

of America. It states that it takes 770 gallons of water to refine a barrel of petroleum, up to 65,000 gallons to turn out a ton of steel and 600,000 gallons to make a ton of synthetic rubber. It states also that for all the modern appliances used in the home in an affluent era, home use of water still represents less than 10 per cent. of the nation's consumption. Nearly half goes to irrigation and another 40 per cent. for industry. I use those incontrovertible figures to emphasize to honorable members the importance of water supply in the industrial expansion of this State.

I notice that the Joint Committees of this Parliament include the Drainage Committee, and I consider that at some time in the life of this Parliament it would be appropriate if the function of that committee were extended to cover water conservation as well as drainage. It has been stated that in the United States of America water has become so important that it is far more valuable than all the gold held in Fort Knox. That is not a facetious statement; it is completely realistic. As the State develops, so does the strain on existing water resources. President Johnson has set up a Water Resources Council to study United States water needs and to oversee conservation, and has set aside up to \$275,000,000 for research and the development of an economical system for converting sea water to fresh water. I mention these figures to highlight the fact that if the Victorian Government is to assist in industrial development it must consider every means of co-ordinating existing water supplies and exploiting other sources.

The sitting was suspended at 6.27 p.m. until 8.2 p.m.

Mr. A. L. TANNER (Morwell).—It is my honour and privilege to speak to the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor, which was so ably moved by the honorable member for Warrnambool and seconded by the honorable member

for Mitcham. The first statement I desire to have placed on the record in this House is the expression of loyalty to the Crown on behalf of myself and the electorate of Morwell. I should also like to pay my respects and those of the people of my electorate to His Excellency the Governor, Sir Rohan Delacombe, and respectfully wish him the best of health and happiness in the discharge of his duties for the rest of his life. I am deeply conscious of the honour and the responsibility which is mine as the elected member for the electorate of Morwell.

In other places I have expressed views which I am delighted now to be given the opportunity to express again publicly in this Assembly. I unashamedly say that I stand here most humbly to address this House. Honorable members have heard some wonderful orations during the past two days, especially yesterday. Those speeches impressed me personally to such an extent that, although I naturally have a certain amount of aggressiveness in my make-up, I feel a great sense of humility at the present moment, and therefore I do not think I can speak in my normal way on this occasion.

However, I think it is my duty to direct the attention of not only this House but also of all the residents of Victoria to the plight of retarded children and their parents. The parents are often forgotten when the problems associated with retarded children are spoken of. A little research has revealed that in 1884 these children, who despite their infliction are still citizens, were referred to as idiot children. Perhaps this was because of the ignorance of our forefathers. Let us be charitable and say that that was so and not believe that they were callous about it. In 1890 our forefathers went so far as to build an asylum for these children which was officially designated as an idiot asylum. We have come a long way since then, and we have realized that these children are not to be called by this name. They are merely people who

are retarded. They are unable to concentrate as perhaps some of us can. Not long after that institution was completed, the buildings were overcrowded and that has been more or less the case ever since. There may be odd times when the lag has been overcome, but I believe that we must pay more attention to retarded children.

Perhaps I am referring indirectly to the Kew Cottages, because I have obtained most of my information on this subject from people in my electorate who would like to have their retarded children placed in that institution. There is a need for more accommodation at the Kew Cottages, and the accommodation already provided must be improved. I do not know whether all honorable members are aware that in Victoria approximately 900 retarded children are eligible to be admitted to the Kew Cottages but are unable to be admitted because there is no place there for them to sleep, let alone to receive specialized treatment. If they could receive this treatment, the time would come when some of them would be able to take their place in our apparently Christian society.

I commend the work done by the administrators of the Kew Cottages and pay a high tribute to the work of the staff. We should be proud of the job they do. I also direct attention to the generosity of the present Government which is contributing heavily towards the costs of this institution, but there is still a need for more money to be made available. However, this is a charge on the people of Victoria and not on this Government. Certainly, no criticism can be levelled at Parliament over this matter. The people of Victoria have to be prepared to meet more of these costs and, perhaps because they do not personally come up against cases of retarded children, they forget about them.

So much for the children; it is my hope that one day something will be done for the parents of these children. It must be remembered

that some day a retarded child will grow into an adult. The difficulties encountered are not insurmountable when the child is small and plays with other children in the family. However, as it gets older, friends of brothers and sisters visit the house, and the retarded child, if it is still in the home, becomes an unfortunate embarrassment. I know that the brothers and sisters of the retarded child love it and that the mother loves her baby, but it is still an embarrassment which continues to increase. When this occurs tension builds up in the house, and, if this tension cannot be overcome, problems occur.

A marriage can suffer a severe setback or even break up over the simple problem of the lack of proper care of a retarded child. Therefore, the parents of retarded children should be given all possible assistance. They are entitled to enjoy a holiday in the same way as we are, but nobody thinks about that. It is not wise to let a retarded child out of one's sight or hearing because in all probability something will go wrong. The parents of retarded children have to live with this problem.

I put forward the suggestion that a hostel should be erected where retarded children could be housed for perhaps a month of the year so that the parents could gain some relief by having a holiday. If the parents knew that they could get relief for three or four weeks a year, it is possible that the number of parents seeking to have their children admitted to the Kew Cottages would dwindle well below the figure of 900. They would be satisfied to look after their children for the rest of the year. I have seen a great deal of these problems in the area which I represent, and I am interested in this subject.

I shall now discuss a subject which is perhaps more palatable. I refer to an area 93 miles from this House, throughout which, without a doubt, throbs the very heart of Victoria—the

electorate of Morwell. It is rich in primary products and is a growing industrial centre. Its coal deposits are famous throughout the world. Power is generated from this coal, and if somebody pulled the wrong lever at the power house, by and large, Victoria would be thrown into chaos. Because of these things, the electorate of Morwell is probably the most important and vital electorate in this State. It has tremendous potential for tourism because of the beautiful country around Walhalla and Toongabbie. Anyone who visits the area should not try to see it all in a day, but should spend at least a couple of days there. The tourist attractions include the open cuts, the briquetting factory and Australian Paper Mills. I think honorable members will understand why I am proud to mention these things in this House.

Then there is the new township of Churchill which has been successfully floated. It has been criticized, but that criticism has been unfounded, because everything that was promised has been achieved. Churchill is now almost ready to stand on its own feet. It has what no other town in Victoria has; beautiful brick veneer homes, roads, streets, footpaths and guttering. The houses have cement paths and are supplied with heating appliances. What is more, they are available to anyone; there are no restrictions. A person can gain occupancy of one of these houses for \$200—shall we call it key money—and \$13 or \$14 a week. These facilities have been offered to attract people to Churchill, and this has been achieved. This success is a tribute to the Housing Commission which has done an excellent job.

It is now necessary that the further development of my electorate should proceed, and that schemes similar to that adopted at Churchill should be extended to other areas such as Traralgon, and Morwell townships. As the scheme has proved to be a success at Churchill, there is no reason why it should not be a success in other parts of the electorate.

Mr. Tanner.

I believe this would be an investment. There would be no danger of loss, because Churchill is a success and I attribute a good deal of this to the work of the Housing Commission.

These days everyone talks about natural gas and oil. We are all proud to be close to the discoveries, and know what they mean to us. In my area, these resources will turn the world upside down, so to speak. Melbourne people say, "We have no water. It is not running into our catchments". These people are invited not merely to visit us but to live in our area. We know what people want and we have it, so why do they not live beside it? We can provide industries, power and plenty of water. People in Melbourne do not have plenty of water, nor have they plenty of room in which to find breathing space.

Mention was made of the standard of living. No one lives better than the people of my electorate. People often look at and walk around, so to speak, the word "decentralization". I am proud that in our area we do not do this, because we have the finest and most progressive councils, towns, shires and cities that one could hope to have. They all work for decentralization. They make investments and build factories and institutions for people from Melbourne to work and live in for an almost nominal charge. Because the councils invest in decentralization, we are enjoying its benefits. Progress can be seen all along the Gippsland line eastward from Dandenong. Not long ago Dandenong was a country town; now it is a beautiful city. Moe is a city, and Morwell could be if it liked to claim the honour, but for its own reasons that town has not done so. Traralgon is also a city. We have the right sort of councils running these towns and cities, and this could be done anywhere.

No one could assert that the Government does not provide beautiful roads. I have played billiards in this building, but with

my standard I could play just as well on any part of the road to Morwell or Traralgon. I invite everyone to come up and see in my electorate Morwell, Traralgon and Mirboo North where they can live in better conditions than elsewhere. When I went to the area fourteen years ago, I did not want to do so. Now, no one could get me out of the place. No matter what people have in Melbourne there is something better in Morwell, and I invite each and every honorable member to visit our area and inspect these things.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, as well as all members of the House, for your forbearance.

Mr. BILLING (Heatherton).—I wish to add my small contribution to the expressions of loyalty conveyed in the motion so ably moved by the honorable member for Warrnambool and so graciously supported by the honorable member for Mitcham. I add my personal fealty to the Crown and also that of the constituents who have placed in me the trust of representing them, irrespective of their political views. At least this is the position as I find it now. To those constituents I pledge my word in this House, as no doubt hundreds of members have pledged before me, that I shall do my best, for my electorate in particular, and for the State of Victoria. I trust that my message of loyalty together with the message from honorable members will go from this House to Her Majesty through her illustrious representative, our popular and beloved Governor, Sir Rohan Delacombe and his lady.

Much has been said in this House concerning the development that is taking place and the confidence which exists in the State of Victoria. Much has been said concerning those people who would act as "knockers" of this confidence. Much has been said in this House and in the daily press and in all manner of media of distribution of material for public consumption to the effect that in these days we live in an affluent society. I do not wish to add any remarks con-

cerning the development that has taken place and that which will undoubtedly take place in the future, but I should say that it devolves on this institution of Parliament to see that this affluence does not breed amongst us some men of substance and some men of poverty. It is the duty of the legislature to ensure that the gifts and mineral deposits in this State that have been placed there for the benefit of all should be stretched out to give substantial benefit to each and every citizen.

It is my fervent hope through belief in the institution of democratic government, which has been handed down to us through trial and tribulation in times of plenty and in leaner times, that this legislature and those men entrusted with responsibility in other parts of Australia will ensure that not only this State of Victoria but also this mighty Commonwealth of Australia will look after their people as well as the mammoth machinery and the ways and means by which we gouge our wealth from the earth and from the ocean.

I should like to deal for a moment with the subject of education, which has been debated and criticized up and down this country for a decade and more. In coming to this House, in the words of Lerner and Lowe, as an "ordinary man" who has had the experience born of the average family in this community, and who has lived through the times following the first world war—the great world war, of which it was said that none could be bigger—and then passed through the education system of the day, through pre-depression days of trial when men who wanted to work could not find it and when Governments with all the good will in the world seemed to be able to do nothing about it. I emerged as a young man, along with thousands and thousands of others to go to a greater war, and after that came to this time of post-war explosions of population, with all the problems which confront us in our municipali-