

That will leave the Government two more years and it means that in 1983-84 it will have to find another \$50 million and in 1984-85 a further \$50 million on top of that; or if the Government keeps dithering around and mucking it up, it will not be possible to do it in 1983-84 and it will have to find the whole \$100 million in 1984-85. Frankly, I do not believe the Government will do a thing about it because the Victorian Development Fund has been shown by the Treasurer's own admission to be a fraud and a myth. The Government's whole election strategy was based on the Victorian Development Fund, which it has now thrown into immediate doubt.

The most serious omission from that Government's education programme, as outlined in the Governor's Speech, is any comprehension of what is needed in educational terms for the future. The Governor's Speech contained much talk about money, management and re-organization, but the Governor did not speak about education, children or what education ought to be about. There was no vision of the future, no evidence of comprehension of the needs and aspirations of the present, and no evidence of a comprehension of the need to prepare children for life and work in a new technological society in a community which is changing.

An Honourable Member—Your Government did not do anything at all.

Mr RICHARDSON—Unfortunately, the Labor Government has failed to understand the needs of Victoria's education system. There is nothing in the Governor's Speech to indicate that the Labor Government comprehends the measure needed to prepare children for the future. For example, there is no reference to the need for co-ordination of education through training for work and employment.

There is no reference to apprenticeship. Victoria has consistently led Australia in its apprenticeship programmes and the number of apprentices. Does the absence of reference to apprenticeship in the Governor's Speech mean that the Government does not appre-

ciate the value of apprenticeship training schemes? Does it mean that the new Government regards apprenticeship as unimportant? Does it mean that the new Government sees no need to do any more about apprenticeship?

There is a need to do more about apprenticeship because there is a continuing and growing demand by young people for apprenticeship. What does the new Government have in mind to meet that need? Unfortunately the answer does not lie in the Governor's Speech. There is no evidence of compassion for the education of the disabled in the community. There is no reference to special education for the disabled.

The new Government may have a sense of compassion; it may have some plans for the education of the disabled and it may have the most wonderful ideas in the world, but it has not said so. The community has gained no inkling of what the new Government might have in mind for the community from the Governor's Speech. That is why I referred to that section of the speech dealing with education. I referred to that section not in anger, but in abject sorrow because the Governor's Speech contains no promise for the future of children in real terms.

The Governor's Speech contains no indication of an understanding of the educational needs of the community; no encouragement for apprenticeship and technological training, and no compassion for the disabled and for the future of Victoria.

Mr GRAY (Syndal)—I wish to thank the electors of Syndal for the honour they have bestowed upon me by electing me to be their representative in Victoria's first Labor Government for 27 years.

I also wish to convey to each and every member and supporter of the Australian Labor Party who worked on my campaign in Syndal my sincere thanks for the unstinting hard work they gave in assisting the election of Syndal's first ever Labor member of Parliament. I also extend my congratulations to you, Mr Speaker, on your election to your high office. I extend

my congratulations to the Deputy Speaker and the other officials who have been elected to their positions.

The Governor's Speech, to which I am responding, evidences the real change that has occurred in this place since 3 April. The Government has made its priorities the priorities of the people—not the priorities of the privileged few.

Unemployment, education, public transport, health and housing are the key issues facing most Victorians and it is these key issues that the Cain Labor Government will squarely face.

In brief outline, Syndal comprises parts of the suburbs of Glen Waverley, Mount Waverley, Syndal, Clayton and Huntingdale. About two-thirds of the electorate falls within the Waverley municipality, which is the largest in Melbourne, and the remaining one-third of the electorate lies within the Oakleigh municipality. There are approximately 30 000 electors registered for Syndal. This is very nearly the average enrolment — electoral commissioners, please take note!

The issues of most concern to my constituents are the issues on which I believe the Government was elected. Those issues are: Health; education; public transport and the economy. Those issues are not mere catchphrases in Syndal.

The year 1961 was a big year for me. That was when I commenced my primary education at Deer Park Primary School, and I remember the year particularly well because I was the first in my class to get my *John and Betty* reader. The year 1961 was also supposed to be a big year for Syndal because that was the year the then Liberal Government promised to build a hospital in Clayton. The people of Syndal are still waiting.

It is amazing that at every election held since 1961, the former State Liberal Government has recycled its promise to relocate the Queen Victoria Hospital to Clayton. In the process the former Liberal Government spent approximately \$10 million of the taxpayers' funds on pulped plans, glossy brochures and cardboard cut-out models.

Mr Gray

I am proud that at long last the people of Syndal will get their hospital under a Labor Government of which I am part. Within four years the hospital should be admitting its first patients.

The electors of Syndal also have a particular interest in education. There are eleven primary schools and four high schools and technical schools within the State system, which, despite declining enrolments, have suffered a decline in morale through lack of funds for school works and shortages of specialist teachers.

It is particularly important to my constituents that the State school system is revitalized, and I am sure that this will be achieved under Labor's policies. At the same time, it is important that the rights of children attending the four non-government schools in my electorate are not prejudiced. I recognize that and I know the Government does also.

Mr Speaker, Monash University lies within the heart of Syndal, and Rusden College, or should I say Victoria College, Rusden Campus, is on the boundary with the electorate of my colleague, the honourable member for Springvale. In consequence, there are a large number of my constituents who are tertiary students. Tertiary education is very important, not only to my constituents but also to this State and to this nation.

Yet, despite the fact that Australia has one of the lowest percentages of any Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development country of persons having access to tertiary education, the Federal Government has slashed funding to the colleges and universities; has failed to increase student living allowances and means test limits in keeping with the inflation rate, and has re-introduced fees for second and higher degrees. The former Government acquiesced in this butchering of the State's tertiary education opportunities.

I welcome this Government's commitment to fight Canberra to achieve a better deal in tertiary education opportunities for this State.

The deterioration of Victoria's public transport system, particularly over the past decade, stands as a symbol of Liberal Government incompetence and neglect.

In 1948-49 the Government railways carried approximately 141 million passengers. By 1978-79 that figure had dropped to about 90 million. I do not intend to canvass the whole sorry saga of the Lonie report and the closure of rail services throughout the State.

Suffice to say that Victoria now has one of the worst public transport "systems" in the Western World. There are two rail lines running through Syndal, the Dandenong line and the Glen Waverley line.

I used to catch the train from the Clayton station into the city every day and my blood pressure attests to the fact that the rail service on that line is in urgent need of improvement, especially the provision of more peak hour services.

The provision of a co-ordinated bus system is also needed to link the trains and buses. It is not an uncommon sight in Syndal, as is the case elsewhere in Melbourne, for a bus to be pulling in at the railway station just as the train is pulling out from the platform. Despite the fact that Monash University is a community of some 17 000 people, it is isolated from both railway lines and does not have direct access through public transport. I understand the Government intends to investigate the possibility of building a Huntingdale-Ferntree Gully light rail link, which was shelved by the former Government. I urge the Government to proceed quickly in that direction as it is very important, not only for Monash University and the patrons of VFL Park, Waverley, but also for the residents of the surrounding areas, which also lack public transport. Of course, there are also the associated problems of traffic congestion when a big match is held at VFL Park.

A significant percentage of the population in Syndal comprises public servants and people with professional occupations. They, like most Victorians, will applaud the Labor Gov-

ernment's commitment to reform and revitalize this State's bureaucracy, which has grown like Topsy for many years. As a former public servant myself, I can testify to the need for this restructuring.

In particular, I welcome the proposal to expand the operation of the State Insurance Office to enable it to compete with private insurance companies. I had the privilege of completing my articles of clerkship under the Solicitor to the Public Trustee, Mr John Cook. During that time, I gained valuable experience in the law, but I also learned something about the operations of the Public Trustee Office and the way in which its operations have been artificially restricted and hampered by successive Conservative Governments.

In New Zealand, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia, the Public Trustee has regional offices in most major centres and can compete on an equal footing with private trustee companies. The Public Trust Office in these jurisdictions contributes substantially to the financial well-being of the State as well as providing a much-needed service to its community. In Victoria, the Public Trustee has a head office in Melbourne and one regional office in Geelong. He is not permitted to advertise the services he can provide or at least he is restricted to an expenditure of about \$3000 a year. Nor is he allowed to establish regional offices. Despite these restrictions, the Public Trust Office still manages to make a profit and contribute to consolidated revenue.

The attention of the House was drawn to the potential for expansion in the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the office of the Public Trustee, dated 5 November 1970. That report recommended that the Public Trustee be placed in competition with private trustee companies and that his activities be expanded to allow decentralization of offices.

I hope the Government sees fit to examine these proposals and act positively upon them. The funds held and invested by the Public Trustee could be greatly expanded and could perhaps be used by home buyers by providing

mortgages as well as enabling will-making and estate administration services and the services of his protective jurisdiction to be provided to a great number of people at a more economical cost.

I wish the Government a long and successful period in office. I trust that whenever the next Federal election is held, the Government will have a Labor National Government with which to co-operate in implementing Labor's goals. For my own part, quoting a former member of this Parliament, I should like to say on making my first appearance as a speaker in this House that, while it may be necessary at times for me to say things which may appear harsh, honourable members will rest assured there will be nothing personal in my remarks.

Mr EBERY (Midlands)—I take this opportunity of congratulating the new Governor of Victoria, His Excellency Rear-Admiral Sir Brian Murray, on his elevation to such high office. I know he will receive every support from Lady Murray. It is an extremely responsible position and I am sure Sir Brian and Lady Murray will carry it out with charm and dignity. I also congratulate Sir Henry and Lady Winneke on the wonderful work they have done throughout Victoria. Sir Henry has given the appearance of finding that the responsibilities of his former office sat lightly on his shoulders because he had a unique capacity to relate to people in all walks of life and he displayed that trait throughout his term of office. He certainly liked his sport, particularly football, and I believe that has helped him enormously in relating to people and in earning a great deal of respect.

I was interested to listen to the Speech delivered by Sir Brian Murray at the opening of Parliament. Despite the election promises given by the Labor Party, the Government will find many problems in the future of Victoria. It would not be easy for any Government to carry out the promises made by the Labor Party prior to the election. The 1970s were perhaps unrealistic in a financial sense because they were really a time of economic

paradise in one sense. During that period inflation was running at up to 16 per cent or 17 per cent, but interest rates were only 6 per cent, 7 per cent or 8 per cent. That meant that lenders were at a great disadvantage compared with borrowers. The honourable member for Balwyn covered that factor in his contribution to the debate earlier today.

One of the problems for the future is that the economic climate is making it more difficult for employers to employ. Many comments have been made in this House about the problems of unemployment, but there are ever greater demands being placed on employers, such as penalty rates, a loading of 17.5 per cent on holiday pay and shorter working hours. I believe those factors play a significant part in creating unemployment.

We heard both yesterday and today about the blackmail antics to which the Government agreed when it acceded to the demand of the Municipal Officers Association of Australia. The Government has demonstrated that it is weak kneed and it is obvious that the agreement is a pay-off for a small section of the community. Under the present circumstances, the Government is facing difficulty in carrying out the promises it made prior to the election. The present monetary situation is extremely restricting. Prior to the election, the Liberal Party constantly warned the Labor Party about the financial difficulties that existed. Those warnings were spurned by the Labor Party and we now have Government members giving tedious and repetitious dissertations to this House blaming the former Government for financial mismanagement. They are strong in theory but new to practice and are about to learn the difference.

Before the election the Labor Party promised that funds to carry out the many promises it made would be raised from existing resources in statutory authorities, funds that were being unused, and there would be no increase in taxes and Government charges. I remind the House that during the last spring sessional period the former Gov-