

people have last on the list of their priorities the children they are meant to be serving. The community must examine closely the activities of the small minority of teachers who disgrace their profession.

I hope there can be a continuing development of community use of school facilities, not only in the use of playing fields, halls and class-rooms, for various activities. The time has come for the community to look at the rationalization of library services. It is time for the municipal library and the school library to be co-operating rather than living in separate worlds as they do now.

Mr Edmunds—What about rounding off?

Mr RICHARDSON—I could not think of a greater authority on rounding off than the honorable member for Ascot Vale, who is the most rounded creature I have ever seen.

There is a need for the community to look at rationalization of library resources so that school and municipal libraries are co-operative ventures. It is true that there are successful applications of this proposition in some areas. Unfortunately, it is also true that there have been some failures in co-operation. The solution will not be easy and it will not come quickly. The demands of the community for financial and educational resources will continue to be such that community resources cannot be allowed to remain in isolation any longer. There has to be a continuing movement towards rationalization so that the greatest benefit can be gained for the greatest number from the existing resources, which are vast.

The public of Victoria has reaffirmed its confidence in the Liberal Government. The Liberal Government was returned with a sound set of policies and propositions that will lead this community into the next decade. The community has rejected the Socialist objectives of the other side. It has reaffirmed its faith and confidence in the prospect of tomorrow, that lies with anti-Socialism. My view is that the community will never accept domination

of a Government from the Trades Hall Council. The community has already said that for the past twenty years and it will be saying it for many years to come.

I conclude by congratulating honorable members who have delivered their maiden speeches in this House over the past week and I reaffirm the affection and loyalty of the people of Forest Hill to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Mr KING (Springvale)—I congratulate those honorable members who have made their maiden speeches to the House. As the newly-elected member for Springvale I express my appreciation to the staff of the House for their courtesy and assistance. I also record my appreciation of departmental heads for the great assistance they have provided in their briefings on the functions and procedures of the various departments. This has proved to be of great assistance to me in my first days in the House.

The electorate of Springvale and the State of Victoria have needs in many areas. The most important are employment, transport and education. Much needs to be done in employment. Before my election to Parliament I was an officer of the Commonwealth Employment Service and I gained first-hand knowledge of the problems confronting people unfortunate enough to be unemployed through no fault of their own. Young women, if they do not fit the stereotype required for types of employment, like cover girls on "Dolly" magazines or similar publications, have difficulty in obtaining jobs. The future looks bleak for them. With technological changes and the introduction of word processing equipment, job opportunities for young women in traditional office areas will be dramatically reduced.

Family men are badly hurt when they are retrenched or dismissed. They are bewildered by what has happened, and as they slowly realize that jobs are not easy to get, they will come and tell one that they have to sell the car or some furniture, even the house, and

get a cheaper one or go somewhere else, or just slowly sink down into hopelessness.

The figures on unemployment are not completely accurate, as they do not take into account the many thousands who do not register for many reasons — husband working, language difficulties, those who feel it is futile as there are no jobs for them.

The latest figures in the Springvale area show that the ratio is 15·9 adults and 64·7 juniors for each vacancy. This means 974 adults are registered as unemployed and only 61 vacancies are available. The junior figure is no better — 647 juniors registered for only 10 vacancies.

In Waverley, the ratio is 5·9 adults and 31·3 juniors for each job; 478 adults are registered, and there are only 81 vacancies; 497 juniors are registered and there are only 16 vacancies.

More positive policies are needed now—not tomorrow—to reduce the growing unemployment problem. Job experience for school leavers is particularly important if they are ever to find a place in the work force.

Much has been said about public transport since the opening of this Parliament. The urgent need is for an efficient, properly co-ordinated transport system with bus times synchronized to train arrivals and departures. The Springvale electorate, especially the Mulgrave and Westerfield areas, is particularly neglected in this respect. Bus services cease in the early evening and do not run on week-ends.

The complaints spoken about by honorable members in relation to trains remains the same on the Springvale line—trains cancelled, dirty, many do not run on time, the red rattler, the lack of ventilation in the silver trains. It leaves a lot to be desired.

On the subject of education, I would like to give examples of problems in some of the schools in the Springvale electorate. I would like you, Mr Speaker, to see Whiteside Primary School. Once it was a school that all

Mr King

could be proud of, but now, for want of maintenance, it is deteriorating badly. Wood can be pulled from window sills rotten from lack of paint; barge boards lack paint and are peeling and down-pipes are rusted away with holes that one can put one's whole hand in. And, Sir, Whiteside Primary School is 23rd on the cyclic maintenance list.

Another school which has problems in the Springvale electorate is Springvale Primary School. Sixty-seven per cent of children at this school come from homes where English is not the main language. Of this group, 183 children have been in an Australian school less than two years, and a further 113 have been in the country less than six months. Honorable members would be able to understand the difficulties these children and their parents face in trying to obtain a reasonable education to equip the children for a useful and productive life as full members of the community. The high student turnover—one of the highest in the State—not only creates teaching problems, but also adds considerably to the difficulties in the area of administration, making pupil assessment and progress difficult to measure. As a consequence of this high turnover, this year at years 3 to 6 levels only 50 children out of a total 270 have spent all of their school life at this school. These factors add to the usual problems that exist at most suburban State schools.

Other schools in the area have complaints including one with approximately 125 primary children in one room that has inadequate ventilation. Under conditions such as these, all types of transmittable complaints and illnesses could spread, thereby creating a health problem.

This should not be allowed to continue. I shall do all that is in my power to ensure that something is done to correct these shortcomings, but with \$13 million taken from education by the Federal Government, it will, in my opinion, be difficult to make any improvements for the children in State schools in the electorate of Springvale.

There are many other problems facing the people of Springvale in particular, and Victoria generally, to which this Parliament will have to address itself during its term. It is my strong desire to make a useful contribution toward the solution of the problems and difficulties which confront us all. I am sure that with a strong and active Opposition this Parliament will act in the interests of the people of Springvale and Victoria.

In conclusion, I see it as my duty to represent the people of the electorate of Springvale with vigour and dedication.

Mr MACKINNON (Box Hill)—Firstly, I pledge the loyalty of the electors of Box Hill to Her Majesty and, secondly, I convey my congratulations to you, Sir, on your election as Speaker. I believe it is a difficult time to be in charge of the House, but without doubt you have more than exceeded the expectations of all. I say that knowing how difficult the job is, and that the sort of expectations honorable members would have had of anybody have been exceeded by you, Mr Speaker, in taking the chair.

I also congratulate all those honorable members who have spoken on the Address-in-Reply debate, particularly the new members. There has been a variety of speeches. If I might say, the contribution made by the honorable member for Oakleigh could only be described as containing gloom and doom. I trust that he feels more optimistic about the world than the way he described it.

I wish to refer to some of the matters within the electorate of Box Hill and, in particular, to the Box Hill transport centre. This has been a major project for some time. Its history goes back a number of years—to the 1920s, I understand. It should have been the next part of the railway reconstruction programme following the building of the Camberwell station, but events occurred which prevented that, and it is now under way despite this long history of delays.

I give a special vote of appreciation to the Minister of Transport for the effective way in which he has gone about ensuring that this project proceeds as satisfactorily as it is now proceeding. Some members have been cynical about the success of this project—I can understand it to some extent—as have some people in the electorate of Box Hill. There is now a project manager, and a fence is up where a great hole is to be carved. There will be further progress over the next twelve months and well into the ensuing years. The transport centre will mean a lot to the city of Box Hill. Not only will it solve serious traffic problems in Station Street but will provide a new type of intermodal interchange so that passengers can change from buses to trains with the maximum convenience. It will provide up-to-date car parking facilities alongside the railway station, and it will herald the way in which the Victorian transport system should be developed in the future, to assist people and to encourage them to use public transport by giving them maximum convenience. It will no longer be a means of transport by trial, but a means of transport in comfort and convenience.

I pass to the Box Hill Technical School, which those travelling along Whitehorse Road will see emerging on the site of the old gas works. I am pleased that the Commonwealth Government is continuing to maximize the funds it is devoting to technical and further education. I can see in this college the very good purposes to which these funds are being directed.

In the Blackburn part of the electorate, a very fine gymnasium was completed at the beginning of this year at the Blackburn Technical School, which is now in full use. More importantly, it is being made available to community groups. The Education Department, the principal, and the council of the school encourage the use of all facilities in that way. I should also like to mention my appreciation of the architects. In some respects it was a standard project, but