

issued with licences under the Farm Produce Merchants and Commission Agents Act and it has been discovered that that Act was not the correct one under which they should have been licensed, with the result that there has arisen an unsavoury situation, so say the least, and the purpose of this measure is to clarify that situation.

Part of the reason for the need to have these wholesale licences issued under the Melbourne Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market Trust Act is to have all the wholesaling of fruit and vegetables in this State in the one area. To some extent that might be a pipedream, because there are many wholesalers currently operating outside the market place and they will continue to do so for some time. However, with this legislation, it may be possible eventually to bring them into the wholesale fruit and vegetable area and provide the buyers of fruit and vegetables with the opportunity to purchase fruit and vegetables in the one market area, thereby saving transport and other costs.

The fact that the new market trust became legal and lawful at midnight on 31st March is another step forward in the sale of fruit and vegetables in this State. The National Party is pleased that this situation has evolved and that Mr. Noel Danne has been appointed as the new general manager of that market trust. The National Party wishes him well in his job, which will be a big one, because there have been immense problems in this area over the years, especially in the transfer of the market from the jurisdiction of the Melbourne City Council to the Melbourne Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market Trust. I am sure there will be teething troubles for a start.

I have no doubt that the activities of the trust will go ahead and improve the situation for the marketing of fruit and vegetables in this State,

not only for the buyers and eventually the consumers, but also for the producers, as there are many problems in this area. As I have said, the Bill will bring wholesalers who are operating outside the wholesale fruit and vegetable marketing area under a licensing situation and into line with other wholesalers operating in Victoria and that, in itself, is a start.

Within a short time there may need to be further amendments to the principal legislation and, when that occurs, the National Party will examine the situation and decide on its merits whether to support the amendments. The National Party supports the Bill.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through its remaining stages.

#### GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

##### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

The debate (adjourned from March 22) on the motion of Mr. Gude (Geelong East) for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech was resumed.

**Mr. SIDIROPOULOS** (Richmond): My election and presence as a member of this House represents a significant step in the involvement of migrants of non-English origin into the political affairs of Australia. I am proud to represent the electorate of Richmond in this House and to be its first non-English migrant member.

The road towards migrant participation in the socio-political affairs of this country has been a very difficult one. With all major social changes, it was the Labor Party and the Labor movement which became the workshop of that involvement. The Liberal Party and the conservative forces it represents, appear to conceive the immigration scheme as a means to fulfilling production and consumer targets—in brief, migrants are treated as factory fodder,

The human needs and the community needs of the people are given a low priority.

Although immigration planners can work out almost exactly how many workers General Motors-Holden's Ltd. and Broken Hill Proprietary Co. Ltd. need, they systematically avoid planning for those needs. In the 1950s and 1960s migrants were arriving in this country by the tens of thousands as unskilled or semi-skilled workers. However, no doctors, nurses, social workers or even translators came with them. Today one-third of the population of Melbourne is of non-English-speaking origin and is, in effect, denied many services in the language they understand, in hospitals, schools, work places and homes for the aged.

The Liberal Governments have refused to allow educational and social services to produce bi-lingual people to provide these services, services for which the migrants are paying taxes, and when it comes to responsibility, the law makes sure that the migrant must meet them all, but when it comes to rights, the law turns a blind eye.

A most significant happening relating to Australian history took place in 1972 when a Federal Labor Party Government took office. Many social reforms were effected, including a good look at the problems of migrants, and this led to constructive and compassionate reforms. Unlike the Liberal Governments, the Labor Government did not discover the multi-cultural reality of this country just before the last election. The Australian Labor Party, because of its close links with the working people, their organizations and the trade unions, has come to grips with the tremendous population changes which mass migration has brought about during the past 30 years.

I shall remind you, Mr. Speaker, of just a few of those achievements. There has been the abolition of discrimination in citizenship and other civil rights. The first in-depth study

into the teaching of migrant languages was carried out. Then there was the introduction of Medibank, which enabled for the first time the majority of migrants to have medical and hospital insurance. But perhaps most important of all, Labor has given rise to an atmosphere of greater freedom, a desire to participate, and for people to raise their demands and to participate in decision making on matters affecting them.

If time permitted, one could go on to tell the sad story of what the Liberal Governments have not done, and how they have systematically set out to destroy most of the good work that the Labor Party tried to undertake during its short term in office. I propose to quote just a few examples. The Minister of Education in this State recently said that there is now a surplus of teachers, and yet only 1 per cent of all the children of migrants have the opportunity to learn their ethnic languages at State schools. This means that there have not been enough bi-lingual teachers and accompanying facilities. Even worse, there are bi-lingual teachers in our community who are prevented from teaching ethnic community languages. Furthermore, the Government has so far denied any assistance to the ethnic community at large, which has been forced to create and totally maintain teaching services outside school hours to compensate for the neglect in this area by the State school system. At the same time, the learning of the English language disadvantages these children and the disadvantage grows daily with the system again providing little in the area of the special teaching of migrant children.

I suggest that the Minister of Education and the Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, when speaking about respect for other people's cultures and so on, tell the House what the Government is planning to do about the report of the Committee for the Teaching of Migrant Languages in Schools. This report was

initiated by the Whitlam Labor Government and was submitted to the Liberal Government two years ago.

Another example of the Government's hypocrisy is its attitude to ethnic broadcasting. The contribution by the Liberal Government has been to close down radio station 3ZZ, the multi-lingual access radio station. It was the most democratic, most popular and successful radio experience in Australia, one in which migrants had a real opportunity of participating, to decide their own role and the content of the programmes for themselves.

Another contribution has been to place ethnic broadcasting under complete Government control. Mr. Speaker, do you know that ethnic radio station 3EA is not permitted to discuss or allow debate on any public issue as is done by the Australian Broadcasting Commission and the commercial radio stations? Our migrants are not entitled to hear the issues or debates that are publicly accessible to the English-speaking population. Perhaps the best example of the Liberal philosophy on migrants is the Government's present desire to almost double the migrant intake when there are almost 500,000 people out of work, when the trade and professional qualifications of many migrants are still not recognized, when the close relatives of migrants already here are denied entry and when the Governments and employers refuse to introduce a comprehensive scheme for the training and retraining of the existing work force, both the employed and the unemployed.

The Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs also supported an increase in the migrant intake. The Age of 2nd March reported the Minister's comments on industrial accidents and the communication barrier. On the same page, the Age also reported the substance of the Minister's submission supporting an increase in the national immigration intake to fill skilled job vacancies in the work force.

Mr. Sidironoulos

I shall now quote a statement by the Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, as reported in the Age of 2nd March. The article was written by Mr. Tony Blackie, and stated—

Mr. Jona said migrant workers should be told in their own languages about their rights and the rules of the trade unions. He went on to say that—The communication barrier had also caused more than 40 per cent of industrial accidents in Victoria last year. This has cost tens of millions of dollars in compensation awards and has led to the permanent injury of hundreds of workers.

On the same page an article by Russell Skelton quoted from the Minister's submission to the Federal Government on the need for increasing skilled migration to Australia. It read, *inter alia*—

Victoria therefore supports an increase in the immigration program but any such increase must be tailored to employment needs.

The only indication of any concern is a powerless plea to ensure that intending migrants are given proper familiarization programmes. The Minister said nothing of the content, nor of the languages in which these proposed programmes might be delivered. It is irresponsible of the Victorian Government and the Minister to support an increase in immigration when by the Government's admission more than 40 per cent of industrial accidents are caused by communication problems.

The Minister, in conjunction with other Ministers and departments, should be developing appropriate services for non-English-speaking migrants to ensure that injuries of such tragic proportions are avoided. To allow migrants entry to this country without the security of a job, just to boost the economy, is inhuman and criminal, but if the Liberals are prepared to do that, I suggest that as soon as possible provision must be made, as it is in western European countries and Canada, for the teaching of the English language on the job without loss of pay.

Honorable members should not forget that three out of five unemployed workers are migrants. Job security

is always a problem for a migrant, but at times like this it becomes a nightmare. Migrants feel disappointed and angry when employers can sack them on the spot. In most countries, including those from which migrants have come, there is legislation offering some protection against dismissal.

Instead of the sack, a better trained work force with a 35-hour week and retirement at 60 years of age with full pension rights would create more jobs. Countries less prosperous than Australia have managed to do this and they pay a full pension of up to 70 per cent of earnings.

In this first speech I have tried to expose the difference between the two major political parties and their philosophies on immigration. As a person who has lived in two different countries with different cultures, and so forth, I wish to stress that Australia is a lucky country, a rich country with excellent human and mineral resources. By drawing on the human resources of this country we shall be able to build together a just and self-reliant society, a society in which co-operation and interaction between the ethnic communities and all the people of Australia is emphasized—instead of division, discrimination and apathy by the Government.

On the subject of discrimination, I should like to raise an incident which upset many ethnic groups during the past few weeks, especially members of the Greek community. Recently there has been much publicity surrounding an alleged fraud involving social security payments. A number of people were arrested and charged. The Herald headline of 3rd April, "Greece Pension Cash Threat" and an Age headline of 6th April, "Guilfoyle orders Tests on Greeks" discriminate against not only all Australian Greeks but also all ethnic Australians.

I question the legality of the actions of Senator Guilfoyle in ordering 200 people in Greece to submit to new medical examinations or risk having

their payments stopped. To stop payments before the case has been dealt with in the courts and before all evidence has been assessed, is hardly normal procedure. All criminal cases should be investigated without prejudice.

I suggest that this situation is in marked contrast to the privilege enjoyed by the Chief Secretary, Mr. Dickie, during the lands inquiry. During the land deals inquiry by Sir Gregory Gowans honorable members did not see headlines announcing "a White Anglo-Saxon, Australian Land Fraud". There was no mention of the "Australian" Housing Commission officers involved. Nor did the Chief Secretary have to stand down. He did not have his Parliamentary salary suspended while the inquiry was in progress. He did not have to appeal to have his salary reinstated. The Victorian land deals involved the Government of Victoria in a fraud of millions of dollars. The people of Victoria will have to pay for the millions squandered by the Government.

The outrage expressed in some conservative quarters about the amount of money that is going out of the country in social service payments would be better directed at multinational companies like Utah Mining Australia Ltd., which made a profit of \$158.3 million in 1977. In that year this company paid \$141.2 million in dividends to the parent company in America. The State Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, the great advocate of the total Australian community, was notably silent. He did not see fit to make a statement decrying the discrimination against the ethnic community. There is a criminal element in every community, and it is significant that in a country where so many of the total community have been born overseas the attitude of this Government towards ethnic Australians is ignorant and damaging.

Lastly I should like to mention that the Labor Party, when it implements its progressive policies as the next

Government of this State, will restore some sanity to the system. I look forward to a successful and fulfilling period of tenure as the member for Richmond. Of course it is difficult to follow the most prominent figure of my predecessor, Clyde Holding. However, I am able to draw on something that honorable members on the other side of the House lack; I am a member of a team whose morale and purpose are higher than ever before, a team with a new style and a new purpose, a team that is ready for government in every way that the present Government, with all its scandals and conservatism, is not.

The State of Victoria is on the verge of great advances in many meaningful ways. It will be a matter of advance Victoria, advance Australia.

**Mr. DUNSTAN** (Minister of Public Works): I wish to be the first to congratulate the honorable member for Richmond on making his maiden speech in this House. I believe his endorsement by the Australian Labor Party to contest the seat of Richmond, which was held for some years by the previous Leader of the Opposition, and the honorable member's recent election to Parliament reflect the success of the migrant programme which was started by the late Mr. Arthur Calwell after the second world war.

When this programme was started by the late Mr. Arthur Calwell many Australians were perhaps sceptical that it could be achieved and that it would be so successful. The fact that the honorable member came to this country about 25 years ago, and in that time has established himself as a successful citizen in the commercial world, at the municipal level of government and now in State Parliament, is a wonderful example reflecting the success and achievement of the migrant programme entered into by this country in the late 1940s when far more migrants were brought here *pro rata* than were received in

America at any time during the great influx migrants to that country. In the past 25 years Australia has achieved a far more successful and remarkable intake of migrants than America has at any time during the history of that great country which has become so important because of the migrants who went there.

The early intake of migrants to this country consisted of thousands of Dutchmen, a large number of Italians, Greeks, Maltese and Germans. More recently there have been migrants from Turkey and from eastern European countries. The assimilation of these varied and diverse ethnic groups without any sign of serious social disruption has proved remarkable in as much as twenty years ago Australians looked rather unkindly and narrow-mindedly at any person from a foreign country. The first migrants to this country were extremely courageous. They would include the honorable member for Richmond who came to this country 25 to 27 years ago.

I congratulate the honorable member for Richmond and members of the Government party, and the National Party, look forward to hearing more from the honorable member. With his background and personal success story I am sure he can and will contribute much to this place not only on behalf of the Greek community but on behalf of all ethnic groups.

Recognizing the importance of immigration and ethnic affairs in Victoria, before the 1976 election the Government established a Ministry of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. The Minister, the Honorable Walter Jona, who is sitting at the table can be described as belonging to his own peculiar ethnic group. If it takes all types to make a successful Parliament, I am sure this Parliament will be even more successful than previous Parliaments have been.

**Mr. TREZISE** (Geelong North): At the outset, I join with previous speakers in expressing loyalty to Her

Majesty the Queen, and at the same time praise the role of Sir Henry Winneke as Governor of this State. I believe it is the unanimous feeling of this Parliament that Sir Henry's sincerity, reputation and his image are admired by all Victorians.

In his address on the opening of Parliament, His Excellency emphasized the major concern of people in the Victorian community at the lack of employment opportunities and the concern of industries to maintain their existing number of employees. In this context, I address my remarks to an industry which has been not only affected by the economic situation but also because of the lack of attention by the Minister.

I refer to the Victorian racing industry, which is perhaps the State's major industry employing 25,000 Victorians directly, and indirectly an estimated 250,000 Victorians. Today, the industry is on its knees largely through Government incompetence. It is certainly most disheartening to read national newspaper headlines stating that the Victorian Government has brought the industry to its knees. It is about time consideration was given to increasing security within the industry.

Apart from employing 25,000 people directly and 250,000 indirectly, the industry also makes a major contribution to tourism, particularly during the spring racing carnival. Further, it is a major decentralized industry employing people in every electorate. Moreover, it is recreation for hundreds of thousands of Victorians who week by week study the racing form, listen to the radio and thus fill in many hours each week.

Apart from these items, since 1961, the Totalizator Agency Board has contributed \$180 million to hospitals and charities in this State, millions of dollars to the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation—it is that department's major source of funds—and last year, the Totalizator Agency Board and the bookmakers contributed \$53 million to the Government. In

recent years, through the lack of interest by the present Minister in charge of racing, the Government has almost killed the milch cow in Victoria. It is tragic that the industry is gradually collapsing, that Victorian racing clubs are receiving less finance this year than they did last year, on a percentage basis, to maintain their operations. It is no wonder that the clubs are today putting off staff and even considering closing down. In fact, one traditional club will probably fold up within a few weeks if the Government does not come to its aid.

The blame for the present state of racing must be laid largely at the door of the present inexperienced Minister in charge of racing. This view is also held by leaders of the racing industry in Victoria. A similar view was expressed by the spokesman for the National Party last week when he suggested that the present Minister should not be in charge of racing.

The Minister for Social Welfare and the Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation is a hard-working Minister and is quite competent in the social welfare field. He is working hard on recreation matters and no one can deny the success of the Life: Be in It, pogo-stick jumping, tree climbing and similar recreation campaigns that have put this State in the forefront in these matters.

However, with the major professional sports such as horse racing, greyhound racing, and trotting, the Minister is like a duck out of water—he is a complete failure. The honorable gentleman has no experience, has little knowledge and is completely unaware of the true situation of the racing industry over the past four or five years. To use football terms in regard to racing, the Minister is like the twentieth man for Nar Nar Goon football team trying to captain-coach a Victorian Football League team or perhaps a 3-kilogramme apprentice jockey trying to tell Roy Higgins how to ride races.