

My campaign director and eldest son, John Davidson, probably worked hardest of all, especially in times of adversity. His drive and good humour kept us all working and on the straight and narrow, especially when we had had enough and wanted to knock off sometimes. I suspect that being campaign director for one's father imposes an even greater burden than usual. I have to thank him—but I thank all the members of my campaign team.

Finally, I wish to pay tribute to my family—first of all, to my father, Max Davidson, whose courage and strength in the face of long-term illness is a constant source of inspiration to me, as are the quiet wisdom, determination and commitment to working-class ideals of my parents-in-law, Clarrie and Josie Jordan. My two teenage sons, Jason and Robert, have had a lot to put up with over the past twelve months, and I thank them for their patience and support—although their patience was not always forthcoming, I have to admit!

My wife June deserves special tribute. Her patience, understanding and strength over many years have enabled me to embark on this career.

I commend the program of the Cain Labor government as set out by His Excellency the Governor, Dr Davis McCaughey, at the opening of the 51st Parliament, and look forward to my term in this House.

**The Hon. G. H. COX** (Nunawading Province)—Mr President, I come to this House at the opening of the 51st Parliament by His Excellency the Governor, Dr Davis McCaughey. I wish to congratulate you, Mr President, on being elevated to your high office. I know from personal experience and association with you that you will carry out this job with great dignity and adjudicate wisely over debates in this Chamber.

I also compliment the former President, Mr Mackenzie, on his service to this place. I have noted already from my brief presence in this Chamber that he is contributing again from the floor. I wish him well in his continuing career as the member for Geelong Province.

As a representative of Nunawading Province, I wish to pledge the allegiance of the people of Nunawading Province to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. I thank the voters of Nunawading Province who, through the democratic process, returned me to the Victorian Parliament at the last election. I wish to thank my electorate committee, headed by Mrs Louise DiGiusto, and the many members of the business community who contributed in many ways to our campaign.

I express my appreciation for the long and hard campaigning conducted by the four Legislative Assembly candidates in Nunawading Province who represented the Liberal Party: in Box Hill, Helen Shardey; in Mitcham, Matthew Starr; in Ringwood, Bruce Camfield; and in Warrandyte, Phil Honeywood, who was victorious. Mrs Varty has been a lone hardworking Liberal member in Nunawading Province, but through her work and effort we are now three.

In the years between 1979 and 1982 I served part of Nunawading Province as the member for Mitcham in another place. When the Cain Labor government came to office in 1982, virtually all of the Legislative Assembly seats in the politically sensitive eastern suburbs corridor were lost to the Australian Labor Party on promises, many of which have not been fulfilled to this day.

An often-quoted famous general said, "I shall return." Since 1982, that is what the Liberal Party and I have been about in the eastern suburbs. Today, much to the chagrin and dismay of the Labor Party benches, McArthur has not returned. Mr Laurie McArthur came to office in 1982 to serve one term as the member for

Nunawading Province. In 1985, my colleague, Mrs Varty, came to office in a re-election after an extraordinary tied vote. It is interesting to note that both main party candidates at that election now occupy seats in this Chamber. Mr Ives was elected in another, probably safer seat, at the 1 October election.

I have listened to other members' speeches about their particular electorates, their aspirations and the problems associated with those electorates. Nunawading Province is an outer metropolitan area. It is highly urbanised at Box Hill and goes through to semi-rural in Warrandyte and Lilydale. The electorate covers part of six municipalities. I served as a councillor in the City of Nunawading and I have lived in the electorate for 30 years.

I make a few broad observations about issues raised and some not raised in His Excellency's Speech that concern constituents of Nunawading Province and, no doubt, citizens of the whole State. Many promises were made by the Labor government in support of its candidates at the 1 October election. I assure you, Mr President, that I will constantly remind the government of those promises.

I shall list some of the simple questions constituents ask. If the Victorian economy is doing so well, why has the State debt doubled from \$11 billion in 150 years to \$22 billion in six and half years under a Labor government? If health services are so special, why are approximately 25 000 people waiting for pain-relieving surgery? Why has the list of families waiting for public housing doubled in six and half years? Why are our older citizens occupying hospital beds, waiting for nursing home beds? They should be provided with facilities more in keeping with their needs. I remember how difficult it was for my parents when they needed health services because of the ageing process. I intend to take a special interest in services for our older citizens, not only for those who are social security pensioners, but the total aged population.

I am dismayed at the downgrading of tourism by this government. Not one word of the Governor's Speech related to tourism, which is a clear indication that the government does not understand the value of tourism or think internationally. In 1980 I was privileged to be given a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association study tour in which I studied tourism. I am convinced that Victoria is being done over by the other States.

In 1981 the Hamer Liberal government announced new directions in tourism. Some of those directions were taken up by the Labor government in 1983. The Labor government has not understood the value of tourism. It has spent massive amounts of money since 1982, but tourism in Victoria has still fallen behind that of other States. In 1983-84, 250 000 fewer people visited Victoria than the number visiting in 1981-82. Only 10 per cent of overseas visitors to Australia come to Victoria. Melbourne must be switched on to the tourist trade. Incentives need to be offered to develop inexpensive suburban accommodation. Victoria needs to be part of the tourist circuit and included in package tours to attract more tourists to this State.

Tourism is Australia's second biggest dollar earner. It is not obvious and does not attract attention, but tourism dollars increased by 27 per cent in 1986-87. A tourist dollar rotates twice through the community, yet Victoria is falling behind the other States. With the right emphasis Victoria could create more training, more jobs for youth and more community wealth through tourism.

The shortage of police services and facilities is of grave concern to the electorate in the eastern suburbs, as it is in other parts of Victoria. For how long can governments continue to say everything is all right in this area when one is constantly reminded of the need for extra police facilities and services? I intend to make a vigorous contribution

to this Chamber from the Opposition benches. I remind the Minister for Health of his contribution to an Address-in-Reply debate on 14 June 1979. He stated:

Of course, as I indicated yesterday and as many backbenchers on the Government side and I will continue to indicate, Parliament does not have a committee structure that enables members of the House to deal immediately, thoroughly, and completely with the reports that come before it, such as the recent report of the Building and Development Approvals Committee which, if those recommendations were implemented, would streamline the process of issuing permits.

I am concerned that the Government did not see fit to take that matter into account this sessional period.

I have reminded the government of those comments by the Minister for Health because much work can be done in this Chamber. I have not expressed my opinions or ideas about this Chamber, but I assure honourable members that my training during my six years in the Assembly and the six years out of office have hardened the steel, and I look forward to making contributions, together with other new members on this side of the House, for all Victorians.

I am delighted that the voters in Nunawading Province have seen fit to return me to a forum where, once again, I can make contributions towards the issues facing this State. I might add, on a personal note, following the comments made by Mr Ives, that my mother used to say that everything seems to fall into place for Georgie. I think the moral of that saying is that the harder one works, the luckier one becomes.

*The sitting was suspended at 6.7 p.m. until 8.3 p.m.*

**The Hon. ROBERT LAWSON** (Higinbotham Province)—I have an honour in being the first of the older members on the Opposition side to speak in the Address-in-Reply debate.

**The Hon. E. H. Walker**—You are not one of the elderly members!

**The Hon. ROBERT LAWSON**—But I am one of the older members. I congratulate the new members of Parliament who have spoken. We have heard thoughtful, interesting and considered speeches which do credit to the House.

I was encouraged by the quality and nature of the speeches that have been made. They are worthy of the Legislative Council. New honourable members may not have noted this already but I suggest we are superior to the Legislative Assembly. Honourable members do not have to tell members of the other place that because it will give them inferiority complexes.

**The Hon. D. R. White**—Is that an abolition plank?

**The Hon. ROBERT LAWSON**—This is a better and more thoughtful Chamber than is the Assembly. To judge from the quality of the speeches that have been made on all sides so far, the quality of the debates in this Chamber will be maintained.

I shall take up the question of who actually won the election. I noted that one speaker on the government side—I believe it was Mr Davidson—said that the government has a mandate from the electorate. I suggest that it is a strange sort of mandate because in the wash-up it has been found that the Liberal Party and the National Party gained more votes than did the Labor Party. We could say that we had a convincing win indeed in the Legislative Council. We can instance this by enumerating the honourable members who have come into the Chamber since the election and those who have gone.

I would not suggest that we won in the wrong place, but we did not win in the Chamber where governments are made. However, we are here in the thoughtful