

Advanced Education in Gippsland Province, with metropolitan universities will lead to greater equality of educational access for all young Victorians.

Mr President, if throughout this speech I have sounded boastful of the province that I represent, I do so unashamedly. With its diverse range of interests and issues and unlimited growth potential, it is an area of which I feel justifiably proud. It is my intention to work hard towards realising this potential and towards repaying the people of Gippsland for the trust they have bestowed upon me.

The Hon. R. S. IVES (Eumemmerring Province)—Mr President, like all honourable members, I congratulate you on your election. You have served in the Legislative Council with distinction over many years. It is fitting that you now should occupy this important position.

As a new member, I am grateful for the sincere expressions of good wishes that I have received from both sides of the House. I am also thankful for the unfailing courtesy and assistance provided to me by officers, staff and attendants of this Chamber. I am not unmindful of the fact that we are a group of men and women fated to work together for substantial periods of each year in proximity, often late into the night and often under great personal pressure. Therefore, small courtesies are essential, and they are appreciated.

I must be honest. Although I am naturally self-conscious about giving this, my first speech, it does afford me immense personal satisfaction to be in the position where I am able to make it. I stood first for the Legislative Council in 1983 at a by-election for East Yarra Province. I was defeated.

The Hon. M. A. Birrell—Hear, hear!

The Hon. R. S. IVES—But it makes me glad to see that my then opponent, the Honourable Mark Birrell, the honourable member for East Yarra Province and Leader of the Opposition, has applied himself diligently and with considerable success in Parliament since his election. In 1985 I stood as a candidate for Nunawading Province. At the end of that election day, when the polls closed, the number of formal votes for my then opponent, the Honourable Rosemary Varty, now the honourable member for Nunawading Province, and me was identical.

I should like to congratulate the Honourable Rosemary Varty for her success in the subsequent re-election ordered by the Court of Disputed Returns and acknowledge the work she has done in the House since then. The Nunawading Province episode is now over and done with. It has slid into history; a fascinating bit of political history but, nevertheless, history. Essentially this is the conclusion reached by a committee of this House last year. I am not prepared to consider my political career and personal life as some anticlimax following the Nunawading Province re-election. Therefore, I am and will continue to be particularly terse with colleagues and members of the press who continually wish to associate my name with that seat.

I am in a unique political position of having lost a seat, drawn a seat, and won a seat. The seat I represent is Eumemmerring Province. As an aside, when he welcomed me to this Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Jeff Kennett, said I deserve the prize for persistence. However, on reflection, I believe this prize should go to Mr George Cox, the member for Nunawading Province.

Eumemmerring Province is a large, sprawling seat that covers the four Assembly electorates of Springvale, Dandenong, Dandenong North and Doveton. It is a seat of enormous diversity. It contains the rich multicultural life of Springvale; Dandenong City, which is steadily being upgraded into a major district centre; working-class communities with a proud sense of identity, such as Noble Park and Doveton; the

semirural countryside around Narre Warren; the traditional manufacturing industries best represented by H. J. Heinz Company Australia Ltd, Holden's Motor Company at Dandenong; the new high-tech industries represented by the very large investment of firms such as Fujitsu Australia Ltd and NEC Australia Pty Ltd in Mulgrave, Dandenong and Hallam; and the new housing estates around Rowville and Hampton Park.

The most important fact is that over the next ten years approximately 50 per cent of all new houses built in the metropolitan area will be built in the Doveton-Berwick corridor. It will be a tremendous challenge to government to install adequate services and facilities to match the housing explosion in this area. To effectively represent Eumemmerring Province in this Parliament and in this government is a major task that will keep me happily and constructively occupied during my time here.

Eumemmerring has been the name of a creek, a cattle-run, and a parish, as well as an electoral province. In the local Aboriginal language it meant "to agree with", and that is a very good word for a politician. I hope in this House there are many things we can agree on or, if one likes, "Eumemmerring" about! One such matter may be the role of this Chamber and the possibility of change in it.

It is a feature of the British institution of Parliament that, although the outward symbols and rituals remain the same, the function changes. For instance, if I may be so bold, Mr President, the wig and gown you wear with such distinction are not only a symbol of the the authority of your office but are also a symbol of the fact that through evolution the institution of Parliament can change dramatically while providing the same outward forms. The wig and gown are a symbol of a different kind today than they were two or three centuries ago. Change under the British system has come not only through revolution but also through agreement, persuasion, and the power of ideas.

An idea whose time has arrived is the notion of wider representation of parties and viewpoints in this Chamber through the electoral system of proportional representation. This will eventually come, as it already has in the majority of Upper House Chambers in Australia; it may take many years, but come it will. The political challenge to the opposition parties is either to agree to it and agree to it in a form that they can control and accommodate, or have it forced upon them at some subsequent date. The choice is theirs. On the government side of the House we uphold the importance of the Chamber as a proper House of review deserving of wider representation of the diverse viewpoints within the community.

If I now breach etiquette by commenting on another new member's speech, I apologise to the House in advance; if I use a term that is too strong for the occasion, I apologise to the House in advance. However, to claim, as a new member did last night, that responsible government commences in this House and not in the duly elected Legislative Assembly smacks of—and I use this word advisedly—an arrogance that this House can do without. It will not be helpful in the deliberations of the Chamber. I much prefer the approach of the previous speaker, Mr Hall, the member for Gippsland Province, who looks forward to cooperating with the government.

In conclusion, I ask for the indulgence of the Chamber in recognising the strong personal feelings that make me place on public record reference to my father. In his early days, my father was a bush labourer and drover. He was a dedicated unionist and a lifelong supporter of the Australian Labor Party. He was a self-educated man who read exhaustively in numerous mechanics institute libraries throughout rural Western Australia. From him I gained my own lifelong commitment to the ALP. I regret that he died last year at the age of 86 and, therefore, failed to see me properly elected to Parliament as a candidate endorsed by the ALP.

Before resuming my seat, I thank the House for the courtesy it has shown me during this, my first speech.

The Hon. B. A. E. SKEGGS (Templestowe Province)—Mr President, and members of the Legislative Council, firstly I express my loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen and support the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency the Governor. I take this opportunity of congratulating you, Mr President, on your election to the high office of President of this august Chamber. It is a very high responsibility and one that I know you will discharge with great distinction, having a personal knowledge of your long and distinguished record in the services of the Parliament and especially in the traditions of this Chamber.

I also congratulate Mr Wright on his election as Chairman of Committees of this House. I pay tribute to the immediate past President of the Legislative Council, the Honourable Rod Mackenzie, who I know served with great distinction as your predecessor, Mr President.

It is an honour to represent the province of Templestowe in this House. It is a large province that is well known to me as I previously served a large part of the province while representing the electorate of Ivanhoe in another place between 1973 and 1982. During the term of my previous representation, the electorate of Ivanhoe at one time embodied both sides of the Yarra River. That was quite unusual for the boundaries of a metropolitan electorate. It straddled not only Ivanhoe and Heidelberg but also Bulleen and Lower Templestowe. Therefore, it covered a large part of the Templestowe Province.

I pay tribute to the high tradition of representation Templestowe province has enjoyed through the years. Some of the most distinguished Parliamentarians have represented the area. I refer to Sir Raymond Garrett, who served as a President of the Legislative Council; the Honourable Vasey Houghton, a former Minister; Dr Ralph Howard, and my present colleague, Mr Miles. All those people served with great distinction on the Liberal side of the House.

My immediate predecessor, the Honourable Michael Arnold, who served the people of Templestowe as a member of the Australian Labor Party, was an excellent member. I have the highest respect for the work that he did and I pay tribute to him.

I thank my supporters for allowing me to return to Parliamentary service after some years away from it. That is a privilege in itself and I am conscious that not too many people achieve it. It is a tribute to those people who have had faith in me that I am able to serve them again. I particularly thank the Liberal Party electoral committee of the Templestowe Province which comprises many people who have worked hard during the election period and prior to the election. I thank also my own branch, the Heidelberg branch of the Liberal Party, with which I have been associated since the early 1970s and whose members have been loyal supporters.

Templestowe Province covers approximately 155 square kilometres. By country standards that is not a large province, but by metropolitan standards it is a large province and takes in the districts of Doncaster, Lower Templestowe, Templestowe, Bulleen, Heidelberg, Ivanhoe, Rosanna, Eltham, Diamond Valley and Hurstbridge. The Honourable John Miles has represented the area most diligently for some years and I look forward to working in harness with him in providing good representation for the area. Templestowe Province has approximately 180 000 residents, of whom 126 000 are on the electoral roll.

The statistical breakdown of the province is interesting. Approximately 61 per cent of the residents are over the age of 18 years and 30.9 per cent are below the age of 18 years; 17.4 per cent are over the age of 64 years. Templestowe Province has the lowest