

the Governor so that a newly-elected member of the Labor Party could make his maiden speech. But a member of that party protests about this agreement and the opportunities being given to the new member of the House to speak.

Mr. TURNBULL.—It is not that at all.

Mr. ROSSITER.—To-night, members of the Labor Party have tried to cut their own throats by seeking to abolish the Upper House. In many ways, they have shown their internecine warfare. What has just happened is more evidence of it. It seems to me that the Labor Party is completely gone from within, and I must register my protest.

Mr. WILKES (Northcote).—The agreement referred to by the Minister of Immigration had nothing to do with the question raised by the honorable member for Brunswick West. The agreement was that the Opposition would allow the Government to introduce a Bill by leave yesterday afternoon, and, in return, would be given the opportunity to debate the Address-in-Reply at some stage after 8 p.m. to-day. I suppose there are reasons why the Bill was not submitted. The honorable member for Brunswick West was summoned to debate a Bill that came from the Legislative Council and, because of the business of the House, it was not called on. The only way the honorable member can express his dissatisfaction with the state of the Notice Paper and the handling of the Bill is to raise it on this question. What he said had nothing to do with an agreement. The agreement was honoured by the Opposition when it allowed the Government to introduce a Bill by a message this afternoon.

The motion was agreed to.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

The debate (adjourned from September 21) on the motion of Mr. Stephen (Ballaarat South) for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech was resumed.

Mr. GINIFER (Grant).—On behalf of the members of Her Majesty's Opposition, I wish to subscribe to the expressions of loyalty to Her Majesty which were ably and sincerely moved by the honorable member for Ballaarat South and equally ably and sincerely seconded by the honorable member for Toorak. Members of the Opposition join with them in extending greetings to His Excellency the Governor, Sir Rohan Delacombe. Some little time ago, in the Grant electorate, we were delighted to have Sir Rohan with us when he made an informal visit to many of our schools. I assure His Excellency that we would be most happy to have Lady Delacombe and himself among us again.

This is the last Parliament in which the electorate of Grant will be represented by an individual member. Honorable members are well aware that the electorate of Grant is soon to be eliminated. Because of this, it is a great honour for me to-night to be able to declare the loyalty of the electors of Grant to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. and, if I may use the expression in this way, their loyalty to upholding the laws of Australia.

I am sure that my constituents and honorable members of this House would consider it remiss of me if I did not play tribute to my predecessor, the late Roy Crick. Roy Crick displayed great qualities, not only as a member of this House, but as a member of the trade union movement, as a member of the community, and as a family man. He was always available and willing to do all in his power to assist those who came to him with any reasonable request. Members of the Opposition have lost a trusted and revered colleague who gave a lifetime of service to the Labor movement, not only in the Parliamentary sphere but also in trade union circles. Roy Crick was prominent in his trade union which was associated with the production at Sunshine of

many implements for primary production. We in the Grant electorate have suffered a grievous loss and, on behalf of the 100,000 people who now live within its boundaries, I express sympathy to Mrs. Crick and her family. At the same time, we thank them for having allowed us to share Roy Crick with them as our honorable member for Grant for the past eleven years.

As a member of the Opposition in this Parliament, I am fully cognizant of the responsibilities which devolve on a member of the legislature, whether a member of the Government party or a member of the Opposition. All honorable members realize that they have certain responsibilities, not only to the electorates they represent but to the whole of the State of Victoria. We of the Opposition believe that we represent people from all walks of life and that we are here to preserve their privileges as citizens. We want all citizens to receive fair rewards and just returns for their daily labours and their just desserts from municipal councils and the State legislature. These just desserts are their right by virtue of their being citizens of this State.

In his Excellency's Speech to members of both Houses of Parliament, one or two matters to which I wish to refer were mentioned. Any criticism I might make is meant to be objective, and is not meant to reflect on the Governor himself. It will be made in the hope that the Government may take notice. In the Speech, all Ministerial responsibilities but one were referred to. It would appear that contributions were made to the Speech by all Departments except the Department of Immigration. This Department deals with the arrival of people in this country, but it might give some consideration to helping these people to establish themselves in the new community. It might be thought that immigration is not a State Government responsibility, but I suggest that we, as citizens of this State, have a responsibility to

immigrants to ensure that they have every opportunity to become assimilated and settled in this country and realize they are among people who welcome them.

In Queen's Hall, on the wall adjacent to the Legislative Council, there are a series of paintings which, to some extent, portray the waves of immigration to this country over the past century or so. The first painting to be seen is that of a sailing ship which, to me, indicates the problems and struggles of the early pioneers on arriving in this country. The next painting depicts the pioneers in the bushland, clearing the land in preparation for cultivation. Another painting depicts a bark hut, and another has a cross within it, with an urban area like a large city in the background. The last painting, which is perhaps out of colour—if I may use that expression—with the other paintings, portrays tranquility. I wonder whether this Government feels that we have gone most of the way, but have not quite reached the stage of the final painting.

I mention immigration because a large number of persons residing in the electorate which I have the honour to represent have come to this country from Europe in an attempt to make a new life in this land but, because of the economic conditions prevailing at this particular time, they find that they now live in a land which has a two-pay-packet economy. Because of this, many social questions revolve around the economic system under which we live. People who are establishing themselves in a new land find it necessary for both father and mother to go out to work in an attempt to buy a block of land or to pay off a house. Therefore, they are forced to be away from home for long periods of the day. One feels that the Minister of Immigration could apply himself to the problems associated with our immigration policy. I do not know whether he is in fact responsible for this situation, but, in my opinion,

it is a social question associated with immigration and, unfortunately, immigration received no mention in his Excellency's Speech. That is one reason why I draw this matter to the attention of the House.

In the last issue of the *St. Alban's Observer*, readers were greeted with the heading "Road-making Costs Shock". I bring this matter to the notice of the House because a large percentage of the people who live in this suburb of Melbourne are migrants who have chosen to live there because they were able to buy relatively cheap land. The municipal council has now decided to construct the roads, and residents have discovered that they are to be charged in the vicinity of \$24 a foot for road-construction costs. Because both parents have gone to work, the stage is being reached where the home is almost paid for and they are becoming free of debts—they are perhaps reaching that stage of relative tranquility which is depicted in the last painting to which I referred earlier. Now they find they are faced with perhaps the highest road-making charges in the metropolitan area. This is a reflection on municipal government within this State, and I shall be pleased if some research is undertaken and some consideration given to the ability of persons to pay, or to the formulas which are applied to the allocation of street-construction costs in newly-developed areas in this State.

I now turn to other problems associated with migration and to consider how best we can assist migrants to become assimilated in the community. I believe that every consideration and help should be given to encourage them to join school committees, take an active part in their particular trade union or professional organization, join a progress association, and perhaps become interested in municipal or State Government. This state of affairs can be achieved only if the older residents set an example of

encouragement. It behoves each of us to do what he can to assist these people in this way.

I might perhaps be excused if I appear to be a little parochial, but in the municipality of Altona, some advance has been made in the assimilation of newcomers to this land. Of the nine councillors on the Altona Shire Council, four are persons who have migrated to this country since the second world war. One councillor is a Scotsman, one hails from Holland, one from Lithuania and another from Poland. In their municipal activities, I believe they have made a great contribution to the life and to the future development of the municipality. I feel that similar assimilation can be achieved in many other districts if honorable members encourage and assist these people and indicate that when they become naturalized citizens of Australia, they are at liberty to assume the responsibilities in their districts.

To-night, I do not propose to discuss some of the problems relating to education which have been canvassed in this Chamber over the past couple of months. As a teacher before I was elected to this House, I direct to the attention of honorable members certain anomalies which I believe exist when teachers are elected to Parliament. The first anomaly occurs in respect of a teacher's superannuation benefits upon election. When a teacher of the Victorian Education Department is elected to Parliament, he immediately ceases to be a member of the Teaching Service, and the social security which was available to his wife in the event of his death automatically ceases. The Parliamentary pension fund does not give any security to the wife and family of a member until he has been a member for, I think, eight years.

I suggest that the three trustees of the fund should give consideration to this matter. Even if it means higher contributions by members

during their first eight years of membership, provision could be made for social security for the wife and children of a member in the event of his leaving this earthly place by one means or another. This situation was pointed out to me by three members of the Opposition. Before entering this House, I was contributing for 26 units of superannuation, which would have provided a sizeable income to my wife and three children, but this has now been lost. I think this is something of which potential members of Parliament should be made aware.

One other anomaly which I consider exists in the Teaching Service relates to long-service leave entitlements on resignation. In industry, when a person has served in a position for a period which entitles him to long-service leave benefits, if he resigns his position, he is entitled to a lump sum payment in lieu of the long service leave he could have taken. But this situation does not apply to teachers in the employ of the Education Department. In this regard, I was most fortunate because, having been endorsed by my party to contest the Deer Park electorate at the next general election, I elected to take six months' long-service leave due to me and had almost completed my leave before being elected to this House. However, this anomaly does exist, and I hope the Minister of Education will examine this situation at some future date.

Having made what, I hope, are two objective criticisms of the Teaching Service, I wish to say to the Government that, as a member of the Teaching Service, I appreciated the fact that during the past four years whilst I was a municipal councillor and also a commissioner of the Board of Works, the Education Department, or this Government, saw fit to allow me to carry out my duties as a commissioner of the Board of Works without any restriction upon my time and allowed me freely to represent my municipality on that Board. I make this point

because I believe this is a breakthrough so far as teachers are concerned in this State in being able to take public office without having any restriction placed upon them by the Education Department.

In conclusion, when I was elected to this House, I asked whether, instead of being sworn in at the normal time at 4 p.m., I could be sworn in following the suspension of the sitting for dinner. I made that request because the people whom I represent have to go about their daily tasks and are not able to be present in this Chamber until the evening. I was grateful that the Government met my request in this regard. I also appreciate the fact that I have been able to make my maiden speech to-night. I thank the House for its indulgence in listening to me so attentively. I look forward now to being able to participate to the fullest extent of my ability as a member of Her Majesty's Opposition.

On the motion of Mr. MITCHELL (Benambra), the debate was adjourned.

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

HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. ROSSITER (Minister of Immigration).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It contains 21 clauses and, like so many Bills to amend comprehensive legislation, deals with a considerable number of different subjects which are related only by being included in an Act concerned with the maintenance of the general health of the community. Consequently, this Bill must receive its principal consideration during the Committee stage, when each clause will be dealt with independently. The subjects with which the Bill deals can be divided into eleven broad groups. Each of these groups will be referred to, not in order of importance, but in the order in which it is first mentioned in the Bill.