

to make a Speech, of which, for greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy.

As the Speech is printed, I take it that honorable members do not desire that I should read it to them.

The Hon. H. M. HAMILTON (Higinbotham Province).—I move—

That the Council agree to the following Address to His Excellency the Governor in reply to His Excellency's opening Speech:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the Legislative Council 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.

As the junior member of this House, it is my privilege to move this motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency, and I am conscious of the fact that this is a very great honour to me personally and to the electors of the Higinbotham Province of which I am a representative. This is no mere formal motion, but a very real expression of two sentiments.

The motion first expresses loyalty to the Crown. It is right that, at the beginning of a new Parliament, we should re-affirm our loyalty. In this age of rapid intercontinental transport, Her Majesty the Queen and members of the Royal Family have been able to visit us in Victoria and have become known to us. With this closer contact, the re-affirmation of loyalty becomes a much more real and personal sentiment in which I am sure every member of this Council will join.

The second part of the motion thanks His Excellency for his gracious Speech. Before discussing one or two particular points from his address, I should like to refer to Sir Rohan and Lady Delacombe. In addition to their many talents, they have brought to their high office a warm, personal touch of kindheartedness which has assured them a special place in the hearts of

all Victorians. I trust they will continue to enjoy good health and a long and happy term of office in Victoria.

His Excellency referred to the massive fuel and power resources in Victoria, and the industrial expansion which undoubtedly will grow from their development. The historian, Geoffrey Serle, has called the 1850's the "Golden Age," and that, indeed, it was, particularly in Victoria, for that era was the period of greatest growth and development in our history. I believe we are now entering a period of growth and development which could prove to be a new golden age, based on black gold, which oil is sometimes called. New industries have already been announced, and many others are being planned. These will all contribute to our continued growth and prosperity. The mineral discoveries of the 1850's resulted in this State becoming the most prosperous of the Australian Colonies, and I have no doubt that the new mineral discoveries will ensure not only that Victoria will continue to prosper, but that our growth will continue at the fastest rate in the Commonwealth.

This expected growth imposes an obligation on the State to provide the many services which are essential for new and developing industries, such as adequate transport and communications, housing, water, port facilities, and all the other services which industry and commerce rightly expect the State to provide. The need for these was recognized in His Excellency's Speech when he mentioned that planning for them was in hand.

In the present financial situation, I wonder whether Victoria has the funds to provide all these necessary services on the scale required. We are all too painfully aware that the greater part of our finance comes from the Commonwealth Treasury, and that, under the system of uniform taxation operating since the second world war, the various States have lost their financial independence. It

has been said that he who controls the purse strings controls the Government, and this is only too true.

Although our national Constitution provides for a federal system of government, the financial dominance of the Commonwealth has resulted in the loss of a large measure of the sovereignty of the individual States and the increasing intrusion of the Commonwealth into matters previously regarded as essentially State responsibilities. Of immediate concern is the question whether the State's financial resources are sufficient to provide essential services on the scale required for our growth. I do not believe they are. I am confident that, by sound planning and good management, the bare essentials will be provided, but I fear that such urgent requirements as the construction of an underground railway, which is necessary to meet metropolitan transport needs, will have to be deferred.

Yet, it is to be noted that, over and above its needs for current expenditure and its needs for capital works, the Commonwealth Government has budgeted for the sum of \$375,000,000 in revenue. This revenue, surplus to all requirements, it plans to tuck quietly away into reserves, in an account described by one Federal member as "a way of getting rid of our surplus". In a mere ten years, a sum of almost \$2,000,000,000 has been quietly placed in that reserve account. I look at that account with some envy and, indeed, some greed, when I think of the needs of this State for development, for education, for transport, and for other purposes.

It is relevant that a \$1 rise in the basic wage imposes an added burden on our State Budget of \$6,000,000, but that, under the present reimbursement formula, Victoria would receive only \$3,000,000 by way of compensation from the Commonwealth. It is important to realize that it has been estimated that, for each \$1 rise in the basic wage, the Commonwealth would collect additional tax amounting to \$9,000,000 from Victoria

These facts alone justify a call for a re-appraisal of the financial relationship between the Commonwealth and the States. It is my belief that an independent authority should be appointed to investigate the way in which some degree of financial independence can be restored to the member States of the Commonwealth.

His Excellency also referred to education, and to the proposal to introduce legislation relating to the Victoria Institute of Colleges. I welcome the proposed legislation as I believe that the greatest gap in our Victorian education system is in the field of technical education. Our growing industrial and commercial expansion will require an ever increasing number of technologists of all grades, and I believe that the Institute of Colleges is a positive step towards meeting this requirement.

This is the first occasion on which I have addressed the Council, and I am fully conscious of the fact that, with my election, I have undertaken very great responsibilities. I follow the late Baron Snider as a representative of the Higinbotham Province and, although he occupied the seat for only a short time, he achieved a great deal and made a positive contribution to the affairs of this Parliament. Prior to his election, the province was represented by the late Sir Arthur Warner, a man of untiring energy and great ability, who made an enormous contribution to the Government of this State. My predecessors have set me an extremely high standard to follow.

In looking for some statement of my duties and responsibilities, I came across a speech by that great British Parliamentarian of the eighteenth century, Edmund Burke, relating to the allegiance of a member of Parliament. In referring to the relationship between the Parliamentary representative and his constituents, he said—

Their wishes ought to have great weight with him, their opinion high respect, their business unremitted attention; it is his duty

to sacrifice his repose, his pleasures, his satisfactions to theirs, and above all, ever, and in all cases, to prefer their interests to his own.

He then went on to say—

Parliament is not a congress of ambassadors from different hostile interests which interests each must maintain as an agent and an advocate against other agents and advocates, but Parliament is a deliberative Assembly of one nation, with one interest, that of the whole, where not local purposes, not local prejudices, ought to guide, but the general good resulting from the general reason of the whole.

If I can serve my constituents and this Parliament as well as my predecessors have done and, at the same time, reconcile those two apparently conflicting views, then I shall be satisfied that I have done my duty. I have great pleasure in moving the motion.

The Hon. G. J. NICOL (Monash Province).—I have much pleasure in seconding the motion so ably moved by my newest colleague, the Honorable Murray Hamilton. Again, I reiterate my personal loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I congratulate Mr. Hamilton upon his maiden speech which, I believe, more than maintains the standard of debating in this House. I am certain that, in the future, all honorable members will look forward to some most constructive, interesting and valuable contributions from him.

Like Mr. Hamilton, I was impressed by the Government's proposal, as enunciated in His Excellency's Speech, to introduce amending legislation relating to the Victoria Institute of Colleges. The Government intends to give the colleges affiliated with the Institute a much greater degree of autonomy than they now enjoy. Possibly, the time has never been more opportune than at present for a proposal of this nature. The increasing and, indeed, urgent need for a greater degree and a higher standard of education in the technological field has never been felt to such an extent as it is being felt to-day. Probably the greatest problem confronting not only this Parlia-

ment but also the Parliaments of the world is what is commonly called the age of automation. In the past, inadequate attention has been given to the tremendous development which is taking place in so far as automation is concerned. It is with a sense of some urgency that I speak on this subject. The prospect of increasing automation is undoubtedly frightening many people, probably because it is by no means adequately understood.

The age of automation is, in many respects, a continuation of the period during the late seventeenth century and early eighteenth century when the industrial revolution took place. It is worth examining what occurred during that period. The industrial revolution was viewed by many people in much the same light as we view automation to-day. I believe that automation is an inevitable extension of the age of the industrial revolution with the tremendous mechanization that it produced. Notwithstanding the fears of the people at the time the industrial revolution was taking place, it brought with it tremendous social changes and many benefits to the people. I invite honorable members to examine that aspect of the industrial revolution which abolished the ghastly practice of child slave labour and ultimately permitted the children to devote far more time to education. As the years passed, both people and Governments became more and more aware of the benefits of greater education. This awareness resulted in the present situation which is that, in most countries of the world at any rate, the attendance at school of children up to a specified age is compulsory.

One of the greatest benefits from the industrial revolution might be said to be the gain in time because, since that period, the working week of the average person has been reduced from 60 or 80 hours to the now generally accepted 40 hours. The average school leaving age has been raised from something like ten

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