

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER 1957

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QUESTIONS.

SUGGESTED TOURS BY TEACHERS,
CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC.

Mr. DAVIES (Maryborough) asked the Minister for Education—

“Will he discuss with the Director of the Conservatorium, Dr. Lovelock, the possibility of arranging tours of various parts of the State by groups of teachers from the Conservatorium in order that a series of recitals may be given for the benefit of people (including students) outside of Brisbane, and also arrange that all expenses be paid by the Department of Education as the tours would be considered part of his Department’s Education Programme?”

Hon. J. A. HEADING (Marodian—Minister for Public Works and Local Government), for **Hon. J. C. A. PIZZEY** (Isis), replied—

“The proposal that tours of the State be arranged for the staff of the Conservatorium of Music is not practicable.”

BULK-LOADING FACILITIES AT URANGAN.

Mr. DAVIES (Maryborough) asked the Minister for Agriculture and Stock—

“1. In view of the statement by a Member of the Government that the trade in “bag sugar” is expected to be finished within ten years, will he confirm or refute this opinion?”

“2. If the opinion is correct, will he urge sugar interests to arrange for bulk-loading facilities at Urangan in order to provide for the export of sugar manufactured in the Maryborough area from this excellent deep-water port which has 30 feet of water at low tide.”

Hon. O. O. MADSEN (Warwick) replied—

“(1) It is impossible to forecast when shipments of bagged sugar to overseas markets will be discontinued. Some of Queensland’s overseas markets still require sugar in bags, and although there is a general world movement to convert to bulk handling of raw sugar, some overseas refineries are unlikely to find it attractive to convert to bulk for some years. Present expectations are that bagged sugar in quantity will need to be exported from Queensland for upward of ten years.”

“(2) I am informed that the quantity of sugar available for shipment from the Maryborough area is far below the economic quantity necessary to support the heavy capital outlay for a bulk terminal.”

THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER, 1957.

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. A. R. Fletcher, Cunningham) took the chair at 11 a.m.

ELECTIONS TRIBUNAL.

JUDGE FOR 1958.

Mr. SPEAKER announced the receipt of a letter from His Honour the Chief Justice intimating that His Honour Mr. Justice O’Hagan would be the judge to preside at the sittings of the Elections Tribunal for the year 1958.

USE OF RUTIN IN THE TREATMENT OF
DIABETES AND BLOOD PRESSURE.

Mr. KEYATTA (Townsville) asked the Minister for Health and Home Affairs—

“In view of the development of the new drug Rutin, produced from the leaves of an Australian tree, Red Stringy Bark

(*Eucalyptus Macrorrh-hyncha*), which is at present being exported to U.S.A. and the U.K., has any use been made of this important discovery in Queensland in the treatment of diabetes and high blood pressure?"

Hon. H. W. NOBLE (Yeronga) replied—

"I am advised by Forestry Authorities that the *Eucalyptus Macrorrh-hyncha* is not found in Queensland."

THREE WEEKS ANNUAL LEAVE.

Mr. DONALD (Bremer) asked the Premier—

"Will he and his Government follow the progressive policy of the Australian Labour Party Government of New South Wales as reported in 'The Telegraph' of 3 December, and grant three weeks annual leave to all Government employees in this State?"

Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN (Landsborough) replied—

"(1 and 2) The Honourable Member's statement that the Labour Government in New South Wales pursues a 'progressive policy' is very much open to doubt and will find little favour in well-informed circles. Whilst I would be justified in reminding the Honourable Member that it is not the practice to disclose Government policy in answer to questions, nevertheless I can inform him that the subject matter of his question comes within the jurisdiction of the Industrial Court and my Government has no intention of interfering with or dictating to the Court in the conduct of its business. The Honourable Member might recall that a similar policy was followed by the previous Government of which he was for so long an ardent supporter."

AMENITIES AT SHIPYARDS OF EVANS DEAKIN & Co. LTD.

Mr. HANLON (Ithaca) asked the Minister for Labour and Industry—

"(1) Is he aware that Evans Deakin & Co. Ltd. excuse their continued refusal to establish decent and adequate amenities at their shipyards on the grounds that the Government has some responsibility in this matter?"

"(2) Will he inform the House what responsibility, if any, the Government has in this regard?"

Hon. K. J. MORRIS (Mt. Coot-tha) replied—

"(1 and 2) I am advised by the Acting Chief Inspector of Factories and Shops that with the exception of a slight deficiency in locker accommodation, which the Company is rectifying, the amenities at Evans Deakin and Co. Ltd. Shipyards comply with the requirements of the Factories and Shops Acts."

1957—3F

PAPERS.

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

Report upon the operations provided for by Part III.—Aid to Development, of the Financial Arrangements and Development Aid Act of 1942 for the year 1956-1957.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

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

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

LAND ACTS AND OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

Bill, on motion of Mr. Muller, read a third time.

COMMONWEALTH ALUMINIUM CORPORATION PTY. LIMITED AGREEMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

Bill, on motion of Mr. Evans, read a third time.

ROADS (CONTRIBUTION TO MAINTENANCE) BILL.

THIRD READING.

Bill, on motion of Mr. Chalk, read a third time

JUDGES' PENSIONS BILL.

THIRD READING.

Bill, on motion of Mr. Munro, read a third time.

STATE HOUSING ACTS AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

Bill, on motion of Mr. Hiley, read a third time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTS AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

Bill, on motion of Mr. Heading, read a third time.

IRRIGATION ACTS AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. A. G. MULLER (Passifern—Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation) (11.14 a.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

I do not think it is necessary to enlarge on what I said on the introductory stage when I dealt very fully with the Bill. It deals chiefly with the change of the system at Theodore. Provision is made to merge part of that shire now under the control of the Irrigation Commissioner with the adjoining shire, but the Commissioner retains power to control the water authority.

The other part of the Bill deals with the control by the Water Board of the supply of water for stock and other purposes.

The Bill has been examined very fully, and it has been very well received by all hon. members. It would be a waste of time to elaborate on it any further.

Motion (Mr. Muller) agreed to.

COMMITTEE.

(The Chairman of Committees, Mr. Taylor, Clayfield, in the chair.)

Clauses 1 to 4, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Part III., Clauses 5, 6 and 7—

Hon. A. G. MULLER (Fassifern—Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation) (11.18 a.m.): The existing Water Acts are incorrectly cited as The Water Acts, 1922 to 1954, instead of The Water Acts, 1926 to 1954 in Clauses 5, 6, and 7 and in the headnote to those clauses on page 5, at lines 31, 34, 35, 37, 38 and 48 of the Bill.

The correction of this error is a formality.

I therefore ask leave of the Committee to make the necessary corrections by substituting "1926" for "1922" where the latter figure appears on page 5 at lines 31, 34, 35, 37, 38 and 48.

The CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the Committee that the correction as mentioned by the Minister on page 5 at lines 31, 34, 35, 37, 38 and 48 be made?

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Clauses 5 to 7, both inclusive, as amended, agreed to.

Bill reported, with amendments.

THIRD READING.

Bill, on motion of Mr. Muller, by leave, read a third time.

FORESTRY BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. A. G. MULLER (Fassifern—Minister for Agriculture and Stock) (11.20 a.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

The Bill sets up a Department of Forestry. Previously there was a sub-department of Forestry attached to the Department of Public Lands. There will still be the Director of Forests who will be responsible

directly to the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation for the whole of the activities of the department. I am sure hon. members appreciate the merits of the Bill. In my introductory speech I said that forestry was becoming more and more important. Efforts are being made to increase timber supplies throughout the State. The quantity of cut timber is diminishing with the decrease in the supply of logs and it is my almost daily experience to have sawmillers ask me for more logs. Under the new system the supply of logs will be regulated so that there will be no waste of timber and the timber cut will be in keeping with the requirements of the trade. At present one mill competes against another and many sawmillers think they are not getting justice. It has become a difficult matter to control.

The officers of the department will have complete control over the growing of timber, the care of forests and sawmilling generally and I am sure hon. members realise what the department means to the State. As time goes on it will be necessary to increase our timber supplies. The department will provide work for many people and there will be an increase in the assets of the State.

I acknowledge the co-operation that I have received from hon. members on both sides of the House in this progressive move.

Mr. BURROWS (Port Curtis) (11.24 a.m.): I cannot allow the occasion to go without again registering my protest at the large quantities of timber that are wantonly wasted in this State which is so short of hardwood in particular. Only last Sunday I drove along a road where the electric authorities were erecting a transmission line and I saw many beautiful blue gum trees that had been felled. Surely something can be done to save this timber. How often have such logs been allowed to rot on the ground. After a month or so the bark peels off, falls alongside the log, and makes excellent kindling if a bushfire breaks out. The result is a shocking waste of timber.

Similar remarks can be made of Main Roads works. Bulldozers have been a blessing in many ways, but they have their disadvantages. They are one of the greatest enemies of natural timber, particularly hardwoods. Bulldozer drivers do not realise the value of trees, and they deliberately push them into heaps. Eventually they become heaps of useless ashes, when with a little forethought and co-operation between Government departments they could be excellent milling timber or sleeper blocks.

There should be more co-operation between the various Government departments. I have raised the matter before, but my efforts have not met with any success. There is too much red tape, even in the Forestry Department. There are forest rangers in each district but they have no authority to dispose

of logs. The Forestry Department has some excellent officers; in fact, it is really a brains trust. I regard the Forestry officers as being among the smartest men in the Public Service. However, they tend to adopt a dog-in-the-manger attitude; they are afraid that somebody might get a log for nothing. I have frequently asked the forest ranger if he has reported the presence of logs. I have even been to the head office of the department in Brisbane to tell officials about two logs I saw on the bank of the Barmundu Creek. They have been lying there for quite a while, and if the recent bushfires had extended to that area they would have been burnt.

Mr. Muller: Do you say they are good mill logs?

Mr. BURROWS: They are two good mill logs, and I think the Minister will give me credit for knowing a good log when I see one. There would be 1,500 or 1,600 feet of good blue gum timber in them. The forest ranger told me that he had a letter from Brisbane about them and he asked me where they were. We refer to the creeks by their local names, not their official names. I told him where they were, but I was there last Sunday and they were still there. Somebody should be given permission to use them. When strainers along the roads are pushed over by a bulldozer, farmers are afraid to take them in case they are prosecuted. However, I have frequently told them to take them and to let me know if they get into trouble. Why cannot we trust the forest rangers? They are decent and intelligent men imbued with the ideal of timber preservation. They have the right spirit. I could best describe them by saying they are tree-minded. We have too little timber and it is very disappointing to see it wasted or destroyed.

Mr. THACKERAY (Keppel) (11.31 a.m.): The Leader of the Opposition has supported the Bill. The Forestry reserves of the State and the Commonwealth are national assets and we must do all that we can to protect them.

In my electorate the Forestry section was set up in the Byfield area by a previous Government. There are 2,270 acres under cultivation with two types of pine, *pinus elliattii* and *pinus caribaea*. Another 3,800 acres there could be put under soft pine forest. Within 10 or 15 years the area will be meeting the pine needs of Central Queensland. I urge the Minister to plant more trees. At the moment only 27 adults and one juvenile are employed. There were more a few years ago but retrenchment took place. The Byfield area is ideal for reforestation because of the rainfall and the nature of the soil.

The Zillmere Housing Scheme has shown the danger of introducing borers in imported timbers. Our own timbers are equal to

any overseas, and that is evident to anyone who walks down the corridors of Parliament House.

The Bill is a step in the right direction and I commend it.

Mr. ADAIR (Cook) (11.34 a.m.): I will not hand out any bouquets to the Forestry Department. Some of its officers do excellent work. In the Cook electorate we have some of the finest stands of timber in the State, especially at Bloomfield and on the Kuranda Range. The sawmill at Cooktown was closed and the men were put out of work because of the broad-arrowing of the timber there and over the royalty paid for the plywood cut in the Poverty Scrub.

Roads have been constructed through very mountainous country but the Forestry Department has not assisted very much in the building of roads. It has been left to the mills in the Mossman area. Johnson's Sawmill Company have constructed most of the roads. The money received by way of royalty should be used in the building of roads. The broad arrow put on plywood timber means 11s. a 100 super. feet. As there is no plymill in the area the timber would never be used for ply timber.

Mr. Muller: What kind of timber is it?

Mr. ADAIR: Quandong, candle nut, and stuff like that. It is never used for ply timber. When this broad arrow is put on by the Forestry Department it means 11s. a 100 super. feet. I would like the Minister to look into the matter to see if it could not be rectified so that the mill could open up again.

Mr. DAVIES (Maryborough) (11.37 a.m.): I have no intention of delaying the House but there are a few points I should like to make. Firstly, I express my appreciation of the work of the department. Secondly, I ask that the Minister, through the department, grapple with what I regard as a very serious problem. I refer to the wanton destruction of good timbers on private land. I know that it is a difficult problem to grapple with. Timber that could be regarded as little better than thinings is taken off land. Forestry officers have qualified by examination. Many of them have been trained in various forestry centres throughout the world. As one who has been closely associated with their work in various parts of the State I express my appreciation of the work they are doing. I am sure the Minister is very happy to know that he has such qualified officers in charge of forestry work.

The other night the hon. member for Sherwood referred to the research work into forestry problems by the previous Government. I agree that we cannot spend too much money on research work associated with the Forestry Department. We should give great credit for the experimental work the

department has been doing over the years throughout the State. Up to 1,000,000 trees have been planted each year at the Tuan forestry area although the number fell last year. This centre is a few miles from Maryborough, and, here, experimental work has been carried out successfully, particularly on poor-quality wallum lands by the application of various fertilisers and drainage. I urge the department to establish experimental blocks along the bay road between Maryborough and Pialba. There is country there that could grow good timber. We also need more experimental blocks along the main Bundaberg road between Howard and Maryborough. It is a very important department. No doubt early in the year we will have an opportunity of discussing the matter generally. I commend the department for what it has done. I hope the Government will follow on the lines of the previous Government in keeping Forestry firmly in mind and continue with the splendid work that has been carried out over the years.

Hon. A. G. MULLER (Fassifern—Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation) (11.41 a.m.), in reply: The hon. member for Port Curtis referred to the lack of co-operation between the Main Roads Department, Forestry Department and local authorities. This is a serious matter. I am sure the hon. member would know a good mill log from useless timber. The matter could be remedied by co-operation between the various authorities. Responsibility also rests on members of this Parliament. If any hon. member notices waste of that nature it is his duty to ring Mr. Grenning and the chairman of the Main Roads Board. I visualise the Main Roads workers clearing a track with a bulldozer and pushing the timber out of the way. His responsibility ends when he disposes of the timber. It is a wicked waste to have timber destroyed in that way. As the hon. member for Port Curtis said, it is pushed into a heap and burnt.

Mr. Hilton: The procedure for dealing with that type of timber was simplified a considerable time ago. I do not think it goes on now.

Mr. MULLER: I do not know. We get these complaints from time to time. In some cases it may be difficult to arrange transport for a few logs. I do not wish to excuse anybody. The hon. member for Fitzroy has had similar experience. We should do everything we can to see that the practice is stopped. It is easy to come here and criticise. I shall take the matter up with my department. There is no need for any hon. member to wait to tell the Minister about these things; he can see the heads of the various departments who will welcome any assistance he can give in eliminating

this waste. The matter raised by the hon. member for Cook is probably the most disconcerting happening in the timber industry. This morning I received a deputation regarding the supply of logs. It is almost a weekly experience. People are unable to get logs. Many mills look to the Forestry Department to see that the supply of logs is maintained. They think they should get a supply of logs through the Forestry Department or from stands of timber on leasehold land or private land at a price which, in the opinion of most people, is not in keeping with present-day costs. I have had personal experience in this regard. I sold hardwood timber 25 years ago for 5s. 0d. a hundred on the stump. Although sawn timber has increased by four hundred per cent. you still get little more than 5s. 0d. a hundred. The owner of private land must decide whether he will allow trees to grow to useful, millable size or whether he will ringbark them and grow grass on the land. Both timber and grass will not grow in the same paddock.

The department has spent a great deal of money in planting and caring for trees. It is then expected in some instances to supply logs at a price that will enable the miller to meet the increased costs and make a profit. The department cannot be blamed for the hold-up. The hon. member for Cook mentioned that a royalty of 7s. was requested in his locality for very valuable timber.

Neither the department nor a private owner should be asked to make the whole sacrifice. Costs are so high that the price of timber now makes it virtually impossible for a working man to build a home. I have seen a number of places erected recently. The price of the timber was staggering, although the price at the stump is little more than it was 25 or 30 years ago. That matter will have to be investigated.

There will have to be complete co-operation if we are to meet the future timber requirements of the State. If other costs increase, it is only reasonable to expect that the price of timber on the stump should be increased.

I do not want to delay the House further. The alteration will make possible a closer examination of all the aspects. There will be closer liaison between the Minister and the director than in the past. If hon. members can assist me or any other minister in charge of this department to improve the conditions or overcome the problems mentioned this morning, their assistance will be appreciated.

Motion (Mr. Muller) agreed to.

COMMITTEE.

(The Chairman of Committees, Mr. Taylor, Clayfield, in the chair.)

Clauses 1 to 5, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

THIRD READING.

Bill, on motion of Mr. Muller, by leave, read a third time.

RACING AND BETTING ACT
AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. T. A. HILEY (Coorparoo—Treasurer and Minister for Housing) (11.50 a.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

I do not propose to cover the grounds traversed in my introductory speech but there are one or two incidental observations I want to make. I was asked about the possibility of having the cumulator totalisator in country districts where regular meetings are not held, by pooling the opportunity between the race meeting on one Saturday and the trotting meeting on the next. I indicated that after a trial in Brisbane to show how the totalisator will work, how it will benefit the Crown and the racing public, we will examine any opportunity to allow people in the less densely populated centres to have the same facilities as are now being provided in the metropolitan area. I want hon. members to observe that if the cumulator totalisator is to function properly there must be a certain volume in two directions, firstly a sufficient number of patrons to warrant a club incurring the necessary expenditure and secondly there must be enough starters in an event to make sure that the mathematical chance is not reduced to a fine basis whereby a person can buy a limited number of tickets and be sure because of the number of tickets he buys that one will be the winning ticket. That is one of the real problems in some country districts, with a programme of five events. It is not expected that you will be able to get enough horses for a programme of seven or eight events, so common in the metropolitan area. It is not uncommon to find only three starters in a race in the country, and where you get a succession of fields like that, it narrows the chances mathematically to such an extent that the jackpot totalisator would not be an attraction.

The method proposed by the Bill is to permit of the issue of totalisator licences subject to conditions to be endorsed on the licence. My officers have given considerable thought to the detailed method of application, and I know that hon. members interested in racing also have some ideas to submit to me. I shall be pleased to have any such information. One of the main principles of the cumulator is that it should operate on the last five races at each meeting. For the totalisator to function properly, there must be a certain amount of selling time during which the public can purchase tickets. In the case of a seven-race event,

it is proposed that the selling time shall commence not later than 12 noon. On days when a big jackpot has accumulated it would be quite wrong to allow the time for the sale of tickets to be so compressed that there is a stampede at the selling windows.

Mr. Wood: Could you give me any idea whether there is any set basis of determining the percentage that will be paid as a consolation jackpot?

Mr. HILEY: It is proposed that the consolation will be 15 per cent. of the investment on the day. I shall be dealing with that matter at a later stage.

If there was a big jackpot carry-over from the previous meeting, naturally there would be a big demand for tickets. In such a case, the totalisator may be opened earlier than noon. The regulation, however, will make it necessary for selling facilities to be available not later than 12 noon. That would allow a selling period of about 2½ hours before the first jackpot race. As I say, the jackpot will attach to the last five races on the programme, and the amount of selling time that I have mentioned will be necessary if the totalisator is to function without a mad scramble for tickets, particularly on a day when there is a big carry-over from the previous meeting.

It has been necessary to give special thought to scratchings. The local rules of racing are to be considered by the various race clubs, and it is expected that they will be altered to provide that all scratchings must be completed by 12 noon.

Mr. Mann: Will that mean an amendment of the original Act?

Mr. HILEY: No, it is covered by the rules of racing. I understand that the matter is not dealt with in the legislation, so that it is in the hands of the race clubs to determine the time of scratchings.

Mr. Roberts: Horses will be scratched at 12 noon for every race on the programme?

Mr. HILEY: Scratchings at the volition of the owner. Consideration will also have to be given to a horse that is ordered out of a race by the stewards. There is a technical difference between withdrawals on the course and non-starters. A horse might be withdrawn from a race by the stewards before it is put into the hands of the starter. That is the second class of non-starter. The stewards might notice that it is limping because of an injury that it has suffered in being transported to the course. In that case it is regarded as a course withdrawal. Then there is the case of a horse that is injured at the barrier. That is the third category. It is ordered not to start after it is actually in the hands of the starter. Contingencies such as those can affect an investment that has been made on the totalisator. With the ordinary totalisator the

betor has to take a risk on that type of withdrawal, but if it happened in, say, the fourth race and a bettor had already backed three winners, it would be very hard on him if his choice in the fourth race was not allowed to start. It is proposed to give such a person the right to exchange his ticket, in the case of a withdrawal, until the horse enters the track from the paddock. That is, when it moves from the paddock and proceeds onto the track it is deemed to be in a position where it can start. At that point any withdrawal is signalled and the punter will be in a position to know and to transfer the ticket.

Mr. Davies: Don't you think that would cause very great congestion if the horse happened to be the favourite?

Mr. HILEY: I am speaking now of what can happen after the first two events have been run. What would the hon. members think was the biggest percentage ever to have got to that stage in Western Australian experience, that is, how many tickets are still alive after the first two races?

Mr. Roberts: About 5 per cent.

Mr. HILEY: No, 3.9 is the highest percentage there to have weathered the first two legs. The clubs are confident that even if the favourite were withdrawn at the start of the third race they could physically handle the transfers.

Hon. members who attend race meetings will realise that not every person is in a position to watch the semaphore right to the last minute to know if the horse he has backed is withdrawn a moment or two before it goes onto the track. That could happen. While the horses are moving around in the saddling paddock there could be an incident. One could be kicked and the steward, seeing it limping, could say it was not to run. In such a case if the punter does not see it and does not elect to exercise his right to transfer his ticket, it is proposed that automatically he will be transferred to the favourite on the win totalisator of that event. If a man has already succeeded in getting two legs home he should not lightly be put in the position that obtains in Western Australia. The rule there to my mind is monstrous. A man might have four winners and if on the fifth race his horse is withdrawn he is merely given his 5s. back. We propose to give him the right to transfer the ticket to a horse he nominates but, if he does not exercise it, he will be automatically transferred to the favourite on the win totalisator as thrown out by the results of that particular race. The clubs and my officers think that offers the fairest protection to investors. A man's attention might be diverted. He might have to leave the course. If so his chances will not be murdered by conditions over which he has no control.

The consolation dividend pool will be 15 per cent. of the amount invested on the day. Note that I said "of the amount invested on the day". Let us suppose that at the commencement of the meeting there was a £2,000 carry-over and that the net amount available from investments on that day happened to be a further £1,000. If the jackpot were won on that day it would be £3,000. If it is not won the investment on the day is £1,000 and the consolation dividend pool is 15 per cent. of that £1,000. Let me explain the reason for our decision. In Western Australia they give 15 per cent. of the total pool available on the day. There have been cases where a man who has won the consolation dividend has taken out a bigger pool than the man who won the jackpot on the first day. It did not seem to us to be right that the reward for getting near to the right result should be as great as the reward to the man who has in fact picked five winners straight on a programme. Consequently the rules are being drafted on the basis that consolation dividends will be 15 per cent. of the amount invested on the day.

There is one further problem which was not completely sorted out in the last discussions I had with my officers. Every totalisator machine is constructed to cater for 26 runners. In races that permit of more than 26 entries the numbers are bracketed on the totalisator. There is no doubt that one of the effects of bracketing numbers is that it gives virtually a double chance to some ticket-holders. In other words, they have two horses running in the one race. Because of the effect of the accumulator jackpot tote it would be quite wrong to allow a person to have the benefit of bracketed numbers, consequently a double chance against others with single numbers. The bracketing occurs among the lightweights. Because horses are carrying light weights there is the feeling that the handicapper considers they are the least likely to be the winners. Of course, sometimes some of the best fancied horses carry the lightest weight. I have not had a case presented to me where a bracketed horse not only carried the public support but was the winner, but I am sure some hon. members will know it has happened. It does not necessarily follow that merely because a horse is carrying the lightest weight it can be virtually dismissed as being likely to receive support from the investing public or be successful in the race. As far as possible the tickets should be issued on such a basis that every investor has a completely even chance. Nobody should be allowed to have any better than average chance or worse than average chance. Consequently the form of the ticket is being studied. Probably it will be printed with 30 spaces. Remember that this will be a manual tote, not mechanical. If a man wants to be on 26A the square on the ticket opposite 26A will be punched. The investor will not be on 26 bracketed with 26A but on 26A as a separate chance—the same with 27 and 27A.

I thought these details would be interesting to hon. members interested in horse racing. What I have said will probably form the basis of the regulation. There have been most helpful discussions on every side. I was heartened to find that there was unanimity between the clubs and a disposition to work together. That was so in regard to the detailed conditions. They have been able to sit round a table and talk it out and a consensus of opinion emerged. They proved in negotiation to be an extremely reasonable and responsible body of men. This has helped me tremendously. Everybody knows that I am administering a field about which I know less than an infant. I found the assistance of my own officers and officials of the club to be of a very high order. My decisions would be largely to make sure that the mathematical hazard was even and that nothing would distort the position to create marked inequality. On every occasion when the practical men have said that from their point of view such and such a course was desirable and I have examined it from the mathematical point of view it has passed the test.

Mr. Mann: It has met with the approval of most people with whom I have discussed it.

Mr. HILEY: I have found that to be so too.

Mr. WOOD (North Toowoomba—Leader of the Opposition) (12.11 p.m.): After hearing the Bill outlined on the initiation the Opposition gave its approval. As I pointed out then, it is not a question of how we regard this matter personally; we cannot allow our bigotry against racecourse activities to cloud our judgment. We think the Bill is designed to bring about an improvement that is sought by those who use the racecourses. Like the Minister, I do not pretend to be an expert, and I assure the hon. gentlemen that I am not going to try to come into that field. The figures quoted by the Minister were sufficiently alarming to me to convince me of the futility of trying to be an expert. Only 4 per cent. have taken the first double. The Bill is an improvement on the legislation in Western Australia and an improvement on the legislation rejected by the Upper House in Victoria. I am satisfied all possible safeguards have been written into the Bill to see that those who invest on the cumulator totalisator are safeguarded. This has not been entered into lightly. The matter has been thoroughly investigated by officers of the Minister's department in close co-operation with the racing clubs. The Minister has acknowledged that co-operation. I am certain that the opinions of the race-goers on whose behalf this legislation is designed have been considered too. The Minister has discharged his responsibility of giving this matter the closest scrutiny.

The thought that has exercised the minds of all hon. members, and I know it would have exercised the mind of the Minister is that the introduction of this system may

persuade those at present not inclined to do so to gamble on racecourses. That is the only danger I can see, but the extent of it can only be assessed after the system has been operated for some time.

As I said at the introductory stage, if the cumulator tote has the effect of getting people away from betting shops, it will be a benefit. There is no doubt that unhygienic betting shops operated surreptitiously are not good for the community, particularly in cities where race meetings are held every week and where the public have an opportunity to see horse racing or place a bet. Any move to attract people away from the betting shops to the racecourse is a good one.

Some Opposition members have raised the disadvantages in country districts. We cannot compare the position in the metropolitan area with the position in remote parts of the State such as Longreach, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Julia Creek and Cooktown. The circumstances are entirely different.

It is a difficult problem and one that must be approached with a degree of tolerance, regardless of personal opinion. Hon. members on both sides of the Chamber realise that this is a delicate matter that cannot be approached blindly or dogmatically.

I think all hon. members appreciate the very lucid explanation given by the Minister.

The one danger, as I see it, is that people may hope to win an amount equal to the first prize in a big Casket of £25,000, and so will be attracted to racecourses and become addicted to gambling. I refer to people who may not hitherto have had any inclination in that direction.

Mr. MANN (Brisbane) (12.18 p.m.): I congratulate the Treasurer on the further information he has given about the method of avoiding hardship when horses are scratched. That is a very important feature. It would not be fair, as the Minister pointed out, if an investor on the totalisator lost his money after having picked the winners of several races, and a horse in a subsequent race was scratched. This system is to be commended. It is obvious that the race clubs, the Treasurer and his staff have endeavoured to be fair to the investor on the totalisator.

Personally I do not use that medium of betting, although I attend race meetings. I have never become accustomed to betting on the totalisator, but if the jackpot reaches an attractive figure it is possible that I will take out tickets on the cumulator totalisator, particularly as I will have to pick only two winners at a time. In Western Australia a punter or investor on the totalisator has to pick five winners at the outset, which is virtually an impossible task. It would be a fluke to do it. The Treasurer is an accountant and mathematician and I should like him to sit down and work out the odds against anybody picking five winners straight. I know that it has been done because quite

recently a tipster in New South Wales picked five consecutive winners and one in Melbourne picked four running winners. However, I think it is a fluke rather than good judgment.

Mr. Hiley: About the same odds as in weather forecasting.

Mr. MANN: If a punter can pick one or two winners with a limited number of bets his prospects are better than if he invests on every race and tries to pick every winner.

The Treasurer and the race clubs have gone about it in a sensible way; they have profited by the working of the cumulator tote in Western Australia. However, I do not think that the jackpot totalisator in Queensland will encourage racing men to go to the course although the gate-takings in Western Australia increased. In Queensland, those who want to bet, generally go to the course. I said the other day that the average race attendance was about 20,000. I must say that some members of my party thought that this would be the means of encouraging people to gamble. We discussed the position generally and some thought that this was an attempt to encourage others to go to meetings who do not go now.

By and large this can be said to be an experiment and I am sure the Treasurer has approached it in a sensible way. We therefore feel that we should not offer any objection to the Bill. It should be given a trial. I do not know that the Treasurer told us that the money was to be placed in a trust fund and that there were to be guardians of that fund, but it is understood that it will be placed in a fund and be subject to scrutiny by officers of his department. We are sure that there will be no risk of the money being used for other purposes. We look forward to the experiment.

Mr. WINDSOR (Fortitude Valley) (12.23 p.m.): I am opposed to gambling in all forms but I think we should tackle this matter in a sensible way. We have to drop bigotry because we cannot change people by legislation. We can only provide the best laws.

Mr. Mann: Are you in favour of licensed S.P. betting?

Mr. WINDSOR: I should not like to answer that. When I enlisted in 1915 I was a temperance worker and in camp one day I found a threequarter filled bottle of whiskey in my tent. I thought it was no good to anybody and I poured the whisky out. I thought I would cure the owner of the bottle of drinking. I discovered that he still went on with his drinking and I had to find another bottle of whisky. I learned my lesson. As we get older we become more tolerant.

Mr. Mann: You do not want to make any more facilities available?

Mr. WINDSOR: No. Every man is entitled to his own way of life, and we cannot alter people by legislation. I compliment the Treasurer on the way he has approached the introduction of the cumulator totalisator.

Mr. ADAIR (Cook) (12.26 p.m.): I, too, commend the Treasurer on his approach to the introduction of the new type of totalisator. I like a bet on a horse, and I regard the jackpot totalisator as an excellent idea. However, I should like similar facilities extended to centres such as Cairns.

Mr. Mann: How often are race meetings held in Cairns?

Mr. ADAIR: Once a week.

In the outlying parts of the State—in places such as Cooktown—people are denied the privilege of having a bet on a horse, and I believe in off-the-course betting for them. People in the metropolitan area have every opportunity to attend race meetings, but those in the sparsely populated areas of North Queensland are denied the privilege of having a bet.

Motion (Mr. Hiley) agreed to.

COMMITTEE.

(The Chairman of Committees, Mr. Taylor, Clayfield, in the chair.)

Clauses 1 to 3, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

THIRD READING.

Bill, on motion of Mr. Hiley, by leave, read a third time.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN (Landsborough—Premier): I move—

“That this House, at its rising, do adjourn until 11 o'clock a.m. on a date to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, in consultation with the Government of this State. Mr. Speaker shall, not less than seven days prior to the meeting date so fixed, give notification of such meeting date to each hon. member of the House.”

Motion agreed to.

VALEDICTORY.

Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN (Landsborough—Premier) (12.30 p.m.): I move—

“That the House do now adjourn.”

At the conclusion of this very strenuous first session of the new Parliament let me say that it has been a rather difficult one for all of us. I believe we applied ourselves well to the task. We have put through a considerable volume of business, including some measures that will be quite historical in the development of the State. The session has been a very difficult one for the Government as it

followed closely on the elections. We took over shortly before the House had to meet to grant Supply and all hon. members who know the ramifications of Parliament will know that that gave the new Ministry a strenuous time. We had to take over from the previous Government, fit into our departments and at the same time prepare a legislative programme. Notwithstanding the many difficulties that had to be overcome the job was accomplished fairly successfully.

The Government have tried to give hon. members the fullest possible time to consider legislation. They have tried as far as possible to eliminate the passage of Bills through all stages without allowing a reasonable time for examination of them. That has largely been achieved. Some of the less important Bills may have been put through quickly but all the more important Bills were given more than usual time for consideration. It is desirable that legislation should not be rushed.

As Leader of the Government I thank all hon. members for the way they have co-operated in the conduct of the business of the House. I especially thank the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Queensland Labour Party, who have helped to keep the House running smoothly and to meet the exigencies that arise from time to time when legislation is brought down.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. NICKLIN: Their co-operation has led to the very smooth working of the House.

I thank the officers of Parliament who have helped so much. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to the Clerk of the Parliament and his assistants for their courtesy, their help and their advice on parliamentary procedure.

We thank, too, those gentlemen whom we do not see inside the Bar of the House, who very often sit outside and work very long hours and at week-ends to help the Government in the preparation of legislation. I refer to the Parliamentary Draftsman and his assistants. They have carried a heavy burden this session because of the unusual circumstances.

The conduct of the House has been exemplary. There are not many Parliaments in Australia that could get through the rather lengthy session we have had, sitting into the small hours of the morning on a number of occasions, with such universally good conduct. Indeed, the conduct has been of the nature that we should like to see at all times in a Legislative Assembly.

You, Mr. Speaker, your chairman of committees, and temporary chairman of committees, are to be commended for the way in which you have carried out your part in the conduct of the House. The dignity with which you have upheld your position and the dignity displayed by the chairman and temporary chairman of committees has set us a good example which I think we have all followed.

As usual, the Whips have had a busy time but they did a very good job. I say, "Thank you" to Mr. Roberts on behalf of the Government for the way in which he has carried out his duties.

Mr. Mann: He let you down last night.

Mr. NICKLIN: Nobody was worried. As long as we have a majority of one it is enough. He always had a few up his sleeve. The later it got the more he could produce. I thank the Opposition Whips also.

We cannot set a high standard in the conduct of the House without the full co-operation of every hon. member.

Let me refer to an innovation adopted by all hon. members. It did not occur as the result of any direction from you, Mr. Speaker, or any action by any party, it stemmed from a suggestion by a back bench member. Following his suggestion there was discussion amongst other hon. members and subsequently every hon. member adopted it. I refer to the way all remain standing until you, sir, take your chair after reading prayers. I believe it has added quite a deal to the dignity of the House. It is a tribute to the new hon. member who thought it would help in the conduct of the House.

In association with the conduct of Parliament we have the "Hansard" staff and the Press who sit above and look down upon us. They work very hard to report proceedings in the Chamber. Let me say that they are very observant. Last night in the course of the lengthy sittings they saw that by long experience in this House some hon. members could sleep quite comfortably sitting up and others had to lie down. I say "Thank you" for the part these gentlemen have played in the conduct of the business of the House.

I thank all the staff of the House. When I refer to the staff of the House I include everybody who works in the House in any capacity at all—the library staff, messengers, or people in any other capacity who work for the comfort and convenience of hon. members. As has always been the case these ladies and gentlemen have rendered great service to hon. members by making the conduct of our business much easier by their courtesy and attention. Miss Doyle and her staff in the Refreshment Rooms look after important activities of this House and do it very well. Every hon. member will join with me in conveying congratulations to Miss Doyle for the way in which she has improved the service and standard of our Refreshment Room.

It is rather strange to me, at the end of a Session, to be standing on this side of the House looking over to what has been termed "the cool shades of Opposition". For very many years I stood on the opposite side and looked across here. After sitting on this side during the summer I should say that the Opposition side is certainly the cooler. I think we prefer the warmer side and we shall endeavour to stay here as long as we possibly

can. Successive Premiers have said to me over the years they thought that my style of beauty was particularly suited to the Opposition side of the House. I do not know whether that was so but may I say that my opposite number is very well placed. (Laughter). I trust that the hon. gentleman will occupy his position for very many years.

May I conclude by wishing all hon. members a very happy Christmas. May the year 1958 bring all they wish for themselves and their families and may it also bring to this State renewed prosperity and further development.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. WOOD (North Toowoomba—Leader of the Opposition) (12.42 p.m.): I think the Premier has shown some nostalgic yearnings for his old place in the cool shades of Opposition. I assure the hon. gentleman that we will do the best we can to see that he is restored to his former position. As the Premier said, this has been an extremely difficult session for all of us. The Government had to adapt themselves to a role to which they were not accustomed and for which they are not so well adapted. We find ourselves filling a role that had not been filled by the Australian Labour Party for many years, and there has been a settling time for both the Government and the Opposition. And it has not been easy for either side. This has been a trying year for members of the Opposition. For some months prior to the election the Opposition experienced strain and anxiety. Generally speaking this year has been one of intense difficulties. This session begun—I am using the language used by the Premier on previous occasions—at a very leisurely rate but the tempo accelerated as the session developed; and we find, as has happened before, that the great bulk of the work came at the end of the session. I do not think that that can be denied nor do I say it is the first time it has happened. I agree with the statement of the Premier in previous years, that it is not an easy matter to correct. Such contentious legislation as the Landlord and Tenant Acts Amendment Bill and the Land Acts Amendment Bill, both of which cut across the policy followed over the years, and the extremely comprehensive agreement between Comaleo and the Government of Queensland—certainly the most important legislation of its kind ever introduced into this House—throws an exceedingly heavy burden on members of the House. With the exception possibly of the Premier, the Treasurer, and the Minister for Development, hon. members on the Government side could not fully understand the implications of the schedule even at this stage. Nor could any Opposition member hope to have a full understanding of it.

An accumulation of important Bills, together with the hot weather and a certain amount of mental exhaustion at the end of the session, could mean that legislation is

given less attention than it deserves. In saying that I refer to hon. members on both sides of the Chamber.

I suggest for the next August session that the Government not only in the interests of the Opposition but also of the State of Queensland should endeavour to so arrange their programme that hon. members will not have to consider a number of important Bills at the end of a difficult session.

Mr. Nicklin: We shall endeavour to do that.

Mr. WOOD: At the beginning of the session, Mr. Speaker, I pledged the support of Opposition members for any action that you took if we considered it to be just and impartial. We recognise the need not only in our interests but in the interests of the institution of Parliament for a high standard of dignity and I think I can fairly claim that the Opposition has honoured its undertaking to the full. The Premier has stated that the standard of debate was high. I agree, and I say that the support given to the Chair by Opposition members contributed in no small way to such a high standard. That will continue to be our attitude.

In a democracy everyone is entitled to his political opinion. If an opinion is worth holding, it is worth defending vigorously. There are times when tempers become frayed and heat is generated, but I reiterate the statement of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that that does not give any hon. member the right to attempt to destroy an argument by destroying the person who advances it. No such action can be condoned. Within the ordinary ambit of debate there is full scope to present a case as vigorously and in as forthright a manner as possible. You, Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of Committees, and the Temporary Chairman, have at no time attempted to deny hon. members that opportunity. The right has been recognised and we have exercised it freely. Hon. members should be able to adduce argument according to their opinions without attempting to destroy the character of any other hon. member, whether they disagree with him or not.

It is the desire of Opposition members to uphold the high prestige of this House. The institution of Parliament is more important than individuals. We naturally believe in our political parties, but we realise that Parliament as an institution is of greater importance than individuals and I know that feeling is shared by the Premier and his Cabinet.

I publicly acknowledge my deep gratitude to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and my colleagues for their loyalty and the assiduity with which they have applied themselves to their difficult task. I am proud to have been associated with them in their successful efforts to rebuild the prestige of the party that at the moment I have the honour to lead.

The Premier made reference this morning to our late sitting and the effect it had on some members as reported in "The Courier-Mail" this morning. That report confirms the belief I have held for some time and which is vividly illustrated by a reference to the slogan of a firm associated with motor repairs—"The Australian Labour Party never sleeps". The Press report does not refer to any member of the Australian Labour Party.

I thank the Premier for his courtesy which is greatly appreciated. We have differed on many things but he has fought his case vigorously. I publicly acknowledge the courtesy he has shown to me and the members of my Party.

To you, Mr. Speaker, I offer a suggestion by pointing out that in the 1956 election, when the Labour Party was returned as the Government with 49 members, and there were 26 Opposition and Independent members, a room was made available for Opposition members in which to conduct interviews. We have 20 members but we have no separate room where our constituents can see us privately and state their problems. Many of them are of a private nature. There is one room which is crowded, but there is no interviewing room where privacy is assured. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to look into the matter.

I join with the Premier in congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of Committees, and his panel of temporary chairmen on the way in which they have applied themselves to their duties. You, Mr. Speaker, have set a high standard which I am sure is acknowledged by your immediate predecessor, the hon. member for Brisbane, who, I know, left his mark on this Parliament. I congratulate Mr. Speaker on the zealous and sincere way in which he has discharged his duties.

On behalf of the Opposition I join with the Premier in paying tribute to all associated with the smooth running of this Parliament. The "Hansard" staff are extremely efficient so also are the officers in the library. The officers of Parliament are unfailing in their courtesy; they are a great help. So also are the manageress of the refreshment rooms and her assistants. The typists work hard for hon. members; they are a tremendous help to us in carrying out our electoral responsibilities. We get a splendid service from the messengers, gardeners, and the cleaners. No matter where you go you find cheerfulness, courtesy and a willingness to assist. Everybody employed in this House plays a big part in helping the House to run smoothly.

I join with the Premier in wishing all hon. members all they could wish for themselves at Xmas time. I hope by next year the drought will have broken and that no unemployment will develop. I hope that next year will be one of prosperity which we all desire.

Mr. POWER (Baroona) (12.55 p.m.): In the absence of both the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Queensland Labour Party, I should like to say a few words on their behalf as well as on behalf of the other members of the Party.

The Premier has said that the Government have had a very difficult time during the session. We, too, have had a very difficult time because we have had no previous experience in Opposition. The legislative programme was very heavy. Important legislation has been introduced, some of which in my opinion will have serious repercussions on the people of Queensland.

The introduction of so many Bills caused us to sit very long hours. That is not in the best interests either of those in charge of legislation or those whose responsibility it is to examine it. After sitting continuously for some hours, one could suffer from mental fatigue. The Opposition have a responsibility to examine all legislation and suggest beneficial amendments.

It is true that some hon. members have dozed in the Chamber. The Leader of the official Opposition said that the Australian Labour Party never sleeps. If I wanted to be nasty—and I do not want to be—I could say it is time some of them woke up. (Laughter).

Some of the legislation that was introduced was sound and it received the support of the Opposition. However, in my opinion some of it was not in the best interests of the State generally. My time in the Opposition has been short and I hope it will be short, but that will depend on the redistribution of electoral boundaries and other moves that the Government have in mind. The responsibility of the Opposition is not to be critical in a destructive way, but to offer constructive criticism. They are entitled to have some of their amendments accepted. I can remember that on many occasions when I was a Minister I accepted amendments from the Opposition. I am pleased that the present Minister is following my excellent example.

Debates in the Chamber could be shortened considerably with advantage to all. The time spent on Bills could be reduced without impairing administration. The time must come when the Minister in charge of a Bill will present his message, ask leave to introduce the Bill, and move that it be read a first time. It could then be distributed without discussion. After hon. members had been given a reasonable time to examine the Bill the debate on it could then take place. Much unnecessary debate could be avoided. We often hear members guess at what might be in the Bill or say that they believe it contains so and so. If they had it before them their comments might be more relevant.

Mr. Morris: It is a very good idea but it would be hard to put into practice.

Mr. POWER: I understand it is done in Canberra.

A Government Member: Why did you not do it?

Mr. POWER: I thought someone on the Government side might ask, "Why did you not do it when you were the Government?" We have not had much experience in opposition but we learn as time goes on. I strongly recommend the idea because it will be of advantage to all sections of the Parliament. It will improve the debate and shorten it and it will lessen the work of "Hansard." They will not be required to take down matters not contained in the Bill.

I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on the manner in which you have carried out your duties. On one occasion I thought you were not right, but, as I had no desire to be sent out, I naturally accepted your ruling. I did not want to waste the time of the House by moving that your ruling be disagreed with. I knew my motion would be defeated on the numbers.

I want to express my deep appreciation of the excellent work of the Chairman of Committees. His is a very responsible and onerous office, indeed one of the hardest of all. He called me to order more than once but I was not the only one and I acknowledge that he has done an excellent job.

I am sure I am expressing the views of every hon. member.

Mr. Dewar: What about the Deputy Chairman?

Mr. POWER: I have no cause for complaint about any hon. member who acted as chairman but I was especially interested in the very able way in which the hon. member for Clayfield carried out his duties.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. POWER: He called me to order more than once but he also called "Order!" to the gentlemen on my left so he carried out his job fairly and impartially.

I express appreciation, too, to the Clerk of the Parliament and his assistants and to the "Hansard" staff, whose task is very difficult. With the cross-fire in the Chamber from time to time it is hard for them to hear exactly what is said. They have done an excellent job.

I express appreciation to the Parliamentary draftsman and his assistants, to the messengers and orderlies and to those in charge of the bar and the dining room. I do not see them very often because I go home for meals.

I thank all the girls downstairs, who have helped, especially the switchboard operators.

I extend my good wishes to the Press reporters. I do not agree with all that the Press have published. They support the Government and their policy, they tend to

favour the Government, and sometimes the contributions of the Queensland Labour Party get scant mention. I do not blame the reporters for that.

With our usual generosity we extend to all of those who are against us, as well as to those who are with us, best wishes for a happy and a Holy Christmas and good health and prosperity in the coming year.

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members, I should like to say for myself and on behalf of the Chairman of Committees and his deputies, "Thank you very much for what you have said about what we have done." I particularly appreciate what has been said about the Chairman of Committees who, I should say, this session has taken the brunt of the intensity of discussion. I thank him very much. I thank all of you from the Premier down to the lowest hon. member, if there are any more lowly than others, who have helped to make our positions easier. For my part I say to the Premier that he has been a model of courteous, kindly consideration to me. It was no more than I expected but I got it in full measure. I appreciate it very much. To his Cabinet colleagues I say that our relationships have been of the very best. I am deeply grateful to some of the experienced members for the help they were able to give me during the session.

I thank the Leader of the Opposition who during the session conducted himself and his Party with restraint and moderation. The sentiments with which he closes this session become him. I trust that in the ensuing years that he as leader of the team does not ever find that any of his team mates are inclined to straggle in the scrum or get a little off side. I particularly appreciate the generous way he looked across the Chamber and said that he wished everybody a Happy Christmas and everything that they might wish themselves. His generosity is exemplified particularly by the fact that there is a redistribution of electoral boundaries in the offing, and what could be more generous than that?

Over the last four years I have got to know many members of Parliament in this House. I think the outside public tend to misjudge members of Parliament. It is easy enough to do that because it must be admitted that very often from his unprepossessing exterior it is difficult to see a member of Parliament's heart of gold. I think there are more hearts of gold than the outside public give us credit for. I think that politicians as a class are very often misjudged because of the conditions under which they live, conditions that the Leader of the Opposition touched upon when he said that when it was necessary to conduct a vigorous presentation of a case in which you believed, you become a little heated and engender a little heat in the response. Under the stress of that sort of thing personal feelings sometimes lead us into doing and saying things that in our

calmer moments we would not do. We could reasonably be excused for some of the things that happen that the outsider who is not under any stress would consider a little over the fence..

I convey my sincere thanks to Mr. Dunlop. He has been a very able adviser. His kindly, sympathetic and tolerant attitude has been most helpful to me, coming as I did as a new and inexperienced Speaker with a very great realisation of the matters that I did not know. He has made my position much more pleasant than it would otherwise have been.

I thank the table officers and all of those concerned with the running of the House. I thank all officers of the House and the staff generally because I know what their contribution has been. I know better than other hon. members would know because I am in a position to know how much willing and capable service they have given to the House. The typists were mentioned. Heaven knows we all owe them a great deal. I think all hon. members agree that we owe much to the Hansard staff. I endorse the remarks of previous speakers about all those from whom we have had kindly co-operation.

In regard to the dining-room, I draw attention to the fact that it is undergoing

some modifications. The staff is working under considerable stress and strain. I have today authorised a notice to be issued to which I draw the attention of hon. members. It reads as follows:—

“On account of alterations being made in the kitchen (including the installation of new kitchen equipment) members are kindly requested to note the following:—

The Members' Dining Room and Bar will be opened daily commencing Monday, 9 December, from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. only for morning and afternoon teas and light luncheons.

Please note that the Visitors' Room will be closed and the above time scheduled will operate until renovations are completed.”

Country members at the Lodge during this period can, I am sure, make arrangements with Miss Doyle with regard to breakfast. Thank you again, hon. members, for the help you have been during the year. I have done my best, and I have been helped by everybody.

Motion (Mr. Nicklin) agreed to.

The House adjourned at 1.12 p.m.