

encouragement, and guidance is something which I value above all else, and I thank her for all she has done for me.

None of this would have been possible without the support of my family. To my extended family, I say, "Thank you". To my husband, Jim, and my children, Michael and Kirsty, I pay a very special tribute. They have always encouraged, supported, and assisted me in a loving and caring manner. Words could never really express my thanks to them.

Mr Speaker, I thank all honourable members for hearing me in silence this evening. I understand that it will be the first and last time. I look forward with much pleasure and enthusiasm to working with the Cain government in this historic third term of government.

Mr HONEYWOOD (Warrandyte)—Mr Speaker, I congratulate you on your election as Speaker and assure you of my respect for your position. Having experienced a week in the Chamber, I have already come to appreciate the challenge that your position entails.

I express my loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen and congratulate His Excellency, Dr Davis McCaughey, Governor of Victoria, on his competent performance as Her Majesty's representative in this State.

It is with some apprehension and humility that I address the House. I am fully aware that I do not have the experience of the more senior members of this place, but I bring with me a great deal of enthusiasm and energy, and I hope in time I shall gain both experience and wisdom.

I have the distinction of representing the electorate of Warrandyte, a seat which has been served since 1982 by Mr Lou Hill. I know that Mr Hill was well regarded by honourable members on both sides of the House, and I wish him well in his future career.

It is interesting to note that Warrandyte was the only seat to change between the two major parties at the recent State election. To understand the reasons for this change, I shall draw a parallel to a previous Federal administration, the Whitlam government. I believe the Whitlam experience to be a good parallel to make, not only because of its link with the problems of today, but also because it was the Whitlam government that caused me to become a committed Liberal. The parallel can be drawn in three distinct areas. The first area relates to my initial exposure to politics as a twelve-year-old student at a government high school in the town of Gosford, New South Wales. It was 1972, a time which many government members would no doubt remember with some lingering nostalgia.

The "It's time" campaign encouraged many of my teachers to throw caution to the wind and become vocal proponents of a Labor government. As the son of a small businessman, I can remember asking my teachers what the Labor Party would do for small business. The question has remained unanswered for the past sixteen years. During that period I observed my parents and others being forced to cope with the introduction of a bewildering array of new regulations, many of which served no particular purpose other than to glue my parents to the dining room table for many evenings filling out government forms. Since 1972, the situation has worsened.

During the recent election campaign, people throughout the Warrandyte electorate were complaining constantly about the regulations imposed by governments. Their message was clear; governments of whatever political persuasion cannot continue to burden private enterprise with increasing legislation and regulations. The paper chase has to be brought to an end!

The second parallel I draw with the Federal Labor administration of 1972 relates to the provision of basic services, whether they be sewerage pipes, footpaths, kerbing and guttering, and the like. As I recall, Gough Whitlam's electorate was an expanding urban growth area on the outskirts of Sydney. Indeed, Mr Whitlam probably distinguished himself at the time as being the first Prime Minister to put sewerage pipes, along with a few other items, on the national agenda. The 1972 campaign placed great weight on the need for governments to plan ahead and, more importantly, to deliver proper services to Australia's rapidly expanding suburbia. Again, the situation has worsened since that time.

Over the past six and a half years of State Labor administration, the electorate of Warrandyte has experienced one of the highest urban growth rates in the metropolitan area. Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that those moving into the electorate have, in the main, been young families with limited means of purchasing their first homes. One has only to drive to Croydon and Mooroolbark to encounter row upon row of new three-bedroom homes on a quarter of an acre or less land in new housing estates.

When many of the residents of these estates moved into the electorate, they were told by the government planners, the bureaucrats and, in some cases, their local members, that basic services, such as sewerage, footpaths, and decent roads, would soon follow. Many residents waited patiently as the months and the years passed by, and gradually they began to realise that they had been led down the garden path.

Finally the constituents of Warrandyte began to question why. Why did they have one of the highest birth rates in the State yet had no maternity ward available at the local hospital? Why were they forced to pay increased petrol prices when State taxes on that petrol did not go to where it was supposed—in funding the roads? Why were youngsters left roaming the streets because of inadequate youth facilities?

It was the lack of answers from the government to these questions that led to its loss of the seat of Warrandyte at the recent election. One has only to examine the swings against the government not only in the wealthy area polling booths, but also in the traditional Labor booths. It is my belief that in four years there will be many more Warrandytes for the government to contend with, and not all in the eastern suburbs.

Although we all acknowledge the difficulties encountered in funding urban growth, the lesson for future governments is to effectively plan for urban development and to submit to potential residents of newly developing areas a program indicating when services will be provided. If the program becomes unattainable the government should be honest enough to admit there are funding difficulties instead of offering bureaucratic excuses for the problems.

The third and final parallel I wish to draw with the Federal Labor administration of 1972 relates to youth issues. Prior to its election to power, Gough Whitlam's Labor Party excited many of Australia's young people. A new Australian idealism seemed to be on the horizon. To some extent the Whitlam administration managed to channel the energy of Australian youth into politics. Many young people joined issue groups and enunciated their newfound ideals.

After the "me" decade of the 1970s and after the "give me" decade of the 1980s, many young Australians are beginning to feel uncomfortable with the unbridled pursuit of their private interests and are looking for ways to channel their energies into something else.

From what do they have to choose? If they turn to either of the major parties they will be encouraged by those party organisations to join single issue groups, whether they be young liberal or young labor oriented. Many of the associations and

organisations at best only permit their members to debate seemingly weighty matters. What if young people actually want to do something? If they turn today to voluntary organisations they find that most of those groups are suffering from low morale, whether it be the State Emergency Service, volunteer hospital groups, or even justices of the peace—all have had their voluntary efforts either not recognised or positively discouraged by current Labor administrations.

While volunteerism is only one area where young people could be encouraged to direct their energies, it is nonetheless an important example where Victoria's young people could be encouraged to do something to participate in their communities. Certainly the young people of the Warrandyte electorate need encouragement. They are isolated from the bright lights of Melbourne; they lack public transport to get around the electorate or to visit friends. Effectively, they are away from it all.

As the member for Warrandyte, it will be my goal for many years to come to strive in the three parallels to the Whitlam Administration that I have drawn, to ensure that small businesses in my electorate and in the wider State area are encouraged to fulfil their free enterprise ideals with a minimum of interference from government.

It is my goal—and I shall constantly pursue the ideal, if you like—to provide good basic services to the electors of Warrandyte. It is my goal to ensure that not only in my electorate but also throughout the State young people have adequate facilities to keep them off the streets, to give them something for which they can strive, whether it be a voluntary organisation or a sporting organisation and to provide them with the channels for their energies rather than have them daubing graffiti on trains and creating some of the law and order problems experienced throughout the outer suburbs.

I thank my party for having the faith to preselect a younger person for a marginal seat. The Liberal Party has an excellent tradition of preselecting people from a wide range of backgrounds and a wide diversity of viewpoints. That is why I am a member of the Liberal Party.

I also thank my electorate committee, many of whom are here tonight. What distinguished the Liberal campaign in the Warrandyte electorate was the mixture of young and old. It was representative of the community that I was seeking to be elected by. That mixture was not only the people handing out leaflets at shopping centres on Saturday mornings, the young and old at the railway stations at 6.30 a.m. telling people why they should vote for Phil Honeywood and the Liberal Party, but also the young and old who were there day in, day out for so many days. At many polling booths young and old stood side by side handing out how-to-vote tickets.

I thank my electorate committee for their faith in me and for their consistent support. Importantly, I thank one very special lady who is present tonight—my wife, Gabrielle; also, my first child, Katherine Louise, who was born last Saturday. My daughter experienced the whole of the electoral campaign in Warrandyte; she was carried throughout the campaign to shopping centres and, whatever her aspirations may be, already she has been weaned on politics in the State arena.

I thank honourable members from both sides of the House for their courtesy in hearing me tonight, and also for their courtesy during my first week in the House. They showed the new members around the House, indicating where we should be, where we should sit, and everything else that was necessary. It is a nice atmosphere to come into a House where cordiality reigns supreme.

Mr LEIGHTON (Preston)—I welcome the opportunity of making my first speech in the debate for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech.