

[Wednesday, 18 June 1986.]

**MR MARLBOROUGH** (Cockburn) [4.06 p.m.]: I would like to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on attaining such a high office. From the short time I have been in this Chamber and observed your actions as Speaker, I know that you will add to the role of previous Speakers, and handle the matters that are before you in a very fair and responsible manner.

The **SPEAKER**: Thank you.

**Mr MARLBOROUGH**: I also take this opportunity to thank the staff who have made me so welcome and my first week in Parliament so easy. I also congratulate those new members on both sides of the House who were elected to Parliament in 1986. In congratulating them, I also give thanks to those members of the Labor Party who worked so hard in the Cockburn by-election to make sure that the Labor Party was returned to office with the majority that it has.

Earlier today in this House a very close friend of mine, the member for Victoria Park, had the opportunity to speak. I remind the member that as we are both newly elected members of Parliament and were both elected at by-elections, it is interesting to note that we have joined a fairly auspicious club on this side of the House.

It was pointed out to me earlier that the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the member for Kalgoorlie, and the member for Helena were all elected at by-elections. Another interesting observation is that they all hold ministerial positions within the present Parliament.

It is a great honour to be able to represent the people of Western Australia, and particularly the people of Cockburn. That has come about by having tremendous support over many years from many people, but most of all from the love of my life, Roslyn, and her family; and my family. I thank them for the support they have given me over the last 18 years.

They have supported me not only at this by-election, but in all the other activities in which I have been involved during my political life, activities which span a period starting as far back as 1972. At that time I was very much involved with the trade union movement, especially in the Pilbara. I had previously run for the Labor Party for the seat of Pilbara in 1977, and for local government as a Labor Party candidate for the City of Fremantle in 1979.

Throughout that time, I always knew that I had Ros and her family there, committed to the Labor Party and to making sure, in whatever way they could, that the party progressed. Without their support I am sure I would not be in the position I am today.

I take this opportunity to thank my parents and family for their support over the years. There are many people whom I would like to thank, but I will not be able to name them on this occasion. However, there are two people in particular whom I wish to thank now. First, I thank Mike Ward who was my campaign manager for the recent Cockburn by-election. He had to put up with the normal traumas that beset a campaign manager when a candidate begins to panic during a campaign. He handled those traumas very well and, in the end, he was able to bathe in the success of the results of the day.

I pay particular thanks to Liz Hughes who was also very supportive of myself and Ros throughout the campaign and is continuing to be of tremendous support to both of us. Liz still lives in Medina and I would like to thank her young son Matthew, who, at eight years of age, worked for me on election day at the Medina school. I was amazed to see him handing out how-to-vote cards and on my arrival at the polling booth he ran up to me and punched me in the back to remind me that he was working for me. I thank also his brother Tim. I will leave my remarks about the former member for Cockburn to the conclusion of my speech.

The seat of Cockburn presents great challenges, and has many problems. However, it is a seat which any new member from either side of this House would be more than happy to cut his political teeth on. The type of challenges which confront me are those which we find under this political system and the democratic process is the best way in which to enhance the beliefs of those people represented under that system. All the avenues are available for me to concentrate on these challenges.

The electorate of Cockburn includes the town of Kwinana which is surrounded by a heavy industrial area known as the Kwinana strip. The area is predominantly built around the multinationals and it is very much affected by what is happening on the world market rather than what is happening at home. To that extent, all the problems occurring in the world today are magnified in the Kwinana and surrounding areas.

At the Cockburn end of my electorate there exists a diverse mixture of industry, ranging from the abattoirs to the leather, hide, and tanning industries at Coogee to the traditional market gardens which have been in existence for many years. Unfortunately, the market gardens are slowly and sadly disappearing because the land has become more valuable in terms of housing. However, it indicates the mixture which exists within the electorate. It is the mixture which, although it has its problems also has its strength, and the greatest strength the mixture has created is the people in the community.

It is interesting to note that the population of the electorate of Cockburn is in the main made up of migrants. In the Kwinana area we have those people who migrated to Australia in the 1950s to work for the BP refinery; they came from Britain, Austria, Holland, and Germany. At the other end of the electorate we have migrants from Yugoslavia and Italy. If we combined the activities of all these people it will be seen that they have created a tremendous community in the Cockburn electorate.

I would like to give examples of the commitments made by these migrants to this country when they adopted it as their new home, and one need look no further than the Mayor of Kwinana, Frank Konecny, who migrated to Australia from Austria many years ago. He worked in the Wittenoom asbestos mines and moved to the Cockburn area suffering from asbestosis, which he puts aside as a minor complaint. He has worked tirelessly for the people of Kwinana and this is the third year he has been elected Mayor of Kwinana. He is held in high regard by the people of Kwinana and those he has come to know over the years. He demonstrates the worth of the policies of bringing migrants into Australia from Europe and other countries over many years.

At the Cockburn City Council end of the electorate we have a fine example of a commitment made to the community by Miro Srdarov who migrated to Australia in 1936 when it was not a popular thing to do. He migrated from Yugoslavia and on his arrival he immediately became a member of the Australian Labor Party, and, in 1986, he is still a financial member of the party. During the time he has spent in this country he has worked tirelessly for the community by helping other migrants to settle into it. He has been a councillor for the Cockburn City Council for many years and it was only this year that he retired due to his family's concern. He has represented his constituents well and has assisted the Yugoslav people during his working life. He has ensured that the benefits available to the Cockburn area are taken advantage of by the people who have supported him, and in particular, by the ethnic group he represents.

I have given two examples of the input of migrants into the electorate of Cockburn. Over the last 20 years there has been a massive population growth in Cockburn. In 1963, when I arrived from the United Kingdom, I was the oldest of a family of six and we moved immediately to Fremantle. Within two or three months my mother and father took a house which is still their place of abode in Cockburn and which, at that time, consisted mainly of market gardens - in fact, 80 per cent of the area of Cockburn was market gardens. There were some industries on the coast which are still in place, but in the main it consisted of market gardens and had a population of 10 000. The Cockburn electorate now has a population of 40 000 which has brought with it all the changes and problems which are necessary when such growth takes place.

The electorate has grown to such a size that the Government needs to consider how best to implement its policies in respect of it. Possibly because of the time I spent as a Fremantle City councillor, I have no doubt that the role of all levels of Government is extremely important. Federal, State and local governments need to be brought together to develop a tripartite approach to the problems that affect electorates such as Cockburn. That is the way forward for a State Government to implement policies that it sees are needed to benefit the people.

The State Government, in conjunction with the Federal Government, has headed towards that goal by forming the south-west corridor development and employment committee. That committee, which has been in place for some three years this year, has received funding of over half a million dollars over the last three years and has worked very closely with the councils of Melville, Fremantle, Cockburn, Kwinana, and Rockingham in trying to implement new initiatives which will create jobs and to consider the problems faced by the community at present and those the communities are likely to face in the future.

I now raise some of the matters which are of concern to the electors of Cockburn and me. Regardless of the side of politics to which we belong, we must all agree that the methods and the mistakes that were made in the 1950s when new industry was encouraged to come to Western Australia, including the type of heavy industry that presently exists in the Kwinana strip, must not be repeated. I am not saying that the policy of those days was not correct; I am saying that in 1986 we need to understand that the policy of encouraging those industries at all costs brought with it major problems for the environment. Of course, the policy also brought with it major benefits, but in 1986, with the greater knowledge available to people both within and without the work force, it can be seen that there is a growing concern about the need to know about the environment in which people work and live.

We cannot continue to pursue policies that encourage industries to be set up, regardless of their negative effect on the environment. We must look at the need to protect the environment. One of the major things for which

we, as a Government, will be judged in the future, will be the environment that we leave for the younger generation. Businesses will come and go, just as people come and go, but the environment must be something that is dear to our hearts, something which we should cherish. We should understand that we have a tremendous responsibility to make sure that the environment is preserved. There is no doubt that the environmental problems in Cockburn are many. There are problems of air pollution. I read in the Cockburn local Press that a study taking place has indicated that air pollution is affecting the market gardeners in the area.

We are aware that the waters of Cockburn Sound are polluted to such a degree that the traditional fishermen who took great joy in their amateur sport of fishing are no longer able to take their families into the area and spend the weekend fishing in the Sound because the fish they have traditionally caught have disappeared. The fishermen are concerned about what fish they are able to eat from the Sound. The Minister for Environment ought to be praised for the recent initiatives taken by the Government in respect of the environment. It is fair to say that this Government has been the first to take those environmental issues seriously and the move to bring about changes to the Acts that will affect industrial concerns and make them manage their environmental responsibilities is to be welcomed. It is to be hoped that those changes will be made in this sitting of Parliament.

The recent advertisement for an office to be set up in Kwinana under the auspices of the Environmental Protection Authority demonstrates to the people of Kwinana how dinkum this Government is in coming to grips with the environmental problems that have been foisted on the people of that area for many years. The time has come to put an end to the problems. That does not mean to say that industries will be chased away. In fact, if we can clean up the environment of Cockburn, in years to come we will see new industries set up. I refer to high technology industries, clothing industries, and industries that would be willing to come into the area, industries that normally feed off the larger industries. They would be willing to come into the area when they realise that they can work in a clean and compatible environment.

Another problem in the area is the lack of Government services. The Cockburn electorate is situated between two pressure group electorates. On the one hand, pressure is applied through Fremantle as a port; at the other end of the electorate is the area that you, Mr Speaker, would know better than I. The electorates of Rockingham and Mandurah have been able to apply a lot of pressure to the present Government because they are attractive to tourists. In between those areas is the seat of Cockburn. Those are the reasons, in the main, that Cockburn traditionally has missed out on many of the Government services that should be provided to a community that size. It is unacceptable that people living in Homeswest homes in Cockburn, Coolbellup, Medina, or Kwinana have to travel for social security purposes or for State Energy Commission purposes to the towns of Rockingham or Fremantle. We need to address those problems as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Unemployment is another major problem in the area. In my previous occupation as a trade union official I often talked about unemployment. It was a very frustrating experience, one which I am sure has been shared by many members in this House. Many scenarios have been put forward about how we might overcome the problem of unemployment. The public is quite disillusioned with the policies that have been put forward and do not believe they will turn the tide. That does not mean to say that we have to give up. We should be considering many factors with respect to unemployment.

The Federal and State Governments are trying to address the problem in Cockburn. Traditional industries have been affected by world demand and they are dying slowly but surely. The steel industry has been massively affected and the furnace has been closed down for a number of years. World demand for alumina is such that the market does not want the level of resources it wanted some years ago. In place of the traditional industries, new industries are coming to fruition. I suggest that the shipping industry should be supported by both sides of the House. It is a growth industry.

In the last week, the Federal Minister for Defence commissioned one of seven patrol boats for the South Pacific region. It was built by Australian Shipbuilding Industries (WA) Pty Ltd in the Coogee strip. There is also a promise that Australian patrol boats will be built there by 1990 and that a new naval base will be formed. The Australian Minister for Defence has indicated that the Navy's strategy will be to concentrate very much on the Indian Ocean. That will mean a massive increase in job opportunities with the development of the Stirling naval base to a larger capacity than at present.

We are seeing those developments in certain areas. Initiatives have been taken by the new Minister for Racing and Gaming in regard to the proposal for a horse training facility in the Rockingham area.

I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Sir, on your initiatives in assisting to bring that development about. There is still some way to go, but let me say that it is a development that should attract all and I will support it. I am told by the people involved in the training of horses - and I am not one of them although I will tell members a story about my involvement with horses at another time - that one person is required to help look after three horses.

A recent survey was conducted by the association of south metropolitan trainers which was interested in getting this facility off the ground.

Some 882 horses are in training and 92 trainers live in the areas of Kwinana, Medina, and Rockingham. There is a proposal for an all-weather training facility which these people see as the future centre for horse training in this State. Small trainers are being forced away from Ascot and Belmont. They can no longer afford to rent the facilities available along with the other difficulties associated with horse training. Those members who have anything to do with horses would know better than I about the difficulties of getting horses to and from the track for training purposes. This new facility will be seen as a panacea to overcome these problems. It will also concentrate on creating many new jobs for the unskilled people of the area. It is a facility that should receive support from all members in this place.

I now wish to refer to State housing in my electorate. Medina is the largest catchment area for State housing in this State. Not only is it the largest, it is one of the oldest. Medina is made up of mostly weatherboard houses which have been there for over 25 years, either owned or rented.

I have had some thoughts on how a Labor Government should look at this particular type of housing in the Medina and Coolbellup areas, and I have had the opportunity to discuss those thoughts with the Minister for Housing. He advised me that I am able to comment on the Government's position on this matter today.

I put to the Minister for Housing that the Government needs to look closely at selling those weatherboard houses which are over 25 years old to the people currently renting them from Homeswest at minimal cost. We need a special initiative in respect of those properties built 25 to 30 years ago. The cost of maintenance has risen so it is necessary to look to upgrading them so they can be sold to the people who are most in need and who can take pride in putting something back into those houses. I have had lengthy discussions with the Minister and he assures me that he and his department will look at the proposal favourably.

I now touch on an area that affects not only the people of Cockburn, but also this country, and particularly people in Western Australia. I refer to the continuing visits of nuclear warships to Cockburn Sound.

I take pride in the fact that in 1979, when I was elected to the Fremantle City Council as a councillor for the ward of South Fremantle, I ran on a platform to oppose the visits of nuclear warships into Cockburn Sound and the Fremantle harbour. I was successfully elected on that plank. I am proud to say that I was the person responsible for the Fremantle City Council, in 1980, becoming the first local government nuclear-free zone in the State.

As I articulated at the time and continue to articulate, it is the most important nuclear-free zone in Australia. It is important because when one looks at its history, there are no other ports in this country that are visited by as many nuclear warships as the Ports of Fremantle and Cockburn Sound. That is an important factor in itself, but it is important for other reasons as well. One can go through a catalogue of problems in relation to the nuclear industry.

#### *Extension of Time*

Mr TERRY BURKE: I move -

That the member's time be extended.

The SPEAKER: It has been moved and seconded that the member for Cockburn's time be extended. In view of the unusual nature of this motion, I advise members that the member for Cockburn's time for speaking will be extended by 15 minutes.

Mr MacKINNON: The Opposition does not oppose the motion to extend the speaking time of the member for Cockburn, particularly as this is his maiden speech. We wish to point out to the Government that we should be granted the same courtesy when we make important speeches.

Question put and passed.

#### *Debate Resumed*

Mr MARLBOROUGH: Rather than go through a catalogue of events that have occurred in the nuclear industry throughout the world over a number of years, I will concentrate on recent history.

Regardless of the political position that members may take with respect to nuclear warships and peace generally in the world, one needs to be extremely concerned about the recent happenings in Chernobyl and NASA. Quite clearly, if one looks at both Russia and the United States of America and their recent high-technology nuclear-type disasters one has to be very concerned about visits by nuclear warships to our ports.

What has clearly come through from the investigations carried out by both Russia and the West in terms of Chernobyl is that - as disclosed in the Rogers commission report in America which came out last week - both

sides of the political spectrum show consistency in that they both have the ability to lie about the problems which exist. Both have the capability of deceiving people to whom they are giving information. That has come through quite clearly.

We have seen this on both sides of the political spectrum with nuclear and hi-tech, space age problems. People have been dismissed from the top echelon as a result of those problems which have come to the fore.

I want to set aside the position of war. My position is neither anti-America nor pro-Russia. As I said earlier, one of the things that we will leave behind for history to judge will be how we have left this world and how we leave the environment.

If a nuclear accident were to occur on one of the visiting warships in Fremantle there would be a disaster. We have an industry which is almost unique to Western Australia in the sense that it does not occur in many other places of the world, and that is the lobster industry. If a nuclear accident similar to that of Chernobyl were to happen on a nuclear warship in the Cockburn Sound, it would wipe out in one fell swoop an industry worth \$250 million.

I suggest to both sides of the House that there is no way that we can implement policies to stop that occurring. The only way is to tell those visiting nuclear warships it is not in the best interests of the economy of this State, or in the best interests of the environment we live in, for them to continue to visit.

I speak from a minority position, not only in my own political party but also within the public generally. But that does not alter my resolve. I am not afraid to tackle an issue from a minority position. It needs to be tackled and I believe there is a growing concern. I shall continue to articulate that concern.

May I finish by paying my respects to the previous members for Cockburn. First of all, Don Taylor: I want to thank Don personally for the great support he gave me during the campaign itself. I know that other speakers in this House will remember the many years when Don held positions such as Deputy Premier and other ministerial positions. He has a standing not only from the parliamentary point of view but also in the electorate where his reputation is second to none.

I want to pay particular respect to Clive Hughes. Since Clive's death I have found it difficult to refer to him because I still become very emotional about the event. Besides being a political ally, Clive was a personal friend. We worked together in the Hospital Services and in the Miscellaneous Workers Union.

As previous speakers have said, in the short time he was in this Parliament, he left his stamp on this House, and he has certainly left his stamp in the community. Everywhere throughout Cockburn people who came into contact with Clive Hughes have nothing but praise for him. It is my commitment to Clive that I will continue to represent Cockburn just as he would have wished me to do.

I want to thank you, Mr Speaker, and the House. I support the motion.