

neglect by Liberal Ministries. I shall mention just a couple of areas of concern. Firstly, the traffic flow of heavy vehicles up the Pascoe Vale Road illustrates the problem of a freeway creating a traffic problem by diverting the traffic into a secondary road. I am informed that about 2000 heavy-duty vehicles travel along Pascoe Vale Road, through the City of Broadmeadows to the Hume Highway. I suggest that this means that very soon consideration should be given to the extension of the Tullamarine Freeway, through Somerton Road, to the Hume Highway, to alleviate the problem.

Secondly, I note with interest that finally a tramline is to be built from the East Preston tram terminus to the Grimshaw Road area in Bundoora. Strangely enough, twenty years ago the Labor Party made representations to this Government for the extension of the tramline and now, some twenty years later, it had been achieved. Those are just two matters to which, along with a lot of other problems associated with education, health and housing, I will devote my attention in this House. I trust that in the course of my term of office here, in conjunction with my colleague Mr Eddy, I will represent the people of Thomastown Province to the best of my ability. At this stage I will leave it at that, and at a later stage will deal with a broader range of matters.

**The Hon. C. J. KENNEDY** (Waverley Province)—Firstly I congratulate you, Mr President, on your elevation to the high position of President of this Chamber. Until 5 May this year the Waverley Province was a true-blue Liberal Province. This is the first time the Labor Party has won a seat of this nature in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. It has been brought about by the fact that the province takes in Bentleigh, Heatherton, Oakleigh, and Springvale electorates in another place which were won quite handsomely by the great Australian Labor Party. Most of those seats were won for the first time ever by the Labor Party. It also takes in the Legislative Assembly

electorates of Noble Park, Syndal and Wantirna, which will change hands, no doubt, at the next election.

The municipalities within the province of Waverley are Springvale, Moorabbin and Oakleigh and they too have their problems to which I will turn in a moment.

**The Hon. D. N. Saltmarsh**—And Caulfield.

**The Hon. C. J. KENNEDY**—And a small area of Caulfield. When I nominated for the seat of Waverley Province, I did not know all the particulars of it. It was regarded as such a true-blue Liberal seat that there was as much chance of winning it for the Labor Party as of winning the Melbourne Cup.

Earlier this year the Minister of Education promised—this was reported in the *Waverley Gazette* after a survey by that newspaper—that he would inquire into the high cost of sending children to school. This promise was never kept. Parents are still facing appalling costs over the compulsory wearing of voluntary school uniforms. Currently more than \$1 million, or at least \$40 a student, is being compulsorily charged in “voluntary” school fees in State secondary schools in the Waverley Province. These are variously called school improvement fees, subject levies, advisory council donations and 57 other varieties—but they are all fees, none of which are founded in law. No law has been passed to allow them to be charged. They were imposed at the behest of this Government and bear no relationship to parents’ income. These fees are undoubtedly unlawful, but the schools charge them because the Government starves the schools of funds.

Waverley Province, which is of considerable area, has, like most other electorates, a variety of problems mainly relating to cost of goods and services, education, rates and taxes and even football. Football is a serious problem in Waverley. As all honorable members know, several years ago VFL Park was constructed by the Victorian Football League in Waverley and is the latest cathedral in Victorian State Parliament religion.

The Victorian Football League wants to hold Sunday football at VFL Park. Notwithstanding that there are no real public transport facilities to VFL Park and certainly no trains, the Victorian Football League proposes to go ahead with the programme if it can obtain the Government's consent. On Saturdays when games attracting more than 50 000 people are played at the ground there are acute parking problems in the Mulgrave and Waverley areas. Many people from outside the Waverley district park their cars in local residents' drives and on the nature strips, and Waverley's roads are cluttered. I do not imply that the whole system has not been successful, because in many ways it is an extremely popular place.

It would be tragic if matches were played there on Sunday afternoons. The Victorian Football League is flat out trying to get Sunday matches at VFL Park under any pretext, even to suggesting free picnic-type matches—anything to create a precedent. It is determined to smash the Victorian Football Association. Waverley, Dandenong and Oakleigh Victorian Football Association clubs have a large following and are gravely concerned about their future, should the machinations of the Victorian Football League pay off.

But the Victorian Football League is not simply trying to monopolize football on Sundays although it has even gone to the extent of air freighting its top teams to Sydney on Sundays simply to telecast direct to Melbourne in an effort to drive the Victorian Football Association from Sunday television screens; it is seeking to monopolize all sport, including motor racing. If it is allowed to hold Sunday football at VFL Park, that will critically affect attendances at motor racing at nearby Sandown Park. The advent of Victorian Football League football on Sundays would spread like measles through Melbourne and it could rock the car racing industry. Usually on a Sunday there are about 25 000 people involved in car and motor cycle racing

in one way or another. This figure includes drivers, mechanics, officials and fans. Sunday football could also affect a large ancillary industry which at present supplies spare parts, tyres and so on. The car racing industry is a very large employer and jobs are hard to obtain in these times of Fraser-Hamer induced unemployment. Do we really need Sunday football? I do not think so.

Another matter seriously affecting the residents of the Waverley Province is that this financial year the Board of Works is required to pay an extra \$20 million net in interest charges. This indicates a very poor future for the rate-payers of the Board of Works because of every \$1 paid in rates to this octopus, 56.7 cents goes in interest charges, instead of being expended on water supply, drainage and sewerage programmes.

It is appalling to realize that the board has increased its rates by 19.5 per cent or about twice the current inflation rate. Do we need a board like this?

I turn now to local government. There are approximately 51 municipal councillors in the Waverley Province, comprising 12 in the Springvale City Council, 12 in the Waverley City Council, 12 in the Moorabbin City Council, and 15 in the Oakleigh City Council. There are also twelve councillors of the Caulfield City Council, but only a small part of the municipality in the province. If all the wards are contested in the coming council elections, there could be as many as 60 or 70 candidates who will expend reasonably large sums of money to become elected. Apart from the cost of leaflets and advertising costs, they incur considerable phone bills. Contrary to what many members of the general public think, they are not paid a cent if they are elected. The injustice is that because they are not paid a cent, they cannot claim a cent of their expenses as a deduction on their income tax returns.

However, I invite honorable members to consider the position of members of Parliament. In my case, the Labor Party pays for leaflets, advertising and most

other election costs. In addition, honorable members can claim up to \$1500 in personal election expenses, even if they are not elected. The Taxation Department allows these deductions because it is incurred in gaining an income, but the councillor does not even get a postage stamp from the public purse. Many councillors on average incomes are supporting families and they work around the clock in the public interest without even a "Thank you".

I appeal to the Premier to use his close friendship with the tight-fisted Fraser Government to gain some financial and tax justice for local government councillors.

**The Hon. ROBERT LAWSON** (Higinbotham Province)—I add my congratulations to those of other honorable members, Mr President, on your elevation to the position you now hold. As the offering of congratulations appears to be in order, I congratulate myself because I now have the honour of representing that jewel of the south—the province of Higinbotham. The province comprises a very pleasant area bordering Port Phillip Bay between North Road and Mordialloc. It also has some claim to history because it was the site of the Dendy survey and some time ago it sent to Parliament the well-known Sir Thomas Bent.

Mr President, I draw your attention to the fact that Higinbotham Province and Monash Province share the distinction of being the only two Victorian electorates that have been named after eminent members of the community, that is, Sir George Higinbotham and Sir John Monash. Consequently, the honorable members representing the Higinbotham and Monash provinces represent history and the other honorable members represent merely geographic place names.

I have a theme for my maiden speech which I will come to presently but it is my intention first, Mr President, to give you a parable and then to get on with the sermon.

The story I want to tell is this: Some years ago my wife and I knew a young couple whom we met on numerous occasions at various social functions. They

were a striking couple because the young man had a beard and he wore quite unusual clothes—they were not hippy but they were quite unusual. He was the type of person who is good in company. He was accompanied by a young lady who went around with him and who, on every occasion that my wife and I met her, wore on her dress a very large button with quite a memorable message. It is a message which one is not likely to forget because that message was: "Abortion a right—Contraception a responsibility".

As I said, we met them on numerous occasions and the last time we met them was at the local town hall at another social occasion—I believe it was either a mayoral ball or a mayoral dinner. Somehow they received an invitation and they came along and sat at our table, together with a number of local councillors. Apparently in deference to the spirit of the occasion, the young lady did not have the button on her dress but there was no difficulty in getting an opinion from her and from the various bits of information which she let drop from time to time I realized she was not a member of the Right to Life Association.

Even without the button, this couple did not seem to fit into the municipal scene and many of the local councillors were inclined to draw back from this unusual couple who were sitting at the table. One or two of the councillors, out of the sides of their mouths, even asked who they were.

We got talking to them and they told us that they were free spirits, that they would not marry as they believed that in any sexual union there was a right or privilege for either person to withdraw at any time. That was their philosophy, that they did not need to be married as they had the right to withdraw at any time they wished. I had a talk to them and during the conversation I thought it worth while bringing up a few points which I thought may have some bearing on their views.

Talking to the young man, I told him that what he was saying represented the typical arrogance in youth, as he believed that being young was everything.