It is important to have a well-developed advanced college west of Ballarat. At the moment the only one west of Ballarat is Warrnambool, and with the population of Warrnambool and the wealth of the surrounding area this is the college to develop.

As a local member I will certainly do everything I can to see that the Warrnambool Technical College is developed over a period of time as a sound college of advanced education. However as Commonwealth Minister for Education and Science I must work within the rules, and the rules are -

- that the Victorian Government puts proposals to the Commonwealth.
- that I am advised on these proposals by the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Advanced Education.
- that assistance to Warrnambool be fitted into a triennial program for colleges throughout Australia.

It is for this reason and because the question of Warrnambool's affiliation was being actively discussed I earlier asked Dr. Wark and other members of his committee to visit Warrnambool.

I think I can reasonably say the Commonwealth's advisers were impressed by the potential of the area, and by the unanimity by which the district accepted Warrnambool as the centre for this development.

They made no commitment to me on what their advice might ultimately be, as this would depend on the nature of the proposal that comes either directly from the State or, alternatively as one would normally expect, from the State after it had received recommendations from the Victoria Institute of Colleges, which is the body the State has developed to advise it on the development in these colleges.

There has been a battle for affiliation. The arguments seem to be these -

On the one hand there are many people whose views are soundly based, who say that they cannot expect this college to be properly developed until the citizens of Warrnambool, the teachers and students all know it is going to have the appropriate backing from the Victoria Institute of Colleges and from the
governments themselves.

And for some reason there are those who argue that the people of Warrnambool, teachers and students must on the other hand advance their own cause before they achieve affiliation. To those who have this view I would say: how can the people interested in the college advance the cause of the college unless they know the appropriate government financial support is going to be forthcoming.

I can only repeat that I have been watching this with the greatest interest, and that as a local member I will do everything I can to support it.
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