

House concerning the amount of overtime paid to members of the force. For the year ending 30th June, 1970, members of the force were paid a total of \$194,000 in overtime, which is less than \$1 per man per week. According to figures published by the Government Statist for the year ending 30th June, 1969, the amount paid in overtime to the average wage earner was \$11.30, and this year it is \$11.50 per week.

Many restrictions are placed upon a policeman. He cannot engage in outside employment to supplement his income and, if the Chief Commissioner likes to enforce it, his wife cannot work. However, with other policemen, I said to our superintendent, "I cannot stop her. You tell her not to work".

For some reason, members of the Police Force have been allowed to supplement their income in one manner only, and that is by being a good footballer or a good football coach. However, if they indulge in horse racing—and I thank the Premier for reminding me of this—or if they own trotting horses, they cannot train or drive those horses because the powers that be argue that if a man is disqualified he cannot perform his duties on the racecourse at which he incurred his disqualification, or perhaps he may be prevented from entering any racecourse. However, the number of policemen who own trotters or who are likely to own trotters is infinitesimal and it is unlikely that a policeman would find himself in circumstances where he was the only man rostered for duty at a racecourse and the only man available. This is one aspect concerning the Police Force that should be examined and, like any other citizen, the policeman should be afforded a full citizen's rights. Somewhat grudgingly, I must thank the Government for granting certain citizens' rights to policemen in 1962. Until that time I, as a policeman, was not officially permitted to be a mem-

ber of a political party. I was then permitted to stand for my local council and was elected in 1963.

SIR HENRY BOLTE.—You were the first policeman to be elected.

Mr. SHILTON.—That is so, and now policemen are able to hold a convention of councillors. I am thankful that I was stationed in the country at the time because in that situation the police enjoy the confidence of the people. This confidence would be enjoyed by every policeman in the metropolitan area if people stopped to think before they criticized the police. People are ever ready to jump in and say, "Because of Tom Smith, the whole force of 4,800 police are animals." Policemen are men, they bleed, they have wives and families and are entitled to live.

I apologize for speaking so much about the Police Force. Earlier I said that I entered Parliament to represent and fight for the betterment of my electorate but I also intend to fight for the betterment of Victoria. This State cannot grow better or greater unless people support and have confidence in the very group of men who uphold and maintain the laws which are framed in this House and are to be acted upon.

Mr. CURNOW (Kara Kara).—On behalf of my electorate and myself, may I express our loyalty to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and to her representative in Victoria, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Rohan Delacombe? This loyalty will be demonstrated in no uncertain manner on the occasion of His Excellency's visit to Boort in the northern sector of my electorate on 10th October.

Reflecting on the Governor's Speech, I must applaud the announcement that a Ministry of Social Welfare will be implemented during the current session of Parliament. However, on the debit side extreme disappointment must be expressed that no mention was made in the Speech of a programme to alleviate the problems of the rural sector of

the State. His Excellency's Speech stated that the construction of the underground railway would proceed at a cost of \$80 million. This enormous expenditure is to be outlaid without the true benefits of the underground railway being known. A sum of \$80 million would solve the problem of rural industry.

In regard to the economic position of the State, country people are having the wool—or maybe it is the synthetics—pulled over their eyes. The great problem, of course, is ever rising costs and consequent inflation, but nothing is being done to control the situation. Drastic economic measures should have been taken long ago to place this State and its rural industries on a stable footing. This has not been done because the Government has lacked the courage to do it. Three-quarters of the Government's members are city-centred, city-minded and city-orientated and think that Victoria finishes at the end of the Tullamarine Freeway. It is about time their outlook extended a few miles farther. During the currency of the last Parliament, not a single attempt was made to give relief to those in country areas who needed it, to those going broke on farms, to those in jobs in industries which were going broke, or to the rural sector in general. No attempt is now being made to provide assistance.

This applies not only to agriculture, but also to education. We are told that there is equality in education, but I assure honorable members that a visit to any country school will convince them that this is not so. The number of people in my electorate is falling to such an extent that there is absolutely no hope of obtaining the extra equipment and facilities needed in the schools. There are five high schools and one technical school in the area. They are not adequate but because of falling population nothing will be done to alleviate the problems.

Mr. Curnow.

It is the Government which is causing the crisis. It is allowing people to be drained away from the country. As the honorable member for Midlands so rightly said, in a few years we shall need these people back in the places they are leaving. The right thing to do is keep them there. As a result of inequality in education, the country student is limited in every way. His opportunity of obtaining a place at a university is limited and so is his opportunity to obtain an education of a sufficiently high standard to ensure that he gets a decent job when he leaves school.

Worries affecting municipalities have been discussed at great length, but I can mention many more. The Kara Kara electorate comprises 4,497 square miles, twelve municipalities and about 16,000 people who are eligible to vote. On an average, each municipality covers 700 or 800 square miles and has only about 2,000 adults. Yet, with such a relatively small number of people and such comparatively large areas, those municipalities are expected to provide facilities similar to those provided by a city comprising 13 square miles and containing 50,000 people. They are expected to provide kindergartens, health services, and all the other facilities which are provided by other municipalities, but they do not have a hope in Hades of doing it. It is time they received some help. I make a plea for the common people in my electorate. Without substantial help these people cannot enjoy the standard of living that is enjoyed by people in the metropolitan area.

I have enormous faith in the potential of the country, particularly the potential of the people to again do well, but it is up to the Government to provide relief by finance and the encouragement necessary to overcome their problems. Farmers, industries, municipalities and schools in my electorate all need support urgently. Last year, Victoria had a record wheat harvest, but 20 million bushels of the wheat was sold on the black market so that farmers

could live from day to day. Twenty million bushels crossed the border into New South Wales and South Australia and farmers were accepting 60 cents and 65 cents a bushel for the wheat in order to obtain a few bob. The people who made the money on the wheat were the profiteering stock feed mills and flour mills. The Government did nothing about the problem; it turned a blind eye to it.

I want to know where the Government is going and I want to know what are its basic principles and whether they lead to economic ruin—as I believe they do—or to the road back to prosperity. As a member of the Labor Party, I stand for political principles and not the type of political wisdom used by the Premier to win the last four or five elections in knowing what to say at the right time. In the days ahead, there will be no shifting of the political grounds or principles of the Labor Party. Members of the Labor Party may need to gain some political wisdom, but our principles will be retained and implemented in two and a half years' time when the people return the Labor Party to the Treasury bench.

Another matter which causes me great concern is decentralization. Political wisdom dictates the introduction of this subject one month before an election and forgets it one month afterwards. It is time that something constructive was done. The Government should decentralize its own departments. Can any honorable member give me a valid reason why the headquarters of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission with its 500 employees are situated in Armadale, when it does not control anything within a radius of 25 miles from its location? Perhaps the commission's office should be located in Ballarat. I realize that vast industries cannot be established in small country towns, but some Government departments could be relocated outside Melbourne. The Forests Commission, the Department of Agriculture, and

the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission should not be located in the metropolitan area. If the Government gave a lead by establishing some of its departments where they ought to be, in areas where they operate effectively, private enterprise industry would soon follow.

The things I have mentioned are worth fighting for. "Solidarity" is a hackneyed word but it is a great word in the movement to which I belong. In that movement we have our differences but, unlike the party on the Government benches, we do not form a mutual admiration society. We are a party of the people. We fight for what is good for the masses, and the masses are invariably right. Our policies are based on what the people want and need. The Labor movement lives, thrives, and grows strong as a result of the work, not of a few individuals, but of all who are associated with it. The Labor movement, particularly as it exists at present, will be the salvation of this State which is fast going down the drain—the Labor Party will put in the plug.

There is a veneer of unity between the Liberal Party and the Country Party in this House. Today I saw the first sign that there was a third party here. It had appeared that there were only two parties represented in this House. Because of the veneer of unity, it is hard to establish to whom the parties answer. Perhaps it is the McEwen-Gorton coalition which pulls the strings in this State.

The loyalty and solidarity of the Labor Party will win through. The people of Victoria will realize this. Country people are looking for help which is not forthcoming. They can do only one thing, namely, unite and discard their Liberal Government chains in favour of a Labor Party Government which will give them the help and finance they need in a way which will stimulate the whole of the economy of the State of Victoria.

Mr. AMOS (Morwell).—It is an honour and a privilege to speak to the motion for the adoption of an