

NEW SOUTH WALES.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

THIRTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT—SECOND SESSION.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 12 September, 1950.

Opening of the Second Session of the Thirty-sixth Parliament—Administration of Oath—Leave of Absence—Temporary Chairmen of Committees—Law of Evidence Bill (*formal*)—Governor's Speech: Address-in-Reply—Special Adjournment—Adjournment (Business of the House).

OPENING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT.

The House met at noon, pursuant to the proclamation of his Excellency the Governor.

The PRESIDENT took the Chair.

The opening Prayer was read.

The Clerk of the Parliaments read the proclamation convening Parliament.

His Excellency the Governor entered the Chamber, and was received by the President, accompanied by other members and officers of the House. A message was forwarded to the Legislative Assembly that his Excellency awaited the attendance of hon. members of that House.

The Assembly having come, his Excellency was pleased to deliver the following speech:—

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

To-day we open the Second Session of the Thirty-sixth Parliament of the State of New South Wales, and it is the first meeting of Members called for the con-

sideration of legislation and other important public business since the General Elections held earlier this year.

I wish to welcome the new Members to Parliament and trust that their experience and active interest in the welfare of the people of this State will prove of great value to the deliberations and public business in which they will take their part.

As members of the British Commonwealth of Nations, we note with pleasure the great improvement in the health of His Majesty the King, and the announcement of the possibility of Their Majesties honouring Australia with a visit in 1952. We sincerely trust that this visit will eventuate, and that the people of this State will have the opportunity of personally displaying the loyalty and affection in which the Royal Family are held.

In the period since I last addressed you, the State has lost a most distinguished Australian by the death of the Hon. Sir Frederick Jordan, who had occupied the office of Lieutenant-Governor since 1938.

In the same period members of this Parliament whose passing we have also mourned were the Hon. Joseph Anthony,

Bodkin, a Member of the Legislative Council, and Messrs. William Joseph Carlton, Brice Mutton and George Walter Harry Noble, Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Early this year His Majesty the King was pleased to appoint as Lieutenant-Governor the Honourable Kenneth Whistler Street, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. We welcome that appointment as a recognition of his outstanding ability and of the services he has rendered to this State.

Next year Australia will commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the establishment of the Commonwealth, and the Government is collaborating with the Commonwealth Government in the organisation of appropriate celebrations in this State.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

It is with deep sympathy and regret that I have witnessed the severe hardships and losses sustained by primary producers, along with the inhabitants of many towns, as a result of this second year of excessive rainfall and disastrous floods. The organisation and financing of measures for the relief and rehabilitation of those affected has received, and is continuing to receive, the urgent attention of my Ministers. Measures designed to minimise and prevent such disasters in the future are being given special attention.

My Ministers believe that the high level of prosperity now being enjoyed by the people of this State will be maintained during the ensuing period. The

level of employment has remained very high, and those engaged in the primary industries have enjoyed another year of general prosperity, due to a continuance of high prices paid for their products in the markets of the world, combined with excellent growing seasons.

It is with deep regret that we have seen a deterioration of the international situation; and my Ministers are engaged in taking necessary steps, of a precautionary character, to ensure that this State shall be prepared to meet contingencies if the situation should, unhappily, worsen.

In the sphere of economic policy, priority is still being accorded to the task of providing homes for the people. Considerable progress has already been made, and the number of new homes completed last year surpassed the previous record achieved in 1937-38. Two abnormally wet winters have interfered with both the production of building materials and the work of home-building; but, in spite of adverse conditions, the rate of building is still being increased. I am advised, moreover, that further relief will be afforded through the importation of large numbers of prefabricated homes from overseas.

The welfare of this State is very largely dependent upon industry and transport receiving adequate supplies of coal and electricity. The output of the coal-mining industry, though still short of requirements, has been more satisfactory during the current year. My Ministers assure me that new coal-winning machinery is being introduced as rapidly as practicable, while at the same time many improvements are being effected in the conditions under which coal miners

live and work. As regards the generation of electricity, though supplies are still short, I am informed that there has been a better organisation of our available resources, and also a more equitable system of distribution, resulting partly from the new form of control recently established. Very large additions to our total generating capacity will be made during the next twelve months.

In the field of education, my Ministers are doing everything possible both to expand the accommodation of the schools and also to introduce improved educational methods. They are aware, however, that many important further changes are necessary if public education in this State is to be kept abreast of world progress; and they are greatly concerned at the limitations placed upon educational development by reason of the State's dependence on the Commonwealth for necessary funds.

I have previously referred to the fact that, in the country areas, our primary producers are still enjoying a period of unprecedented prosperity due to the high prices obtained for their products in overseas markets. It is encouraging to learn that most of them are taking advantage of their present high incomes to modernise the equipment of their farms and stations, and to purchase more farm machinery. These measures should place our farmers and pastoralists in a much stronger position and enable them to meet any fall in export prices without again experiencing such difficulties as they have known at times in the past.

My Ministers are concentrating their efforts upon overcoming the greatest single obstacles to further development

of the inland regions—namely, the unreliability of their rainfall. The programme of constructing a whole system of water-storage dams throughout the State is being pressed forward with all the labour and machinery and materials available. It is an enormous undertaking which to complete will occupy our energies for a decade or longer; but each new dam constructed, each new reservoir filled, means that constant water is assured for one additional region. Further, those new dams will have the effect not only of conserving water for release in years of drought; but they are intended also to hold back the water in times of excessive rainfall and thus to remove the danger of future damaging floods. Only by such measures as these, in the opinion of my Ministers, can this State achieve greater production of the foods and materials which will be required to sustain our future population.

In the field of social welfare and community improvements, my advisers are now taking the necessary administrative steps to give effect to a number of undertakings included in the Government's policy. The proposals affect many different sections of the people and some of the more important matters are as follows:—

Increasing from 50 per cent. to 75 per cent. the subsidy towards the capital cost of building and equipping baby health centres.

Further assisting free day nurseries and free kindergartens for children of pre-school age.

Subsidising local authorities to the extent of one half of the capital cost of buildings, equipment and furnishings

for women's rest centres at selected shopping centres in the metropolitan area and in cities and towns in the country.

Subsidising local authorities to the extent of one half the rates owing by age and invalid pensioners which are written off by councils.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:—

The budget for the financial year now current will shortly be placed before you and you will be asked to provide for the public services of the State. A carefully planned programme of public works and other services has been submitted to and endorsed by the Australian Loan Council and the estimates of expenditure and amounts proposed to be voted from the General Loan Account for those works and services will also be submitted for your consideration.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

During the session you will be invited to give consideration to a number of important measures. In the forefront of this programme will be a Bill to amend the Constitution Act to ensure that the duration of the Legislative Assembly cannot be extended beyond three years without a referendum. This legislation is considered by my advisers to be desirable as providing an additional constitutional safeguard to ensure the preservation of our democratic system of Government.

A further important measure will be one to provide for the establishment of the Hunter Valley Conservation Trust for the purpose of mitigating the disastrous effects of floods in the Hunter River Valley.

You will be asked to consider Bills to provide for the establishment of a Parole Board to advise on matters relating to the release of prisoners and to bring the Prisons Act up-to-date.

A Bill to provide for an improvement in the present methods of dealing with sexual offenders will also be submitted to you.

Because of the increase since the passing of the Medical Practitioners Act in 1938 in the number of persons arriving in this country holding medical qualifications obtained elsewhere than in some part of the British Empire, it is proposed to submit for your consideration a measure to remove the existing restrictions on the number of such medical men who may be registered in any one year, but it will still be necessary, before registration is granted, for the fourth, fifth and sixth year courses at the University to be completed.

The Government proposes to establish a Suitors' Fund from which any person who loses a case on appeal will be entitled to be re-imbursed his costs of resisting the appeal, and a bill to give effect to this proposal will be placed before you.

The loss of life and the injuries sustained as a result of road accidents is causing the Government concern, and it is proposed to introduce an amendment of the Crimes Act to provide a greater deterrent for reckless and intoxicated drivers of motor vehicles.

A number of other measures will also be placed before you.

I now declare this Second Session of the Thirty-sixth Parliament open, and trust that the blessing of Divine Providence may attend your deliberations.

The Assembly then withdrew.

[The President left the Chair at 12.36 p.m. The House resumed at 4.30 p.m.]

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH.

The President reported the receipt of a Commission authorising the Chairman of Committees, in the absence of the President, to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance to hon. members.

Commission read by the Clerk.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The President reported the receipt of communications from the Governor intimating that leave of absence had been granted to the Hon. R. C. Wilson and the Hon. E. J. C. Speck during the session which commenced on 12th July, 1950.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

The President nominated the following hon. members to act as Temporary Chairmen of Committees during the present session: The Hon. Frank William Spicer, the Hon. Leon Samuel Snider, and the Hon. Ernest Gerard Wright.

LAW OF EVIDENCE BILL (*Formal*).

Bill presented and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH: ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

The PRESIDENT: I have to report the receipt of a copy of the Speech delivered by his Excellency the Governor on the occasion of the opening of Parliament. I presume that all hon. members have received a copy, and that it may be taken as read.

The Hon. C. COLBORNE [4.35]:
I move:

That the following Address be presented by the Whole House to the Governor, in reply to the Speech which his Excellency had been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament, viz.:—

To His Excellency Sir JOHN NORTHCOTT, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Member of the Royal Victorian Order, Lieutenant-General on the Retired List of the Australian Military Forces, Governor of the State of New South Wales and its Dependencies, in the Commonwealth of Australia.

May it Please Your Excellency,—

We, His Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our thanks for Your Excellency's Speech, and to assure you of our unfeigned attachment to His Most Gracious Majesty's Throne and Person.

2. We beg to assure Your Excellency that our earnest consideration will be given to the measures to be submitted to us.

3. We join Your Excellency in the hope that, under the guidance of Divine Providence, our labours may be so directed as to advance the best interests of all sections of the community.

I feel indeed honoured to have the privilege of moving this motion as I realise that it does not come very often in the life of a member of this Chamber to move the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. We are pleased that his Excellency mentioned in his Speech the proposed Royal visit. This Parliament will combine with the people of New South Wales and with the Federal Parliament in paying homage to Their Majesties, in the hope that it will leave in the minds of our Royal Visitors welcome memories that will redound to the credit of Australia. Labour Governments cannot be charged with lack of loyalty. They have over the years judiciously administered affairs in the Federal and State spheres, and to Labour can be attributed much of our existing prosperity. His Excellency referred to matters with which this Parliament will deal during the present term, and so brought to mind the importance with which the Government is viewing various aspects of administration.

I wish to mention three or four matters, and propose to commence with one that possibly comes closer to the community than do others. We have in the field of education a wide sphere in which the Government can show how it intends that democracy should function, for in the young mind there is being moulded all those things which we hold dear.

The Labour Government during the period in which it has been in office has done things that have received wide acclaim. I refer, for instance, to the supply of free milk, over which there is a controversy in the Federal sphere. In 1941 the New South Wales Government was supplying £240 worth of free milk a year. In 1950, £158,000 was expended on the supply of milk to 160,000 school children. Also, the Government is looking after the health of the community by providing free dental treatment. In all, in the last financial year the Government spent approximately £14½ million on education. There are now five teachers' training colleges, and another will soon be commenced at Bathurst. The Government intends to spend £750,000 on prefabricated schools, one of which was recently constructed at Daceyville. During the last year the disastrous floods in this State brought before our notice the need for flood mitigation. It is heartening to see that the Government is extending the assistance that it has already afforded to the unfortunate people who have suffered from flooding in the Hunter Valley and elsewhere. During 1950 this Parliament passed a bill entitled the Warkworth Flood Mitigation and Water Conservation Bill, and we now learn from the speech of his Excellency that a Hunter Valley Conservation Trust will, after debate by this Parliament, be set up to deal with the Hunter Valley as a unit. The building of five conservation reservoirs will do much to mitigate the effect of floods and reduce the difficulties and fatalities experienced in that area during the last year. In addition, the Ballyrogan, Burrendong and Keepit dams, the Darling River weirs, and the Menindee Lakes scheme, as well as the enlargement of the Burrinjuck Dam will do a great deal towards securing a greater degree of prosperity and security for this State, especially the western areas, which are still being subjected to flooding. This is but another reminder of the Government's fight to win for the

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man on the land, as well as the man in the city, a feeling of complete security. Several river systems are being used for water conservation, among them the Murray River, the Murrumbidgee and the Lachlan systems, and as plans for other systems under the direct control of the Minister for Water Conservation and Irrigation mature, the State will benefit correspondingly.

In the social welfare field, the Government has promised a new deal for women. That tribute to the womanhood of this State will be given effect through the establishment of baby health centres, free day nurseries, free kindergartens and women's rest centres. The Government intends to increase the subsidy on baby health centres from 50 to 75 per cent. During the financial year 1940-41, £4,500 was spent on free day nurseries and kindergartens. By 1949-50, that amount had been increased to £35,000—a clear indication of the way in which the Government has endeavoured to look after the womenfolk and the pre-school children of this State. The Government proposes to subsidise local authorities to the extent of 50 per cent. of the capital cost of building and equipping rest centres so that mothers may leave their children under trained supervision while they enjoy a well-earned rest.

Perhaps the most significant matter mentioned by his Excellency was the proposed amendment of the Constitution so as to limit the term of any Parliament to three years. I hope that we shall be united on a question of such great importance. By 1913 four years had gone by without an election being held, and democracy was denied the people of this State. So this proposal is not without foundation. During the last war the daily press suggested freely that the Government intended to approach the Government of the United Kingdom with a view to avoiding an election. That was, of course, only political propaganda, and was answered by the holding of elections at the proper time. It is now possible to prophesy

that no Premier of the future may deny democracy by extending the life of Parliament beyond three years.

It is proposed to amend the Crimes Act so that drunken and wanton drivers may be dealt with. For years people have been maimed and killed because of the indifference to life displayed by some motor drivers. When motor cars become the possession of persons addicted to drink, the life and limb of the community are no longer sacrosanct and the right of the road becomes the right to kill. I have set out briefly some of the matters with which this Thirty-sixth Parliament will be asked to deal. All have exercised the minds of the Government over a long period, and represent a continuation of Labor's proud record in office. It now holds two unique records. It is in its fourth term of office after election on a democratic mandate, and in its tenth consecutive year as the Government of this State. Further, it is the first time that a Government has been returned to office after a redistribution of electoral boundaries. The Government appreciates the confidence that the people of New South Wales have reposed in it in response to what it has done since 1941, when it came to office with a record majority. That majority was increased in 1944, and maintained in 1947. Those election results are tributes which no one can deny this Government. The future is not such as to appeal to those of a timorous nature.

Some aspects of our economy are frightening. A happy state of prosperity—if it can be called "happy"—beyond the imaginings of anyone, is prevailing. But the economy of capitalism is such that the wheel must turn. Economic theorists, in many writings, have declared that in the trade cycle, this must follow as sure as day follows night. The passing of a prosperity such as we are now enjoying will be followed by a period of economic stress—after the "boom," the "bust". People will then suffer those things that were suffered in the depression years from 1929 to 1932, in spite of all possible means

that were employed to counter those dread circumstances. The employment slack was not taken up until 1939. Even when the war broke out, 400,000 persons were out of jobs. To-day, full employment prevails and that seems to give some measure of security; but I remind hon. members that security is not guaranteed by full employment alone. The condition of full employment and prosperity must continue, but it must not be allowed to get out of control. Some oversight is needed, so that events that would have a detrimental effect will not take place.

That observation reminds me of an article that appeared in to-day's issue of the *Sydney Morning Herald* dealing with the appreciation of the Australian £ to the level of the £ sterling. The gist of it was contained in the last few lines in which the writer said that inflation begets controls and controls beget socialism. But he was not concerned with inflation as such. He pointed out that prices are high and that there is an abundance of money. People are spending freely and although there are artificial shortages of some goods, there is still enough money to buy them, even though they have to scrape the barrel. He was concerned not so much with the scraping of the barrel, or the free spending of money, as with the present inflationary trend and the possible consequences, and Parliament must be concerned with that also. High prices are being freely paid for wool on the open market, but the Federal Government, which has control of all the export licences of this Commonwealth, is not endeavouring to control the export of goods that could be used in this country. Some so-called experts consider that, notwithstanding these things, if the worker produces more goods, the law of supply and demand will come into operation and prices will fall.

The solution is not quite so easy as that. In the first place, an immense amount of money is flowing from the wool industry into the pockets of a few people. The value of the wool clip last year was £286,000,000 and it is estimated

that it will reach £437,000,000 this year. These things cannot continue, because the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few will surely lead to disruption of our economy. I reiterate that the four urgent requirements of this State, in conjunction with the Commonwealth, must be: the appreciation of the £ to the sterling standard, the restriction of export licences so that the home market will be more adequately supplied, the greater use of the Tariff Board so that imports can be more readily controlled by protection, and the restoration of price control. These are four vital elements, if New South Wales and Australia are to enjoy continued prosperity.

Instead of these important matters being discussed, even though they are controversial, people of all shades of political and economic thought are divided on the subject of the appreciation of the £. Some people are divided also on the question of the restriction of import licences. Exporters do not want restrictions, neither do importers, but the people who are sandwiched between those two interests, and who represent the wage and salary earners, are squeezed to the point that there is nothing left for them financially. Many have been urged by a certain type of propaganda to believe that the cause of all our economic troubles is under-production and that if more goods were made, the law of supply and demand would straighten out our economic tangle. That type of negative reasoning can lead only to industrial unrest.

The production of all the States is at a higher level than ever before. Perhaps the best guide to the production of secondary manufactures, without mentioning particular goods, is the volume of horse-power produced by new machinery installed in factories. In 1938-39, the horse-power developed in factories other than electric generating plants totalled 838,327. That figure increased by 1948-49 to 1,316,230; equivalent to 52 per cent. in ten years. Machinery to produce greater horse-power is not installed unless it is of

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importance not only to the State, but also to the user. In the previous Parliament, the subject of horse-power produced by electric generation was discussed when dealing with an important bill and it was pointed out that in 1938-39 stations generating electric power produced 953,487 horse-power, but, by 1948-49, this had risen to 1,232,410, an increase of 29 per cent. This increase in horse-power used should indicate an increase in production and supply of goods, but such is not the case. The world situation has deteriorated in recent months, particularly in Korea, Malaya, and other countries, where war is being waged. Civil production is being contracted and war production necessarily expanded. But, notwithstanding that contraction and expansion, the cry goes out for more production. It is humanly impossible to achieve more civil production, when human beings are producing to their limit. Man cannot go beyond the limits of his ability or endurance. Greater production can be achieved by improved efficiency and the installation of modern machinery. When the forty-hour week judgment was delivered a few years ago, it was said that production would be retarded, but the responsibility for meeting that leeway could not be placed directly upon the shoulders of the employees; it became necessary to improve management and to replace obsolete machinery with efficient plant. Though employees do not expect much from industry, they resent being continually prodded and sneered at, and asked to bend their backs still further. They want security of employment, which is easy to promise to-day, but may not be so easy to-morrow, social security and a fair participation in the profits of industry. Those three ingredients make for a contented industrial population. I know from correspondence I have had with persons in high executive positions that there still lingers in the minds of some industrialists a hope for the return to an unemployment pool, and the economic lash of discipline that can be used against employees. Complaints

are heard of malingering by employees because they spend part of their working time discussing horse races held on the previous Saturday and do not perform the work for which they are paid. If an employee ceases work for a moment or two it does not necessarily follow that production stops.

We must make a frank approach to this problem, and employers, employees and the Government should meet on common ground. If the Federal Government has failed to bring the three parties together, the States should give some thought to the matter. New South Wales produces approximately half of the money value of secondary production of the Commonwealth, and the employees in this State under Federal and State awards are approximately evenly divided. There is no State in the Commonwealth more industrialised, more highly regulated with awards and with a higher productive capacity than New South Wales. In 1938-39, the year immediately preceding World War II, the value of secondary industry production slightly exceeded £90,000,000 in New South Wales, and in Australia £203,000,000. In 1947-48, the last year for which Commonwealth figures are available, the respective figures were £218,000,000 and £489,000,000. It will thus be seen that though there has been a considerable increase in money value of secondary production, New South Wales has continued to provide approximately 50 per cent. of the Commonwealth output. In 1948, the last year for which I have figures of industrial regulation, New South Wales had 242,000 workers covered by Federal awards and 279,000 by State awards. On those statistics the State of New South Wales would be perfectly justified in calling the type of conference that I have in mind, so that a common understanding might be reached on the problem that is facing industry. On the one hand, the threat of an unemployment pool, requiring a person to walk from factory to factory

looking for a job that is not available, should be removed.

Such conferences will not obtain speedy results, the process will be slow, in some instances painfully slow, but we must replace mistrust with trust, discord with concord, and furtive sneering criticism with frankness. We will then have done a good job. Conferences on the lines that I have suggested are not new. Both the Curtin and Chifley Labour Governments achieved greater production by this means during the war, and no one will deny that a peace effort is as important to the welfare of the community as is a war effort. We might be overrun by an enemy in time of war, but under conditions of peace we can be overrun perhaps not so ruthlessly, but almost as effectively. The ground for the conferences that I have suggested should be prepared by employers and employees meeting first separately so that they can come to the main deliberations with a common objective. In these unusual days of full employment and inflation, with the possibility of a turn of the wheel of the trade cycle, we must prepare for the future. This calls not only for political but also for industrial leadership, which we have had for many years, and co-operation throughout industry. Primary, secondary and tertiary industries must continue to expand if we are to progress as a nation. Given leadership and co-operation, Parliament can accept the challenge of to-morrow. The responsibility for dealing with the problem in a proper manner rests as deeply with the Opposition as it does with the Government. If that attitude is also adopted outside this Parliament, it will be in the interests of the State, the prosperity that we are now experiencing will be transmitted to the future, and the fear of unemployment will not be with us.

The Hon. R. S. JACKSON [5.10]: It is a great honour for me to second the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply moved by the Hon. Mr. Colborne, and I am impressed by the importance and dignity of the occasion. To-day

hon. members had an opportunity to listen to his Excellency the Governor, who, in the course of his remarks, showed that the Government of this State has a fine record. Possibly every hon. member realises that the Government has done an excellent job on behalf of the people whom it has been elected to represent. His Excellency made appropriate reference to many of the achievements of the Government and to its proposals. Only the Labour Government can fulfil the wishes of the people in accordance with the policy announced by the Premier at Liverpool not long ago. We look forward with a high degree of expectation to a continuance of the prosperity that New South Wales and Australia have enjoyed during the last few years.

As a union secretary, I know that since 1941 many improvements have been made to the Industrial Arbitration Act in this State, but I also realise that it needs revision. Many improvements which have been suggested by both employers and employees could well be included in our excellent Industrial Arbitration Act by the Minister for Labour and Industry. Amendments effected since 1941 include a provision enabling many workers who previously did not have access to the arbitration tribunals to have their wages and conditions of employment regulated by awards. The police force and many other employees of Government institutions are now given justice by our State industrial tribunals. Nobody will complain about the Government's actions in that regard. Another improvement is the provision which enables the Industrial Commission and conciliation committees to prescribe day training for apprentices in our technical colleges and trade schools. There is an obligation not only on the lad to make himself efficient in industry, but also upon the employer to ensure that young men who will be our future journeymen are given the best possible technical training.

Any employer who asks employees to work for less than award rates of pay should be subjected to heavy penalties.

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Many union secretaries and organisers, including some who are members of this House, police the awards. They do so not because they believe that employees are getting less pay to-day than that to which they are entitled, because it is well-known that at present the workers can demand the best possible pay and conditions. Employers should realise that if awards are policed it prevents unfair competition, and that union secretaries and organisers who police awards are acting on behalf of the employers as well as of employees. I believe that I have the support of every member of this House in asking that employers and employees' associations be called together by the Minister for Labour and Industry with a view to extending the provisions of the Industrial Arbitration Act to allow union secretaries and organisers to have greater access to businesses and undertakings generally in the community to ensure that award conditions are adhered to. That is a matter which the Department of Labour and Industry should examine closely at an early date.

As soon as possible the right should be restored to the chairmen of the conciliation committees to intervene expeditiously in industrial disputes so that they may speedily determine claims. The organisation that I represent has always believed in conciliation and arbitration, and the men and women who belong to it heartily support that stand. The Government also supports it. During the ten years that I have occupied the position of union secretary I have not had one award argued in court. All have been obtained by conciliatory methods—by the employers and employees meeting in conference and reaching agreement—and I believe that the awards that I have been instrumental in getting for those who employ me are second to none in any State in Australia. I suggest that the Minister for Labour and Industry should convene a conference of all sections of employers and employees in an endeavour to bring about a better understanding, and so that awards may be obtained with less expense and without waste of time.

Social welfare should be given first priority in our deliberations, as everything possible should be done for those in need. During the life of the present Labour Government many improvements have been made in the field of social service. In 1941 the Government established a Social Welfare Branch with a highly qualified staff, and provided all the necessary facilities so that immediate relief would be given to those in distress. The Christmas grant payable to poor persons was increased by 100 per cent. Provision was made for cash grants for the purchase of beds, bedding, and other commodities, and for every possible assistance to be granted immediately following losses from fire, flood and other disasters. The Government has established a housekeeper service in the Sydney metropolitan area and the Newcastle and Wollongong industrial areas. The subsidy has enabled the Government to provide eighty housekeepers to render complete domestic service in homes for a limited period when mothers are prevented, through impending childbirth, or other illness, from carrying out their usual activities. It is pleasing to note that the Government has now provided for further services for mothers who are forced to take their children shopping. Creches in which they may leave their children are being provided as well as rest centres in suitable areas. I believe that these innovations are very necessary and the Government is to be complimented on building them.

In addition, the Government has provided cottage-homes for the aged and infirm. At Bathurst a cottage-home which has accommodation for approximately eighty families has been opened. In this community centre, males and females are housed in congenial surroundings. Other homes are being opened in Newcastle. I believe that, at the moment, the nurses from the Newcastle Hospital are occupying the homes intended for the aged and infirm, but some seventy persons are being housed in the old nurses' home in Newcastle. The Government has given a further

proof of its progressive nature by recognising the part that the old pioneers played in the development of this country. In their heyday, they were acceptable to industry and did much to win the conditions that the average Australian now takes for granted. These people should not be forgotten during the twilight of their lives.

I do not want to repeat what the Hon. Mr. Colborne said in moving the adoption of the Address-in-Reply to his Excellency's Speech, but I should like to refer briefly to the introduction of the forty-hour week. The Government of New South Wales led the way for the other Governments of the country and for the Arbitration Court as well, by introducing a forty-hour week. If we are to do away with the threat of "isms," whether Communism or not, we must provide for our people a little more of the world's pleasure, the world's leisure, and the world's treasure. That policy, if carried to its logical conclusion, will do away with the danger of Communism in our British-speaking countries. I believe that it is incumbent upon the democracies to do more than render mere lip service to its responsibilities under that great flag, the Union Jack. We must give effect to our ideal of democracy and show the rest of the world that we can make it work by more equitably distributing the good things of life.

I should like also to refer to the Annual Holidays Act. I realise that some hon. members opposite will say that all these progressive Acts have helped to raise the cost of living. I do not believe that. We must give leisure to those people who toil day after day, and month after month, in the industries of this country. It is not enough to give them that leisure unless we provide them with the wherewithal to keep body and soul together. Not so many years ago, I received a nice little note in my pay envelope wishing me a Merry Xmas and discharging me a fortnight before Christmas and re-employing me a fortnight after Christmas. During that

month we had to do the best that we could. There was not much turkey on my table in those days. The holidays given by this Government as a reward for good and faithful service in industry during the year ensure that people have sufficient to keep body and soul together during that period of respite. I submit that it is the least to which a loyal employee is entitled.

I should like also to refer to the Factories and Shops Act, the Workers' Compensation Act and the Landlord and Tenant Act. I believe that those measures were more than justified. The Workers' Compensation Act of this country is one of the finest in the world, but it, too, would bear amendment. The Minister should call into conference those organisations charged with the responsibility of employing people in this State. The Labour Council, which represents the majority of employees in industry, and gives good service to many employers' organisations, has for two or three years sought amendments to the Industrial Arbitration Act. I believe that that is something to which the Government must direct its attention in the very near future. The cost of living has risen steeply since the Industrial Arbitration Act was passed, and its amendment is long overdue. I commend my remarks on that subject to the appropriate Minister for his consideration. We must ensure full employment in the future for the operatives engaged in industry, and, as the Premier promised in his policy speech, ensure them the right to choose an occupation from among many alternatives. We must also remove from the workers' homes the economic fear of insecurity. That is a duty we owe not only to the workers but also to democracy.

The onus rests on all sections of the community to make democracy work. Democracy is on trial, not because we wish that it should be, but because the "isms" to which I referred previously have overrun the greater portion of this fair earth—and we have reason to be afraid of them. I make no apology for
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feeling that way because they threaten to be a greater challenge to democracy than we realise. The people of this country, or those of any other country that follows the democratic way of life will not be tempted to follow the "red" doctrine which we all hate so much—and I know that that hatred is felt by all loyal members of the great Australian Labour Party. Unless full employment can be provided and maintained, a hotbed of discontent will be created which will foster the "isms" that so many people, unfortunately, carelessly disregard. Unless mature consideration is given to the vital question of employment, a state of turmoil will develop that will be hard to overcome. I hope that every hon. member in another place will give first priority to the consideration of full employment throughout this country.

A matter which is agitating the minds of many people, and which was dealt with by the Premier in his policy speech, is that of long-service leave. Many organisations have enjoyed this benefit for a long time. In the organisation which I represent—the Federated Confectioners Association of Australia—many men and women have given a lifetime of service and they deserve such a privilege. The Federal Council of my organisation spent a long time discussing this question at Hobart in March of last year. I agree with the Premier and the policy of the Labour Party that anyone who has given a lifetime of service in a factory, workshop, or any other form of employment, has expended energy that cannot be replaced. Long service leave will at least be some compensation, and also an important factor in maintaining the health of workers. I was astounded to notice that no reference was made to this subject in his Excellency's speech. The physical and mental wellbeing of all workers should be given earnest consideration. Hon. members opposite might ask how funds will be provided to meet the cost of this extra social service. If hon. members peruse the financial pages of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Daily Telegraph*, or any

other leading daily newspaper or financial journal, they will find that since the forty-hour week and the provision of annual holidays have been introduced, there have been increases in profits made by private enterprise. That should provide the answer to the question.

High cost of living seriously affects all persons, and must be dealt with soon. A breadwinner who receives what is considered to be an exceptionally good wage in accordance with his industrial award, is not able to provide adequately for the needs of his family. Many married women are obliged to go to work in order to augment the family income and to make ends meet. The place for a married woman is in the home with her children and not at outside employment. Efforts must be made to overcome the high cost of living and restore value to the pound. Hon. members have all heard the old saying, "Let George do it," and some have even amended it to "Let Bob do it." Whether Bob or George does it, is immaterial. Obviously, Bob has not done it, and I hope that before long the opportunity will be given to George to do it. This is a national problem. The powers of the State Government to deal with it are limited, but I am confident that the time is fast approaching when the Federal Government will be forced to take the matter to the people by way of referendum in response to the demand throughout the Commonwealth for the stabilisation of prices by the restoration of price control on a Federal basis. If prices continue to skyrocket the people will be placed in an impossible economic condition.

I am proud to have had the privilege of making a small contribution to this debate. I am proud, also to have the privilege of speaking for a great party which is Australian in tradition, Australian in outlook and which is the only party that is able to represent all sections of the community. In making those remarks I echo the sentiments of the great majority of the people of this State and of Australia who showed their appreciation of the outstanding achieve-

ments of the State Labour Government by returning it for a record period of office.

The Hon. Sir NORMAN KATER [5.42]: I shall not dwell upon the speech made by his Excellency except to remark that it is almost as sterile as a speech that I heard from His Majesty's lips a short time ago in the House of Commons. The legislative programme has been set out in very careful terms indicating that the Premier, because of his slender majority, is treading warily. I was much interested in the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Colborne relating to the economic problems facing this nation. He said that talk of increased production could only produce industrial unrest.

The Hon. A. A. ALAM: He did not make that remark.

The Hon. Sir NORMAN KATER: It is for the Hon. Mr. Colborne to correct me if I am wrong. Apparently he agrees with me.

The Hon. A. A. ALAM: He denies having made the remark; the hon. member is misinterpreting his statement.

The Hon. Sir NORMAN KATER: There are some members of his party, including no less a personage than Mr. Chifley, who disagree with him. I shall refer to remarks made by Mr. Chifley in a broadcast from London to Australia in which he is completely at variance with the views expressed by the Hon. Mr. Colborne. Mr. Chifley said:

"The Government realises that without substantial imports of capital equipment from America, the country's development will be seriously delayed. The path is not easy. The key to the situation lies in production. Hard work is not only a national duty but the stern responsibility of every Australian if we are to survive."

Later in one of his broadcasts to the nation, Mr. Chifley used these words:

"Our own welfare and the expansion and development of our country are wrapped up in our capacity to do better. We want to build a greater Australia for our children. Our strategic position is not what it was. We have to build and maintain a strong Australia, and hard work is the only

way to achieve that. I want all Australians to think and act as Australians and to think and act in terms of the nation. The road of the British speaking people everywhere is going to be hard and long, but I have not any doubt that we will pull through. One of the keys to the problem is increased production."

Subsequently, when a coal strike was threatening, he went to Cessnock and used these words:

"Every member of the community who fails at this stage to do his job only cheats his fellow workers. Seek redress for your grievances if you like, but for God's sake do your best for your country."

Those statements are the antithesis of those of the Hon. Mr. Colborne who said that talk of hard work and production would tend to cause industrial unrest.

The Hon. A. A. ALAM [5.46]: I congratulate the mover and the seconder of the motion upon their splendid speeches in moving and seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply to his Excellency's speech. I wish prematurely to congratulate the Hon. Mr. Buckley who, I am convinced, will in the near future become a member of the Sydney City Council. The traffic problem in Sydney is becoming so acute as to constitute a menace, and I urge the council after the next elections to appoint a committee of three, Alderman O'Dea, the Hon. Mr. Buckley and Alderman Bartley to investigate the traffic problems of the United States of America. In San Francisco, through which I passed on my return journey from England to Australia, Union Square, which is about one-fifth of the area of Hyde Park, has three concrete tiers. I was promised a suit of clothes if a car could not be brought from the farthest point of the parking area within four minutes. However, generally the cars can be brought to the delivery point within sixty seconds. In Sydney we have a Parks and Playgrounds Committee which seeks to preserve the parks of the city, but in Union Square the provision of parking facilities has not deprived the city of one yard of its park space.

Similar provision could be made in Hyde Park and in the Domain without depriving the city of any of its breathing spaces. If the City Council is not big enough to grapple with the problem, the Government should provide the necessary funds to send officers to San Francisco and New York, where there are more cars to the mile than there are to one hundred miles in this country, to examine the methods adopted there to overcome traffic problems. Sydney, a city of one and three-quarter millions, is the laughing stock of the world. Los Angeles, Baltimore, Chicago, and Jersey City have between seven and ten times as many cars as has Sydney, and an inspection of parking facilities in those cities would convince anyone that parking space can be provided at Hyde Park without adversely affecting its beauty. The objections made by the Playgrounds and Parks Committee are worthy only of school children and are an insult to our intelligence. The Government should be big enough to grapple with the traffic problem in this city.

The Hon. RICHARD THOMPSON: What does the hon. member think about the stadium at Rushcutters Bay?

The Hon. A. A. ALAM: That is another matter. I shall be very sorry if the experts consider that it is in the best interests of the city that it should be demolished. I am speaking of Hyde Park, the Sydney Domain and Prince Alfred Park, which could be used, as was Union Square in San Francisco, to solve the parking problem. Why should there be a committee of only three? Why not appoint a committee of five or seven members of the City Council to proceed overseas and investigate the problem? Such a committee could visit Pittsburg, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Detroit, Cleveland and other cities with a million or more inhabitants.

The Hon. J. D. KENNY: Why not send a committee of this House?

The Hon. A. A. ALAM: That would be better still. It could then return with a solution of the problem.

The Hon. H. LATIMER: The hon. member would not terminate the trams at Queens-square?

The Hon. A. A. ALAM: Whoever thought of that proposal has had a nightmare. In this city we have some ramshackle buildings that could be pulled down, and the land could be used for parking purposes. In different parts of the United States of America there are concrete ramps with three tiers that hold about 1,400 cars, which run in and out of the tiers as water runs from a tap. The parking of cars is so smoothly and scientifically managed that it is bewildering to think that, in a city such as Sydney, where the problems are not nearly so great as they are in Pittsburgh and Detroit, we cannot follow suit. It is pitiable that here should be disagreement as to the construction of an underground parking station at Hyde Park, the Domain, or Prince Alfred Park, when hardly an inch of parklands would be taken from the people. Twelve months after the top soil was replaced one would not know that there had been an excavation. If a committee examined the conditions in the United States of America our traffic problem could easily be solved, but it will be a calamity if something is not soon done to cope with the tremendous number of cars that are being imported. The City Council should be courageous enough to take over Hyde Park for this purpose, not next year or the year after, but next month. It should have the foresight to tackle the problem immediately.

About three weeks ago I was talking to a ranger named Wallace on the Ku-ring-gai Chase Reserve, where I saw some $4\frac{1}{2}$ or 5 acres of beautiful boronia and wax flowers. A few days ago I had another look at this spot, and there was not a flower left. The Government should take action to preserve our flora. There are objections to the prevention of the sale of wildflowers. The first is that

an injustice will be done to some people. Why could not the Government fully compensate any persons for any ground that it may take from them and for loss of profits?

Colonel the Hon. H. J. R. CLAYTON: On 1942 valuations?

The Hon. A. A. ALAM: A section could be inserted in the Act to provide that compensation would be paid on to-day's values. If action is not taken to prohibit sales of wildflowers we shall not have a single shrub left within seven years. The native flora are nearly all gone now in National Park. You, Mr. President, as a former member of the Ku-ring-gai Chase Trust, have seen acres and acres of waratahs disappear. Where are the wax flowers, boronia, flannel flowers and native roses that we saw there a few years ago? Racketeers and vandals are making from £80 to £130 a week from the sale of wildflowers. One sees in many homes a profusion of beautiful flowers. Where do the sellers get them? They are said to be obtained from the so-called private nurseries. What happens is that vandals and racketeers attach the names of private nurseries to the wildflowers and sell them in their hundreds and thousands. Often when I visit Flinders-street, Melbourne, I see thousands of waratahs on sale. Most of them come from Ku-ring-gai Chase or Bowral. The question may be asked, "What is the use of New South Wales introducing a measure to prohibit the sale of wildflowers if their sales in other States cannot be prevented?" The answer is that New South Wales has always led the way. If this Parliament passed a measure prohibiting the sale of wildflowers a request could then be made at the Premier's Conference for the introduction of similar measures in other States, so that the provisions of the New South Wales' measure would apply throughout Australia. If that is not done, I doubt whether there will be a native flower left in this State within three years. Racketeers will not work hard when they can easily make big

money from the sale of wildflowers, especially at a time when floods have devastated the flower gardens at Hornsby and other places which used to supply the local market. It is a lucrative business. These vandals can get 3s. for a handful of flowers, and hon. members can imagine the amount of money that they can make.

I congratulate the mover and the seconder of the Address-in-Reply on their initial speeches in this Chamber. They expressed their thoughts lucidly and well.

During the last four or five weeks I have received from the United States of America clippings from important newspapers published in areas stretching from San Francisco to New York. Before landing in Australia on my return from America, I was invited to deliver addresses to Rotary and other clubs and collected the clippings for this purpose. I was amazed at the Anglophobia that was expressed in those newspapers.

The Hon. H. LATIMER: They even called the hon. member a "Senator."

The Hon. A. A. ALAM: They called me Senator Alam because, when I told them that I was a Legislative Councillor of this great Mother Parliament, they could not understand the title and used their own equivalent of "Senator." In London the same sort of thing happened. I would have infinitely preferred to be called a Legislative Councillor of this grand old Parliament, with its tradition, beauty, and record as the greatest debating Chamber that the Southern Hemisphere has ever known.

If the present international trouble results in a crisis, New South Wales will have to bear some 40 per cent. of the sacrifices to be made by Australia. Whether it will or not depends on the strength of the United Nations forces in Korea. If there is a second Dunkirk in Korea we may expect a repetition in Malaya, Formosa and Indo-China. No one can say how far the conflict would then spread—perhaps to Iran, Turkey, Yugoslavia, and West Germany. I think I express the sentiments of 90 per cent. of the Australian people when I say

that we raise our hats with humble admiration and gratitude to America for what she did during the last war with her Flying Fortresses, that swept the Japanese Air Force from the sky, and her battleships, that she sent to the Coral Sea when we did not have a 35,000-ton ship with 16-inch guns to protect us. She brought her *Idaho*, her *Mississippi*, her *Arkansas*, and destroyed the Japanese who threatened our homeland. We cannot thank her too much for that. No one can say that an Australian is ungrateful; but I remind hon. members that if it were not for the British Commonwealth of Nations, America would not be where she is to-day. Let us call a spade a spade. It is useless for any one to criticise Australia for not sending infantry to Korea immediately. I remind those critics of Australia that the first air umbrella for the United Nations troops was provided by the Australian Mustang Squadron. The first naval ships placed immediately at General McArthur's disposal were Australian. •

Some Americans have said that England did not go to America's aid quickly enough, and I should like to state some of the salient facts. Seventy-eight per cent. of the world's gold is buried at Arlington, United States of America. As an Australian legislator, I say that 50 per cent. of that gold belongs to England, and to the Commonwealth of Nations. When, in 1914, precious British blood was being spilt to help police the world, British money and securities were flowing to America, and President Wilson was writing so many notes to Kaiser Wilhelm that the *Bulletin* proposed to send him a ream of paper and a kangaroo hide wristband in case his wrist weakened. Australian soldiers then gave their lives to protect the American way of life, and all that America holds dear. Because some Americans were extreme isolationists and Anglophobes, the United States of America re-elected President Wilson for a second term and waited until the *Lusitania* was sunk before she decided to join in the struggle.

In 1939 the isolationists in that country were so strong that the country waited until the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbour before she helped the Allies. At that time Australia had not one anti-aircraft gun to spare for the defence of Sydney, yet if the Japanese had not bombed Pearl Harbour the Americans would not have been in the war for another twelve months. In the meantime, the blood of British Commonwealth troops was being spilt, and gold was flowing into the vaults at Arlington. The British Empire was the police force of the world for 300 years, and it is now the turn of America, because of her gold, her power, and her superior industrial capacity to play that role. We say to America, "We admire you and have a deep affection for you. We give you thanks for all that you did, but without the British Commonwealth of Nations you would be like a man without a spine. You could not survive without the help of the British Commonwealth of Nations and the strategic areas that she can supply. The British are still willing to fight with you against the menace of militant atheism, communism, or whatever you may call it, and when the whips are cracking, you will realise how unjust your criticism has been." What more could we do when the Korean incident occurred? We had no army to send, but we did have an air force and navy, and we sent them immediately.

In the next war we cannot rely on Britain to send us squadrons of fighter aeroplanes because she will be hard put to defend herself, but we shall still be part of the British Commonwealth of Nations. If, in the 20th century, America does not care to help defend our 3,000,000 square miles—an area as big as the United States of America—in the 21st century Australia will belong to the Chinese or some other Asian race, and in no time there would be more than 200,000,000 Asiatics in this country. This is the Americans' first bastion to save themselves. Of necessity they must come and protect us, and by so doing protect themselves.

But for every ounce they sent we would pull a ton, as we did in the last war. General Kenney is one of Australia's greatest friends in America. He is now visiting Australia. Like General Macarthur, he saluted the efforts of the Australians in their magnificent defence production during the last war. I am confident that if necessary Australia will repeat that achievement. Our greatest ally is America, and the American people have the same heritages, sentiments and ideals that Australians share. They will fight with us and we will stand with them to the last man and child.

I say in reply to the American criticism which is an expression of their mania of Anglophobia, that they should remember that they have a common heritage and tradition with the British and Australian peoples. I should not have risen but for the widespread propaganda of an anti-British nature in America. They referred me to what the British "redcoats" did in the wars during the early years of America's settlement, but I pointed out to them that it was George Washington and Jefferson and Hamilton that beat the English in the War of Independence. When they suggested that the British were at fault, I replied that my knowledge of America's history and her conflict with the British must be incorrect. I asked them whether they gained their independence with the help of Italians or Czechoslovakians or Poles. I pointed out to them that at the time of America's fight for independence Great Britain did not take the welfare of her colonies seriously enough. George III was on the throne and he was a little mental; but his Cabinet did not fully appreciate the value of the American colony, or they would have sent over more "redcoats" and England would have retained the States as one of her possessions. When they boasted of their independence and the great powers of their President, I asked them had they ever thought why Australia did not "cut the painter" and sever its connections with England. I reminded them that the symbol of our nation was a Crown, which

stood for unity. We had not fought, father against son, brother against brother and cousin against cousin as their forebears had done. I suggested that Australia could "cut the painter" and be freer than the United States, but we remembered that we were of the same stock and spoke the same language and formed part of the British Empire, and therefore we stood together. I told them that they should be ashamed to allow sentiments of an anti-British nature to be disseminated in the schools and colleges throughout their Republic. They derive their traditions and civilisation from the same type of people as do the Australians.

I reminded them that they were but an older brother in relation to the British Empire, and we are the youngest child. We have three million square miles of territory, almost the same as the United States, but we need more population. We have only eight million people and if they would send thirty million or fifty million more, we would be able to meet any outside foe and would be glad to co-operate with the Americans as descendants of a common stock. I pointed out to them that if they would come to our help they could make this country their arsenal and they would find that the Australians would join with them in fighting to preserve democracy, as we did in the last war. I reminded them that it would take Australians not two or three years to go to the help of America, but only two or three months. The truth of my assertion has been borne out by the speed with which Australian and British troops have joined the American forces in Korea.

In reasoning further with these people, I emphasised how Australian and American interests were so much in common. We live as they do, we eat as they do, we speak a language that is even purer than theirs. We have not a mixture of foreign tongues in our population. I assured them that Australia's attitude to America was one of complete friendship, and whether America's foreign policy was right or wrong in the cause

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of preserving democracy and the free peoples of the earth, even though that policy contravened the United Nation's charter, the United States could rely on our navy, A.I.F. and air force for support. I said that Australians would be with them to the last man, and therefore there was no reason for this anti-British feeling that was being spread throughout their land.

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING [6.17]: Before dealing with the speech of his Excellency which is the subject of this debate, I wish to say that one could not help feeling disgusted as one listened to the remarks made a few minutes ago concerning Britain's most distinguished ally, which is playing such an important part in the present serious world situation. With Great Britain the United States of America is now resisting the ominous onrush of Communism which has taken its beginning in Korea and which is obviously designed to work its way down the Asiatic continent to Malaya and as far south as it can come. In the continent of Europe every effort is being made by these two great nations in concert, assisted by other nations that have joined them, to resist the pressure which is being exerted from Eastern Europe. The prime mover in all the resistance to this terrific attack on our liberties is the United States of America.

The Hon. A. A. ALAM: I give the Americans full credit for that.

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING: A few moments ago this distinguished ally was subjected to severe criticism.

The Hon. A. A. ALAM: I did not criticise the United States, and I ask the hon. member to withdraw. I gave the American forces full credit for bearing the brunt of the attack. I said that they are doing only what Australia did in the last two world wars.

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING: It is most unfortunate that in the Parliament of New South Wales any responsible member should speak about the

United States in terms such as those used by the Hon. Mr. Alam.

The Hon. A. A. ALAM: Can the hon. member point to one thing I said against the United States? I have more admiration for them than he has. I love them, and he does not.

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING: Neither I nor any other hon. member in this House would like to be associated with the sentiments expressed by the last speaker.

The Hon. A. A. ALAM: The hon. member should be ashamed of himself to speak like that. He should go back to school.

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING: My object in making these preliminary remarks is to try to remove the obloquy that must inevitably be attached to the people of Australia by the people of America if the sentiments of the hon. member came to their knowledge. I feel it incumbent upon me to make these observations because people at the other end of the world do not know the circumstances in which these remarks have been made. If statements of that nature are not answered by other hon. members they could be prejudicial to the people of New South Wales and to one of the major operations at present in progress for the establishment of the liberty of the world. Having said that, I leave this distasteful subject.

The Hon. A. A. ALAM: I love and admire America, and am grateful for what she has done for Australia. The hon. member is misinterpreting my remarks.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. A. A. ALAM: Any stupid school child could do what the Hon. Sir Henry Manning is now doing, and I strongly object to any hon. member misinterpreting my remarks.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. A. A. ALAM: It is satanic and diabolical.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Sir Henry Manning has passed from that subject.

The Hon. A. A. ALAM: He should be ashamed of himself and should be man enough to admit that I said "I love America." He has done something that is satanic, diabolical, shocking and devilish.

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING: I propose to say a word or two about the Governor's Speech which has been dealt with by the mover and seconder in a manner that calls for a high degree of praise from all hon. members. The motion was moved and seconded in two speeches that made the best of the threadbare programme put before the House to-day. Let me first ask what is the purpose of a Governor's Speech on occasions of this kind? Undoubtedly it is to lay before Parliament, to which it is addressed, a programme of legislation to be dealt with during the forthcoming session. An examination of the Governor's Speech to-day will show that there is little in it, and it becomes relevant to deal not only with the contents of the speech but also with its omissions. I can therefore do no better than to refer to the speeches made by the mover and seconder in which they referred to many matters that they claimed to be of serious concern to the whole of the community, and which should receive attention. The Governor's Speech made no reference to them, and the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Colborne and the Hon. Mr. Jackson can therefore be construed as a criticism of the Government's legislative programme. We have been given some information about the struggle that took place in Canberra between the Commonwealth and the States regarding taxation and the allocation of loan money. This has brought into prominence some local difficulties that must receive attention. Perhaps one of the most important of these matters is the question of transport. We were led to believe some years ago that the eastern suburbs railway was to be constructed,

and that this was to be one of the methods of tackling some of the major problems in the transport sphere, but so far we have not been asked to consider any proposal to determine the route of the railway.

The Hon. J. J. MALONEY: Has not the route already been determined?

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING: I understand not.

The Hon. J. J. MALONEY: The work is proceeding.

The Hon. Sir HENRY MANNING: That is true, but the route has not yet been determined because of the difficulties arising over the question of taking the line through the Stadium or through Weigall Park. One might have expected reference to be made to this matter in the Governor's Speech, but apparently the question has received no attention. The railway and tramway finances also present the State with a problem of the first magnitude. There is nothing in the speech to suggest the methods by which those difficulties are to be overcome. Is the public to be called upon to bear the additional expense incurred in conducting the metropolitan transport undertakings, and, if so, to what extent? The expected railway deficit also has not been mentioned in the Governor's Speech. Is it right to leave the newly-constituted transport authority so completely out of consideration that none of us know what attitude is to be adopted by the Government in the forthcoming session? Those are matters upon which the House might have expected some intimation, but it has received nothing. The speeches of the mover and seconder of the motion covered many subjects not touched upon in the speech, among which was the system of industrial arbitration.

Both speakers referred to the need for an expansion of the jurisdiction of conciliation commissioners, so that the principle of conciliation might play its part in the field of arbitration. Under legislation passed a few years ago conciliation commissioners were given powers

to make awards that previously had been the province of the judges of the court. The Hon. Mr. Jackson referred to the fact that wages paid ten or fifteen years ago on the basis of the cost of living then obtaining were completely inadequate to-day, but he overlooked the fact that the Industrial Arbitration Act contains the remedy for the difficulty by providing for automatic increases to awards based on index numbers fixed by the authorities vested with the necessary power. If I examined the numerous matters omitted from the Governor's Speech it would take more time than I would be justified in spending at this stage of the proceedings. The mover and the seconder dealt with subjects not contained in the Governor's Speech. Never has such an innocuous and barren programme been presented to a Parliament.

Motion agreed to.

The PRESIDENT: I have ascertained it to be the pleasure of the Governor to receive the Address-in-Reply to his Excellency's Speech at State Government House on Tuesday, 19th September, 1950, at 4.30 o'clock, p.m.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

Motion (by the Hon. R. R. Downing) agreed to:

That this House, at its rising to-day, do adjourn until Thursday next.

ADJOURNMENT.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The Hon. R. R. DOWNING (Minister of Justice and Vice-President of the Executive Council) [6.31]: I move:

That this House do now adjourn.

I take this opportunity to extend my own congratulations and those of all other hon. members to the two new members of this House who moved and seconded the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. No doubt many hon. members disagree with some of the conclusions at which they arrived, but we must all feel great pleasure at the election to this Chamber of two men of such calibre who are able to express themselves logically and forcibly. I am sure that we

all look forward to further contributions from them to the debates that will no doubt take place during the present session, and I am sure, also, that they will contribute materially to the standard of debates in this Chamber. It was hoped that the Supply Bill would have arrived from another place in time to be dealt with by hon. members to-morrow, but there is some doubt whether it will reach here by that time, and to avoid inconvenience to hon. members it has been decided to adjourn the House until Thursday next at 4.30 p.m. It is hoped that it will not be necessary to sit after dinner on that day.

Motion agreed to.

House adjourned at 6.34 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 12 September, 1950.

Opening of the Second Session of the Thirty-sixth Parliament—Administration of Oath—Message from Governor—Temporary Chairmen of Committees—Election Petition—Death of William Roy Clifford Bagnall, Esq., Ex-M.L.A.—Law of Evidence Bill (*format*)—Questions without Notice—Governor's Speech: Address-in-Reply (First Day's Debate)—Supply Bill.

OPENING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT.

The House met at noon, pursuant to the proclamation of his Excellency the Governor.

Mr. SPEAKER took the Chair.

The opening Prayer was read.

The Clerk read the proclamation convening Parliament.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH.

Mr. SPEAKER reported that he had received from his Excellency the Governor a commission authorising him as Speaker to administer to hon. members the oath or affirmation of allegiance.

Mr. SPEAKER also reported that he had received from his Excellency a commission empowering George Booth, Esq.,

Chairman of Committees of the Legislative Assembly, in the absence of the Speaker, to administer to hon. members the oath or affirmation of allegiance.

MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR.

The Usher of the Black Rod, being admitted, delivered a message from his Excellency the Governor requesting the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the Legislative Council Chamber.

The House went, and hon. members having returned,

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair at 12.49 p.m. The House resumed at 2.30 p.m.]

TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. SPEAKER nominated the following hon. members to act as Temporary Chairmen of Committees during the present session:—Mr. Enticknap, Mr. Freeman, the Hon. G. C. Gollan, Mr. J. T. Reid, Mr. Tully.

ELECTION PETITION.

Mr. SPEAKER reported that the Clerk had received from the Prothonotary a copy of an election petition from Charles Patrick O'Kelly against the return of Frank Joseph Finnan as member of the Legislative Assembly for Darlinghurst.

By direction of Mr. Speaker, the Clerk laid the petition on the table.

DEATH OF WILLIAM ROY CLIFFORD BAGNALL, Esq., Ex-M.L.A.

Mr. SPEAKER reported that in pursuance of the resolution of this House passed on 12th July, 1950, he had communicated to Mrs. Bagnall and family the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Legislative Assembly on the death of William Roy Clifford Bagnall, and intimated that he had received the following reply:

29 Clanalpine-street,
Mosman.
20th July, 1950.

The Hon. W. H. Lamb,

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.
Dear Sir,

Your letter dated July 13th to hand. My family and I were deeply moved and feel very grateful to the Hon. the Premier Mr.