

Mr SPEAKER - Before I call the honourable the Duke of Avram to second the motion for the Address-in-Reply I remind honourable members that this is a maiden speech and therefore it shall be heard uninterrupted.

The DUKE OF AVRAM (Lyons) - Mr Speaker, I am honoured and pleased to second the motion for the Address-in-Reply to be presented to His Excellency the Governor. I am honoured to be the first Liberal resident member from the west coast - to the best of my knowledge - and I would like to thank all my supporters who helped me during the election campaign and who have helped me since.

Mr Speaker, I would like to congratulate you - oh, it is Mr Deputy Speaker now; they have changed - but I hope the Speaker continues in the true Labor tradition he has always believed in; I would hate to see him forsake it for political expediency, in order to support some people who quite a number of his followers do not believe need support or should be supported.

I hope I can follow the excellent example set by Bob Mainwaring and continue to develop and work in the electorate in the way Bob did. I am proud to be part of this Liberal team; it is truly the party to govern Tasmania at the moment because it received more votes than the other parties at the election.

I would like to remind Dr Brown that according to the Governor's speech he received only 17 per cent of the vote, not 100 per cent as he tends to believe or pretend. I believe the people of this State have been hoodwinked by him and others who have fed them false information in order to be elected. In doing so I challenge the new members - Mrs Milne and the others - to stand up and be counted and say what they think before they find they are out of parliament and do not have a chance to do so. I hope I can develop my skills and continue as a constructive contributor to this forum, particularly in these troubled times when we have people who I believe are not very truthful.

Today I had the privilege of attending the parliamentary church service and it was interesting to note who was not there. I listened and prayed with the Bishop of Tasmania and I would like to take exception to his address because he did not mention the west coast. We had two members of parliament from the west coast there and he mentioned the other areas of the State but not the west coast. That is typical of most people in the State - they do not think of the west coast. We had two families there who are related to members of parliament and I think we all have to realise that the west coast does exist, and while I am in this House I hope I will be able to bring that to the attention of the Parliament and the people of this State.

I was very pleased to be able to pray with the Most Reverend Eric D'Arcy, the Archbishop of Hobart, and I was very interested that he led us in prayer. I would like to remind those like Dr Brown who did not attend and maybe were worshipping at their own stump or some other place, of the words of the Archbishop of Hobart who said, 'We pray for this Parliament of Tasmania, for the men and women who bear the awesome responsibility of representing the people of this island. May respect for each other as your children, and love of honesty and justice as your requirements, lead to wise and caring government. May yours be the hand that guides' - and you can surely laugh, Dr Brown - 'and yours the arm that supports and yours the voice that challenges and stimulates'. I could see that the Archbishop of Hobart cares about this State and the terrible confusion we have been in since the election. I hope and pray with him that it resolves itself and, as I have said, Dr Brown, you can laugh and maybe one day you will not be laughing.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER - Order. I draw the honourable member's attention to a matter of protocol. When he refers to another honourable member in the Chamber he should refer to him as 'the honourable member for' whatever electorate he is from and then his name, not simply his name.

The DUKE OF AVRAM - Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker.

I trust that this House of Assembly will view with grave concern the current plight of the forestry, mining, fishing, tourism and agricultural industries of this State, particularly with

regard to the people of the west coast and the people of Lyons. For members' information it is rather interesting to see that the people of Lyons contribute most to the wealth of the State and to Tasmania's overseas exports. They produce or contribute to 53.8 per cent of the mining revenue and if we add 15 per cent for agriculture and 19 per cent for forestry we will find that they contribute to 87.8 per cent of the overseas exports generated in this State. There are some people in this House who want to stop them, but I am sure they have other reasons for that and I am sure they are not for the benefit of this State.

The determination of individuals struggling to realise a dream is epitomised in the history books recording the origins of mining on the west coast. Mines are rich in silver, lead and zinc in the Zeehan area and it is my hope and belief that new mines will be started in the near future unless people in this House work actively to stop constructive new developments like that. There are mines ready to go and I will be here to do what I can to see those new mines get under way. Jobs will be created and once mining starts and receives the support of the Government the whole of this State will benefit.

As many west coast mines will not continue into the next century - according to their owners - I believe the Government must and will support both small and large miners in this State. We must revitalise the mining industry, particularly on the west coast, because we can no longer afford to see it decimated.

Savage River has announced that it will be closing some time in the near future and this will totally obliterate a substantial town on the west coast. When we talk about obliteration of these mining towns we must realise that we are destroying a way of life because many of the people were born there and, if the mines continue, will die there. If they have to be shifted to another area they lose their houses because they cannot sell them and they will have to buy a house in Burnie, Hobart or some other centre. This creates a large number of social problems and those who want to destroy our industries should realise that they are creating massive social problems by trying to relocate and destroy those industries.

Mines like Mount Lyell have already announced closures, possibly before the end of this century and, with the completion of major Hydro-Electric Commission works, the town of Queenstown could also be devastated and I do not want to see that happen. Que River Mines is almost out of ore and the Electrolytic Zinc Co. of Australasia Ltd's operations will be in severe trouble unless new mines can be found on the west coast. Renison Goldfields Consolidated Ltd has good ore reserves but it has financial problems due to ore prices and it is very much struggling to make a profit. We are all aware that the new Hellyer deposit will contribute significantly to the State's mining interests; however the finance and employment that mines will provide will not make up for the lost mines in the future. Expenditure on exploration has fallen and if there is no new exploration there will be no new mines tomorrow and without mines we do not have industry - we cannot make the pot-belly stoves that one senator used to sell and burn wood in them.

Let me explain briefly that the mining industry must be helped, supported and encouraged by this Parliament. In general it has preferred to be an independent industry but that is a bad choice of words in this day and society because we have people claiming to be independent when they are not, which has sullied the word 'independent'. So the mining industry wishes to be independent but it cannot be because we have that word, but it is a profit-making centre and it does not really want government support although sometimes, because of economic necessity, it needs it.

The Tasmanian Chamber of Mines Ltd has been working actively to try to improve the image of the mining industry, which does have an image problem, and I hope I can work with it to help resolve it. It states:

'Tasmania has a long history of prospecting and mining, especially in the western part of the State. Mining and mineral processing in Tasmania currently generates income of more than \$900 million per year, 55 per cent of the State's exports, and 10 per cent of its gross domestic product.'

And that is not to be sneezed at.

'The recent exciting discoveries of major high grade mineral deposits at Hellyer, Severn and Corinna highlight the mineral wealth of Western Tasmania, and confirm its international reputation as one of the most mineralised provinces in the world.'

Yet we have people in this House, particularly those in the Labor Party who, through the accord signed by their leader, Michael Field, say:

'Labor's Agenda for Reform during its first term of office includes -

mining and mineral exploration will not be permitted in any national park or nature reserve.'

I am not quite sure what a nature reserve is - maybe it is where the member, Bob Brown, goes to perform nature. It goes on:

'Any existing licences within World Heritage areas or National Parks will be revoked and the areas re-rehabilitated'

This is terrible because one of the issues on which I fought this election was the fact that large areas of highly potential mineral wealth were being locked up and I was assured by the people on the opposite side of this House that they would never be locked up. Now we have this accord which states quite clearly that Labor's agenda for reform is to lock up the mining areas of the State when it was the mining areas which helped put Labor where it is today and they are what will keep it out of office in the future.

The Chamber of Mines goes on further to say:

'The total resources of the major Western Tasmanian mines are shown and indicate an in-ground mineral wealth of about \$31 billion for the region' -

of the west coast.

'In other words a marked depletion (over 60%) of the total known resource has occurred. Because of the increased rate of current mining, it is necessary for new mines to be discovered ...'

But who will bother to come to this State and find new mines and develop them in the electorate of the member, Mrs Milne? Who will bother to do that when she is there to destroy the industry and to destroy everything that many people in this State stand for?

Mr Ray Groom - She's nodding.

The DUKE OF AVRAM - She might be going to sleep.

In recent times the Federal Government has not been prepared to support the mining industry. Its actions have burdened the industry with further taxes and its stealing of powers from the States in determining land use has limited access to mining areas.

Land zoning on the west coast now takes up 80 per cent of the area and almost half the mineralised area is within the Southwest Conservation Area. Restrictions on land use have been a great factor in the reduction in exploration expenditure and if restrictions continue to be imposed, only doom for the mining industry will ensue which is why I am sure the member, Dr Brown, is smiling.

Another factor is that the export return from the mining industry falls largely to the Federal Government. It contributes greatly to the coffers and you would not hear Mr Keating complaining about it, although he seems to be doing everything to destroy it.

There has been too much emphasis in this country on secondary industry. It has failed to balance the books. There has been too much optimism about sunrise industries which have indeed been pie-in-the-sky. It is not realistic to believe that the manufacturing and service industries will replace the export of primary produce to achieve a sort of trade balance. That has been a myth that has been perpetrated by technocrats.

Government regulation seems to be a major growth industry and the wealth-generating activities are burdened with the high cost of government to the point that we are now eating

corn seed for tomorrow's crops. Almost 80 cents in every dollar of gross revenue from the sale of mineral products disappears into the government coffers by one route or another. The principle of mining royalties is not unrealistic and basing them on profit rather than turnover is correct. However what is needed is a consistency of approach to all industries. We all understand that the Government's finances are limited and that there is a fiscal cake to be carved up. Governments can cocoon themselves into conventional methods of carving up this cake and are influenced by strong bureaucratic lobbies and self-interest groups.

Reactions to rapidly changing circumstances can be slow and need to shift so that the resource industries are not crippled. It is no good our complaining about the fact that we are not putting forward constructive points to help solve problems. I can help this State solve its mining problems. It has been proved in court just recently that the Mining Act needs ripping up and redrafting. For example, it does not even have a mission statement; it does not say that the purpose of the act is to encourage mining and I am sure that if the Independent members gain control they will make sure that mission statement does not exist, but in industries such as mining we need a mission statement to say what the act has to do. We need to revamp that 1929 act because it is out of date and, in order to get the industry going, that is one of the major things we have to do.

Land use regulations must be reviewed in areas where the State Government still has control, and there are many areas in this State where the Government does not have control. The other day I looked at a World Heritage map and it occurred to me that the State Government does not have control and really that is a foreign land ownership register of Tasmania. Many people believe, as I do, that this is the case.

There is no reason, as the Government has already stated, that mines cannot be operated and established in zoned areas where there are world conservation areas. However that is rather difficult and I do not think any mining company would really want to do anything like that.

There are sections of the Southwest Conservation Area that are not appropriately zoned. For instance, the Cape Sorell peninsula has a great mineral potential and very little potential for anything else. It is known there are large deposits of silica there, particularly at the northern end of that area; a kilometre or two to the south there are very good gold prospects; a little further south again there are copper prospects and further down there is serpentine; and there are very large possibilities of substantial mining industries being founded there - which again will be crippled by the people on the opposite side of this House.

It is important that the government-initiated study of the Mount Read volcanics be seen as just a start to further geological exploration in Tasmania. The work to date has been of great value to the industry and it must continue in the future. Such studies should be government-coordinated but employ skills from the private sector so that we can work together and employ our joint skills for the further development of the mining industry in Tasmania.

I am deeply concerned over the future of the mining industry and I wonder where we are going to be if we do not have it in the future. As far as tourism goes, tourism will not be the panacea that cures all as the member who spoke before me stated. It is going to be a great boon to the State and one way we could get the industry going would be to have a similar scheme to that which they had in Ireland recently where a trip to England or Europe was associated with a free trip to Ireland. I would like to see a principle where we had 'Fly to Australia and have a free trip to Tasmania'. If we did something like that - working with Qantas which flies into the State already - we could have a boom in our tourist industry and we would gain advertising for the State as a tourist place, just as Ireland has gained much credit and many tourists from adopting a principle like that.

With regard to the Tasmanian Parliamentary Accord that was signed by the member, Dr Brown, and the member, Mr Field, I can see great problems for this State and I do not know how we are going to get out of them. According to experts in the forestry industry the

whole of the rainforest timber industry in this State will be extinct within six months of the Labor Green Accord being put into operation. This again will put Labor people out of work which I am sure will be reflected in the next poll.

We heard a little while ago about the creation of marine parks to save our poor little fisheries. This again will put people who supported the Labor Party out of business - people like fishermen; people like abalone divers and others. Their industries are threatened by these people who want to lock up our land and lock up our sea, and I do not know what the future for Tasmania is going to be when we have people who are out to destroy the very things that this State is founded on.

Another thing that worries me terribly is 'Labor's Agenda for Reform'. Again it is 'Labor's Agenda for Reform' which threatens everyone in the farming industry. It includes:

'establishment of a ministerial portfolio for aboriginal affairs and a ministerial advisory council comprised of aboriginal people to advise the new minister.'

That is quite all right, but the next bit is the crunch line:

'The granting of inalienable freehold title to those areas of land which are of particular significance to the aboriginal people'

I have some areas of land that are of particular significance to me; does that mean that I will get freehold title? I am sure the member, Dr Brown, has areas that are significant to him; does that mean that he will be able to claim inalienable rights and freehold title to that land? This could destroy farming in this State if it were taken too far.

So far we have seen a possible threat to the mining industry, a threat to the forestry industry, a threat to the fishing industry and a threat to the farming industry. Then of course we have the real lulu at the bottom of 'Labor's Agenda for Reform':

'decriminalise homosexual acts between consenting adults in private (with a free vote for ALP members).'

I do not know whether it is a free vote for or against it -

Mr Cleary - They get an extra one.

The DUKE OF AVRAM - They get an extra one, do they? There are people in this State who are deeply concerned that it will become compulsory -

Members laughing.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

The DUKE OF AVRAM - which I am sure will not worry some people in this room.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

The DUKE OF AVRAM - The accord is of deep concern to many people. It is of concern to the labour unions on the west coast, where we have people like Alan Fisher, Len Blair, Joe Pringle and Terry Shea fearing for their jobs. On one hand we have the member, Mr Field, stating, 'Don't you worry about that. We're not going to take any notice of that rubbish'. On the other hand the member, Dr Brown, is saying, 'It will be obeyed to the letter of the law', so no wonder they are confused. The ten major mines and eight mineral-producing plants and a host of small operations employ, directly and indirectly, 21 000 Tasmanians whose jobs and everything are under threat by the accord. Then we hear what these people have to say. In the 'Westerner' of Thursday 1 June 1989 it is reported:

'Mining and timber industry sources see the Labor-Green accord as a major threat to future West Coast operations.

Leading the concern this week was the Tasmanian Chamber of Mines' executive officer, Mr Ian Satchwell, who rated the accord as a disaster for mining, locking up huge areas of land from any exploration and mining. The TCM estimates some 6,000 jobs will be lost - together with \$260 million annually in income to individual Tasmanians ...'

So anyone who wishes to destroy mining in this State will virtually destroy a billion-dollar industry and take hundreds of millions of dollars out of Tasmania's pockets. The report goes on:

'Also seeing the accord as the end of the West's logging and sawmilling was Strahan sawmiller Randal Morrison, who owns and runs a mill with his brother.'

They have run it for generations.

'He said loggers and sawmillers could be locked out of large areas of loggable land ...'

Mr Morrison, who said he spoke for two other small sawmillers in Strahan, added that all logging he did was selective ...'

These people care about the land. They are like the farmers. They care about it and, as the member, Mr Bonde, said earlier, people in farming, mining and forestry today care about those industries. I have worked for twenty years trying to protect the environment in the mining industry and each year we are getting better. If people do not overreact to the present circumstance, and if people only knew what the mining industries, the forestry industries, the farming industries and other industries were doing to protect the environment I am sure there would not be the problems today, but we have scaremongers - people who go out and scare people unjustly.

On 30 May 1989 the Tasmanian Chamber of Mines Ltd said:

'The accord between the ALP and the Green Independents is a disaster for the future of the State's mining industry.

Chamber Executive Officer, Ian Satchwell said that the accord was likely to result in one-third of Tasmania being locked away from any exploration and mining. Currently, exploration and mining is prohibited in 13.3% of the State.

"Without vigorous exploration over wide areas of Tasmania, the mining industry will not find new ore bodies and will wither and die", he said.

The Chamber estimates that some 6,000 jobs will be lost, together with \$260 million per year in income to individual Tasmanians, small businesses and government.

"Hundreds of millions of dollars of vital export income will also be lost", Mr Satchwell said.

"Sadly, I don't think Mr. Field has realised the full economic and social implications of the accord."

Mr Satchwell said that as modern exploration caused no long-term environmental disturbance, there was no need to lock it out of vast areas of the State.

"If an ore body is discovered, it can be mined then the land rehabilitated back to its previous use", he said.'

The mining industry has been working for a long time now to rehabilitate land with the other industries in the State and the one thing that we cannot afford are knockers like these people who call themselves 'Independents'. They are people who have not come forward with any constructive ideas on how we can employ people. I challenged a meeting in Queenstown the other night and said, 'Tell me any ideas these people have come forward with that are going to help the State and get jobs back for the jobs that are lost by their actions'. One person stood up and said, 'Mrs Milne wants us to make jam' and the place burst into laughter. I said afterwards, 'In other words, you're saying she's told us to jam it'.

Wake up, Harry.

Mr Gray - No, that's his normal state.

Mr SPEAKER - Order. The honourable member is on his maiden speech and he shall be heard uninterrupted. The honourable member shall refer to other members in the Chamber by their proper titles.

The DUKE OF AVRAM - Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am learning greatly from your wisdom.

I do hope that I will become a very strong voice for the whole of the Division of Lyons and for all the people who elected me, and I do hope I will be able to serve them for many years to come.

In conclusion, I trust this Parliament will address the important matters that I have brought before it in this my first address to the House of Assembly.

Government members - Hear, hear.