

Mr SPEAKER - The result of the ballot is that Mr Beattie is elected Chairman of Committees. The voting is 20 to 13.

DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Mr SPEAKER - Pursuant to standing order 16 I hereby nominate Mr Page and Mr Haros to act as Deputy Chairmen of Committees in the absence of, or when requested so to do by, the Chairman of Committees.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Mr DAVIS (Denison) - Mr Speaker, I have the honour to move -

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor in reply to His Excellency's speech:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the members of the House of Assembly of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled, desire to thank Your Excellency for the speech which you have been pleased to address to both Houses of Parliament.

We desire to record our continued loyalty to the Throne and the Person of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second, and at the same time to assure Your Excellency that the measures which will be laid before us during the session will receive our careful consideration.

Mr Speaker, may I congratulate you on your election to the Chair, as I know you will serve this Parliament with great distinction. The fact that you are the longest serving member, being elected in December 1961, is of special significance.

I would also like to congratulate the Premier on having so ably led the Liberal Party to winning government for the first time in our own right and to the ministers of the Government I offer my full support.

I am very conscious of the trust that the electors of Denison have given me and I aim to serve them to the best of my ability.

Mr Speaker, Tasmania's economic growth and development from the time of its first settlement right through until today has been due only to the enterprise and entrepreneurial zeal of individuals and companies. It is this enterprise - private enterprise - that takes the investment risk with the prime objective of gaining a return on the investment for its shareholders and owners.

To some, 'profit' is a dirty word - but profit expands businesses, increases job opportunities and the number employed and distributes income to hundreds of thousands of individuals and organisations. And a sizeable portion of this profit as a result of enterprise is claimed by governments in a variety of taxes.

It is private enterprise which provides the entrepreneurs and never should a State government intrude directly in this domain. The role of government is to create a climate that stimulates investment and development and this is what our Government has set as its prime objective.

But over a period we have seen private enterprise hit hard by 'creeping socialism' as the previous Labor governments used public funds to compete unfairly with the private sector. An example of this is the construction industry which - embracing housing, commercial and industrial buildings and civil engineering - is a vitally important part of the free enterprise sector and directly employs 9 per cent of Tasmania's work-force. It is recognised in the industry that the day-labour system of public construction is one-third more costly than through private contracts. In recent years a business group led by the Australian Society of Accountants, together with many others in industry and commerce, formed the Tasmanian Economic Survey Team. The TEST Report of November 1980 stated:

'A Government which concentrates all its construction through private contractors is not only obtaining more construction directly, it is also automatically reaping the benefit of that additional work value multiplied four or five times with the support industries.'

It is generally understood in the industry: 'As goes the construction industry, so goes the economy and jobs.'

Here in Tasmania I find the previous Government has built up a day-labour force of nearly 1 000 permanent workers, when combining the 300 in the Education Department with those in the Department of Housing and Construction. In fact a permanent work-force of this size is larger than all the major builders in Tasmania combined. The day-labour force is being used for sizeable building projects and far removed from the role of housing and repairs and maintenance.

To illustrate the point: on 24 February this year Cabinet decided to use the day-labour force to construct the Centre for the Arts at a cost of \$9.4 million at 1981 values - and building inflation is about 1 per cent per month. No tenders to be called, no competitive pricing, no accountability - and what about the thousands who are dependent on a viable private enterprise building industry?

The other pressure on private enterprise, and the community generally, is from minority groups and the question of south-west Tasmania should be put in the right perspective. Certainly the people of Tasmania did that at the recent State election.

Some groups want the whole south-west conservation area, comprising 23 per cent of this State, locked up in perpetuity. Yet at the same time this season, 1 500 rafters and canoeists will have attempted the Franklin River - leaving behind a trail of wrecked craft, rubbish and evidence of a region under pressure and without management supervision to alleviate the impact; 900 people climbed Federation Peak; and 4 000 people visited Melaleuca in the south-west.

But I believe that within the south-west of Tasmania there can be a balance of wilderness and recreation as well as those areas where resources can be developed with proper supervisory and environmental controls. People forget that 45 per cent of the south-west conservation area is already dedicated to national parks and State reserves. Some areas of the south-west are suitable for the creation of new forests. Why should we not develop forests where little or deteriorated forests exist at present?

There has been a moratorium on any new mining and exploration in the south-west since September 1978 and I am aware of the fact that there are 15 applications for mining exploration awaiting the lifting of the moratorium. We should ascertain the mineral potential of the south-west, and new technology makes for a speedy and more accurate assessment.

There is room for all in the south-west. There already exists a dramatic increase in the number of bushwalkers and rafters exposing the need for increased national parks management. With mining exploration due to occur in the foreseeable future under new mining and environmental guide-lines, and with the construction of the Gordon below Franklin power scheme to take place, constant management and oversight of the region is of vital importance.

The value to Tasmania and Tasmanian employment of our Statewide natural resources, particularly minerals and the forests, should not be underestimated. In the last financial year the value of Tasmanian exports rose for the sixth successive year to a figure of \$652 million of which 48 per cent was from mining.

At a forum on Tasmania's economic status at the university in February this year, the Chairman of Aberfoyle Ltd stated:

'The mining industry believes that Tasmania, particularly its western half, has considerable potential for the discovery of commercial and sizeable deposits.'

He went on to say that the area is 'the most pregnant mineralised zone in the world'.

The other major natural resource is the forest and it provides Tasmania with our largest combined industry. The 1981 Report to the Senate Standing Committee on Trade and Resources said:

'In Tasmania the forest and forest products industries are the most important industry in terms of employment, investment and earning capacity.'

But some minority groups do not recognise this important aspect of the State's economic base. In an article in the Press last year, the Projects Officer for the Australian Conservation Foundation in Tasmania, Mr Peter Thompson, said that 1982 would bring a campaign against the woodchip industry that would make the Franklin River campaign look tame. The Tasmanian Wilderness Society announced at 'Centrepoint', Hobart, that it would use 'shock treatment' - its words - to persuade the public to abolish the woodchip export industry.

I wonder how the 1 715 workers directly employed by the woodchip industry will react. I wonder how their dependents, their families, will react. And what about millions of dollars invested by private individuals and companies in that industry? What about the \$110 million that industry earned in export income for Tasmania in this last year?

Our democratic way of life gives us all the opportunity of fighting for our causes and I will use all my energy to see that this freedom remains. But I will fight to ensure that our economic base which provides our jobs and our enterprise is not lost in a sea of irresponsible sensationalism - and the electors of Tasmania were astute enough on 15 May to measure the sensationalism versus the economy and the need for good government.

Good government, I believe, has the hallmark of efficiency, economy and effective management and the report by Sir George Cartland on the Review of Tasmanian Government Administration September 1981 reflects the exact opposite. He made reference to the fact that no independent review of government administration had taken place for over 70 years and that during that time enormous changes had taken place in the responsibilities of modern governments. There had been no effective machinery for continuous planning and adjustment of the government machine.

No wonder the size of Tasmania's Public Service has increased by 71 per cent since 1964 to a level of 39 900 who receive nearly \$13 million each pay day. If this were private enterprise we would have been out of business long ago. This Government is to implement many of the Cartland recommendations and I believe that the Cartland Report should remain a permanent reference on every minister's desk.

It is of vital importance that government administration is effective, economical and efficient. I am confident that this Government can create the right climate to restore confidence to private enterprise, to expand businesses, to attract new investors and businesses to this State, and with that confidence will come the spirit of enterprise and a better Tasmania.

Mr Speaker, I commend the motion to the House.

Members - Hear, hear.

Mr LYONS (Bass) - Mr Speaker, I rise to second the motion for the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and I associate myself with the remarks made by the member for Denison, Mr Davis, with respect to your election to the position of Speaker. I also affirm my allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen and I commend the member for the speech he made because most of it appears to have been taken from my notes.

But I speak with pride and humility today - conscious as I am of the fact that I am the fourth member of my family to serve in an Australian Parliament and the third in this very House. I think we can now have the honour of being grouped with the Pearsalls of this House and the Hodgmans of this Parliament. But such is the passage of time that it is now 73 years since my father first took his seat in this House. It was not of course this Chamber; the House then sat in what is now the Members' Lounge - a room in which I think I would be much more at ease at this moment. It is also 34 years since my brother took his seat in this House. Be that as it may, I have now, through the generosity and kindness of the electors of Bass, been given the opportunity of adding at least another four years - and I hope it is more - to the 62 years of parliamentary service that my father, my mother and my brother have given to Australia.

I am conscious of the fact that I commence my parliamentary career in a very lowly role as a government back-bencher. I was reminded of it a few days ago by the member for Braddon, Mr Field, when he drew my attention to the fact that in this part of the world a government back-bencher is the lowest form of life. But, Mr Speaker, I want you to be assured that I do not propose to remain in the shadows, as it were, and play the part of a retiring violet. I intend to be as active as possible and to contribute what I can to help keep the ministers on their toes and the Opposition on the alert. I am certain, Sir, that you will keep me within the rules as I do so. I assume the fact that you placed me near the exit may have something to do with having me more readily removed by the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Be assured also, Mr Speaker, that I am resolved to do nothing that will in any way lower the dignity of this Chamber or lessen the standing in the public eye of the members of this House. I believe that standing, quite frankly - and without wishing to be flippant - is already low enough. For a long time - in fact virtually all my life because of the association of my family, I suppose, with parliamentary work - I have been very concerned with exactly that point. For instance it has always distressed me to know that if a man in the street is asked for a comment on parliamentary salaries he will inevitably say that they are far too high. But if the next question were: 'What is the salary of a member of Parliament?' in 99 per cent of cases it would be found that he had not the slightest idea; it is simply 'too high'.

The second point in this respect is that, while 90 per cent of the work-force is paid a salary or a wage to serve his employer, it is only a member of Parliament that I have ever heard referred to as a 'paid servant'. Oddly enough, even before the declaration of the poll a week or so ago, I was reminded by a lady of my acquaintance that I was now her paid servant. She had forgotten completely that for the 33 years of her working life she has been on the public pay-roll and as such was in fact my paid servant. I reminded her of that. But there is unfortunately an innate lack of respect for members of Parliament. Maybe it has been earned - I do not know, but I do know that something should be done about it. I presume I am not the first to have said so.