

force has been able to respond promptly and take what action has been required and, with the work of the industrial liaison officers, has been able to defuse most of the industrial issues, which in the past would probably have lead to costly stoppages. The Government has strongly supported the prices and incomes accord, which recognizes the fundamental objective of the maintenance of real wages through a centralized system of wage fixation—a system which aims to maintain real income over time and protect the weaker groups.

In the past Governments have sought advice, but never listened; this Government seeks advice from unions, business and interest groups and is willing to act on that advice in the best interests of the people of Victoria.

In conclusion, I pay tribute to my family and close friends, without whose support I would not be here, and also to the Australian Labor Party and its members for giving me the opportunity of representing in Parliament a great political party.

**The Hon. G. R. CRAWFORD** (Jika Jika Province)—Mr President, I thank honourable members for the opportunity of addressing the House on this occasion. This address will be somewhat disjointed because I wish to touch upon a number of issues that time would not permit me to deal with in detail. First, I thank my campaign workers and the electors of Jika Jika Province for their support. I take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of my wife and family for their support during the many decades in which I have been involved in public life.

I feel a sense of satisfaction in representing the Jika Jika Province. The name of the province goes back to the establishment of Melbourne. That immediately raises one of the first issues about which I should certainly like to make some declarations. As honourable members know, Jika Jika Province covers the electoral districts of Northcote, Preston, Reservoir and Bundoora. The name Jika Jika is the early name for the area that today is commonly known as Preston and derives from the association of Aboriginal people, with names such as Jaga Jaga and Geelong, who entered into contracts with early white settlers of Australia. Those contracts provided for the taking over of large tracts of this country by migrant to establish the community of Melbourne and establish the white population of Australia.

It is a reflection upon the white people in Australia that the Aboriginal people today are struggling for land rights in their country. Their land rights have been taken away from them by people who migrated to this country. I do not wish to deal in any depth on this occasion with the issue of land rights but it is a major issue on which this Parliament, along with all State Parliaments, must co-operate with the Federal Government to set down a proper form of land rights, which must be acceptable to the Aboriginal people of Australia.

Although honourable members can all be critical of civil rights situations in other countries, and I am certainly guilty of that because I will have a go at civil rights in other countries, surely we should all realize that we have a major responsibility to correct the injustices that have occurred for decades in our country. Time does not allow me to deal with this subject in more detail.

I came to Parliament after 41 years' membership of the Plumbers and Gasfitters Employees Union of Australia. I spent 30 years as a full-time official of that union; parallel with that, I have also been a member of the Australian Labor Party for 40 years and have held administrative positions in that party for some decades. I have attempted to be involved in as many of the issues confronting the ordinary people of Australia as has been possible. Therefore, I have been widely and diversely active in many of these issues which, I believe, will assist me to make contributions to debate in the House in future.

The issues of workers compensation, occupational health and safety and other matters are of concern to me and I will make contributions to debates when those matters are dealt with more precisely.

I wish to speak about other issues which are not often before this House, hence the opportunity to speak on them is limited. In addition to my activities in the trade union movement and the labour movement in general, I have been active in the peace movement. I have been involved in peace issues over decades, in campaigns and in attempts to make a contribution to the understanding by people of the problems confronting them on the vital issue of peace. I believe peace transcends all other issues.

I have contributed a tremendous amount of work towards building up wages, allowances and conditions of employment for workers. Other people have contributed a tremendous amount of work in establishing companies and enterprises. However, there is no point in developing all of these productive forces of society if the end result is that society goes up in a bang and is destroyed.

Peace transcends all other issues. It is an issue with which more and more people must concern themselves. I believe young people in our society today are extremely concerned about this issue, many of them to the extent that they wonder how they ought to live their lives in terms of how much time they have to live and how far ahead they can plan.

If one examines the international arena, one observes the tremendous development of troubled spots in various areas. I became conscious of the causes of war some decades ago. I believe the basic causes of war are the struggles for colonies, markets and spheres of influence. It was not until the second world war that war had an ideological basis. That was the struggle against Fascism.

Most of the wars that confront society are wars that emanate from the struggles for colonies, markets and spheres of influence. Those struggles continue in international society today. People are struggling for national independence and the right of self determination in Central and South America. Yet other people speak of terrorists as if they are people who only hijack planes. I think of the terrorists in countries like El Salvador and Central American countries as people who are being financed with millions of dollars to shoot and butcher people in an endeavour to prevent them from having the right of self-determination and the conduct of their own affairs without interference from military powers to whom they are no threat. War is the struggle over spheres of influence and markets. What threat is any banana republic to the United States of America and to its security?

This is an issue that must be considered by all of us. I am proud that I have been involved in this issue, although I copped a lot of abuse because the issue was unpopular and unacceptable to a large cross-section of the community. I am proud that I was involved in the struggle against Australia's aggression in Vietnam when Australia lined up with the United States of America.

As a child, I was told that Australia had never been the aggressor in another country. Australia can no longer make that claim because it was a blatant aggressor in Vietnam and was involved in the murder of women and children and in acts of war against a country that was no threat to Australia.

I was proud to be involved in that issue because I believe the people who made the stand against the Vietnam involvement have been proved to be correct. I could make many other comments about the Vietnam situation but I will not do so at this time.

I am also proud to have been associated with the establishment of friendly relations with the People's Republic of China. I went to Japan in 1960 to a peace conference as a representative of the Victorian trade unions, and it was my privilege to then visit China which at that stage was approximately ten years after liberation. I saw the tremendous strides those wonderful Chinese people made once they had been liberated. Since then, we have all observed how they have solved basic economic and population problems to the extent that they have had the courage to adopt zero population growth.

It has been my privilege to visit China on three occasions. I am gratified by the tremendous co-operation that exists between Australia and China. There is a warm relationship

between the Government and the people of China and the Government and the people of Australia. I am pleased that the Victorian Government has adopted a sister province in China and I am pleased that the Chinese people are involved in joint ventures with other countries to develop technology in China.

Many Australians in the building construction industry are involved in that development. I have been pleasantly surprised to note the number of architects, civil engineers and building organizations that are involved in joint ventures with the Chinese in terms of developing or applying Australian technology in China.

While I am dealing with the questions of international relationships and world peace, I declare my opposition to the export of Australian uranium overseas and to the development of nuclear industries in Australia. I am pleased to support a State Government that has introduced legislation to keep Victoria nuclear free.

I will continue to be involved in the campaign against the development of the nuclear industry and the establishment of nuclear weapons.

We are all concerned with the continual escalation of the arms race, and if the manufacturing of nuclear weapons proliferates sooner or later those weapons will be used. Trouble spots flare up all around the world including such areas as Central America, the Middle East, Africa and the Philippines. Situations could occur in any of those countries that could lead to the use of tactical nuclear weapons and a spot war could escalate into a major nuclear confrontation.

I will also continue to be involved in the campaign to support people in other countries obtaining their rights of self-government and self determination, so that they can determine the system under which they desire to live. It will mean that I will continue to support SWAPO in South Africa. How can anybody support a system where each week blacks are being buried who were shot and butchered the week before. A continuing process of people being shot, butchered and then buried is occurring. That is not a healthy society, but it has prevailed over a number of decades. It is the inevitable result where people cannot obtain democracy in their own country.

I thank the House for the opportunity of placing those matters before it.

The motion was agreed to.

## DANGEROUS GOODS BILL

**The Hon. E. H. WALKER** (Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs)—I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Bill is to promote the safety of all Victorians as they are affected by the use of dangerous goods in Victorian industry and commerce.

Many chemicals have hazardous properties. An incident involving them can pose the threat of fire or explosion, or of poisoning by contact or inhalation. There is a further problem in that some chemicals will interact violently if they become mixed together. In an industrialized society we depend upon chemicals and chemical products for many things. Some of the more obvious examples are plastics, synthetic fibres, paints, varnishes, fertilizers, pesticides, medicines, cosmetics, detergents and food additives as well as liquid fuels and gases.

The proposed legislation covers operations which range in size from giant chemical plants, such as those operating in the Altona petro-chemical complex, holding thousands of tonnes of petro-chemicals; down to workplaces where small numbers of drums containing high risk chemicals are handled. The Bill will assist Victorian consumers by providing for better safety design in the packaging and labelling of the chemical products they use.