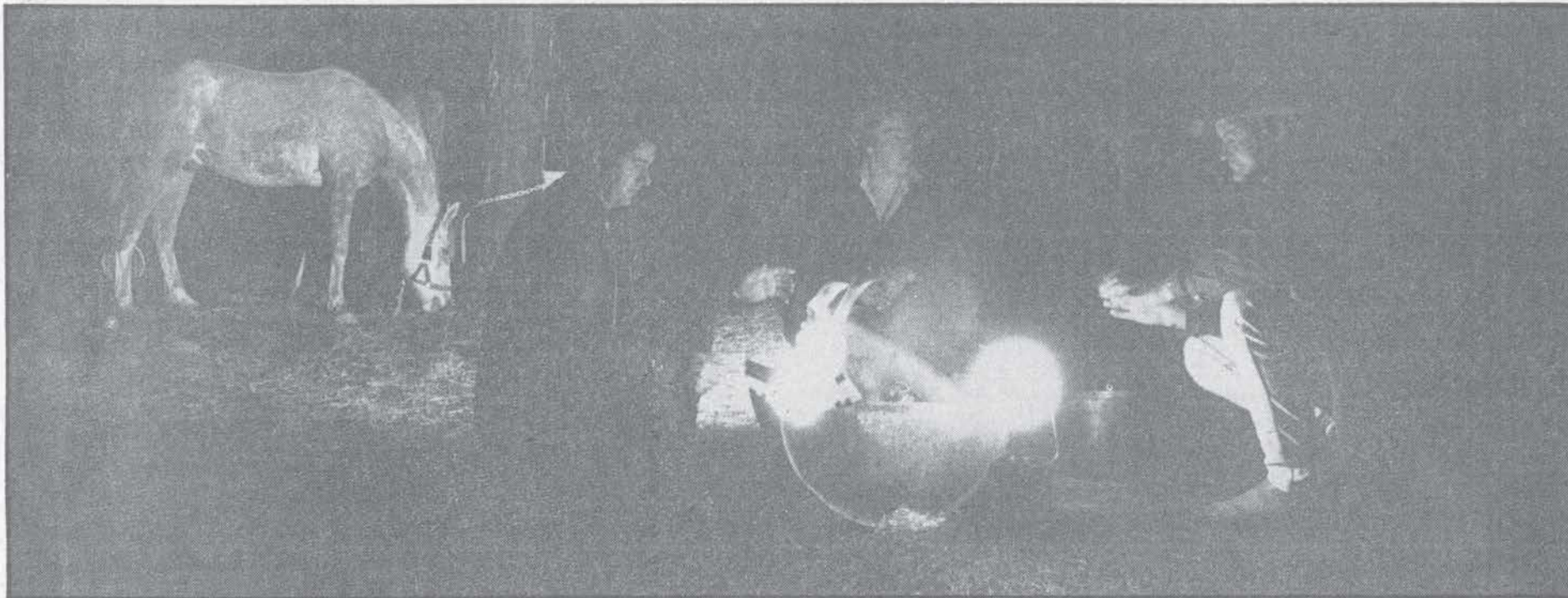


# The men from the mountains blaze a different sort of trail



It can be awfully cold when Victoria's high country men ride on a muster...

These mountain cattlemen need every ounce of warmth they can get from their blazing fire.

But these men aren't on the trail of stray cattle; they're riding the election trail. And the only thing they are mustering is votes.

The mountain men oppose the State Government's proposal for a giant Alpine National Park.

They are riding the streets of Melbourne's eastern suburbs in support of the Liberal Party candidate, Mrs Rosemary Varty, in the crucial Nunawading Province re-run election.

Last night they gathered at a campsite in South Croydon's Eastfield Park to prepare for a mass ride by about 150 people today to the Ringwood shopping centre.

A Mountain Cattlemen's Association spokesman, Graeme Stoney, said it was the first time the cattlemen had gone political, but they had no option but to oppose the Government on the Alpine Park issue.

Mr Stoney said the legislation would destroy the livelihood of Victoria's high country cattlemen. The Liberals oppose the park proposal, and could block it in the Upper House if Mrs Varty wins the August 17 election.

Picture: NOEL BUTCHER

## Kennett calls 'foul' on ALP campaign



The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Kennett, today called on the ALP to take personal abuse out of its Nunawading by-election campaign.

Mr Kennett accused the Premier, Mr Cain, of "going for the man and not the ball" in the battle to win the crucial Upper House seat.

Mr Kennett — who was accused of mud slinging during the State election campaign — said Mr Cain was putting the whole profession of politics at risk by his comments.

By PENNY DEBELLE, State Political Reporter

"It is hard enough already for the public to have confidence in its politicians," Mr Kennett said.

"Politicians don't have a very high standing — people don't trust them because of the activity they get involved in.

"Labor's campaign against me is just adding to people's cynicism about the profession.

"How are you going to attract good men and women into politics in the future? The whole standing of politics and the Parliament is being put at risk."

Mr Kennett said Labor had run a deliberate personal campaign against him beginning in the lead-up to the State election in March with the "bull in the china shop" advertisement. This had been continued in the Nunawading campaign by "vitriolic comments" made by Mr Cain and the ALP candidate, Mr Ives, and the Labor commercial now being shown on television.

"It is a deliberate campaign of personal denigration directed at me, and I call on the Government to get this campaign onto the issues," he said.

Mr Kennett denied he had waged a personal campaign against Mr Cain in the State poll and said his "little daughters comments" — a reference to his widely publicised remarks that Mr Cain could not be trusted with your daughters — had been off the cuff and taken out of context.

"And I apologised for it," Mr Kennett said.

The ALP television commercial warns Nunawading voters not to let Mr Kennett put "a spanner in the works" by voting a Liberal into the seat which is the key to control of the Upper House.

The National Party, which is campaigning in support of the Liberal candidate, Mrs Varty, has also called on Mr Cain to stop using personal abuse in the campaign.

National Party leader, Mr Ross-Edwards, said Mr Cain had reached for the mud bucket and should feel ashamed.

Mr Kennett . . . "a campaign of personal denigration"