

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 1 AUGUST 1956**

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Hon. members being seated, His Excellency read the following Opening Speech:—

At noon, this day, His Excellency the Governor proceeded in State from Government House to the Legislative Assembly Chamber, and delivered the following Speech:—

“GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—

“You have been called together in this, the first session of the Thirty-fourth Parliament of Queensland, to give your attention to, and make decisions upon, matters pertaining to the welfare of the people of this State.

“Losses from cyclones and floods, sometimes severe, especially in southern border and in coastal areas, have continued, but have not affected the general prosperity very greatly.

“Considerable advances are taking place in the mining industry. Mount Isa and Mount Morgan, the mineral bearing sands on the beaches, and of course, the newly opened uranium deposits at the Mary Kathleen Mine and elsewhere, give tremendous promise for the future of our economy.

“This is fortunate, for it seems that the world may be entering on a new phase, in which competition by highly organised armed force may tend to be eliminated and to be replaced by economic warfare. The possibilities of such a change are tremendous and may demand a degree of constant effort and efficiency even greater than that demanded by intense preparation for war. This emphasises the urgent need, in no uncertain way, for scientific training and for managerial and industrial efficiency.

“A deficit of £1,723,000 was shown in the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the year ended June 30, 1956. Receipts amounted to £75,668,000 and Expenditure was £77,392,000.

“This was only the second occasion in the past eighteen years that a deficit has been recorded in Queensland.

“When the Budget was brought down last year a surplus of £18,215 was forecast, but rising costs, unfavourable weather conditions and industrial trouble (including a prolonged ban on railways overtime and the shearers' strike) contributed to the deterioration in the State's finances. Financial difficulties were not limited to Queensland as all States, with the exception of Tasmania, reported substantial deficits at the close of the year.

“The Income Tax Reimbursement Grant received from the Commonwealth was £24,654,000, exceeding the allocation for the previous year by £549,000. Other State Taxation yielded £9,543,000 or £881,000 more than in the preceding year.

“The Department of Railways' running costs increased by £2,862,000 compared with the previous year, while the income earned

## WEDNESDAY, 1 AUGUST, 1956.

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. J. H. Mann, Brisbane), took the chair at 11.57 a.m.

### PRESENTATION OF MR. SPEAKER.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that yesterday I presented myself to His Excellency the Governor at Government House, as the member chosen to fill the high and honourable office of Speaker of this House, and that His Excellency was pleased to congratulate me upon my election.

### GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

At noon His Excellency the Governor came in state to Parliament House, was announced by the Sergeant-at-Arms, received by Mr. Speaker (Hon. J. H. Mann) at the Bar, and accompanied to the dais.

decreased by £400,000. The combination of higher expenditure and lower revenue produced an adverse movement of £3,262,000. Whilst the railways in the past two years had covered their running costs and had made some contribution towards railway interest, the result for 1955-56 was a loss of £2,661,000 on running costs alone which became a charge on other sources of State Revenue.

"Expenditure on the various essential services carried out by the State has continued to increase. Education has required a constantly increasing appropriation and during 1955-56 expenditure by the Department of Public Instruction rose by £1,484,000 to £10,193,000. Expenditure on the various services carried out by the Department of Health and Home Affairs was supplemented by expenditure on hospitals from the Hospital, Motherhood and Child Welfare Fund to the extent of £2,500,000, or £1,800,000 more than in 1954-55.

"Trust and Special Fund disbursements for the year amounted to £54,515,000, compared with £45,739,000 for the previous year. Construction of certain major works of a capital nature as well as certain important State trading activities such as the State Government Insurance Office are financed through these Trust and Special Funds. The principal items of Expenditure were—

	£
Main Roads .. .. .	10,307,000
State Insurance .. .. .	9,841,000
Commonwealth - State	
Housing .. .. .	4,728,000
Agricultural Bank .. .. .	3,169,000
Post-War Reconstruction and Development Fund .. .. .	3,009,000
Queensland Housing Commission .. .. .	2,813,000

"The approved Loan Programme for 1955-56 was fully expended. Expenditure for the year increased by £1,157,000 to a total of £21,655,000. The principal heads of Expenditure in this Fund were—

	£
Loans and Subsidies to Local Bodies and Hospitals Boards .. .. .	5,548,000
Railways .. .. .	4,214,000
Public Buildings .. .. .	3,163,000
Co-ordinator-General of Public Works (Developmental Works) .. .. .	2,392,000

"With a considerably higher acreage of cultivated land than in 1954, the State had good prospects of increased agricultural production during 1955-56. Unfortunately, heavy rainfall, floods and cyclonic winds caused severe losses in many farm crops.

"Dairy production also suffered to some extent, but the level was reasonably high. Beef cattle output was good, reflecting the abundant feed available. Industrial trouble

resulted in the potential wool clip being reduced, but offerings exceeded those of the 1954-55 selling season.

"The season's production of 1,135,000 tons of 94 net titre sugar was some 165,000 tons short of the all-time record which was a feature of the 1954 season.

"Although average values increased by over £1 per ton, the return to the industry of £48 million was about £5½ million less than the proceeds of the 1954 season, because of the lesser tonnage harvested.

"The increase of one penny per lb. in the retail sugar price operated from the middle of May, 1956, and applied to part of the 1955 season's home consumption quota.

"A satisfactory feature during the year was the success of the Commonwealth sugar exporting countries in arranging an extension of the sugar agreement with the United Kingdom Government for a further year, until 1963, and the retention for 1956 of the same negotiated price as for 1955.

"Construction of a Pig Testing Station is expected to begin in the near future at the Rocklea section of the Animal Research Institute of the Department of Agriculture and Stock.

"Plans are well advanced for the implementation of a State Poultry Improvement Plan which will be related to similar plans in other States. In conjunction with the plan, random sample testing of poultry will be expanded.

"Special attention has been directed to the control of contagious pleuropneumonia in beef cattle herds, and assistance and instruction were made available to stock owners.

"Much attention has been devoted to improving the quality of dairy produce, and advisory officers have concentrated on milking machine hygiene and cooling of milk and cream. Approximately 1,000 refrigerators and other cooling devices were installed by dairy farmers in the past year.

"A dairy bull proving project in which a large number of cows was artificially bred for the first time in Queensland was successfully launched, and production records of the female progeny will be taken to identify the best bulls.

"Preparations are being made for the establishment of an artificial breeding centre on the Atherton Tableland for the benefit of the dairying industry there.

"The fruit industry in Queensland continues to expand. A substantial Government guarantee has been offered to enable modern fruit canning facilities to be provided in North Queensland.

"The first phase of the Burdekin River Irrigation Hydro-Electric and Flood Mitigation Project, which involved the construction of Gorge Weir and the development of 180 to 200 farms on the west bank of the Burdekin River is now rapidly nearing completion.

“Development consists of irrigated farms in three separate areas—Clare, Millaroo and Dalbeg—commencing approximately 20 miles upstream from Ayr and continuing through Millaroo to Dalbeg, a further 40 miles upstream.

“In the Clare area, 71 farms with a total area of 4,829 acres have been taken up and are under production. Two pumping stations and 21.15 miles of irrigation channel serve the area.

“In the Millaroo area the pumping station with a capacity of approximately 40 cusecs and the channel system have been completed. Sixty farms with a total area of 3,307 acres have been taken up and are under production. Irrigation channels 18.57 miles in length serve this area.

“In the Dalbeg area the pumping station of 30 cusecs capacity, rising main and channel systems, with a total length of 13.97 miles, are approaching completion.

“Twenty-seven farms of an area of 1,305 acres have been taken up. An additional 18 of an area of 1,179 acres will be allotted in the immediate future.

“Estimated value of production from the whole Burdekin irrigation scheme for the current year is £646,000, of which approximately £618,000 is from tobacco.

“The electrical reticulation of Millaroo and the surrounding area is practically completed. Some small extensions only and isolated sections remain to be connected. The transmission line from Millaroo to Dalbeg has been completed, and supply is available at 11,000 volts.

“Satisfactory progress has been made on the Mareeba-Dimbulah irrigation project. Earthworks for the first six miles of the main channel from the Tinaroo Falls Dam have been completed. Tenders recently have been called for the construction of a number of inverted siphons on this channel.

“Twelve miles of earth channel and bench flume on the South Walsh main channel have been completed. A further eight miles comprising earth channel and concrete siphons are under construction. These will supply dry farms in the Parada-Horse Creek section with water from Collins Weir at Springmount for the forthcoming tobacco season.

“Present investigations of the Dawson Valley project are centred on determining the most suitable site for a concrete dam in Nathan Gorge, the location of sources of supply of materials for its construction, and the planning of methods of conveyance of water from the main storage to the commanded area.

“Works in the Gibber-Gunyah section of the Dawson Valley Irrigation Area, now nearing completion, will provide water through a channel system 13 miles long to 23 irrigation farms. Total area under irrigation will be 2,376 acres, each farm having an attached dry area of approximately 150 acres.

“It is expected that some of the farms will be opened for selection towards the end of this year.

“In the St. George irrigation area, 37 miles of channels and drains have been completed. Work has commenced on raising the storage level of the weir.

“Much has already been done by My Advisers to mitigate flood damage.

“The problem of flooding in Queensland has been examined by the Co-ordinator-General in collaboration with other interested officers. Recommendations aimed at minimising damage resulting from floods which cannot be prevented have been approved.

“General satisfaction has been expressed throughout the affected areas with the existing flood warning and rescue organisations, but an inquiry is in progress to ascertain whether any improvements can be effected.

“Arrangements also have been made for survey investigations on the Mary, Fitzroy and Condamine Rivers, as staff become available, to determine the potentialities for flood mitigation work on those streams.

“During the year, under the Group provisions of the Land Acts, a total of 53 blocks with an area of 335,818 acres were allotted.

“In addition, four blocks of sheep country, totalling 194,223 acres and three blocks of cattle country, totalling 163,853 acres were opened for competition under the ordinary provisions of the Land Acts.

“Resumptions under Section 146 of the Land Acts, from pastoral holdings, were determined by the Land Court in respect of areas totalling 76,680 acres.

“In the area formerly held by the Queensland-British Food Corporation, 19 blocks aggregating 90,737 acres, were opened.

“Total amount advanced by the Agricultural Bank during the financial year 1955-56 was over £2½ million.

“Total approvals under the War Service Land Settlement Acts for the financial year 1955-56 were £305,000.

“An amount of £1½ million was spent on reforestation.

“For the third year in succession the area of new plantations established exceeded 5,000 acres, the area for the year just closed being a record at 5,400 acres. This brought the total of plantations to 72,700 acres.

“A quantity of 18½ million super feet of softwoods was cut from the plantations for the year just closed, this being the highest yearly cut to date.

“Gross value of factory output has advanced by no less than £23.6 millions to a record aggregate of £356 millions. There are now 5,284 factories in Queensland.

“In Southern Queensland preliminary work has been carried out for the establishment of a large motor car assembly plant, and

the extension of a bitumen refinery which will become the first full-scale petroleum refinery in this State.

“There have been spectacular developments in North Queensland. These include expansion at Mount Isa, preliminary work in establishing a process plant at the Mary Kathleen uranium mine, and the planned establishment of a copper refinery at Townsville.

“Other large projects are the bulk sugar-loading depot at Mackay, and the modernising of the transport system around Townsville and west to Cloncurry, also the completion of the solar salt plant at Guthalungra.

“Total number of British migrants to arrive in Queensland under the Free and Assisted Passages Scheme since July, 1947, has now reached 29,547.

“Approximately 77 per cent. of new arrivals have come as a result of personal nomination by friends and relatives resident in Queensland. The balance of 23 per cent. has been selected as nominees of the Queensland Government under its Group Nomination Scheme.

“Value of Queensland's mineral production (including gold) during 1955 amounted to £31,302,000—an increase of £4,373,000 over that of the previous year.

“Production of gold totalled 62,296 fine oz. valued at over £1 million—a decrease of 33,458 fine oz. on the previous year's output of 98,754 fine oz. valued at over £1½ million.

“Output of copper was 28, 227 tons 4 cwt. valued at £12 million—an improvement on the previous year's production of 27,747 tons 10 cwt. valued at over £8¾ million.

“Total value of the production of lead, zinc and tin was almost £8 million.

“Coal production during the year amounted to 2,747,165 tons valued at £6,857,000.

“Production of silver amounted to 3,775,048 oz. valued at over £1½ million.

“Output of zircon-rutile-ilmenite concentrates totalled 35,555 tons 13 cwt. valued at £1,154,000, as compared with that of 32,136 tons valued at £890,000 during the previous year.

“Outstanding feature of the year's activity was the proving of the rich Mary Kathleen uranium deposit near Cloncurry and the decision of the operating company Mary Kathleen Uranium Ltd. which is jointly owned by British and Australian interests to proceed with the project as quickly as possible.

“This has opened up a new chapter in mining history in Queensland and will have far reaching effects on the further development of the Cloncurry area in the near future.

“General outlook for the mining industry is much brighter than for many years and the future of the industry can be regarded with confidence.

“During the past financial year, a total of £12 million was spent on electrical works throughout the State, and the programme approved for the current financial year will involve an expenditure of £13½ million.

“Since 1946, capital invested in the electricity supply industry has increased from approximately £10 million to £90 million.

“The first units of the Tully Falls hydro-electric power scheme will be put into operation early in 1957.

“Interconnection of the Tully Falls scheme with the Townsville region at an estimated cost of more than £1½ million is well in hand.

“Subsidies paid for electrical development during the last financial year amounted to £1,300,000, bringing the total to £4,950,000 since the principle of subsidising electrical development was first introduced in 1945.

“As a result of the regional system of electrification, the margin between urban and rural tariffs has been substantially reduced in many parts of the State.

“The possibility of further reducing this margin is now being considered by My Advisers, but economic conditions and the necessity to complete the electrical development of less closely settled areas are important factors which must be taken into consideration.

“Close attention is being given to new forms of power and, in particular, to developments in the field of nuclear energy. To ensure that the electricity supply industry of Queensland will be fully informed on developments in this field, a joint Commonwealth-State Committee has been established, following the request of My Advisers, to maintain a close liaison with the work of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission.

“During the financial year ended 30 June, 1956, seven more new diesel-electric and six steam locomotives were placed in service on the railways. The Government also authorised the purchase of ten more of these locomotives as well as two small diesel mechanical locomotives for the two-foot gauge Innisfail Tramway.

“Twenty-four new carriages were placed in traffic including the eighth air-conditioned train. The Department is now operating five “Sunlander” services per week in each direction between Brisbane and Cairns, in addition to the bi-weekly air-conditioned train service between Brisbane and Cunnamulla, Rockhampton and Winton, and Townsville and Mount Isa.

“The first of the new satin-finish aluminium diesel rail cars constructed at Ipswich Railway Workshops has been placed in service.

“A contract has been let for the supply, fabrication and erection of the steel work required for five new buildings for the new depot to be established at Northgate for air-conditioned trains, diesel-electric locomotives and diesel rail cars.

"A new railway station of concrete construction to cost £76,760, is being built at Charleville.

"Tenders closing on 23 August, 1956, have been invited for the construction of a high level railway bridge across the Haughton River near Giru. This bridge will be constructed of steel girders on concrete piers.

"Erection of the eighth main span of the Burdekin River bridge is proceeding and delivery of fabricated steelwork for the remaining two spans is almost complete.

"Commencing at the south approach abutment, placing of the concrete deck has been completed as far as the fourth span.

"A contract for the erection of steelwork and construction of the concrete deck of the greater part of the north approach viaduct has been let. The contractor has moved his plant and equipment on to the site and substantially completed steelwork erection.

"It is expected that the bridge will be completed and ready for traffic by the middle of March, 1957.

"In conjunction with the planning for electrification and quadruplication of metropolitan rail services, My Advisers have approved that certain level crossings should be eliminated. The Co-ordinator-General will be the constructing authority for works at Albion Road, Albion; Toombul Road, Northgate; Murphy-Handford Road, Zillmere; and Bilsen Road, Virginia.

"Most of the lands necessary for the construction of the overpass at Albion have been acquired, and foundation tests are in progress. A preliminary design for an overbridge at Zillmere has been prepared by the Brisbane City Council and has been submitted to the Railway Department.

"The Railway Department is reducing the level of rail tracks at Sandgate Road, Clayfield, in conjunction with duplication of the rail track between Eagle Junction and Whinstanes, to replace the present level crossing by a bridge at the present road level. Campbell Street, Bowen Hills, at the present level crossing is to be closed and the bridge in O'Connell Terrace (parallel to Campbell Street) will be widened to carry increased road traffic.

"The rail tracks to railway yards at Woolloongabba cross four important traffic routes—Ipswich Road, Logan Road, Stanley Street, and Main Street—and the Railway Department has been advised that the branch line from Woolloongabba to the South Brisbane wharves should be eliminated, as the first step towards the eventual removal of the present yards at Woolloongabba to a new site, and the removal of the level crossings in the Woolloongabba area.

"During the financial year ended 30 June, 1956, a vigorous programme of road and bridge construction has been undertaken on gazetted State Highways and Main Roads throughout the State.

"On the 1,200 mile coastal highway between Brisbane and Cairns, works have been carried out on many leading sections towards a provision of a continuous bitumen surfaced roadway.

"This work will be continued.

"In the South-West there is now a bitumen surfaced road from Brisbane to Roma with the exception of a 40 mile section between Condamine and Roma, on which works are under construction.

"A fully constructed highway link is now available to traffic on a direct route from the Callide Valley to Rolleston and Springsure across the Expedition Range.

"First stage construction, including clearing, forming and drainage has been carried out on long sections of western roads between Longreach and Jundah, Winton and Boulia and Gulf roads between Burketown and Camooweal, Burketown and Quamby, and Normanton and Cloncurry. They are providing improved travelling conditions for the transport of wool and stock inward to, and merchandise and station supplies outward from local rail centres.

"Consequent upon the discovery of uranium at Mary Kathleen, and mining developments at Mt. Isa, improved road communication between Mary Kathleen, Cloncurry and Mt. Isa is being investigated.

"On the Lockyer-Darling Downs Highway between Brisbane and Toowoomba, and the Pacific Highway between Brisbane and the South Coast, traffic intensities are reaching the stage where additional traffic lanes are required. Four-lane pavements have already been constructed on sections between Brisbane and Ipswich and are under construction on a section of the Brisbane-Southport road at Ormeau and Stappylton.

"In accordance with the promise contained in the Policy Speech delivered by the Honourable the Premier prior to the recent State general elections, the distance over which goods may be carried without incurring liability under the Acts will be increased from 15 to 25 miles. A legislative amendment will be necessary and this will receive the attention of the Government in due course.

"For the third year in succession, the over-the-counter receipts of the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau exceeded £1,000,000. The Bureau, through its inter-State offices in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, is bringing increasing numbers of tourists to Queensland each year and is aiming to achieve an all-round-the-year tourist season in Queensland at an early date.

"Port development includes new wharves and facilities, the installation of improved navigation aids and the deepening of dredged channels to accommodate ships of greater draft.

"Additions to the pool of dredging plant include two new diesel-powered hopper barges, with a third due to arrive within a month or so.

"A new port is to be established about 2½ miles from the entrance to the Burnett River to service Bundaberg, and work should be commenced shortly.

"An important development is the installation of equipment for loading raw sugar in bulk at certain ports. Work at Mackay is well advanced and should be completed in 1957. Work has commenced at Lucinda Point and investigations are in hand with respect to Townsville, Mourilyan Harbour and Cairns.

"Reliable estimates of future trends in Primary School enrolments indicate that there will be, in 1957, an increase of 6,000 pupils over the 1956 figures and a further increase of 4,000 pupils in 1958. The number of students receiving allowances as teacher scholarship-holders this year has increased to 2,144, compared with 1,830 last year. Increase of 27 per cent. in the number of Junior Teacher Scholarships to Secondary Schools in 1955 and of 43 per cent. in 1956 augurs well for the future supply of teachers to Primary Schools.

"An oral school for the deaf, foreshadowed earlier by the purchase of suitable premises and the commencement of special training of staff, was opened at the beginning of the 1956 school year. The school has an enrolment of 26 and a staff of five teachers.

"A milestone in the course of development of a Conservatorium of Music in Queensland was passed with the appointment of a Director. Dr. William Lovelock, formerly of Trinity College, London University, began his duties this year in the premises at South Brisbane which have been specially equipped for his future work.

"Enrolment figures for 1956 in the State Secondary Schools reveal the remarkable increase of 1,687 over those for 1955, and it is confidently anticipated that enrolments will increase by at least another 1,000 next year.

"During the past year 11 new Primary Schools were provided, and 257 additional classrooms and extensions were constructed at existing State Primary Schools. New State High Schools have been built at Kedron, Mitchelton and North Rockhampton and 42 additional classrooms have been built at 18 existing High Schools, making the total number of 71 new classrooms at State High Schools.

"New Secondary Departments have been attached to the State Primary Schools at Barealdine, Blackall, Cleveland, Gin Gin and Sarina.

"There are now 35 State High Schools and 33 State Secondary Departments, of which 16 State High Schools and 21 Secondary Departments have been opened since 1951.

"New workshops for technical training have recently been completed at Cairns, Mackay and Bundaberg. A four storey workshop is in course of erection in Brisbane as well as a new welding shop.

"Two expensive linotype machines have been installed in the printing section at the Central Technical College as well as a very large camera for process engravers.

"Training is being expanded in the field of electronics and television and there has been rapid development in the widening of electrical studies throughout the State.

"Enrolments in Industrial Management and allied subjects at the State Commercial College now exceed 500 and continue to expand.

"Of the total expenditure of more than £3½ million by the Department of Public Works on buildings during 1955-1956, more than £2 million or 57.99 per cent. of the total was spent on school buildings, including Primary and High Schools.

"The new 756-bed hospital at South Brisbane has reached an advanced stage of construction. Opening of the first section of this hospital which will provide accommodation for 200 patients is expected towards the end of August.

"A super voltage (4 million volt) deep therapy plant is being installed at the Brisbane Hospital. Purchase and installation of this unit will cost £72,000. The benefits it will offer in the treatment of deep-seated conditions will be incalculable.

"Major works completed during the year included new Nurses Quarters at Barealdine, remodelling and additions at Isisford Hospital, new Manufacturing Dispensary and Drug Store at Brisbane General Hospital, new Nurses Quarters, Kitchen, Dining Room and Domestic Quarters at Cloncurry Hospital, remodelling of Hospital at Eidsvold, additional Nurses Quarters at Yeppoon Hospital, and accommodation for senile patients at Roma Hospital.

"Hospital Boards have been authorised during the year to enter into contracts for new Nurses Quarters at Cairns, new General Ward Block at Dalby, Home for the Aged and Infirm and New Boiler House at Maryborough Hospital.

"The main hospital block and nurses quarters for the Brisbane Chest Hospital at Chermiside are under construction, the work having made substantial progress during the year.

"The new Thoracic Annexe at Toowoomba is in an advanced stage of construction. A contract has been let for a Thoracic Annexe at Rockhampton, and a Tuberculosis Ward for Natives is under construction at Cherbourg.

"Parents have responded remarkably well to the opportunity of having their children immunised against poliomyelitis with the Salk vaccine, consent having been given for the immunisation of 90.7 per cent. of school children. Cost to the State of the immunisation campaign now under way will be in the vicinity of £150,000.

“The year 1955 marked a further reduction in the infant and maternal mortality rates. The maternal mortality rate was 0.62 per thousand live births, and the infant mortality rate 20.3 per thousand live births. These are the lowest figures ever recorded.

“During the year ended June 30, 1956, the Queensland Housing Commission completed 1,754 houses. At the close of the year, the Commission had 921 houses in various stages of construction (including imported houses, 47 completed and eight under construction).

“There are at present under construction 121 water supply projects estimated to cost £11,633,000 and 35 sewerage projects which will cost £4,898,000.

“New business written by the Life Department of the State Government Insurance Office during the year ended December 31, 1955, constituted an all time record—9,739 policies assuring £8,373,000.

“Increase in the Life Assurance Fund was £1,387,000, another record achievement, making the total Life Fund £13½ million.

“Debenture loans made available to local bodies during the year exceeded £3 million.

“During the past financial year, the salaries of officers of the Public Service were substantially increased as a result of decisions of the Industrial Court upon applications by Unions for award variations.

“During the Session you will be invited to give consideration to the following, among other measures:—

A Bill to amend the Weights and Measures Act of 1951, in certain particulars.

A Bill to amend the Workers' Compensation Acts, 1916 to 1955, in certain particulars.

A Bill to amend the Barristers Act of 1848, in certain particulars.

A Bill to amend the Art Union Regulation Acts, 1930 to 1954, in certain particulars.

A Bill to amend the Mining on Private Land Acts, 1909 to 1954, in certain particulars.

A Bill to amend the Local Government Acts, 1936 to 1955, in certain particulars.

A Bill to amend the Fruit Marketing Organisation Acts, 1923 to 1945, in certain particulars.

“I invite your earnest consideration of all matters that may be brought before you, and I pray that the blessings of Divine Providence attend your labours.”

His Excellency then left the Chamber.

Mr. Speaker left the chair at 12.37 p.m. and resumed it at 2.15 p.m.

#### COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have to inform the House that His Excellency has been pleased to issue a commission under the public seal of the State empowering me to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance to such

members as may hereafter present themselves to be sworn, which I now direct the Clerk to read to the House.

Commission thereupon read by the Clerk.

#### MEMBERS SWORN.

MR. A. G. MULLER AND MR. W. B. J. G. SPARKES.

Mr. Adolph Gustav Muller and Mr. Walter Beresford James Gordon Sparkes, having taken the oath of allegiance and subscribed the roll, took their seats as members for the electoral districts of Fassifern and Aubigny respectively.

#### ELECTIONS TRIBUNAL.

JUDGE FOR 1956.

**Mr. SPEAKER** announced the receipt of a letter from His Honour the Senior Puisne Judge intimating that His Honour Mr. Justice Stanley would be the judge to preside at the sittings of the Elections Tribunal for the year 1956.

#### PANEL OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Pursuant to the requirements of Standing Order No. 13, I nominate the following members to form the panel of Temporary Chairmen for the present session:—

Frederick Dickson Graham, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Mackay;

George Keyatta, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Townsville;

Thomas Flood Plunkett, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Darlington;

Harold Bourne Taylor, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Clayfield; and

John Albert Turner, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Kelvin Grove.

#### PAPER PRINTED DURING RECESS.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have to report that the following paper was ordered to be printed and circulated during the recess, in accordance with the Resolution of Parliament passed during the session of 1901:—

“Report of the Royal Commission Appointed to Inquire into and Report on Allegations of Corruption Relating to Dealings with Certain Crown Leaseholds in Queensland.”

#### CIRCULATION AND COST OF “HANSARD.”

**Mr. SPEAKER** laid on the table the report of the Chief Reporter, State Reporting Bureau, on the circulation and cost of “Hansard” for the session 1954-1955.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

## APPOINTMENT OF GAIR MINISTRY.

**Hon. V. C. GAIR** (South Brisbane—Premier) (2.22 p.m.): I desire to inform the House that on 28 May, 1956, His Excellency the Governor appointed the Hon. Vincent Clair Gair to be Vice-President of the Executive Council of Queensland, and the Hon. John Edmund Duggan, the Hon. Edward Joseph Walsh, the Hon. Harold Henry Collins, the Hon. Arthur Jones, the Hon. William Matthew Moore, the Hon. William Power, the Hon. Paul Jerome Remigius Hilton, the Hon. Thomas Andrew Foley, the Hon. George Henry Devries, and the Hon. Colin George McCathie to be members of the Executive Council of Queensland.

His Excellency the Governor, on that date, also appointed—

The Hon. Vincent Clair Gair to be Premier and Chief Secretary of Queensland;

The Hon. John Edmund Duggan, to be Minister for Transport of Queensland;

The Hon. Edward Joseph Walsh to be Treasurer of Queensland;

The Hon. Harold Henry Collins to be Secretary for Agriculture and Stock of Queensland;

The Hon. Arthur Jones, to be Secretary for Labour and Industry of Queensland;

The Hon. William Matthew Moore to be Secretary for Health and Home Affairs of Queensland;

The Hon. William Power to be Attorney-General of Queensland;

The Hon. Paul Jerome Remigius Hilton to be Secretary for Public Lands and Irrigation of Queensland;

The Hon. Thomas Andrew Foley to be Secretary for Mines of Queensland;

The Hon. George Henry Devries to be Secretary for Public Instruction of Queensland;

The Hon. Colin George McCathie to be Secretary for Public Works, Housing and Immigration of Queensland.

I lay upon the table of the House a copy of the "Government Gazette Extraordinary" containing the relevant notifications.

I also desire to inform the House that on 22 June, 1956 His Excellency the Governor accepted the resignation of the Hon. Thomas Andrew Foley as a Member of the Executive Council of Queensland and as Secretary for Mines as from 14 June, 1956, and accepted the resignation of the Hon. George Henry Devries as Secretary for Public Instruction of Queensland. His Excellency also on that date appointed Leslie Frank Diplock, Esquire, to be a member of the Executive Council of Queensland. His Excellency the Governor in addition appointed the Hon. George Henry Devries to be Secretary for Mines of Queensland, and the Hon. Leslie Frank Diplock to be Secretary for Public Instruction of Queensland.

I lay upon the table of the House a copy of the "Government Gazette Extraordinary" containing the relevant notifications.

## LEADERSHIP OF OPPOSITION.

**Mr. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Leader of the Opposition) (2.24 p.m.): I desire to inform the House that I have been elected Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha (Mr. K. J. Morris), Deputy Leader, the hon. member for Aubigny (Mr. W. B. J. G. Sparkes), Whip, and the hon. member for Whitsunday (Mr. L. H. S. Roberts), Secretary.

## DEATH OF MR. L. EASTMENT.

## SEAT DECLARED VACANT.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have to report that I have received from the Registrar-General a certified copy of the registration of the death on 29 July, 1956, of Leonard Eastment, Esquire, lately serving in the Legislative Assembly as member for the electoral district of Ithaca.

**Hon. V. C. GAIR** (South Brisbane—Premier): I move—

"That the seat in this House for the electoral district of Ithaca hath become and is now vacant by reason of the death of the said Leonard Eastment, Esquire."

Motion agreed to.

## MOTION OF CONDOLENCE.

**Hon. V. C. GAIR** (South Brisbane—Premier) (2.25 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"1. That this House desires to place on record its sense of the loss this State has sustained by the death of Leonard Eastment, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Ithaca.

"2. That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the widow and family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained."

I was shocked to learn of the death of Leonard Eastment. It is true that he had been confined to his bed for some weeks, but I do not think his end was expected as early as it took place.

The late Mr. Eastment had not been a member of this Parliament for very long—he was first elected in 1952 and was re-elected in 1953 at the general elections—but he was associated for some years with the industrial and political movement in this State. He was associated also with many philanthropic organisations and sporting bodies of a very clean and healthy character.

It could not be said that Leonard Eastment was a spectacular or demonstrative type, but he disclosed in no uncertain way that

he was a purposeful man who endeavoured to do good. He was sincere and earnest in his undertakings, all of which were directed towards the good of his State, his country and his fellow-men. No-one can do better than that. He was one of those conscientious, honest, industrious and worthy types who contribute so much towards the success of this young country.

We are all grieved at his passing, and we sympathise with his widow and the members of his family in the great loss they have suffered.

**Mr. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Leader of the Opposition) (2.28 p.m.): In seconding the motion, I should like to associate all members of the Opposition with it. We were all very shocked at the sudden and untimely end of the late Mr. Eastment. During the period that he was in this House, he earned the respect of all hon. members. He was a very unassuming man but he was one who worked hard for his constituents and for the cause to which he gave such great service.

As the Premier has said, he did not have a lengthy service in this House, but for many years he was associated with the late Hon. E. M. Hanlon, in the A.L.P. organisation in Ithaca. Naturally he stepped into Mr. Hanlon's place when that gentleman passed on.

The late Mr. Eastment was very closely associated with sporting activities, particularly Soccer football, a code that is gaining a good deal of popularity in this State and no doubt much of the credit for that must be given to him. He was a worthy citizen and a man who was highly regarded. He will be missed by all in Queensland. We join in extending to his relatives our heartfelt sympathy in their sad loss.

Motion (Mr. Gair) agreed to, hon. members standing in silence.

DEATHS OF SIR EDWARD H. MACARTNEY, MR. B. McLEAN, MR. W. KELSO, MR. T. A. DUNLOP, MR. T. C. KERR, MR. J. B. DONNELLY, and MR. F. COURTICE.

#### MOTION OF CONDOLENCE.

**Hon. V. C. GAIR** (South Brisbane—Premier) (2.31 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“(1) That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Sir Edward Henry Macartney, a former Member of the Parliament of Queensland and Minister of the Crown; the late Bernard McLean, Esquire, the late William Kelso, Esquire, the late Thomas Alberto Dunlop, Esquire, the late Thomas Caldwell Kerr, Esquire, the late John Burton

Donnelly, Esquire, former Members of the Parliament of Queensland; and the late Frederick Courtice, a former Member of the Legislative Council.

“(2) That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the families of the deceased gentlemen the above Resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the Members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.”

We regret the passing of all those great citizens of Queensland, who contributed, in varying degrees and length of time, a great deal to the parliamentary system of Government and the politics of the State. I believe, whatever his political views, each was prompted by a conscientious desire to do his best for the State and the people. It is not my intention to place any one above the others. It is true that some of them served longer than others in the Parliament of Queensland. Except for Frederick Courtice they were all members of the Legislative Assembly; he was a member of the Legislative Council until its abolition. Suffice it to say that we deeply sympathise with the relatives and suggest that they will find comfort and solace in the knowledge that each contributed much to the good of the State.

**Mr. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Leader of the Opposition) (2.34 p.m.): In seconding the motion I wish to associate hon. members of the Opposition with the sentiments expressed by the Premier. One of the sad duties of each new Parliament is to record the passing of former members and distinguished citizens of the State. Today the list is a long one. Some contributed more than others but all were imbued with the ideal of service.

One who was very intimately associated with all hon. members now in the Chamber was the late member for Sherwood, Mr. Kerr. Only a few months ago we joined in wishing him a long and happy retirement. Unfortunately that was not to be, and he has passed on.

We sympathise with the relatives of the deceased and extend to them our condolences in their great loss, but, as the Premier has said, they will have the consolation of knowing that the one they mourn made a worthwhile contribution to the progress and welfare of Queensland.

**Mr. AIKENS** (Mundingburra) (2.36 p.m.): I join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in their expressions of condolence to the relatives of the deceased gentlemen, all of whom I feel sure have rendered some service to the State.

One of the most pleasant things associated with election to Parliament is the opportunity it gives hon. members to mingle with some very decent fellows, irrespective of their

particular political philosophy. It is true that in this Chamber our differences of opinion on political, economic and other matters are expressed very vividly and at times very violently. But that does not affect the position that both inside and outside the Chamber we find that some hon. members with whom we might agree and others with whom we might disagree are really excellent fellows.

I am not going to be a hypocrite and say that I would be unduly affected or dismayed at the passing of some hon. members in the Chamber but I was at the passing of the late Tom Kerr. He was a man who had travelled much; he had been employed in many jobs. He was a man with a very broad and tolerant mind and a wealth of human understanding. I was very sorry indeed to hear of his passing and the State will be much the poorer for it.

Although I did not know the late Len Eastment so well, I did have a kindly regard for him. From what I knew of him he was an excellent fellow. I say that so that it may go on record that although we have differences of opinion and it might appear that we live here in an atmosphere of perpetual political strife, we all do not carry our political differences with us in our personal associations.

The late Tom Kerr and the late Len Eastment always conceded to other hon. members the right to hold their opinions and to express them. I very much regret the passing of these two gentlemen.

**Mr. DEWAR** (Chermside) (2.39 p.m.): I wish to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition and in particular I should like to refer to the late Thomas Kerr. He showed me every kindness when I came into Parliament six years ago as a comparatively young and inexperienced man. He gave me considerable guidance in my various parliamentary duties. At all times he was mentor and friend to me. Tom Kerr was a kindly man, a true Christian gentleman, and as a friend I mourn his passing as, I feel sure, every other person who had any association with him does. He was a fearless fighter for the things in which he believed. He carried out the dictates of his conscience at all times; he was very outspoken. The State is poorer because of his death. It came as a great shock to me and to my Liberal Party colleagues. We felt that he had earned a rest and we hoped that he would enjoy many years of leisure, but unfortunately he lived for only a few weeks after his retirement. I associate myself most sincerely with this vote of condolence.

Motion (Mr. Gair) agreed to, hon. members standing in silence.

## PAPERS.

The following papers were laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—

Report of the Royal Commission appointed to Inquire into Certain Matters relating to the State Coal Mine, Collinsville.

Report of the Manager, Golden Casket Art Union, for the year 1955-1956.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamations under the Public Works Land Resumption Acts, 1906 to 1955, and the State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1954.

Proclamation under the State Transport Acts, 1938 to 1943.

Amendments to the Public Service Regulations of 1923.

Ordinances under the City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1954.

Regulations under the Local Government Acts, 1936 to 1955.

Order in Council under the Sewerage, Water Supply, and Gasfitting Acts, 1949 to 1951.

Order in Council under the Co-ordination of Rural Advances and Agricultural Bank Acts, 1938 to 1951.

Orders in Council under the Fish and Oyster Acts, 1914 to 1955.

Order in Council under the Insurance Acts, 1916 to 1940.

Orders in Council under the Post-War Reconstruction and Development Trust Fund Act of 1943.

Orders in Council under the Racing and Betting Act of 1954.

Order in Council under the Succession and Probate Duties Act of 1904.

By-law under the Harbours Act of 1955.

Proclamation under the Harbours Act of 1955.

Proclamation under the Farmers' Assistance (Debts Adjustment) Acts, 1935 to 1945.

Regulations under the Explosives Act of 1952.

Regulation under the Fish and Oyster Acts, 1914 to 1955.

Regulations under the Motor Vehicles Insurance Acts, 1936 to 1945.

Regulation under the Racing and Betting Act of 1954.

Regulation under the Stamp Acts, 1894 to 1955.

Regulation under the Workers' Compensation Acts, 1916 to 1955.

Proclamations under—

The Diseases in Plants Acts, 1929 to 1948.

The Sugar Experiment Stations Acts, 1900 to 1954.

Orders in Council under—

The Abattoirs Acts, 1930 to 1949.

- The Banana Industry Protection Acts, 1929 to 1937.  
 The Fauna Conservation Act of 1952.  
 The Milk Supply Act of 1952.  
 The Poultry Industry Acts, 1946 to 1950.  
 The Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1955.  
 The Sugar Experiment Stations Acts, 1900 to 1954.  
 Regulations under—  
   The Agricultural Standards Act of 1952.  
   The Brands Acts, 1915 to 1945.  
   The Fruit Marketing Organisation Acts, 1923 to 1945.  
   The Milk Supply Act of 1952.  
   The Native Plants Protection Act of 1930.  
   The Poultry Industry Acts, 1946 to 1950.  
   The Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1955.  
   The Slaughtering Act of 1951.  
   The Stock Acts, 1915 to 1954.  
   The Sugar Experiment Stations Acts, 1900 to 1954.  
 Regulation under the Health Acts, 1937 to 1949, amending the Food and Drug Regulations, 1939.  
 By-law under the Dental Acts, 1902 to 1953.  
 Regulations under the Medical Acts, 1939 to 1955.  
 By-law under the Medical Acts, 1939 to 1955.  
 Proclamation under the Health Acts Amendment Act of 1955.  
 The Islanders Regulations, 1956, under the Torres Strait Islanders Acts, 1939 to 1946, and the Aborigines Preservation and Protection Acts, 1939 to 1946.  
 Orders in Council under—  
   The Landlord and Tenant Acts, 1948 to 1954.  
   The Supreme Court Act of 1921.  
   The Purchasers of Homes Relief Acts, 1930 to 1932.  
   The Lessees' Relief Acts, 1931 to 1932.  
   The Mortgagors and Other Persons Relief Acts, 1931 to 1943.  
   The Financial Emergency Act of 1931.  
   The Profiteering Prevention Acts, 1948 to 1954.  
   The Elections Acts, 1915 to 1952.  
 Proclamation under the Justices Acts, 1886 to 1949.  
 Regulations under—  
   The Public Curator Acts, 1915 to 1954.  
   The Liquor Acts, 1912 to 1954.  
 Seventy-first Annual Report and Balance-sheet of the Union Trustee Company of Australia Limited.  
 Regulation under the Professional Engineers Act of 1929.  
 Regulation under the Motor Spirit Vendors Acts, 1933 to 1934.  
 Proclamation under the Mining on Private Land Acts, 1909 to 1954.  
 Regulations under the Inspection of Machinery Acts, 1951 to 1954.  
 Proclamation under the Mining Acts, 1898 to 1955.  
 Order in Council under the Mining Acts, 1898 to 1955.  
 Regulation under the Coal Industry (Control) Acts, 1948 to 1954.  
 Regulations under the Traffic Acts, 1949 to 1953.  
 Orders in Council under the Labour and Industry Acts, 1946 to 1952.  
 Regulation under the Statistical Returns Acts, 1896 to 1935.  
 Orders in Council under the Police Acts, 1937 to 1955.  
 Amendments to Rules under the Police Acts, 1937 to 1955.  
 Orders in Council under the Irrigation Areas (Land Settlement) Acts, 1933 to 1954.  
 Orders in Council under the Rural Fires Acts, 1946 to 1955.  
 Order in Council under the Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Acts, 1944 to 1951.
- MR. VIVIAN ROGERS CREIGHTON.
- CAUSE OF SUSPENSION.
- Hon. P. J. R. HILTON** (Carnarvon—Secretary for Public Lands and Irrigation): I lay upon the table of the House a statement of the cause of the suspension of Vivian Rogers Creighton from the office of Chairman of the Land Administration Board, and I move that the statement be printed.  
 Motion agreed to.
- Mr. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Leader of the Opposition), without notice, asked the Secretary for Public Lands and Irrigation—  
 “When will the reasons in the motion on Mr. Creighton be printed and when will they be available to hon. members for discussion?”
- Hon. P. J. R. HILTON** (Carnarvon) replied—  
 “The House has already approved that the document in question be printed, and it will be circulated to hon. members immediately.”

## GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have to report that His Excellency the Governor this day delivered to Parliament an Opening Speech of which, for greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy. I presume hon. members will take the Speech as read.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

## ADDRESS IN REPLY.

## OPENING DAY.

**Mr. MOORES** (Kurilpa) (3.12 p.m.), who was received with Government cheers, said: I move—

“That the following Address be presented to the Governor in reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency in opening this, the first session of the Thirty-fourth Parliament of Queensland:—

“May it please Your Excellency—

“We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislature of Queensland, in Parliament assembled, desire to assure Your Excellency of our continued loyalty and affection towards the Throne and Person of Our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to tender our thanks to Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present Session.

“The various measures to which Your Excellency has referred, and all other matters that may be brought before us, will receive our most careful consideration, and it shall be our earnest endeavour so to deal with them that our labours may tend to the advancement and prosperity of the State.”

The resolution, besides expressing our deep personal loyalty initiates a debate which gives every hon. member an opportunity of discussing any subject. That is a part of a hard-won democratic freedom and the treasured right of members of Her Majesty's Parliaments. I want to address my remarks to the opening paragraph of His Excellency's Speech, and if time permits, to the second last paragraph on page 2. The opening remarks say—

“Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—

“You have been called together in this, the first session of the Thirty-fourth Parliament of Queensland, to give your attention to, and make decisions upon, matters pertaining to the welfare of the people of this State.”

We are expected, during the first session of this the Thirty-fourth Parliament, to make decisions pertaining to the welfare of the people of the State. We may perhaps make decisions, but in view of the extreme financial relationships between the Commonwealth and the States and what is likely to happen on 16 August, there is a grave possibility that we may not be able to carry them out. I make that observation after considerable research into the vexed question of Commonwealth-States financial dealings in connection with Income Tax Reimbursement, Special Grants

and Loan Council deliberations. One of the most remarkable features of Commonwealth-States financial relationship since the introduction of uniform taxation in 1942 has been the consistent criticism of the Federal Government's niggardly grants, particularly in recent years.

The first criticism I desire to quote was made six years ago by the present Premier, then the Treasurer, in presenting his first Budget to this House. This criticism has equal emphasis today. He said—

“Before doing so, however, I deem it essential to make reference to the unsatisfactory position that exists in regard to Commonwealth and State financial relations. As you are aware uniform taxation whereby the Commonwealth is the sole authority for imposing taxation on incomes has operated since 1942. Following the close of the war the regular annual conferences between the Commonwealth and States have to a large extent been concerned with the rights of the States to a just proportion of the proceeds without permanent solution becoming any nearer. The matter has become more difficult because of the economic inflation which is gripping the Commonwealth.”

Those remarks were made by the Premier, as Treasurer, in presenting his Budget to this House six years ago. Later I shall quote the remarks of the Treasurer two years ago and from a broadcast by the Premier about two weeks ago. The Treasurer expressed his feelings about the Premiers' conference and the loan council. But I return to the Premier's remarks of six years ago—

“A solution, however, would be nearer at hand were there a disposition by the Commonwealth to recognise the necessary part in our Federation that the States are required to play and their increasing financial burdens.

“The States carry on activities generally much nearer to the lives of the people than those of the Central Government. Among these are public health and the provision of public hospital services, the preservation of law and order, maintenance of public institutions, education and the administration of justice, to mention only a few but important functions of State administration.”

“In times of rising costs, the States must seek increased revenues, but the attitude of the Commonwealth, particularly at the most recent conference, has been to mostly retain buoyant revenues and allow the States from time to time what is an inadequate increase in the grant to offset increasing expenditure.”

Later I shall quote figures to show that the position has become worse despite increased and buoyant Commonwealth revenue. The Premier went on to say—

He said also—

“For the benefit of hon. members, it might be opportune, at this stage, to review the history and operations of the Uniform Taxation Scheme.

“Under this Scheme, which operated from 1 July, 1942, the States were paid Grants by the Commonwealth on condition that they refrained from imposing taxes on incomes. The original Reimbursement Grants were based on the average receipts from Income Tax by the several States for the years 1939-1940 and 1940-1941. In accordance with this formula the aggregate Grant payable to the States was £34,254,787, of which Queensland received £5,821,000, or 17 per cent. of the total.”

On the latest figures the percentage has drifted to 16.3 per cent. and this year's allocation shows a further drop to 15.7 per cent. He further said—

“Grants at this rate were paid to the States during the financial years 1942-1943 to 1945-1946, inclusive.

“In 1946 an effort was made by the State Premiers to secure the abandonment of the Uniform Taxation Scheme, but it was clearly indicated that the Commonwealth did not intend to relinquish its hold on income taxation.

“The State Premiers, however, succeeded in securing the approval of an amended plan which was designed to provide for increased Reimbursement Grants in 1946-1947 and each year thereafter for an indefinite period.”

“The amount due to the States for 1950-1951, in accordance with the formula, is £70,300,000, Queensland's allocation being £11,463,000.”

“At the recent conference pressure was exerted by the Premiers to obtain a substantial increase over this amount. However, the Prime Minister would not agree to an additional sum greater than £5,000,000. Therefore the aggregate Grant this year will be £75,300,000, of which Queensland will receive £12,277,500 or 16.3 per cent. of the total.”

This is the final statement and I emphasise it as it is applicable to the present-day situation—

“These frequent changes are evidence of the failure of the present scheme to provide for rapidly changing conditions. The formula, under which the distribution of tax revenue to the States is made is sound in principle, but it was never designed for present economic difficulties.”

Three years later the present Treasurer made this pertinent comment on his Estimates—

“It has been the practice for some years past, in presenting the Financial Statement, to include some comments on the important subject of the financial relationships between the Commonwealth and the States. Hon. members have thus been kept fully informed as to the extent to which the financial position of the States is dependent on the policy of the Commonwealth Government.”

I have made those quotations because later I shall give the reason why the Commonwealth Government are using the power of money to impose their political policies on States democratically elected with different policies. The Treasurer went on to say—

“As stated on previous occasions, the failure to return to the States the right to tax incomes and the dominating power of the Commonwealth at meetings of the Loan Council enables that Government to influence State policy to a large degree by the amount of money made available to the States.”

During the years since Federation, there is ample evidence to confirm the opinion that this portion of the continent has suffered in comparison with the more influential and densely populated areas. The misgivings of members of this Government concerning their financial dependence on the Commonwealth Government are therefore not without foundation.

Under its present financial limitations the Government is unable to plan fully ahead but is compelled to recast its programme of works each year after the amount of money which the State will receive during the ensuing year from loan sources and income tax reimbursement has been determined.”

Two years ago those words were spoken but exactly the same position obtains today according to the statement of the Premier which I shall quote later and we will have £3,000,000 less to spend in this State this year than last year. My point is that because of the Commonwealth's policy of manipulating finance, Queensland could easily suffer unemployment because the Queensland Government would not be able to put their policy into effect.

The Treasurer's statement of two years ago concludes—

“The frustration caused by the necessity to curtail a programme of essential needs limited to the amount of money made available by an authority that apparently does not regard our projects with the same enthusiasm as it does its own, must be apparent. Fortunately, however, the full impact of such limitation of money in recent years has not yet been fully felt, because the State Government have used funds from other sources to augment funds supplied by the Commonwealth. Any Government bereft of their taxing powers and virtually dependent for finance on another authority must suffer in their desire to give a full service to their people. Without the power to determine their main source of revenue the Government are unable to adequately finance their activities, and they are embarrassed by the decisions of the Commonwealth on finance. This abrogation of the State's financial independence could easily lead to the slow strangulation of the States.

“Hon. members do not need to be reminded that the taking over of taxing powers by the Commonwealth from the States has generally resulted in an inequitable proportion of such revenue being retained by the Commonwealth to the detriment of the States.”

To bring the matter up to date, I quote the Premier's view on the recently-concluded Premiers' Conference and Loan Council meeting, which was characterised mainly by the utter futility of trying to impress upon the Federal authorities Queensland's rapidly expanding needs, and by the fatuity of the Acting Prime Minister in referring to the various State Premiers as Mrs. Kelly's sons, the while forgetting that a more appropriate appellation could have been to himself, a Shylock in his dealings with the States.

This is what the Premier of Queensland had to say in his recent statement—

“If any proof were needed of the deterioration of Commonwealth-States financial relations and the extent to which a grasping Federal Government by its control of the purse is undermining State sovereignty and slowing down to a standstill the development of Australia, it was furnished by the proceedings at the recent Premiers' Conference and Loan Council in Canberra.

“These gatherings maintain the illusion of a deliberate assembly in the co-operative spirit of the ideal to which the makers of Federation aspired, but they have lost any real semblance to such a body.

“The States put their case for their financial requirements, based on their works programmes and the administrative needs of their developing services, but for all practical purposes, for all the effect their logical arguments have on the Federal Treasurer and his cohort of financial advisers, they are so much wasted effort.

The Commonwealth already has determined, before the discussions begin, approximately how much money by way of loan allocations and tax reimbursements the States are going to get, and the arbitrary decision has no relation whatsoever to the realistic needs of the continually expanding economics of the States.

“We have reached the position where the increasing commitments and responsibilities of the States—and this particularly applies to Queensland with its vast industrial potential—have to be truncated to fit the progressively contracting strait jacket imposed by Canberra's financial overlords.”

The Premier then proceeded to quote one of Sydney's leading business men, Mr. H. M. Macken, chairman and managing director of Mark Foy Ltd., who, he said, told the blunt truth when he asserted that the economic witch doctors of Canberra pointed the bone every time prosperity showed up.

The Premier went on to say—

“These economic witch doctors are, of course, the team of economists that sits behind the Federal Government and tells

it what to do. They provide the reason why bank credit is dwindling to zero point, why imports have been slashed to a trickle, why the policy of dearer money has been enforced, and why there is a steadily growing pool of unemployment throughout Australia.

“It is a sad commentary on our national Government that in these years, so bright with developmental promise for Australia, Queensland and its sister States are hamstrung by the arbitrary control the Commonwealth exercises over the purse strings—over money provided by the taxpayers of the several States, without which there would be no Commonwealth.

“Today, at a time when development should be booming, every State of the Commonwealth has ended the financial year with a deficit. This year, Queensland, for the first time since 1947-1948, and for the second time only since 1937, has been forced by circumstances over which it has no control, to join the ranks of the other States, all of whom incurred heavy deficits.”

The Premier went on to say “that the upshot of the discussions at Canberra was that Queensland would get £27,400,000 in tax reimbursements—£1,100,000 less than was asked for—and £22,000,000 for loan works and housing. The figure of £22,000,000 is about the same as last year, but, because of a 10 per cent. rise in costs, it is about £2,000,000 less in real value.”

I emphasise the next part because of its great importance to our future welfare. “In past years we have used reserve funds to bridge the gap between our funds and the money made available, but, because those reserves are not inexhaustible, we will not be able to supplement our works programme to the same extent as last year. Present indications point to a deficiency of at least £3,000,000, which means that the works programme we had envisaged to keep Queensland's development at its present volume and tempo will have to be trimmed proportionately.”

We have been criticised in previous sessions for our correct method of financial budgeting. The Treasurer has pointed out that frequently local authorities have not been able to spend their full allocation because of a shortage of man-power. The same thing happenend with the Government in previous years and money was set aside in funds such as the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Trust Fund. I doubt if it is generally known that the Federal Government now have over £200,000,000 buried away in trust funds, some of them deliberately created in recent years for the express purpose of denying the States their just rights by way of special grants. I should imagine that in some circles the Federal Government's snide method of doing that would be described as not being on the level. In other circles people would be

rude and crude enough to say that the Federal Government cheat the State Governments out of the revenue that they are entitled to. I do not use that term lightly because I intend to show how the Commonwealth Government are evading the Constitution. I was hoping the member for Coorparoo would be present because he said, in his speech on the last Budget, that the Federal Government's method of financing was both illogical and stupid. As an accountant he knew just how much money was being buried in trust funds for the purpose I have indicated and he knew that, under the Constitution, that money should have been made available to the States. Under Section 89 and 94 of the Australian Constitution, surplus revenue of the Commonwealth is to be paid to the States. Section 94 reads—

“After five years from the imposition of uniform duties of customs, the Parliament may provide, on such basis as it deems fair, for the monthly payment to the several States of all surplus revenue of the Commonwealth.”

In the case of *New South Wales v. the Commonwealth*, 1908, it was held by the High Court that money appropriated by the Parliament for a specific purpose, even though not actually disbursed, cannot form part of surplus revenue until the actual disbursement of it is no longer lawful or no longer thought necessary by the Government.

As I proceed, the smart legal mind of the world-travelling pseudo-statesman, Mr. Menzies, will become apparent. He was instrumental in bringing down a “Little Budget,” which partially wrecks the economy of the nation. Then he embarked on a world tour for what he termed “personal contact” though most people believe he went looking for some place to which he may gracefully retire, leaving his Cabinet in Canberra to carry the baby.

The practice that has grown up is to place surplus revenue in trust funds and this money is thus appropriated but not disbursed. That is how the Federal Government beat the States. In this way the High Court's interpretation of Section 94 is technically observed. This long-standing practice is nothing more than a method of circumventing the spirit and even the letter of the Constitution. It becomes more indefensible since the Federal Government became the sole collector of revenue from direct taxation, giving it virtually complete command of the bulk of the revenue raised in Australia. With acknowledged constitutional power to impose direct taxation, with priority in that field, and relying on a technical interpretation of a section of the Constitution, there is no impediment to the limits which taxation might reach. The Commonwealth is thus placed in a position of complete taxation tyranny and the position of the States, as mendicants at the rich man's table, becomes increasingly intolerable.

I quote the latest figures from Trust Funds. During the year 1953-1954 the Commonwealth, faced with a Budget surplus much greater than was expected, created the “Defence Equipment and Supplies” Trust Account of £12,000,000. This Trust Account was not drawn against during that year and at 30 June, 1954, it was still £12,000,000 in credit. By 30 June, 1955, another £8,000,000 had been put into the fund, and with no expenditure this brought it to £20,000,000.

Faced with the dilemma of obvious over-taxation and the compulsions of the Constitution to pay any surplus to the States, the Federal Government in the present Budget created a further trust account. This time they called it the “Loan Consolidation and Investment Reserve Account.” It could have been called anything. Its purpose was to hide £48,875,000. The Federal Budget speech indicated that the purpose of the account would be defined in legislation to be introduced later. This means that there are £48,875,000 in that account and £20,000,000 in another fund, all for the special purpose of denying it to the States.

Some of the fund, on the Federal Treasurer's own statement, will be used to invest in loans. This has been a sore point not only with members of this Government but also with the hon. member for Coorparoo. Last year he indicated in his speech on the Financial Statement that he did not approve of this type of business management in Canberra. The fund will be used to invest in loans from which the Commonwealth as an investor, will derive interest, and the States as borrowers, will pay interest. Ultimately what will happen will be that a great portion of the fund will be made available to the States by way of loan on which interest will be paid, whereas if the spirit of the Constitution were followed it would be made available to them as of right and therefore without interest or other charge. Such considerations indicate that the time has certainly come when the whole of the Commonwealth-State financial relations must be reviewed so that the responsibilities of the sovereign States under the Constitution can be discharged with efficiency and dignity.

I now quote the latest figures from Trust Funds. In the year 1954-1955 the credit in the Debt Redemption Reserve Fund was £56,270,964. There was no expenditure. The sum of £70,150,925 was put in during 1955-1956 to make a carry-forward balance of £126,421,889. In the Defence Equipment and Supplies Fund another £8,000,000 was added to the £12,000,000 making a total of £20,000,000. In the Strategic Stores and Equipment Reserve Fund the receipts for 1952-1953 in round figures were £10,000,000 which, added to the £57,000,000 for 1951-1952, makes a total of £67,000,000. Only £19,000,000 was spent from these accumulated funds leaving a balance carried forward of a little over £48,000,000. There is also a fund called the

Korean Operations Pool Fund. In 1953-1954 there was an expenditure of £13,160,000, the receipts were £23,160,000 and a £10,000,000 balance has been brought forward. The expenditure for 1953-1954 was £13,000,000, for 1954-1955 £18,000,000, and for 1955-1956 £4,000,000. The balance carried forward is £10,000,000. The total in round figures in these funds to which the Commonwealth has no legal right under the Constitution, is £205,600,000. I also point out that in addition to this, £104,000,000 was budgeted for out of revenue for capital expenditure but only a fraction of that amount could be expended. The Federal Treasurer says it is their intention to build aerodromes and invest in airways to the extent of over £5,000,000. The construction of merchant ships will cost £3,000,000. The sum of £30,000,000 is to be spent on War Service Homes. The Snowy Mountain Hydro-Electric Authority is to spend £14,600,000. The expenditure to date is £59,000,000. The Commonwealth Railways are to spend £3,000,000 this year and there is to be a capital expenditure on new post offices and telephone installations amounting to £30,000,000. Those are the things on which the Federal Treasurer suggests he will spend the £104,000,000.

**Mr. COLLINS:** And £30,000,000 on War Service Homes.

**Mr. MOORES:** The evasion of State rights is bad enough, but having the money power, the worst feature is that they are attempting to force their political policy on the States. We had an example in the attempt by the Commonwealth Government to impose their hospital health-benefits scheme on the Queensland Government. The Federal authorities went to the extreme of withdrawing the payment of 8s. per day per bed. It is an outstanding example of an attempt to impose their political policy on another Government. Just recently the Federal Government imposed their ideas in regard to the housing policy to be carried out by the States. They made a re-allocation of moneys and provided for the allotment of 20 per cent. to co-operative building societies for the first two years and 30 per cent. for the remaining three years. The building societies will perhaps take 6 to 12 months to commence but in the meantime the Queensland Housing Commission and similar bodies in other States are to be denied their normal allocation of money.

No-one can deny that we need money in Queensland as we have used it over the years to give the greatest percentage of home ownership in the Commonwealth.

There is a more serious threat in the implied suggestion by the Federal Treasurer in recent months that, if the States do not conform to the Federal Government's wage-pegging policy and continue to operate under the quarterly cost-of-living adjustment, there will be no further special grants to make up

the extra cost. If that is not blackmail, I do not know the meaning of the word. What has actually developed at Canberra can perhaps best be described as a dictatorship through money power. It might well be asked, "What is the remedy?" Perhaps the conference on 16 August will find a solution. It has been suggested in some quarters that, if the Federal Government do not change their attitude, it will be as abortive as Premiers' conferences and Loan Council meetings of recent years.

The continual complaint about the paucity of money by way of grants and loan allocations does not help us achieve our goal in Queensland, which is, development, expansion, higher standards of living, and full employment. That is the job we were elected to do, as was pointed out in the opening paragraph of His Excellency's Speech. We have undertaken to give attention to and make decisions pertaining to the welfare of the State.

To remedy what is virtually now an impossible situation I suggest—

(1) The return of taxing powers to the States; this proposal has been put forward by the Premier in recent years, but the Commonwealth Government are loth to relinquish their powers. It does not seem possible to achieve that purpose.

(2) Allocation or loaning to the States for emergency purposes such as housing surplus Federal revenues free of or at a nominal rate of interest;

(3) Temporary suspension of the Commonwealth Loan Council Agreement to enable the States to raise their own loan requirements, or provision for application to the Loan Council for permission to raise overseas loans;

that may not be possible, because I understand from my reading of the Agreement that there has to be unanimous approval of the raising of overseas loans, and approval of the terms.

If these methods fail, I suggest—

(4) A re-examination and recasting of the Tax Reimbursement Grants formula to provide equitable distribution of surplus Federal funds, applied more realistically to existing economic conditions.

Without some change in the present financial set-up we cannot hope to achieve Labour's policy, briefly stated, to provide the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people in what is potentially the greatest State of the Commonwealth.

**Government Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. ADAIR (Cook)** (3.49 p.m.): I have very much pleasure in seconding the motion so ably and eloquently moved by the hon. member for Kurilpa.

He is a worthy representative of his electorate and I forecast a great future for him in this Parliament.

I acknowledge the compliment conferred on me and the electorate of Cook in being chosen to second this motion.

I associate myself with the remarks of the hon. member for Kurilpa and I join with him in complimenting His Excellency the Governor on his concise and informative speech. The people of Queensland, especially those in the remote parts of the State, appreciate His Excellency's active interest in their affairs.

I extend to you, Mr. Speaker, my sincere congratulations on your re-election to the high and important office that you occupy. You have earned your re-election by the manner in which you have carried out your duties. You are held in respect by hon. members on both sides of the Chamber.

This is a fitting occasion on which to congratulate the Premier on his leadership resulting in the excellent vote accorded the Labour Party at the recent State elections. We have only to cast our eyes over the Opposition benches to realise that the people of the State knew whom they wished to represent them in this Parliament. The electors clearly indicated at the polling booths on 19 May last their confidence in the Premier and his Government. As I represent one of the Far Northern electorates, I compliment the Premier on the way in which he travelled the North. He is a true North Queensland and on every possible occasion he visits us and meets the people of the outback parts of the State. I congratulate him on his efforts in this direction because I know that he can ill afford the time to visit the outback. He has been of great help to hon. members representing Far Northern electorates.

I also convey my best wishes to the Deputy Premier and other members of Cabinet on their return to office. The State will continue to progress and develop under their guidance. I also take the opportunity of expressing my gratitude to the Premier and his Cabinet on the results of my representations on behalf of the electors of Cook. Much progress and development has come about in the electorate since I have had the honour to represent it.

**Mr. Byrne:** And you are a good representative too.

**Mr. ADAIR:** I thank the hon. member. I trust that as a result of my further representations the area will progress and develop further.

The Speech by His Excellency the Governor clearly shows the progress in the Far Northern parts of the State. We repeatedly hear remarks from the Opposition, particularly at election time, about the alleged neglect of the North. Nobody knows better than I that the North has not been neglected. I was born and bred in that part of the State, my mother and father were born there also, and I know full well that the Far North has not been neglected. We will always be well treated whilst we have a Labour Government in power.

Mention was also made in the Speech of the Burdekin irrigation scheme and the expected production from it. We all know what the Burdekin River scheme is doing for the people there. A vast tract of country has been opened up. It will be irrigated and the settlers will be able to make good use of the land. Mention was made of the Mareeba-Dimbulah scheme and the Tinaroo Falls dam scheme, a mighty undertaking to irrigate 1,700 farms. In addition to irrigating farms, it will bring into production land that otherwise could never have been productive. I sincerely congratulate the Minister and the Government on this vast project.

The Tully Falls hydro-electric scheme will also be of great value to North Queensland. When it is functioning fully it will supply electric power from Mt. Garnet to the Tableland and down to Townsville. That does not indicate any neglect of North Queensland, which hon. members opposite would have us believe exists.

In Cairns, too, there is one of the most modern railway stations in the Commonwealth. In addition, Sunlander trains run to Cairns from Brisbane five days a week. The Governor referred also to the construction of new nurses' quarters in Cairns, which I am informed will cost £250,000. That is a further indication of progress in the Cairns area. Reference was made also to the establishment of a fruit-canning factory in North Queensland. I hope that the factory will be built in Cairns, which can supply all the requirements. Last year 45,000 cases of pineapples were produced between the Daintree and Burdekin Rivers, pineapples of a much better quality than those produced in South Queensland. I have been informed that peeling machines are being forwarded to Cairns for use in the processing of the summer crop of pineapples, and I sincerely hope that in the very near future a fruit-canning factory will be established in Cairns.

Although last season's sugar crop was not as good as that of the previous season, which was a record, we must bear in mind always that the sugar industry provides employment for thousands of workers in North Queensland.

**Mr. Pizzey:** Do you support the new rail freights?

**Mr. ADAIR:** I support everything the Government do.

There was a cyclone in the Far North earlier in the year, from which sugar farmers in the Mossman and Babinda areas in particular suffered very severely. The cyclone caused a good deal of damage to the Pinda variety of cane. However, the density of the cane is quite good and an excellent crop will be harvested this season. Several farmers in my area who have accounts with the Commonwealth Bank have approached the manager at Cairns for overdrafts to meet the cost of the damage caused by the cyclone, but in every case their request has been

refused. However, I have made representations to the Agricultural Bank for relief on behalf of many farmers. I can assure hon. members that the Agricultural Bank is doing an excellent job for the farmers.

**Mr. Walsh:** You mean the Agricultural Bank in Queensland?

**Mr. ADAIR:** Oh yes. We read in the Governor's Speech, too, that Queensland's mineral production in 1955 was £31,302,000, an increase of nearly £4,500,000 over the previous year. The discovery of large new ore bodies both in the copper and in the silver lead and zinc zones of the Mt. Isa mine has assured that mine of a very long life which will bring greater progress and prosperity to the district than ever before. This tremendous project, coupled with the Mary Kathleen uranium deposit, has given mining a new lease of life in Queensland.

**Mr. Sparkes:** Did Norm Smith write this for you?

**Mr. ADAIR:** He has no need to write it for me because I know the mining industry. Three years ago, when I entered the House, I foresaw that we had in the Far North, not only at Mt. Isa and the Mary Kathleen—but also at Herberton and Irvinebank, perhaps the best mining prospects in the world. We have proved over the years that mining can be developed there and it will be. I suggest that the best way for the Government to help the mining industry in the Far North, at Irvinebank, Herberton, Chillagoe, Wolfram Camp, Petford, and Einasleigh would be to put a diamond drill in the area. I worked in mines down to 500 feet and I know quite well that the miners who worked there in the early days dumped stone and everything down the mine when they reached a low output.

**Mr. Walsh:** You have done a lot of prospecting there yourself.

**Mr. ADAIR:** My word I have! With the revenue from royalties from Mt. Isa, Mt. Morgan, and the other big mines, the Government could provide a diamond drill to prove all the old mines and thus show the miners where the deposits are without the need for cleaning out or de-watering. That is the very best help the Government could give them and with that help they could carry on successfully.

I have a letter from the Melbourne firm of Kensington (Aust.) Pty. Ltd., which buys molybdenite in Australia. It reads—

“During the past twelve months the above Company has investigated and proved many markets in Australia for molybdenite and its various compounds. Many tons of these compounds are required for local consumption. This material is being imported, at present, either directly or indirectly from the U.S.A.

“Your Department will be well aware of the existence of certain unique deposits of molybdenite in Australia, particularly in the Wolfram Camp area and surrounding districts of North Queensland.

“After several visits to this area, the Directors of this Company are thoroughly convinced that the entire molybdenite requirements of this country can be produced locally. This statement is backed up by examining the production records of molybdenite from North Queensland during the World War I period when considerably more than half of the world consumption was mined in the Wolfram Camp area.”

I know that is true. I was born in Wolfram Camp. One year they produced over 400 tons of molybdenite. The lode bodies are still there and it is only a matter of someone's going there to develop the mines and the area will be producing again. The letter continues—

“We are reliably informed that this area was never worked out, but due to a tremendous slump in 1920 the whole area was abandoned. This is verified by our own visual examination of several of the mines. We are led to believe that some time after 1920 a certain company in the U.S.A. started to mine this material and slowly gained a monopoly on the world's markets. This nullified any serious endeavour by the local miners to reopen the molybdenite mines at Wolfram Camp.

By the time that molybdenite prices had returned to an economical level, industry in this country had been importing satisfactorily for many years from the U.S.A., etc.”

That is quite right. My father was a buyer of ores in the Wolfram Camp area but when the slump came the men would not produce molybdenite or wolfram because it was not worth while. Further—

“This position was further aggravated by the lack of any suitable treatment plant for molybdenite and also wolfram in the Wolfram Camp area.”

They propose to build a plant there if the Government will allow them. I shall make representations to the hon. member for Tablelands to see what can be done.

I read in “The Courier-Mail” about hopes of bauxite being found in the Peninsula. I knew about this a month ago but I understood that nothing would be published until I spoke here this afternoon. However, the news has been published and I confirm it. Bauxite is being mined on the west coast of the Peninsula at Albatross Bay and we have great hopes that this new mining venture will turn out successfully. If it does it will mean the opening up of a new area which will make a big difference to the Peninsula. The company handling the project is known as Enterprise Exploration Pty. Ltd.

The Cook electorate is one of the largest in Queensland and probably one of the most important. Cairns is the Queen City of the North for tourists and we have more to offer than any other city in Queensland or probably the Commonwealth.

Anyone who has visited Cairns is aware of the scenic attractions there. The Ather-ton Tableland is beautiful and the trip to Lakes Eacham and Barrine is well worth-while, as is also the trip from Mossman to Port Douglas. I believe that the scenic beauty of Cairns and district is better than that to be found anywhere else in this State and probably in Australia. The trip to Green Island is very charming. My electorate comprises only 60,000 square miles, extending from Cairns to the top of Cape York Peninsula and Thursday Island, but if the waters of Thursday Island and the surrounding islands such as Murray Island and St. Paul's Island were included it would be the largest electorate in the State. All those islands are inhabited. This is the only State that produces mother-of-pearl shell.

I wish to express my appreciation for the consideration shown by the various Government departments to my requests on behalf of my electorate. I have had absolute satisfaction in my dealings with all departments. I have had the greatest assistance from the Secretary for Health and Home Affairs.

Our free hospitalisation scheme is highly appreciated by the people in my area. If a person at Thursday Island is in need of specialist treatment arrangements are made for his transport by air to Brisbane. The people of New South Wales or Victoria do not receive such generous treatment. The hon. member for Cairns, the hon. member for Carpentaria and other hon. members representing Northern constituencies realise to the fullest extent what a wonderful service free hospitalisation is to the people.

**Government Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. ADAIR:** The people of the out-back would have returned us for that reason alone. The Department of Public Instruction is also doing an excellent job. While travelling to Brisbane by train recently I noticed at various townships with small schools that probably housed 20 or 30 pupils that the best home in the town was the teacher's residence. No matter where you go in the country the teacher's residence is always the best in the area. There are 37 schools in my electorate and not one has been denied anything for its efficient work. The same can be said of every other department. I concede that the housing position in Queensland at the present time could be better, but I know that in time the requirements of the people will be met.

**Mr. Walsh:** I am sure hon. members would be interested in the fact that you have a son up there, a doctor, who is doing a very good job.

**Mr. ADAIR:** That is so. He relieved at Thursday Island for five months, although he originally went there for only three months. He did a good job in that area.

One has to use a plane or boat to travel from one end of the Cook electorate to the other. The A.N.A. D.C.3 takes off at 6 o'clock in the morning and lands at Heron Island at half-past eleven. There are three stops on the way, Cooktown, Iron Range and Coen. A launch has to be used to go to Thursday Island. It takes two days by launch to go to Darnley Island, and to get to the west coast of the Peninsula and back takes up to a week. The elected representative for the Cook electorate has a full-time job, and on the vote I obtained at the last election I feel sure that the people in those places are well satisfied with my efforts.

The aerial ambulance under the control of Superintendent Briggs has its headquarters at Cairns. The service is essential in view of the vast areas that have to be covered. The Carpentaria electorate and the Gulf country, as well as the Cook electorate, are within range of the aerial ambulance, and it is doing an excellent job.

Apart from three places with telephonic communication, Cooktown, Coen and Laura, communication in these areas is by pedal wireless. The messages are transmitted through the aerial ambulance station in Cairns.

The Bush Pilot Service also functions in this area. It is run by Mr. Bob Norman. The graziers in the electorates of Cook, Tablelands and Carpentaria appreciate the efforts of this organisation. Mail is transported by the Bush Pilot Service to station owners from Cairns to the Gulf and the Peninsula. Hon. members can appreciate how difficult living conditions would be for people in these parts if these amenities were not available.

The Cook Shire is one of the largest in the Commonwealth. It has an area of 50,000 square miles and a white population of approximately 600. It extends from a little north of the Daintree River to the top of the Peninsula. The revenue from this area is approximately £16,000. Because of its small revenue it is essential for the Government to build main roads throughout the area. Last year they spent thousands of pounds in constructing roads from Cooktown through to Coen, Wenlock, Portland Roads, and Iron Range. At present one can travel over graded roads right to Wenlock.

**Mr. Walsh:** Where the Commonwealth Government closed the 'drome.

**Mr. ADAIR:** Yes, they closed the Higgins Field aerodrome which the Americans built. It had 35 bays and it had a bitumen surface. That 'drome is going to waste

now. The telephone line from Coen to Wenlock was ripped down, thus stopping communication in the area. The Commonwealth Government are not out to help the people in the outback.

With two or three exceptions, virtually all members of the Opposition represent metropolitan electorates; they are not interested in the people of the outback. The hon. member for Mirani may be considered a metropolitan representative. It is a shame to see how hon. members of the Opposition support the Commonwealth Government in their treatment of the people up there.

**Mr. Nicholson:** Cairns is a country area?

**Mr. ADAIR:** I represent more than Cairns. Let the hon. member come up with me some time and see the vast area I actually represent. I am interested in the construction of a road from the Daintree River through to China Camp, Bloomfield and on to Cooktown, which will cut nearly 100 miles off the Mulligan Highway. If this road is constructed it will bring the people of Cooktown within four hours travel of Cairns. It will open up a vast area of good fertile country, well timbered, country that is crying out for settlement. What is more, one can travel from Cooktown for 60 miles or so to McIver River and see some of the finest red-soil country to be seen in Queensland. I am at a loss to understand why this country has not been taken up. It is to be regretted that it is not possible to have a sugar mill in the district. When one travels by train from Cairns to Brisbane one can see the country growing cane, particularly in the Mackay area and further North. Ti-tree country is growing excellent cane. Whilst it is generally considered unsuitable for cane-growing, varieties suitable for ti-tree country are being grown. If sugar-cane was grown in the Cooktown area, that part of the State would become prosperous overnight. I hope that within a few years there will not be a surplus of sugar in this country and that sugar-cane can be grown extensively in the Cooktown area. The establishment of a sugar mill is the only way in which land there can be opened up, and it would increase the value of the land from £2 to £50 an acre.

Before concluding, I should like to say something about the "Wewak," which is used for the sea transport of cattle along the coast of the Peninsula. It was the Queensland Labour Government who guaranteed the cost of the diesel engines for the "Wewak," and in addition subsidised the owners to the extent of £10,000 the first year and £8,500 the second year so that the service could continue to operate. Requests for financial aid have been made to the Federal Government, but they have been refused. In addition to transporting cattle to the market in Cairns, the "Wewak" carries cargo from Cairns to various ports in the Peninsula, such

as Bloomfield, Cooktown, Marina Plains, Port Stewart, Portland Roads, Thursday Island, Horn Island, Red Island Point, Nassau Landing, Weipa Mission, Mornington Island, Normanton and Burketown. The "Wewak" also calls at other loading points. As it has only a shallow draft, it can pull in at virtually any point on the coast. The owners of the "Wewak" are doing an excellent job. They are not making anything out of the service at present, but possibly they will do better later on. The "Wewak" transports half the cattle that comes from the Peninsula, the other half being driven down overland. It takes from six to seven weeks to drove cattle from the Peninsula to the saleyards at Mareeba. That method costs about £1 10s. a head, and in addition each beast loses several pounds in weight. By way of contrast, sea transport takes only 36 hours.

(Time expired.)

Debate, on motion of Mr. Nicklin, adjourned.

MR. VIVIAN ROGERS CREIGHTON.

LEAVE TO BE HEARD AT BAR OF HOUSE.

**Hon. P. J. R. HILTON** (Carnarvon—Secretary for Public Lands and Irrigation), by leave, without notice: I move—

"1. That so much of the Standing Orders and Rules be suspended as would otherwise prevent this House from granting Vivian Rogers Creighton leave to appear in person or by his counsel at the Bar of the House and addressing the House in relation to the cause of his suspension from the Office of Chairman of the Land Administration Board.

"2. That Vivian Rogers Creighton be given leave to appear in person or by his counsel at the Bar of the House and to address the House, in relation to the cause of his suspension, after the motion for his removal from the Office of Chairman of the Land Administration Board has been proposed and seconded, and that the time allowed for such address shall not exceed the time allowed for speaking on that motion to the mover thereof, namely seventy minutes."

**Hon. H. H. COLLINS** (Tablelands—Secretary for Agriculture and Stock): I second the motion.

Motion agreed to.

#### SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

**Hon. V. C. GAIR** (South Brisbane—Premier): I move—

"That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 11 a.m. tomorrow."

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 4.34 p.m.