

Queensland



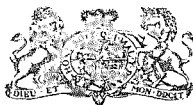
Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**TUESDAY, 11 JUNE 1957**

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# Queensland Parliamentary Debates.

## Legislative Assembly.

### SECOND SESSION OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT.

Appointed to meet

AT BRISBANE ON THE ELEVENTH DAY OF JUNE, IN THE SIXTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II., IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1957.

TUESDAY, 11 JUNE, 1957.

#### OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

Pursuant to the proclamation by His Excellency the Administrator, dated 14 May, 1957, appointing Parliament to meet this day for the dispatch of business, the House met at 12 o'clock noon in the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

The Clerk of the Parliament read the proclamation.

#### COMMISSION TO OPEN PARLIAMENT.

Mr. SPEAKER acquainted the House that His Excellency the Administrator, not being able conveniently to be present in person this day, had been pleased to cause a commission to be issued under the public seal of the State, appointing him and the Chairman of Committees, or either of them, Commissioners in order to the opening and holding of the present session of Parliament.

The Clerk of the Parliament read the commission.

Mr. SPEAKER, as the Senior Commissioner, said: Hon. members, we have it in Command from the Administrator of the Government of Queensland to communicate to you that Parliament has been summoned to meet this day to consider the granting of Supply to Her Majesty and such other matters as may be brought before you, that the customary Speech will not be delivered at the Opening of this, the Second Session of the Thirty-fourth Parliament of Queensland, and that nevertheless it is His Excellency's desire that you proceed forthwith to the consideration of the aforementioned business.

1957—B

#### 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:—

Gregory Brian Kehoe, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Nash;

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

Alfred James Smith, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Carpentaria;

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

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

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

##### CHANGES IN MINISTRY.

Hon. V. C. GAIR (South Brisbane—Premier) (12.6 p.m.): I desire to inform the House that on 7 May, 1957, His Excellency the Administrator of the Government accepted the resignation of the Hon. John Edmund Duggan as a member of the Executive Council of Queensland, and as Minister for Transport, both resignations to take effect as from 29 April, 1957.

On the same date, His Excellency appointed Thomas Moores, Esquire, to be a member of the Executive Council of Queensland and Minister for Transport.

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

Whereupon the hon. gentleman laid the Government Gazette Extraordinary upon the table.

## GOVERNMENT PARTY.

## WHIP AND SECRETARY.

**Hon. V. C. GAIR** (South Brisbane—Premier) (12.7 p.m.): I desire to inform the House that Vivian Joseph Northcote Cooper, Esquire, has been appointed Whip of the Government Party and Alexander James Skinner, Esquire, Secretary of that Party.

## LEADER OF AUSTRALIAN LABOUR PARTY.

**Mr. DUGGAN** (Toowoomba) (12.8 p.m.): I desire to inform the House that at a meeting of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Labour Party held on Tuesday, 30 April, 1957, I was elected Leader of that Party, the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt, Dr. Dittmer, was appointed Deputy Leader, the hon. member for Bremer, Mr. Donald, was appointed secretary of the Party, and the hon. member for Hinchinbrook, Mr. Jesson, was appointed Whip.

## LEADERSHIP OF OPPOSITION.

**Mr. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Leader of the Opposition) (12.9 p.m.): I rise to a point of order. The hon. member for Toowoomba has made a statement in regard to the Party that he represents. I think the House is entitled to know whether that statement means exactly what he said, or whether there is some implication claiming the leadership of the Opposition. I should also like to know, do you, as Speaker, intend to take any action that may involve the office of Leadership of the Opposition in this House?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Hon. members, in reply to the questions asked by the Leader of the Opposition, I should like to say to the hon. gentleman that as our Constitution Acts and the Standing Orders do not set out which member shall be recognised as the Leader of the Opposition we have to resort to the procedure of the House of Commons. I find that section 10 of the Ministers of the Crown Act, 1937 provides:—

“10. Leader of the Opposition means that member of the House of Commons who is for the time being the Leader in that House of the party in opposition to His Majesty's Government having the greatest numerical strength in that House;

“If any doubt arises as to which is or was at any material time the party in opposition to His Majesty's Government having the greatest numerical strength in the House of Commons, or as to who is or was at any material time the leader in that House of such a party, the question shall be decided for the purposes of this Act by the Speaker of the House of Commons, and his decision, certified in writing under his hand, shall be final and conclusive.”

Some doubt has arisen as to which party in opposition has the greatest numerical strength in this House. In view of the composition of the three parties, namely, the Liberal Party with eight members, the Country Party with 16 members and the Australian Labour Party with 24 members, I have decided that the Australian Labour Party is the party with the greatest numerical strength in opposition to Her Majesty's Government.

**Mr. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Leader of the Opposition) (12.11 a.m.): I am of the opinion that your ruling is a wrong one and cannot be substantiated. I ask the leave of the House to move a motion without notice.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Before I deal with the request of the Leader of the Opposition, let me state for the benefit of hon. members a Standing Order of this House.

**Mr. Aikens:** One you made up yourself.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! This is not a time to be facetious. We are dealing with serious business and I suggest that the hon. member might take a serious view of the matter and not engage in levity.

**Mr. Aikens:** You listen to me later on and see whether I am serious or not.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! Under Standing Order No. 333 the Chair is empowered to apply the rules of the House of Commons in such cases where our Standing Orders are silent. I have not given a ruling. I have applied Standing Order No. 333. That Standing Order says, and I quote it for the benefit of all members—

“In all cases not specially provided for by these Standing Rules and Orders or by Sessional or other Orders, resort shall be had to the Rules, Forms, and Usages of the Commons House of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland for the time being, which shall be followed and observed so far as the same can apply to the proceedings of the House.”

I have taken the opportunity to provide myself with a copy of the Public General Acts and Measures in regard to this matter. I shall read again for the benefit of all members what those Acts say—

“The Leader of the Opposition means that member of the House of Commons who is for the time being the leader in that House of the party in opposition to His Majesty's Government having the greatest numerical strength in that House.”

This House has no Standing Order to rely on in connection with the matter and where our Standing Orders are silent we resort to the rules, forms and usages of the House of Commons. That is what I am doing. I have resorted to usages of the House of Commons in conformity with our Standing Order No. 333. If this position had arisen in the House of Commons the decision of Mr. Speaker would have been binding and

final. If the hon. gentleman wishes to go outside the rules, forms and usages of the House of Commons and the Standing Orders of this House, it is for this House to decide. If the hon. gentleman wishes to move his motion I will receive a copy of it from him.

**Mr. WALSH:** I rise to a point of order. Did I understand you, Mr. Speaker, to say that you quoted from an Act of the House of Commons passed in 1937?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I quoted from the Public General Acts and Measures, 1936-37.

**Mr. Walsh:** I wanted to be sure that you quoted from an Act.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** From an Act.

**Mr. AIKENS:** I rise to a point of order. I do not question the correctness of anything you have read or anything you have said, but according to your interpretation of the situation as it presents itself to Parliament, it would appear that if we were to allow it you would be placing yourself above Parliament.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. AIKENS:** Which would be a negation of democracy. Parliament is always superior to the Speaker or any other officer of Parliament and, consequently, as a true democrat, I think this question should be resolved by Parliament and not by you individually.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I agree. I stated the rules, forms and usages of the House of Commons in England, from where we get our practices and privileges. It is open to the House to decide the point. I am not objecting to the hon. member's moving his motion.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** Then I have your permission to move a motion without notice?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That is for the House to decide.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the Leader of the Opposition be given leave to move a motion without notice?

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. NICKLIN:** I am taking this action for a number of reasons. At the outset I wish to say that you, Mr. Speaker, are taking unto yourself the right to decide the officers of this House.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member must not reflect on the Chair. I referred to the rules and usages of the House of Commons. The hon. member is at liberty to move his motion.

**Mr. Walsh:** You have ruled?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have given my opinion according to the usages and customs of the House of Commons. I have not taken it upon myself to make a final decision. That is a matter for the House.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** It is your opinion?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Yes.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** Then I disagree with your opinion. You are taking away from the House a right that is ours.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member will not charge the Chair with anything such as that. The House has given him the right to move a motion without notice. I have stated the case as it appears to me. I have said that if this position arose in the House of Commons the decision of the Speaker would be binding and final, but in this House it is not. I have given my opinion and it is for the hon. member to move to the contrary. I cannot tell the House what it should do.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** I do not intend to enter into an argument with you on this matter, Mr. Speaker. I shall move my motion and develop my arguments later.

I move—

“That this House resolves that the Country Party and the Liberal Party shall be recognised by this House as being, and as having been since the commencement of this Thirty-fourth Parliament, one united party for all Parliamentary purposes, and that the officers notified to this House on 1 August, 1956, as being the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the Opposition Whip, and the Opposition Secretary respectively, shall be recognised by this House as being, and as having been since the commencement of this Thirty-fourth Parliament, the officers duly and properly entitled to the aforesaid offices and any salary, emolument, privilege, or entitlement attendant thereon, and that this Resolution be and be deemed to be an Order of this House within the meaning of Standing Order 333 of the Standing Rules and Orders of this House to be effective (with such retrospective operation as may be necessary to give full effect to this Order) until such time as this House by further Resolution or Order shall otherwise determine.”

Under the ruling that you gave, Mr. Speaker, you adopted the attitude that this House at all times—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the hon. member that I have not adopted any attitude; I have merely quoted the usages and customs of the House of Commons.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** If it will suit you better, you have stated it. You said that if there is no specific Standing Order in this House, you refer to the practice in the House of Commons.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That is true.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** We do that in the case of rules, orders and usage, but not statute law passed by the House of Commons. I

maintain that the House has the right to determine its own business; but if your ruling were upheld, it would take away that right.

After all, the leadership of the Opposition and the offices of the Opposition are an important and integral part of Parliament. Admittedly, parliamentary records and works on parliamentary procedure, including May's Parliamentary Practice, contain little reference to the Leader of the Opposition as such. It is very hard to find precedents in such a matter as this. Indeed, there is no precedent to guide us in the position that has arisen in the House today. That being so, the matter should not be determined by any ruling from you, Mr. Speaker, but by the whole House.

You have already referred to the Ministers of the Crown Act, 1937. That provides, in Part III., section 10, that the term "Leader of the Opposition" shall be interpreted as follows:—

"That member of the House of Commons who is for the time being the Leader in that House of the party in opposition to His Majesty's Government having the greatest numerical strength in that House."

On present indications, the strengths of the respective parties in the House today will be found to be—

Queensland Labor Party (in other words, the Government) 25

Australian Labor Party . . . 24, including yourself. I do not know whether I am being fair in including you as a member of a political party in the House because, in the office that you hold, you are apart from parties; you are in the Chair to conduct the affairs of the House. Possibly, that will reduce the strength of the Australian Labor Party to 23.

The strength of the Country and Liberal Parties is 24 members, who sit as a united Parliamentary Party in the House, as they have done for the last three Parliaments. Nobody can dispute that.

**Honourable Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I ask hon. members to allow the Leader of the Opposition to make his speech without interruption.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** Only a comparatively short time ago—on 1 August, 1956—at the very first meeting of this Parliament, we were recognised by the House as the Opposition Party in the House.

The English Act of 1937, section 10, goes on in sub-section (3) to say—

"If any doubt arises as to which is or was at any material time the party in opposition to His Majesty's Government having the greatest numerical strength in the House of Commons, or as to who is or was at any material time the Leader in that House of such a Party, the question shall be decided for the purposes of this Act by the Speaker of the House of

Commons, and his decision, certified in writing under his hand, shall be final and conclusive."

If this were the House of Commons, there would be no doubt as to the action to be taken because you as Speaker would have the right to decide who should be recognised as the Leader of the Opposition and which Party should be recognised as the leading party in Opposition. Let me emphasise that that is a specific Act passed by the House of Commons. In other words it is statute law and in this Chamber we are not bound by statute law of Great Britain or any other country in the world. If there is any statute law dealing with the affairs of the Queensland Parliament it is a law passed by ourselves and not by any other Parliament. If we are going to come under any parliamentary powers other than our own Parliament we are falling down on our job as representatives of the people of this State. I emphasise that Queensland legislation carries no similar provision to the English legislation. However, there is a very significant reference to the leadership of the Opposition in Section 4 of the Constitution Act Amendment Act of 1896, as amended to 1953, which states—

"Provided that one member of the Legislative Assembly who for the time being is recognised as Leader of the Opposition shall . . ."

and it goes on to state what he shall be entitled to.

This House has already recognised the Leadership of the Opposition, the Deputy Leadership of the Opposition, and the officers of the Opposition. Where is the need and where is the justification at the present time to alter that recognition which was given unanimously by the House less than twelve months ago? I am going to argue our right to maintain our position as the official Opposition in the House. At the outset, I again stress the point I made a few moments ago, the unbroken co-operation over the years of the parties that sit behind me as the Opposition today. We have always met here as one party since 1950. Each week while the House has been in session we have met in a united party meeting when parliamentary decisions have been made to be executed in the House. Surely that is a demonstration that we are one united party for parliamentary purposes as stated in the resolution. Let me quote the official records of Parliament on 1 August 1956—

**"LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.**

Mr. Nicklin informed the House that the Opposition had elected the following officers:—Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Nicklin; Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Morris; Whip, Mr. Sparkes; and Secretary, Mr. L. H. S. Roberts."

In justification of the claim that we are a united party for parliamentary purposes let me point out that amongst those officers

there are members of the Country Party and members of the Liberal Party. Again that demonstrates that we are here as one parliamentary party for which we have received the recognition of the House.

This official entry, being unchallenged in the House, has, by implication, received the recognition of the House. That is important when reference to the Queensland statute shows that the Leader of the Opposition shall be a person recognised by the House as the Leader of the Opposition. May I further draw the attention of yourself, Mr. Speaker, and hon. members, to a further reference in the Journals of this House in regard to this matter? If you look back to the first day of the opening of the 1950 Parliament you will find a similar reference. This is important: in 1953 the Premier and myself were representing this State overseas at the Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen. As I had not returned in time for the opening of Parliament the hon. member for Coorparoo who was then Deputy Leader of the Opposition announced that the Opposition parties had elected myself as Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Coorparoo as Deputy Leader of the Opposition. He also announced the names of the other members of the Opposition Parties who had been elected to certain positions. The Parliamentary Officers of the Opposition are not elected by the Country Party, nor are they elected by the Liberal Party; they are elected by the two parties sitting together.

May I refer the House to the fact that on 1 May last the Opposition addressed a letter to the State Administrator requesting him to call Parliament together not later than 11 June, 1957, and that letter was signed by Mr. Morris as Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and myself as Leader of the Opposition. I submit that by our speaking as a combined Party in this House we have the greatest numerical strength of any Parliamentary Party with the exception of the Government Party. As I said before, I have not included you, Mr. Speaker, in the membership of the Australian Labour Party. If we want precedent for that not being done I am sure that you, Mr. Speaker, could refer us to many. These precedents show that the Speaker is one who is apart from party politics, and who acts impartially. As there is no legislative provision in the Queensland statutes analogous to the English Act of 1937, this House is in no way bound to conform to the English law. In other words, we are complete masters of our own business in this particular regard, and the matter before the House is something to be decided by ourselves.

I refer to Section 4 of the Constitution Act Amendment Act of 1896 which states that the Leader of the Opposition shall be a person recognised by the House. You, Mr. Speaker, did mention Standing Order No. 333, which reads as follows:—

“In all cases not specially provided for by these Standing Rules and Orders, or by Sessional or other Orders, resort shall be

had to the Rules, Forms, and Usages of the Commons House of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland for the time being, which shall be followed and observed so far as the same can apply to the proceedings of the House.”

Dealing with the precedents which you, Mr. Speaker, suggested we should be guided by, I submit that the 1937 Act of the British Parliament is not a Rule, Form or Usage of the House of Commons, but it is statute law of the House of Commons. I submit that Standing Order 333 does not make any reference whatsoever to statute law and, consequently, should not be taken into account in considering this question.

Because of that, and to determine the matter for all time, and to allow this House to determine it and not put the responsibility on you, as Speaker, or any other member, I suggest that the House should agree to my motion that it will make an Order of the House, and the matter of who is the Leader of the Opposition, who is the Deputy Leader, who is the Whip, and who is the Secretary, can be determined by that Order in the correct way, that is, by each and every member of this House having his say on this very important question.

I again emphasise that the House should not be allowed, by creating precedents, to do something in blind subservience to anything that may have happened in any other Parliament for which it will be sorry at some future date. I do not think that the case quoted by you, Mr. Speaker, is analogous. It is a matter for hon. members to decide, and it can be decided by voting on my motion.

**Mr. MORRIS** (Mt. Coot-tha) (12.37 p.m.): I second the motion. The Leader of the Opposition has established very soundly the fact that a decision of this nature must be made by this House, not by precedent. The House has given him permission to move the motion, and I am sure he will accept its decision.

He has dealt very thoroughly with all the circumstances and all the irrefutable evidence that exists to prove that we are a combined Parliamentary Party. I should like to give one illustration to support him in asking the House to consider us as one united Party for all Parliamentary purposes. I quote from the policy speech on behalf of our Party sitting on this side of the House.

**Mr. Burrows:** You will still be here next year.

**Mr. MORRIS:** I am accustomed to hear the irresponsible interjections that now come from my left. Usually I can just look at the hon. member and keep him quiet. I have not that privilege at the moment, but I have no doubt that we shall not be pestered by him much longer.

In the policy speech that was delivered on 28 April last year, I said—

“The Liberal-Country Party team is completely united under one Leader, and we support one Party.”

Could I produce any more complete evidence than those few words? I repeat them for the benefit of those who did not hear them—“... completely united under one Leader, and we support one Party.” That, of course, has been fully recognised for three Parliaments. It has been recognised by Parliament itself.

In view of the complete coverage that has been presented to this House, there should be no doubt where anybody stands on this matter.

**Mr. DUGGAN (Toowoomba) (12.40 p.m.):** I wish to oppose the motion. I think that you Mr. Speaker have, with crystal clarity, given the House a lead which should be followed. I do not for one moment question the right of this House to determine in its own way the procedure to be adopted in matters governing the conduct of the House, but I say that if by some arrangement between the Leader of the Opposition and the Government Party this motion is carried, it will proclaim to the world that this Parliament has in its hands the right to determine this question, but it shall also reveal nakedly and unashamedly that the voting strength of this alliance will be used to destroy the very thing that the Opposition Parties claim we are seeking to destroy in this State. Have we not been assailed throughout the length and breadth of Queensland that the Australian Labour Party is seeking to perpetuate in this country the dreadful conditions that prevail in Hungary and other places where Fascists and Communists have been responsible for the rape of those countries? I and those behind me repudiate such action with all the vehemence at our command.

On every occasion on which we have debated in this House matters upon which some interpretation is required there has been nobody more consistent and more vociferous than the Opposition in upholding the precedent of May. On every occasion members of that Party have come forward and said that we should model our conduct on the House of Commons. On this occasion the people who have been running round the country attacking us and saying that we are not prepared to carry out our oath of allegiance to Her Majesty and wish to destroy democracy are those who now want to turn their backs on the customs and usages of the House of Commons. That is an important point to make.

This Parliament should be supreme and I have no objection to this Parliament coming to a decision on the matter.

**Dr. Noble:** You take orders from Bukowski.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** One of the penalties that we in a democracy must pay is that we must accept those whom the people put up and confirm in various appointments. It surprises me that a man who has attained eminence in a particular profession should reveal abysmal ignorance when it comes to the determination of constitutional questions.

We do not want the hon. member for Yeronga or anybody outside this Parliament to tell us what we are to do. Our course is clear, we know where we are going, what to say and we know the course to follow. I say that the greatest disservice the hon. member for Yeronga and other hon. members on my right can do in this matter and the greatest disservice they can do to democracy, is to feed a vile thought. The commonsense of the people of Queensland will be demonstrated in a striking fashion when appealed to. They will not follow the specious pleadings of those people who put us in the role of being the villain in the piece. If it is logical for the hon. member to claim to be Leader of the Opposition because 12 months ago Parliament recognised him as such, he should argue also that because 12 months ago, by the same procedure, the House accepted the hon. member for South Brisbane as Premier, that hon. gentleman should be confirmed in his office for the life of this Parliament. No doubt later in the day or tomorrow, or at some other time, the Leader of the Opposition will marshal his forces to destroy the authority of the Premier. If he wants to be accepted as the Leader of the Opposition, how can he deny the right of the hon. member for South Brisbane to be accepted as Premier?

I heard the other day a ministerial broadcast by one of the hon. gentlemen on my left in which he spoke about Magna Charta. He said that we in Queensland owed our existence to the preservation of the principles contained in Magna Charta.

**An Opposition Member:** What is wrong with that?

**Mr. DUGGAN:** It is very fine, but the very people who are talking about Magna Charta and asking us to preserve its principles will attack principles contained in the statute law of the House of Commons.

**An Opposition Member:** You do not know how the vote will go.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I am stating my case now, because I shall not be able to speak twice on the motion.

**Mr. Sparkes:** You are used to being led by the nose.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** The hon. member for Aubigny should be the last to talk about being led by the nose. He is the greatest conspirator of all. He will be feeding us with stories about what we should do to the Queensland Labour Party, and at the same time feeding the Premier and urging him to take a strong stand on the Australian Labour Party. He is an arch-conspirator with a foot in each camp. The only reason he is not in more camps is that he has not more feet.

The Premier can confirm what I am now about to say. Twelve months ago the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha, as Leader of the Liberal Party in Queensland, applied to the

Premier for the provision of secretarial assistance because of his position. Some of us were not entirely unsympathetic to the application, with the reservation that there must be some limit to the number of people entitled to that form of help. We felt that eight was too few a number for a party to be accorded a measure of secretarial assistance.

As Leader of the Australian Labour Party I am not concerned with the emolument of £500 but, irrespective of the decision of the House on the motion—and I am not anticipating it in any way—I feel that the Premier himself would perhaps be the last to deny either Mr. Nicklin or me adequate secretarial aid to enable us to carry out our proper constitutional functions. If the motion was defeated, I would be the first to support the provision of secretarial assistance for the Leader of the Opposition. If we are to preserve our constitutional form of government, the leaders of the recognised political parties should be accorded adequate assistance. Whilst I may not have proclaimed it officially, we in this State—and indeed other States—have been rather niggardly in the measure of secretarial help given to the leaders of the recognised political parties. Of course, they must have a substantial following.

The Leader of the Opposition announced to Parliament 12 months ago that the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha was to be his deputy. They support each other when it suits them, but on other occasions they are diametrically opposed. That was instanced in the debate on the introduction of the 40-hour week. The Liberal Party supported it, whilst the Country Party was strongly opposed to it. I am concerned at the moment only with the question of unity. If it is suggested that the unity allegedly manifested in the Chamber today is being preserved right along the line, why is not Mr. Richter, the Leader of the Country Party, or Mr. Anderson, the leader of the Liberal Party, acknowledged as deputy leader of one or other of those parties?

They have their own separate and distinct political organisations. We know very well they each have their official secretariat and their own separate organisational facilities and it is just so much nonsense to suggest that they are together as a unified party with a unified policy to present. The only time they go to the people as a unified body is when they seek to misguide and mislead the people into giving them control of the Treasury benches.

Much as we regret the circumstances that have led to the need for the determination of this question, we will join, as vigorously as we can and with all the forces at our command, in fighting these people who are trying to secure from the House an expression of opinion that they should be preserved in opposition. On the hustings we will do all we can to ensure that those of them who are returned are returned as members of the

opposition. We will not then argue the point as to whether Mr. Nicklin should be the Leader of the Opposition; we shall be very happy to confirm him in the appointment.

I repeat that we have had adequate guidance from you, Mr. Speaker, in this matter. I am shocked at the attitude of those who have for so many years quoted the authority of May, the usages of the House of Commons, and so on. When Standing Orders are silent—and they admit that they are silent on this point—it is only logical that the Speaker should go beyond them in search of some authority. You have done that. What better authority could you get than the practice and usage of the House of Commons? Apart altogether from that, it has been recognised in every Parliament in Australia that the leader of the largest opposition group numerically should be accepted as Leader of the Opposition.

On those general premises, the Australian Labour Party bases its stand. I urge hon. members with all the emphasis at my command to reject the motion and uphold your ruling.

**Dr. DITTMER** (Mt. Gravatt) (12.53 p.m.): It is indeed unfortunate that, with so many visitors assembled in the galleries, we should have such an unseemly scramble to retain for an hon. member an office to which he is not entitled. I feel certain that the Government on my left will not support the present Opposition and the Leader of the Opposition because they will be aware of the damage it must do to parliamentary procedure and prestige.

Analysis of the motion will show the specific purpose underlying it. I feel sure it was put forward not to retain the Leader of the Opposition in office but as election propaganda. For many years they have sought to beguile the public into believing they are one united party, and in that they have been so eminently—

**Mr. Dewar:** Successful!

**Dr. DITTMER:** Unsuccessful! They have been so successful, as the hon. member for Chermiside interjects, that they have remained so very long continuously on the Opposition benches. You have gone to no end of trouble, Mr. Speaker, and you have exhibited the maximum of patience towards the speakers in favour of the retention of the leadership of the Opposition by the hon. member for Landsborough. The hon. members for Landsborough and Mt. Coot-tha are the very men who have claimed repeatedly in the past that we must uphold the prestige of Parliament. What does the present Leader of the Opposition say now? Immediately he rose to his feet he reflected on the Chair.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Dr. DITTMER:** The evidence is there. On the enunciation of his policy speech the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha said that they were acting as one united Party. Why do

they have separate Executives? Why do they have separate Leaders, Deputy Leaders, and Secretaries? It is interesting to recall that the hon. member for Landsborough said that their officers were elected at a joint meeting. There may have been a joint assembly but there was a definite determination of the basis on which the personnel would be appointed, because of the four officers elected three of them are Country Party representatives and one Liberal Party representative. The Country Party were determined that they should have their protection. They have three to one as their right. In the Press we repeatedly read that Mr. Nicklin is the Leader and Mr. Muller is the Deputy Leader of the Country Party, and Mr. Morris is the Leader and Mr. Munro the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party. Only recently they were trying to roast us and misrepresent our position as a Party in this House. They were talking about the right of direction by a body outside Parliament, the Queensland Central Executive. What about the right or authority of the Country Party Council to direct and expel as they did Mr. Leahy on 20 July, 1947? Now they come in here and try to mislead the people of Queensland through the Press that they are sitting as one united Party. Surely the people will not accept that! It has been pointed out by the Leader of the Australian Labour Party that on a vital issue affecting the social welfare of the people of the State, the 40-hour week, the Liberal Party supported it but the Country Party not only opposed it then, but have vehemently opposed it at every opportunity since. How can they now with any honesty of purpose and with a determination to uphold the prestige of Parliamentary procedure and practice claim that they are a united Party? Repeatedly the hon. members for Landsborough and Mt. Coot-tha and their associates have held up the practice and usage of the House of Commons as being almost perfection in Parliamentary procedure. Now it does not suit them. I am not going to say that the hon. member for Landsborough would be so very interested in the emoluments of office but he knows that an election is imminent and he seeks to capitalise from an election point of view. Consequently I believe that the Government will not support the present Liberal Party and Country Party in their nefarious attempt to occupy an office to which they are not legitimately entitled.

You have given your ruling and ordinarily if they had been carrying out in practice what they preach so often they would not have dissented from it. I feel certain that the House will show a measure of goodwill and respect for the retention of Parliamentary procedure and follow the course that guides the House of Commons. Hon. members of the Country Party and Liberal Party have boasted so much about the rights of individuals. Even though past experience has not shown that they have one independent

member, if there is one or more of their number independent on that side now he will disagree with the motion of the hon. member for Landsborough.

**Mr. AIKENS** (Mundingburra) (2.15 p.m.): Mr. Speaker, we heard an impassioned debate this morning, and I propose to bring into the debate some ordinary simple logic and calm reasoning. I suppose it is news to many people in the gallery but not to members of the Assembly that I belong to none of the three parties in the House. I am not a member of the Queensland Labour Party or the Liberal and Country Party or the Australian Labour Party. I am proudly a member of the North Queensland Labour Party, and I represent North Queensland and its useful people. So I can enter this debate in an unbiased manner and with a fair and clean mind.

Let us have a look at the question before the House. In simple terms it is whether the Leader of the Opposition is to retain that office or whether he is to be supplanted by the hon. member for Toowoomba. We were told that the question was based on custom, precedent, Standing Orders and May and what-have-you.

**Mr. Walsh:** That is not right.

**Mr. AIKENS:** At least Mr. Speaker said so, and I am prepared to take his word for it.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The opinion I expressed was that the case was based on an Act of Parliament.

**Mr. AIKENS:** To me that is a distinction without a difference. Anyway I accept your statement or denial or whatever it is. Every time I hear a member of this Assembly appealed to by anyone to obey the Standing Orders or customs or the rules of Parliament as set down by May, I do not know whether to laugh or to vomit because during the 13 years that I have graced this Chamber I saw precedent after precedent, by-law after by-law, Standing Order after Standing Order, smashed to pulp in this very Chamber. How often have we seen our own Parliamentary Standing Orders broken. Let me quote a few examples. Although there is a Standing Order to say that there shall be definitely no extension of time to a member in Committee, it is not adhered to.

We saw this morning a breach of custom in this House. It has always been the custom, we are told, in the House of Commons and here for the Speaker to call speakers from each side alternately. People in the gallery saw me rise—and I am not exactly invisible; I can make myself heard because I have a particularly loud and mellifluous voice—and they saw four members on that side called before me.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member knows that it is the custom and the practice for the Leader of the Opposition to get

the call before any other hon. members. The hon. member has been here long enough to know that.

**Mr. AIKENS:** I do not object to that. I did not rise to get the call before the Leader of the Opposition. But I did rise and address you before the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha, the hon. member for Toowoomba, and the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt, and I did not get the call.

**Mr. Gair:** The hon. member for Mt. Gravatt can be seen much more clearly than you.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The remarks of the hon. the Premier are a reflection on the Chair. The hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha had the opportunity of seconding the motion, and was entitled to the call after the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. AIKENS:** Now tell the House, the gallery, and the people of Queensland, through the Press, why you called the hon. member for Toowoomba and the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt before me when I was on my feet and calling you before either of them.

Every time this House gets into a bit of a pickle, it always presents a wonderful opportunity, sometimes for the hon. the Speaker, sometimes for the Leader of the Opposition, sometimes for the hon. the Premier, sometimes for the hon. ex-Deputy Premier or someone else, to rush to the table and grab that great big green book and quote from May. I became so sickened of this hypocrisy at one time that when your predecessor was listening to an interminable argument as to what May thought and did not think, I stood up and said, "Mr. Speaker, May who?", and he threatened to deal with me for being facetious.

Let me say where I stand, and I shall say it in simple terms. I was elected to this Parliament as the representative of the people of Mundingburra. My party and I regard them now, and always have regarded them, as my masters. At the conclusion of every session of this Parliament, irrespective of the inane and insane giggling from my right, I go back to my electors, I get up on the public platform—the only politician in Australia who has the guts to do it—and I tell the people what I said in Parliament and how I voted in Parliament on every measure, and I seek their confirmation or disapproval.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the hon. member to keep to the matter before the House.

**Mr. AIKENS:** I am dealing with it. I believe that, as the elected representatives of the people, we should have the ability and the guts to determine every issue that comes before this House on the facts presented to this House, and I think we should be intelligent enough to take the affairs

of this House into our own hands, because it is the supreme governing elected body of Queensland. I was particularly pleased to hear you say after I rose to my point of order, Mr. Speaker, that although you considered that your own interpretation of a British Act of Parliament, which does not matter two hoots in hell to me, was the correct one, based on what you could read on the matter, you were going to allow the House to decide the issue. Moth-eaten tradition means nothing to me, particularly the moth-eaten tradition that we get from overseas. I am a 100 per cent. Australian. That is how I think every issue before the House should be decided. Let us, the elected representatives of the people, make the decisions on the facts presented to us, and let us stand up to our responsibilities before our electors.

Let us see what all this argument is about. The hon. member for Toowoomba claims that he should be the Leader of the Opposition, and I believe him when he says that he is not interested in the monetary perks attached to the position. I believe, also, that he is not a bit interested in any prestige that might attach to the position. So the people of Queensland and the people in the gallery might well be asking, "Then, what is all the fuss about? If he is not concerned about the money and he is not concerned about the perks, the kudos, or the prestige, attaching to the position, why is he bucking? Why not let the Leader of the Opposition go on in his empty glory?" I am going to tell the people what the buck is about.

In addition to the £500 a year extra granted by the Parliament to the Leader of the Opposition, he is also granted two offices—one palatial office for his own private use, and another palatial office for the use of his secretary and his typist, both of whom are paid by Parliament. Then, during an election campaign, by a precedent established by the late E. M. Hanlon, the Leader of the Opposition is provided with a luxurious ministerial railway car for his political peregrinations throughout the State. I have no objection to the Leader of the Opposition and Premier doing that. I could ride my bike and beat the two of them. (Laughter.) I do not think that the hon. member for Toowoomba would mind riding round the State in an ordinary first-class compartment, any more than the Leader of the Opposition would, but the real battle or the kernel in the nut is the time given for free election broadcasting by that tyrannical monstrosity known as the Australian Broadcasting Commission. It is well known that on the occasion of every State election Sir Richard Boyer, that Lord High Panjandrum of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, allots four hours free broadcasting time over the State network to the Leader of the Government and four hours free broadcasting time over the State network to the Leader of the

Opposition, but no broadcasting time to anybody else. Sir Richard Boyer believes in the first step towards totalitarianism—the persecution of the political minority. It may be news to you, Mr. Speaker, to know that as a singer of more than mediocre ability I can sing over the A.B.C. I can speak over the A.B.C. network on any subject excepting politics but I cannot speak over the A.B.C. network on any political matter. Yet we are supposed to live in a democracy! When I challenged Sir Richard Boyer on this question he said that it was his policy to allot the time equally over the A.B.C. broadcasting network between the Premier of the State and the Leader of the Opposition, and he said he had no intention of interfering with that arrangement. He said to me, “If you want time, go along and ask Mr. Gair or Mr. Nicklin for some of theirs.” Hon. members know how I would get on if I asked Mr. Gair or Mr. Nicklin. This is a very serious matter, although I cannot resist introducing a little humour into it. I challenged this tyrant to apply the same ruling he gave to political broadcasts to his church and religious broadcasts. I challenged him to give of the broadcasting time over the national A.B.C. network allotted for church and religious services, half to the Primate in Australia of the Roman Catholic Church and half to the Primate in Australia of the Church of England, and say to all the other denominations, “If you want broadcasting time over the A.B.C. for church and religious services, you go to Archbishop Mowlr or Cardinal Gilroy.” There would be a justifiable and perhaps a bloody revolution if he did that. He has not got the guts to do that—to tell those smaller organisations, but he does that with the smaller political organisations.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I think the hon. member is getting away from the motion.

**Mr. AIKENS:** This is the real crux of the position. To deny the Leader of the Australian Labour Party any broadcasting time during this election campaign would, in my opinion, be a travesty of democracy, yet if the A.B.C. tyrant Sir Richard Boyer is not pulled into line that is what will happen. Nobody knows that better than hon. members in this Chamber. The Premier will be granted four hours free broadcasting time over the A.B.C. network and the Leader of the Opposition will be granted four hours free broadcasting time over the A.B.C. network, and the hon. member for Toowoomba, as the accredited Leader of the Australian Labour Party will not be granted any. I do not think that is fair. It is time that Boyer was taken on and it is time he was made to realise that the Australian Broadcasting Commission belongs to the people of Australia who are forced to pay for its upkeep.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. AIKENS:** And the sooner the better. On the eve of this election I have no doubt that the Australian Broadcasting Commission will divide its free broadcasting time over the national network equitably between the two major parties. I will not be given any at all; I want none of it. He can do with his free broadcasting time what the monkey did with the nuts. Our party can buy all the time I want from the commercial stations. We have the money, we have the organisation, and we are rearing to go. We have the oven all heated up waiting to see if some “dill” will hop in to be roasted.

**An Opposition Member interjected.**

**Mr. AIKENS:** I do not want anything from the hon. member or anyone else. Our party can afford to pay for all it wants during an election campaign. If the party cannot pay for it, I will pay for it out of my own pocket. And what is more, I will pay in cash.

Let us get down to the crux of the matter. The hon. member for Toowoomba has suggested that as he is the leader of 24, I take it, loyal and indivisible members, he is the leader of the largest single party in this House. The whole question revolves round the three words “in this House.” We all know that the Liberal organisation is separate from the Country Party outside the House, but for many years—I do not know just how many—inside this House—and that is all we are concerned about—all of us, including the Queensland Labour Party, the official Labour Party, the hon. member for Burdekin and I, have recognised the Liberal-Country Party as one composite party. They also hold composite caucus meetings. They would probably like people to think that they do not hold caucus meetings; they may be cactus meetings. I cannot tell you the difference between caucus meetings and cactus meetings, because there are women in the gallery. For years there has also been a secretary of the composite Liberal-Country Party, who for many years was the hon. member for Cooroora. I can remember having a jest with the hon. member on one occasion when by error a typist referred to him in a document as the composite secretary of the Liberal-Country Party instead of the secretary of the composite Liberal-Country Party. Perhaps the hon. member for Cooroora will recall the little jest I had with him on that occasion. I cannot remember how long it is since the House as a whole has recognised the existence in this Chamber of a composite Liberal-Country Party. Whether there are divisions of opinion between the two parties outside the Chamber matters little to us on this question. I am quite prepared to believe that there are as many divisions and divergences of opinion among members of the Liberal-Country Party outside the Chamber as there were among the members of the Labour Party before the present split, but that did not affect their standing in the Chamber.

As we have always recognised in this Chamber the Liberal-Country Party as one composite party, we must in all fairness and decency continue to regard it as such. If it had not been so regarded in the past, if the two parties had got together only during the last week or two, the last day or two, or the last hour or two, and had come into this Chamber this morning and claimed for the first time to be a composite Liberal-Country Party, I should have regarded that as a trick and a subterfuge and would have had none of it. But they are not doing that. On the contrary, for probably seven or eight years I have regarded them in this Chamber as one composite party.

And so we come to the question of which has the greater number, the party led by the hon. member for Toowoomba, or the party led by the Leader of the Opposition inside the House. They both have 24 members. If the hon. member for Toowoomba could have got one more member into his fold and could have come here today with 25 members as against the 24 comprising the composite Liberal-Country Party, I would have unhesitatingly supported his application to be regarded as Leader of the Opposition. So we have two parties contending for the honour—and the perks, which is the main thing—attached to the leadership of the Opposition, each with 24 members in this Chamber. As their numbers are equal, I think the status quo should be maintained.

It has been suggested that there will be a line-up by the Labour Party and the Liberal-Country Party. Whether there is or not does not affect or concern me. I will be in no line-up. I will cast my vote and give my opinion as my conscience dictates, as I have always done in this Chamber. As a matter of fact, I was looking for a line-up to toss you out of the Speaker's Chair, but, apparently, that is not going to happen. I would have voted against it because, to my mind, it would have been an act of victimisation and persecution.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. AIKENS:** I do not know what I would do if you were not in the Chair, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. AIKENS:** I would miss my little brushes with you just as I am going to miss my brushes with the present Attorney-General.

With that naive and transparent honesty for which I have been commended, time and time again I have stood up in this Chamber today to tell hon. members, clearly and unequivocally, my stand on any matter that has come before the House.

**An Opposition Member:** You are on the fence.

**Mr. AIKENS:** I am not on the fence at all. I am right outside the fence, where I have been for the last 15 years. I believe that, as the numbers of both parties claiming to be the leading Opposition party are equal, the status quo should not be interfered with, and I propose to vote for the motion.

**Hon. V. C. GAIR** (South Brisbane—Premier) (2.37 p.m.): I have listened very attentively to the debate on this very important question as to who should be recognised as Leader of the Opposition of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland and I have no alternative but to agree with the case put up by the hon. member for Landsborough, the Leader of the Opposition.

**An Opposition Member:** I should think you would.

**Mr. GAIR:** It surprises me to learn that the hon. member thinks at all. However, we must get away from all the extraneous matter that has been introduced into the debate. It has been suggested by hon. members, particularly the leader of the deviationists from the Government, that what we attempt to do by the motion is merely what they have been charged with in their attempts to destroy a democracy. I do not think that comes into it any more than some of the matters raised by the hon. member for Mundingburra; but we are entitled to examine the position very carefully. In the absence of any standing order or rule of Parliament in Queensland on the question of who should be recognised as Leader of the Opposition, very definitely this Parliament and this Parliament alone has the responsibility of determining the question.

**Mr. Aikens:** We are the masters of our own destiny.

**Mr. GAIR:** That is the question, and the only question, we have to decide. You, Mr. Speaker, in very good faith I would say, have quoted an Act of Parliament passed by the United Kingdom Government. An Act of Parliament was introduced because the Standing Orders of the United Kingdom did not contain a rule of Parliament to cover the position of the Leader of the Opposition. I argue that we are not bound by a statute of the United Kingdom. If the United Kingdom Government or the House of Commons had a rule of Parliament dealing with the matter I would say it would be a guide for this Parliament, just as the hon. member for Toowoomba says that we invariably run to May for guidance. It is admitted that when our own Standing Orders are silent on an issue we look for guidance from May, an authority on Parliamentary procedure.

**Mr. Aikens:** There is a difference between guidance and direction.

**Mr. GAIR:** That is so. It is not an Act of Parliament. Our Standing Orders are silent on the matter of recognition of the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Hiley:** As also is May.

**Mr. GAIR:** As also is May. There is very little reference to the Leader of the Opposition in our own Acts of Parliament. Indeed the Leader of the Opposition is mentioned in one Queensland Act of Parliament, the Constitution Act Amendment Act of 1896, as subsequently amended from time to time. That 1896 Act covers the salaries of all members of Parliament except Ministers who are covered by the Officials in Parliament Act. Provision for the salary of the Leader of the Opposition is made in the first proviso to sub-section (1) of section 4 which states—

“Provided that one member of the Legislative Assembly who for the time being is recognised as Leader of the Opposition shall, in lieu of such payment at the rate of One thousand five hundred and seventy-five pounds per annum, be entitled to such payment at the rate of two thousand and seventy-five pounds per annum, and in addition thereto the aforesaid allowances.”

The amounts mentioned in reading the proviso are not the present actual salary as adjusted under the next succeeding section. The second proviso to section 4 (1) states—

“Provided further that the two members of the Legislative Assembly who for the time being are respectively recognised as the Government Whip, and the Opposition Whip shall, in lieu of such payment at the rate of one thousand five hundred and seventy-five pounds per annum, each be entitled to such payment at the rate of one thousand six hundred and seventy-five pounds per annum, and in addition thereto the aforesaid allowances.”

Clearly the qualifying word “recognised” in both provisos means recognised by whom? By Parliament, by Parliament itself.

**Mr. JESSON:** What was the date of that Act?

**Mr. GAIR:** The hon. member has more leisure than I have and I suggest that he look it up.

The Imperial Act entitled The Ministers of the Crown Act, 1937, the Act you, Mr. Speaker, referred to this morning, is material to the consideration of who is the Leader of the Opposition in this Parliament for one reason only. Definitely that Act, which covers the salaries of Ministers, Parliamentary Under Secretaries, and the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons, is not a rule, a precedent or a convention to bind us. It is an Act of Parliament that provides for the salaries of these people and if there is any dispute it places the responsibility in the hands of the Speaker of the House of Commons to determine the issue when it arises. That position does not obtain here. All this argument today is of little avail. This authority under the statute of the United Kingdom Government has no bearing on it whatsoever.

If the House of Commons had a rule of Parliament dealing with the question then we would have had the right to be bound by it. I do not think an Act of Parliament to provide for the salaries of Ministers, Parliamentary Under Secretaries and the Leader of the Opposition has any bearing on this question. Nevertheless it helps us in one way: it clearly indicates, until it was passed, the House of Commons did not recognise conventional rules whereby the leadership of the Commons was determined. Up till then they had no rule to guide them. The authority given to the Speaker under the Imperial Act to resolve any dispute as to the leadership of the Opposition is doubtless interesting, but I do remind hon. members that it is not the only distinction between the Speakers of the Commons and of this Assembly. The Speaker of the House of Commons is not required to go to an election of the people. He is regarded as beyond Parliament—entirely impartial.

There is a lot of difference between the Speaker of this Assembly and of the House of Commons. It is the clear opinion of the Government that any dispute as to the leadership of the Opposition should be resolved by vote of this House.

Let us view the matter in the light of our experience as members and free from any party political bias. The hon. member for Mundingburra, I believe, did deal with the matter to some extent. It does not matter what the Opposition is outside this Parliament. It is a matter of what has been the practice of this Parliament over the years. I am not concerned about the degree of unity that exists between the Liberal Party and the Country Party; it probably could not be less than that which existed between the Government parties for some time and which brought about the split that caused this question to arise today. As far as I am concerned, in conscience I have to say that I have always recognised the Liberals and the Country Party as being the Opposition to the Government. They have been a party united in opposition to me as Premier and Leader of the Labour Party in charge of the affairs of the State of Queensland. I in common with others have referred to the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha who is in a different political party to his leader, the hon. member for Landsborough, as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. That term has been used by myself and the hon. member for Toowoomba and all hon. members who today are challenging the Leader of the Opposition in regard to the position which he occupies. I suppose you could say that even Mr. Speaker himself in calling the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha, has invariably referred to him as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** No.

**Mr. GAIR:** I accept your denial. The fact remains that for the purposes of this House at least we have recognised the Opposition as one unit and not two parties. I know that they have fought the Party that I am privileged to lead—not very successfully, it is true, up till now—as one Party, and they have had one policy in this House. Apart from the 40-hour week, I cannot remember any question on which the Opposition has been divided.

**Mr. Hiley:** And that was many years ago.

**Mr. GAIR:** That was many years ago, and I am not going to explain that away. I am not concerned with their Party difficulties, because I have been fully occupied with difficulties that did exist but do not exist any more.

Let us look at the position in a realistic, commonsense and fair way. Were there two Opposition whips? Were there two Opposition secretaries? There may have been; but as far as this House was concerned, there was only one Opposition whip. We recognised only one member of this Parliament who received remuneration as whip of the Opposition parties.

When we get down to the basic facts, I do not think there can be any objection to the resolution moved by the Leader of the Opposition. We could quote Acts of Parliament introduced by the British House of Commons, we could quote May, and we could even quote Standing Orders of the House of Commons; but the fact remains that it is the responsibility of this Parliament to determine who should be recognised as Leader of the Opposition. It is our task to determine that, and I am sure that the people of Queensland would not have it any other way. We, as the elected representatives of the people, have that responsibility, and none of us wants to hide behind some authority elsewhere. We look to other authorities not for directions but for guidance in our determinations. After all, as much as some people might want to assume a leadership, even if it is leadership of the Opposition—just what the motive is, of course, is a matter of opinion—

**Mr. Aikens:** Four hours' free broadcasting time on the A.B.C.

**Mr. GAIR:** I do not know that it is four hours. I must look that up. It sounds a bit generous for the A.B.C.; I think it is two.

**Mr. Aikens:** Well, it is none for me, you can be sure of that.

**Mr. GAIR:** Four hours altogether. The hon. member has not seen me about the matter. I should have generously given some of my time to him. I did not require it all, as the results will show.

**Mr. Aikens:** Like hell you would! I wrote to you once and you knocked me back.

**Mr. GAIR:** I have no desire to prolong the debate. I think that the Leader of the Opposition made out a very sound, indisputable case. In the absence of any Standing Order in our own Parliament on this question, I think the matter should, and must, be finally determined by the Parliament itself.

Speaking for the Government Party, I support the resolution.

**Hon. E. J. WALSH** (Bundaberg—Treasurer) (2.54 p.m.): I am amazed that so much time should be wasted on determining who should or should not be the Leader of the Opposition. I should hate to think that the officers of this Parliament had advised you on this matter, Mr. Speaker; but whoever has advised you, I think the points made by the Premier regarding the position of Speaker are a clear indication that this Parliament is not expected to follow the usages and forms of the House of Commons. Obviously, if it was not the case, there would be a lot of us who would be competing for the position of Speaker because we would not go for election. That is obvious. To suggest that because the House of Commons has passed an Act of Parliament in relation to the position of Leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons it should apply to this Parliament would indicate that there are some people in our midst who still think we are a colony. That position was left behind a long time ago. In this State we have abolished capital punishment, but would it be argued that the law in regard to capital punishment so far as the House of Commons is concerned should apply to this State? The thing is too silly for words.

**Mr. Burrows:** If we did not have a law of our own in respect to capital punishment it would be a different matter.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. WALSH:** My friend the hon. member for Port Curtis said that if we did not have a law of our own it would be a different matter, forgetting that there is such a thing as the Statute of Westminster which conveys certain authorities and powers to this Parliament. It has not been completely applied, but certain phases of it are applied to Australia which did not apply prior to the passage of the statute. Without wanting to reflect on you, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Aikens:** Perish the thought that you should do that.

**Mr. WALSH:** Do not anticipate me. It is a pity that hon. members generally would not apply themselves more to the Standing Orders of this Parliament, and to May and procedure generally. I do not think there would be many who would argue that I have not made myself conversant in a general way with Standing Orders and their application to this House. Mr. Speaker quoted from a 1937 Act, and to show that I am speaking

from memory let me say that it would be obligatory on your part, Mr. Speaker—not on this House—if you are going to depend on the 1937 Act as passed by the House of Commons not to thrust on this House the obligation of determining who shall or shall not be Leader of the Opposition. It is specifically laid down that the Speaker shall determine that in writing. If you, Mr. Speaker, have transferred your duty and your obligations to this House I should say that you have got away from what your clear obligations are under the 1937 Act. You cannot have it both ways.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I pointed out that had this been the House of Commons I would have ruled that way. As I feel the House has the right to determine its own procedure I left the matter to the House under Standing Order No. 333.

**Mr. WALSH:** I appreciate that, but neither you nor I are in the House of Commons, and therefore we cannot apply that rule. If you said that the 1937 Act related to Ministers of the Crown in the House of Commons you must appreciate and accept all the obligations thrust upon the Speaker in the House of Commons. In this case, I should say that you have not assumed those obligations. If you had you would have definitely certified in writing to this House without any motion from the Leader of the Opposition. That is quite clear in my mind. You would have certified to that effect. It is no good picking out of an Act, or part of an Act, the duties, usages, privileges, forms and customs, and leaving it to someone else to determine who should be the Leader of the Opposition, which is your responsibility entirely.

It is a pity that hon. members opposite did not make a survey of Australian Parliaments to ascertain what has been done by some of them. Never mind about the House of Commons; we determine a good deal of our own procedure here. I think it will be generally conceded that the decisions laid down in May are merely for our guidance; we do not have to follow them slavishly. Over a number of years this House has decided how it should conduct its own business, and rightly so. After all, if we are a Parliament with sovereign powers elected by the people, why should we not exercise those powers?

I shall give hon. members two instances of what has happened in this Chamber. I am not looking up notes, as are some hon. members sitting behind the hon. member for Toowoomba. It is a pity that they do not engage in a little research. Some hon. members may remember that when the Labour Party was in Opposition from 1929 to 1932 certain matters arose that required the interpretation of the Standing Orders. The then Speaker, the late Mr. Taylor, went to the trouble of getting the opinion of two counsel, Mr. McGill and Mr. Given. The point at

issue was whether Resolutions on the Estimates could be debated before the 17th day. It is to the credit of the late Mr. Taylor, who was the hon. member for Windsor—

**Mr. Rasey:** Windsor has always had good representatives.

**Mr. WALSH:** That is true. It would be very hard to get a better man than the present hon. member for Windsor.

I invite hon. members opposite to look up the records of this House. They are getting £47 a week and have as much time as I to look up the records. If they do, they will find that the late Mr. Taylor came into the Chamber and, for the guidance of Parliament, placed on record the interpretation of the Standing Order as given by the then Clerk of the House of Commons.

**Mr. Aikens:** I still say we should not be bound by it.

**Mr. WALSH:** I am not disagreeing with the hon. member for Mundingburra, although there have been times when we have disagreed violently. My real fear is that the hon. member will join the Queensland Labour Party.

I shall now quote a second incident that occurred in this Parliament. It concerned the late Hon. W. Forgan Smith, a grand man in Australian Labour politics. No man was more competent than he to make a speech without referring to voluminous notes. At that time, he had an important legal document in connection with the Electric Authority of Queensland Act which he was introducing and it was very necessary that his every word should be recorded accurately in Parliamentary documents, and in proper form, to avoid any misunderstanding of the legal implications. Millions of pounds were involved. After he had been speaking for a considerable time, the Speaker made a reflection on him, which I do not think was accepted by any member of the House. There may have been reasons for that. However, the Speaker having challenged his right to read the speech even in those circumstances, the matter was referred to the Clerk of the House of Commons. The Clerk upheld the stand taken by the then Premier but, unfortunately, that was not recorded in the journals. The document must be somewhere. I would say it has never been listed where it should be. As hon. members know, I like to have these matters put on record for reference.

We are now asked to determine who should be the Leader of the Opposition. I have no great love for hon. members opposite. In due course, they will get all the bricks they deserve as opponents of the real Labour Party, just as the hon. members on my right, who sit behind the Opposition, will get the equivalent of bricks, too.

**Mr. Gair:** The splinter party.

**Mr. WALSH:** Quite true, the break-away party from the Labour Party. It is very clear that the time from 12 noon till now—and it is just past 3 o'clock—has been wasted in seeking to determine what should be obvious—who should be the Leader of the Opposition. All I can say in conclusion is that I wish my friend the hon. member for Landsborough a very long term as Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. MUNRO (Toowong)** (3.9 p.m.): I agree with the Treasurer that we are spending an inordinately long time in determining a question which, on the face of it, appears to be obvious. So I shall make my remarks as brief as possible and keep them completely relevant to the issue. At the time I attempted to rise, which was immediately after the hon. member for Toowoomba and the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt had spoken, I had many notes of points that called for reply, but most of them have been answered effectively by the Premier in his very able contribution to the debate and, to a lesser extent, by the Deputy Premier, so it will be easy for me to reduce my remarks to within a very small compass. Nevertheless there are one or two things which should be said by a member of the Opposition, particularly as the last five speakers have not been members of the Opposition of this Parliament.

It is necessary for me to make my first point for the information of anybody who may have heard the debate only since the luncheon adjournment. It would be a complete puzzle to them why it was necessary for the Leader of the Opposition to bring the motion before the House. Everybody who has heard the debate from the commencement will realise the inherent danger in the situation that arose from the report made to the House by the hon. member for Toowoomba. The crux of the debate lies in the meaning of the one word "recognised." Quite obviously while Parliament is sitting recognition is a matter for Parliament but there is considerable doubt as to what would happen while Parliament was not sitting if a claim were made as to who was recognised as the Leader of the Opposition. We have to consider that in the circumstances everything indicates that this Thirty-fourth Parliament is in its concluding stages. It may be only a day or two days before Parliamentary proceedings are concluded. It would appear that the recognition of the Leader of the Opposition, with all the very important matters hinging upon it, whether Parliament is sitting or not, could, while Parliament is not sitting, be entirely a matter for you, Mr. Speaker. Having heard your answer to the question asked this morning by the Leader of the Opposition the House should congratulate itself that the Leader of the Opposition did bring the matter up for determination by the House in such a way that the determination of the House will be final and conclusive while the present circumstances remain.

**Mr. Walsh:** That is important—according to the circumstances.

**Mr. MUNRO:** While they remain. I had intended to cover the point that these laws of the United Kingdom do not apply in Queensland. If there had been any shadow of doubt at all it would have been completely removed by the passing of the Statute of Westminster. However, it is unnecessary to cover the point because it has been disposed of very effectively by the Premier.

Let me proceed to my second point. As a matter of general procedure and convention, where you have an existing state of affairs you do not alter that state of affairs unless there is a material change in the circumstances, or a good reason for doing so. I listened very attentively to the hon. members for Toowoomba and Mt. Gravatt but neither of them, in my opinion, put their case effectively.

I have one other matter to deal with, something that can be effectively said only by a member of the smaller section of this composite opposition. It is this: the only point put forward by the hon. member for Toowoomba which could have any substance was the claim that the number of the Party should be determined by reference to the membership of certain organisations outside this Parliament. On the face of it that is a very flimsy kind of reason. Let us see where it would lead us if we took it seriously. I point out that in relation to the Liberal and Country Parties outside this Parliament there are in some respects not two organisations but several. At the time that members were elected to the 34th Parliament we had an organisation in North Queensland under the control of a Liberal and Country Party co-ordinating committee, which had a considerable degree of autonomy. I also point out that in many material areas at the time of the election there was a Liberal-Country Party co-ordinating council which had considerable powers in relation to matters normally dealt with by political parties. The claim put forward by the hon. member for Toowoomba has not a sound basis in law nor has it a sound basis in fact. Apart from the question of law involved, we should deal with this matter as one of commonsense. The primary purpose of the office of Leader of the Opposition is to facilitate the conduct of the affairs of Parliament. We are in the concluding days of the session, and my view is it would have been better if this claim had not been put forward by the Leader of the reconstructed Australian Labour Party. I make these remarks for one purpose: not only must this House justly determine this question, but also it must be made abundantly clear that it has been determined justly and rightly.

**Mr. BURROWS (Port Curtis)** (3.19 p.m.): The Deputy Leader of the Government quoted the laws of England and said they did not apply here otherwise we would

have capital punishment. That is quite correct. When the people first came here from England they brought with them the English laws which prevailed until such time as they were replaced by legislation passed in the Parliaments of this country. I am not a lawyer.

**Mr. Walsh:** There is no English statute law that applies to this Parliament.

**Mr. BURROWS:** By way of interjection I quoted the English Sunday Observance Act under which somebody was prosecuted because we have not an Act to cover that matter. When we have no Act to cover anything, as the Treasurer said, we look for precedent. Where do we go for that precedent?

To the disgrace of this parliament, this question will be decided not by logic but by numbers. But I am here as a member of the Parliament, and I shall raise my voice in protest if no-one else does. As the hon. member for Toowoomba said, we know that logic has been totally disregarded here; it is a question of expediency.

The hon. member for Toowong said, "Let us be guided by common sense." I say, "Let us be guided by common decency." If we want a precedent, we immediately go and look for a British precedent; we do not go to Munich or Hitler's camps, or the Kremlin, or places such as those. Hon. members of the Opposition want to apply Rafferty's rules in that regard.

I am not going to waste any more of the time of the House. We should be guided by the British law. We take an oath of allegiance to the British law, and if we have no law of our own, we are entitled to be guided by British precedent. If hon. members want it another way, they will have in that way, because, as I pointed out earlier, they have the numbers and logic does not count.

**Mr. SPARKES (Aubigny) (3.22 p.m.):** It is rather amusing to hear the hon. member say that logic is all that ought to count, that numbers should not count. We on this side of the Chamber have for many, many years had a very good understanding of what numbers mean.

**Mr. Walsh:** He said he is with you now.

**Mr. SPARKES:** Not on your life! You cannot wish him onto us. If he wants to put in a little of his spare time on this side of the House, it is all right with us.

It was also rather amusing to hear the hon. member for Toowoomba say that he did not want the extra money, he did not want anything, he just wanted it settled. The hon. member for Port Curtis said that it was for political purposes. I think he is perfectly right. The hon. member for Toowoomba thinks he will gain something by being Leader of the Opposition.

If I make a misstatement, I always like to correct it as early as possible. Having made the mistake of saying that the hon. member for Toowoomba was led by the nose, I want to correct that. After all, any animal that is led by the nose is rather difficult; but the hon. gentleman has stated that he did not need any leading, that he would follow Bukowski anywhere, whether he was right or whether he was wrong, whether it was in the interests of the State—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I do not want to stop the hon. member from making his speech, but I am not going to allow him to bring in irregularities on this matter. I ask him to confine his remarks to the matter before the House.

**Mr. SPARKES:** I am merely replying to the hon. member for Toowoomba.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. SPARKES:** If the hon. gentleman takes exception to my being friendly to hon. members on the other side of the House, I am sorry. I have never yet lowered myself sufficiently to listen to a private telephone conversation and then run back and repeat it.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member is a responsible member of this House and an Executive Officer of his Party. He knows that he cannot make imputations against or reflections upon hon. members of the Assembly. He knows the Standing Orders and I ask him to confine his remarks to the motion.

**Mr. SPARKES:** The hon. member did not mind making reflections on me. I can take it and I am prepared to give it. I still have a clear conscience in that respect. I should like to tell him, and I am sure he will not say that this is getting under his skin, that he fell for a trick.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! If the hon. member does not obey my call to order, I will take steps to deal with him.

**Mr. SPARKES:** Very well. I know that the House will not be sitting much longer and it does not matter one way or the other. I like to hear people speak the truth. The hon. member asked for it and he is getting it. The matter before the House is only a little political trick and nobody knows it better than the hon. member for Toowoomba. He knows he has no possible chance of winning. He has said, "Oh, I have got to do it." That is the way he looks at it. I do not hold any brief for hon. members opposite or hon. members behind me. Everyone knows where I stand.

**Mr. Power:** You are only interested in yourself.

**Mr. SPARKES:** I am at least interested in somebody. The House has a perfect right to decide who is the Leader of the Opposition and that is where I am prepared to leave the matter.

Question—That the motion (Mr. Nicklin) be agreed to—put; and the House divided—

AYES, 50.

Mr. Adair	Mr. Kehoe
.. Aikens	.. Low
.. Bielke-Petersen	.. Madsen
.. Chalk	.. McCathie
.. Coburn	.. Moore
.. Collins	.. Moores
.. Cooper	.. Morris
.. Devries	.. Müller
.. Dewar	.. Munro
.. Dinlock	.. Nicklin
.. Dohring	Dr. No. 1e
.. English	Mr. Pizzey
.. Evans	.. Power
.. Fletcher	.. Rasey
.. Foley	.. Roberts
.. Gair	.. Robinson
.. Gardner, H. R.	.. Skinner
.. Gardner, R. J.	.. Smith
.. Gaven	.. Sparkes
.. Hadlev	.. Taylor. H. B.
.. Heading	.. Walsh
.. Herbert	
.. Hewitt	
.. Hilev	<i>Tellers :</i>
.. Hilton	
.. Jones, A.	Mr. Brosnan
.. Jones, V. E.	.. Nicholson

NOES, 23.

Mr. Baxter	Mr. Guan
.. Brown	.. Jesson
.. Burrows	.. Keyatta
.. Byrne	.. Loyd
.. Clark	.. Marsden
.. Davies	.. Tavior, J. R.
.. Davis	.. Turner
Dr. Dittmer	.. Wallace
Mr. Donald	
.. Dufficy	<i>Tellers :</i>
.. Duggan	
.. Forde	Mr. Wood
.. Graham	.. Hanlon

Resolved in the affirmative.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER.

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

“That leave of absence for this session be granted to Thomas Flood Plunkett, Esquire, member for the Electoral District of Darlington, on account of illness.”

Motion agreed to.

#### PAPERS.

The following paper was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—

Report, dated 21 October, 1955, by Mr. H. G. Alderman, Q.C., who was appointed to be the Royal Commission to inquire into certain sewerage contracts affecting the Redcliffe Town Council, in the matter of the costs of legal representation before that Royal Commission.

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.

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

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

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

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

Regulation under the Local Government Acts, 1936 to 1957.

Regulation under the Fish Supply Management Acts, 1935 to 1951.

Regulation under the Navigation Acts, 1876 to 1950.

Regulation under the Racing and Betting Act of 1954.

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

Order in Council under the Abattoirs Acts, 1930 to 1949.

Order in Council under the Fauna Conservation Act of 1952.

Order in Council under the Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1957.

Order in Council under the Sugar Experiment Stations Acts, 1900 to 1954.

Regulation under the Dairy Produce Acts, 1920 to 1952.

Regulation under the Fruit and Vegetables Act of 1947.

Regulation under the Fruit Marketing Organisation Acts, 1923 to 1956.

Regulation under the Margarine Acts, 1910 to 1950.

Regulation under the Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1957.

Regulation under the Regulation of Sugar Cane Prices Acts, 1915 to 1954.

Regulation under the Stock Acts, 1915 to 1954.

Regulation under the Traffic Acts, 1949 to 1956.

Rules of Court under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts, 1932 to 1955.

Proclamations under the Motor Spirits Distribution Act of 1957.

Order in Council under the Labour and Industry Acts, 1946 to 1952.

Seventy-second Report and Balance-sheet of the Union Trustee Company of Australia Limited.

Order in Council under the Landlord and Tenant Acts, 1948 to 1954.

Order in Council under the Profiteering Prevention Acts, 1948 to 1954.

Order in Council under the Criminal Code. Order in Council under the British Probates Act, 1898.

Proclamations under the Prisons Act, 1890. Regulation under the Nurses and Masseurs Registration Acts, 1928 to 1948.

Regulation under the Hospitals Acts, 1936 to 1955.

Regulation under the Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Acts, 1939 to 1946.

Proclamation under the Health Acts, 1937 to 1955.

Order in Council under the Irrigation Acts, 1922 to 1954.

Order in Council under the Rural Fires Acts, 1946 to 1951.

Regulations under the Irrigation Acts, 1922 to 1954.

Order in Council under the State Electricity Commission Acts, 1937 to 1954.

Order in Council under the Southern Electric Authority of Queensland Acts, 1952 to 1954.

By-laws under the Southern Electric Authority of Queensland Acts, 1952 to 1954.

Regulations under the Apprentices and Minors Acts, 1929 to 1954.

Order in Council under the Libraries Acts, 1943 to 1949.

#### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.

##### TEMPORARY CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY AND WAYS AND MEANS.

###### APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 1.

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

“That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would otherwise prevent the constitution of Committees of Supply and Ways and Means, the receiving of Resolutions on the same day as they shall have passed in those Committees, and the passing of an Appropriation Bill through all its stages in one day.”

**Mr. DUGGAN** (Toowoomba) (3.45 p.m.): I oppose the resolution for the suspension of Standing Orders because I consider that political developments being as they have been in recent weeks call for the early termination of this Parliament and the leaving in the hands of the people the responsibility of determining the composition of a new Parliament. It may be argued that we should have waited for a subsequent motion before taking this stand. I say, as leader of the Australian Labour Party, that it ill-becomes those who seek to champion the cause of tradition, custom and practice of the House of Parliament, to come into this Parliament and refer to me as the leader of the deviationist party instead of by my correct title. Not that I mind what terms are used outside the precincts of this Chamber. I know that worse has been said outside, and worse will probably be said again. I am not concerned about the accusations that might be levelled at me, but at least we should expect from the No. 1 Parliamentarian an acknowledgment of the correct and proper usages of this House.

We meet on what might be correctly termed a momentous occasion. It is an occasion which the people of this State have been following with increasing interest. Over recent weeks tension has mounted regarding this political crisis. Nobody in the Australian Labour Party is gleeful about the position; nobody in the Australian Labour Party is happy that this event has occurred within the party. No-one relishes the prospect of having to deal with colleagues with whom one has sat for many years and for many of whom they have a high regard. Because of that position it is not easy for those of us here to say that we will not approve of the resolution to be moved by the Premier. It is not because of any desire to prevent the Public Service from being paid. It is well known that if action had been taken, or even if action is taken now, that there will be ample time for the elections to be resolved and for Parliament to be convened and for Supply to be passed. We are sincere in the desire to have this matter determined by the electors and to make possible every facility for the people's voice to be heard.

Let us deal with the events that led up to this matter. As you know, the Parliament of Queensland for many years has been composed of three major parties—the Labour Party, the Country Party and the Liberal Party. In the normal course of events we would have gone on for two years before the composition of this Parliament would be determined. There are many who say, seeing the people spoke so recently as 12 months ago, we of the Labour Party have been guilty of a serious disservice to the Labour movement by terminating the authority of the Gair Government. It is painful for us to have to take this stand, but we believe that any self-respecting Premier realising he had lost control of the House, would of his own volition, have taken steps to seek a dissolution of Parliament in order that somebody—even if it were to be himself—could come back and say, “I have been reinforced by the voice of the people who have given me authority to carry on the government.” Much has been made of the fact that I resigned as a Cabinet Minister, and it has been said that, because of that, I have been trying to pursue and fulfil an ambition to become a leader and to become Premier of this State. I have made it abundantly clear on so many occasions that, if I were concerned about fulfilling some personal ambition, there would be much easier ways of achieving that objective than the course that I and those with me took on this occasion. I want to say quite definitely—and the Premier knows this better than anybody else—that I told him on more than one occasion that he had no cause to fear within the Party that I would take steps in that direction, despite the fact that I had been encouraged to do so for two or three years. I said that, and he knows it to be true.

**Mr. Gair:** After you counted heads.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** That is a deliberate lie, and the hon. the Premier knows it.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The hon. member is not in order in using that term.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I withdraw it, and I will leave to the conscience of the hon. the Premier the knowledge that I approached him before the last elections and told him that, irrespective of the outcome of the elections, whether or not some of his followers were defeated, I would not be a party to any arrangement with people who were dissatisfied with his leadership, and that he could be assured, whatever he heard and from whatever source it came, that I would not be standing against him for the leadership of the Parliamentary Labour Party. He knows that to be true. If he wants to deny that statement, I leave it to his conscience to be the final arbiter in that particular matter.

**Mr. Brosnan:** No-one else opposed him.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I think that is quite irrelevant. It was a unanimous decision, as the hon. member well knows, and I was quite happy to make it a unanimous decision, too.

**Dr. Noble** interjected.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I do not know that I am responsible to the hon. member for that particular matter. It is a matter between the Premier and myself. It is all very well for the hon. member to be very solicitous for the Premier. If the Premier is sincere in this matter, he should know that there is no member on this side of the House striving harder to bring about his defeat than the hon. member for Yeronga. Cut out all this silly nonsense about solicitude. He would boil him in political oil if he could do so.

**Dr. Noble** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I am not ashamed to say that I did, and I make that public acknowledgment. I say quite frankly that I had no ambitions to be leader of this Party, the Labour Party, until the Premier, in a properly constituted meeting, was voted out of office or was deposed, and it was thought that I or somebody else might have claims for the leadership. All this talk about wanting to give effect to this ambition of mine is completely untrue, and I take this opportunity of making a public denial of it.

I do not want to recapitulate all the events that led up to this trouble. We know that the various political parties have their Constitutions and their Rules. It is all very well for people to suddenly come out and talk about being great constitutionalists and the need to preserve democracy. But we all know that for many years the various political parties have convened conferences at which they have laid down a policy that has been binding on those organisations until the next conference was convened. Nobody

has questioned that arrangement or cavilled at it. Everybody regarded that as the normal operation and functioning of political organisations in a democratic community.

Much has been made of the fact that I voted for the Premier against this particular recommendation. It is true that I did, and there is no need for me to apologise for having done that. I took that stand, and I made it quite clear.

**Mr. Hilton:** Was it a conscientious vote?

**Mr. DUGGAN:** Of course it was a conscientious vote. The Secretary for Public Lands has suddenly been converted into a very great constitutionalist who has no desire to bring any spleen or vindictiveness into this particular controversial period, but he arrogates to himself the right of being the only person who can determine whether or not a person has been actuated by worthy motives. I shall probably have something to say about that later on. At the moment I make it clear, and the Treasurer has been good enough to acknowledge it on more than one occasion, that I said I was prepared to accept direction from the Q.C.E. provided that direction involved a decision arrived at at a properly constituted convention and dealing with a constitutional matter.

**Mr. Walsh:** You would concede to me that I said I was not prepared.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** That is true. It will be readily recognised by the Treasurer that I said I was prepared to resign if the Q.C.E. was not prepared to accept our view on certain matters. I said that I would be bound by that decision.

I do not think we need go back a great deal on the events which led up to this matter because they have been freely ventilated in public speeches and through the Press for some time. I have dealt with them in various broadcasts and Press articles. It is a proven fact that all political parties have their conventions and are bound by decisions arrived at. Certainly those decisions might not be unseemingly publicly ventilated when they happen to impinge on the operations of the Opposition party, but the Press seem to take a great delight in ventilating grievances when they are detrimental to Labour. Neither I nor my colleagues behind me have any objection to being vilified in the election campaign. It is rather peculiar that some people seem to think that it is proper that they should attack us with reckless abandon and impute all sorts of improper motives and charge us with being Communists or agents of Communism and of being fellow travellers with Communists and of being bent on destroying democracy, but when we reply those people charge us with engaging in a campaign of slander. It is a peculiar state of affairs when one section of the people can make any accusation they like against the Labour Party and when we reply we are the people who are guilty of

saying all sorts of nasty things. I say now that I do not intend to cast any personal reflections upon the Premier or members of his Cabinet now or during the currency of the forthcoming election campaign.

**Mr. Walsh:** I did not appreciate your remarks at Ipswich about his fellow Ministers.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** What was that?

**Mr. Walsh:** About their incompetence.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I think I know what the hon. gentleman is referring to. The Premier is reported as having said at Rockhampton that I was the weakest link in the Cabinet team—that I was the weak member.

**Mr. Gair:** I never said that.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** The hon. gentleman is reported as having said it.

**Mr. Gair:** Where?

**Mr. DUGGAN:** In the paper—that I was the weakest. The hon. gentleman has an army of public servants at his command to help him in these things. What I said at Ipswich, after having heard what the Premier said about some of his ministerial colleagues was that I was not greatly flattered to think that I was the weakest. I said that after having heard his opinion of some members of the Cabinet. That is probably what the Treasurer refers to.

**Mr. Kehoe:** Your actions show that you were the weakest.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I am not concerned about the hon. member. If he takes my advice he will seek every possible opportunity of saying what he has to say in Parliament because his days as a Parliamentarian are numbered. If the hon. member for Nash is not regarded as the weakest member of the Government, he will certainly be regarded as the one with the shortest Parliamentary service of those on his side of the Chamber. His tenure of office will be very short.

**Mr. Gair:** He is a man of principle.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** There we go again! The only person is the Premier.

The Leader of the Opposition has made it clear that he proposes to fight the forthcoming election on what he has been pleased to term the "four Ds." He apparently has had the services of one of these new streamlined publicity officers, and feels that he should get away from the conventional approach to elections by having something more arresting. And so he has the four Ds—Decentralisation, Development, Democracy, and Decency. I am not criticising the hon. member for that; he can have five or six Ds if he likes.

The Premier is a little more modest in his Ds. He made it quite clear in Toowoomba that, whatever happens, he will be perfectly satisfied as long as the "two D" plan triumphs, that is, the defeat of Duggan and

the defeat of Dittmer. If that is his objective, he will be sadly disillusioned. In any case, even if it was realised what a hollow victory it would be for a man who claims to be the guardian of the Labour Party! He has as his primary objective the destruction of the two men who have been elected as leaders of the Labour Party, the principles of which he has subscribed to and supported year after year. What a hollow victory it would be! Then this man comes to Toowoomba—

**Mr. Gair:** And had a very good meeting.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** All I can say is that the Premier should count his blessings. I wish he would visit Toowoomba more often. We read in the Press that there were 30 hecklers at his meeting. I advise the "Courier-Mail" reporter who said there were 30 hecklers present to visit an optometrist. Twenty times 30 would be a nearer estimate of the number of hecklers.

**Mr. Walsh** interjected.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** The Premier was not game to go to Toowoomba on his own. He had to take the Treasurer with him. Further, they had to go up two days beforehand, not on State business but on Gair's business. That is why I say this Parliament should be dissolved. If you try to ring up any Minister these days you will find that they are all scattered throughout the State at the expense of the taxpayers, forming branches of the Queensland Labour Party and all sorts of movements aimed at defeating the Labour Party. When I was a member of the Ministry and we did those things, we at least clothed it with an air of respectability by doing some official business. (Opposition uproar.)

I do not know why Opposition members should be so upset. They have risen in their places session after session condemning the Government for doing what I have just referred to. They have attacked the Public Relations Bureau, and similar branches of the Public Service, year after year.

As I say, the Premier of the State came to Toowoomba and hawked round nominations to various people. At the expense of the taxpayers, he even invited the Mayor of Toowoomba to a lavish luncheon at Lennon's Hotel.

**Mr. Chalk:** Would you not do it if you were Premier?

**Mr. DUGGAN:** Not for that purpose. The Mayor of Toowoomba has done many good things for that city. As its chief citizen, on many occasions he has entertained distinguished visitors who have been sent there by the Chief Secretary's Department. If the Premier tendered a luncheon to the mayor in appreciation of services of that type, I should not criticise him but commend him. However, it is well known that the Premier asked him to accept nomination for the Queensland Labour Party.

**Mr. Gair:** You're a liar!

**Mr. DUGGAN:** Ask the mayor himself.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the hon. gentleman to withdraw that remark.

**Mr. Gair:** Yes, I readily withdraw it. I know it was out of order, but I made it purposely to register that the hon. member for Toowoomba cannot stick to the truth.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** The Premier, when it suits him, quotes reports in the Press and, if he reads the newspapers, he will find that the mayor in his public statement said he had been approached by more than one political party in this contest. I will go further and say that the mayor was given certain other inducements to stand.

**Mr. Chalk:** Your mind is becoming more warped every day.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** The hon. member for Lockyer should be the last one to criticise. If his machinations succeeded—and they won't—and if Mr. Anderson were elected member for Toowoomba, and if the Liberal-Country Party gained a majority of seats, Mr. Chalk's chances of becoming Minister for Transport would be very greatly reduced.

**Mr. Chalk:** Your mind is becoming more warped than ever.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I am only drawing on what the hon. member said to a couple of friends about how worried he was. We shall see how he gets on. It shows how little these people are concerned about whom they approach when they even go along to Mr. Ted Hall, the Liberal candidate who stood against me at the last election. It certainly was not the Premier who went to him, but men wearing the Q.L.P. label approached him and said, "Will you join the Q.L.P.?" He replied, "I hope to be the endorsed Liberal candidate for Toowoomba." He was told, "That won't stop you from joining the Q.L.P." Ask Mr. Hall about that.

**Dr. Noble** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I am surprised at the hon. member for Yeronga continuing to interrupt. I ask him to obey my call to order. If he refuses to obey it, I shall take steps to deal with him.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** The fact that two or three members of the Opposition are so rattled because Mrs. Lacaze has nominated shows how fearful they are.

**An Opposition Member:** Will you deny it?

**Mr. DUGGAN:** Yes, I will deny it. All the funds we have will be used for the prosecution of our own campaign. We need every bob we have. The pounds will not be coming in in hundreds, as they have been for our friends opposite. Remember how at their meetings Mr. So-and-so put in 100 guineas, somebody else 50 guineas, somebody 35 guineas, and somebody else 20 guineas? Does

that sound like a Labour meeting? Even the rich popular Liberals cannot get amounts of that size at their gatherings.

**Mr. Kehoe:** How much are you going to get from the oil companies?

**Mr. DUGGAN:** That is the sort of statement I would expect from a man who is running around as a leader on Christian principles. I get nothing from the oil companies.

**Mr. Chalk:** How much did you get from the taxi-drivers?

**Mr. DUGGAN:** Nothing.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member is not in order in imputing improper motives to any hon. member. I am addressing that remark to the hon. member for Lockyer and I hope he will bear it in mind. Moreover, I ask the hon. member to address his remarks to the Chair.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I will very gladly do so. On this particular matter, the Premier came along with all the prestige and authority of his office of Premier, and with his retinue. He said to that particular audience, "I come here, unlike other people, not to make a snivelling appeal to electors." He went on to talk about his years of service in the Labour Party, how many years he had been a trade unionist, and all about his family. Then there was the greatest humiliation of all when he brought in his good wife. Let me say that she is a good wife. I hope that I never mention her name again other than in laudatory terms. She is a good woman and a good wife. He exposed her to the public humiliation of getting her up on a public platform before a mixed audience which was obviously and markedly hostile to the Premier where he asked her to make a plaintive appeal to save his political hide. That is the sort of thing this man will do, a man who in two successful elections has said that it was a personal victory. It was not the work of the ministry, not the work of those in the Labour Party, but a personal victory, a personal tribute to his leadership that the Australian Labour Party won 50 seats.

**Mr. Roberts** interjected.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** We will fight you much harder than we will fight the other people. We have to deal with what precipitated this crisis at the moment. We do not want to deal with you now, but some other time!

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. DUGGAN:** It was suggested that they would fight this thing on any level at all—on the highest level or in the gutter, if necessary. If some people feel that they are in their natural environment in that position, they are welcome to stay there, but we will not get down to them.

They have spoken about oil interests being interested in our campaign. The Liberal Party decided to get a man representing oil

interests in Toowoomba to stand for Liberal pre-selection, a man named Reynolds of the Shell Company. Does that suggest that there is some connivance between me and the oil companies?

What are the charges levelled against us in this campaign? We are out to destroy democracy, we are agents of Communism! How palpably false, untrue and absurd are these accusations! These people know that they are untrue but they are peddling this line hoping that there will be some reaction. The people who are peddling this charge were the ones who last election and the election before that were resolutely defending a similar charge. I can recall an occasion when the hon. member for Landsborough or the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha referred to the Government as the Gair-Evatt-Bukowski group. Now we find that Mr. Gair is taking up the role of the Liberal Party and substituting "Duggan-Evatt-Bukowski group." Last time he became very red in the face defending his Government against charges that they were in any way tinged with Communism. They are running Mr. Bukowski down at the present time. They are using his name right throughout the length and breadth of Queensland to frighten even small children. They are emphasising the sentimental side of the darlings in the community and what will happen even to the children because of these terrible A.L.P. men. Surely we are an adult community. Surely the people are not going to accept the type of thing they are peddling around. Why should we want to destroy democracy? The hon. member for Landsborough and the hon. member for Marodian are either a Military Cross or Military Medal winner and there are others behind me here with a distinguished war record. There are even some on the other side. We have not cavilled at sending men into the Forces to defend a democracy against vicious attacks from outside. The fact that we have sent men into the Forces showed that we are not in any way associated with this dreadful Communist menace. This sort of talk has been going on for years and years. When I entered Parliament 20 years ago I remember Mr. Maxwell, then the hon. member for Toowong, would get up with what he called his little red book and talk about the socialist vote and the evils of Communism. There was the talk of the evils of Communism. For twenty years members of the Opposition have got up and made these statements. It started off after the First World War. They first referred to the Kaiser and then the Bolsheviks and then the I.W.W.

**Mr. Hilton:** What did you say about the foreign policy adopted at Hobart?

**Mr. DUGGAN:** The hon. gentleman unanimously subscribed to that policy.

**Mr. Hilton:** I did not.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** Yes he did. Why did not he have the intestinal fortitude to bring it up in Caucus?

**Mr. Hilton:** I did.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** He did not. It was carried unanimously.

**Mr. Hilton:** It was not.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** It was carried unanimously. I do want to say this to some of you people who are talking about the preservation of democracy: I ask you, not as Duggan the Parliamentarian, but as an ordinary citizen, to think and ponder and see that democracy does operate without hindrance and without being influenced because of the high position of certain people.

**Mr. Moore:** Explain yourself; make a charge.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** That is all I need to say. The person to whom it applies knows what I am referring to. I make no personal reflection on him because of the position. He is not the guilty person. I say that they would have helped if it were not for the fear of certain people in certain positions. I was challenged to say something about the threat to public servants.

**Mr. Walsh:** Challenged by whom?

**Mr. DUGGAN:** By you. I refer to Inspector Currey. I say that the transfer of Inspector Currey from Toowoomba was a politically vindictive action because he was a friend of mine.

**Mr. Gair:** Will you deny that he was transferred there at your express wish?

**Mr. DUGGAN:** That is true. The Premier was one of the loudest when he said that he was one of the few Ministers who was not consulted about officers coming to his electorate. He was an extremely good inspector. In 28 years in Toowoomba I know of only one man transferred, a man who fell foul of the Premier of the day. I do not wish to attack the Minister in charge of the police; he is not a bad fellow, but unfortunately he is prepared to carry out decisions that have been made by others. It will be argued that Inspector Currey was transferred because the new position was senior to Toowoomba. We have had men in charge of Townsville and Cairns, Inspectors Lipp and Castledine and Mahoney and Martin who were far senior to Inspector Currey and they were left in Toowoomba. It was not because of Inspector Currey personally, but because he was a friend of mine. (Government interjections.) I say it is true.

**Mr. A. Jones:** No man in the Cabinet stood over the Commissioner as much as you did.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** That is nonsense; that is an unmerited reflection on me. If I have to involve the Minister, I shall have to

reflect on some commissioned officer, and I do not want to do that. I throw the matter back at his feet.

**Mr. A. Jones:** Do that.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I did not want to embarrass any commissioned officer. I said to Currey, "What is your reaction to this?" He said, "I have no comment." The reason why I have refrained from talking about Inspector Currey—

**Mr. A. Jones:** You are embarrassing him now.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** He is not being embarrassed now. He will do a good job in Rockhampton, just as he did in Toowoomba. Unless there is a wicked hand of a vindictive man, he has no need to fear. Some people in Toowoomba knew about the inspector's transfer before the inspector knew himself.

**Mr. A. Jones:** I say he was five years in Toowoomba. Is not that sufficient for any officer?

**Mr. DUGGAN:** He had 20 months to go, and his family is in Toowoomba.

**Mr. A. Jones:** That is not true, again.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** It is true. Do not argue about that. I know the position very well. His son, who is the representative of an insurance company, was staying with him; I do know. I am telling you that there was no justification for his going.

**Mr. A. Jones:** You were talking about his family. I said his family is not going there.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I know they are not going, because he is coming back in 20 months to make Toowoomba his permanent home. All the officers of the department and the hon. gentleman himself knew that, but it was thought that he might have been of some service to me.

Whatever the result of this election, people will take their hats off to the Australian Labour Party for preventing this campaign of fear and intimidation being used against senior officers of the Public Service. Do not make any mistake about that. Certain favoured men can get information from the higher Government personages closed out at any time in those positions. They are frightened to talk, and they have told me so. Since I have become Leader of the Australian Labour Party, more of them have reposed their confidence in me, and, despite the motion of the executive of the Queensland State Service Union, there will be no more pleased men in Queensland than State public servants when Mr. Gair and those men with him are thrown into political oblivion.

**Mr. Kehoe:** Don't kid yourself.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I am not kidding myself, because the hon. member is gone for sure.

**Mr. Kehoe:** I was a member of the Queensland State Service Union.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** It probably will not be long before the hon. member is a member again. I am sure that if we are in power the hon. member will be put back, and I am sure that Mr. Nicklin will have him back. Do not worry about Mr. Gair, because his days are finished, and he knows it.

All over Queensland there has been a tremendous surge of public recognition and acclamation of what we are doing. Look at the constitution of the Queensland Labour Party. It is composed of men with no Labour background at all. They are men in the higher professions and men in executive positions. The Queensland Labour Party is not concerned about their political and industrial background. They will come out and tell you about Cullinane from Hughenden or somewhere else. When the hon. member for Flinders, Mr. Forde, was behind the party opposite, and when Mr. Gair thought he would be one of those men who would loyally put up his hand on every occasion for Mr. Gair to discredit Mr. Cullinane.

(Time, on motion of Mr. Baxter, extended.)

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I thank the hon. member for Norman for moving that my time be extended, and I thank members of the House for the indulgence that they have given me.

I shall not keep the House very long on this matter, because, as I have indicated already, I think we should have an early appeal to the electors on it. We have nothing to be afraid of; we have nothing to be ashamed of.

I see the hon. the Treasurer rising in his place. No doubt he will relish the opportunity of trying to berate me personally. The hon. member for Bundaberg is a doughty fighter and will have something in this pocket and something in that pocket, and he will have all sorts of charges to level about various things. I expect that from him. I want the public to know that from now until election day we will have a surfeit of this kind of thing. My only regret is that on the opposite side of the House there are many misguided members who are feeling very unhappy about the position today. We are not feeling very gleeful, make no bones about it. We will direct the attention of the electors throughout Queensland to the position that confronts this country if they do not return Official Labour to power. We realise that with the present set-up the Opposition parties have a golden opportunity to press home their claims to be the Government of this State, but we shall resist them and fight them all along the line. Every intelligent political observer knows it to be a fact that the great Labour movement has been rended asunder and split down the

middle. Everybody with Labour interest at heart knows the position. We gain no satisfaction over it. We are sorry for the present position but say that the situation having developed, we must face up to realities and let the people know.

Having said those things today I hope it will be the last I will have to say of them. From the personal angle I am making no reflections upon the Premier or those with him. I am not attacking his probity or integrity or his personal character but I tackle him in his official position and his actions. I hope it will not be necessary to say very much more on that aspect because I hope that from now on as the campaign unfolds we will deal with the broader and more constructive aspects of Labour's policy. The Labour movement has down through the years had its vicissitudes and its difficulties. It is inevitable in any organisation that has been in power for so long, particularly when there have been attempts to disrupt it. I want to say that right through Queensland, apart from prejudiced people, we have found a real awakening of interest and a renewed desire to serve the Labour movement as those who formed it served it. People are coming along in large numbers—

**Mr. Hilton:** Including the Coms.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** The great crusader! We are heartened by the measure of support given by the people. There is a large percentage of the population who subscribe to the Country Party. I have no quarrel with those people who from conviction feel that the best interests of the country would be served by supporting the Country or Liberal parties. That is their inalienable right. We will fight them to show that our policy is better than theirs. What is the future of the party opposite? Apart from those misguided people who feel that constitutional matters are involved—and other speakers will deal with that aspect—I say that there is no future for the party opposite. It will be seen that public servants are beginning to break away from Mr. Gair and his supporters and after the election there will only be the remains left of that organisation. It will collapse. It must do so because it is not built on tradition as the great Labour movement in Australia was built. From the earliest times people realised that their security and happiness were wrapped up in the Labour Party. Those who say that we are out to destroy democracy are talking a lot of nonsense, and they know it. The thousands of trade unionists who have pledged their support to us know that it is in their own interests that democracy be preserved. They know, too, that we must fight Communism and its attendant evils. We pledge ourselves to do that.

We pledge ourselves also to uphold the Christian way of life. I throw back into the mouths of those who have said it, the infamous lie that we are bent on destroying

Christianity and on attacking the churches. We have a great respect for all religious denominations, which are carrying out the great work of providing spiritual guidance for the people. All of us, irrespective of denomination, will feel privileged, and are quite willing and happy to discharge our obligations to every religious denomination. It is quite untrue for anyone to assert that we are out to break down family life and the Christian tradition.

Let us not waste time by debating the motion for hours and hours. We on this side will have two or three speakers and no doubt there will be two or three on the other side. Let us ask the people for their decision. There is no doubt that it will be a vindication of democracy and of the principles that we on this side stand for. I am indeed honoured to have been chosen as one of the men to carry the banner of Labour in this continent. The voice of Labour and the policy of Labour will ring throughout Queensland, and we will find that it will have a responsive chord in the hearts of thousands of men and women in this State. They will send us back in numbers to this Parliament to uphold those things that some people are charging us with destroying.

**Hon. E. J. WALSH** (Bundaberg—Treasurer) (4.32 p.m.): I do not intend to take up much time at this stage. I feel that I owe it to the House at a later stage to discuss the financial position of the State and to outline the reasons why the motion should be carried and Supply granted.

The hon. member for Toowoomba probably realises that few men in the House would like to attack him in the way that I have to attack him; anything that I have to say against him will not be said in a personal way. The hon. member will remember that at the Labour Convention in Toowoomba in 1950, when the hon. member for Brisbane was in some difficulty, he said that if he voted on the matter from a purely personal point of view he could vote in only one way. The hon. member has conceded to me that I have given him more guidance and advice since he has been a member of the Labour Party than any other person in the Party. Nobody is more sorry than I to see him in the wilderness where he is today with his Red brothers.

In more recent times, the hon. member for Toowoomba has admitted to me that he had less conflict with me than with any other member of the Cabinet. I say that to show that since he became a member of Parliament in December, 1935, 22 years ago, I have never intrigued against him or attempted to undermine him. One of the pieces of advice I gave him on that occasion was: "Never try to be anybody else but yourself, Jack. The first people to notice it will be the mates that you work with." Unfortunately, he drifted, and drifted very widely.

The hon. member for Toowoomba referred to remarks made at a meeting in Toowoomba. I know he did not want to name me, but I was the person responsible for the statement that, as far as I was concerned, the fight was on. No longer had I to consider my personal friendship with him in the matter; the battle was on, just as it will be on with the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha—no different at all. He is one of them now. (Opposition laughter.)

**Mr. Dewar:** We won't have anything to do with either of you.

**Mr. WALSH:** They might try to disown him but he is with them. I said that the fight was on and that it would be on with the gloves off, politically speaking, and that if they wanted to get down into the gutter I was prepared to get down there with them. I did not say I was prepared to get into the sewer with the rats. I left it at that.

**Mr. Graham:** You are with them now.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. WALSH:** Nobody knows better than you, Mr. Speaker, that I do not mind interjections from hon. members opposite. I can remember that when I went up to take charge of the campaign for the hon. member for Mackay I had to warn him because of the suspicion that surrounded him. He knows that. I told him there was only one branch that could run that election campaign, and that was the Mackay Branch of the A.L.P., not the Communist Party.

**Mr. Graham:** That is right. The boot is on the other foot now.

**Mr. WALSH:** He knows that Jock Burnett, Secretary of the Communist Party in Mackay, came to me and sought my approval, as campaign director, of leaflets being given out by the Communist Party in his support.

**Mr. Graham:** That is a deliberate lie.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. Graham:** Well, it is an untruth. It is offensive to me and I ask the hon. gentleman to withdraw it.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the Treasurer to accept the denial of the hon. member.

**Mr. WALSH:** I could accept his denial, but I do not think he is in a position to determine a conversation between Mr. Jock Burnett and me.

**Mr. Graham:** Bring proof of it. You could say anything.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I also ask the hon. gentleman not to impute improper motives to hon. members.

**Mr. WALSH:** I do not want to reflect on the chair and I am not asking you to protect me against hon. members opposite, but references have been made and terms have been used—not that I would worry about them, because I can direct just as much to the other side without any difficulty at all. The hon. member will not deny that I warned Jock Burnett, when Fred Paterson came down on circuit court business in Mackay and wanted to speak in support of the hon. member for Mackay in his campaign—

**Mr. Graham:** Mr. Speaker, I again seek your protection. The hon. gentleman is making a charge against me that has no truth in it. He is trying to malign me.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the hon. gentleman not to impute improper motives. He knows the rule.

**Mr. WALSH:** I do not want to enter into a discussion with you, Mr. Speaker, but, in the first place I have made no charge against the hon. member.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! You are imputing improper motives.

**Mr. WALSH:** If that is the case, I point out that the hon. member for Toowoomba, who has just resumed his seat, made all sorts of imputations. I do not mind; as long as it is to be two-way traffic, it is all right with me. Any hon. member opposite knows that I can take it and give it, too.

**Mr. Graham:** We will give it back.

**Mr. WALSH:** Let them give it back; they will never worry me. After all, I am the judge of the conversation that took place between myself and another person, and not the hon. member for Mackay. I remember that Mr. Paterson did address a meeting there and I go further and say that he did not proceed to advocate at all for the hon. member but he dealt with my late predecessor in Bundaberg. I do say that these were the persons who came to me and wanted to know from me as campaign director if I would give my approval to their support of the campaign. I said, "It is a matter for yourself; you get no approval from me."

The hon. member for Toowoomba said that he had no desire to withhold supply, he had no desire to deprive the public servants of their pay. His action today has been to oppose the motion moved by the Premier which seeks to suspend the Standing Orders to enable a Supply Bill to be brought down. What other factor could be involved but an attempt to prevent the public servants from getting their pay? Obviously whether we are granted supply or not is not going to determine the date of the election.

**Honourable Members Opposite:** Yes it is.

**Mr. WALSH:** Let me tell hon. members that that does not appear to be the case at the present time. The only reason we are meeting today is that Parliament was prorogued until 11 June. Contrary to the published advice—the same as we see the false heading in the afternoon Press about Mr. Duggan's being the Leader of the Opposition—contrary to any advice given by the Premier on behalf of his Ministers, there appeared in the Press an intimation that the Administrator called Parliament together at the invitation of the Leader of the Opposition. That is entirely wrong. There is only one recognised authority according to procedure over a long period that is competent to advise the Governor of the State, that is the Premier and his Ministers.

**Mr. Aikens:** Could you not have gone to the country without having called Parliament together first?

**Mr. WALSH:** If the hon. member for Mundingburra can tell me how to run an election without rolls I will be happy to hear him. Nobody in this House would be happier to go to the country right now while this side of the House, the Queensland Labour Party, is on the top of the wave, than the Queensland Labour Party itself. The Premier is the person who will determine the election date. Obviously he has to determine it according to the mechanics of an election. Very few people in the House have given any thought to that at all. The hon. member for Toowoomba may have thought that by frustrating the Government at this stage in the introduction of a Bill to provide for supply to pay public servants and Crown employees generally it was going to influence the election date. That is not the point at all. Today is the date to which Parliament was prorogued, and not desiring to go beyond that date the Premier recommended to the Administrator that Parliament should be called together.

The hon. member for Toowoomba engaged in some cross-fire with the Premier. Reference was made to the hon. member's ambition to succeed to the Premiership. In the last few months I have become suspicious of that myself. I am more suspicious when the very man who accompanied the member for Toowoomba here, the night the Premier was expelled, said that Duggan made a pact with them at the Trades Hall and he failed to carry it out and they had him. His name is Mr. Egerton. I am not the guilty person. I am not accusing the hon. member for Toowoomba with having entered into a pact with anybody. But if his friends go round babbling that sort of stuff you cannot blame members on this side if they form a conclusion.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I rise to a point of order. The Treasurer did say that he was not making any charge against me, but I give it a categorical denial that I entered into a pact with anybody.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I ask the hon. gentleman to accept the denial of the hon. member for Toowoomba.

**Mr. WALSH:** I accept the hon. member's denial. The hon. member knows that personally I would not be offensive to him, but when these things come to our knowledge, if I name my authorities I think that is fair enough. The hon. member for Toowoomba made some reference to the fact that he was sorry that these circumstances had been brought about. The hon. member did concede to me he at least had intimated that he was prepared to accept direction. I have always conceded that to him—that he did say so and that he did say it at the Mackay Convention. I said that I was not prepared to throw my oath of office aside lightly; as a Minister I had to regard myself as being something different from a member of the branch without any industrial responsibility. Having said that I conveyed the fact that as far as I was concerned I was never at any stage prepared to accept a direction from any source outside to set the day and date and month or year in which we should introduce legislation into this Parliament. That is the point. There is no objection to the formulation of policy. How many members over there have openly said that they were not prepared to accept a direction. Of course they said it. What is the use of denying it. But when the whip was cracked and Big Boss Joe got alongside them there was only one way they could go.

The hon. member for Toowoomba made some reference to the slander campaign. He has a 22 years' membership of this House and 10 years' ministerial responsibility. It is a pity that he should have allowed his signature to be put to the numerous advertisements that are being circulated throughout this State. After all, his name is there. No matter what the definition of the hon. member may be he has to accept the responsibility once his signature is there.

**Mr. Graham:** They are no more scurrilous than the ones put out by the Q.L.P.

**Mr. WALSH:** The Mackay people will deal effectively with the hon. member, make no mistake about that. The hon. member for Toowoomba having identified himself with the type of propaganda that is going out, has to take some responsibility. I shall accept responsibility for any propaganda that goes out on behalf of the Q.L.P. There will be no running away. The hon. member should not come in here and talk about the slander campaign. I feel sorry for him as I do for some other hon. members opposite. He is certainly being pushed about by "Big Joe" now.

The hon. member made reference to "the weakest link." I do not think that at any stage any of the hon. member's ex-colleagues would have said of him that he did not apply himself to his job in some way and give some benefit in the administration. I do not think

anybody has ever said that. I have never heard the Premier say it. However, he did say this—and I confirm what the Premier said—that the hon. member was the weak link in the Cabinet of 11. Now the hon. member for Toowoomba is asking the public generally to say that the other nine ministers, excluding the Premier, were wrong and he was right—men with wide experience in the Labour movement, men who had come up from the ruck and through the ranks of the Labour movement, and men who thought more of the Labour movement, apparently, than he did. He wants to deny that he is the weak link.

When the hon. member addressed the workers at the Ipswich Railway Workshops, he was reported in the "Queensland Times" as having made a reference that ill became him. I think I can say in all modesty that he was not referring to me, but he is reported in the "Queensland Times"—

**Mr. Duggan:** Supervised by the security police, too.

**Mr. WALSH:** I will come to the police later on. The hon. member is not suggesting that the security police or anybody else determine what goes into the "Queensland Times"?

He is reported as having said that the Premier reprimanded Ministers because of their incompetence. As I said in Toowoomba, I cannot imagine anything lower—a man who sat in with his mates all these years! Again I say, in all modesty, that he would not say it about me; nevertheless, I am one of the team.

**Mr. Duggan:** What about the reprimand the Premier gave me about the Cabinet decision from which you dissociated yourself?

**Mr. WALSH:** Never mind about the Cabinet decision. I will give the hon. member a reprimand if he wants one. He will be sorry for himself by the time I have finished with him. I do not think the Premier has indicated at any time that he had any complaints about the Minister's attention to his duty.

The hon. member made a great song about Ministers travelling round at the expense of the taxpayers. After all, he has had 10 years of it. He has been doing exactly the same thing as the Prime Minister and the Ministers in the Federal Cabinet, say, have been doing. The practice has been recognised over the years.

**Mr. Hanlon:** With a majority in the House; not with only a third of the House behind you.

**Mr. WALSH:** We have not reached that stage yet. The hon. member for Ithaca is a novice and has a lot to learn yet. I suggest that he should tread very warily in these matters. The pity of it is that he, together with others, will not be in Parliament after the next election.

The hon. member for Toowoomba also made reference to Mr. Hall in Toowoomba. If the

grapevine is correct, no-one has worked harder than the hon. member for Toowoomba and the hon. member for North Toowoomba to get Mrs. Lacaze into the election campaign.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I rise to a point of order. I am not very much concerned, but just for the record, I want to say that I have not spoken to Mrs. Lacaze for at least two months—not one single word have I spoken—nor have I caused any communication to be addressed to her, either in writing or orally.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the Treasurer to accept the denial.

**Mr. WALSH:** Yes, I accept the denial. I would not expect the hon. member to be such a novice because somebody else would be doing the job for him. He makes much out of the statement that advocates of the Q.L.P. went along to recruit the Liberal member who opposed him last time. The thing is farcical. He has already nominated as the Liberal member. In reply to that might I say that in Dalby the Secretary of the A.L.P., Mr. Schmella, addressed a meeting at which there were 30 in attendance, and at the same time the Secretary for Public Instruction addressed a meeting at which there were 130 present. This is the interesting point: of the 30 who turned up at Mr. Schmella's meeting, according to Press reports 15 formed a new A.L.P. branch and eight had been expelled from the Labour Party because they were suspected Communists. I do not mind the hon. member saying that that is a lie. That is true.

**Mr. Duggan:** We have a good candidate out there and we will see how many A.L.P. supporters there are.

**Mr. WALSH:** I think I am entitled, as Treasurer, to outline to the House the reasons why there should be a Supply Bill. I hope the House will support the Bill and give me the chance of saying something more at a later stage either today or tomorrow. The hon. member for Toowoomba can shake and wriggle about as much as he likes, but Communists have attached themselves to him and other members of the A.L.P. There is no way in the world to stop me from producing some evidence of it as I go along. What better evidence do I want? I might add that in the Q.C.E. there was a record—and I take it it is still there—of known Communists not being allowed to broadcast over station 4KQ, the Labour station. Who broke the decision and allowed Messrs. Dawson and Hanson to be in the first of five speakers over that station in defending the Q.C.E.'s action in expelling the Premier? They are two avowed Communists in this State. Neither Mr. Dawson nor Mr. Hanson will deny that. I sympathise with the hon. member for Toowoomba in his great difficulty in having these people round him, not that I sympathise with some of the others because of their known affiliation. We heard the broadcast of Mr. Dawson, the Secretary of

the Building Workers' Union. Hon. members know what a good memory I have. I might not listen to the rubbish put over the station by the hon. member for Norman and other members of that Party, but I kept my ear glued for any broadcast by men like Dawson. I had the opportunity of listening to what he had to say and I heard these words by Mr. Dawson: "Friends of the Labour Movement"—which, of course, includes the Trades and Labour Council, dominated by a Communist President and a Communist Secretary. Surely that gives me some evidence that they are floating along with the Official Labour Party. All I have to do is to quote the actions and words of the Communists themselves. I say that for the first time in the history of this Government Communists Dawson and Hanson are now touring this State at the expense of trade unionists—Communists touring this State and advocating support for the Official Labour Party. In the past, Communist candidates have opposed the endorsed Labour candidates, but on this occasion I doubt if one Communist candidate will stand in any seat held by the official Labour Party. If that happens it will support my statement, which I hope to elaborate later, that there is an affiliation between the Communist Party and the so-called official Labour Party.

I know how rattled the hon. member for Toowoomba can get—he has frequently shown evidence of that—but he has done Inspector Currey a great disservice by mentioning his name in this Assembly. I have known Inspector Currey much longer than has the hon. member for Toowoomba, but that fact will not encourage me to go over the things that I might say. I should hate to think that it was with Inspector Currey's approval that, at a social function, the hon. member made the statement he did or that he even mentioned the circumstances of Inspector Currey's transfer.

**Mr. Duggan:** It is true.

**Mr. WALSH:** The hon. member invited this.

**Mr. Duggan:** I do not mind. Everybody knows it.

**Mr. WALSH:** I must correct the hon. member on what he said of my visit to Toowoomba. He is so dazed these days that it is quite impossible for him to realise the difference between yesterday, today, and tomorrow. For his information, the Premier and I arrived in Toowoomba at about 1 o'clock on the Friday, not two days beforehand, as the hon. member said. I was Acting Secretary for Labour and Industry at the time, which was my only right to challenge the hon. member for Toowoomba to break his silence if he felt that there was anything irregular in the transfer of Inspector Currey from Toowoomba to Rockhampton. It was in the public interest that he should break his silence, but what did we

get from him this afternoon? All that matters to me is that Inspector Currey was a friend of his.

**Mr. Duggan:** That is why he was transferred.

**Mr. WALSH:** It would not justify retaining an inspector in one centre. Police officers come into and leave my district without my knowing anything about them.

**Mr. Duggan:** That is a great horse laugh.

**Mr. WALSH:** I would not know the names of more than three police sergeants in Bundaberg.

**Mr. Duggan:** I am talking about commissioned officers.

**Mr. WALSH:** The hon. member for Toowoomba has admitted that on his personal representations, Inspector Currey was brought from Longreach to Toowoomba. He cannot deny that.

**Mr. Duggan:** The same way as Inspector Martin was brought from Cairns to Brisbane.

**Mr. WALSH:** At one time it was suggested that you, Mr. Speaker, were barracking for Inspector Martin. That would not encourage me to barrack for Inspector Martin, would it?

The hon. member for Toowoomba went on with great gusto and said he did not know of any of these men who had been transferred from the district within 20 months to a position of equal status. In the first place, he overlooked the fact that Inspector Mahoney was transferred from Townsville to Toowoomba.

**Mr. Duggan:** On his retirement—and he asked to go to Toowoomba, too.

**Mr. WALSH:** It does not matter. The hon. member made the bald statement that no inspectors had been transferred. Inspector Mahoney went to Toowoomba.

**Mr. Duggan:** On the eve of his retirement at his request, and you know it. Moreover, I said "from Toowoomba."

**Mr. WALSH:** The hon. member knows that when Inspector Buggy went to Mackay he had only about 18 months to go.

**Mr. Duggan:** He was in disfavour.

**Mr. WALSH:** Be honest about it. The man who was to go on that occasion was Nobby Clark from the Valley, and, because of illness in Inspector Clark's family, which everybody conceded, the Minister who was approached on that occasion agreed that he should not go. The next man on the list was Inspector Buggy.

**Mr. Duggan:** That's all right.

**Mr. WALSH:** The hon. member says it is all right, but he sought to imply that the man was in disfavour.

**Mr. Duggan:** And he was, because he would not salute you. He would not go down and meet you at the station.

**Mr. WALSH:** The hon. member is making himself so cheap that I am becoming more disgusted with him as I go along. What about Inspector Stolz's transfer from Maryborough to Ipswich? I have not got these things in my notes.

**Mr. Wood:** The hon. member for Toowoomba said that in his 28 years he had known only once that an Inspector had been transferred from Toowoomba.

**Mr. WALSH:** Toowoomba is not the only place in Queensland.

**Mr. Wood:** That was the place he mentioned.

**Mr. WALSH:** From my limited experience I should say the three most important police districts in Queensland are Townsville, Cairns and Rockhampton. Inspector Currey was transferred to a place that was filled by a man who, I would say, was the most competent police officer, and one of the most respected officers, in the State—Tom Quinn—a man who had few equals in knowledge of the law. I cannot see how that could be demotion for Inspector Currey.

The hon. member is so childish. Surely he has something bigger to deal with than that? If I were to name the police officers in Toowoomba who have been there a long time, I think it might surprise hon. members, but I will not do that. The hon. member raised the matter and if he wants to disturb the whole police organisation by representations to the Secretary for Labour and Industry and to the Commissioner—

**Mr. Duggan:** The ones that have been there the longest do not happen to be in my corner. That is why they are being kept there, too.

**Mr. WALSH:** Even though the hon. member has been so small as to raise these matters, I will not give the names of those I could mention. However, there is every reason why the motion for the suspension of Standing Orders to enable the Government to bring down a Supply Bill should be agreed to.

**Mr. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Leader of the Opposition) (5.9 p.m.): In the last hour or two we have witnessed in this Chamber a remarkable exhibition, remarkable for two reasons: (1), the action of the leader of the Australian Labour Party in refusing to support the suspension of Standing Orders to enable a Supply Bill to be brought in and, (2), your astounding tolerance, Mr. Speaker, in allowing the debate to go along as it has.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The motion seeks to suspend the Standing Order that would otherwise prevent the reception of the resolutions on the same day as they shall have passed in Committee of Supply. That debate is as wide as the ocean.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** The motion before the House is that the Standing Orders be suspended. That does not allow any latitude

or it should not allow any latitude in debate. Later on, in Committee of Supply, the debate is as wide as the ocean, but not now. However, you have allowed hon. members on both sides of the House to be completely out of order. I hope that you will stop it now. We on this side of the House are just as anxious as the Leader of the Australian Labour Party to have Parliament dissolved and the people of the State elect a new Government in Queensland.

**Mr. Hilton:** Not as anxious as we are.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** Everybody is anxious. The method adopted by the Leader of the Australian Labour Party is not the right way. We will take the appropriate action at the appropriate time to state our case and then make our decision to bring about what we desire, which is what the Secretary for Public Lands and Irrigation says is what he desires. We hope in the near future to give him an opportunity to join with us in helping to bring about the early election desired by the people of the State.

I believe that the Treasurer, as the spokesman for the Government, has every right to state his case on Queensland's financial position. We propose to give him the opportunity by allowing Standing Orders to be suspended so that he can move a motion for Supply in Committee.

**Mr. Walsh:** You are going to agree with us for one day.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** I always adopt the practice of agreeing with what is right. If the Treasurer happens to be right on this occasion I agree with him; if he is wrong I will not agree with him. I always agree with him if he adopts the right attitude. We want this to be done properly and the proper thing to do is to give the Government an opportunity to bring in their Supply Bill and state their case. After all, that is something that we all stand for, the right of everybody to state their case freely. If we opposed the motion we would deny the Treasurer and the Government the right to state their case. We are prepared to hear their case and judge it on its merits.

**Mr. Morris:** The people have a right to know.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** As the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha interjects, the people of Queensland have a right to know the Government's case. They will have that right when the Treasurer is given an opportunity to state his case.

Because we believe it is the right of the Government to state their case, the right of the people to hear that case, the right of every hon. member in the House to make his decision after hearing that case, we will support the motion for the suspension of Standing Orders and allow the Supply Bill to be brought into the House.

**Hon. V. C. GAIR** (South Brisbane—Premier) (5.15 p.m.): When I moved the motion I did not expect any opposition to it, but contrary to my expectations, and I am sure the expectations of the House, we heard a hysterical outburst from the hon. member for Toowoomba. The hon. member took advantage of the occasion to rehash some of the speeches he has been making at the various points he has visited throughout the State, and he also referred to new phases which we shall no doubt hear on the radio or see published in the newspapers during the next few weeks. It was evident to everyone that the meeting which the Treasurer and I enjoyed at Toowoomba was still stinging the hon. member for Toowoomba very grievously. He was still worried about the public reaction to our presence, so much so that he indulged in a lot of inaccuracies, to say the least—I could say deliberate untruths. The hon. member complained about my having invited the Mayor of Toowoomba to have lunch with me. The Mayor readily agreed to preside at my meeting and we asked him to have lunch with us on the day of our arrival. The hon. member for Toowoomba said that we were there two days previously, but in fact we arrived not long before the luncheon period at the hotel. He went on to say that I asked the Mayor to stand as a candidate. While politics were discussed at the luncheon I learned from the Mayor that if he stood at all he would stand as a Liberal—without any direct invitation from me. Still the hon. member for Toowoomba who imagines he knows all sorts of things and that he is infallible will indulge in this hysterical nonsense which he displayed here today. Then he talked about the meeting and about all the heckling. There were some hecklers, but most of them were identifiable Brisbane residents. Many of them were people who congregate around the Shamrock Hotel, some of whom were employed—I would not make the grievous mistake of saying they “worked”—by the Main Roads Department, which was controlled by the Minister for Transport. They spent most of their time not at the desk, but engaged in jobs at his direction. Many of them were to be seen there with a view to destroying one of the grandest and greatest meetings in the political history of Toowoomba. The hon. member for Toowoomba drove down accompanied by Mr. McCaffrey to see this great meeting when people were pushing and rushing into the Town Hall. The street was blocked and it was a grand meeting. I did not mind the hecklers or the howlers; I dealt with them. It was not long before we got over them. They had no real questions to ask. I do not mind what the hon. member says about me, but I—and I think every decent man in this Chamber—felt disgusted with him when he brought into the discussion today the name of my wife, and even passages of her speech. It is all right for Mrs. Evatt to appear on a public platform; it is all right for Mrs. Menzies to appear on a public platform—

**Mr. Sparkes:** What is wrong with it?

**Mr. GAIR:** Nothing. But the hon. member for Toowoomba thinks it is wrong if my wife feels the impulse to get up and tell the women of Toowoomba or anywhere else of the dangers that would confront their children and other children in this State and what they are likely to suffer because of the infiltration of Communism in any political party.

**Mr. Hiley:** Was any complaint made when she did much the same thing some 12 months ago?

**Mr. GAIR:** Not at all. She toured this State at great personal inconvenience, she divorced herself from her two children and went into the electorates of hon. members opposite and assisted them to retain the seats that they now hold, and did a job of work that the wife of no former Premier of this State has ever done. She lived in a railway carriage for weeks over a period of months in the west, north-west and north of Queensland, and everyone knows what a personal sacrifice she has made as the wife of the Premier of this State. Yet the hon. member saw fit to refer to her speech.

She mentioned that we have two children, one 10 and one 8. Of course we have two children, one 10 and one 8. We love our children. I hope that all parents love their children. It is because we love our children, and because we love the children of other people, that we are concerned about the infiltration of Communism into this State. We are concerned about not only our own children but youth generally. If my wife elected to talk about the sorrowful experience of youngsters fighting for their liberty and freedom on the street in Hungary against Communism, is she not living up to the spirit of Australia? Is she not living up to the spirit of true democracy when she reminds women particularly of the vital importance of this matter? Yet we find this would-be Premier and leader of a Government descending to that low standard today.

He said he was never concerned about the premiership. Why was it that he was so interested in inquiring of other Ministers whether I had any plans for the future, whether I was going to take the Sugar job or the Agent-General's job, or some other job? Why was he so concerned?

Then he went on to say that we appointed Mr. Donnollan as Chairman of the Sugar Board for a period that would expire in our term of office. Mr. Donnollan's period of appointment was determined by his age, and we appointed him for a period that would expire when he reached an age somewhat similar to the average retiring age of public servants.

With regard to the appointment of the Agent-General for a period of two years, that was done deliberately, because I have

always held the belief that it is wrong to leave an Agent-General in London for too long.

**Mr. Hiley:** That was the mistake with Mr. Pike.

**Mr. GAIR:** Yes, that was the mistake that was made with Mr. Pike, and he got out of touch with Queensland. Mr. Muir has been there for five years. Circumstances at the end of his term did not permit of our bringing him back for a period, so I gave him a further short appointment. The idea was that someone should be appointed to act for him and that he would return to Queensland. Whether or not he went back to London was to be a matter for him, but at least he was to have the opportunity of returning to Queensland and bringing himself up to date with the developments that have taken place and becoming familiar with them. It is now suggested that that was wrong. The hon. member for Toowoomba has reached the stage where he is prepared to read the worst into every action.

The same things applies to the transfer of Inspector Currey. Rockhampton is a bigger district than Toowoomba. As a senior officer, Inspector Currey has a right to go there, even though he went to Toowoomba at the express wish of the hon. member for Toowoomba. I have never gone to the Commissioner and said, "I want Inspector so and so at Woolloongabba." They come and go there at regular intervals, without any reference to me, and I expect them, all in their turn, to do their job without fear or favour to class or sect. Inspector Currey was in Toowoomba for five years. Rockhampton has a police personnel of 150 and there are 30 police stations in the district; Toowoomba has a police personnel of 108 and there are 22 police stations, and Warwick a police personnel of 158 with 38 police stations. What has he to complain about? The inspector has gone to a bigger district and being the senior man he was entitled to go there. Mr. Duggan suggested and gave out at a public function that the inspector was victimised because he was a friend of his. By way of interjection he said that those with the longest period of time were left there because they were not friends of his. Did anyone ever hear anything so illogical? It is on a par with his statement that during my period as Premier I was a little dictator. He sat with me and took it for 5½ years, or thereabouts. He took this dictatorship. If he possessed the character he would have people believe he possessed why did he not do what Lord Salisbury did when he disagreed with Prime Minister Macmillan over the Cyprus question and resign? Why did he not do that if he thought I was a dictator? And then there was the Motor Spirits Distribution Bill and other legislation about which he complained. That Bill has been dropped from advertisements. If he objected to these things why did he not get out of the Cabinet? No, he did not get out one minute before he had

to. He spoke about my lack of courage and that I had to take the Treasurer to Toowoomba with me. I knew that I would have a man with me and I knew that I could not have better support than my deputy. That is why I took him. He also said that I pushed my wife up on to the platform to speak in the face of a hostile audience. I do not appreciate that very much. My wife is a lady of character and determines things for herself. If she was selected to speak at that meeting and scheduled to speak at it all the hecklers in the world including Mr. Duggan and his team would not have stopped her because she has more fortitude and more courage than they have. And what is more, she would stand up to principle and would not give it away even for the job of Premier. The hon. member for Toowoomba delved into these matters this afternoon, but he wants to be sure of his facts. He showed plenty of evidence this afternoon that the poor fellow is in a hell of a dilemma; he knows he has backed the wrong horse. He was one out of ten ministers; all these other men must be wrong. Some of them come from shearing sheds and are better industrialists than Duggan ever was. The same thing goes for a lot of his supporters. These men round me were prepared to stand for a principle. They were not going to be directed as to when legislation should be introduced if we believed that the time was not propitious. You, Mr. Speaker, know as well as I that there were times when this matter was discussed by the Parliamentary Labour Party and that the party was unanimous that the time was not opportune, but when big Boss Joe and others started to wield their whips we saw the way they went. When they were threatened with refusal of endorsement or withdrawal of endorsement and they feared losing their jobs, they said, "To hell with principle; we must look after this job, it is the best we ever had and we will not get another one like it." By their actions they imperilled the Parliamentary system of Government. They said in effect, "There is another authority higher than Parliament to say when these things should be done and when legislation should be introduced." I have heard hon. members who support the hon. member for Toowoomba say that if the Q.C.E. said that they were to be introduced a 30-hour week, they would agree. Has not Mr. Duggan said in public statements that he would do that? Has he not said that if the Q.C.E. said tomorrow, "You, as members of the Australian Labour Party, are required to affiliate with the Communist Party," he and those who support him would be prepared to do so?

**Australian Labour Party Members: No!**

**Mr. GAIR:** Mr. Duggan, speaking as the leader of those hon. members who have just interjected, has said, "Sound or unsound, right or wrong, wise or unwise, I shall give effect to the decisions of the Q.C.E.," and that is what each one of them has said.

I feel that I have adequately disposed of Mr. Duggan's hysterical outburst this afternoon. I am very sorry that he saw fit to introduce the name of Mrs. Gair into the debate. It will not comfort him to know that Mrs. Gair will make more speeches, equally as effective as the one in Toowoomba, and they will not help the candidates of the party that he leads. As long as she has breath in her body she will speak against the evils of Communism, just as I and other members of the Queensland Labour Party will continue to do, not only during this campaign but after it is over and for all time, in the interests of the preservation of democracy, which means so much not only to you and me, but to the generations still to come.

Question.—That the motion (Mr. Gair) be agreed to—put; and the House divided—

**AYES, 49.**

Mr. Aikens	Mr. Low
„ Bjelke-Petersen	„ Madsen
„ Brosnan	„ McCathie
„ Chalk	„ Moore
„ Collins	„ Moores
„ Cooper	„ Morris
„ Devries	„ Müller
„ Dewar	„ Munro
„ Diplock	„ Nicholson
„ Dohring	„ Nicklin
„ English	Dr. Noble
„ Evans	Mr. Pizzey
„ Fletcher	„ Power
„ Foley	„ Rasey
„ Gair	„ Roberts
„ Gardner, H. R.	„ Robinson
„ Gardner, R. J.	„ Skinner
„ Gaven	„ Smith
„ Hadley	„ Sparkes
„ Heading	„ Taylor, H. B.
„ Herbert	„ Walsh
„ Hewitt	
„ Hiley	<i>Tellers :</i>
„ Hilton	Mr. Adair
„ Jones, A.	„ Kehoe
„ Jones, V. E.	

**NOES, 23.**

Mr. Baxter	Mr. Gunn
„ Brown	„ Hanlon
„ Burrows	„ Jesson
„ Byrne	„ Keyatta
„ Clark	„ Taylor, J. R.
„ Davies	„ Turner
„ Davis	„ Wallace
Dr. Dittmer	„ Wood
Mr. Donald	
„ Dufficy	<i>Tellers :</i>
„ Duggan	Mr. Marsden
„ Forde	„ Lloyd
„ Graham	

Resolved in the affirmative.

**SUPPLY.**

**VOTE OF CREDIT—£27,000,000.**

**MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR.**

MR. SPEAKER read a message from His Excellency the Administrator recommending that the following provision be made on account of the services for the year ending 30 June, 1958—

“From the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland (exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account) the sum of £14,000,000;

“From the Trust and Special Funds the sum of £9,500,000; and

“From the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account the sum of £3,500,000.”

**COMMITTEE.**

(The Chairman of Committees, Mr. Clark, Fitzroy, in the chair).

**Hon. E. J. WALSH** (Bundaberg—Treasurer) (5.42 p.m.): I move—

“That there be granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1957-1958, a further sum not exceeding £27,000,000 towards defraying the expenses of the various departments and services of the State.”

Parliament has authorised and appropriated in Appropriation Acts during the 1956 session—

1. Funds for the current financial year, 1956-1957, and

2. Supply for a short period of the next financial year, 1957-1958, known as the “Vote on Account.”

This “Vote on Account” is normally sufficient to enable the Government to carry on in the first weeks of the succeeding financial year until Parliament meets early in August and passes further supply to supplement such amount.

In view of the pending election and the apparent need of the elected Government for time to formulate its legislative programme, Parliament may not meet as early as usual, in which case the existing authorised supply for 1957-1958 may prove inadequate.

Parliament has appropriation on account of 1957-1958—

£14,000,000 for Consolidated Revenue Fund,

£9,000,000 for Trust and Special Funds, and

£3,500,000 for Loan Fund.

This was designed to meet requirements until the end of August, 1957.

The proposed Bill seeks supply for a further two months to the extent of:—

£14,000,000 for Consolidated Revenue Fund,

£9,500,000 for Trust and Special Funds, and

£3,500,000 for Loan Fund.

This augmented supply will be sufficient to meet disbursements by the Crown until the end of October, 1957, totalling:

£28,000,000 for Consolidated Revenue Fund,

£18,500,000 for Trust and Special Funds, and

£7,000,000 for Loan Fund.

Certain commitments, such as Salaries of the Governor, Judges, Ministers and certain top public servants; Payment of Members

of Parliament; Public Debt charges, and certain grants and endowments are appropriated by the relevant Acts of Parliament and payment for these purposes may be made without further legislative enactment. However, supply and appropriation must be granted by Parliament to cover all other expenditure on Government services.

Funds will be needed to maintain Government activities beyond the end of August until such time as further Supply is

granted, including payment of salaries and wages to Crown employees, health, hospital and other social services, education, law, order and public safety, railway operation and other services, and constructional and developmental works, etc. Expenditure for the first four months of the two preceding financial years, as compared with Supply granted and sought for 1957-1958, is as follows:—

	1955.		1956.		1957.	
	Expended.				Appropriated.	
	£m.		£m.		£m.	
<b>July and August—</b>						
Consolidated Revenue (excluding amounts appropriated by Special Acts) .. .. .	11	12.6	14			
Trust and Special .. .. .	6.5	7.4	9			
Loan .. .. .	1.7	2.4	3.5			
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>26.5</b>			
<b>September and October—</b>						
Consolidated Revenue .. .. .	9.6	11.6	14	Now Sought.		
Trust and Special .. .. .	8.6	9	9.5			
Loan .. .. .	2.6	3.1	3.5			
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>27</b>			
<b>July to October—</b>						
Consolidated Revenue .. .. .	20.6	24.2	28.0	Granted and Sought.		
Trust and Special .. .. .	15.1	16.4	18.5			
Loan .. .. .	4.3	5.5	7			
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>46.1</b>	<b>53.5</b>			

Thus, the Supply sought for 1957, as compared with the increased expenditure in 1956 over 1955, is as follows—

	July to October.			
	Increase.		Increase.	
	1956 Actual over 1955 Actual.		1957 Supply over 1956 Actual.	
	Amount.	Percentage.	Amount.	Percentage.
	£m.	%	£m.	%
Consolidated Revenue .. .. .	3.6	17.5	3.8	15.7
Trust and Special .. .. .	1.3	8.6	2.1	12.8
Loan .. .. .	1.2	27.9	1.5	27.3
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>16.0</b>

Supply granted to the Government to carry on in 1956-1957 until the Estimates were passed and annual appropriations made, was as follows—

	November. 1955.	August. 1956.	Total.
Consolidated Revenue .. .. .	£m. 13	£m. 19	£m. 32
Trust and Special .. .. .	9	15	24
Loan .. .. .	3.5	7	10.5
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>66.5</b>

That is to be compared with a total of £53,500,000 now sought for the four months ending 31 October.

1957—c

As I pointed out, and as hon. members generally know, Supply has been granted up till the end of August or thereabouts.

Because of the situation, it was thought necessary to bring down a measure providing for Supply that will enable the Government that is returned to formulate its budgetary plans after the election. Of course, we expect to be returned. This measure will enable the new Government to have finance up till October and give it a little time in which to adjust its financial policy generally.

**Mr. Hiley:** To enable us to understand that point and the implication of it, are you telling the Committee that the Government are undertaking to resign? Otherwise, what is the implication? You referred to an election and a new Government.

**Mr. WALSH:** I think the hon. member would have enough experience to know that.

**Mr. Hiley:** The Committee is entitled to a very plain statement.

**Mr. WALSH:** I think the hon. member has had sufficient experience in this House to know that I would not have the burden on my shoulders of answering a question as to whether or not the Government was going to resign.

**Mr. Hiley:** You are making statements consistent only with those premises, but they have not been established.

**Mr. WALSH:** It is very obvious that, in bringing down this measure, we have sought to stand up to our obligations. Irrespective of which party is returned at the pending election—as I said, we expect to be returned—there will then be a period in which the Government can adjust their financial policy. I think the hon. member for Coorparoo has sufficient experience to realise that normally we would be preparing the Budget at this period of the year when we are now preparing for an election. If the Leader of the Opposition desires that I prepare the Budget and have it in readiness for him if he is elected as Leader of the Government, which I do not expect, I shall be happy to do it.

**Mr. Hiley:** We can improve on your work.

**Mr. WALSH:** That remains to be seen. The hon. member must look at the nationwide problems of finance today. If I remember correctly, the hon. member for Coorparoo indicated quite clearly last year that he understood the difficulties of the Government in regard to finance, even though many other people are trying to make out that we had all this money and telling us what we could have done to save the situation here in regard to housing, and so on, if we had availed ourselves of certain moneys at a time when those loans matured instead of re-investing them. I shall have something interesting to say about that later.

The hon. member for Toowoomba made some remarks about that and was again indulging in cheap politics. I think I shall be able to produce figures to show that the one department in this State that has been responsible for gradually levelling down the finances of this State is the Railway Department. When I read all the loose talk about what the Government could have done with their £6,500,000 which matured in May of this year and was re-invested in the Commonwealth Loans, and when I hear the remarks of the hon. member for Toowoomba, I think how cheaply he has taken his responsibility as a member of an allegedly great partnership. He is going to tell the people of his ability to run the party, but as he, in particular, and members on the other side of the Chamber know, there is no way in which we could have made any of that money available to improve the situation about which he complains. As a matter of fact, the money for Commonwealth-State housing is money advanced by the Commonwealth out of its portion of the total loan raisings of Australia. And when that loan fund is cut out, the hon. member knows what the position will be. I hesitate to think he would argue that we should find from our own cash resources money to enable what is a Commonwealth project to be carried out and, at the same time, dismiss 2,000 men or thereabouts from our Government activities. That is the story. I will produce figures to show the relationship of the Railway Department to this matter and I will discuss other interesting things about the department since the hon. member has had so much to say about it.

What led up to this interests us all. I should say that it will be accepted that all political parties in Australia irrespective of politics, have contributed something very worthwhile to the economy of this country. We might differ as to policy, but in the final analysis, I think it will be conceded that the Labour Party which has become extensive throughout Australia is a progressive one and that it has dealt with those things that mean so much to the welfare of this country. We would not be so imbecilic as to argue that other political parties have not contributed something to our economy. It is agreed that if democracy is to function there should be a strong Government on the one hand and a strong Opposition on the other. That is a very necessary state of affairs. Political history will show that a strong Opposition has come about when Labour has been in Opposition. It can be said that strong opposition came from the Labour Party when it kept the Government on their toes and saw that they kept abreast of the times.

**Mr. Morris:** You would not say that in the Federal House.

**Mr. WALSH:** In some respects they have reached the stage when they are not much different to our friends who have just left us here. There is a great body of really

good Labour stalwarts who have contributed to what is worthwhile in this country. I do not think anybody will disagree when I say that if a Government becomes inefficient or ineffective and the Opposition is inefficient or ineffective too, democracy and the Parliamentary structure of the country suffer accordingly. I hope to be able to give some instances of the difference between a strong Government and a weak Government. That is why we have reached a crisis in Queensland today. It was because there was a Government with the courage to stand up to their responsibilities regardless of pressure, whether from the ranks of those who allegedly supported the Labour Party over the years or from such great pressure groups as oil companies and other vested interests.

The present crisis must be related not so much to a defence of the present Parliamentary system, which insists on government by the people, as to an attack on it. In other words, we on this side should not be put in the position of having to defend democracy in the Parliamentary system as we know it. Rather should we be resisting the attack made on it by those insidious forces that have been developing year by year and are gradually finding their way into what is known as the Labour structure. Hon. members on this side of the Chamber still regard themselves as the Labour Party.

**Mr. Brown interjected.**

**Mr. WALSH:** I hope the hon. member for Buranda will rise to his feet later on and question my authority for saying that, and for other statements that I shall be making. I hope, too, that he will defend his attitude in this matter.

Hon. members generally know that I never like to place myself in the position of having to defend in circumstances such as these; rather would I undertake the role of attacking the enemies of democracy in the Parliamentary system. That is what I propose to do as I proceed. The present opposition results from many years of careful planning by insidious influences and forces outside this country who have planted their machinery and their agents within the structure of Parliamentary government and democracy in Australia. I regard the present political crisis in Queensland as transcending any plank in any political platform, whether it be that of the Liberal Party, the Country Party, or the Labour Party. When I was speaking in Bundaberg, I invited my audience not to judge me on what I had done for them in the past as the member for Bundaberg, or on what I was likely to do for them in the future, but on one issue only, that is, on who was going to rule and govern the country. No hon. member who applies himself to this question without prejudice and without bias will be left in any doubt about who is trying to rule the country after I have related all the circumstances.

I think it will be agreed by all that trade unions have played a very important part in the economy of this country.

Earlier I referred to the part that political parties have played in developing the national economy. Though we differ in policy and method, Australia owes much to the combination of political effort.

When I consider the small Soviet Republics like Latvia, Lithuania and the Baltic States, not those governed by the influences operating in Russia but those that have built up a form of democracy somewhat similar to that developed in Australia by the Labour Party over the years, and when I see all the grand things that they won, destroyed overnight in the brutal onslaught of Communist Russia, I realise it is time to wake up and ensure that such things do not happen here.

**Mr. Lloyd:** How long has this been going on?

**Mr. Gair:** Rip Van Winkle!

**Mr. WALSH:** The hon. member for Kedron has suddenly awakened. He will have to be wide awake in his electorate now that we have such a prominent candidate as Dr. Uhr. Even if the hon. member does not know how long it has been going on, I am sure many people in this Chamber and outside it will concede that I have been drawing attention to it for many years. If he reads my speeches made in this Chamber in 1944 and 1945 on Communist infiltration in this country, he will know it is nothing new to me. He will know that I instanced the greatest propagandist in Queensland as Jack Hanson, Secretary of the Operative Painters' and Decorators' Union and now allied with the so-called Official Labour Party. I never under-rate the capacity of the trained Communist and I never have. I remember that, in the early stages of World War II, Hanson toured the coastline of Australia in an endeavour to disturb the workers and the trade union movement generally and set them against what he called the Imperialist war. Then I remember the night of 22 June, 1941, when Russia was attacked by Germany, not coming to the defence of Britain or her Allies but in the so-called Imperialist war. Overnight Hanson sent a cable to Churchill demanding the opening of a Second Front in Europe. How quickly the scene had changed from an Imperialist war to a war of the proletariat.

If anyone wants to do a little research in the matter, let him refer to the Sunday Mail of 22 June, 1941, and read Mr. Hanson's demand in the cable he sent to Churchill. Everybody knows that the Communists have been endeavouring to make inroads into the trade union movement and have been very successful.

**Mr. Lloyd interjected.**

**Mr. WALSH:** I do not mind a little noise but I would like some protection from the hon. member for Kedron with his inane interjections. If they were relevant it would not matter.

**Mr. Lloyd:** Ask the Premier to keep quiet for a little while.

**Mr. WALSH:** Everybody knows that over a period of years the Communists have been making inroads into the trade union movement. They have been successfully resisted by bona fide Labour trade unionists within the various unions. But the Communist Party have a different policy today. They have realised that their work over the years involving the spending of thousands of pounds of trade union funds, the levies of union members, has not achieved much merely by paying attention to the trade union movement. Now they have made their way into the political machine of the State. I think I would be just as good a judge, if not better than, most hon. members opposite on the extreme right when I say that the Communist Party in Queensland today has a greater grip on the Labour structure of the political machine than in any other period of the State's history. Having made that statement, hon. members do not expect that I am not going to produce some evidence of it as I go along!

**Honourable Members:** Produce it.

**Mr. WALSH:** I will produce it, much to their discomfort!

We have heard a good deal about the pledges. During my years of association with hon. members opposite on the extreme right I realised how little many of them understood the Rules of the Australian Labour Party. From their broadcasts it is very obvious how little they know of the A.L.P. Rules. Every person who seeks to contest a seat as an endorsed Labour candidate signs a pledge. I am not going to quote it from memory, but from the Constitution and General Rules of the Australian Labor Party. On page 98 we find—

“Pledge of State Candidate.

“Each Candidate shall, prior to the taking of a ballot or prior to securing recognition as a Labor Candidate sign the following Pledge:

‘I . . . being a Candidate for selection by the Labor Party's recognised Political Organisation in the . . . Electorate, hereby give my Pledge that if not selected I will not in any way oppose the Candidature of the duly selected Nominee; and, if selected, I will go through with the contest. I agree, if elected, to advocate and support the Principles contained in the Australian Labor Party's Federal, State and Local Government Platforms.’ ”

In the House and on the hustings I have done far more than any hon. member over on the right in advocating the principles of the Constitution and Rules of the Australian Labor Party Platform. Nobody can say that I have ever broken that pledge either in or outside the House. The pledge continues—

“ . . . and on all questions affecting the Platform to vote as a majority of the

Parliamentary or Municipal Labor Party may decide at a duly constituted Caucus meeting . . . ”

Here is the majority of the Parliamentary Labour Party—over here; there is the breakaway party—over on the other side on my right.

**A.L.P. Members:** Nonsense!

**Mr. WALSH:** Obviously. There is the pledge that is signed.

**Mr. Baxter:** Keep going.

**Mr. WALSH:** The hon. member for Norman would not know. I remember on one occasion when the hon. member was doing his 4BK broadcasts he took my speech on the introduction of the amendment of the Workers' Compensation Acts. At the end of my introductory speech on the Bill I made the observation that it was not intended to increase the workers' compensation premiums at that stage; and the hon. member forgot to cut it out and he put it over 4BK. Yet the hon. member has the hide to tell me how they would interpret this part of the pledge. There it is quite clear.

**A.L.P. Members:** Read it.

**Mr. WALSH:** I shall read it. There is nothing there to hide. For the information of hon. members opposite on my extreme right, that is a different pledge from the one that they signed on joining as a member of an A.L.P. Branch. They failed to distinguish that in these rules the political machine of the Labour Party recognised that it could not bind members of Parliament in the same way as it bound a member of a branch. There it is quite clearly. It says—

“On all questions affecting the platform you shall vote as the majority of the party has voted.”

**Mr. Coburn:** Read the next sentence.

**Mr. WALSH:** I shall read the next sentence.

**Mr. Davis** interjected.

**Mr. WALSH:** There is nothing in this about convention. The hon. member is trying to put something into this pledge that is not there. It says—

“In the event of the question of the interpretation of any plank in the platform being in dispute it shall be referred to the Q.C.E. for decision, and that decision shall be final.”

Where is the dispute in connection with this? The Parliamentary Labour Party determined unanimously—not one vote against—that they were in favour of the three weeks' annual leave in principle. Where does the dispute come in? The only dispute is whether the Q.C.E. should have the authority to direct members of this

Parliament as to the day, the date, the week and the month when such legislation should be introduced.

It is the interpretation. I shall not waste my time on that. The thing is quite clear. Even though, Mr. Clark, we concede all those things, it is still here that they shall act in accordance with the majority decision of the party. I have had a long association with the Party and I understand the rules which I have studied carefully. Even though I say it, I think there are many people who will give me credit for my contribution on these things at State or Federal conventions. While I am on the matter of pledges, I think this should go on record. Hon. members will realise that I like to do a little research in connection with these things. This is very interesting, and I think for that reason it should go on record. It is from the judgment of Lord Shaw of Dunfermline in an English case of Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants v. Osborne before the House of Lords. One would think that in this judgment the House of Lords was dealing with all the things that are involved in the political crisis within the Labour Party in this State.

Amongst other things, Lord Shaw said—

“As to candidate and members of Parliament themselves, the constitution is in these terms: 1, ‘Candidates and members must accept this constitution; agree to abide by the decisions of the parliamentary party in carrying out the aims of this constitution; appear before their constituencies under the title of Labour candidates only; abstain strictly from identifying themselves with or promoting the interests of any party not eligible for affiliation; and they must not oppose any candidate recognised by the executive committee of the party.’ ”

How like our own Rules in this State!

“The position of a member of Parliament supported by the contributions of the society is accordingly this. As stated, (1) he is by the society’s rules ‘responsible to’ as well as paid by the society; (2) he must have as a candidate signed and accepted the conditions of the Labour party; (3) while that party has its own policy, he must accept its constitution, and ‘agree to abide’ by the decisions of the parliamentary party in carrying out the aims of the constitution. Under these aims the first object of the constitution must be included, namely, maintaining the Parliamentary Labour Party’s own policy. Unless a member becomes bound to the society and to the Labour party by these conditions, and shapes his parliamentary action in conformity therewith, and with the decisions of the parliamentary party, he has broken his bargain. Take the testing instance;”—

and this is the important part—

“should his view as to right and wrong on a public issue as to the true line of

service to the realm, as to the real interests of the constituency which has elected him, or even of the society which pays him, differ from the decision of the parliamentary party and the maintenance by it of its policy, he has come under a contract to place his vote and action into subjection not to his own convictions, but to their decisions.

“My Lords, I do not think that such a subjection is compatible either with the spirit of our parliamentary constitution or with that independence and freedom which have hitherto been held to lie at the basis of representative government in the United Kingdom.”

How appropriate! If my friends on my right want to accept the Communist line and bow to the decisions of outside bodies regarding the implementation of legislation in this State, that is their business.

There is another interesting extract there, but I shall leave that for the time being.

As I said earlier, this is a threat to democracy. There have been previous threats to democracy in this country, and, strangely enough, they all seem to come when the Labour Party is in power. When I take my mind back to what happened in 1949, when the late Ben Chifley had to assume the responsibilities of the office of Prime Minister of this country and demonstrate to the Labour people, particularly, throughout Australia, and to the people as a whole, that Labour was competent to govern in any period of crisis and realise how Mr. Chifley measured up to his obligations as the Prime Minister of this country, I liken that to what Premier Gair has done in this State. In other words, we have the same influences operating in this State today as were operating in the structure of the trade union movement in New South Wales particularly, and everybody knows that at that time the Communists had a plan whereby they sought to hold this country up to ransom. Their first threat was to stop coal production in New South Wales—

**Mr. Gair:** Where was the hon. member for Flinders then?

**Mr. WALSH:** The hon. member for Flinders was out in the wilderness at that time. The Communists sought to bring industry to a standstill; powerhouses and industry generally were to be brought to a standstill. The late Mr. Chifley with a combination of wise political and industrial leadership in New South Wales at that time was able to resist the inroads of the Communists into industry in New South Wales. And how did he do it? By providing troops. He put military personnel into the coal mines in New South Wales. There are those people who have so much to say about breaking a platform, but if they read from page 107 of this booklet—

**Mr. Duffey:** We have read it all.

**Mr. WALSH:** And you will hear it again tonight. This is going on record. Paragraph 11, under the heading of "Defence", says—

"Defence personnel not to be used in industrial disputes."

Did anybody charge Mr. Chifley, his Cabinet and his Party, with having breached the platform because he stood up to his obligations? Mr. Chifley was able to show as the Labour Prime Minister just as Premier Gair is showing, that he was prepared to resist even if it meant the risk of his defeat. Somebody in Toowoomba said the other night that Mr. Menzies won. Of course he won, after what Mr. Chifley had done for the waterside workers and the coal-miners. No other Government in Australia had improved their conditions as much as they were improved under Chifley's Prime Ministership. That did not matter. The Party had to be thrown into political oblivion, and the Communist Party went hand in hand to the Liberal Party to seek to bring about the defeat of Mr. Chifley and the Labour Government. That is the party that the official Labour Party is linked with today.

**Mr. Davis** interjected.

**Mr. WALSH:** Now, Mr. Barcoo, if anybody wants to drag the sectarian serpent in here, I am ready for it. I listened to the broadcast of the hon. member for Mackay the other night and when I remember the actions of the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt in this matter, do not let anybody dare to bring the sectarian issue up here.

**Mr. Davis:** Is Santa Maria sectarian?

**Mr. WALSH:** The hon. member knows, because he supported him. He assisted Dr. Evatt to write his policy speech.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Dr. DITTMER:** I rise to a point of order. Any intelligent person would infer from the Treasurer's remarks that he was accusing me of sectarianism. That is offensive to me and if he intended the inference I ask him to withdraw it.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I ask the Treasurer to accept the hon. member's explanation.

**Mr. WALSH:** I must accept the hon. member's explanation, but when his own leader and other members of his party are making a clumsy attempt to raise the sectarian issue in broadcasts, do they expect me to remain silent?

**Dr. Dittmer:** I expect you to be decent.

**Mr. WALSH:** Fancy the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt, of all people, giving us a lecture on decency! When did he reach the stage when he could give anybody on this side of the Chamber a lecture on being decent? He is another one whom I tried to advise to the best of my ability. I did not look for inferior things in the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt any more than I did in

the hon. member for Toowoomba. On the contrary, I refused to listen to my best friends in this party when they tried to tell me about the failings of the hon. member for Toowoomba. I regarded him as a young man who would contribute something to this party and eventually become its leader. He knows that nobody tried more than I to save him from the wreckage that he is now in.

**Mr. Duggan:** You worry about saving yourselves. We are all right.

**Mr. Gair** interjected.

**Mr. Duggan:** You will not have the Packard much longer.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr. WALSH:** I have already invited the hon. member for Toowoomba to contest my seat, and also to get on the same platform and give his side of the story. However, he was not prepared to do that. It would have been a fair thing if both of us had appeared on the same platform.

**Mr. Duggan** interjected.

**Mr. WALSH:** I hope the hon. member will give it here tonight.

**Mr. Duggan:** I have only 25 minutes, but you have about five hours.

**Mr. WALSH:** In addition to what happened in the coal mines in New South Wales, I draw attention to what happened to the "Halligonian Duke," which arrived in Victoria from India with gas coal to make up the deficiency in that State's supplies. Ben Chifley put the Navy on to unload the coal. He was not reprimanded for that. That is what surprises me all the more about the hon. member for Flinders. He was a Cabinet Minister in the Federal Government for years, yet now he chooses to say that no longer does he recognise Parliamentary authority. He is prepared to be pushed around by an outside body, irrespective of its constitution.

**Mr. Davis** interjected.

**Mr. WALSH:** I have already warned the hon. member for Barcoo that I am going out to his electorate.

Let me now come a little closer to home and talk about the meat strike. That was one of the most carefully-designed plans of the Communist Party in this State. They sought to start a dispute in the Oxley bacon factory on seniority and the old rule of last on, first off. However, the dispute was settled and they transferred the trouble to the Brisbane abattoirs. The Industrial Court was able to effect a settlement there, and then the Communists switched the dispute to Murarrie. Bit by bit they sought to sabotage the machinery of Government and industry in this State. They succeeded in putting the waterside workers and the coal-miners out for months, and they did their darndest to get the railways out but whether it was any credit to me

or not—I was Minister for Transport at the time—they did not succeed. Thanks to a body of loyal trade union officials in the railways, Queensland was protected from a complete tie-up engineered by the Communists. We all know what happened. The late Hon. E. M. Hanlon accepted his obligations as Premier and applied the emergency provisions of the State Transport Act, which contained dire penalties for those trade unionists who did not comply with the demands of the Government. Did any bona-fide Labour man object to the late Mr. Hanlon's measuring up to his responsibilities as Premier?

Then we had the railway strike in 1948. I was not in this Assembly at that time. Hon. members will remember that one of the most drastic pieces of legislation ever brought down in the House was introduced by the late Mr. Hanlon. It became known as the anti-picketing law, and, to my mind, it cut across the whole of the principles of the industrial code of Queensland, yet hon. members, after a brief discussion in Caucus, accepted it unanimously. I am not complaining about it, because the Government were measuring up to their responsibilities.

Now the scene has changed, and there are some questions to be answered.

**Mr. Turner:** Was that legislation approved by the Q.C.E.?

**Mr. Gair:** Yes.

**Mr. Turner:** It was not.

**Mr. Gair:** It was. What would you know about it?

**Mr. WALSH:** I think I could answer that more effectively and more truthfully than any hon. member over there, as I was a member of the Q.C.E. Inner Executive at the time. No such legislation was ever presented to the Q.C.E. Indeed, my experience extends over 14 years and I have no knowledge of any legislative proposals by the Labour Government being submitted, discussed and approved by the Q.C.E. before introduction in the Chamber. I will defy Mr. Bukowski or anybody else to name any.

As a matter of fact, one of the bitterest critics of the anti-picketing legislation was the late Mr. C. G. Fallon. I was personally associated with him for many years in the Mackay district and in Labour circles in Brisbane. Being a good, loyal industrial leader, he said not one word about the legislation and its effect on trade-union policy till the strike was over. Then he demanded its repeal. The A.W.U. executive made an appointment with the then Premier to discuss the question but, in the meantime, Cabinet decided to repeal it and announced it to the world, appeasing the Communist influences in the Trades Hall who had already publicly announced that they were going to hold a mass meeting in the Stadium on 30 June. It was taking the benefit and credit of any repeal of that legislation completely away from the A.W.U.

Hon. members will realise that I have followed my political and Labour history very carefully.

There are some questions to be asked and some to be answered. This is where you begin to find the footprints of the Communist Party coming into the political structure of the State. Why did the Carpenters' Union, the Painters' Union and other trade unions remain aloof from the A.L.P. for so long? Silence on my right! The Carpenters' Union and the Painters' Union got out about 1941. During the whole of that period they have contributed nothing to the Labour Party's campaign funds in Queensland, irrespective of what they may have done in the Federal sphere. The A.R.U. have remained aloof for 31 years. Why then at this stage have the Carpenters' Union (which is Communist controlled), and the Painters' Union (which is Communist controlled) and the Australian Railways Union (whose leadership over the years has been suspect, if not Communist controlled) come into the structure of the Labour political machine? These are the questions which have to be asked. Why have they returned? I will tell hon. members why they have returned. I hope they will pardon me, but here is my authority, "Communist Review" for April, 1957. I am not going to quote from some anti-Labour Party publication but here is an authority—

**Mr. Hanlon:** The Communist Party is anti-Labour just the same as these people here.

**Mr. WALSH:** That is an interesting interjection from the hon. member for Ithaca. On page 140 of the "Communist Review" for April, 1957, we find—

"Today we share the leadership with members and supporters of the A.L.P. in many trade unions, factories, and on the jobs, in the mines and on the ships. We must work to increase this unity. Members of the Communist Party have proved skilled, capable, sincere and courageous fighters in these activities and have shown workers how to win many victories. We must take this further, to share the leadership in the Parliamentary fields, in Federal and State Governments, and increasingly in Local Government."

Those are not my own words. They are not from the "Cour'er-Mail" or any anti-Labour source but a record of the Communist Party.

**Mr. Wood:** Nor any Labour source.

**Mr. WALSH:** I can imagine what the hon. member for Toowoomba would say. The fact remains that they have accepted Jerry Dawson and Jack Hanson, devout Communists, into their arms. Nobody realises the hon. member's difficulties more than I do. Nobody feels more sympathy than I do because these people have come in and inflicted themselves upon the Labour Party despite all the endeavours of the hon. member for Toowoomba to shake them off. These

Red bugs will have the hon. member scratching and tearing for the rest of his political life. It reminds me that the A.L.P. used to be referred to as the Evatt Party, but now it has got to the stage where it is accepted as being the Bukowski-Evatt-Duggan Party. If you cut it short for the sake of convenience you would call it the B.E.D. Party. If you want to put the Labour Party to sleep for ever, all you have to do is to join the B.E.D. Party—the Bukowski-Evatt-Duggan Party.

I now wish to say something about union ballots.

**An Opposition Member:** What do you know about them?

**Mr. WALSH:** I think I know quite a bit about them. I probably know more than than some people would like me to know. I cannot be blamed if I peruse the published ballot figures in "The Worker" newspaper. I do not ask hon. members to take the figures that I may produce, but I ask them to accept the figures that appear in one of the December issues of "The Worker" each year. From time to time it has been said by Bukowski that the A.W.U. has a membership of 80,000. In their report they use the figure of 64,000 members. I am not concerned with either of those figures. The figure I am concerned with is the certified audited return put into the hands of the Industrial Court, which gives the membership of the A.W.U. at approximately 74,000. At the last ballot there would be fewer than 17,000 members out of that total whose votes are shown to have been recorded. I am not saying they recorded their votes, but I am saying that there would be approximately 17,000 out of 74,000 whose votes would be shown as having been recorded. That number is about 23 per cent. of the total. When I look up Bukowski's figures I am a bit sorry that I am not on side with him. I think any union official who can attract 98 per cent. of the votes in his district is a pretty good worker. In the Southern district last election Mr. Bukowski received 98 per cent. of the total votes cast and 95 per cent. over the whole of the State.

**Mr. Hiley:** That is not too good; that is two per cent. less than Stalin got.

**Mr. WALSH:** I was leading up to that. I think the only people who could record votes to that extent were Hitler and Stalin. According to my recollection of the ballots under the Nazis and the Communists in Russia, they each polled about 95 per cent. of the total votes recorded. Let us see how this was used against the man who became known as the Hero of Hobart, Harry Boland, a decent Labour man. No matter how rigidly he may have stuck to union policy, no matter how much it may have reacted against myself personally, nevertheless I would concede that he was a genuine Labour man. How did he fare in the ballot two years ago? In March, 1955, he was the Hero of Hobart. In September, October and November an A.W.U. ballot was held for delegates to Convention.

Nineteen were required and 38 nominated. Mr. Boland polled 21st in Bukowski's district. The Hero of Hobart was not even voted in as a delegate from the Southern district to Convention. So much for the great Labour stalwart, the hero of Hobart. Just imagine it!

Over the whole of the State, where it was accepted that the ballot may have been mishandled or manhandled, the branch secretary always topped the poll. But in this case Harold Boland came 13th on the list for the whole of the State. Remember, in Mr. Bukowski's own district he was actually voted out as a delegate to Convention!

That brings me to Mr. Bukowski himself. There are some of us who have been close enough to discussions under headings that would lead us to make the statement that Mr. Bukowski is a self-confessed spy. Nobody over there is going to deny that he, himself, admitted that he was part of an organisation in this State and the reasons why he was. Just as you might suspect him there, say, so he is to be suspected where he is now. Having regard to his past affiliations, there is all the more reason why the trade union movement of this State and the political Labour structure should do everything in their power to shake him off.

At one time I used to think that he was a friend of the hon. member for Mundingburra, but I think otherwise now.

**Mr. Aikens:** At one time he was your best pal. You could not prise the two of you apart with a chisel.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr. WALSH:** I have always known the hon. member's feelings about Mr. Bukowski.

In case anybody had doubts about his friendship with me, I know that when I went to contest the Bundaberg seat he had no interest in my winning that seat from the anti-Labour member who held it. He went so far as to say to the people of Bundaberg, "Why do you want an outsider? Why don't you get a local man?" That is the sabotage that was going on. Bukowski knew that I had never trusted him. That is why Bukowski could not unload anything on my associations and affiliations.

**Dr. Noble:** Was he in charge of the Labour Party when you became an organiser?

**Mr. WALSH:** No, definitely not. God forbid!

I previously mentioned that I should have something to say about Mr. Bukowski. In this letter, a copy of which I have here and the original of which I have seen, addressed to the late Mr. C. G. Fallon, who was then General President of the A.W.U. and also branch secretary here, by Mr. J. A. Beasley, Minister for Supply and Development—

**Mr. Jesson:** He is dead, too.

**Mr. WALSH:** It does not matter about his being dead. If it will help the hon. member for Hinchinbrook, I shall inform him that prominent members of the A.W.U. have seen the original of this letter, and for his information and for the information of others, the last I heard of it was that it was in the possession of Mr. Jack Schmella, the secretary of the Q.C.E.

**Mr. Jesson:** I only said that because you have quoted three dead men.

**Mr. WALSH:** I do not care why the hon. member said it. If he is casting any doubt on the authenticity of this particular document, I am referring him to the original.

**Mr. Jesson:** The only reason I said it was that you had already quoted three dead men.

**Mr. WALSH:** This letter reads—

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,  
MINISTER FOR SUPPLY AND  
DEVELOPMENT,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

4th May, 1942.

“Mr. C. Fallon,

“General President, A.W.U.,

“Worker Office,

“Brisbane, Qld.

“Dear Mr. Fallon,

“In connection with the Queensland Advisory Food Committee, the Hon. F. Bulecock, Minister for Agriculture, forwarded the name of Mr. J. J. R. Bukowski as the Workers' representative.

“I have received from the Secretary of the Supply Department, a memorandum enclosing a Secret report in which it is stated that Bukowski is a native of Mount Morgan and is of German-Polish descent. He resided in Mackay and while there he was shown on a membership list of the local Communist Party but no evidence was obtained that he was an active worker in that body.

“Just as an added precaution, I felt I would like to check the matter with you. Therefore, I shall be obliged if you will drop me a note at your earliest convenience.

“I hope you will not mind my referring the matter to you. Somehow I feel you will understand more particularly as the matters I have referred to appear on the file. This enquiry is entirely between ourselves. Therefore I would appreciate if you would treat it confidentially.

“With best wishes.

Yours Sincerely,

(Sgd.) JOHN BEASLEY.”

I never made any public declaration that Bukowski was a member of the Communist Party, Mackay Branch. There were certain of those associated with

him in the trade-union movement to whom I mentioned it and they knew I had a copy of this letter. In the first place the late Mr. Fallon gave me the letter, and to make sure after he was dead, I got a copy from his son. There was one place where my footwork was a bit faulty.

**Mr. Jesson:** It took you a long time to bring it up.

**Mr. WALSH:** Now that the war is on, it is all out.

**Mr. Jesson:** You kept it in your chest for a long time.

**Mr. WALSH:** It does not matter how long I kept it there. As I have been challenged I am not running away from the fight. Everybody knew that I distrusted Bukowski. Have I not with Mr. Bryan and the late Mr. Fallon gone on deputations to the late Premier, Mr. Hanlon. One of the things that Mr. Fallon pleaded with me about during the 1950 discussions regarding the election date and so on, was whatever I did not to mention it to the inner executive because Bruce Pie would have it in the morning. And so it was. That was how I found the relationship between Bukowski and the employers. He was always boosting the employers. I never heard him engage in Labour propaganda. He took it upon himself to assume that I was going to make this allegation and one night over Station 4KQ he tried to make out that Security got mixed up with a man named Bolewski, the same name as a great footballer around the Bundaberg area. It is true there was a man named Bolewski actually associated with the Communist Party in Mackay but that is not the story that Mr. Bukowski told to Mr. Fallon. His claim was that Security got mixed up with another name, Bokoweskhan. The family resided around Maryborough. Security did not make any mistake. It had the right name. It was not Bolewski. I will not unravel and reveal all the circumstances related to the name of Bokoweskhan. That was the name he gave to the late Mr. Fallon. I am not manufacturing all this; I am not given to that sort of thing. If I throw bricks, I like them to be on facts. Mr. Fallon told me that the internment papers were ready for signature, and that had it not been for his representations to Dr. Evatt, the internment would have been proceeded with. I could give the name of the officer who recommended the internment. He lives within 100 miles of this city.

**Mr. Davies:** Why didn't you tell them that at the Q.C.E.?

**Mr. WALSH:** Mr. Fallon had the original documents. I do not have to be the “knocker” in everything, although many people might expect me to be.

It might also interest hon. members to know that at one time Bukowski was a recruit in the Police Force. He got out and

wanted to get back again. But that is going back many years. Mr. Bukowski talks about his industrial history. I have here a letter from an old Labour stalwart. Some parts of it, Mr. Clark, may not do justice to you. The man's name is W. J. Long, and his address appears on the letter. He says that A.L.P. men who worked with Bukowski cotton-picking in the Dawson Valley say that he scabbed on them when they went on strike for more money, and that he was chased out of Baralaba by an ex-Mt. Morganite. As a matter of fact, this man would not let Bukowski board the train at Baralaba, but made him walk to the next station. He then went north and became a unionist.

A gentleman called on me today who was an A.W.U. representative at Dittmer Mine, Proserpine. In fact, he got the sack there because of his activities as a union representative. He went to school with Mr. Bukowski. He told me about the war in the copper works at Mt. Morgan when Mr. Bukowski bailed up on taking a union ticket.

The hon. member for Port Curtis, too, could tell an interesting story about Mr. Bukowski. He worked on Mt. Marlow station with Mr. Bukowski when he did not have a union ticket. The hon. member for Port Curtis cannot deny that, because I heard him say it when addressing an A.L.P. meeting at Bundaberg.

Charges have been made against the Premier of collecting money for campaign funds from opponents of the Labour Party. I have yet to hear of any political leader in this country on either side who has not received subscriptions to his campaign funds from interests other than the union movement, and I refer particularly to Chifley, Curtin, Calwell, Evatt and Scullin. Because of the policy introduced by the Scullin Government of protecting the small local manufacturers against the big importing magnates, those people were glad to subscribe to Labour Party funds. I am not going to talk about the timber interests, because they are not in this city. However, I know that in some of the ramifications of Mr. Bukowski's activities, when he was very active in the Group movement, he collected £100 from prominent employers in one instance and, in Brisbane, two other contributions of £100 each. I am not condemning those employers. They were contributing funds to an organisation that sought to destroy the influences of Communism in Queensland.

**Mr. Hilton:** Set up by the Q.C.E.

**Mr. WALSH:** Yes, set up by the Q.C.E., as the Secretary for Public Lands and Irrigation points out. I am simply drawing attention to the complaint about those in industry subscribing to a fund to help the return of the Labour Government. Of course they do. The business people of Brisbane do, too. That is why I feel sure hon. members opposite will not be returned. The business interests of the State and elsewhere fear the day when their traditional

enemies opposite might be returned as a Government, so they will do their utmost to ensure that the Queensland Labour Party is returned. I make no apologies for those intelligent people who subscribe to our funds, and who, for nearly 40 years, have benefited from wise administration. Of course they will subscribe.

It would be a bad day for the campaign of Labour in Queensland if it had to depend for its resources on the funds contributed by trade unions and the Central Executive. Branches in many centres and individual unions have lent much assistance financially and otherwise but, as to the central organisation, less than £1,000 was contributed directly to the political campaign by the whole of the trade union structure of Queensland.

**Mr. Hiley:** Without the breweries and the S.P. bookmakers you would be broke.

**Mr. WALSH:** The hon. member for Coorparoo knows very well that his side is the one that gets the share from the breweries.

**Mr. Hiley:** What about the time they sent you your cheque?

**Mr. WALSH:** What about the time the oil companies sent your cheque to us and we had to return it to you. (Laughter.)

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr. WALSH:** I make it clear that I have no objection whatever to any employer contributing to the funds of the Labour Party and thereby helping to maintain stable government in Queensland.

As further evidence of this association with certain employers, let me read a sworn declaration by a Mr. Tully. It says—

“Queensland

To wit

I, William Henry Tully of Fifth Avenue, Coorparoo, Brisbane in the State of Queensland, Retired, do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

1. I was formerly employed as Liaison Officer for N. V. Appleton Pty. Ltd. The Managing Director of that Company is Mr. T. A. Hiley, M.L.A., who is also the Liberal Member for the State seat of Coorparoo.

2. In 1951 I was employed in the Sales Department of the abovenamed Company, and a written order came from Mr. Hiley as follows:—

‘Deliver one Model 5 Home Laundry to R. J. J. Bukowski at Englefield Road, Oxley. Charge to me.’

3. This order was carried out, and the cost of the Home Laundry charged to Mr. Hiley's account.

AND I MAKE this solemn Declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act of 1867.’

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr. HILEY:** I rise to a point of order. It is perfectly true that I arranged for Mr. Bukowski to purchase a washing machine. I have never been hostile to the trade union movement. I am not prone to reject a courteous request from any trade union official. Mr. Bukowski did not approach me directly but the request came through an hon. member of this Chamber who was then and is now a colleague of the Treasurer. The cheque was paid by Mr. Bukowski on his own account.

**Mr. WALSH:** I am not worried about the hon. member for Coorparoo. What I was trying to convey is that his man's hatred for employers does not stop his using the employer where he can get personal gain of some sort. On this occasion he had to go through a Liberal member, the same as he goes through Bruce Pie, Chandlers, Redcomb and so on.

Every time the hon. member for Toowoomba makes a broadcast he likes to push out his chest and say how much he has done for the Queensland Railways and how he has been responsible for all the great activity in the Railway Department. Let us see at what cost it has been. I well recollect his remarks when I was sitting up there where the hon. member for Mundingburra is now seated. In "Hansard," page 1213, Vol. 199, 1950-51, we find that the hon. member for Toowoomba said—

"Many of these works of modernisation and rehabilitation had their beginning during the time of my predecessor, the present hon. member for Bundaberg. He set in train certain reorganisation and modernisation plans that could not be developed very much because of material and manpower shortages."

It is true that a committee was appointed to go into the matter of electrification. Mr. Harrison from South Australia was appointed by me to inquire into the reorganisation of the workshops throughout Queensland. It is true that I did all these things as Minister for Transport but I was only doing as a member of the Government what I was expected to do. There was no reason for me to throw my chest out and say that I was responsible for this or that.

**Mr. Duggan:** Why quote my statement unless you want to throw your chest out?

**Mr. WALSH:** It is pertinent to what I have to say later on. After all, I did not make the statement. Every time the hon. member makes a political broadcast he must come back and say something about the Railways. Let us have a look at what it has meant to me as Treasurer. Let me tell you what it has cost. From 1 July, 1947, to 30 June, 1956, the operation of the Railways, excluding capital expenditure, cost the State £25,750,000. From 1 July, 1931, to 30 June, 1947, 16 years, the Railways returned a net

£6,000,000 to the State against the cost to the State of £25,750,000 from 1 July, 1947, to 30 June, 1956.

It is only fair that I should say that that period of 16 years covered the war period when the returns to the railways were considerable and profits were made. There was no way in which the Railway Department could spend its funds at the time. The highest yearly charges to the State on record were as follows:—

	£
1955-1956 .. .. .	6,131,132
1952-1953 .. .. .	4,660,555
1951-1952 .. .. .	3,508,244
1949-1950 .. .. .	2,342,206
1954-1955 .. .. .	2,101,905

During the war years, increased traffic and reduced expenditure resulted in the Railway Department returning substantial credits to Consolidated Revenue. The figures are as follows:—

	£
1942-1943 .. .. .	4,335,746
1943-1944 .. .. .	1,813,976
1944-1945 .. .. .	681,497
1941-1942 .. .. .	561,917

The following table shows the excess of working expenses over receipts for the five years in which they occurred:—

	£
1955-1956 .. .. .	2,665,737
1952-1953 .. .. .	2,494,535
1951-1952 .. .. .	1,649,376
1950-1951 .. .. .	98,665
1949-1950 .. .. .	10,106

During the period from 1 July, 1947, to 30 June, 1956, working expenses exceeded receipts by £4,750,000. On 1 July, 1955, the State held cash and investments totalling £25,750,000. The total was reduced to £17,750,000 at 30 June, 1956—£6,131,132 of the reduction of £8,045,462, or over 75 per cent. was due to the operation of the railways during that year. That is a clear indication without wanting to take anything away from the hon. member that he has obviously had a very generous Treasury that was able to make available to his department £25,750,000 over the period in excess of the amounts returned to the Treasury. The hon. member for Toowoomba must accept these things. At Ipswich he said that Gair and Walsh were miserable, and if we had not been so miserable there would be another 104 new aluminium carriages in the suburban area. I do not know why the hon. member mentioned suburban carriages. He knows my feelings in that respect. He did not tell the other side of the story of introducing a new principle into the financing of these contracts whereby the Treasury would be called on to pay interest at bond rates or 6 per cent. on the late payments. If that were done why should it not be done to finance contractors to build schools and hospitals and homes? The

hon. member for Toowoomba knows that money for that purpose can only be made available from loan funds.

Nobody knows that better than the hon. member for Toowoomba, but he wants to mislead the public into the belief that we had the funds.

On the other hand, when revenue improved as time went on and it was clearly indicated that the Railway Department could be assisted in regard to this matter, what did I do as Treasurer and as a member of the Government? I did what I would be expected to do, not individually, but as a member of the Government. I personally rang the Commissioner for Railways and asked him how much more he could spend on revenue projects before 30 June, and a further £100,000 was allocated to the railways, and still another £100,000 was allocated to prevent dismissals at Evans Deakin and Commonwealth Engineering Company at Rocklea. £200,000! And the hon. member for Toowoomba has the hide to come out with this cheap propaganda and say how miserable we were. Obviously, he must admit that, because these figures will show the number of men employed—

Central Division	
Relaying .. ..	159 men
South-Western Division	
Relaying .. ..	82 men
South-Eastern Division	
Relaying .. ..	48 men
Concreting .. ..	12 men
Carriage Shed ..	14 men
Flying Gang .. ..	8 men
Maryborough District	
Flying Gangs, etc. . .	40 men

A total of 363 men gained employment because the Treasury had made an additional £100,000 available for that purpose, yet the hon. member for Toowoomba has the hide to say that the Government were miserable in that respect.

I wish to deal now with the photostat of the famous document. It reads—

“Resolution of Cabinet dated 23rd April, 1957.

The Premier having reported to Cabinet today on the meeting of the Queensland Central Executive of the Labor Party held on Thursday, the 18th April, 1957, and otherwise on the dispute between that Executive and the Government, Cabinet declares—

- (i.) That it has complete confidence in the Premier, and recognises the distinction with which he has led the Party, and his outstanding work as head of the Executive Government;
- (ii.) That at no time, or on any matter, has the Premier done other than execute the decisions arrived at by Cabinet in accordance with the principle of Cabinet responsibility;

(iii.) That, therefore, Cabinet regards as a matter of the utmost gravity the attempt being made to impose on the Premier responsibility for decisions to which we individually and jointly subscribed, and to which we adhere,

and we, the undersigned members of Cabinet, wish it known that any punitive action by way of expulsion, suspension or otherwise taken against the Premier will therefore be regarded as having been taken against each Minister individually.”

That is followed by the signatures of H. H. Collins, W. Moore, P. J. R. Hilton, G. H. Devries, L. F. Diplock, C. G. McCathie, W. Power, A. Jones, and E. J. Walsh. On the side, it has this noting—“With the exception of final paragraph I agree. John E. Duggan.”

Examining that document, what do we find? We find that the hon. member for Toowoomba says that he has complete confidence in the Premier. In short, that is what the document says—that he has complete confidence in the Premier. He admits that in Principle 2—“That at no time or in any matter has the Premier done other than execute the decisions arrived at by Cabinet”—and in the third Principle he says, “That therefore Cabinet regards as a matter of the utmost gravity the attempt being made to impose on the Premier responsibility for decisions for which we” including himself—“individually and jointly subscribe”—including himself, and to which at this stage he still said he adhered. Having admitted all those things with his own signature, he then asks the man who is the spokesman for the Cabinet and spokesman for the party to accept the punishment that was to be meted out. I do not think that is the make-up of the average Australian. The Australian bushman is prepared to share the punishment handed out to him, but not Jack Duggan.

**Mr. Donald** interjected.

**Mr. WALSH:** I hope the hon. member will live long enough to be as honourable as hon. members on this side of the Chamber and say the same about men who kept their word to their country. Here, by this document, Mr. Duggan admits that even if the Premier had to be decapitated by the Q.C.E., that did not matter to him. It looked the logical thing to me if that act having been proceeded with he would step into the breach and become the Premier of the State. He never thought at any stage that the whole of Cabinet with the exception of himself would remain loyal to the Premier.

**Mr. Duggan:** You are telling a deliberate untruth because those names were there before I put the addendum. Every signature was affixed before mine.

**Mr. WALSH:** That is true.

**Mr. Duggan:** Therefore you are contradicting yourself by saying that.

**Mr. WALSH:** No, I have not contradicted myself.

**Mr. Duggan:** You said that I thought the Ministers would not sign it. They had signed it before I put my addendum to it.

**Mr. WALSH:** The hon. member sold to his party the story he sold to the Trades Hall representatives—that there would be a break in Cabinet on this and that at least four or five Ministers would not be prepared to stick to the Premier.

**Mr. Duggan:** You tried to make a break in the A.W.U. executive.

**Mr. WALSH:** The break will come in the A.W.U. executive.

**Mr. Duggan:** Yours will be the master hand.

**Mr. WALSH:** Though I may have the master hand in it I think they are competent to do the job themselves. To the credit of Williams and Goding it can be said that they saw the damage being done to the Trade Union Movement and the Labour Movement not out of personal regard for the Premier. We all know too that as true unionists and Labour men they were prepared to take a stand against the machine that sought to destroy the Labour Party.

**Mr. Duggan:** They are backing this Party energetically.

**Mr. WALSH:** Wait and see. The hon. member knows that I am not in any way trying to misconstrue his actions. Nobody knows that better than himself. He took objection to those words in the last paragraph and he thought if the words were altered he might be able to sign the whole document. He will not deny that I pleaded with him across the Cabinet table and said, "Jack, you are the potential leader of the Party in this State. You have no challenge from anybody sitting around this table, certainly not me." He still found a reason why he could not sign the final paragraph.

**Mr. Duggan:** That does not show the actions of an ambitious man.

**Mr. WALSH:** The actions of an ambitious man? He will remember that I said, "You can place whatever so-and-so words you like in the last paragraph. If it means what I think and what every member around this table thinks, if Gair is expelled, we are all expelled. You can put whatever words you like there." It was obvious that he had committed himself at that stage.

**Mr. Jesson:** Will you read the motion that Mr. Hanlon and Mr. Davis moved?

**Mr. WALSH:** This is a Cabinet meeting I am dealing with, not a Caucus resolution.

**Mr. Jesson:** Practically the same thing.

**Mr. WALSH:** The hon. member for Toowoomba talks about secret documents. He puts his name to documents and advertise-

ments, most of which obviously are paid for by the oil companies. Then we are expected to believe that he wants to dissociate himself from things that appear over his name.

On the subject of secret conferences with the Leader of the Opposition, I warned that hon. member one day when he rang me that he would have to be very careful about getting in touch with me. He seemed a little disturbed when I told him to be very wary of secret conferences. I said, "You never know when your telephone is tapped."

**Mr. Duggan:** Are you admitting that you are doing that sort of thing?

**Mr. WALSH:** I am not in a position to do it, but I shall tell the hon. member a very interesting story. Because of what is happening on my telephone, I have been in touch with the Postal Department and have complained about interferences and disturbances on the line.

**Mr. Duggan:** You should be ashamed of yourself.

**Mr. WALSH:** I should not be ashamed of complaining to responsible officers in the Postmaster-General's Department. It is my right to protest about my telephone service.

**Mr. Duggan:** That is a different thing. I have no objection to that.

**Mr. WALSH:** What is the hon. member objecting to? He is in such a dizzy frame of mind that he does not know whether he is coming or going.

I have here a newspaper cutting that a Queenslander sent to me from the South. He is on holidays in Sydney. It is "The Sun" of 6 June, 1957, and this is what it says—

"Prisoners of the Reds, union leaders have to take care on the phone—they know their conversations are reported.

They have daily evidence of a Communist Party espionage service in the trade unions as efficient as any Police State's.

Here are some examples. Naming the men would cost them their jobs—finish them industrially.

Mr. A., leader of a big union with strong anti-Communist views, is surrounded by Reds on his executive, elected on straight-out Communist tickets and on 'unity' Labour tickets.

The office is staffed almost wholly by Reds. He is afraid to discuss on the phone anything but innocuous subjects. The Reds have his phone 'monitored' by a Red-sympathiser switch girl.

To talk freely he has to meet his contacts away from the office, over coffee, or in a hotel."

It proceeds to give other examples.

I have had recent experiences on the telephone when conversations have suddenly been cut off. I see that the hon. member for Toowoomba is leaving the Chamber, so I

shall dilly-dally till he returns. It is all very interesting. I do not think we have reached the stage that I, as a responsible Minister of the Government, seeking to associate myself publicly or otherwise with the Leader of the Opposition or any other member of the Party opposite, should be held up to ridicule as being opposed to the principles I stand for. I have never conceded to anybody in the Chamber or outside the right to tell me what friends I should choose. It is a wonder to me that hon members opposite have not produced the photograph of the Leader of the Opposition and me with the Secretary for Labour and Industry looking cheerful here at 3 a.m. after bitterly debating the Motor Spirits Distribution Bill. It is a wonder that has not appeared on the back of a pamphlet. I do not think it is any offence against the laws of the State for the Premier to extend normal gentlemanly courtesy to the Leader of the Opposition when he approaches him in a proper and constitutional way to discuss matters of importance to the Government of the State.

**Mr. Jesson:** I saw you on a pamphlet attending the opening of the Millmerran hotel.

**Mr. WALSH:** I saw the hon. member in a lot of places. (Laughter).

**Mr. Jesson:** That was the time I drove you there in my car.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr. WALSH:** I was about to recall the story about the late Hon. W. Forgan Smith one time when the hon. member for Hinchinbrook was a little late getting in for a division, but I had better not tell it.

**Mr. Jesson:** You can tell it. I have told it a thousand times.

**Mr. WALSH:** Yes, but I shall not tell it. I want to pursue the subject of secret conferences. If the hon. member for Toowoomba, or any other member of his Party, wants to engage in that sort of thing, he must expect retaliation from the Government side. He will not deny that he has had a close association with oil company representatives in Queensland and other States. I know how he reacted to the newspaper publicity at the time he was late for the opening of the Toowoomba Show. The reporter may have done him an injustice, but, quite innocently, somebody mentioned to me that the hon member for Toowoomba was down at Lennon's Hotel at 11 o'clock that morning and that was why he was late for the Toowoomba Show. When I mentioned the fact quite casually and without any malicious intent at all—(Opposition laughter).

**Mr. Duggan:** Super-Spy No. 1!

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr. WALSH:** I will tell the hon. member the circumstances so that he will know I was no spy. It was in this House. I was

actually defending the hon. member for Toowoomba. When I was told that he was seen at Lennon's Hotel at 11 o'clock, I said, "That could not be because he was here for every division last night." After some discussion, he said it was 11 o'clock in the morning; we had been at cross-purposes. That is how I was able to say to the hon. member for Toowoomba, out of the blue, when he was referring to the report of his lateness at the Toowoomba Show, "Jack, I happen to know that you were at Lennon's at 11 o'clock yesterday." The hon. member for Toowoomba, wanting to cover up his tracks, said that he was there making reservations. Why did he have to say a silly thing like that to me?

**Mr. Duggan:** I did not say that exactly, either.

**Mr. WALSH:** Well, now—

**Mr. Duggan:** You are one of these fellows who know every damn thing. You have all the police information and you have the evidence there. You might as well be accurate.

**Mr. WALSH:** It was a perfectly respectable citizen who said it; he just mentioned the fact that he had seen the hon. member there and no more. When he told me he had seen the hon. member there I connected it with other things only to find—

**Mr. Jesson** interjected.

**Mr. WALSH:** If the hon. member for Hinchinbrook wants me to drag him into the net I will be happy to do so. I connected it with other things only to find on that occasion that the hon. member for Toowoomba was not making reservations but he was on the third floor of Lennons Hotel and the people parked there were the oil company representatives who left at 2 o'clock that afternoon.

We will go back to another secret conference. On the night of the Caucus meeting we finished here at 20 past 1.

**Mr. Lloyd:** He has a dossier on you.

**Mr. WALSH:** This refers to the Deputy. After the meeting had finished and the Premier remained behind to give his statement to the Press we proceeded to the refreshment rooms to have a little refreshments. At that time of the night we were very tired. Coming along later we found that at half-past 2 in the morning the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt was in the office of the secretary of the Leader of the Opposition.

**Dr. Noble:** How did you find him?

**Mr. WALSH:** The door was ajar and the Premier pushed it open because he thought he left the light on. The hon. member for Mt. Gravatt in his generous way invited the Premier in to have a drink. I am intrigued to know the relationship between the secretary to the Leader of the Opposition who normally would cease duty at

5 o'clock in the afternoon and have no business in his office at half-past 2 in the morning, and the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt. They can make all the explanations they like. Having said part of what I have to say I move the motion.

**Mr. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Leader of the Opposition) (8.58 p.m.): Many Supply Bills have been introduced into the Chamber during the many years Parliament has been in existence, but I doubt—in fact I am certain—that never has any Supply Bill been introduced the way this one has been introduced. Personally, I cannot see the reason behind it. The Treasurer spoke for a few minutes about the State's finances and the rest of the time he engaged in various observations upon what has been happening within the ranks of the Labour Party. I am sure that the public will be particularly interested to read the contributions made this afternoon by the Leader of the Australian Labour Party and the Treasurer. Irrespective of the strange happenings on the introduction of the Appropriation Bill history is certainly being made in the Chamber today. This session of Parliament will probably go down as one of the shortest on record, but it will not be recorded in the history of the State because of its brevity but rather on account of the impact which our actions today will have on future generations of Queenslanders and the future advancement of this great State. It is with these considerations in mind that the Opposition, having as always—I emphasise that word—the welfare of the State and the people at heart, determined on the course of action which it will follow in the situation we are faced with today. We are not going to be diverted from that course. Our determination is reinforced by what we have heard in this House today.

**Opposition Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. NICKLIN:** We have heard things today, particularly from the leader of the A.L.P., which have been talked about and suggested. On this occasion a responsible ex-Minister has stood up on the floor of the House and spoken of intimidation in regard to police transfers and other things. If these things have been going on it is time that all branches of the Labour Party were kicked out.

**Opposition Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. NICKLIN:** After all every section of the Labour Party must take some responsibility for what allegedly has been going on in this State. It is no use the Leader of the Australian Labour Party's making this statement. What was the hon. member doing while those things were going on?

**Mr. Hilton:** They were not going on.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** The hon. member said they were. If those things were going on why did not the hon. member take some

action to stop them. It is no use coming in here now and speaking about these things when they were a party to them. They should have taken action to stop them. In view of all these circumstances we believe that it is imperative that this intolerable situation which has left the State virtually ungoverned be resolved by the proper and only arbiters—the electors; and we are therefore determined to send the Government to the people without delay.

**Opposition Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. NICKLIN:** The sooner this mess is cleaned up the better it will be for the people of this State. What is happening to the best State in Australia at the present time? We have not got a Government; the affairs of Government are being neglected, and the administration of the State is being neglected because the Ministers and other members and ex-members of the Labour Party are not concerned with getting on with their job but with the fight one against the other. That is not for the benefit of this State. On an occasion like this one would expect the Treasurer to give some indication of what the intentions of the Government are. Will the Government attempt to carry on, or what will they do? It is no use coming here and asking this House for a certain sum of money. If the Treasurer thinks that he is going to get this money on the blind then he has another think coming to him. If he could justify the granting of this supply why did he not attempt to do so. He did not make any attempt to justify an additional supply, so there is evidently no need for it; and we are not going to be a party to giving the Government one penny piece above the supply they already have. The hon. the Treasurer did say that he would be coming to prepare future Budgets for us. We can do that quite well. We have men on this side of the Chamber who can prepare a better Budget than ever the hon. gentleman produced.

**Mr. Devries:** Do not count your chickens.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** We are not counting any chickens. We are prepared to leave this matter to our masters the people, and whatever their decision is, we shall accept it.

**Mr. Hilton:** So shall we.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** If they give us the responsibility of governing this State, we shall accept that responsibility: if they give the responsibility of governing the State to some other party in this House, we shall accept that. But the only thing that must be done at the moment is to give the people that opportunity.

The hon. the Treasurer gave a lengthy dissertation on who rules Queensland. He made lengthy references to the Communist influence in our community and the power of that influence. Have we not been telling the people of this State of that very same

thing for many a long day? Who has led the fight against Communism in Queensland? I suggest that we have been unrelenting in our fight against the Communistic influences in this State.

**Mr. Walsh:** They supported some of your candidates.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** Many hon. members who sit and used to sit on that side of the House had very considerable support from the Communist Party.

**Mr. Power:** I was opposed every time.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** The hon. the Attorney-General is always a bit different from everybody else.

What a mess we are in today! Is this Parliament, composed as it is at the present time, with a minority Government, in a position to fight this great menace that the hon. the Treasurer emphasised a few moments ago? Of course it is not. The only way in which we can effectively fight Communism is by giving Queensland an effective government. When we look round the House, where can an effective government come from? We cannot get an effective government from the members presently occupying the Government benches. What hope have we of getting an effective government from the Left Wing over here? No hope at all, when we realise some of their associations. The only hope for effective government in this State, the only hope for Queensland, is a government of the Queensland Liberal and Country Parties.

When the people of this State are given an opportunity, they will give the only parties that can give the State effective government an opportunity of being the Government of Queensland. I believe that we have men in our parties who will be able to undertake the responsibilities of government and give to the people of Queensland service, good government and good administration in return for their confidence.

How different is the position in this House today from the position approximately 12 months ago. Then we saw a government coming back from the polls flushed with victory, the whole of that side of the House filled by men who hear, heard and cheered as their names were called to come up and sign the register of this House. What a change has come about!

**Mr. Walsh:** You will see it again this year.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** Do not let us forget that before that election which gave the Government the majority they came back with 12 months ago, we on this side told the people of Queensland exactly what would happen. And it has happened. We find that the Government who went before the people allegedly as a united party, backed allegedly by the organisation

down at Dunstan House and up at the Trades Hall were all buddies. Heaven forbid that there should be disagreement in the Labour ranks! During the election campaign much was said about the alleged unity in the Labour Party. There was certainly a somewhat outward semblance of unity but now we know exactly what unity there was in the Labour Party on that occasion. It was one of the greatest political confidence tricks ever put over the people of this State, and it was put over by the Labour Party by its statement that it was united and had the confidence of its backers at Dunstan House and the Trades Hall. What actually happened was that all the stilettoes and knuckle-dusters were parked for the time being, but it was not very long after the election before the stilettoes and the knuckle-dusters again came into operation. We now have the sad spectacle of the Labour Party split into two sections, one sitting over there and the other sitting on this side of the Chamber.

**Mr. Duggan:** We will be sitting over there shortly.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** The hon. member always was optimistic and he was just as optimistic and enthusiastic at the election 12 months ago about the unity of the Labour Party and how it would be able to do this and that. Do not let us forget that he went round the countryside saying at various times, "If you don't return the Labour Party you will not have a hope of getting anything done in your electorate. You have to return the Labour Party or else." The same intimidation and the same methods are being used today in the inter-party strife which split the Labour Party into two sections. The situation is such that there is only one thing to be done, only one thing can be done to resolve the situation, and that is to have an election as early as possible. It has been said that any action taken in this committee to deny Supply to the Government will mean that the Public Service will be denied its pay. That suggestion has been bandied around the countryside. What an absurd suggestion!

**Mr. Hiley:** More intimidation.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** More intimidation, and the tactics followed over the years by the Labour Party. The Treasurer said that the State had supply up to the end of August. There is ample time, notwithstanding the many real difficulties associated with the staging of an election to hold an election before that period, and for Parliament to meet following the election and pass a Supply Bill before the end of August which will ensure a continuation of Supply to members of the public service and a continuation—

**Mr. Power:** You have no knowledge of an election when you make that statement.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** I appreciate the difficulties, but difficulties can be got over. The situation in this State is so serious that they must be got over.

We must resolve the impossible political impasse that exists in Queensland, and the only way we can do it is to have an election. We on this side have stated quite plainly where we stand and what we propose to do. We will not grant the Government any additional Supply. It is incumbent on the Government to carry out their responsibilities as a Government, and if they cannot get Supply their obvious line of action is to resign and go to the people.

**Mr. Power:** Without electoral rolls?

**Mr. NICKLIN:** Whose responsibility is that?

Irrespective of what the Attorney-General says, it is incumbent on the Government to hold an early election so that a new Parliament can be assembled before the current Supply is exhausted. If they fail to do that, the culpability is on their shoulders. The issues involved in the present political situation in Queensland cannot be settled within the four walls of this Chamber. When you see the feeling between the two sections of the Labour Party and hear what is said by them, it is obvious that there is no possibility of their ever getting together again.

Whatever way we look at it, there is no chance of Parliament in its present form doing the job for which it was elected 12 months ago, that is, governing this State properly. Nobody would suggest that at the present time Queensland is being governed properly, or governed at all. Anybody who has any regard for the future of the State and for its people cannot allow the present situation to continue. We on this side of the Chamber will not be a party to allowing it to continue one day longer than is necessary. That being so, I repeat that we will not grant the Government any additional Supply. We will vote against the motion to grant Supply.

Let us get on with the job of governing the State. Let us forget these personal recriminations that have been flying across the Chamber all the afternoon. The people of Queensland are not concerned with the differences of opinion between hon. members on the other side of the Chamber and those who are now sitting on my left. We on this side will play our part in giving the people an opportunity of electing a Government that can do the job they expect to have done. We shall do that by voting against further Supply and refusing the Government one penny more than they have now.

**Mr. DUGGAN (Toowoomba) (9.19 p.m.):** If any evidence was needed of justification for the attitude that we adopted in voting against the suspension of Standing Orders, it has been forthcoming by what has happened since then. I said that there had been an alliance between the Country Party and the Government to enable certain things to happen, and we have the satisfaction at least of knowing that on two occasions the Opposition have voted with the Government to achieve certain results

favourable to both those parties. But our chief reason for opposing the suspension of Standing Orders was to take the Premier and the Treasurer at their word that they would meet us on an equal basis. We all had 40 minutes to speak on the motion for the suspension of Standing Orders, with in some instances the right of an extension of 30 minutes. But what is the position now? The Treasurer says he wants to be fair. I ask him to consult the dictionary on the table on the meaning of the word "fair." It certainly does not square up with his approach to this question because it has taken him 119 minutes to belch forth his spleen against the Labour Party and he gives me 25 minutes to reply. Is that fair? Is that reasonable? Is it in accordance with his expressed desire to give us a fair go? He wants to be factual. He wants to be helpful and to encourage us, and then he takes 119 minutes to spew forth his attacks on all and sundry.

This is one of the few occasions on which I agree with the Leader of the Opposition. The Treasurer might well have come before us and said, "I will tell you why we want Supply until 30 October. I will explain why it is imperative for us to get authority to carry on Supply until that date." But not one word have we heard of the need for such a step. Instead, we have heard many words, hundreds of words, thousands of words, of hate directed against the Party that raised him and others with him to the high and exalted offices they occupy today. If ever there was justification for our taking action to hurl these people into oblivion and to give the electors the opportunity of rectifying the position, it has been amply afforded by the tactics of these men, who claim to be the champions of democracy, who claim to believe in Christian principles and who claim to give people a fair go. They do not know the meaning of those things.

I turn now to one or two points that were raised. First let me deal with the foul lie that I and those with me are trying to perpetrate a sectarian campaign in Queensland. Nothing is more repugnant to decent Australians.

**Mr. Skinner:** What about what you are doing in Somerset?

**Mr. DUGGAN:** The hon. member for Somerset is forgotten. I do not mind dealing with men who have a chance of political survival. I put the Treasurer in that category because he has a chance—a very remote one, but nevertheless a chance. I am not going to waste any of my precious 25 minutes on a political nonentity who, without very much doubt, will be thrown out in a few weeks' time.

**Mr. Skinner:** We will see.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** We do not need to wait to see. We know. It is a mathematical certainty, so let us not waste very much time on that.

What did we get in the 119 minutes? We got a Cook's tour starting off about World War II. in 1941 when Hanson spoke about starting a second front. What in the name of goodness has a demand for a second front in 1941 got to do with giving Supply till 30 October? Take all the other things he raised—dossiers, secret police, tapped telephone conversations, telling us what happened about one of the chief citizens of the State, dealing with the private lives of people, whom they meet, where they meet, and what they talk about. He and his colleagues talk about democracy. On behalf of the electors of Queensland I throw back in the teeth of the Treasurer the suggestion that we are going to permit to remain in office any longer than necessary a Government that condone the use of police for the purpose of reporting back to the Treasurer and his friends where I go, where everybody else goes, and what their possible conversations are. Then he brings into the House security documents and raises matters many years old. Is that the sort of thing we are fighting for? Is that in accordance with the true conception of democracy? It certainly shows how far they have drifted away from the great principles that brought the Labour movement into being. They should hang their heads in shame. They talk about Communist infiltration. Do you not think it is significant, Mr. Clark, that a man who knows things that happened back in 1941, and who has in his possession a document allegedly signed by Mr. Beasley in 1942, remains silent for 15 years or more on those important matters?

**Mr. Walsh:** Never had it that long.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** He said he has seen these things for years. The Secretary for Public Lands and Irrigation has a gleeful look on his face. He will have that removed before very long, too, when the endorsed Labour candidate opposes him. He was fulminating the other night about those terrible Press people. He said that they should be thoroughly ashamed of themselves and then spent 10 of his 15 minutes quoting what the Southern Press had to say good about Mr. Gair. I should have thought that they would be the last authorities he would quote from. As long as the Treasurer could use his power and influence to secure decisions that were favourable to him the Q.C.E. was quite an acceptable organisation to function in the interests of the Labour Party. Less than three years ago Mr. Bukowski, the State Secretary of the A.W.U., for reasons best known to himself did not like me as much as he liked the Treasurer and the Premier. When these organisers and others engaged in an attack against me they were being sooled on by the Treasurer and Premier—"Carry on Joe, you are doing a grand job because you are using your influence to crush Duggan." But when Mr. Bukowski realised

they were false friends and became a supporter of mine he became this terrible man of Polish-German extraction. I say now, and I accept full responsibility for saying that I challenge the Treasurer to repeat outside the Chamber the accusations that have been made about Mr. Bukowski as a Communist. If the hon. gentleman is half as fearless and half as courageous as he says he is he will be prepared to make these accusations outside the Chamber. It will be like when the Premier was asked to name the Communists on the Q.C.E.

**Mr. Walsh interjected.**

**Mr. DUGGAN:** He will not waste time with the little fellows. It will be the fellows with the big fat wallets like you that he will have a go at. He will not waste his time on people who have nothing to lose.

**Mr. Walsh:** Why does he not get into the witness box?

**Mr. DUGGAN:** The best the Treasurer will have in the future is what I have got now. Somebody else will be speaking for 119 minutes but I hope that what he has to say will be different to what the hon. gentleman has said. He will be in the same position as I am, limited to 25 minutes to reply. I am not growling about that very much. If the Treasurer had said, "Well, the gloves are off, I have got the advantage over you in that I can speak for as long as I like and as often as I like"—he can get up in his place half a dozen times—I would have said, "Those are the rules of the game," but he says, "We are the great democrats—"

**Mr. Hilton:** Would you give him an extension?

**Mr. DUGGAN:** You spend all your time defending some of the things you should occupy your mind with. If you want to challenge me I will challenge you, make no bones about that. I am not going to seek the protection of the Chamber to say it either.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr. DUGGAN:** You are one of those philosophical men who profess Christian principles and like Caesar's wife, you are above suspicion.

**Mr. Hilton:** I have never said that in my life.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr. DUGGAN:** You think you have a halo about yourself but you want to be careful it does not fall down and choke you before very long.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr. DUGGAN:** You can do what you like about it.

**Mr. Hilton:** Anywhere, any time.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr. DUGGAN:** These people talk about the influence of Communism and so on. It was the affiliated unions of the A.L.P. that went along to the Premier, Treasurer and Secretary for Labour and Industry and stated, "There will be a campaign for industrial reform by the Communist unions on the subject of three weeks leave. Cannot we circumvent them? Cannot we introduce it in such a way that we will give the Government and affiliated unions the credit for it rather than the Communists?" If these people were sincere in fighting Communism they would have got behind the affiliated unions and introduced this reform. I was not present at the early discussion. I did not take advantage of my lack of knowledge of what was said by either party. I said that it was a matter for regret that there was so much misunderstanding about what somebody said or promised. Subsequently a pledge was given by the hon. the Premier and he was expelled, not because he was Premier of the State, but from the Labour Party. The Treasurer quoted certain Rules but he did not quote Rule 90, which says—

"All endorsed Australian Labour Party Members or Candidates shall be bound by the decisions of the latest Convention and the latest Platform, and shall sign such Platform when called upon by the Queensland Central Executive to do so."

That is the obligation. The hon. gentleman went on to this famous document, namely the document circulated by the Premier and signed by his Ministers, and said that I agreed that Mr. Gair was a wonderful man. I say frankly that I used my voice on occasions—and the Premier was happy to use such powers of public speaking as I might possess—in support of the Premier. Ministers have come and congratulated me on my speeches in Caucus in defence of the Premier. Members on this side have told me, "Why don't you pipe down; you make better speeches for the Premier than he does for himself." Unlike the Treasurer I was prepared to go to any length to preserve the unity of the Party.

**A.L.P. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I was not concerned about Duggan or Gair. The preservation of the Labour Party was the thing that appealed to me. During my 10 years' experience as a Cabinet Minister I know of no occasion when a typed document embodying proposed legislation came before Cabinet for us to sign. It bore the hand-mark of the Premier's staff and the parliamentary draftsman.

**Mr. WALSH:** I rise to a point of order. In fairness to the staff, I wish honestly to say that the staff had nothing whatever to do with the document.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** If the hon. gentleman says that, I shall exonerate them. I would not want to involve them. I would not blame them for doing what they were asked to do. What the hon. gentleman says seems to suggest, instead of it bearing the hallmark of the Parliamentary Draftsman and the Publicity Officers, that it bears the hallmark of the collaboration of the Treasurer. It is in the typical Machiavellian style that the hon. gentleman employs. The hon. gentleman can hawk the document from Cape York to Coolangatta. I in no way apologise for my efforts to save the Premier from being expelled. The hon. gentleman talks about things that happened. He knows that when the Premier asked me whether he should take a proxy along, I said yes, I thought it would be wise. The Treasurer advised him against this. Were those actions of mine those of a man who wanted to stab the Premier in the back? If the Premier had gone along himself and made the speeches that I made and that the Treasurer has made there would never have been a problem of the three weeks' leave. The affiliated unions did all they could to extract the Premier from the position that was brought on by himself. You say that you can repudiate the rule book that guided you for 20 years and then bring along a document to pledge your allegiance to one man with no constitution or rules—merely blind passive obedience to one man.

**Mr. Walsh:** No, not one man.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** Yes, one man. I invited the Q.C.E. to take action and prefer charges against me if they thought that my actions merited expulsion.

**Mr. Walsh:** Why didn't they do it?

**Mr. DUGGAN:** Because they did not think I was deserving of it.

**Mr. Walsh:** You were just as culpable as I was.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** They were the people who, in season and out of season, said that this body must impose some disciplinary powers.

**A Government Member interjected.**

**Mr. DUGGAN:** You would be better occupied in trying to find out whether or not you have lost your skill as a fitter, because you will be employing it soon.

**A Government Member interjected.**

**Mr. DUGGAN:** If the electors should spurn me and I should have to go back to the very humble occupation of a grocer, I shall not be too proud to face that situation.

**A Government Member:** Why make a point of it?

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I do not want you making my speech for me, and I object to your interrupting me. If you give me another 25 minutes, I shall quote any rule that you like.

**A Government Member interjected.**

**Mr. DUGGAN:** It must be hurting the hon. member. If you go down to a sty and throw a stone in, you can bet your socks that the pig that squeals is the pig that is hurt.

Let me now deal with this question of Communism. All these people are talking about how they fought Communism, but no hon. member on the Government benches could deny that the A.W.U. and Mr. Bukowski, the State Secretary of the A.W.U., have fought Communism harder, more frequently, and for longer periods, than any member on the Government side of the House. We know that pronouncements have been made by them about stopping industrial trouble because of possible Communist infiltration at Mary Kathleen, and we know the steps that Mr. Bukowski and other members of the A.W.U. have taken to prevent Communist infiltration of the A.W.U. Indeed, the constitution of that organisation provides that they shall not be there.

**Mr. Walsh:** That is not true.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I am not going to be diverted. The hon. gentleman had 119 minutes, and he is now attempting to grab another ten minutes by interjecting.

The Premier was a delegate to the Q.C.E. Did he object when the Painters' Union came along?

**Mr. Gair:** Yes.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** You did not object. It was a unanimous decision. You did not object when the Carpenters came along.

**Mr. Gair:** I did.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** You sat there with that smug, complacent look on your face and did not say a word against those unions.

Let us see how far the Communists have helped the Premier. When the Communists have nominated candidates in seats held by the Labour Party, have they opposed the Premier in South Brisbane? Of course they have not. In 1947, Alex. MacDonald, this man whom they are now defaming, this No. 1 Communist, nominated for the South Brisbane seat, but withdrew from the campaign one month before polling day. It is worth noting that in the 1944 election, Mr. Gair had a majority of 1329 in a straightout contest with a Tory opponent. With only one opponent again in 1947, his majority was cut to 703, but the Communist candidate MacDonald had withdrawn from the contest with only weeks to go. As it was, in 1947 Mr. Gair's majority was cut by very nearly half. What would have happened had MacDonald not retired? It is clear that if he had polled as well in South Brisbane as he did in the Kurilpa seat in 1944, Mr. Gair would have been defeated. Mr. Walsh brings all these documents out of the secret archives of the Communist Party. If he wants to be helpful in these matters, I suggest that he withdraw from the archives of the Communist Party what representations were made by the Premier or the supporters of the Premier to

induce Mr. MacDonald to withdraw his candidature in 1947. Let the Premier answer some of those questions!

In conclusion, I wish to deal with the story that the Treasurer and some of his supporters are spreading round the country about my being in the pay of the oil companies. That only exists in the foul mind of the Treasurer. I wish to say as I said before that a representative of the Shell Oil Company was one of the Liberal aspirants for the Toowoomba seat.

**Mr. Walsh:** That does not mean a thing.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** Of course it does not mean a thing to the hon. member. I do not deny that I have seen oil company executives. Do hon. members think that I would have the knowledge I have of the things going on if I did not have contact with the people who know these things? I make my own contacts. I do not meet at the Lands Office Hotel with top officials including police officials to have information tagged to me. I have nothing to be ashamed of. As to this legislation which the Premier put through, the unhappiest men in Australia will be Mr. Gaylor and Mr. Josephson. I should like to know where their money went to get this legislation put through. It is known that they are regretting very much now that they backed the wrong horse. I say on behalf of the Labour Party that if we are returned to power we will repeal the obnoxious provisions of the Motor Spirits Distribution Bill. The other Parties sitting on this side will do exactly the same thing. I spoke for one hour at the meeting of the Q.C.E. on this matter. The Treasurer should be ashamed of himself for the information tagged to him. What a sorry thing it is for us to think that in this land of Queensland I cannot go into a public place without being tagged by the Treasurer as to where I went, whom I spoke to, and what I did! I was down at the booking office but the hon. member did not know what for.

**Mr. Walsh:** You were on the third floor.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** But now he knows, and that makes it all the worse. I say definitely that the people of Queensland will not stand for the Gestapo state of affairs here when some high Government official can use various instruments to tag what people do, where they go, and whom they meet. It would be a sorry day for Queensland if they did. I did not, like the hon. the Premier, meet oil company executives at Lennon's Hotel at Broadbeach for hours on end. I did not see oil executives in Sydney until long after the legislation was introduced in this Chamber as the Premier did. I have nothing to be ashamed of. The stand we take now is a stand in accordance with high ethical considerations and in accordance with what we believe is a fair go. I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that we say to the people as quickly as possible—and I say say it to the people now—"Throw out these men who are masquerading as great crusaders,

these men who say that they are preserving democracy, these men who claim that they represent christian principles." The mask will be torn aside for all time. We will see to it that the fate of these men will be such as is deserving of those who betray the Labour movement. We will fight the Labour Party's cause and principles throughout the State, and I am sure that everyone around will respond to our plea to come back to the traditional way and support the Labour Party and not have the state of affairs where a Treasurer in 119 minutes spewed forth his venom. He will spew it forth again and I ask the people to beware of this sort of thing, this campaign of character assassination in an attempt to undermine the morale of Queensland people by suggesting we are disloyal, but the people will have nothing of it. This is the last trick these men have to play before they are struck into political oblivion.

(Time expired).

**Mr. AIKENS** (Mundingburra) (9.45 p.m.): I voted in favour of the Premier's being granted leave to introduce the Bill because I felt that the people of Mundingburra would want me to vote that way, as they and the rest of the people of Queensland wanted to know why the Government needed Supply. We had no means of knowing before the Bill was introduced the extent to which the Government required Supply. It was not until the Treasurer rose to speak that we learned with some amazement that he wanted Supply till the end of October.

We heard the Treasurer for 119 minutes. He spoke on the Bill for 4½ minutes and then launched an attack on the opposite faction of the Labour Party. I have no objection to his doing that, although I do not think that this is really the place for it. As I say, I have no objection to what the Treasurer says about the hon. member for Toowoomba, or what both of them say about me; that does not concern me at all. But I did think that we would be told, by either the Premier or the Treasurer, when the people would be appealed to. Instead of that, we have had an amazing exhibition. We had 115 minutes of anti-A.L.P. vituperation from the Treasurer and 25 minutes of anti-Q.L.P. vituperation from the hon. member for Toowoomba, and we still do not know when the Government intend to go to the country. When I heard the Treasurer and the hon. member for Toowoomba I thought of the old saying, "Those whom the gods destroy, they first make mad."

The Government should be honest. This is not the time for political three-card tricks or political thimble and pea demonstrations. It is seven weeks since the split occurred in the Government Party, and the Premier should have taken the people into his confidence and told them when an election would be held and why it could not be held before then. We have heard a good deal from the Attorney-General and others by interjection that there is need for a re-assessment of the

rolls, to have the police go from door to door so that the rolls are correct before election day. I cannot see very much wrong with that but I remember quite clearly that in 1953, when the Government wanted to take advantage of the anti-Menziess-Fadden feeling that was permeating the State, they rushed to the country on 7 March, right in the middle of the northern wet season and cyclone season. They would have rushed to the country on 28 February of that year but for some little thing that upset their arrangements. So that the Government have proved that when it suits their convenience they can go to the country at any time. The convenience of the electors does not matter a roasted peanut to them. It was a shocking thing to go to the country on such a date as 7 March. I suppose the Government thought there was some justification for following the rule that self-preservation is the first law of nature in deciding to hold the election on a date that suited their convenience. Fortunately, in 1953 North Queensland did not have the expected wet season or the expected cyclone. But one year later, on almost exactly the same date—6 March—North Queensland was hit by cyclone Agnes. That could easily have happened a year earlier, on the day on which the 1953 election was held. I mention these things to show that the Government hold an election when it suits their convenience. I assume, of course, that that is true of all governments. It would probably be true of the Liberal-Country Party if it was in power, and it is true of the Federal Government, irrespective of the political complexion of the ruling party.

**Mr. Walsh:** Or the North Queensland Labour Party.

**Mr. AIKENS:** It would be true of the North Queensland Labour Party too, but we have a different conception of democracy from the Treasurer. We believe in taking the people into our confidence absolutely and we sincerely believe that they are always our masters. Anyone who knows me—and the Treasurer knows me well enough—may be sure that, even after this remarkable session of Parliament, I will be back at the Regent Theatre telling the assembled multitude about it. Like Christ, I go out into the market place and gather the multitude about me and I tell them all I have done. They either reject or accept what I say to them and they approve or condemn accordingly. We believe that "vox populi, vox Dei." In case hon. members do not know what that means, it means that the voice of the people is the voice of God. I believe that—and I am not a deeply religious man. The North Queensland Labour Party believe it too, and they believe that in this remarkable set of political circumstances the people should be given an opportunity to pass their judgment as quickly as possible.

**Mr. Walsh:** I will say this: you have always consistently voted with the Opposition against the Labour Government.

**Mr. AIKENS:** I always vote in the Chamber as I think I should. I have never been a political stooge or a party yes-man. I have always told the electors of Mundingburra that if they want to elect a yes-man or a party stooge to Parliament they should not vote for me. If they want a man who will vote as his conscience dictates in accordance with his political and industrial principles, then they should vote for me. If ever I vote with the Opposition, I do it because I believe they are right; if I vote against them, I do it because I believe they are wrong. I remind the Treasurer that on innumerable occasions both the Opposition and the old Government Party have lined up to vote against me. I have been defeated 68 to 1, 64 to 2, and so on. Look up Hansard. Time and time again I have not been able to get the requisite number, five, to have the names included in Hansard. So I stand in this Chamber as an example of true democracy in practice, not only in the words.

The hon. member for Toowoomba complained that the Treasurer had taken advantage of the Standing Orders and spoken for an inordinate time while he was limited to only 25 minutes. That is quite true, but it is in the Standing Orders and it has been going on for years. How often has the Treasurer put the same thing over me? And how often did the hon. member for Toowoomba put it over me when he was a Minister? I very clearly remember one occasion when the hon. member for Belyando was Secretary for Health and Home Affairs. While putting through his estimates he spoke, I think, for 8½ hours straight and we did not get a chance to speak that day. I think hon. members of the Opposition will clearly remember that. This sort of thing has been going on, as the hon. member for Hinchinbrook said, "from time immoral." (Laughter.)

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr. AIKENS:** I have never complained about giving any Minister that start. I have never complained about a Minister having unlimited time at his disposal in the committee stage while only 25 minutes have been made available to me, because I have always been convinced that I could say more in 25 minutes than any Minister of the Crown could say in 119. I am prepared to give him that start and to continue to give it to him. It was a remarkable complaint for the hon. member for Toowoomba to make that he had only 25 minutes. True, as member for Toowoomba he had only 25 minutes; but I remind him that he has another 23 members in his Party and they each also have 25 minutes. If they all want to take the Treasurer on and wash more of the dirty Labour Party linen, we will be quite happy—I will, anyway—to sit here and listen. It is remarkable ammunition for me, if either a Q.L.P. or A.L.P. candidate

is foolish enough to line up for me to tip the bucket on him. Already my buckets are overflowing. I thought I would have no more to put in them but, as a result of today's debate, I have plenty to put in—more than I can possibly handle.

**Mr. Chalk:** You will want more buckets.

**Mr. AIKENS:** Yes, I will. The hon. member for Toowoomba complains, I suppose with a fair amount of justification, that the police are checking up on his movements and meetings. I would suggest that he do what I did on a memorable occasion at the Regent Theatre one Sunday night. I think the hon. member for Burdekin was one of the huge audience that listened to me on that particular occasion. I was told that a bevy of police shorthand reporters under Detective Senr. Sgt. Cronau, now Inspector Cronau, was in the audience to take shorthand notes. I started off by saying, "Well, ladies and gentlemen, we have visitors here tonight. We have police shorthand reporters. So that they will not miss one word of what I am about to say about the people that sent them here I am going to speak very slowly and very lucidly because I do not want them to miss anything." They took down notes which filled 17 closely typewritten pages. They almost had to take it down on asbestos. They sent it down here. The Treasurer read it, in fact every Minister of the Crown has read it. If hon. members want to see how I stopped the police coming to my meetings, let the Treasurer lay that typewritten report on the table. It is a beauty. They were not game to send police reporters to my meetings any more in case I might improve on my performance that night. I suggest that the hon. member for Toowoomba or the Treasurer, if he ever becomes a member of the Opposition and is plagued with police shorthand writers, take a leaf out of my book. Say something that they will report to the Government which the Government will have to handle with tongs.

Since the day before Anzac Day there has been no real Government in Queensland. It is true that the Ministers have carried out various functions, that we have had a Premier and a ministry. However, they have not been game to do very much because they knew that the Government had lost control of Parliament. They knew that if they issued any Orders-in-Council or regulations under any Act they could be challenged and probably nullified by an adverse vote in the Chamber. I am not suggesting that the Ministers have not individually done their job well. I know from the correspondence I have had with them that they have been carrying out their duties very efficiently. Nevertheless, they could not do anything of any consequence because they knew that they could not survive a challenge in the Chamber. In other words, we have had a Government in suspended animation. I think the hon. members for Yeronga and Mt. Gravatt will agree with me when I use a medical term and say

that we have a cataleptic Government. Or, to quote one of the malapropisms of the hon. member for Hinchinbrook, we have had a Government suspended in the air like Mahomet's womb. Therefore, the only decent thing we can do is to go to the people. The people have heard both sides of the argument from the two factions of the Labour Party. They know now what the fight in the Labour Party is all about. They have had sufficient radio broadcast talks, advertisements and publicity from both sides to know what the split is all about. But the split in the Labour Party is not the real concern of this Parliament as a Parliament. The split in the Labour Party is purely and simply a matter of concern to the Labour Party, old and new—if I may use that term. This Parliament was elected by the people to control the interests of the people and govern Queensland in the interests of the people. It is obvious that a Government with only a minority of members in the Chamber cannot effectively control the State. I would have been prepared to grant limited Supply, say, even to 30 September, if the Treasurer had indicated an election date and said, "We want Supply until 30 September for such-and-such a reason," had I honestly believed that his reasons were sound and worthy of support. But they have not done that. I agree with the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the Australian Labour Party, not that it is necessary for me to agree or disagree with them. I express my own opinion that the sooner we get to the country the better it will be for the country and the better the electors will be satisfied. I have gone over most of North Queensland since the Government lost control of Parliament and I have talked about the problems that concern them. They are eager to reach their decision at the polls. What their decision will be, we do not know. We cannot deny them the right to express that decision at the polls. We would be unfair and undemocratic if we delayed our approach to them.

**Mr. Gair:** You can only do it provided the machinery for the State election is in order.

**Mr. AIKENS:** You have had plenty of time.

**Mr. Gair:** You talk to the Government Printer.

**Mr. AIKENS:** Why have you not got up and said that? The Treasurer was up for 119 minutes during which the hon. gentleman dealt with the Bill for four minutes and dealt with the leader of the Australian Labour Party and Mr. R. J. J. Bukowski and everybody else for 115 minutes. As I say, on the face of things I am eager to go to the country. As I said, we are ready and rearing to go. Everything is piping hot, and we are waiting for some dill to hop in and get roasted. I cannot see why an appeal to the people should be delayed. We have had no evidence to the contrary by the Treasurer or the Premier. I propose to vote against the

Bill so that this Parliament can be dissolved as speedily as possible and the people—our real masters—can give their decision in accordance with the merits of the case presented to them by the various parties.

Progress reported.

#### SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

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

"That the House, at its rising, do adjourn till 11 o'clock tomorrow."

The House adjourned at 10.4 p.m.