

has a contingency plan in place for another high school to cope with increasing student numbers over the next five years at the Woodvale High School. I also put the Government on notice that I look forward to its honouring the other commitments it gave my electorate during the last election. Those commitments were: The Woodvale Family Centre to be opened in 1989; the Woodvale High School stage four extensions; the Kingsley Family Centre to be opened in July 1989; a rapid rail transit system; \$2 million to the City of Wanneroo to upgrade recreational facilities; and the "Kings Park" of the northern suburbs - a 1 500 hectare park comprising Lake Goollelal, Beenyup and Wallubuenup Swamps, and Lake Joondalup.

I represent Kingsley because I am part of Kingsley and share with my constituents their concerns, uncertainties and aspirations for the future. I look forward to a long and successful parliamentary career with my prime objective of servicing the residents of the Kingsley electorate to the best of my ability. I thank members for giving me the opportunity to speak in this debate. I trust my comments have been constructive and that members now have some understanding of the Kingsley electorate.

[Applause.]

**MR KIERATH (Riverton) [3.12 pm]:** I want to say how thrilled I am to be elected as the member for Riverton; I am proud and privileged to have the honour of being the first ever member for Riverton. I record my thanks to the 9 500 people who supported me and I assure the 7 900 people who did not support me that I am here to work for them also.

During the campaign many local issues surfaced: Most were local government issues, and perhaps it is time we reviewed local government to make it more representative of the people; in other words, make it more accountable. It is supposedly the tier of government closest to the people; I often wonder whether it is closer to special interest groups rather than to the silent majority. One of the biggest difficulties in the Riverton electorate was the traffic problems encountered when speed humps were installed. This occurred when the Council installed speed humps in order to reduce traffic in a particular street. I was inundated with complaints about these from one end of the electorate to the other, and certainly it seems that the Council has become more intransigent in its stance. Despite the massive public opposition, the Council continues to state that those speed humps are in the residents' best interests. The residents obviously think otherwise. During the campaign my opponent supported the speed humps and I opposed them: That highlights the difference between us - he claimed to represent the people while forcing the decision upon them and I chose to represent the will of the people by opposing them. Some people said the issue was becoming political; it was not, but the local Council in this case has stopped listening to the people it is supposed to represent. I believe it has lost touch and that this is an occupational disease of all politics and politicians, whether local, State or Federal. In order to prevent myself from being afflicted with the same disease I intend to spend at least one afternoon a week doorknocking in my electorate and meeting people face to face. In particular I want to meet people who are not necessarily politically active or representing any particular lobby group. The first pledge I make is to serve the people of Riverton before any party interests or lobby group pressures.

I turn my attention to education: Many of the schools in the Riverton electorate are in dire straits. One primary school has more than 900 students, and another school is not far behind in terms of student numbers. The schools to which I refer are Parkwood Primary School and Rostrata Primary School. They are mega schools by anyone's standards. Their projected and predicted enrolments for 1990 and 1991 are in excess of 1 100 students at a primary school level. When considering how on earth this situation could have occurred, it is found that two school sites, one in each of the areas, have been sold off - one in 1983 and the other in October 1985. This latter one was the second school site in the Lynwood-Parkwood area. At the same time this school site was sold Parkwood Primary School, or West Lynwood Primary School as it was known then, already had the largest enrolment of any school in the Riverton electorate. It had more than 600 students and the number was growing fast. As it is traditional in a member's maiden speech to avoid attacking the Government, I will defer debate on this question until a later stage. It should be noted that the people of Riverton, especially those living in the areas around the Rostrata and Parkwood Primary Schools, did not agree to the sale of those school sites. In that case, why should they suffer as a result of these sales? It is not their fault, but they are made to suffer the consequences. It is a disgraceful situation.



As far as other schools in my electorate are concerned, many do not have basic essentials such as fans. Many parents can give good reasons why schools should be air-conditioned. Since I have been a member of Parliament I have heard good reasons put forward for air-conditioning Parliament House. The question is asked: Why should staff have to work in such appalling conditions? If people think that it is hot in Parliament House in summer, they should spend some time in a transportable classroom on a hot day. Instead of erecting a new building to one side of Parliament House, we should install transportable classrooms as temporary office space. After one summer working in such accommodation I am certain we would make sure that transportable classrooms were attended to immediately. Our kids have to face that each and every year. I also believe that our schools should be designed with the Western Australian climate in mind: By that I mean that schools should be built facing north and south, with the minimum number of windows facing east, and that design and layout for schools should utilise seasonal conditions. In order to keep the buildings cool in summer and warm in winter, our designs should include verandahs and skylights which take advantage of various angles of the sun in the different seasons, as well as high ceilings and insulated roofing. We should use western windows and parklands that shield the sun but still allow the cooling breezes to come through. We could use gardens and reticulation, especially courtyard gardens from where cool air could be drawn to cool the classrooms. I reiterate that we should design schools with the Western Australian climate in mind, and I am sure we could do much to reduce the current discomfort. I would like to go one step further and say we should not have transportable classrooms as we know them at all. If we were to put our minds to providing more semipermanent designs for school buildings, we could develop facilities that could be added to schools as they peaked during maximum enrolments and, as the number of students declined, those buildings could be moved to other schools experiencing population growth. I am sure a design competition could be run offering substantial prizes for the best semipermanent design for schools. We could be absolutely staggered by the alternatives submitted. We should be putting the design emphasis on buildings that can be transferred from one site to another, so that as school populations grow and decline the buildings can be adjusted accordingly.

Another important issue that surfaced during the election campaign was law and order. People have been severely affected by breaking and entering in their homes, the theft of motor cars, and the general breakdown of law and order. Surely in this day and age we can do something to rectify the situation. There is a saying that a man's home is his castle. I hope the Chamber will forgive me for being sexist, but that is the saying. People should feel safe in the confines of their own home. At this stage I commend the Neighbourhood Watch program, but at the same time criticise the apparent reduction in police manning levels, especially with many suburban police stations either disappearing or being downgraded in favour of regional stations. The presence of police in the local community should be encouraged, and to this end the people of Riverton request the establishment of a manned police station in the electorate. The Riverton area is partially serviced by two police stations, one in Brentwood and one in Cannington, both of which are among the State's busiest police stations. The workload and pressure on those police stations could be eased by establishing a new station in the area. People feel they have a right to go about their lives without their homes being invaded by intruders, or their vehicles stolen, or their property violated. This feeling of security is a fundamental right of our very existence. We can tolerate a certain degree of uncertainty in the world if we can feel safe in our own homes.

I now turn my attention to the plight of our senior citizens. Many of our seniors feel as though they are the forgotten people. I will refer specifically to seniors who receive a part pension because they have another source of income - either superannuation or an overseas pension - and who feel that they have worked hard all their lives, have paid their taxes and contributed to the community yet have been forgotten in later years. Most of them have made deliberate and careful plans for their retirement through superannuation or their overseas pension. Often their additional income results in a means test and the loss of their health benefits card and, consequently, the loss of many other benefits and privileges. These people are becoming the new breed of poor; they are caught betwixt and between. They are the very people who have tried to help themselves. How do we reward them? We take away their privileges and discounts and make them pay because they had the foresight to try to help themselves by planning for the future. The philosophy here seems totally wrong. I believe that we should apply pension discounts to all Seniors' Card holders and not just to those who hold a pensioner health benefit card.



Another local issue about which I feel strongly is the Canning River regional park. I support the establishment of that park but would like to see something done now. It has been mooted since 1980 and it is high time we saw action rather than heard talk. One word of caution: We need one single authority and not joint management of the park as originally proposed. That proposal would supply an excuse for buck passing and we do not want that, because it is currently one of the very problems we face when trying to manage these loosely grouped pockets of land referred to as the Canning River regional park. The care and well being of the environment is a critical issue that faces all of us. These are local issues about which the people of Riverton feel strongly. This is evidenced by my presence in this House.

I turn now to issues of a more general nature. I will outline my beliefs so that members will have some understanding of the principles that guide my thinking. One of my great interests is labour reform or, put more correctly, reform of the labour market. In discussing this matter I will refer to two quotes: The first is, "You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer" - one section of the market should not grow at the expense of the other. The second is, "You cannot encourage the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred" - we must work together towards common goals. These are the underlying principles that should be considered in any reforms.

I would like to see unions really representing their members and showing them how to gain real increases in wages, not just treading the inflationary wage/tax spiral. This, in itself, leaves the wage earner in a far worse position. The Government, and therefore this Parliament, should be looking at ways to reduce the tax burden and to restore incentives. We should, as legislators and leaders, be searching for methods of increasing real wages through productivity and tax cuts rather than through false, inflationary increases such as the CPI adjustments. The only way to increase our worth is to create wealth. We create wealth by production, nothing else. We all know deep down that there is no such thing as a free lunch. If it is free for one person, it has a cost to another. We should be completely honest and acknowledge who is actually paying for this.

This brings me to the further quote that, "You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich." We receive in life exactly what we put into it, nothing more and nothing less. Therefore, if we want more we must become worth more. We must increase our production. The message is very simple, although it is much harder to put into practice. We often do not see this wisdom surfacing in industrial relations because the waters can become clouded with a thirst for power rather than a desire for justice. I place on record the fact that I am in favour of a system which restores integrity which is based on democracy and not dictatorship, which rewards negotiation not militancy, which restores the importance of workers as productive people not just as statistics, which encourages excellence and not mediocrity, which rewards incentive and does not stifle creativity but allows people to have their own opinions without fear of retribution or recrimination, which acknowledges the rights of individuals and which grants freedom but recognises the responsibility that accompanies freedom.

Another pertinent quotation is, "You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong." A system such as I have outlined will go a long way toward restoring the confidence of people through goodwill. This might get people to work together for common goals. If we can work together instead of pulling apart and in different directions I am sure that we can improve our standard of living and with it the prospects for our children. As I have said previously, this Government and this Parliament should be looking at ways to reduce the tax burden and to restore incentives, if we want people to become more productive.

I fully realise that income tax is a Federal matter, but I wish to record my feelings and beliefs with regard to the taxation system and its effects on people. In recent years we have seen relief measures for low income earners. We have seen a Government posturing and heard lots of empty rhetoric about tax avoidance measures. Yet what do we see? We see a large, well known company paying less than one per cent of its income in the form of various taxes. I think that is obscene. We encourage people to pay their way and be a part of the community, yet if one is poor one receives many forms of assistance. If one is a member of the super rich there are tax loopholes, apparently there for the asking. However, what about the vast majority of people who lie somewhere between - the real producers of this country? Someone has referred to these people as "Middle Australia". I like to call them the genuine producers who are being taxed out of existence. No rorts, no methods of tax avoidance, and virtually no deductions are available to these people. Surely we must realise that we can kill the goose that lays the golden egg.



I have heard of people who have refused to work overtime and who will not produce more simply because they are taxed too much. How pathetic is the system which is causing people to lower their productivity simply because it is just not worth it. Yet here we are supposedly trying to increase our wealth and encourage people to become worth more. The two things simply do not go together. I want to see enterprise, production and initiative rewarded. Let us lift the shackles off "Middle Australia" and offer incentives and we will see this great country of ours moving forward again.

I turn to the matter of welfare, which is a natural flow on from my previous subjects because many people have said that we have used our tax system to change the very basis of our society. There is another saying, "You cannot help men personally by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves." Another pearl of wisdom is, "If you give a man a fish you feed him for a day. If you teach him how to fish, you feed him for a lifetime." There is a very subtle distinction between those two sayings which sums up my feelings and attitudes to welfare.

We, as politicians, love to give handouts, presentations and gifts, but whom are we really helping? We do not want people to become dependent upon us - or do we? Is that the ulterior motive of some of us? Surely we should be helping people to stand on their own two feet and look after themselves; in other words, we should be treating the causes and not just the symptoms.

This leads me to another area about which I feel strongly, that of budgeting. Another quote is as follows, "You cannot establish sound security on borrowed money", and another is, "You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn." For all of our lives every one of us has to live within a budget; we all have to do this regardless of how much or how little money we have. Yet do we teach the subject at school? Not likely! It is one of the most important and fundamental skills in our society. We should be teaching our children how to save. Remember, we cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. In my own life I have had to face severe difficulties before I learned the very basics of budgeting, and, as it is a key to negotiating life successfully, one would expect that to be one of the most important aspects of the education system. It affects every single one of us and we could be excused for being slightly cynical by saying, "Well, we do not want to do that because we cannot all be successful." I say, "We can".

The best way to explain this is to give a real life example from my previous occupation. Five middle management people were put on a savings scheme in which they had to save at least 10 per cent of their income. Once the savings scheme had commenced they could gain access to the money once every six months. They could spend it or leave it there and save further. They were able to earn incentives to match their savings dollar for dollar. Four of the people were living in rental or Homeswest accommodation. All of them are now buying their own homes and none of the first four is working for my previous employer; three went out on their own with business ventures which in some cases were in competition with my previous employer. The point I am trying to make is that these people were takers from the system by always looking for assistance and living in subsidised homes. Their attitudes changed and now they are buying their own homes, standing on their own two feet and making their way in life. Why? It is simply because they were shown how to help themselves, how to save and how to budget. That is something which is very simple yet the results were absolutely staggering; there was a 100 per cent success rate.

Let us now turn our attention to the environment. I touched on this when I spoke of local issues, but I want to talk now on a much larger scale. Our environmental resources are scarce and much of our flora and fauna and whole ecosystems are extinct, or rare and in danger of becoming extinct. In other words, our environmental assets are being substantially reduced and, conversely, those which are left have had their value substantially increased. There is a saying that none of us really owns land; we are only granted temporary custody by our grandchildren. That sums up my feelings. We as a Parliament must place greater emphasis on protection of the environment. When we use environmental resources for food or production, we must learn how to farm those resources rather than consume our natural stocks. One example of this is our wildflower trade and cut flower industry. We need to develop farms to grow plants for the flower trade rather than simply pick from the natural stocks. Our need for wood or forest products should be met from plantations and tree farms rather than using the existing forests. This Government's record in using System Six areas as



a cheap source of land is fairly shortsighted. I will not indulge in criticism of that aspect now, but I serve notice that I shall have strong comments to make in this area in the future.

I am not a "Greenie" or a so-called "Conservationist"; these terms have some weird political connotations. I prefer to say that I am a nature enthusiast and I love the Western Australian native bush. I want to see it protected so that our grandchildren might have the same opportunity to enjoy it. One of the most pleasing aspects I see today is that the young people have a far greater environmental conscience than many of our forefathers. A practical way of preserving wildflowers is to establish their use in gardens. Once they become valuable plants in our gardens, their physical existence will be assured, while, at the same time, their natural habitat is under great threat. *Eucalyptus caesia*, the Silver Princess, is a prime example of this. It has become extremely popular in our gardens while at the same time its natural habitat is under severe threat. I believe that all of our roadside verges, median strips and parks and gardens should use Western Australian plants exclusively rather than the European species or even the species from the other parts of Australia. This is Western Australia and the best plants for our conditions - you guessed it - are Western Australian plants because they occur here naturally.

As a personal statement, my wife and I have a hobby farm at Wandi at which we have planted 6 000 native plants and trees. Of these approximately 30 are on the endangered species list and we feel we have played a small part in the environmental conservation of these plants. On a Statewide basis I would like to see all projects that have an environmental impact encouraged to have an environmentally positive effect; that is, as a condition of any licence approval they must be required to improve our environmental assets or stocks. In this way each project will improve the environment by adding to it rather than reducing it.

I want to turn my attention to justice. Our legal system desperately needs to deliver justice and punish those who do wrong, not only as a punishment but also as a reward for those who do right, otherwise people will become disillusioned and will hold the law in contempt. Our legal system should be fair and reasonable. In other words, justice should be accessible to all people and not just a privileged few. If people do not have faith in our legal system there will be a breakdown in law and order; we are already seeing the first stages. I read with interest that the Chief Justice had expressed concern about the high cost of the legal system. The policy of my party is to establish community justice centres, which is a concept I support wholeheartedly, so long as they deliver justice at an affordable price to the majority of people. This brings me to another quote: "We cannot build character and courage without taking away man's initiative and independence". The legal system needs independence from any political masters, and one disturbing aspect of an expensive legal system is the use of its high cost as a threat against people of more moderate resources. A disturbing trend of late by some large companies, and, dare I suggest, even some Government Ministers, is the use of the legal process to intimidate people who have a different point of view. Basically I think people want a set of rules that apply to everyone regardless of their status or position - a system they can trust and a system that will deliver real justice without fear or favour.

I turn now to citizens initiated referendums. I am unashamedly in support of such referendums as many people are losing faith in our parliamentary system. Far too often we have seen vested interests taking precedence over the interests of the majority. One wonders why people are losing faith in the credibility of our parliamentary system; but it is not surprising when we are loath to give the people the power of veto that rightly belongs to them; we must never forget that we are their representatives and not their dictators. Citizens initiated referendums are a safety valve or safety net whereby the people give Parliament the power to run this State on a daily basis, but reserve the right to override Parliament and impose their will when it is necessary.

Another point I will touch on briefly is that of losing touch, especially in the electorate. All Governments of all political persuasions lose touch occasionally. Citizens initiated referendums would give people the power to have their say without necessarily challenging the Government. On the subject of losing touch, I think it is - as I said earlier - an occupational hazard in politics and maybe it should be incorporated into the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act. I have made a personal pledge that I will try to reflect the will of the people; a pledge that I will spend one afternoon a week doorknocking my electorate as their sitting member, and not just during an election campaign. In this way I hope to be able to reflect the real opinions and viewpoints of people and to ensure that I do not lose touch. I



believe that most people do not want to get involved in politics. They want to get on with their lives, earning a living, buying their own homes and enjoying life with a minimum of political interference. Many of them become politically involved only when they feel that politicians have gone off the rails and let them down. Today I have tried to address the local issues important to the people of Riverton. They addressed those issues loudly and clearly when they sent me here with a majority of nearly 1 600 votes. I pledged to work on these issues over the next four years. Also, I have tried to outline some of the broader issues and my philosophies behind them.

I hope that other members in this place will gain an understanding of my beliefs. Throughout my comments I have quoted some well known sayings. I would like to bring them together by quoting from the words of a famous American President, Abraham Lincoln -

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help strong men by tearing down big men. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot establish sound security on borrowed money. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

If we are able to adopt those principles by the time the life of this Parliament comes to an end, Western Australia will have become a greater State in which to live. This must be the motivation of every member in this House. I promise members that is my motivation. I pledge to work for the people of Riverton in the manner I have outlined today. I thank the members of this House for the opportunity to place these matters on public record.

[Applause.]

MR THOMPSON (Darling Range) [3.41 pm]: It is with some trepidation that I rise to enter this debate following the delivery of three very fine maiden speeches, which indicates the calibre of the new members who have been inducted into this Parliament as a result of the recent election. I can speak with authority in respect of those new members who sit on this side of the House, and I hope for the benefit of this institution that my comments will apply also to the members who have been elected to the other side of the Parliament. We are sitting in this Parliament at a time when more than ever before the public has this institution under the microscope. Parliament has to be seen to be lifting its game and becoming more appropriate to the society in which we live. I say again how pleased I have been with the calibre of the new members whom I have had the pleasure of meeting in these past few days since the election was held.

It came as a surprise to me, and I am sure to many in this Parliament, when Lionel Farrell tendered his resignation. It is interesting that he resigned; he did not retire. I place on record my appreciation of the work which Lionel Farrell did over a long period of time. I think I am correct in saying that there is no officer currently sitting in this Chamber who has served for a longer period of time than did Lionel Farrell. Lionel is a thorough gentleman, and he always displayed a great degree of impartiality and courtesy towards members, no matter from which side of the House they came. I had the pleasure of working closely with Lionel during the six years that I was Speaker of this Chamber. I am fully aware of that gentleman's contribution to this institution. I am convinced that we will all miss his presence in this place. I will certainly miss him because I regarded him as a friend and a person who was only too willing to go out of his way to help those of us who serve in this place.

I am very pleased that when the member for Northern Rivers made his maiden speech, he paid tribute to Dudley Maslen, who was a member of this place for a brief period after the resignation from the Parliament of Ian Laurance. Dudley Maslen quickly established himself in the minds of those of us who served with him as a very fine person. I was disappointed when he was not returned to that seat. In saying that I am not commenting on the ability of the member for Northern Rivers, who has replaced him, but Dudley Maslen was a fine member of Parliament who had a great future, and I hope that he will seek an opportunity to return to this place. I give the sitting member for Northern Rivers a warning that I will be doing everything I can to see that Dudley Maslen is re-elected.