

The Hon. O. G. JENKINS (South-Western Province).—With a great deal of pride, tempered by humility, I rise for the first time in this House to address myself to the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor. I am proud, because I am indeed gratified to be here, and humble because I appreciate, after only a few months, how much I have to learn.

At the outset, I express my loyalty and the continued loyalty of the electors of the South-Western Province to Her Majesty the Queen. I also pay a tribute to the Governor of Victoria, Sir Rohan Delacombe and Lady Delacombe, for their sterling work over the years. Both of them have travelled widely, have met and are continuing to meet all sections of the community, and are upholding the finest traditions of the office to which Sir Rohan has been appointed.

I express my thanks to the electors of the province for the confidence they have placed in me. As a new member, I am fortunate to have the advice and assistance of my predecessor, the Honorable Geoffrey Thom. Although I know that this House paid a tribute to Mr. Thom prior to the end of the last Parliament, I, too, would like to pay my personal tribute to his work and to state that, from my close contact with him, I know for certain that the hard work he did in the interests of the electors of the South-Western Province undoubtedly contributed to his ill health and his unfortunate retirement. Mr. Thom and I have somewhat similar backgrounds. We are both members of municipal councils; we are both practising accountants in the City of Geelong; and we both have an interest in co-operative housing. I now occupy the seat that he formerly occupied, and I share with Mr. Gross the office that he occupied. The only thing I cannot undertake to do is to assume his role of ace interjector. I recall from a close study of *Hansard* that Mr. Thom held that position for some time. I am also of opinion

that, on more than one occasion, he assisted Mr. Galbally with his speeches.

I suppose all members look back to the time when they decided they had a real interest or wish to participate in politics and share in the government either of the Commonwealth or of the State. I can lay the blame, if blame there is, on an organization with which many members of this Chamber are familiar and all will know, that is, the Association of Apex Clubs. I acknowledge my appreciation of the influence of Apex not only on my life but also on my interest in community affairs. By coincidence, Apex is almost 40 years of age this week. Next week in Geelong, which is the birthplace of Apex, His Excellency the Governor will attend the 40th anniversary dinner of the Apex Club of Geelong at which the foundation of Apex will be commemorated. Interestingly enough, the three founders of Apex—John Buchan, Ewen Laird and Langhan Proud—will all be present. Those three gentlemen have received honours at some time from Her Majesty the Queen.

Although Apex was founded at Geelong 40 years ago, it has now spread to all parts of Australia and also to several countries of South-East Asia and the Pacific Islands. Apex is non-party political and non-sectarian and I believe appeals to all young men between the ages of 18 and 40 who are interested or wish to develop an interest in community affairs. One of the ideals of Apex which always appealed to me most is the one which reads: "To develop by precept and example a more intelligent, aggressive and serviceable citizenship." A number of members of this House have been members of Apex. Mr. Graham Grose, the Clerk-Assistant, served a term as president of the association. Recently, Mr. Swinburne claimed to have taken some part in inducing Mr. Grose to come to this place. I think I played a small part in inducing Mr. Grose to accept

the office of president of the Association of Apex Clubs, and I extend to him my personal congratulations on his promotions. Over the years, I spent some time with him on Apex matters and I have watched with interest his promotion through the offices of this House.

I do not want to make too many profound observations in my first speech, but one matter that is of considerable interest to me is the subject of decentralization. Although a great deal is spoken about this matter I regret that over the years little has been done. I am certain that the problem is primarily one of finance and that until either the Commonwealth or the State Government provides some form of inducement to industry to establish itself anywhere other than in the capital cities of Australia not much will be done about decentralization. I consider that some steps should be taken to undertake a cost-benefit study of the financial advantages, not to the industry concerned but to the State and the Commonwealth, of establishing in the country.

I refer to the fourth progress report of the Distribution of Population Committee, which was published in March, 1961. At page 15 of that report, in discussing the economic or financial aspect of decentralization the committee, in paragraph 47, stated—

The Committee is not able to be dogmatic on this point, but much evidence not refuted points to the distinct possibility that the cost to the State of providing public works and services to expanding industry and population in the metropolitan area may be considerably greater than for similar expansion outside Melbourne.

The concluding sentence in paragraph 53 is as follows:—

However, the Committee desires to point out to honorable members that if the present rate of growth of Melbourne continues and even accelerates, the cost per capita will also increase and that earnest consideration should therefore be given to the desirability from the viewpoint of the State's finances of achieving by Government action and by means of spending Government moneys a more even distribution of at least the increase in the State's population.

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Although that committee, in its subsequent final report, made a number of recommendations, not all of them have been accepted and not all the advantages which I believe the committee hoped would accrue to the country areas and to decentralization have occurred.

As I see it, Melbourne is self-generating. In its report, the committee expressed the view that Geelong may be self-generating, which I would dispute. Melbourne is not only self-generating but it is self-perpetuating, and furthermore I consider that it is self-strangling. Progressively, the problems of the metropolitan area will grow, and progressively the cost of setting up a home somewhere on the fringes of Melbourne, or even in the city itself, will continue to grow. I suggest that a cost study should be carried out in some depth of the actual cost of setting up a family in and around the city of Melbourne. This is quite apart from the advantages which I believe can accrue to a family, to people and to industry which establish themselves outside the city of Melbourne.

Another matter of interest to me is the transportation study which was mentioned in the Government's policy speech. I am sure the electors of South-Western Province will welcome the inquiry because a number of anomalies which have crept in over the years not only do not assist them and other areas but in fact discriminate against them. For example, there is the anomalous position whereby an industry or an organization in Melbourne can deliver goods to Geelong without any permit and without any additional cost, but a similar industry in Geelong wishing to serve its customers in Melbourne is faced with the need to take out permits and to pay fees.

I take a considerable interest in tourism, which has been described as the best decentralized industry, and which does not always require a great deal of capital outlay. Within the South-Western Province lie a number of areas which have particular interest for tourists although they are not

fully developed or in fact being promoted. There is the Bellarine Peninsula, the coast around Geelong from Portarlington to Apollo Bay, the Otways, with their delightful hills, valleys and ferns, and the historical areas in and around Geelong, such as Steiglitz and the early mining areas. In recent months, steps have been taken within the province to establish regional tourist committees or authorities. During the past six months the Regional Tourist Authority in Geelong was set up, not only with the assistance of municipal councils, but for the first time with the active interest and financial support of business people and those who hope to gain most from tourism. This is an interesting development. Last Wednesday night in Colac, on the initiative of the Colac Jaycees, the Colac and Otway Tourist Council was formed. Another similar organization is planned for the area in and around Camperdown. The Government should give financial support, and assistance to these regional tourist authorities. The Ministry of Tourism spends over \$1 million yearly on tourism. These moneys are raised not only from the Budget allocation of some \$400,000, but also from a percentage of motor registration fees and motor boating fees. The funds available to the Ministry of Tourism are used mainly to finance the various tourist authorities, and the tourist bureaux in Ballarat, Bendigo, Mildura and Geelong, and in capital cities throughout Australia. This organization also contributes to local tourist brochures. However, it has not assisted these new regional committees. The best result can be obtained by the Government working in close co-operation with municipalities, the business people, and those who will benefit most from tourism. The Commonwealth Government has recently taken an interest in tourism, but it has taken unto itself only the one problem of attracting the overseas tourist to Australia. It has no programme at this stage to assist in tourism once the tourists are delivered at the doorstep at Melbourne Airport.

Directly or indirectly, and without exerting too much influence, the Commonwealth might provide grants for tourism.

I wish to thank you, Mr. President, the Chairman of Committees, the officers and the staff, for their valued assistance to the newly-elected members. There are six of us following the last election, and I am the last to make a maiden speech. I do not have the right to sum up as one has in a normal debate, but I am sure all the newly-elected members would like me to express on their behalf our thanks for the valuable assistance we have received. I hope, as I always have done, to play a positive and constructive role in the activities of the Parliament and to assist to the best of my ability in the government of Victoria. During the election campaign, all parties made much of the theme of the new decade, the 1970s, and indicated it was a time of change and challenge. The events of the past few days have illustrated that it may be a time of accelerated change. I am sure that the newly-elected members of this House look forward to participating in and formulating those changes.

On the motion of the Hon. A. R. MANSELL (North-Western Province), the debate was adjourned.

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

GAS AND FUEL CORPORATION (BORROWING) BILL.

This Bill was received from the Assembly and, on the motion of the Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government), was read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT.

STATE RIVERS AND WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION: RETRENCHMENT OF EMPLOYEES AT SHEPPARTON.

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture).—By leave, I move—

That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next.

The motion was agreed to.