

Dr WELLS (Dromana) - In this historical 50th Parliament and in the 150th year of our State, it is my honour and pleasure to represent the people of Dromana, the site of the first seat of Government in Victoria.

I thank all who voted for me at the election and I assure them that every person in Dromana will receive my best attention. I thank particularly Mr Jack McMenamin, chairman of my electorate committee, all members of the committee and the hundreds of other Liberals who worked so hard to achieve my election to this place. Such volunteer Australians, in all political parties, are the true benefactors of democratic Australia.

I assure you, Mr Speaker, that I will work to contribute to the productivity and dignity of Parliament and to do my best for all Victorians. I congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your re-election as well as your colleagues on their election to other offices in Parliament. I note with gratitude the enthusiasm, helpfulness and efficiency of the Parliamentary staff, and I thank them for easing my introduction to this place.

I salute the political and community achievements of the former member for Dromana, Mr David Hassett, and I wish him and his family well. I mention also another former member for Dromana, the Honourable Roberts Dunstan, who preceded Mr Hassett. History will record that this great Parliamentarian served his electorate for 26 years with multitudinous contributions to the running of the State. The former Minister of the Crown and his hard-working and lovely wife, Joanna, deserve our thanks.

The electorate of Dromana is the most rapidly expanding large urban area in Victoria. It is the most popular tourist and retirement area in Victoria. Because of its climate, seaside and lower rental rates it is popular with people on welfare benefits. It is the electorate with the longest coastline and associated erosion problems in Victoria, and it is a near country electorate of large area with inadequate public services. It is an area of limited employment-an area I named some time ago the "forgotten land".

The electorate of Dromana has urgent needs which demand attention from the Parliament, and it requires a fair deal both from the Government and the Commonwealth Grants Commission. It is, indeed, the "forgotten land".

I refer to transport and indicate that the completion of the southern peninsula freeway is the most urgent problem faced by the electorate. The problem threatens comfort and safety, commercial enterprise, tourist access and even life itself in the face of an unexpected major bush fire. A \$2 million road upgrading project would make a great difference in the short term. The loss of more than \$100 000 each year on community buses in the area is an extremely unfair impost on the local councils and is an illustration of other transport needs.

Unemployment in the electorate stands at 16 per cent-twice the national average. Unemployed adults represent half that figure. The Government has offered them nothing. Youth unemployment is totally unacceptable in the electorate I represent. It is related to the 1700 youth offences recorded in a recent six-month period in the Dromana court. If the youth guarantee scheme fails, Dromana youth and their families will pay an enormous price. The lack of transport to metropolitan Melbourne has a significant effect upon unemployment. Dromana electorate has the highest house building rate in Victoria. Last year eleven to fourteen new homes were constructed in Flinders shire.

The electorate urgently needs a review of population trends to plan its educational resources. Rosebud High School is the largest State secondary school in Victoria. Four years ago it had 900 students; today it has 1300 students; and in four years the prediction is that it will have 1800 students. There is urgent need of another secondary school in the electorate.

The electorate also has a higher than normal percentage of children per family as indicated in demographic studies across the State. The primary schools in the area need urgent review, especially in the northern part of the electorate where there appears to be a real need for another primary school.

In the area of health, the Dromana electorate has special needs because of its special responsibilities. It has the highest percentage of retired persons in the State; one in three of my voters is a retired person. Major improvements are necessary to the Southern Peninsula Hospital and the Frankston Hospital needs significant expansion. The hospital bed ratio is totally unacceptable and probably the lowest in the State. The need for a branch of the Peter MacCallum clinic at the Frankston hospital should be examined and the people who live on the Peninsula reject out of hand the removal of the Angel of Mercy helicopter from the area. Surgery waiting lists on the peninsula have doubled during the past three years. The pensioner dental scheme needs adjustment without increased expenditure. I urge the Government to pay particular attention to that. Health facilities on the peninsula are simply not acceptable.

Victoria's senior citizens deserve better consideration. Our aim must be to ensure that they live not only in happiness and dignity but that also they may continue to contribute to the society in which they live. Their living standards are certainly suffering from the effects of inflation and climbing Government charges. High telephone charges and expensive transport isolate them from their families in Melbourne when, in fact, the Port Phillip Bay area is, demographically, an extension of metropolitan Melbourne. The higher costs associated with senior citizens in the Dromana electorate are borne by the shire council. Those costs are unreasonable and the councils deserve more consideration in State funding. Our senior Australians can make a significant contribution to our society if we do more to encourage them to help our youngsters in developing skills for handling life and work. All Governments should actively consider that.

Tourism is the only major private enterprise activity in the electorate. In Dromana, tourism is declining because the area is being treated as a milking cow for income by State Governments. It has not been given fair and adequate support. The electorate is characterized by the longest coastline in the State and by being the most important seaside tourist and boating area in Victoria. State Governments generate considerable income from revenue they have received from boating fees in the Dromana electorate, yet there is not one efficient launching ramp and not one safe boating harbour in southern Port Phillip Bay.

Under Liberal Governments there was a boating fund but that no longer exists. The beaches are eroding badly and attracting fewer people. The Labor Government is remiss in wishing to remove beach boxes from Victorian beaches. In Dromana electorate they contribute \$80 000 a year through rates which is useful in maintaining the beaches-to a limited degree-for the use of all citizens. The boxes do not interfere with those enjoying the beaches. More than 100 000 tourists visit Dromana electorate each summer and the people of the electorate are delighted to welcome them and want them to keep coming. We believe that in this way, we make a significant contribution to the way of life in Victoria. However, the associated costs in maintaining services for those visitors are about \$1 million a year, and more is needed. I invite the Government to pay

attention to this subject if for no other reason than the fact that the area is an essential tourist facility and efficiently managed tourism is good and profitable tourism.

Conservation on the peninsula is important because the area is so attractive and at least three million people wish to enjoy what it has to offer. The associated problem of reclaiming the coastline cannot be over emphasized.

Farmers in the electorate are struggling, not only because of the problems faced by farmers throughout the State but also because of the extra impost of living in a tourist area. The farmers in the electorate pay the highest absolute rates a hectare in Victoria and have great restrictions placed upon them because they live in a tourist area.

In Dromana electorate law and order deserves further support. The area urgently needs a 24-hour police station, more staff, more equipment and full maintenance of the law courts. When law and order crumbles, a society fragments.

The electorate has a special commitment to family welfare because it has 25 per cent more single-parent families than the average electorate and we need help for this sector of the community.

The population of the Shire of Flinders is estimated at 27 000 by the Commonwealth Grants Commission. The Commonwealth grant is allocated on that basis yet the police, shire councils and other authorities estimate the population to be 45 000. That seriously disadvantages the electorate and, therefore, the problem demands resolution.

During the election campaign Ministers of the former Government continually visited the electorate making political promises. I assure the Government I will remind it and the electors of those promises. The electorate asks only that it be given fair consideration when funds are being allocated to allow it to meet its responsibilities. It also asks that the Government work more efficiently in economic development of the State so that time is not wasted squabbling over inadequate resources.

The economic management of Victoria is the key to future progress in Dromana electorate and, I suggest, every other electorate. There are two basic and essential policies and only two policies that will drive the State forward. They may be summarized as sell more product and educate every Victorian. The whole economic debate comes down to selling more product. That is what it is all about. That is why salesmen are the highest paid people in society. The cutting edge in human life amounts is making a dollar's profit on which to live and that involves selling more product or services.

When products are not sold, businesses close, jobs are lost and the welfare society mushrooms until it collapses.

In round figures in Victoria unemployment runs at 9 per cent and \$1 in each \$5 is earned through exports. It is true that job sharing and early retirement will help reduce unemployment. Certainly new Victorian industries such as service industries will create further jobs. New Victorian products may also find in the short or long term Australia-wide markets. However, this must all be considered against the background of the population of Victoria which stands at approximately four million people. The population of Australia is 16 million which represents only one-300th of the world's population of 4800 million, two-thirds of whom are inadequately provided for and one-

sixth of who provide luxury markets for quality products at competitive prices.

That is the background against which Victoria must function. It has become abundantly clear to me as I have travelled around Australia and flown the highways and the by-ways of the world that Australian business people are shackled and stopped from performing at their best. They are shackled by high-taxing, inefficient and timid Governments which lack courage and vision.

There is a simple message for solving our economic woes and returning this state and nation to full employment: Unshackle the entrepreneurs. Give them a fair go; make the risks of business attractive for them in Australia. Enable them to compete on the huge world market; do not select industries for them-they will do that-and get them to increase our exports by 50 per cent. I repeat that the people of Australia comprise one three-hundredth of the world's population, and that represents a small proportion of the total work force of the world. Let the entrepreneurs increase their exports by 50 per cent and this country will gain effective full employment.

It has been only in the past 100 years that the world has known true community-wide wealth, and that has been only in the democracies of the world where ballot boxes operate freely and businessmen function freely.

According to the dictum that Adam Smith laid down 20 years ago:

Where two parties may freely contract together so that each expects to make a profit, community wealth results as a by-product through taxation the individual's efforts and profits.

History proves that this cardinal principle has never been surpassed by any Government controlled economy. No centrally controlled Government economy is a patch on the genius of the brilliant entrepreneur. No centrally controlled economy has achieved anywhere near the results of democratic, free enterprise economics.

Sooner or later, we Australians will be forced to adopt the attitude of our American cousins; that we are happy for the entrepreneur to make a profit so long as we get our fair share. Our people must eventually accept that the generation of wealth must precede the distribution of wealth. The judgment by the world's creative business people of our current performance is evident in the plummeting value of our Australian dollar-down 29 per cent in the past six months. This is not the fate of Switzerland, Germany, Japan, the United States of America, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore. Although South Korea can rightly claim the greatest economic miracle since the second world war, let us look at Singapore.

Singapore, is a country with virtually no land, no natural resources and, twenty years ago, had an uneducated people living in huts. Today, Singapore has full employment, total modern housing and it is aspiring to pass the Australian standard of living before the end of the century. In fact, it has been said that before the end of the century, itinerant, unemployed Australians-and they are now on the world scene-may well be working as domestics for the Singaporeans. Is that what we want? Is that to be the end result of 150 years of development in the lucky State of Victoria?

A nation's wealth today is not what we can dig out of the ground. It is not even defined by existing manufacturing industry. We participate, today, in the greatest biomedical, physical, chemical and mathematical revolution in history-the greatest age of technology and science ever; the most rapidly changing time in history. We have flown to the moon and, conversely, have probably examined the smallest particles of which matter consists. Ninety per cent of the scientists who

have lived are alive today. Knowledge is doubling about each decade. Technology is outstripping our political capacity.

Industries are being ripped down and rebuilt with increasing frequency in other lands and Australia and Victoria are slipping behind. Why? Because of the failure of our democratic Parliaments to manage change, to be courageous and visionary and to carry their responsibilities.

Unless this State and nation places the creation of wealth and the efficient management of wealth, including the commitment of its people, above the distribution of wealth we will all soon be paupers.

I turn now to the second great and essential policy for Victoria and that is "educate every Victorian". Australian and Victorian educational standards are, currently, quite unacceptable. We have far fewer people completing matriculation than most other great democracies. Our people are not receiving a sound liberal arts education, including a second language; the computer literacy of our young people is quite unacceptable and our young people are not prepared for life. The need, today, to educate our young people for life and work is urgent. Those not educated will, in the future, have a hard time. The progress of our society is, in fact, now limited by our level of educational understanding.

Effective education will bring the capacity to overcome the disgraceful divisiveness in our society seen in the rejection of dual education and health systems; the capacity to encourage the greatest social revolution in man's history in the emergence of women as full members of our society; the capacity to see the two-parent family as the social ideal and to enable it to flourish; the capacity to see that the role of the family cannot be replaced by government; the capacity to avoid youngsters rotting away on social welfare; the capacity to accept personal responsibility and to build a vibrant and strong society and, finally, the capacity to preserve the sovereignty of our democratic Parliament so that no pressure group no matter who they are, will be allowed to diminish this jewel we call Victoria.

Time is short. The next decade will show whether we Victorians have the common sense, the wit and the wisdom to really grasp these two great truths and commit ourselves to them: Sell more product; educate every Victorian. The alternative is unthinkable.