

Clause 9 provides that the Minister shall encourage the formation of an Aboriginal educational council to carry out several functions. As I have already suggested, education and training are vital to Aboriginal welfare. It will probably take a generation to do what is necessary to assist the Aboriginal people, but they should be given every chance to take their proper place in the community. In fact, that was almost dictated by the result of the national referendum last year.

Clause 10 deals with the reports which should be submitted. The Opposition felt that there should be some provision for a standing committee with representatives of the various parties, but it was advised that provision for such a committee could not constitutionally be included in the Bill. Various standing committees already in existence could handle almost all the problems affecting Aborigines in this State. However, a standing committee of some description would be helpful to assist the Minister in any way possible and also to encourage members of Parliament to ensure that Aborigines receive the assistance they need, instead of Parliament merely doing something now and then to salve its conscience.

Clause 11 deals with regulations which may be made, and the schedule sets out the Acts which will be repealed if this measure becomes law.

I am honoured to be called upon to bring this Bill to the attention of the Legislative Council. In any debate it is only natural that there will be some cross-chatter, and if I have been a little testy in that direction it is only because of the intensity of my sincerity. I assure honorable members that the Labor Party will be privileged to co-operate in any way dictated by the Government to replace the cross-chatter of debate with action.

The Hon. D. G. Elliot.

The Opposition has gone fully into this matter. I seek a short adjournment of the debate for one week. I believe this would be a gesture on the part of the Government that would be appreciated not only by members of the Opposition but also by members of the Country Party. It is not the object of my party to play politics but to give service to the 3,500 Aborigines of Victoria who, up to the present day, have been given a poor deal. There is an urgent need to stop their having to live in degradation.

On the motion of the Hon. L. H. S. THOMPSON (Minister of Education), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until Wednesday, October 11.

RAIN-MAKING CONTROL BILL.

The Hon. G. L. CHANDLER (Minister of Agriculture) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to regulate certain rain-making and other cloud-modification processes, to make provision with respect to claims for damages against persons lawfully engaged therein, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

The debate (adjourned from October 3) on the motion of the Hon. H. M. Hamilton (Higinbotham Province) for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech was resumed.

The Hon. W. V. HOUGHTON (Templestowe Province).—I wish to affirm my loyalty to the Crown through Her Majesty's representative in this State, Major-General Sir Rohan Delacombe, who, with Lady Delacombe, has done so much to uphold the dignity of his office in Victoria. The

Monarchy is fundamental to the constitutional powers of this State. If the Monarchy did not exist, would we assume that the sovereign powers of the State would then be derived from the Commonwealth Government or the Governor-General situated in Canberra and in the popular mind connected with the central Government?

In this situation I believe the powers of the central Government would be undesirably and inefficiently increased, and the powers of the States would be seriously eroded. Above all, I reaffirm that I am an Australian, which implies that I have freedom under the law and the Parliament to exercise the rights of freedom of speech and of action, only in so far as I do not infringe the rights of others to enjoy those same freedoms and in so far as I do not endanger the security and freedom of my own country. I believe in federation, not in a central government.

To-day, the Queen approved of an extension of the term of office of Sir Rohan Delacombe for a further three years, and I join honorable members in congratulating him on his further stay with us. My next loyalty and duty is to represent the people of the Templestowe Province, who elected me to this Council, and I hope I shall represent them as they would expect me to do. Templestowe Province includes the electorates of Greensborough, Ivanhoe, Box Hill, Mitcham, and parts of Evelyn and Ringwood; it also includes the cities and municipalities in whole or in part of Whittlesea, Diamond Creek, Eltham, Heidelberg, Doncaster and Templestowe, Box Hill, Nunawading, Ringwood, Croydon, Lillydale and Healesville. It is part of the old Southern Province which has less than three years to survive. Disregarding Southern Province, it is in terms of numbers on the roll the largest electoral subdivision in the State. On its inner boundaries, Templestowe Province borders the industrial areas of Melbourne, and its

outer boundaries extend to farms engaged in the production of milk, meat, timber, fruit, wool and vegetables.

I am proud to be the first representative of this province, and I hope it may be said in the far distant future that I represented it well. In the main, Templestowe Province consists of residential development by people owning and developing their homes, bringing up their young families and demanding all the amenities that a modern and progressive Government can provide for them in the way of recreation, education, transport, and all the other facilities of our modern and complex way of life.

After the maintenance of law and order and the confirmation of the right to live in security and freedom, the most important aspect which young families demand is the education of their children. This Government has recognized this fact and has devoted itself with vigor and energy to the task of developing education. In my opinion, the first priorities in education should go to the training of teachers and educators—they are the pivot of the hinge. We can sit under a tree and be educated by great teachers. All the buildings and the facilities in the world will not provide us with a good education unless we are provided with good teachers. Of course, this is an over-simplification of the case. Modern and complex education demands proper buildings, equipment, facilities, sporting fields and many other amenities that the Government is endeavouring to provide.

In the field of education, at the moment the central Government is spending increasingly large sums of money in putting icing on a cake that has yet to be baked. The building of science blocks can be cited as an example. Our schools need science blocks, and, although some schools are at the stage where they should be built, other schools are not prepared for them and the money would be better spent by those who are

closest to the problems of education. Some schools do not have the necessary staff and trained teachers, and the priorities are better allocated by those who control the broad spectrum of education. I am strongly opposed to the extension of Federal control in matters of education.

The forward planning by Governments is a matter which closely concerns the lives of citizens, particularly those families growing up in outer metropolitan areas. Proper planning should be regarded, not as a restriction of the freedom of the individual but as a means of ensuring a proper development of the environment in which we live, having regard to the interests and activities of all. Between the *laissez-faire* of conservatism and the control of socialism there is a field of planning which must be developed quickly and thoughtfully to avoid the future chaos—which will multiply rapidly—which an increasingly affluent society will bring if this field is neglected.

The forward planning of transport facilities, both public and private, must be accelerated. Public transport must be made swift and comfortable to encourage its use and to remove part of the anticipated increase in traffic upon our highways. Provision for space for recreation is another important aspect of planning. The advance of automation and shorter working hours will make it essential to provide proper areas for recreation, both active and passive. Playing fields and spaces where people can have recreation by doing nothing more than enjoying the birds and bees must be provided.

I suggest that the Yarra valley provides an area which is comparatively undeveloped in this respect and may well be developed and planned for this purpose. This valley is being used for primary production, industry, residential purposes, and especially for recreation and the harvesting of water. It is within easy reach of this city which is

The Hon. W. V. Houghton.

bursting at the seams. The bayside beaches are overcrowded, and the population is looking for new outlets for leisure and recreation.

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works has a policy of single usage of water catchments, and I would not argue with that policy at this point of time. The purest untreated water supply should be preserved while it can be preserved, but in the ultimate it may become necessary to treat the water supply. Indeed, the use of storages in the Lower Yarra valley projected by the recent report of the Public Works Committee would make it necessary to purify the water. If and when that plan is put into operation, the multiple use of water catchments should be considered for the use of industry, timber milling, recreation, boating and water supply. This is already being done in many parts of the world. The most notable example is the Tennessee Valley Authority.

My final point is the interdependence of urban and rural prosperity and development. The prosperity of our whole State depends to a large degree on the prosperity of our primary industries, and the reverse is also the case. Victoria is by far the most advanced State in the Commonwealth in rural productivity. It produces more than 50 per cent. of the dairy products of the Commonwealth, and its wool compares favourably in quantity and more than favourably in quality with fleece from most other areas of Australia. There are more cattle in this State than in the Northern Territory, and Victoria's productivity is an important basis of its prosperity. The people of the city should realize this, and country people should realize that the great city of Melbourne is the hub upon which all of this revolves, and that the prosperity of the city is just as important to them as the prosperity of the country is to the city people.

In conclusion, I should like to thank those honorable members on both sides of the House who have given me a most cordial welcome to this place.

On the motion of the Hon. M. A. CLARKE (Northern Province), the debate was adjourned.

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

COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING IN VICTORIA BILL.

The Hon. R. J. HAMER (Minister for Local Government).—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. One of the important sources from which our legal system has grown is that of the authority of previous judicial decisions. In Australia, as in most other English speaking countries, the record of these decided cases has been kept by means of a series of law reports. These reports have been kept for many years past and when necessary are referred to as authorities by courts within the whole system of the English common law. In England the reports go back into the sixteenth century.

As far as the reporting of cases in Victorian courts is concerned, these have been contained in the *Victorian Law Reports*, or, as they have been latterly known, the *Victorian Reports*. For some years the reports have been published by the legal publishing firm of Butterworths on behalf of what has been called the Council of Law Reporting in Victoria. The origins of this council and its original constitution are lost in antiquity, but some years ago Mr. Justice Dean of the Supreme Court, whilst chairman of the council, drafted an *ad hoc* constitution, which was adopted by the then council. Although it was actually framed for convenience, considerable doubts exist as to its effect and legality. I make no comment on this. The constitution was drawn up by a Justice of the Supreme Court.

It is felt that this unsatisfactory position should be remedied by incorporating the Council of Law Reporting in Victoria as has been done in England, New Zealand and other countries. That is the purpose of this small Bill.

The short title and definitions are provided for in clauses 1 and 2, and clause 3 provides that the council shall be a body corporate by the name of the Council of Law Reporting in Victoria having perpetual succession and a common seal and capable of holding and disposing of property, of suing and being sued and of doing and suffering all such other acts and things as bodies corporate may lawfully do and suffer.

Clause 4 provides for the automatic transfer of all property vested in the old council to the incorporated council and releases and discharges from liability all members of the previous council in respect of anything transferred to the new council. It also exempts the transfer from stamp duty.

Clause 5 provides for the constitution of the corporate council. It is to consist of a Judge of the Supreme Court appointed by the Chief Justice, who shall act as chairman, the Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, and the Librarian of the Supreme Court, who shall be members *ex officio*, and two members each appointed by the Council of the Law Institute and the Victorian Bar Council.

Clause 6 provides that any member other than an *ex officio* member shall be appointed for a period not exceeding five years and be eligible for reappointment on the expiration of that time.

A number of administrative provisions follow which I do not think it is necessary to traverse in the course of a second-reading speech, so I pass to clause 10, which is the central part of the Bill apart from the incorporation of the council. This clause gives the council the power to