

Parliament have, over the centuries, been built, and which have given us the Constitution and the system of laws under which we live today.

I view with considerable concern and disapproval the growing tendency in this State for disruptive elements to treat that Constitution and system of laws as something which they need only observe when it suits them. If it does not suit them, they have what the arrogant Stuart Kings regarded as a divine right to flout and undermine this State. I say definitely that this misguided thinking and behaviour must be strongly curbed and corrected. It can result only in anarchy and chaos. Of course, thinking and behaviour of this type is not new. It troubled George Washington during his term as President of the United States of America. I have, by courtesy of the Parliamentary Library, an extract from the farewell address given by George Washington to the nation when he relinquished office in 1797. Actually, the address was given in 1796, although this great man relinquished office shortly after 1797. In the course of his address, George Washington said—

The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions of government. But the constitution which at any time exists, till changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is sacredly obligatory upon all. The very idea of the power and right of the people to establish government, presupposes the duty of every individual to obey the established government.

All obstructions to the execution of the laws, all combinations and associations, under whatever plausible character, with the real design to direct, control, counteract, or awe the regular deliberation and action of the constituted authorities, are destructive of this fundamental principle, and of fatal tendency.

I strongly support this Government in its endeavours to maintain and enforce the laws of this State.

Mr. CURNOW.—By not paying the pay-roll tax!

Mr. BROAD.—In answer to the interjection, I consider the Premier's action to be an endeavour to uphold

a vital and legal principle, not to undermine a principle. An important aspect of our life today is the unsatisfactory and unfortunate state of our primary industries, and the financial difficulties being experienced by many country people who are dependent on those industries. In recent weeks, many country people, farmers in particular, have been carefully preparing their annual financial statements. They are finding, to a much greater extent than usual that, after deducting ever-mounting costs, they have a much reduced income, despite having enjoyed an abundant season.

I realize that the Address-in-Reply debate is not an appropriate occasion on which to discuss these matters at length. However, in passing, I contend that the immediate need is for increased finance to be made available to the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission so that adequate relief may be granted in cases of necessity. In the long term, eventually, primary industries in this country must have some authority which will grant them some measure of protection, just as secondary industries have the Tariff Board to watch their welfare and afford added relief and protection when necessary.

In conclusion, I thank His Excellency the Governor for his Speech and for his good wishes. Like him I hope that our working together during this session will add to the welfare and happiness of the people of this State.

Mr. SHILTON (Midlands).—I associate myself with the expressions of loyalty which have been made by previous speakers in this debate. I have had the honour of being host to his Excellency the Governor, the Queen's representative in this State, in my former official capacity as President of the Shire of Seymour, and, in my former position as a member of the Victoria Police Force, I have had the honour of being an escort to Her Majesty on two occasions.

I understand that it is traditional, in one's maiden speech, to thank the electors. I do so very humbly and proudly—humbly because I believe they showed the same confidence in me which the majority of the people of this State have in the Victoria Police Force, and proudly because I am the first member of the Police Force to be elected as a member of this House. I thank the electors for the privilege of serving them and I take this opportunity of assuring them that I have no intention of inhibiting debate or harassing Ministers of Her Majesty's Government, but that I intend to serve my electorate to the best of my ability and in their best interests.

I pay tribute to my predecessor, the Hon. Clive Stoneham, O.B.E., who served this House with dignity and distinction for 29 years. He was a great servant of his electorate. I trust that I shall be fortunate enough to serve for nearly as long as he served the electorate of Midlands.

Naturally, the electorate suffers from a few problems which are probably common to most electorates. I take this opportunity to highlight some of them. The majority of the problems relate to education. Country towns have grown and probably outpaced the Commonwealth Government's contribution to this State designed to maintain an education system which modern society demands of right. There is no technical school at Seymour and only a very old one at Castlemaine, which I hope will soon be replaced.

When I visited the school at Knowsley during Education Week, I was amazed to find that the school leans approximately nine inches off the perpendicular and that every time a child sits down in the back of the school, dust falls from the lining boards of the ceiling. The Minister of Education has promised that something will be done about this school and I am confident that this promise will be fulfilled.

My electorate principally consists of an urban community but there is a large rural community and I wish to mention some of the problems affecting the rural section. I urge the Government to afford some assistance and relief to the primary producers because, after all, they have been responsible for the growth of the country and for the State's original development. We have perhaps reached the stage that secondary industry is becoming more important, but if we reach the population which the statisticians tell us we will reach by the year 2000, that mythical 30 million, then the State will need at least as much primary produce as it is producing today to feed the population.

Unless family farmers are able to obtain low interest long-term loans, they will not be on the land to produce the necessary food and we shall starve like people in other countries are starving today. I urge the Government to act now, as I will urge my party when it is the Government in two years and nine months, to support the primary producer and to support all aspects of our life.

Before I deal with my favourite subject, the Police Force, I desire to advert to some of the problems facing smaller country towns. Some years ago, the township of Axedale, which is not far from Bendigo, lost its railway station, and eighteen months ago it lost its hotel, and a hotel is the community centre in a country town. Now the town is in danger of losing its police station; in other words, it will lose its identity and it will die. This state of affairs is a great tragedy to the people who have invested their life savings in country towns of this type. I trust that the present Government and future Governments will look to these towns and will see that such Acts as the Liquor Control Act are policed with heart, and will not lay down hard and fast rules such as certainly should be applied in a city or a large urban area but, in commonsense, should not be applicable to small country towns.

Another of the smaller country towns in my electorate is Elphinstone, which is suffering a sad fate because of the construction of a by-pass road. Admittedly, the by-pass is necessary for the free movement of traffic and a faster and happier trip to Melbourne. However, the design of the road will take Elphinstone off the map. The road is twelve feet above the level of the town and there is no inlet into the town. Therefore, Elphinstone must die and the farmers in the area now have to travel four miles to the station. If the road had been designed in a sensible manner, they would have had to travel only half a mile. The additional distance affects their transport costs for superphosphate, their produce, and everything else. In fairness to the Minister, I must admit that at this stage I have only taken the matter up with his department, but certainly I shall take it up with him at a later stage.

As I said earlier, I do not intend just to criticize. I trust I shall be of some use not only to my party but to Parliament as a whole. The Premier is very concerned with raising finance at the moment and the Minister of Health is concerned with the financial plight of the hospitals. One avenue of additional finance which has not been tapped is the enormous profits made by hospital benefit associations, which profits they are presently using to build multi-storied buildings in the city and at Bendigo and other provincial centres. The excess profits should be taken from these organizations and applied directly to hospitals and health welfare services in this community.

As the first former policeman to be elected to this Parliament, I think it is important that I should mention the Police Force. I am confident that I can speak with more authority on this subject than any other honorable member. The Government has committed itself to the expense of bringing out a gentleman from England to prepare a report on what should be done to improve the efficiency of the Victoria Police

*Mr. Shilton.*

Force. In common with the 5,000 policemen who have joined and left the force since 1948 when I joined, I can inform the House what this gentleman will recommend. It will be that unless the Government recruits at least another 1,000 men—this figure was recommended by the late Major-General Porter to be achieved by 1966—and pay them a reasonable wage so that they are above graft and temptation, a sufficient number of policemen will never be recruited to maintain law and order, which is the catch-cry today in this State and all other States.

I compliment the Premier and the Chief Secretary for springing to the defence of the Victoria Police Force in a debate the other day. A policeman has to be a person quite different from the average member of the community. He has to be completely dedicated and prepared to work long hours on any day of the week, whenever he is called upon. He must also be completely without emotion because once he shows emotion, he is criticized by everyone. He must stand up at a demonstration and accept in his face a bag of urine, and that type of thing, and not do anything about it. These men are deserving of 100 per cent support, not only from the Government, but from every member of this House. That support can be shown only by paying these men according to their value to the community.

Until a few months ago, the Victoria Police Force enjoyed the highest standing of any force in Australia, and possibly the world. Unfortunately, because of the actions of a few, the reputation of the force has been lowered in the eyes of the public, but if there are not a few bad eggs among any force of 4,800 men, I will go "he". All honorable members should seek to put the force back on to the pedestal where it belongs.

When speaking of payment to members of the force I harken back to a question recently asked in this

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