are now simply seeking the opportunity to assist and trade in an environment which will provide them with opportunities of making realistic profits.

The free enterprise system in Victoria is extremely excited about this proposed legislation. It represents the most innovative action we have seen for some time in this country for restimulating business activities, and once again establishes the Vic-

*Mr. Kennett.*

torian Government as a forerunner for common-sense and progressive legislation within Australia.

Obviously there are other equally new and exciting areas of legislation, as mentioned by the Governor in his Speech, to be brought before the House by the Government as the session develops. But the Governor, in his Speech, placed great emphasis on his Government's restoring faith and confidence in the future of free enterprise, so that the private sector can grow and develop and once again provide the job opportunities of which it is capable. It is on this subject that I have directed my comments tonight.

The Government is prepared to meet the responsibility and accepts the challenges which lie ahead in governing Victoria for the betterment of Victoria and its citizens.

For my part, I pledge myself to actively represent the 30,000 constituents of Burwood for as long as it is their pleasure to have me so represent them and through vigorous debate uphold the stature and dignity of this House.

Finally, I can assure His Excellency of the loyalty of the people of the electorate of Burwood to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

**Mr. COLLINS** (Noble Park): Mr. Speaker, in seconding the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor, I congratulate you on your re-election to the high office of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. I also commend my colleague, the honorable member for Burwood, for his forceful maiden speech regarding the free enterprise system.

The people of Victoria—or at least about 45 per cent of them—have placed on this Government the grave responsibility of governing this State for the next three years. This does not mean that those people who voted for other non-Government parties should have no voice, or that their aims and aspirations should be

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case of nobody wanting to work. Up to 60 young qualified engineers applied for one vacant position in the engineering department. Local solicitors in my electorate assure me that there is an increasing incidence of newly qualified law students facing the problem of being unable to gain entry into a suitable law firm.

At a recent meeting between the principals of most high schools and technical schools in my electorate, it was generally agreed that a positive move at the school end would be for full-time careers officers to be appointed to the staff of all high and technical schools, so enabling proper vocational guidance of an on-going nature to be provided for students during their school life. I would hope that during the life of this Parliament something along these lines would take place.

I further suggest that industry, commerce and the unions should get together and bury their differences. In recent times, as a result of their vested interests, they have sometimes failed to get together and resolve the problems with which they are faced. The problems in the wool industry could have led to the jobs of 50,000 people being affected. I am not going to criticize the unions because militant employers are also often at fault. As I say, I suggest that industry, commerce and the unions should get together with all levels of Government to seek ways and means of enabling students from high and technical schools to obtain some job experience before leaving school, preferably during the last two years.

As I see it, our primary concern, and I mean human concern, should be for those people who are struggling to maintain a livelihood in these times of dire economic crisis. If the Government is to fulfil the trust placed in it by the people of Victoria, and if it is to give aid with dignity to those people who are entitled to aid, it is possible, even likely, that the Government will have to tread on a few toes. I cannot speak for my col-

leagues, but I am prepared to tread on some toes because I am not here to win a popularity contest. Employers with shortsighted staffing policies need to consider urgently where their future priorities lie, and likewise those unions which have lost sight of their original objectives. A shorter working week and improvement in a man's craft were the original aims of the trade union movement. I think the idea of improving a man's craft disappeared long ago. Probably if someone invented a first-class printing idea on the shop floor, it would immediately be sabotaged because it might put people out of work. That type of shortsighted thinking by unions should be examined.

The Government has a responsibility to govern this State in the best interests of all its people. One of those interests is human dignity, which must be restored to those who through no fault of their own have been forced to accept the dole. Let us always remember that human dignity is a right, not a privilege. Let us get away from the philosophy of the deserving poor and the hand-out syndrome.

Mr. Speaker, the electors of Noble Park have afforded me the rare privilege of becoming their first member in this House. May I briefly mention two members, part of whose electorates joined to form the new seat of Noble Park, the honorable members for Springvale and Dandenong. Both of them have been particularly good to me over a considerable time, and I have a high regard for both. I intend to take care of the electorate of Noble Park, consolidate it and make it a worth-while place for people to live in. I hope to remain a member of this House as long as I can usefully serve in this Chamber.

Noble Park is a young electorate with no fewer than 41 schools, the smallest being Braeside Primary School with only 10 students, and the largest being St. Anthony's Primary School with more than 1,400 children. This is the largest primary

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school in Australia. Sixty-five per cent of the residents of Noble Park are under 35 years of age.

The matters raised by His Excellency the Governor in his Speech are of significant importance to the people I now represent. Lack of low-cost rental accommodation is a growing problem in the heart of my electorate. A high proportion of rental flats have been strata titled and sold over the past few years. This provides some short-term solutions for those seeking to buy but compounds the problem for those seeking to rent.

In the City of Springvale, a large area of which falls within my electorate and contains 82,000 people, many alternative forms of housing are needed. The provision of emergency housing should be high on this Parliament's priority list. Since my election, no fewer than five cases involving deserted or separated wives, each with an average of three children, being evicted from their homes or unable to raise a bond of anything up to \$400 plus \$200 rent in advance have been brought to my attention.

The Government plans to introduce Bills to ban discrimination on the ground of sex. It is necessary to look no further than the housing industry to quickly realize the extent of discrimination which exists against women, whether single, divorced, deserted or separated, particularly when they are seeking to rent, let alone buy, a home for their family. During the election campaign a case was brought to my notice of a woman who could not even afford to buy the water that had to be carted to her home.

I hope the Government will consider the possibility of requiring all housing tenants to pay their bond money into a special savings account, possibly administered by the Home Finance Trust with the State Bank acting as the collection agency, and that interest be paid to tenants on such moneys and the money

so deposited be used to finance the building of rental accommodation or to finance much-needed second mortgages, as was announced in the Premier's policy speech. This initiative could release upwards of \$4 million immediately. The money should not be sitting in trust accounts, but should be working for those whose need is greatest.

The subject of road safety is of vital concern to me. It is time that we removed the velvet gloves. This Parliament should support the proposed and any other legislation which will curb drinking drivers and help to reduce the road toll. Like the introduction of seat belt legislation, which the Victorian Liberal Government pioneered so successfully, the problem of how to deal with the drinking driver is a rights issue. To my mind, the overwhelming majority of Noble Park electors want to see a tougher stand taken.

It is estimated by Alcoholics Anonymous that drinking in industry alone cost this nation \$1 billion last year in loss of productivity, industrial accidents, absenteeism and inefficient management. It has been further estimated that the secondary cost to our community from the road toll, loss of life and limb being the prime cost, in the form of hospital bills, motor vehicle accident claims and third-party claims, is in excess of \$2 billion a year and rising. According to last Saturday's *Age*, Dr. Jerry Milner, who heads the drug services section of the Victorian Department of Health, said that every drunk who became a quadriplegic when he wrapped his car around a tree cost the community \$180,000 for a lifetime of medical care. The situation is even worse if it is an innocent victim who is absolutely sober. There is nothing wrong with drinking. I have been known to have a drink and I shall continue to do so. However, habitual drinkers who cannot give up their drinking should be banned from driving for life. They should pay the price, otherwise the community will



have to pay a much higher price— firstly, in human life; and, secondly, through valuable scarce community resources.

Still on the subject of road safety, I agree with the comments of Mr. John Collins, President of the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce, when he said recently that 75 per cent of all vehicles which are handled by his members are unroadworthy for one reason or another. As a member of the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce and a motor trader, although as of last week I became a defunct motor trader, I point out for the benefit of members that the definition of a motor trader is a used car dealer who has become legitimate. Four out of five vehicles that I handled as a motor trader were unroadworthy and it required some fairly significant attention to make them roadworthy prior to my reselling them. Two out of five vehicles were absolutely dangerous. These are the types of vehicles that people are driving on our roads today. I agree with Mr. John Collins that annual testing should be adopted as a start and that the testing procedures should be revised and a tougher attitude adopted by the appropriate authorities towards those who abuse their tester's licence.

Whilst on the subject of safety, I should like to remind all honorable members who were present during the 46th Parliament of a copy of a submission which was forwarded to them by the Citizens Private Swimming Pool Safety Committee dealing with six aspects of pool safety including health, water education, pool management and legal responsibilities. Shortly, I shall be seeking answers from those Ministers who have assumed the responsibility of reporting to Cabinet on the 56 recommendations contained in that submission. Moreover, as the chairman of that committee, I shall be forwarding copies of that submission to all new members, lady and gentlemen,

*Mr. Collins.*

for their consideration about the possibility of a private member's Bill being introduced.

The involvement of the Citizens Private Swimming Pool Safety Committee in this area has led it into the whole aspect of accidental child deaths in Australia. In 1974-75, 1,800 young children died accidental deaths and 45,000 were injured. During 1975-76, approximately 2,000 will die and 50,000 will be injured. I regard this very much as a conservation issue; in fact to me it is the number one conservation issue—the conservation of young human lives. To my mind, it should be lives before trees.

What an appalling cost these deaths and injuries are to our community. The real wealth of any community is its young people and yet some people accept without qualification this high incidence of accidental death and serious injury. It is no wonder that so many of our young children suffer loss of life or serious injury through motor cars, all forms of drowning, burning accidents, and the swallowing of dangerous drugs carelessly left around by their parents. When we consider the hostile environments that people so often create for them, both within the home and outside in the community generally, I believe all Governments—Federal, State and local—have a role to play and a moral obligation to legislate to ensure the right of those young children to grow and develop in a less hostile environment, one that they can cope with. Conservation of young life must be a major priority in any Government's programme of welfare planning.

Within my electorate, land use, planning and development greatly concerns many people with 60 per cent of the electorate lying within the proposed green wedge zone under amendment No. 21 of the Metropolitan Planning Scheme. I fully support the planning concepts drawn up by the Board of Works, which may alleviate the fears expressed by the

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Leader of the Opposition when he referred to Springvale. However, recognition must be given to the rights of the few who at the moment are paying the price for the many who will derive benefit from the planned non-urban growth areas.

If it is proposed to plan non-urban growth areas, one can take issue about who is to pay for it. It is important that the community knows who is going to pay. Within my electorate there are farmers who are engaged in dairying and beef raising and basically their farms are not viable. Unlike some honorable members who do not appear to appreciate the problems or the plight of the rural community, I have always had a great respect for the rural community in this country. It is the backbone of Australia, and anybody who thinks differently is quite wrong.

The expert committee which the Government has established to research this vital area should be supported by every honorable member because its findings and recommendations will play a significant part in determining the future expansion and controlled growth of this State over the next 25 years.

The Noble Park electorate has a strong migrant population. Indeed, 35 per cent of the population are of immediate migrant stock. Noble Park is enjoying a cultural revolution which is paying great dividends and will continue to pay great dividends in the future. The Government's decision to upgrade and rename a new Ministry of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs will pay equally high dividends for the whole community. I fully support the Government's proposal in this regard.

I take this opportunity of personally acknowledging the loyalty displayed to me by many migrant people, many of whom could not vote but who worked tirelessly during my campaign. I do not wish to pick out one particular group, but among the many who worked during my campaign was the whole Greek community in Noble Park. The Govern-

ment will legislate in many areas to improve the quality of life for all Victorians over the next three years, but ultimately it will be the community which must change its attitudes and its prejudices through an education process which the Government can help to bring about.

My personal commitment to the aims of the Australian Assistance Plan is based on the simple philosophy of self-help, private enterprise and equal opportunity. It is not something that we should just talk about and think that is the end of it. We should give people in the community the opportunity to take part in the decision-making process, particularly in the social welfare area because any decision that this Government makes will be related to the welfare of the people and that is part of the over-all planning of any State. Many honorable members will recall a former member of this House, Mr. Len Reid, D.F.C., a man for whom I have great respect. He leads an organization called "The Society for Those Who Have Less". Using his words, I conclude my remarks in seconding the motion for adoption of an Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech by saying, "If you give a man a fish, he will eat today; if you teach a man how to fish, he will eat for the rest of his life".

On the motion of Mr. WILKES (Northcote), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until next day.

#### ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. LOXTON (Prahran): I wish to propose to the House that Ian Francis McLaren, Esquire, O.B.E., be appointed Chairman of Committees. Three years ago, I had the pleasure of submitting Mr. McLaren's name for this office and I said at that time that I believed he had the ability to fulfil the traditions of this high office with dignity to himself and satisfaction to all honorable members. I am