

need to bulldoze homes in my electorate—they just sink. Honorable members will recall that 40 homes are sinking into a quarry hole. I will not betray confidences given to me by Ministers because they would involve certain repercussions relating to the rights and wrongs of the Yarraville sinking village which may be settled elsewhere. I hope, during the next sessional period, the Government will enact legislation to prevent a recurrence of this situation.

His Excellency said that first priority would be given to improving the quality and the scope of education and the training and recruitment of more teachers. The western region contains only one tertiary education facility, the Footscray Institute of Technology. If the Government has any thought about improving facilities by establishing another teachers' training college, one should be established in the western suburbs and, as a first step, the Government may consider its establishment at the Footscray Institute of Technology, where I believe facilities are available.

During my first weeks as the honorable member for Sunshine, I attended a number of deputations to Ministers of the Crown. One to the Chief Secretary outlined its appal at the lack of facilities for police within the western suburbs. It was suggested that the Government should consider the establishment of a broad complex or district headquarters in the western area, preferably in the electorate of Sunshine. I admit that I am becoming a little parochial, but if such a complex were established in that area it could co-ordinate with other headquarters at Sunshine and Footscray and possibly assist in reducing the incidence of crime in the western suburbs. I am dismayed to think that on occasions many police stations in the western suburbs remain unmanned during certain periods of the day.

Mr. Fogarty.

The previous two speakers have covered quite a deal of the ground mentioned in His Excellency's Speech. During the past fifteen years I have been involved with primary industries and I have a particular interest in those fields. I also extend my congratulations to you, Sir, on being elected Speaker. Our private activities may have linked at some time. As a former trade union official, I have probably stopped your dairy's milk supply and therefore I cannot expect to win any favours from you on that score. This session is my first as a member of this House and your first as Mr. Speaker; therefore, we do have some affinity. I thank honorable members for hearing me in silence, for the first and perhaps last time.

**Mr. SKEGGS** (Ivanhoe).—I am deeply conscious of the honour that has been bestowed upon me by the electors of Ivanhoe and I should like to commence my initial speech in this Parliament by paying a tribute to His Excellency the Governor, who has served Victoria with enormous distinction. These sentiments also include Lady Delacombe and I trust that both His Excellency and Lady Delacombe will have a happy period of service in Victoria before their retirement. I express to His Excellency the loyalty of the electors of Ivanhoe and I also voice my belief—I believe I speak for most of my electors on this matter—in the preservation of the constitutional Monarchy in this nation.

I was heartened to hear the honorable member for Ringwood in his maiden speech make particular reference to the importance of the constitutional Monarchy in Australia. The system has stood the test of time. It has never been more democratic than it is today. When one looks at the weaknesses of governing systems in other countries where there are excesses, in nations such as Chile and in other parts of South America, and affairs like the Watergate case in the United States of America, one truly

recognizes the need to maintain the constitutional Monarchy in this nation.

I pay tribute to my predecessor and your predecessor, Mr. Speaker, Sir Vernon Christie, who was formerly Speaker of this House and the honorable member for Ivanhoe. Sir Vernon entered Parliament in 1955 and served the electors of Ivanhoe faithfully and well. I know that in his earlier period as Chairman of Committees and later as Speaker in this Chamber he lent great distinction to both offices. On behalf of the electors of Ivanhoe, I wish both Sir Vernon and Lady Joyce Christie a happy life in Queensland. Just prior to his retirement Sir Vernon Christie told me that he would have liked to be entering Parliament in this period because things would be "happening under Hamer"; he considered that this would be an extremely interesting period.

It is an interesting era to be entering Parliament because State Governments today are probably facing their greatest test for survival. Enormous stresses have been imposed on State administration by the fiscal machinations of the central Government. The State Cabinet and this Parliament will need to be on their toes as never before to preserve all the best things which we have under our system.

For this reason the recent Constitutional Convention in Sydney was of the utmost importance to the future of government in this country. There must be unity of purpose between the two areas of government, the central Government and the States, in the appropriate division of power. There must be an intelligent middle course, worked out between the Governments of this country.

Undoubtedly those who attended the first Constitutional Convention since Federation have laid the foundations for a future workable system in this country. I believe implicitly

in the proper division of powers between States and the national Government. A nation the size of Australia, a great island continent, would be blind indeed if it could not see that it is essential that government should remain close to the people. For this reason the three tiers of government—central government, State government and local government—are essential to the life and well-being of the nation.

I also believe that the bicameral system adds further strength to the Australian democratic system. Like the great founding father of Liberalism in this country, Sir Robert Menzies, I believe the system has stood the test of time and it has worked best under Liberal Party government.

I hope I can apply the Liberal philosophy well for the electors of Ivanhoe. The electorate is particularly interesting inasmuch as it covers the broad perspective of socio-economic groups from the very successful business and professional man, through the middle-income groups to those who are within the lower-income bracket and who need genuine assistance and energetic representation at all times. I hope I can give that representation faithfully to all sections of the community because this is the proper role of a Parliamentarian.

The Ivanhoe electorate centres on one of the most beautiful spots in suburban Melbourne, the magnificent Yarra Valley, a unique and lovely area which must at all costs be preserved as a beautiful breathing space close to the heart of the metropolis. The rapid expansion of modern society should not be permitted to accelerate to such an extent that the best things in life, the beauty of nature, are lost. The Government should work to that end. In the life of this Parliament I am sure the Government will take measures to preserve land for breathing spaces. This will be one of the most serious matters to come before

Parliament this year. The Government may perhaps take a long and hard look at the management of parks and gardens. I refer particularly to the English national park system which should be considered by the Government in dealing with conservation issues referred to by His Excellency.

With the exception of Rosanna and Macleod, the Ivanhoe electorate takes in all of the City of Heidelberg, which is one of the most historic cities in metropolitan Melbourne. It is a blend between suburbia and almost semi-country life. For that reason it is unique, and it should be preserved as one of the beautiful green areas of the Yarra River. This includes the districts of Darebin, Eaglemont, Ivanhoe, Heidelberg, View Bank and West Heidelberg. The City of Heidelberg has a population of 67,943 and comprises an area of 3,358.9 hectares or 8,300 acres and that is 33.9 square kilometres or 12.9 square miles. This area includes 697 acres of parks and gardens, a fact which demonstrates the great care that has been taken by the Heidelberg City Council and other agencies, including the State Government, to preserve the Yarra Valley as an area of beauty.

Vital statistics show that there is a total of 146 miles of roads in Heidelberg, comprising 95 miles of tar and bituminized roads, 45 miles of asphalt, concrete or sheet asphalt roads, and 7 miles of other roads, some of which are still dirt roads, winding around the beautiful valley to preserve the natural setting.

There are 18,887 tenements in the City of Heidelberg; 32 schools, colleges and kindergartens; and the La Trobe University adjoins the north-west boundary of the city. There are eleven infant welfare centres. The latest published statistics show that there are 18,887 dwellings, 664 shops and 427 factories in the area.

I should like to refer to some of the special services which have been administered by the City of Heidelberg with conspicuous success in assistance to the young.

Mr. Skeggs.

There is a dental clinic for resident children under the age of seven years, as well as a Try Youth Club and a swimming pool. For the family, there is an emergency housekeeper service, as well as a community service bureau which offers assistance with welfare problems such as baby sitting, an interpreting service for the migrant population, transport in cases of real need, emergency accommodation, gardening, home maintenance and general domestic problems. A social welfare worker is employed on the staff of the council to counsel people in genuine need of help or advice.

There are two senior citizens' clubs in the City of Heidelberg in the Ivanhoe electorate. I refer to the Ivanhoe Senior Citizens Club and the Warringal Senior Citizens Club, which are two of the best examples of the excellent work carried out by the city for the benefit of the older people of the community. These clubs provide facilities for a wonderful way of life where older people can enjoy one another's company. At the Ivanhoe Senior Citizens Club extensive alterations have been made and numerous facilities have been provided. I have had the pleasure of attending the club on several occasions and have been most impressed by the spirit of the older people of the community. I pay tribute to the Heidelberg City Council for the lead it has given in this field. The same applies to the Warringal Senior Citizens Club; a happier band of older people could not be found.

The City of Heidelberg features an excellent library. The Heidelberg regional library is one of the largest of its kind and serves the city splendidly. A mobile library operates throughout the area. Recently the Minister for Local Government had the pleasure of opening the new Rosanna branch library, which is also a wonderful acquisition to the community.

I now refer to the development of the parklands. Last year a further stage was reached in the development of Warringal Park. The Heidelberg City Council in co-operation with the Fisheries and Wildlife Division and the Warringal Conservation Society has carried out extensive works to re-establish an area of swamp land adjacent to Warringal Park in a genuine endeavour to preserve and encourage the wildlife which still abounds in the area. Conservation measures are being taken to retain this distinctive and unique part of Melbourne. A new oval and pavilion has been established in Warringal Park.

I also refer to the Cartledge Reserve pavilion which was recently completed at a cost of \$30,000. Last year also saw the completion of the Sir Vernon Christie pavilion at Ivanhoe Recreation Reserve in recognition of the services rendered to the City of Heidelberg and the Ivanhoe electorate by my predecessor as the member for Ivanhoe. This project cost \$60,000 and was officially opened by His Excellency the Governor on 31st March of this year.

Another major project which was completed was the reconstruction of Upper Heidelberg Road, which was effected with a minimum of interruptions to the Ivanhoe shopping centre, at an estimated cost of \$287,000.

The City of Heidelberg has the good fortune to have as Mayor Councillor Jean Baker, and I congratulate her on her recent election to that office after only five years in the council. Councillor Jean Baker is the second woman to be elected Mayor of the City of Heidelberg, the first of whom was an illustrious woman who served the city with great distinction, the late Councillor Nellie Ibbott. Councillor Jean Baker is a most capable councillor and I believe she will amply demonstrate yet again that women can play a vital role in modern administration.

I now wish to refer to the contribution of the City of Heidelberg to the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board which in the past has been as high as \$81,000. I was indeed pleased to see that the Government has taken steps to reduce the level of the contribution from local government to the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board.

The City of Heidelberg is extremely active culturally. There are three groups on which I shall comment. The Heidelberg Repertory Group is one of the best known of the amateur acting groups in suburban Melbourne. Grants which have been made to this group from the State Cultural Fund have assisted this worthy organization to purchase such things as sound equipment, seating, theatre curtains and scenery. Out of the next State grant it hopes to obtain new lighting equipment.

The Heidelberg City Choir, which is one of the best known choral groups in Melbourne, also receives grants from the State Cultural Fund. Rising costs in the purchase of music have forced the Heidelberg City Choir to spend some time in fund-raising efforts when it would prefer to spend that time on its real purpose, the making of good music. Several concerts have been presented yearly by the choir, which plays an important role in the cultural life of the City of Heidelberg, as does the Heidelberg City Band.

The sporting needs of young people are also important. While campaigning and living in this area for about sixteen years I have been rather moved by the fact that for a long time many of the young people in the western sector of the Ivanhoe electorate have been looking for outlets in sport and recreation. One of the most important features of His Excellency's Speech, which foreshadowed action to be taken by the Government, was the emphasis which will be placed on the need to provide new recreational facilities and amenities for younger people. Heidelberg West is an area of the

Ivanhoe electorate in which there has been an increase in violence in recent years. A lot of this has been juvenile crime. Through action to be taken by the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation, much can be done to alleviate this growing tide of petty crime by providing young people with a solid outlet in proper recreational and sporting facilities.

One of the activities which young people traditionally enjoy is the use of the motor bike, and more recently the mini bike. Mini bikes have created something of a problem in areas where young people use them. I cannot help feeling sympathy for the young people who wish to ride mini bikes. They are not allowed in most parklands, except where areas have been specially set aside for them. Recently the City of Doncaster and Templestowe set aside an area adjacent to the Yarra River in Bulleen. This site was formerly used as a tip and it will now be used as a track and club area for mini bikes. Although there are no residents adjacent to that site on the eastern side of the Yarra River in the City of Doncaster and Templestowe, there are many residents in the Ivanhoe electorate on the East Ivanhoe side of the river. The decision of the Doncaster and Templestowe council to establish this track has caused the residents of East Ivanhoe a good deal of concern.

Although I feel strongly that a site has to be found so that young people may enjoy this sort of recreation, great care must be taken when seeking recreational space for mini bikes to ensure that respect is observed for the neighbouring council and its residents. I hope the council's decision will be reviewed, because the Yarra River is a peaceful area and the effects of mini bikes on the ecology must also be considered. The area abounds with wildlife, which would be seriously disturbed by a mini bike track, and of course the peace and tranquility of the place would be greatly interrupted if a track of this type were established. I am not

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"knocking" the idea of providing tracks for mini bikes. Sites must be found, but they must be chosen with due respect for the residents of adjoining municipalities.

In recent years I have been greatly associated with the Austin Hospital, Heidelberg. This is one of the most dynamic hospitals in Victoria because it fulfils the dual role of a medical teaching hospital and a local community hospital. Some of the direct advantages of the Austin Hospital include a highly-qualified medical staff with a staffing structure unique in Victoria where professors from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Melbourne are the appointed heads of the hospital departments. Paramedical and other services of the highest standard are maintained at the hospital, and the latest and best facilities and equipment are in use. It also has superior facilities for research.

The building developments which have been planned at the Austin Hospital will lift its bed capacity from 470 to 700, and under long-range planning this will be extended to 1,000 beds. This is the "new" Austin. I use the word "new" because the Austin Hospital has experienced a revolutionary change. Honorable members may or may not be aware that originally the Austin was a hospital for terminal cases, one where most people who entered thought they might never leave. Now, of course, all that has changed.

Proof that the "new" Austin hospital will be very much a community hospital serving all sections of the community is obtained from two important facts. The existing 470 beds will be reallocated to provide 106 intermediate and 45 private beds. Previously, only 53 of the 470 beds had been classified as non-public. With the new basis of bed allocation comes the Austin Hospital's newly-created division of general practice. This is also unique in the field of medicine in Victoria

and will afford local general practitioners direct contact with their patients whilst they are in hospital and will provide them with a voice at medical staff level, which is quite important.

The new system of bed allocation, together with the division of general practice, will mean readier access for local residents who wish to be admitted as non-public patients. Of course, the public section of the hospital provides hundreds of beds.

It should also not be forgotten that the Austin Hospital provides special services. It conducts the spinal injuries unit for Victoria, Tasmania and the Riverina and also a renal unit which provides a home dialysis service. Other important features of the Austin Hospital's special services are a thoracic unit for the whole of Victoria and its own intravenous additive service.

In conjunction with the Heidelberg City Council the Austin Hospital also conducts the "meals on wheels" service. Hundreds of meals are cooked and provided for the older people of the City of Heidelberg who have difficulty in travelling and who are at home and in need of special care.

I was impressed by His Excellency's reference to the new deal for the mentally retarded. One of my first actions as the member for Ivanhoe was to visit the Ivanhoe branch of the Helping Hand Association. I was impressed by the dedication of the staff which consists of seven full-time and five part-time teachers working under the supervision of Miss Mantell. The total enrolment at the centre is 60, and 60 happier people one would go a long way to find. It is encouraging to see how retarded people, given genuine leadership and inspiration from the staff at the centre, can work so well together. The centre is a prime example of the ability of people who are handicapped to live and work

together in harmony. The Ivanhoe centre has four junior training groups and one practical training unit; it also conducts a cookery class.

Since 1969 the State Government has accepted the responsibility of reimbursing the full salaries of the teaching staff at helping hand centres. I pay a tribute to the management committee of the Ivanhoe branch and all those connected with it who help to make it a wonderful example of what can be done in a community. The mothers' club has been a leader in providing voluntary effort and gifts; the fathers have participated in many working bees, and schools of the area assist the centre.

It has been encouraging to those at the centre to learn that the Mental Health Authority will provide the association with 2½ acres from its reserve at Macleod to be used as the site of a new day training centre. The development of the present centre has been restricted owing to the size of the site but sketch plans have been approved for alterations costing more than \$7,000 and it is hoped these can be effected after July, 1975. Two centres are needed, hence in addition to the new proposed Macleod centre, the Ivanhoe centre should be retained. The first stage of the new Macleod centre will include a sheltered workshop and a prevocational training section. The second stage will comprise the remainder of the training group buildings required for the day centre section.

I conclude by referring to the need for attention to be given to the schools of the Ivanhoe electorate. Many of these schools need additional facilities, particularly for sport. I was pleased to know that the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation and the Education Department will in future work in harmony to provide some of the necessary facilities. I hope the two departments, in conjunction with the Public Works Department, will provide many new amenities at

schools in the near future. The provision of proper recreational facilities is one of the most important contributions we can make to assist the young people of the community.

**Mr. GINIFER** (Deer Park).—In speaking to the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor, I congratulate honorable members who have made their maiden speeches, or who, in colloquial terms, have run the gauntlet of making their first speech in this House. I propose to refer to my electorate, but in deference to the Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet, who has suffered mental anguish and performed gymnastics during the past hour, I move—

That the debate be now adjourned.

The motion for the adjournment of the debate was agreed to, and it was ordered that the debate be adjourned until next day.

### ADJOURNMENT.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN NORTH SUNSHINE—BOATS FOR FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE DIVISION—MEREDITH PRIMARY SCHOOL — ELMORE—COHUNA RAILWAY LINE—FIRE AND POISON DANGERS OF FOAM PLASTIC.

**Mr. THOMPSON** (Minister of Education).—I move—

That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next, at Two o'clock.

The motion was agreed to.

**Mr. THOMPSON** (Minister of Education).—I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

**Mr. GINIFER** (Deer Park).—I draw the attention of the Minister of Education and the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government to a problem confronting residents of Cooke Avenue, North Sunshine. Requests have been made to the Sunshine City Council for Cooke Avenue to be constructed and in a letter to me the residents assert that the street is now "at a stage

where disease would surely be prevalent as no water can escape from the drains" and they blame the Sunshine City Council which, they say, is "not interested in maintaining them." The drains are open earthen drains. The residents, who consider that they have exhausted most of the avenues available to them, hope I may be able to exert further pressure at local and State government levels.

The adjacent land, which abuts Cooke Avenue, is owned by the Education Department and is a reserve proclaimed many years ago for the establishment of a technical school. However, the Education Department has informed me that it is not proposed to construct a technical school on the site. It has been suggested that the land might be used for a teachers' training college. Unfortunately, under the present policy of the Government, where land has been reserved for Education Department purposes no *ex gratia* payment is made to the local council when adjacent street construction is proceeding. Street works in the surrounding locality were completed some three or four years ago, but because the Government, in conformity with its policy, made no funds available to the Sunshine City Council for street construction works, the council, in turn, did not construct Cooke Avenue.

The people who live in this area are being deprived of proper sanitation and street construction works to which they are entitled. The Sunshine City Council has also written to me asking that I again submit a case to the Government requesting Cabinet to reverse present Government policy. This will mean that where land is vested in the Education Department and has actually been built upon and used for education facilities an *ex gratia* payment will be made, but if the land is held for a proposed facility or where it may be disposed of in the future, the Government will not make a contribution towards the cost of constructing roads.