

4 per cent now when the same limit of \$200 000 will apply? At page 899 of *Hansard* Mr Cain went on to say:

We know we have the answers.

So far as I am concerned, the discrepancy in the policy of the Government is impossible to follow. It is absolutely fictitious to say that the Government has all the answers.

I now wish to congratulate the new members elected to this place. I trust that their stay will be fruitful. I also congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your election to your high office. I am certain Mr Speaker will bring a deal of joviality to his high position but at the same time retain the respect of all honourable members.

Until the Government is consistent in its policy to ensure that Victoria remains the best State in the Commonwealth, it has to take a good hard look at many of its policies. I will certainly be seeing that it keeps the promises it made to the people of Victoria prior to the election.

**Mr A. J. SHEEHAN** (Ivanhoe)—The election on 3 April resulted in a resounding victory to the Labor Party and produced a Labor Party member to represent the electorate of Ivanhoe for the first time in 25 years. This is no accident. The electorate of Ivanhoe manifested many of the problems that beset the State. These problems included the high and growing rate of unemployment not only for the young, but also for the middle-aged whose skills had become technologically obsolete.

The ramshackle public transport system was a major problem. For example, in the electorate of Ivanhoe there is not one rail-over-road bridge that can carry more than 5 tonne vehicle loads. All traffic flowing from the direction of Tullamarine and other freeways heading towards Dandenong and Doncaster areas goes through one thoroughfare, Burgundy Street, Heidelberg, which is the main shopping centre in the electorate.

The state of the railways generally was also a problem. Until the last few days of the election campaign, a modern silver train was a creature that ran on

other lines. During the campaign, the Labor Party canvassed the opinions of nearly 3000 commuters and 90 per cent of the respondents were dissatisfied with the service. There was a high response to the survey.

The response of the then member representing the Ivanhoe electorate—and perhaps this is why he is now referred to in the past tense—was to describe the exercise as a hoax. Even this had its amusing side. In an effort to prove that things were not really as bad as people knew they were, two Liberal Party hopefuls, who shall remain nameless, mustered the local press and went to Rosanna station to catch a silver train. They did this, but it took some 24 hours to do it.

Another significant problem in the electorate was that of the threatened small business sector, which was thrown into doubt and confusion by the vacillation of the former Government on extended trading hours and the proposed regional retail development of the Myer Northland shopping centre.

The neglect of public education was also manifested in the electorate of Ivanhoe, where there was an almost complete breakdown in cyclic maintenance, a declining value of student allowances, endemic industrial relations problems and a refusal to adequately cater for the needs of specialist and migrant teaching. In one school, the provision of a half-time migrant English teacher to a school that held approximately 280 students with a migrant background speaking 33 different home languages averaged out at an allowance of 4 minutes a week for each student. The list goes on.

These problems were seen to exist against the background of an incompetent and uncaring Government that was widely perceived to be leading Victoria down the plug hole of history. It is little wonder that in such circumstances the electorate turned to the real alternative of the Australian Labor Party. This did not occur because the Labor Party offered the people the sun, the moon and the stars. The people placed their trust in the Labor Party because they perceived a sense of com-

passion and purpose. It is the responsibility of members of the Labor Party to ensure that this trust is not misplaced. The trust of the public is of great concern to members of the Labor Party. We represent the hopes and aspirations of the great mass of Victorians—the wage earner, the small business person, the family farmer, the pensioner and the working poor. These people have invested their trust in the Labor Party and it is a trust worth fighting for.

I am confident that the Government will mark a watershed in the political history of Victoria. Already, it has demonstrated the capacity to make tough decisions and to make those decisions stand. Election promises are being fulfilled. The Budgetary situation is being approached with a keen and innovative sense of political and economic awareness. The Treasurer stated that the Government has embarked on a programme of fundamental economic reform.

The winds of change are being felt in the electorate of Ivanhoe. The Labor Party has commenced a series of discussions with local community leaders, Community Youth Support Scheme groups and church organizations to draw together the resources of the community and has initiated a series of projects to relieve the local unemployment situation. Local traders have had their interests represented by delegations to Ministries as diverse as Agriculture, Local Government, Conservation and Planning. These people have a renewed sense of confidence for they know that the Labor Party is committed to proper planning policies and to the protection of small business.

Schools and school teachers now have a Minister to whom they can speak, a Minister who represents a Government that is committed to an improved education system and a Minister who will not deal in duplicity for the sake of political advantage. The Minister of Transport has announced already an on-going and accelerated programme of refurbishing public transport facilities that will reduce many problems in the electorate.

The Minister for Local Government has introduced a series of Bills that demonstrate the Labor Party's realization of the importance of local government and the need to free this level of government from unnecessary constraints. The Minister for Conservation, who is also the Minister for Planning, has introduced the Historic Buildings (Amendment) Bill that is of particular interest to a city such as Heidelberg, which is fortunate in possessing an active and competent body, the Heidelberg Heritage Advisory Committee.

From 3 April, first home buyers will benefit from the Stamps (First Purchases of Land) Bill introduced by the Treasurer yesterday. As a result, first home buyers will be exempt from stamp duty on homes costing up to \$50 000. On 3 April, the people of Victoria showed that they wanted a new Government. They have given the Government the greatest popular mandate of any Government for more than 60 years. The Labor Party shall proceed with courage and with confidence.

**Mr McDONALD** (Evelyn)—I am proud and honoured to be given the opportunity of contributing to the debate. The greatest Government in Victoria, under the leadership of the late John Cain, is remembered by the people of Victoria with great respect and now, 27 years later, the leadership of the new Labor Party Government is being given by his son, John Cain. I am confident that in the years ahead the people not only in Victoria but also throughout Australia will be looking at this Government with similar respect.

I am also confident that not only the Premier but also the energetic and keen Ministers will leave their mark in the history of this Victorian Parliament. As the honourable member for Evelyn, I represent a large and diverse electorate which extends from Craigieburn in the west to above Upper Yarra dam in the east. It takes in the towns of Yea and Buxton in the north. The closely settled urban areas are Craigieburn, Epping and Lilydale, while the semi-urban areas are situated in the Yarra Valley. There is an extensive rural sector, from Yarra Glen to Yea, and there are large forest areas from