

and District Courts brought together. That makes good security sense. I do not know how the other States handle that.

I still have not seen any information on the structure of the Supreme Court. I know there is a probate division, but I do not know what else exists. That sort of information should be available to members. I would like to see a separate annual report for the courts in this State because a lot of information exists that could be made available.

Hon Peter Foss: I will take that up to ensure it happens.

Hon MARK NEVILL: That would be worthwhile.

I will touch on the backgrounds of the judges. I do not make any reference to particular judges. I do not know that we can be prescriptive as to where judges are drawn from, but many seem to come from the better private schools. There are a couple of exceptions: One judge is from Perth Modern Senior High School, which is a rather posh government school, and one of the judges from South Africa comes from Parktown Boys High School. That could be a private school.

Hon Peter Foss: That is elitist, too.

Hon MARK NEVILL: It could be. He then attended the University of Stellenbosch, which, from my knowledge of South Africa, is a great university. The rest of the judges come predominantly from well-heeled private schools. As the Attorney General said when he attacked the High Court -

The Melbourne and Sydney Bars do not expose you to much real life. Middle-aged, wealthy, privileged, small businessmen working between their clubs and the club-like atmosphere of barristers' chambers have not had much experience of anything.

Hon J.A. Cowdell: Not like our Attorney General!

Hon MARK NEVILL: To be fair to the Attorney General, he was referring to judges making political comments in the High Court; however, that still applies to their own psyche and make-up. They are prisoners of their upbringing. As a Catholic working class Labor supporter I would hate to be in front of one of them.

Hon Peter Foss: Some of them are Catholic working class, but they have done well.

Hon MARK NEVILL: I notice that there are a couple, but they come from fairly privileged backgrounds. Perhaps they won scholarships from government primary schools?

Hon Peter Foss: People often forget that judges are human.

Hon MARK NEVILL: I ask the Government to address the situation of a permanent police presence in Balgo. The Government will pay a helluva lot more money to fix up the problems that will continue if that does not occur. A complete overhaul of the juvenile justice system in remote areas must be conducted. The Ministry of Justice is presenting the impression that things are okay, but they are a mess. Finally, I would like the Government to address the issue of the courts in Western Australia and perhaps make them a separate independent authority - not part of the Ministry of Justice - with a consolidated form of reporting directly to the Parliament on the activities and performance of those courts.

**HON E.R.J. DERMER** (North Metropolitan) [4.30 pm]: I rise to support the motion moved by Hon Barbara Scott and to thank His Excellency the Governor for his presentation of his speech to this Parliament. Further, Mr President, I thank you for this opportunity to make my first contribution to the deliberations of this House.

In so doing my thoughts rest on the gravity of the responsibility we hold for the wellbeing of Western Australians. Our first responsibility is to provide real hope for Western Australians. Hope is the driving force for good in our community. Hope is essential to family life and the positive nurturing of children. Hope provides much of the motivation for work and enterprise, with the consequent material advance of individuals, families and the entire community. Confidence in our political institutions and the realised hope for enhanced accountability are essential to the future peace and coherence of our community. In these and other respects, we in this Parliament share a fundamental responsibility for the hopes and aspirations of our fellow Western Australians.

In thanking the people of the North Metropolitan Region for their confidence and my election to this place, I offer my best in the undertaking of this duty. I wish also to most especially thank Sylvia, my wife. Sylvia's extraordinary support and patience make my work possible.

Western Australia has every reason to be an exceptionally happy and hopeful place. Traditions of cooperation, hard work and tolerance are widespread in this State. Of course we are blessed with an exceptional wealth of natural

resources. We are further blessed with a climate and natural environment which is particularly conducive to good living. However, signs of despair are on the increase. High incidence of child abuse, crime in general, domestic strife, racial intolerance, unemployment, substance abuse and suicide are each indicative of diminishing hope in our community.

Of these manifestations of despair, the first I wish to address today is unemployment. Employment may be paid, voluntary or most importantly in support of a family in the home. Many Western Australians of course enjoy a combination of these forms of employment. Employment is central to human happiness and self-respect. Unemployment and the fear of unemployment is perhaps the most pernicious cancer to the hope of Western Australians. I hold the utmost admiration for those many who face unemployment with determination to find work. Maintaining such hope and determination, over what is all too often many months and longer, is a mark of real courage.

I was pleased to hear His Excellency speak of the Government's intention to ensure the large scale processing in Western Australia of our natural resources into steel and petrochemicals. The Government can be assured of my vigilance in demanding the realisation of this intention. Dr Geoff Gallop has taken the initiative in the other place to call for a major projects standing committee. I anticipate that this committee will contribute much to advance the domestic processing of our natural resources. Western Australians have every right to expect the most effective application of our immense natural resources to the generation of employment and wealth throughout our community.

Loyal and conscientious employees have every right to expect job security or, in the event of diminishing markets for their product, the decent provision of redundancy payment and opportunities for retraining.

Confidence in job security equates with confidence in consumption. The compounding effect of job insecurity on unemployment is obvious. The housing market provides perhaps the best example of this effect. The labour relations policy of the Government has devastated confidence in job security in Western Australia. An employee without the strength of collective bargaining is without job security and without confidence in decent pay and conditions.

The strength of the trade union movement is essential to the hope and prospects of working Western Australians and their families. The Shop Distributive and Allied Employees Association of Western Australia is a fine example of an effective trade union working to defend its members. I am proud of my association with this union over the past decade and more. The defence of working people was the founding purpose of the Australian Labor Party, and this purpose remains at its core. This purpose, along with the provision of real hope for all Australians and respectful assistance to those in need, is the basis of my commitment to my party as a great Australian institution. I wish to thank the members of those Labor Party local branches with whom I have worked closely in the pursuit of this great purpose.

The future strength of the Western Australian economy and subsequently the hope of Western Australians depends on quality of product and most often successful innovation. Sustained market viability is essential to long term job security. With this in mind, I look forward to the task of developing practical and effective communications and information technology policy on behalf of the Opposition. Quality of education is essential to our future strength and happiness, not least with regard to preparation for employment, as is the encouragement of hope and confidence in our youth.

In respect of work on behalf of youth, I wish to acknowledge the particularly effective contribution of my colleague in the representation of the people of the North Metropolitan Region, Hon Graham Edwards. Hon Graham Edwards' stated objective in his maiden speech was the provision of hope, encouragement and practical support for our youth. He has committed great service to this objective. His discharge of ministerial responsibilities for Youth, Sport and Recreation were highly effective. Working as a local member, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Northern Suburbs Youth Options community organisation. Northern Suburbs Youth Options continues its important work in finding employment or training placements for young people leaving 17 high schools throughout the northern suburbs. In these and other endeavours Hon Graham Edwards has achieved much for the hope and self-image of young Western Australians.

With regard to practical work dedicated to fostering hope and progress in his electorate, I wish to acknowledge Mr Ted Cunningham, the good and proud member for Girrawheen. The hope of youth, their education and preparation for employment always receive Ted's first attention. Ted is a man of special commonsense and wisdom, from whom I have learnt much and look forward to learning a great deal more.

Unemployment contributes directly to the other manifestation of despair I wish to address today; that is, racial intolerance. Increasing racial intolerance is symptomatic of diminished hope in our community. Prejudice against another on the basis of skin colour is fundamentally an evil instinct. Such instinct would not grow amongst the happy and hopeful.

I have been fortunate in making a number of good friends with people who have migrated to Western Australia from Asian nations. A large majority of the Asian immigrants whom I know have strong instincts of enterprise and of family and civic responsibility, and they reinforce in our community the very best of Australian traditions.

The hope and confidence of Western Australians depends on good governance. With respect to political constitution, Australia and Western Australia have inherited the best on offer from the two foundation nations of modern democracy. Those nations are the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the United States of America. The strength of these foundations is most clearly evident in the sincere flattery of imitation throughout the world. Mr President, this is a fact with which you would be very familiar from your work with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

In matters constitutional it is my strong instinct to urge caution and I place a prudently heavy onus of proof on the merits of proposed change. However, this House is in desperate need of reform. The representative legitimacy of this Legislative Council is severely compromised by the simple fact that three-quarters of the electors of Western Australia are represented by half the members of this Council. This gross unfairness must undermine public respect for Parliament and the electoral process. Public consensus in accepting the fairness of electoral outcome is the cornerstone of democracy and the stability of democracy into the future.

This Legislative Council has the potential to restore the authority of the Parliament in relation to government and to establish effective accountability for government actions. I expect the results of the most recent election of members to this House to advance and reinforce this potential.

In May 1995 Dr Geoff Gallop submitted to the Commission on Government "A Proposal For Electoral and Parliamentary Reform in Western Australia". Dr Gallop's proposal explored the respective functions of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. This proposal entailed a Legislative Assembly functioning as the House of Government from which the entire Cabinet is derived and to which the Cabinet is responsible. This proposal further entailed a Legislative Council functioning as the House of Review and constituted on the basis of four standing committees, with each committee focused on scrutiny and the review of legislation within their respective parameters of legal and constitutional affairs; finance and administration; economic development; and health, education and community development. Dr Gallop's proposal envisaged each of these standing committees being resourced with a chairman having status and conditions similar to that of a Minister. Significant potential to enhance the review and public accountability functions of the Legislative Council and to reinforce the authority of the Parliament in relation to the Government is apparent in these aspects of Dr Gallop's proposal. This proposal certainly warrants further thought, discussion and consideration.

I have enjoyed 15 years of involvement with a small but dedicated band in the Electoral Reform Society of Western Australia. I particularly acknowledge the important contribution of the late Mr Roland Stephens, who provided much of the founding inspiration of the Electoral Reform Society.

Mr President, we must shoulder the responsibility to address the manifestations of despair in our community. We must act to foster hope in the community and, in so doing, attend to the most important underlying cause of these manifestations. We must offer practical assistance to those on whom these arising problems most impact.

We must consider the natural aspirations of Western Australians: Hope for the opportunity to nurture a family with the extension of its aspirations to children and grandchildren; hope for satisfying and productive employment; hope for quality education and effective preparation for employment; hope for democratic and accountable government; hope for confidence in the affordable availability of decent health care; hope for security from the ravages of crime; and hope for life without the sadness of racial intolerance. These are the aspirations of decent commonsense which are traditional to Western Australians. Effective support for these aspirations is exactly the constitutional responsibility of State Parliament and State Government. Mr President, the hope of Western Australians must be the focus of our work ahead.

[Applause.]