

The third woman was Mrs Fanny E. Brownbill, elected 4 June 1938, to the 33rd Parliament, as the member of the Legislative Assembly for the electorate of Geelong—Labor Party.

It is interesting to note that there was then a gap of 29 years. The fourth woman to enter Parliament was Mrs Dorothy Ada Goble, elected 29 April 1967 to the 44th Parliament, as the member of the Legislative Assembly for Mitcham electorate—Liberal.

In 1976 I entered Parliament and was closely followed on 5 November 1977 by the present honorable member for Greensborough.

Recently I read a publication which emanated from the University of Colorado on the topic of women in the workplace. I shall quote from that publication as I heard an interjection by a member of my own side about a takeover because there will be five women in Parliament in July. The publication states:

The occupational roles of women as producer and the constraints of familial breeder-feeder roles on that occupational role are the problems this paper set out to consider. Through historical analysis I have shown that the triple role has always been present. This is no new phenomenon of the industrial revolution, or of the twentieth century; nor is the wage differential related to the triple-role handicap new. What is new is a vision of human potential which is being applied to women as well as to men and which inevitably leads to the affirmation of equal rewards and equal opportunities for both sexes.

I am pleased and proud to be part of a Liberal Party which introduced the Equal Opportunities Act which I think was largely inspired by International Women's Year. The writer ends by saying:

What is involved here is not the old battle of the sexes, which was a battle for dominance, but a process of mutual liberation on behalf of that gentler and more creative generation to come—our children's children.

I tie that in with the fourth paragraph, on page 4 of His Excellency the Governor's Speech which I will repeat:

Quality of life in all its aspects has been the aim of recent Governments of this State. It will continue to be a prime aim of the new Government that all Victorians should share in wider opportunity for self expression and personal development.

Finally, I pledge the loyalty of the people of Brighton to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

**Mr SPYKER** (Heatherton)—I am proud to be the new member for Heatherton. I can assure this House that I will represent the people of my electorate to the best of my ability. I am certain that my experience in the rank-and-file section of the trade union movement makes me an able representative for the wage and salary earners who make up the majority of the electorate.

The Heatherton electorate covers the suburbs of Cheltenham on the west, Clayton on the east, and runs from East Bentleigh on the north to Mentone on the south, and contains one of the busiest airports in Australia, which creates many problems. It is a densely industrialized area containing more than 1000 small factories.

Not more than a few weeks ago I worked in one of these factories and I bring a greeting from my workmates on the factory floor. I am confident that I will be able to pick up the tools of this place and use them most effectively.

My predecessor for twelve years was an able representative of big capital and big profits which are part and parcel of the Liberal Party's philosophy.

Such is the philosophy dictated by the companies whose shares appear so regularly on the lists of pecuniary interests of the members on the Government side of the House. Such philosophy was clear in the mini Budget which will increase unemployment, close hospitals and result in people being unable to afford to visit a doctor. There will be more overcrowding in schools and further reduction in living standards, while Utah, BHP, Esso and other companies will get off scot-free. Such attitudes no longer have the support of my electorate. I can assure the House that I will always, to the best of my ability, represent the tens of thousands of workers in factories, shops, offices and banks. I will voice the interests of the ordinary people and their families, the ones who represent the great majority of the population of this State.

As I said at the outset, there are more than 1000 small factories in my electorate. Many of them are owned by enterprising individuals, and they and their families, just as much as their workers, are the target of exploitation by the multi-nationals. I will just as eagerly and sincerely voice their plight and their interests.

The higher interest rates agreed to by this Government, for example, are sending many small businesses and factories in the Moorabbin-Clayton area to the wall, which suits the interests of the multi-nationals. In today's economic conditions, for which this Government and its philosophy of *laissez-faire* capitalism is greatly responsible, it is even more imperative to defend, not only the workers and small businessmen and women, but also the pensioners and people on fixed incomes, on whose shoulders this Government wants to place the whole burden of its disastrous economic policies.

Ten per cent of the people in my electorate are on pensions, or are people relying on the Government for their source of income. Their standards of living have been drastically reduced, and they are forced to do all sorts of things, even to the extent of cutting down on their proper meals. There are pensioners in my electorate who cannot afford even meals-on-wheels, and have to ask their neighbours for hand-outs. People in this country should not be forced into such a position. I am aware that prior to the election this Government gave lip service to criticizing the Fraser Government for destroying half-yearly indexation of pensions, but its members are hypocritical, otherwise they would have resigned. They are part of the same philosophy, and it is only lip service that they gave in that area, as the people in my electorate showed on 5 May by refusing to re-elect the former member.

After all the promises by this Government and its counterpart in Canberra, inflation in Victoria, as well as all over Australia, is more than 8 per cent per annum. Knowing this, and knowing that inflation will certainly increase, the  
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Victorian Government is still at this moment putting a case before the Arbitration Commission on the current wage indexation hearing, that workers should not get more than a 1 per cent wage increase, if any at all.

It is generous of course to the rip-off merchants who are the friends of the members opposite. If the Government's arguments are accepted by the Arbitration Commission, it will add an extra 3 per cent to the profits of big companies. Such windfall profits are not returned to people through taxes but are invested in automation and technological change which will create even more unemployment. Computerized equipment will replace more and more workers, dumping them on the scrap heap. Not only is unemployment the result of automation, but so is the dramatically increased production which floods the market. At the same time, the decreasing value of wages, and the increasing number of unemployed, diminishes further the already reduced demand.

This is where the real cause of unemployment lies. It is not, as stated by the members opposite, who have no original ideas but parrot their master from Canberra, that workers are pricing themselves out of jobs. Had they been supporting a system of Capitalism with a human face, they would be asking the Arbitration Commission to restore full indexation. This would increase demand, and would still leave plenty of room for profits, and one of its effects would be a decrease in unemployment.

This Government has been a failure in whatever area one cares to examine. The election result showed that people realize this. The Government is basically a minority government, which is hanging on by the skin of its teeth, with only 42 per cent of the vote on a gerrymandered electorate. I am sure its counterparts in Queensland would be embarrassed by such a position. The Government claims to have a mandate to govern on 42 per cent of the vote, and then its members claim to be democrats. I emphasize again that I will do my best to ensure that this Government

is replaced by a Government that will look after the interests of the ordinary people.

I refer to youth unemployment and apprenticeships. Nobody can say that this is not purely a State matter. Many young people are being called "work-shy", yet the 1978 report of the Industrial Training Commission, of which I happen to be a member, showed that in every trade there are many more applicants than jobs available. In that report it was stated that there were 4000 young people who were qualified and acceptable, according to the Industrial Training Commission, but were unable to obtain apprenticeships in any trade or occupation; that is, 33 per cent of the total intake were unable to obtain jobs. What happens to these young people?

There were 256 cancellations of apprenticeships from the beginning of this year. People have a great habit of mentioning facts and figures without giving any consideration to the fact that those facts and figures represent young people. Massive amounts of money are spent on education, child care and child welfare, but when children reach the age of fifteen or sixteen years we dump them, and if they cannot fit into what we term our society, we have a habit of saying that they are work-shy—and I do not like using that objectionable word.

There is a shortage of 2000 tradesmen, as was reported by the Industrial Training Commission, yet this Government has failed to try to fill those vacant occupations. In the metal industry 30 per cent of the work force are over the age of 50 years. These people will need to be replaced within the next ten to fifteen years, yet the Government has done nothing to help these 4000 young people to fill those vacancies. The Government would rather use the short-term factor of importing people, and then sending them back or sacking them, because they are only on a week's notice anyway.

There is this further sorry state of affairs of workers compensation and industrial safety. Much is said about

the number of hours lost in Australia owing to industrial disputes, but there are three times as many hours lost because of industrial accidents. In my electorate a person with six dependants, who is on workers compensation as a result of an industrial accident, has to live on the grand total of \$103 a week because the Government says that it recognizes only two dependants and a person will not get paid for any more. I would like members opposite, who start on the base rate of \$25 000 a year, to be critical of that person and others who live on such low incomes.

In March 1975 the Hamer Government promised yearly indexation of workers compensation payments, but they have not been increased. That is another section of the population which is forced to carry the burden of this Government's policy.

Public transport is of particular interest in my electorate, because it is now worse than it was when I moved into the area in 1957. Young people, mothers with young children and elderly people are prisoners in their own homes. If they have no car they cannot get out, because there is no public transport. This causes many social problems. Young people and mothers with young children are prisoners in their own homes because of the lack of public transport, especially buses. Even if public transport exists, there is no co-ordination between bus and train services.

The Government's neglect of public transport over the years has created monstrous problems. I instance dilapidated and antiquated rolling stock, dirty trains, irregular services, cancelled services, understaffing, unmanned railway stations, low staff morale—and the list just goes on. How can anyone question why there is continual unrest in the industry.

The Victorian Government Travel Authority is missing a great opportunity in failing to advertise Victoria's train service as an adventure ride—it is an adventure ride—one never knows when one will get to one's destination or even whether the train will be running

at all. If honorable members caught trains, as I do, they would know that that is a fact of life. Trains can be kept waiting in the rail yards at Flinders Street Station—if the trains ever arrive—for twenty minutes because there is no platform available.

Another must for Heatherton is clean trains, regular services with co-ordinated bus and train services, a tramline down Nepean Highway to Cheltenham, and a dial-a-bus service. I was pleased to hear the Minister of Transport state that he was considering the provision of a tram service along the Nepean Highway to Cheltenham, but he said that before the election when he was trying to save his colleagues in the sand belt. He did not succeed but I hope he continues with this matter.

I now refer to another disadvantaged section of the population, the migrant community, which make up a substantial proportion of the Heatherton electorate. Apart from language difficulties, the major problem confronting migrants is employment. Migrants are mainly employed in unskilled occupations and are the most likely employees to get the sack when a slump hits an industry. Women migrants particularly are under stress caused by the speed of production lines, the competition for jobs and their concern for their children because of unsatisfactory child-care arrangements, and the shortage of migrant English teachers in schools.

I was concerned earlier to hear a member of the Liberal Party refer to the abolition of penalty rates and the introduction of a more even spread of working hours, both during the day and at night. There has been much talk in the House about family life and its break up. What would break up a family quicker than children attending school during the week, with parents at home only on the week-end, and the parents are told by an employer that on Saturday or Sunday night they will have to work and, consequently, cannot see their children for the next three or four weeks. Any suggestion of that proposal is hypocritical,

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if nothing else, yet such suggestions often come from people claiming to protect family life.

About 80 per cent of the population in my electorate receive less than \$150 a week take-home pay. Indeed, unskilled workers take home only \$121 a week. Honorable members have criticized submissions in support of indexation at the national wage case, but I suggest that they try and live for one week on such a low family wage. It is not easy.

Further, migrants have much difficulty in purchasing a house. I refer to ever-increasing interest rates, the extra burden that they are unable to afford, and the subsequent decrease in their standard of living and take-home pay. Future writers of history will be amazed that this Government was not thrown out of office, if only because of its tremendous generosity to land speculators, when the Government should have been buying land to provide low-priced building blocks. Instead, it has been generous not only to land speculators but also to Carlton and United Breweries Ltd through the introduction of fixed minimum prices of beer. Obviously, the Government seeks to rob workers of one of the last few enjoyments they can afford—a well-earned glass of beer after a hard day at work.

There are many other areas in which this Government has failed the ordinary people of my electorate and the people throughout Victoria. I refer to education, energy conservation, local government—whatever this Government touches turns to disaster. Certainly, it is time we redressed the balance and gave the people of Victoria a say in how their State is to be governed.

**Mr WILLIAMS** (Doncaster)—In speaking on behalf of the electors of Doncaster I wish to express respect and loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and indicate respect and loyalty to Her Majesty's representatives in this State, Sir Henry and Lady Winneke. I offer my personal congratulations to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, in succeeding your predecessor, a man who was dear to the hearts of all honorable members. Also, I extend my congratulations to Mr