

EU/DHK60: 1.30/2B

74/2B

NOTES FOR A SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT A CIVIC LUNCH - CASINO - MONDAY 14 JANUARY 1974

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MR. ANTHONY FOR INTRODUCING ME. I HAVE OBSERVED WITH INTEREST IN THE LAST WEEK THE MOVES FOR HIS PARTY TO MERGE WITH ANOTHER SMALLER GROUP INTO WHAT IS BEING TERMED THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE. THESE MOVES HAVE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SEEING THE SECOND NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO COME ON TO THE POLITICAL SCENE IN AUSTRALIA. THOSE TWO WORDS COULD EASILY HAVE BEEN USED TO DESCRIBE THE LABOR PARTY FOR MANY YEARS, FOR THE LABOR PARTY HAS BEEN THE ONLY POLITICAL ORGANISATION IN AUSTRALIA WHICH CAN TRULY CLAIM TO REPRESENT AN ALLIANCE OF ALL OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS. ~~IT IS NOT~~

~~IT IS NOT~~ IT IS NOT A SECTIONAL PARTY. IT HAS ALWAYS REPRESENTED PEOPLE THROUGHOUT OUR NATION AND NOT JUST THOSE WHO LIVE IN PART OF IT. IT IS NEITHER A CITY PARTY ALONE NOR A RURAL PARTY ALONE. IT REPRESENTS BOTH SECTIONS OF OUR COUNTRY. NOR IS IT SIMPLY A WORKING-CLASS PARTY. TO BE SURE ITS FOUNDATIONS LIE IN THE NEEDS OF WORKING MEN AND WE WILL ALWAYS BE DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THEIR INTERESTS. BUT IT IS JUST AS MUCH CONCERNED WITH THE NEEDS OF OTHER PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY.

I MAKE THIS POINT BECAUSE I FEEL THERE HAS BEEN SOME TENDENCY, INEVITABLY PROMOTED BY OUR OPPONENTS, TO BRAND THE LABOR PARTY AS AN ANTI-RURAL PARTY. THE TRUTH IS WE ARE DEDICATED TO THE CREATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SELF-SUFFICIENT, PROSPEROUS AND EFFICIENT PRIMARY INDUSTRIES.

TO ACHIEVE THIS AIM WE ARE STRIVING TO IMPROVE THE DOMESTIC MARKET FOR PRIMARY PRODUCE, TO CONSOLIDATE EXISTING EXPORT MARKETS AND TO CREATE NEW MARKETS. I BELIEVE THAT THE LAST YEAR HAS UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN A SUCCESSFUL ONE IN THOSE TERMS. CONTRARY TO WHAT THE PREACHERS OF THE RURAL DOOMSDAY MIGHT SAY, PRIMARY INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA GENERALLY IS EXTREMELY BUOYANT AT PRESENT. LET US LOOK FOR EVIDENCE OF THIS ASSERTION IN THE FIGURES FOR FARM INCOME IN AUSTRALIA. IN THE THREE YEARS ENDED 1969/70 FARM INCOME AVERAGED ABOUT \$1,050 M. A YEAR. THE ONSET OF DROUGHT AND DECLINING PRICES CAUSED FARM INCOME TO DROP TO \$885 M. IN 1970/71 AND MANY PRODUCERS FACED SERIOUS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. THOSE PROBLEMS HAVE BY AND LARGE BEEN COMPLETELY REVERSED AND THE CURRENT ESTIMATE IN FARM INCOME FOR 1973/74 IS \$2,885 M. - MORE THAN THREE TIMES AS GREAT AS IN 1970/71 AND WELL OVER DOUBLE THE AVERAGE INCOME FOR THE THREE YEARS BEFORE THEN.

A SIMILAR PATTERN OF IMPROVEMENT CAN BE SEEN BY EXAMINING THE FIGURES FOR EXPORTS OF RURAL ORIGIN. IN 1971/72 AUSTRALIA EARNED \$2,419.3 M. FROM THESE EXPORTS. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT IN 1973/74 THEY WILL BE WORTH \$3,874.4 M. - A VERY HEALTHY IMPROVEMENT INDEED.

ONE OF THE INDUSTRIES WHICH HAS BENEFITED PARTICULARLY FROM THE RESURGENCE OF OUR RURAL AREAS IS THE MEAT INDUSTRY, WHICH IS ATTRACTING INCREASING SUPPORT IN THIS AREA. PRODUCTION OF BEEF AND VEAL HAS GROWN AND EXPORTS HAVE ALSO INCREASED QUITE DRAMATICALLY. AUSTRALIA EXPORTED 339,000 TONNES OF BEEF AND VEAL IN 1970/71. THIS GREW TO 585,000 TONNES IN 1972/73 AND CURRENT ESTIMATES ARE THAT WE WILL EXPORT 658,000 TONNES IN

1973/74 - ALMOST A DOUBLING OF OUR EXPORT MARKET IN THREE YEARS.

ONE INDUSTRY OF CONCERN TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS AREA - THE DAIRY INDUSTRY - HAS FACED CONTINUING PROBLEMS. I AM AWARE THAT OUR DECISION TO PHASE OUT THE DAIRY BOUNTY HAS AROUSED CRITICISM AMONG DAIRYING INTERESTS. HOWEVER, I WOULD EMPHASISE THAT THIS DECISION IS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S CONVICTION THAT THE EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC FUNDS SHOULD BE PURPOSEFUL. IN OUR VIEW THE DAIRY BOUNTY HAD CEASED TO BE PURPOSEFUL. DESPITE THE OUTLAY OF \$770 M. OVER THE YEARS THE BOUNTY HAD NOT CONTRIBUTED TO SOLVING THE INDUSTRY'S MAJOR PROBLEM - THAT OF ADJUSTING FARM PRODUCTION TO REALISTIC LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MARKET DEMAND. AS A WELFARE MEASURE THE BOUNTY PROVED INEFFECTIVE BECAUSE THE BULK OF IT WENT TO THE LARGER AND WEALTHIER PRODUCERS WHO NEEDED IT LEAST. IT HAD ALSO BECOME BUILT INTO THE PRICE OF LAND AND OTHER DAIRY INPUTS AND ADDED TO PRODUCTION COSTS. EVEN BEFORE THE BUDGET, THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE DAIRYING DIVISION OF THE VICTORIAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAD ARGUED THAT ANY BENEFITS FARMERS HAD RECEIVED FROM THE BOUNTY HAD LONG BEEN CANCELLED OUT BY UNREALISTIC LAND PRICES AND OTHER CAPITAL GAINS.

WE HAVE DECIDED TO GET AWAY FROM AN OPEN-ENDED COMMITMENT TO THE BOUNTY, WHICH IS LEAVING THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS OF THE INDUSTRY UNSOLVED, AND TO PROVIDE MONEY TO STABILISE THE INDUSTRY SO THAT IT CAN STAND ON ITS OWN FEET. WE WILL DO THIS BY INDUSTRY ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE AND WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO DEVELOP ADJUSTMENT PROPOSALS IN CONSULTATION WITH THE INDUSTRY. EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION HAS GONE ON ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY SINCE AUGUST AND OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY HAVE VISITED ABOUT FORTY GROUPS IN ALL STATES INCLUDING THE NORTH COAST REGION. THEY HAVE CONSULTED, AMONG OTHERS, THE CASINO CO-OPERATIVE DAIRY SOCIETY LIMITED, NORCO CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED, THE KYOGLE RURAL RE-CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE, THE NEW SOUTH WALES DAIRY FARMERS ASSOCIATION AND THE NEW SOUTH WALES DAIRY INDUSTRY AUTHORITY. SIMULTANEOUSLY MANY WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS HAVE BEEN MADE AND THE OUTCOME OF ALL OF THIS IS THAT NEARLY 100 SEPARATE SUGGESTIONS HAVE COME FROM INDUSTRY SOURCES AND STATE AUTHORITIES. THEY COVER THE POSSIBLE BROADENING OF THE EXISTING MARGINAL DAIRY FARM RE-CONSTRUCTION SCHEME AND A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS FOR ACTION AT BOTH FARM AND FACTORY LEVEL. THE DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY IS NOW GIVING TOP PRIORITY TO ANALYSING AND ASSESSING THE MERITS OF THESE PROPOSALS AND THE POSSIBLE COSTS. IT IS DOING THIS IN THE LIGHT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S WISH THAT ADJUSTMENT EXPENDITURE GIVE A POSITIVE RESULT IN THE INTERESTS OF THE INDUSTRY.

NOT THAT THE OUTLOOK HAS BEEN BAD FOR  
OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY. FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE BEEN  
EXPAND SIGNIFICANTLY THE EXPORT MARKET FOR CHEESE. EXPORTS  
HAVE GROWN FROM 35,000 TONNES IN 1971/2 TO 45,000 TONNES  
45,000 TONNES FOR 1973/4. I WOULD ADD THAT THAT ESTIMATE  
WAS MADE BEFORE THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT BY BRITAIN THAT  
THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD TAKE A QUOTA OF 10,000 TONNES  
OF CHEDDAR CHEESE FROM AUSTRALIA IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS  
ITS PROGRAMS FOR OUR RURAL AREAS TO PRIMARY INDUSTRY ALONE  
A VITAL INGREDIENT IN MANY TOWNS LIKE CASINO OF THE SMALL  
BUSINESSMAN. IN NOVEMBER THE MINISTER FOR SECONDARY INDUSTRY,  
MR. KEP ENDERBY, ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ESTABLISH  
A NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS BUREAU. THE BUREAU WILL BE SET UP TO  
INITIATE AND PROMOTE PROPOSALS FOR THE GUIDANCE AND ASSISTANCE  
OF SMALL BUSINESS.

AT ANOTHER LEVEL THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS THE  
FIRST TO TAKE POSITIVE AND DECISIVE ACTION TO PROMOTE  
DECENTRALISATION IN AUSTRALIA. PLANNING FOR THE CREATION  
OF A NEW GROWTH CENTRE AT ALBURY-WODONGA IS ALREADY WELL  
ADVANCED, AND WE AIM TO MAKE THIS THE PROTOTYPE FOR OTHER  
GROWTH CENTRES. DECENTRALISATION HAS LONG BEEN TALKED ABOUT  
IN THIS COUNTRY. 1973 SAW THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST  
REALLY CONCRETE PROPOSALS TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

THE POINT I HAVE TRIED TO STRESS IN MY REMARKS SO FAR IS THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, AS ANY GOVERNMENT MUST, RECOGNISES THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF OUR RURAL AREAS FOR THE WHOLE NATION. IN KEEPING WITH THIS RECOGNITION, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED IN DECEMBER THAT IT WOULD HOLD AN INQUIRY INTO ALL ASPECTS OF RURAL POLICY IN AUSTRALIA. THE INQUIRY, TO BE CONDUCTED BY A WORKING GROUP, WILL RESULT IN THE FIRST GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED REPORT ON OVERALL RURAL POLICY SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF "AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION: AIMS AND POLICIES" BY THE FORMER DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE IN 1952, OVER 20 YEARS AGO. A MAJOR BASIS FOR THE INQUIRY IS THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THAT THERE IS NO PLACE IN THE ECONOMY FOR A RURAL POLICY THAT IS NOT BOTH EQUITABLE FOR PRIMARY PRODUCERS AND ECONOMICALLY SOUND.

IN ANNOUNCING THE INQUIRY, THE MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY, SENATOR KEN WRIEDT, AND I SAID THE GOVERNMENT WISHES TO AVOID AD HOC DECISIONS THAT MIGHT APPEAR TO SOME TO BE POLITICALLY ATTRACTIVE AT THE TIME, BUT WHICH IN FACT MIGHT OFFER NO LONG TERM SECURITY OR REAL BENEFITS TO THE GENUINE PRIMARY PRODUCER. THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED A BASIS OF EXPERT ADVICE ON WHICH TO FORMULATE ECONOMICALLY SOUND AND SOCIALLY EQUITABLE MEASURES THAT WOULD HELP THE RESIDENT FARM FAMILY. IT ALSO SAW A NEED FOR A RURAL POLICY THAT RECOGNISED THAT LARGE AND IMPORTANT SECTIONS OF THE RURAL COMMUNITY ARE NOT THEMSELVES ENGAGED IN FARMING ALTHOUGH THE PROSPERITY OF MANY DID DEPEND ON THE HEALTH OF THE PRIMARY INDUSTRIES.

THE WORKING GROUP WILL DRAFT, FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT, A "GREEN PAPER", ON RURAL POLICY, INCORPORATING ASPECTS FROM PRESENT AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT POLICIES SUCH AS SELECTIVE DECENTRALISATION, CONSERVATION, RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND LONG-TERM INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY AGREEMENTS. IT WILL ALSO ATTEMPT TO INTEGRATE THESE AND OTHER FACTORS INTO A SET OF PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH FUTURE POLICIES COULD BE BUILT. WE EXPECT TO PUBLISH THE GREEN PAPER BY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY BUT WITHOUT FORMAL APPROVAL. IN THAT FORM, IT WOULD BE DEBATED IN CABINET, IN PARLIAMENT, AND IN THE COMMUNITY GENERALLY - PARTICULARLY IN THE RURAL SECTOR. THESE DEBATES WILL ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT TO CREATE A MORE VIABLE RURAL SECTOR IN THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY. WE HOPE TO RECEIVE THE WORKING GROUP'S REPORT IN APRIL.

THE OTHER SUBJECT WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT TODAY IS ESPECIALLY APPROPRIATE FOR A LUNCH GIVEN BY A MUNICIPAL COUNCIL - THAT IS, THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR INJECTING NEW LIFE INTO, AND CREATING NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN AUSTRALIA. I HAVE TALKED FOR SOME YEARS ABOUT THE NEED FOR PROPER RECOGNITION TO BE GIVEN TO THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT. IT IS THE ARM OF GOVERNMENT WHICH IS CLOSEST TO PEOPLE AND WHICH AFFECTS SO MANY ASPECTS OF THEIR DAILY LIVES.

I GAVE A SPEECH ENTITLED "THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIAN FEDERALISM" IN NOVEMBER 1971 AND IN IT I HAD THIS TO SAY:

"THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIAN FEDERALISM DEPENDS FAR MORE UPON MUNICIPALITIES THAN UPON THE COMMONWEALTH OR THE STATES. FEDERALISM IS THREATENED NOT BY THE DRIFT OF POWER FROM STATE CAPITALS TO CANBERRA BUT BY THE STATES IMPOSING UPON MUNICIPALITIES FUNCTIONS WHICH ARE BEYOND THEIR MEANS. IT IS NOT THE COMMONWEALTH BUT THE STATES WHICH MUST RESIST OR FEAR A REASSESSMENT OF FUNCTIONS IN OUR FEDERATION, FOR THE STATES TREAT MUNICIPALITIES EVEN MORE FRUGALLY THAN

THE STATES THEMSELVES ARE

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY TAKEN SEVERAL VERY IMPORTANT STEPS TO REMEDY THIS SITUATION. WE SECURED THE REPRESENTATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT AND IN THE PARLIAMENT. IN THE BUDGET CHANGES LAST YEAR, THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT PASSED A NEW GRANTS COMMISSION ACT ENABLING IT TO ROUTE INTO APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE BY REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT. THE ASSISTANCE FROM THE GRANT COMMISSION AND PROVIDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE PAID TO THE STATES UNDER SECTION 96 OF THE CONSTITUTION. THE ACT WAS PASSED TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED.



IT IS HOPED THAT APPLICATIONS BY REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS WILL BEGIN TO BE RECEIVED AND CONSIDERED EARLY THIS YEAR. ADDITIONALLY, UNDER THE AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE PLAN, THERE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO ENABLE THEM MORE EFFECTIVELY TO PROVIDE WELFARE AND HEALTH SERVICES TO THEIR COMMUNITIES. THESE ACTIONS DIRECTED TO BENEFIT LOCAL GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN TAKEN ALONGSIDE A RANGE OF OTHER MEASURES DESIGNED TO REMEDY, IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE STATES AND THEIR AUTHORITIES, SERIOUS DEFICIENCIES WHICH HAVE EXISTED IN PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES. NEW OR ENLARGED ALLOCATIONS IN OUR BUDGET FOR 1973/74, FOR EDUCATION, COMMUNITY CENTRES, PUBLIC HOUSING, SEWERAGE SERVICES, LAND MANAGEMENT, URBAN TRANSPORT AND GROWTH CENTRES ARE EXAMPLES OF THIS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ASKED TO DO MORE, THAT EVEN MORE STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE TO ENHANCE THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TO ENABLE IT TO PERFORM THE MODERN FUNCTIONS THAT MODERN COMMUNITIES DEMAND OF IT. FOR THIS REASON, WE ARE PROPOSING TO HOLD A REFERENDUM IN CONNECTION WITH THE SENATE ELECTIONS THIS YEAR, TO EMPOWER THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO BORROW MONEY ON BEHALF OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND AT THE SAME TIME, TO ENABLE IT TO MAKE GRANTS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DIRECT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

AT PRESENT, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES RAISE LOAN FUNDS ~~TO~~ THEMSELVES - SUBJECT TO A "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT" REACHED BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE STATES IN 1936 - OR THEY OBTAIN LOAN FUNDS FROM THE STATES. UNDER THIS SYSTEM, THEIR INDEBTEDNESS HAS WORSENERED DRAMATICALLY OVER THE YEARS. IN JUNE 1947, THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING DEBT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES WAS ABOUT 140 MILLION DOLLARS. BY JUNE 1971, THE DEBT HAD RISEN TO 1730 MILLION DOLLARS - MORE THAN 12 TIMES AS GREAT AS THE DEBT 24 YEARS EARLIER. THE RATE OF INCREASE OF THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING DEBT OF STATE GOVERNMENTS IN THE SAME PERIOD WAS ONLY HALF AS GREAT.

THE COST OF SERVICING THEIR BORROWINGS ALSO DEARNS HEAVILY ON THE BUDGETS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES. OVERALL INTEREST PAYMENTS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES WILL NOW BE EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT 12 PER CENT OF THEIR REVENUES. INTEREST PAYMENTS PLUS CAPITAL REPAYMENTS AMOUNTED TO ABOUT 377.5 MILLION DOLLARS IN 1970/71 AND WERE EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT 25 PER CENT OF REVENUES.

THIS SITUATION COMES ABOUT BECAUSE OF A FINANCIAL AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE STATES IN 1927 AND DEVELOPED BY THE "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT" NINE YEARS LATER. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT IF EITHER OF THOSE AGREEMENTS WERE BEING DECIDED UPON NOW THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN TREATED DIFFERENTLY. IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IGNORED AS IT WAS THEN AND IT WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN GIVEN A PLACE ON THE LOAN COUNCIL WHICH LARGELY DETERMINES LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S LOAN-RAISING ABILITY.

IT IS ABSURD THAT, WHILE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR BORROWINGS BY STATE GOVERNMENTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN ON THEIR BEHALF, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES ARE LARGELY LEFT TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES IN THE CAPITAL MARKETS. WITH THE GROWING COMPLEXITY AND SOPHISTICATION OF THESE MARKETS, THEY ARE HANDICAPPED AS BORROWERS. IT IS ONLY COMMONSENSE THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, WITH ITS SUPERIOR CAPACITY AS A BORROWER, SHOULD UNDERTAKE BORROWINGS ON THEIR BEHALF.

DESPITE THEIR COMMONSENSE NATURE, I WAS REBUFFED WHEN I PUT TWO NEW PROPOSALS TO REMEDY THIS SITUATION AT A MEETING WITH THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE STATES IN OCTOBER. I SUGGESTED THAT ELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SHOULD HAVE BOTH A VOICE AND A VOTE IN THE LOAN COUNCIL. I ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT BE EMPOWERED TO BORROW ON BEHALF OF ELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT. THE MEETING WAS ABORTIVE. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE ARE NOW SEEKING TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BY THE PROPOSED REFERENDUM.

WE WILL NOT BE HOLDING THIS REFERENDUM TO SETTLE SOME THEORETICAL SYSTEM OF BELIEF. IT IS NEEDED FOR REASONABLE COMMUNITY BENEFIT TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY. THE EXTENT OF ITS INDEBTEDNESS AND THE SERVICING CHARGES THAT IT FACES MUST AFFECT, FOR EXAMPLE, SUCH THINGS AS THE RATES CHARGED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT. THEY MUST ALSO AFFECT THE FINANCIAL ABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR THE COMMUNITIES IT SERVES.

THIS BECOMES EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, IN A SITUATION IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE AN EXPANDING ROLE IN THE NATION'S AFFAIRS. WE BELIEVE THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS IDEALLY PLACED TO HELP IN THE SERVICING OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES AND WELFARE FACILITIES. BECAUSE ITS ELECTED OFFICIALS AND PERMANENT OFFICERS ARE CONSTANTLY ENGAGED IN DEALING WITH LOCAL PROBLEMS, THEY ARE IN A PERFECT POSITION TO ENABLE SUCH FACILITIES TO BE PROPERLY PLANNED AND USED IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES.