

Queensland



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[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 1958

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

QUESTIONS.

EXTENSION OF TRAFFIC SCHOOL.

Mr. DUGGAN (North Toowoomba—Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister for Labour and Industry—

“In view of the obvious merit attaching to the establishment of a school for the borderline traffic offenders in Brisbane, will he consider extending this system to the principal provincial cities?”

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

“I thank the Honourable Member for his interest and comment on the action by the Police Commissioner in establishing a school for borderline traffic offenders in Brisbane. If the members of the public will co-operate, I feel a great deal of good will come from these classes. The extension of the classes to centres outside the Metropolitan area will receive consideration in the light of experience gained with such classes which commenced in Brisbane on September 1, 1958.”

ELECTRICITY FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS, ROSEDALE.

Mr. BURROWS (Port Curtis) asked the Minister for Transport—

“In respect to the Railway Department’s intention expressed by him on 28 August, 1958, in reply to a question by me, that the supply of electricity to a certain railway employee from the Departmental Power House at Rosedale will be disconnected—

“(1) Does the Department supply electricity at any other centres to its employees and, if so, how many?”

“(2) What are the tariff rates being paid by employees receiving electricity from the Department?”

“(3) Does the Department own the house at Rosedale which it now proposes to disconnect?”

Hon. G. W. W. CHALK (Lockyer) replied—

“(1 and 2) While I am at all times quite prepared to answer questions asked by Honourable Members concerning matters coming within the jurisdiction of my portfolio, in this case the information sought is not recorded in such a way as to make it readily available and as it would have no relevance to the

position obtaining at Rosedale I do not consider the time, which would be occupied in collating it, would be justified.”

“(3) Yes.”

BUS SERVICES, BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL.

Hon. V. C. GAIR (South Brisbane) asked the Minister for Transport—

“(1) Are not all variations in bus routes, fares and timetables subject to the approval of the Minister?”

“(2) If so, has he given approval to the Brisbane City Council to withdraw from a date in September certain bus services operating between Moorooka, Tarragindi, Ekibin, Thompson Estate, Chatsworth road, and Newman avenue (Coorparoo), Yeronga, Fairfield, Yeerongpilly, Tennyson, and Annerley road areas including portion of South Brisbane, to the city, and substitute purely local services to tram routes as feeders, between approximately 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., and in the evenings, and at the same time, substantially vary some existing routes?”

“(3) If ‘No’ is the answer to question (2), will he take steps to see that full consideration is given to the representations of the large number of residents in the affected areas, to the representations of the business interests generally, and to the general effect such a serious restriction to travel will have in these areas which have been built up by the existing system of transport?”

Hon. G. W. W. CHALK (Lockyer) replied—

“(1) Variations in bus routes, fares and timetables with respect to omnibus services licensed under the State Transport Facilities Acts, are the subject of a determination or decision, in the first instance by the Commissioner for Transport, but no such determination or decision has any effect unless or until it has been confirmed by the Minister for Transport (vide Section 16 of the Acts).”

“(2) No.”

“(3) The Honourable Member is assured that the subject matter of his question No. 2 above is being fully investigated by responsible officers of the Department of Transport and the whole of the investigations and representations, when complete, will be placed before the Commissioner for Transport for consideration and decision.”

MINERS’ HOMESTEAD PERPETUAL LEASES.

Mr. AIKENS (Mundingburra) asked the Minister for Development, Mines, and Main Roads—

“(1) Can holders of miners’ homestead perpetual leases now convert them to freehold tenure and, if so, what procedure must be followed to enable them to do this?”

“(2) If no statutory provisions exist at the present time to permit of the conversion of miners’ homestead perpetual leases to freehold tenure, is it proposed to make such statutory provision in the future?”

Hon. E. EVANS (Mirani) replied—

“(1) No.”

“(2) This matter is under consideration.”

RENTS PAID BY CERTAIN PENSIONERS.

Mr. AIKENS (Mundingburra) asked the Minister for Justice—

“(1) Has he been informed that the Federal Parliament proposes to pay to pensioners paying rent or board and lodging a hardship allowance of 10s. per week?”

“(2) If so, in view of the fact that these pensioners will not have the money to take action before the Fair Rents Court or in any other State jurisdiction, what steps do the Queensland Government, which has sole authority in the matter, propose to take to prevent the rapacious type of landlord and boarding-house keeper from callously robbing these old pioneers of the 10s. increase in their pensions by charging this amount extra for their rent or board and lodging?”

Hon. A. W. MUNRO (Toowong) replied—

“(1 and 2) The type of propaganda revealed in the extravagant terms of this question is not convincing when it is not soundly based. There is no logical reason why the granting of a pension increase to some ‘old pioneers’ should be made the occasion for the imposition of additional restrictions and limitations on the incomes of other ‘old pioneers.’ The other old pioneers referred to are the owners of houses, the majority of whom are worthy men and women who have made wise provision for their old age by the exercise of thrift and the investment of moderate savings. This Government is fully conscious of the need for a fair deal for both tenant and owner. The rights of tenants are adequately protected by the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Acts, 1948 to 1957, in terms of which the Registrar and the Fair Rents Court have appropriate powers.”

FIRE BRIGADE AT HOME HILL.

Mr. COBURN (Burdekin) asked the Minister for Health and Home Affairs—

“In view of the fact that during the past three years the Home Hill Chamber of Commerce supported by me has urged the establishment of a Fire Brigade at Home Hill, and that the urgent necessity for a Fire Brigade at that centre was forcibly impressed upon us by last Saturday’s disastrous fire which caused damage

estimated at £20,000, will he kindly authorise immediately the provision of a Fire Brigade for Home Hill either as a separate instrumentality or as a branch of the Ayr-Brandon Fire Brigade with the necessary building, staff and fire-fighting equipment located at Home Hill?”

Hon. H. W. NOBLE (Yeronga) replied—

“The question of the establishment of fire brigades in areas where there is no reticulated water is one that has been given a great amount of thought and consideration. Up to the present the Fire Underwriters’ Association, who contribute the major portion of the cost of fire brigades, and who, in the main, bear the loss when fires occur, are opposed to the establishment of brigades in such areas. In fact a special Sub-Committee of the Fire Underwriters’ Association was appointed at Townsville to investigate the establishment of a fire brigade at Home Hill, and this Committee recommended against it. However, in the light of recent experience at Home Hill, I shall again take this matter up with a view to reaching a satisfactory solution of this problem.”

RAIL MOTOR, TOWNSVILLE AND HOME HILL.

Mr. COBURN (Burdekin) asked the Minister for Transport—

“(1) Is he aware that the four-unit rail-motor running daily between Townsville and Home Hill, has been reduced to a two-unit service and this has caused inconvenience and discomfort to passengers due to over-crowding particularly during holidays, week-ends and other peak periods?”

“(2) If so, will he inform the House why the unit has been so reduced, and when passengers can expect the full unit to again operate on the section?”

Hon. G. W. W. CHALK (Lockyer) replied—

“(1) The Honourable Member is a little slow off the mark. The change in the service occurred approximately fifteen months ago, and prior to my assuming the responsibilities of Minister for Transport. The reduction was due to insufficient patronage to warrant the four cars being run continuously. The two cars now being used will seat 94 persons. The only known instance of over-crowding occurred on August 12 last, when 103 school children travelled from Ayr to Townsville to attend a camp at Magnetic Island, prior notice of which was not given to the Railway Department. Because of this occurrence I arranged that inquiries be made as to the date the children were returning from Townsville and a double unit was provided on August 22 for a total of 154 passengers including 103 children.”

“(2) There is not sufficient normal patronage between Home Hill and Townsville and vice versa to warrant the restoration of the four cars.”

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR DIVERS AT
THURSDAY ISLAND.

Mr. ADAIR (Cook) asked the Minister for Health and Home Affairs—

“(1) In view of the fact that the Torres Strait Islanders are superior in their work to the picked imported divers, will he give favourable consideration to the appointment of Frances Sabatino of Thursday Island because of his expert knowledge of diving to train Island divers generally?”

“(2) Will he supply the House with the information showing the output of mother-of-pearl produced by Island divers compared to that produced by imported divers?”

Hon. H. W. NOBLE (Yeronga) replied—

“(1) Native Affairs officials in Thursday Island are now conferring with the Torres Strait Island Councillors on the establishment of a Training School for Divers, the personnel of which would need to be acceptable to the Torres Strait Islanders. At the termination of these discussions a recommendation will be submitted on the number and personnel of the men to be employed as Tutor Divers.”

“(2) Twelve Torres Strait Islander-owned luggers produced 94 tons of mother-of-pearl shell for the 1958 season to August 29. Information on the output of mother-of-pearl shell produced by imported divers is not available.”

RETIRED SERGEANT OF POLICE AS FISH
INSPECTOR, ROCKHAMPTON.

Mr. THACKERAY (Keppel) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

“(1) Is it a fact that a Sergeant of Police at Rockhampton has been appointed Fish Inspector at Rockhampton although still on annual leave pending retirement? If so, will he inform the House the gross income this officer derives from the Police and State Fisheries Departments?”

“(2) Are these positions called through the ‘Government Gazette’?”

“(3) Is it the policy of the Government to employ retired men when there are young unemployed married men in Rockhampton who would have equal knowledge and ability to carry out these duties?”

Hon. T. A. HILEY (Coorparoo) replied—

“(1 to 3) The appointment referred to by the Honourable Member apparently is one made by the Fish Board and is not a Government appointment. The Fish Board is established under the Fish Supply Management Acts and is empowered to appoint such officers, including inspectors,

as it considers necessary for the administration of the Acts. On enquiry, I am advised that—(a) A person who was previously a Senior Sergeant of Police holds an appointment as an inspector, on probation, with the Fish Board. (b) This person was retired from the Police Force, under the statutory retiring age of 60 years, as from and including March 6, 1958. (c) The Fish Board advertised on May 22 and 23, 1958, inviting applications for the position of Inspector, Metropolitan and/or Country District under the Fish Supply Management Acts, 1935 to 1951. (d) Two appointments were made by the Fish Board after a consideration of such applications, one for the central districts and one in the metropolitan area. (e) Mr. L. E. O’Brien, a retired Senior Sergeant of Police, then residing in Rockhampton, was appointed to that district because of his experience in investigation work and general equipment for the position, at a salary of £975 per annum. (f) Mr. O’Brien was, in fact, the only applicant from the Rockhampton area.”

CARTER’S INTERSTATE TRANSPORT PTY. LTD.,
MARYBOROUGH.

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

“(1) Has his attention been drawn to the regular advertisement in ‘The Maryborough Chronicle’ by Carter’s Interstate Transport Pty. Ltd., in which the following claims are made:—(a) ‘Operating regular legal services between Brisbane, Woodenbong and Maryborough,’ (b) ‘Consign your goods by Road Transport through us and save Time and therefore Money,’ and (c) ‘We pay Road Tax?’”

“(2) (a) Does he agree that the service is legal? (b) Does he consider it possible for this firm to carry goods from Brisbane over the border and back to Maryborough and save Maryborough firms’ time and money? (c) If so, will he suggest reasons why?”

“(3) Does this firm pay Road Tax and, if so, how much, and what terms and conditions are associated with the receipt of such payment?”

“(4) Is the report true that he intends granting a regular State License to Carter’s Firm for the carriage of goods within Queensland between Maryborough and Brisbane?”

Hon. G. W. W. CHALK (Lockyer) replied—

“(1) (a), (b) and (c) Yes, I have seen the advertisement.”

“(2) (a) If this company is operating between Brisbane, Woodenbong and Maryborough in accordance with the provisions of section 92 of the Constitution and the principles laid down by the High Court of Australia in its judgments relating to section 92 of the Constitution, in my

opinion such service would be legal.
 (b) This is purely a matter of economics, best known to the principals of the company. The contents of its Profit and Loss Account in relation to its inter-State operations are not known to either the Commissioner for Transport or myself.
 (c) See answer to (2) (b) above."

"(3) This company was licensed under the State Transport Facilities Acts by the Department of Transport in 1948 to provide and carry on a service for the carriage of goods between Brisbane and the Bordergates, Mt. Lindesay, restricted to picking up and setting down goods at Tamrookum. The licence is still effective and fees under the State Transport Facilities Acts have been paid monthly during the whole period. In respect to the Roads (Contribution to Maintenance) Acts, 1957 to 1958, the company has furnished returns as prescribed by that Act and from February 1, 1958, to July 31, 1958, has paid charges totalling £2,237 18s. 2d."

"(4) No. If the Honourable Member perused the news columns of the Press as closely as he apparently reads the advertisements therein, and which through the recital thereof in this Chamber he has provided the company with considerable free publicity, he would know that Carters were convicted and fined in respect to seven breaches of the State Transport Facilities Acts, 1946 to 1955, for offences committed outside their licensed area during recent months and that fines have totalled £170."

PAPERS.

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

Report of the Literature Board of Review under the Objectionable Literature Act of 1954, for the year 1957-1958.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. J. A. HEADING (Marodian—Minister for Public Works and Local Government) (11.20 a.m.): I move—

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

In view of the information I gave on the introduction of the Bill I do not think it is necessary to add anything to what I have already said.

Mr. DUGGAN (North Toowoomba—Leader of the Opposition) (11.21 a.m.): On

this occasion I find myself in complete agreement with the Minister. Accordingly I do not think anything that has transpired warrants any further comment at the second reading stage. Therefore we support the measure.

Motion (Mr. Heading) agreed to.

COMMITTEE.

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

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

Bill reported, without amendment.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE.

Debate resumed from 2 September (see p. 186) on Mr. Rae's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. JESSON (Hinchinbrook) (11.23 a.m.): On behalf of my electors and myself I express our complete loyalty and devotion to Her Majesty the Queen. I congratulate the Governor, not so much on his Opening Speech as on his fact-finding tours of the State. From what I have heard and seen I know that he is doing a very good job and that the people are happy with his appointment.

Most of a Governor's Opening Speech is written by what are commonly known as his advisers. In the first part of the speech, written I understand, by the Governor himself, he expresses his desire to see the State and mentions his great surprise at the magnitude of Queensland. I was impressed more particularly by what is not contained in the Speech. As everybody knows, at the present moment, on all sides we are confronted with a threat of war but no mention of that is made in the Speech. Nothing at all was said about what is being done to protect the lives of the people in the event of an attack.

After much agitation by myself and the organisation to which I belong, we were recognised a month ago and one of our members was selected to go to Macedon for a course on civil defence. Luckily I was selected. It is regrettable that the Government have indulged in a game of party politics in this connection. I do not want to bring in party politics; the matter is too serious to be regarded as a party political one. I point out that since the Government assumed office four or five of their members have gone to Macedon school but not one member of the Opposition.

Mr. Herbert: All A.L.P. members went during the previous Parliament.

Mr. JESSON: One of your representatives did.

Mr. Herbert: Only because he challenged the Premier on the floor of the House.

Mr. JESSON: I shall deal with the hon. member at the appropriate time. Two wrongs do not make a right. I did not have much to say in the last Labour Government, but I have a lot to say now. I can speak now where I could not speak before. I was pointing out that this should not be made a party political matter, and the hon. member for Herbert made a cheap jibe, saying that the A.L.P.'s idea was to ban the bomb. That is not true. I could give the House the same speech that the hon. member for Herbert gave a week ago. It is exactly the same as the notes they gave him at the Civil Defence school.

Mr. Herbert: What is wrong with that?

Mr. JESSON: He should be ashamed of himself. I want to bring these facts before the public from the commonsense point of view, not from the political point of view. The course at Macedon is a very strenuous one. The period allowed is not long enough. The course runs from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. and there are films at night which give the visual side of what has been outlined during the day. It would be a great improvement if the course were extended for two more days. I have here a large book as hon. members can see, and one is expected to go through it in three days. Later on I intend to deal with the situation between the States and the Commonwealth. On my way back from the school I went to see Major-General Doherty. The hon. member for Windsor, who was also at the school, did not do that.

Mr. P. R. Smith: I had to come back to look after my electorate.

Mr. JESSON: I made it my business to go for three hours to the Director of Civil Defence in New South Wales in order to familiarise myself with the set-up in that State and thus bring back information that might be useful to this State. The States and the Commonwealth have fallen down on their job of civil defence. The name "civil defence" is not appropriate. It creates the impression that people do not want to be told the truth or know the truth. I respectfully suggest that the name should be the Civil Emergency Organisation, or the Civil Industrial Emergency Organisation. I shall not have time to explain the ramifications of the emergency organisation for the defence of big industries such as are in New South Wales and Victoria. The Minister for Labour and Industry has spoken about sending overseas an officer to study the incidence of accidents in industry. There is no need for him to go overseas. Anyone with common sense could make a study of that subject in this country.

There are many people in the community who say that nuclear warfare will not affect this country. That statement appears in the Press every day. Others take the attitude, "If it does happen, what can we do about it?" Others again are not keenly interested in the subject. Anyone who starts to talk

about peace or the banning of nuclear warfare is immediately labelled a Communist by many people who have not advanced beyond the mentality of a child. The public should be made aware of the danger to them, and that awareness could be instilled into them by a proper organisation in the State.

Several years ago the Commonwealth Government asked the States to take some action on civil defence. At the first opportunity since my return I made it my business to call on Mr. Fraser, the Public Service Commissioner, who I understand is the Deputy Director of Civil Defence, or, as I prefer to call it, Civil Emergency in this State. I had a lengthy discussion with Mr. Fraser yesterday morning on the ramifications of civil defence in this State, and I find that virtually nothing has been done here. Mr. Fraser has made a wide and good selection of persons to be sent to this school. They include nurses, doctors, health inspectors and police officers. Those persons represent a good cross-section of the community, but, unfortunately, he has no Government backing.

Mr. Ramsden: Did he say he had no Government backing?

Mr. JESSON: I say it.

Mr. Herbert: What did your Government do in the matter?

Mr. JESSON: It is only two years since the subject was raised. The Macedon school was started only at the latter period of office of the previous Government. In that period of a couple of months the previous Government could do very little.

Mr. Adair: There is only one school in the Commonwealth.

Mr. JESSON: That is right. In N.S.W. they have an organisation for civil emergency. I use that term because I do not like the word "defence," as in my opinion it is not appropriate.

Mr. P. R. Smith: They refer to it as Civil Defence.

Mr. JESSON: The hon. member knows that it was agreed in the South that the word "defence" was not appropriate.

Mr. P. R. Smith: Refer to it by the name they give it, and we will know what you are talking about.

Mr. JESSON: The hon. member knows what I am talking about.

I shall not bore hon. members by reading the names of the New South Wales officers who attended this school. They included a district liaison officer from Moree, a district operational controller from Newcastle, a district operational controller from Dubbo, and similar officers from Singleton, Quirindi, Lismore and so on. That proves that the Labour Government in New South Wales are alive to

the fact that there is need for an organisation in that State to protect the people and to cope with an emergency.

Major-General Dougherty showed me a map in his control room where 19 men are employed involving the State Government in an expenditure of £27,000 a year. That sum is but a flea bite compared to the value of the work of the organisation. Only recently, during floods on the Murrumbidgee, New South Wales was saved over £3,000,000 by their flood prevention work. The point of the matter is that the organisation knew what was going on. Major-General Dougherty saw Mr. Fraser in Queensland and got from him an idea of what the weather people and the police do in this State so that the necessary precautions might be taken down the Murray River and the Darling and other watercourses. Prevention, Mr. Speaker, is better than cure. I am not endeavouring to take any credit away from the organisation of the police in this State because when a tragedy happens our police go into action with their wireless patrols and rescue parties and do a good job. This was demonstrated by what took place at Bowen and Mackay where floods and cyclones occurred. There is no organisation before the thing happens. Plenty of warning is given before the advent of a cyclone. If the organisation was created it could be used in the defence of the country. When floods occurred at Lismore and the Northern Rivers of New South Wales only a few weeks ago the organisation set up down there was able to get in touch immediately with the local officer of the Council and the various wardens throughout the district and everything was in a state of preparedness. Vehicles and trucks were seconded for use in the low-lying areas. Arrangements were made to transfer furniture and household goods out of houses and store them in railway goods sheds and other places. The goods were marked with the name of the owner and when the flood waters receded the furniture was restored to the homes from which it was taken. People had to be evacuated. There was complete liaison between the Army, the Air Force and the Navy. Palliases filled with straw were given to displaced persons to sleep on. The whole scheme was mapped out incorporating the Country Women's Association and the Red Cross, to give food and other relief to those who had met with disaster. All this was available because of the common sense exercised by Mr. Cahill of New South Wales. The people cannot pin Mr. Menzies down to anything definite because he has evaded the issue of bringing all States into line. The State Governments have to make the move to do something to help themselves. I am convinced after the lectures I heard at Macedon that there should be a mutual effort because people have to learn to help themselves. There should be the organisation set up to meet any national disaster and to satisfy the ego of the hon. member for Windsor, let me say a civil defence organisation. It is not really a civil defence

organisation but a civil emergency organisation. But, I suppose, a rose by any other name would smell as sweet. I am replying to the nonsense of the hon. member who interrupted me on something he knows to be right.

In New South Wales there are 227 local authority areas, of which 173 have started to set up civil defence organisations. The whole of the personnel have been selected. Every local authority has received a copy of a training manual that was prepared at the expense of the New South Wales Government. We in Queensland have no such manual. I believe that my colleague, the hon. member for Bremer, asked the Premier if he intended to publish a book on civil defence, and the Premier had the cheek to say "No". The Government are spending hundreds of thousands of pounds in boosting their own ego instead of getting out a booklet on civil defence. The manual published by the New South Wales Government covers such subjects as atomic warfare, welfare, fire problems, and so on.

Mr. Davies: Are there any Cabinet Ministers' photographs in it?

Mr. JESSON: No, but there is a map of Australia divided into sections, which could be very useful. The Queensland Government are doing nothing in civil defence organisation.

I do not want to fall foul of the R.S.S.A.I.L.A., but I am strongly opposed to its plan to organise civil defence arrangements. Perhaps I am rather game, or maybe a little mad, to bring the matter up, but no member of the Government has had the guts to do it. It would be quite wrong for any outside body to take over arrangements for the civil defence of the country. The Government should have full control of anything like that. I congratulated the R.S.S.A.I.L.A. when they said they were prepared to help in civil defence arrangements, but they have already selected Group Captain Curnow as chairman, and Vice-Mayor Crawford, the Deputy Town Clerk and the Director of Posts and Telegraphs. I do not know whether those gentlemen have signified their willingness to take part in the organisation, but the R.S.S.A.I.L.A. have also selected a number of other gentlemen to act, among them being Messrs. White, Elliott, George, Anderson, Dodwell and Moore.

Mr. Curnow has requested all R.S.S.A.I.L.A. districts and sub-branches to form district and sub-control panels. In New South Wales that job is under the control of the Director of Civil Defence, a man who is appointed by the Government and who is responsible to the Government.

Each district will be required to send to R.S.S.A.I.L.A. headquarters by the end of the month the composition of their panels.

Somebody should be brought from the South to instruct people throughout the State on civil defence organisation. That job should

not be the prerogative of the R.S.S.A.I.L.A. I understand that the State Government are holding up any move to set up a civil defence organisation here until the Federal-State Civil Defence Conference is held in Canberra this month.

It is a disgrace to this State that it is unwilling to spend the small sum of £20,000, which civil defence has cost the New South Wales Government. As soon as a disaster happens anywhere in New South Wales, the control room is cleared for action. Members of the civil defence organisation from the Army and the Air Force go to the control room, and rescue apparatus, such as boats, as well as food, can be sent to any part of the State without delay.

At the present time there is an epidemic of chicken pox throughout the country. It might be something worse than chicken pox.

Dr. Noble: No.

Mr. JESSON: What is happening in Toowoomba has the Minister for Health and Home Affairs worried.

Dr. Noble: No.

Mr. JESSON: What is the Minister doing about it but engaging in a lot of talk? There is a good deal of chicken pox about at the present time. It is no use the Minister for Health and Home Affairs saying there is not because he knows there is. A great many children in the State have chicken pox at the moment and many in the Northern Rivers district of New South Wales have it, too. As the hon. member for Windsor pointed out yesterday, aeroplanes have brought the rest of the world much closer than when people had to rely on boats to come here. The teeming millions of Europe and Asia are within a 6 hours' flight of Australia.

Dr. Noble: They cannot come in by air unless they are vaccinated.

Mr. JESSON: They could be vaccinated one day and leave the next and the vaccination might not take effect in time. What the hon. gentleman says is a lot of tommyrot.

Dr. Noble: That is nonsense. The Commonwealth have a very good arrangement.

Mr. JESSON: A man could be vaccinated this morning, board a plane this afternoon and break out in smallpox while on the plane.

Dr. Noble: No, he cannot. You want to read the regulation.

Government Members: Listen to Dr. Jesson!

Mr. JESSON: I am not professing to be a doctor or anything else. I am merely trying to talk common sense. Many diseases are brought into Australia from other countries. Every State restricts the bringing in of plants, flowers and fruit because they can carry disease. How do hon. members

think diseases come in otherwise? How did Weil's disease break out in North Queensland? What inoculation is there against that?

Dr. Noble: That did not come from outside.

Mr. JESSON: It could be brought in with anybody's luggage or on their clothing. Bacteria is in the air. We are living, eating and breathing it every day of the week. So much for what the hon. member for Yeronga says. He knows that to be true. Disease does not come only by contact with the human skin or by people breathing down each other's throats. It is carried around in the air. It could be brought in on a plane at any time.

Dr. Noble: We are hearing now the Jesson theory of contagion.

Mr. JESSON: That is all very well.

Mr. Fraser has done a good job. From what I can find out, 211 people have gone from Queensland—114 of them from outside the public service and 97 from within it. Fifteen police have gone down as warden instructors. What has been done in the 12 or 18 months since? I have not heard of any police officer or public servant in my electorate instructing anybody on civil defence. I have not heard of any lectures here. Recently a meeting of health inspectors was held in Brisbane but I heard of no report of measures that could be taken to guard the health of the people. I did not hear of any paper being read or any lecture being given by the Chief Inspector of Health, who went down from the Brisbane City Council. I was told that the Minister for Education had been down there but he kept it very quiet. Nobody but himself knew anything about it. I understand that Dr. Fryberg has been down there but I have never heard any report to the House about it. Those matters should be reported to the Parliament and to the people to give them a sense of security. It is high time the State Government did something about this very serious matter instead of waiting for the sleepy Commonwealth Government, who have no interest in Queensland. They have proved that over the years. They are out to take what they can get from the State. I could stay here for hours if I wanted to—

Government Members: Oh no, you can't.

Mr. JESSON: And I could read like the hon. member opposite. He read his first speech and I suppose he will read his last.

Mr. Herbert: At least I can read.

Mr. JESSON: I have here a map of the Newcastle set-up. There is nothing of the sort in Queensland. That is what I want to bring forcibly before hon. members, and especially the Government if it is possible to do anything with them. They can laugh and ridicule but it is a very serious matter to

me. On this map of Newcastle various areas are marked and the link is shown between them and the nerve centre under the divisional director. Not one of those who have gone down to the school has thought any more about it. No doubt many of them looked upon it as a nice little three-day holiday in a very delightful part of the world. I made it my business to get these maps and to see Mr. Fraser to find out what we have done here. We have done nothing but talk. Here is a map of the Wollongong area where the steel industries are. (Government laughter). They can laugh, they are a lot of Alecs!

Mr. Lloyd: Galahs.

Mr. JESSON: Yes, galahs. Here is a map of New South Wales set out in various sections which are governed by the nerve centre in Sydney. In the recent flooding in the Richmond-Tweed area the Civil Defence Organisation immediately went into action with sandbags. We did not hear very much about their troubles this year. Years ago, before this organisation was operating, people were continually being flooded out with consequent loss of thousands of pounds. They were even talking about shifting the town of Lismore. The same sort of thing could be done in Queensland. Hundreds of thousands of pounds are lost annually because of cyclones in North Queensland. An organisation for prevention, not rescue, should be set up to prevent trouble before it happens.

Mr. P. R. Smith: I have spoken to the R.S.L. in Windsor about this matter.

Mr. JESSON: You have?

Mr. P. R. Smith: Yes.

Mr. JESSON: The hon. member would not be very much help. Here is a map of the Sydney zone. I am showing hon. members these maps only to bring my point home and to illustrate how neglectful we are in Queensland. All the Government have done is to glorify themselves in an effort to get back at the next elections. They are all the time boosting up their own ego. If one tries to instil some sort of enthusiasm, patriotism, or decent Queenslandism into them he is laughed at. I do not intend to waste any more time on something that is not very pleasant to them, but it is time that something was done. My words have been laughed at and ridiculed. Let the Government get moving. I have a family of young grandchildren in this country, but I do not feel very happy about their future because of the way things are going. I say with all the sincerity I can command that I wrote to my daughter telling her to get her kiddies inoculated against smallpox straight away. I also told her to get herself and her husband inoculated. It is no use saying that it cannot happen here. It can happen here. The Minister for Health and

Home Affairs says that it cannot. He is going against one of the highest medical authorities in Australia, Sir Frank Norris.

Dr. NOBLE: I rise to a point of order. I have never said that it could not happen here. If the hon. member had been following the health discussions in Queensland he would have noted that I made a recommendation that every baby in Queensland be vaccinated. The reason we did not recommend the vaccination of adults is that only one in every 100,000 get encephalitis. We did not consider the risk sufficient to justify a recommendation for the inoculation of adults on a Commonwealth-wide basis, but the inoculation of children is a very good thing.

Mr. JESSON: I move that the hon. gentleman be granted an extension of time! If anything has been done or if he made any recommendation he made it at home or under his breath, because nobody here knows anything about it. We have had one health report from the Director-General of Health, but we heard nothing about it in that. The Minister for Education was down there, but he has not reported back to the House, nor has anybody else. The only reason the hon. member for Sherwood said what he did was that he knew I was down there and that I would say something when I came back. (Government laughter.)

That is the only reason why he spoke. The hon. member for Windsor also got in ahead of me yesterday. He did not mention civil defence; he, like a parrot, reiterated what was said by one or two of the instructors. The hon. member was not game to castigate his own Government. He knows that things are not what they should be in Queensland, but he will not admit it because he belongs to the Government who have fallen down on their job. The Premier said that he will have nothing to do with it until the Commonwealth Government moves in the matter.

Mr. P. R. Smith: That is not what he said. Read what he said.

Mr. JESSON: I shall. The report in the Press stated, "Mr. Nicklin said the Government would defer any further action until the conference was held."

A Government Member: "Any further action."

Mr. JESSON: He has not taken any action. You can delete the word "further" from it.

Mr. Ewan: Are you suggesting that Mr. Fraser has fallen down on his job?

Mr. JESSON: No. I commend him for what he has done, with his limited power. He has picked out people from cross-sections of the community to go down to the Macedon school.

Mr. Pizzev: Nothing was done by your Government.

Mr. JESSON: They were not in office long enough to do so. The Macedon school was only instituted about 12 months ago. If they had been in power something would have been done. The retired Army officers have proved themselves. One of them, Mr. Taylor, was a teacher in the Department of Public Instruction. He was sent to London and he is acquainted with the scientific side of the matter. He was over my head a little bit; and he was miles over the head of the hon. member for Windsor. They are doing a mighty job. They have been restricted by the Tory Government. While I was down there the director of the school was away at Canberra pleading for more funds to enlarge his department. I hope that what I have said will instil more sense of responsibility into the Government. It is imperative that the Government do something about the matter and do it very quickly. I am not referring so much to nuclear warfare. As a result of my inquiries I believe Queensland would be a comparatively safe place in the event of nuclear warfare. I shall not go into the various details of bombs as the hon. member for Sherwood did. I shall not deal with submarines and how far they can fire a weapon under the water. In the centre of Melbourne they are building a big glass building 30 or 40 stories high.

A big controversy is raging in Victoria at the moment. I had the greatest urge when in Melbourne to get a reporter from one of the Melbourne papers to take up the case of those people who are trying to stop Mr. Bolte from selling the green-belt land around Melbourne to spec builders. As the hon. member for Windsor knows, officers in the civil defence organisation want to see more green belts around the cities, more open spaces and parks, in case atomic warfare comes to Australia. If Newcastle, Broken Hill, and other places are raided, there will be a drift of population to Queensland and the outer areas of New South Wales. Those people will have to be looked after until the towns are rebuilt. Queensland is in a fortunate position as there will not be much fallout from atomic bombs in this State. The high westerly winds will take the cloud out of the State, whereas if a bomb was dropped in Western Australia the winds would blow the cloud across South Australia, and across the heavy industry of that State. Consequently, Queensland will be the bulwark for the rest of Australia in the event of atomic warfare. I hope we never experience atomic warfare, but we must be prepared. A small organisation costing £20,000, £40,000 or even £50,000 would save the country hundreds of thousands of pounds in times of drought, fire and flood. I hope the Government will take some action on this very important matter.

Mr. KNOX (Nundah) (12.2 p.m.): After listening to the speech of the hon. member for Hinchinbrook about things the previous Government started and which have been completed during this Government's term of office, a wrong impression is created. On

examination it is found that some of these actions should have been completed many years ago. He now objects to the Government taking credit for their work.

I wish to be associated with the sentiment of this motion of loyalty to Her Majesty. I congratulate His Excellency the Governor on the very excellent way in which he has taken Queensland to his heart, and the way in which he and his family have not only come to stay with us but have come to live amongst us. At the moment His Excellency is in the back areas of the State, learning of the tremendous difficulties encountered by the people there and their role in the development of this State.

The Leader of the Opposition and some of his colleagues have spoken during this debate on the appointment of Imperial governors. While they do not criticise the person appointed, they do criticise the system of appointment. They mentioned their policy on the matter, but I think it is important to know the exact words of the policy of the Australian Labour Party on the appointment of governors. Item 6 under the heading of Constitution reads—

“Abolition of the system of Imperially-appointed Governors, and the substitution therefor of the Chief Justice of the State as local Governor by virtue of his office of Chief Justice.”

Item 7 reads, and this is the clause Opposition members do not mention—

“The Governor in exercising his functions, to act only upon the advice of responsible Queensland Ministers while they retain the confidence of Parliament.”

Mr. Power: What is wrong with that?

Mr. Donald: What is wrong with that?

Mr. Lloyd: An excellent plan.

Mr. KNOX: In other words, the Australian Labour Party is quite prepared to see a republic established in this country. Not only do they want a republic, but they want a socialist republic, as proved by their platform. Most people in Queensland subscribe to my view rather than the view of the Australian Labour Party.

Mr. Aikens: You want Australia to be the 50th State of the U.S.A.

Mr. KNOX: There are some hon. members in this Chamber who might be inclined, if they are ever in office, to see Australia as another State of the U.S.S.R. Dr. Evatt whose views we suspect said a couple of years ago in Melbourne—

Mr. Graham: What paper are you referring to?

Mr. KNOX: The Brisbane “Telegraph” of 10 September, 1956. Dr. Evatt said that he was prepared to see Labour Governments sacrificed in the States in order that he should get 15 years of government in the Federal sphere to complete all the work he

wished to achieve. The people of Australia, including those in Queensland, are apprehensive of such remarks because they realise that there is an alliance between the Australian Labour Party and the Communist Party. It is interesting to note that on the Q.C.E. there are representatives of Communist-controlled unions—

Mr. DONALD: I rise to a point of order. The hon. member has made the accusation that on the Q.C.E. there are members of the Communist Party. He is ignorant of the A.L.P. rules, but he should know that no man can sit on the Q.C.E. unless he is a member of the A.L.P. and has signed a pledge that he belongs to no other party.

Mr. KNOX: I accept the hon. member's explanation. I wish to correct the impression that might be in his mind. I never said that there were members of the Communist Party on the Q.C.E. What I did say was that Communist-controlled unions were affiliated with the Q.C.E. Let me ask the hon. member: is the A.M.I.E.U. a Communist-controlled union? It is affiliated with the Q.C.E. Is the Builders' Workers Union a Communist-controlled union?

Mr. Donald: Why do you say that the A.M.I.E.U. is a Communist-controlled union?

Mr. KNOX: The hon. member is not prepared to deny that.

A.L.P. Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. KNOX: They are affiliated with the Q.C.E. and two-thirds of the members of this House know that that situation exists.

Mr. Mann: What situation?

Mr. KNOX: That I have mentioned. The President of the Q.C.E. has accused these unions with their affiliation and has described the intrigue as "The Kiss of Death".

A.L.P. Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. KNOX: I see that hon. members opposite are so upset about the situation. They told us before the last election that first they had to get rid of the Fascists before they could get rid of the Communists. We have watched to see how they went about getting rid of the Fascists. We were shocked to see who these Fascists were. The public are anxiously waiting for some move to be made by members of the Labour Party in getting rid of the Communists.

A.L.P. Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I warn hon. members on my left against irrelevant interjections. I do not mind relevant interjections. My warning applies to the hon. member for Maryborough.

Mr. KNOX: I wish to deal particularly with some of the work done by our Ministers during the 12 months they have been in office. I remind hon. members of the Opposition that 12 months ago they held up maps to show us that the electorates which Cabinet Members represented were in the south-eastern corner of the State. They had coloured maps.

Mr. Mann: Any red on them?

Mr. KNOX: Yes, I think there was red on them for some peculiar reason.

The present Ministers have travelled throughout Queensland and have acquainted themselves with the problems of the people. I have had the pleasure and privilege of travelling with a number of them.

Mr. Aikens: Some of them were surprised to find that the people of North Queensland were white, not black.

Mr. KNOX: They were also interested to find that the hon. member for Mundingburra was receiving some support in North Queensland.

Firstly, the Premier has travelled widely round the State familiarising himself with the problems of the various areas. Never in the history of Queensland has a Premier, in such a short space of time, covered such a large area and met so many people as the present Premier has.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. KNOX: Hon. members opposite were very quick to say that some Premiers have toured the State on occasions. However, the occasions on which they saw fit to tour the State were usually two or three months before an election.

Mr. Power: That is not correct.

Mr. KNOX: It is not only my opinion, it is the view expressed by many people in North Queensland. They claim that the only time they saw a Minister before the advent of the present Government was just before an election. Although many of the previous Ministers represented North Queensland electorates, the people in the North assert that they seldom saw them.

Mr. Walsh: It is unfair to say anything like that.

Mr. KNOX: I am not referring to any Minister in particular. I am merely repeating what I heard in the North.

In the case of the Deputy Premier, within a very short period he has been able not only to attend to his duties within the State but also to seek support for Queensland from other countries. I am sure that in the very near future Queensland will benefit greatly from his overseas visit.

The Treasurer also has gone out of his way to visit harbour board areas and to see

for himself what is happening in the various parts of Queensland. Because of that, people of all political colours who sit on harbour boards acclaim the interest that the Treasurer has taken in their problems.

In the field of education, the Minister for Education has been unstinting in his efforts to travel throughout the State and visit as many schools as possible. For a man who has so much administrative responsibility, it is to the Minister's credit that he has been able to visit so many schools, a number of which have never previously had a visit from a Minister of the Crown. For example, the Minister has on several occasions visited schools in my electorate of Nundah, where we have a very serious school problem. Almost 2,000 children attend the Nundah State School, and for years my colleague, the hon. member for Chermiside, asked the Government of the day to build a new school in the Nundah area to relieve the overcrowding. It was alleged by the former Minister, and by other hon. members opposite, that it was not possible to build another school because no land was available.

Mr. Diplock: That is not true.

Mr. KNOX: The former Minister for Education has interjected. In a speech that he made in the House on one occasion, he said that the failure to establish another school was due to the non-co-operation of the Brisbane City Council.

Mr. Diplock: That is quite correct. They would not make the land available.

Mr. KNOX: That is a very interesting statement from the hon. member. I remind hon. members that a previous incumbent of the seat that I now hold was both a member of the hon. member's Party and Lord Mayor of Brisbane, but he was unable to effect a transfer of land from the Brisbane City Council to the State Government.

Mr. Diplock: That was not so when I made the investigation and tried to establish the school, and you know it.

Mr. KNOX: That is quite true. I am not casting any doubt on the hon. member's administration during the term of office of a previous hon. member for Nundah. I suspect that the real reason for not going ahead with the school in Nundah was political. The existing school sits right on the boundary between the Nundah electorate and the Chermiside electorate. Similarly, the Nudgee State school is on the boundary between two electorates. So is the Banyo High school. It is on the boundary between Sandgate and Nundah. So I suspect that the reason why the school that is now being built in East Nundah was not erected by the previous Government was that they could see no political value in building such a school right in the heart of the electorate. It is a shocking indictment on the way education was regarded by the previous Government.

The portfolio of Development, Mines, and Main Roads is a very difficult one and the Minister has travelled the length and breadth of the State to acquaint himself with its problems. He has made many on-the-spot investigations and with his quick perception and understanding of the problems of the areas he has been able to evolve a very sound policy and to save the State thousands of pounds and at the same time get results for those who live in remote localities. Once he accompanied me to the Main Roads workshop in Nundah, one of the best engineering workshops in the State. Its general condition, its scrupulously clean floors around the machines, and its management and organisation are a great credit to those responsible.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. KNOX: Opposition members always claim credit for anything built during their term of office. I am not giving credit for the size and shape of the building but for the workmanship in the factory and the standard required of apprentices and workers by the foremen.

On several occasions we have heard in the House accusations made by hon. members opposite against public servants. They have attributed failures not to themselves but to breakdowns by public servants somewhere along the line. It is interesting to note that they withheld from publication the report of the Advisory Committee to the Queensland British Food Corporation. When we read in that report the way the previous Government treated their own employees we realise why the publication was not made available when it should have been. Referring to the Peak Downs project the report says, on page 17—

"In order to retain experienced labour on the property and to reduce losses due to turnover, and the high machinery maintenance due to inexperienced labour, accommodation for field workers must be improved to a higher standard. The standard of housing provided for supervisory and office personnel indicates what can be done. The difference in the standards of housing provided for office staff and field workers . . . is not in the best interests of co-operation and efficiency."

Recommendation 9 on page 21 reads—

"That provision be made in next year's Budget for workers' accommodation of good standard, particularly for married employees (the need is particularly urgent in regard to employees engaged in agricultural operations.)"

Hon. members opposite were aware of this situation when they were in government.

Mr. Clark: Is it any better today?

Mr. KNOX: This is one of the projects the previous Government started which could not be completed. It was the greatest failure of Socialism in this State. Thousands of pounds that could have been spent on

hospitals and schools were wasted on that project. I shall quote other opinions in support of my view of how the previous Government treated their public servants. I refer firstly to page 9 of the October 1957 issue of "The State Service", the official publication of the Queensland State Service Union, where we find—

"He stated that the amenities provided for the females in the Apprenticeship Office were disgraceful and moved: 'That the Minister for Education be requested to make a round visit of his departments to observe the existing conditions and amenities'."

That was a month after we took office. I can get further support by referring to another issue of the same State Public Service publication for May 1958 at page 13—

"It is difficult to believe that Queensland should be so much behind, say South Australia, when it should be at least equal to or ahead of that State. Our position economically is no worse than that of South Australia, and when it is realised that South Australia is a participant in the additional financial grants from the Commonwealth Government, through the Commonwealth Grants' Commission, the case for higher salaries for Queensland public servants should be stronger."

The article goes on to say—

"The restoration of the salaries paid in to Queensland public servants, to some relativity with the other States is an urgent necessity. It probably will not be fully accomplished with the one claim. The determination of true job-values must be prosecuted vigorously."

This situation had existed in the Queensland Public Service for the past 40 years. On many occasions the Premier has said that many of these problems have to be sorted out in the Industrial Court.

Mr. Aikens: Why not be honest and attack the Industrial Court?

Mr. KNOX: The Premier has also said that there are cases for reclassification and appointment within the service that do not come within the ambit of the Industrial Court wherein public servants could be helped immensely. I shall come to the point raised by the hon. member for Mundingburra in a moment. In the May 1958 issue of "The Professional Officer" a publication of the Queensland Professional Officers' Association, we read at page 64—

"After the departure of the representatives of the other Unions our delegates discussed with the Premier transfer from Recreation to Sick Leave when an officer was taken ill on Recreation Leave and reduction in the number of positions in the Department of Agriculture and Stock at present exempted from Appeal."

"The Premier agreed to withdraw the previous Cabinet instruction that officers cannot transfer from Recreation to Sick

Leave when taken ill during Recreation Leave. The decision in such circumstances would be left to the Public Service Commissioner."

So we see what little regard the previous Government had for simple little problems which might have been solved. During their term of office the present Government have done a wonderful job to help the public servant solve some of his problems.

Mr. Aikens: Be honest! You cannot have it both ways. You cannot believe in arbitration and then attack the Government for the low wages awarded by the Industrial Court.

Mr. KNOX: I remind the hon. member that I have said that I shall deal with that very shortly. At page 80 of the June 1958 issue of "The Professional Officer" we find—

"Since the present Government assumed office we have found a much appreciated willingness on the part of the Premier and his Ministers to receive deputations from the Association which enables our representatives to place the Association's views at first hand."

At page 81 it goes on further to say—

"The Premier received a further deputation in April comprising representatives of the State Service Union, Teachers' Union, and our own Association. He agreed to payment of an allowance to officers on transfer and payment of half the cost of transporting an officer's private vehicle when he was transferred.

"At all deputations our representatives were received with courtesy and the results achieved indicate that our requests received consideration."

All these matters had been submitted to previous Governments, in some cases over a period of five or six years. They have recorded in previous issues of their journals that on occasions the previous Government ignored their claims. This Government have taken action very early to see that some measure of justice was given to these people who work so faithfully and loyally for the State. In the field of education we know how the Government have treated the teachers since they assumed office. I may be accused of being politically biased, so I shall quote from the reputable journals written by people who are vitally interested in this matter, and whose opinion may be more readily accepted by hon. members opposite. I quote the following from page 47 of "The Teachers' Journal" for February, 1956:—

"And what has Mr. Gair and his party done for State education in the past three years? One looks in vain through the Governor's Opening Speech at each session of parliament for a statement of the Government's policy on State education. A mere recital of happenings in the field of education may have some political value but what is needed by those on whose

shoulders the education of the future citizens largely depends is a bold, clear, concise and unequivocal statement of the State education goal of the Government."

In September 1957, after one month in office "The Teachers' Journal" in an editorial stated—

"The Queensland Teachers' Union once again congratulates a Government on its vision in appointing as Minister for Education a man who had already served as a teacher, and is all the warmer in the congratulation because this Minister ranks third only in seniority. Such a lift in status for education is nothing short of revolutionary in Queensland."

The same editorial also says—

"Yet it would be churlish to omit mention of his predecessor in office. Mr. Diplock also had sound ideas for the development of education in Queensland, and in his turn was deeply concerned about, and interested in, the welfare of teachers. That all the members of his Government did not have the same vision and that education was a junior portfolio strictly rationed in its pocket money, were handicaps in spite of which some real progress was being made."

Even the teachers have recognised during the short period of 12 months that our policy on education and our attitude to the public service generally have been such that public servants have been encouraged to remain in the service. The Government have won the respect of these people.

Mr. Diplock: Only a month.

Mr. KNOX: I shall read what they had to say in May 1958, some months after. This should be very interesting to hon. members opposite, particularly those who show a lack of vision. This is the statement of the President at the official opening of the Teachers' Conference, as reported at page 3 of the May 1958 issue of the "Queensland Teachers' Journal"—

"I think it only fair to say that the Public Service Commissioner, acting on behalf of the Crown, was scrupulously fair in his approach to the Court."

This is where the Industrial Court was mentioned. The article continues—

"He did not oppose our claims. He did furnish the Court with statistical information relating to salaries and margins in other States and, in general, set out to ensure that the Court would have before it all the facts necessary to enable it to reach an equitable judgment. His statement to the Court concluded thus: 'From the information which I have submitted to the Court, it is undeniable that circumstances justify an increasing of the salaries of teachers and of teaching positions in the Education Department of Queensland.'"

Mr. Aikens: Yet you claimed earlier that the Court did not make an equitable decision.

Mr. KNOX: I did not make any such statement.

It is interesting to read in these State Service journals of the regard in which the present Government is held by public servants, and of their disappointment with the so-called champions of the working class.

Mr. Davies: They will be disappointed with you by the time you have finished with them.

Mr. KNOX: That interjection reminds me of the statement made to me by a public servant after the last election. He said—

"We are very glad your Government attained the Treasury benches. While there are many supporters of both sides of Labour working in the public service, the supporters of each side feared that the other would win and they knew from past experience the extent of victimisation that would have occurred if one of the sides won the election."

That was the public servants' greatest fear. They continually refer to the very high standard the public service has attained in the Commonwealth field. In many of these journals certain amenities and other things are sought, to make the Queensland standard comparable with that provided by the Commonwealth Government for their public service.

Mr. Hanlon: The public service has taken over the Government in the Commonwealth sphere.

Mr. KNOX: Before the hon. member for Ithaca entered Parliament he worked for a private enterprise. He knows that the amenities and conditions of employment he enjoyed were far better than his Government provided for their employees. I also remind the hon. member, on the subject of employment, that his Government showed little regard for the welfare of working people when they sacked 450 men employed by the Housing Commission.

Mr. Davies: Who did that?

Mr. KNOX: I am not sure exactly who did it, but those men were referred to by tradesmen and building workers as, "The Gair-Duggan Unemployment Pool." One of the reasons for their sacking was the internal fight in the Labour Party. The previous Government were prepared to sacrifice those men in order to further their chance of winning that fight. I do not know who was responsible for sacking those men, but hon. members opposite were silent when they were fired and their families were in distress. Hon. members opposite showed a complete lack of regard for those workers. However, our Ministers were shocked when they looked around and saw the general conditions under which public servants had to work.

Mr. Aikens: Did you have a look at the broom cupboard?

Mr. KNOX: I could not help but visit the broom cupboard because I wanted to know what noise was coming from it.

Mr. Walsh: Do you know that there are going to be 1,000 Forestry workers sacked?

Mr. KNOX: Does the hon. member know that when the Minister for Development, Mines and Main Roads took office he was astounded to learn that employees worked on concrete between buildings on the ground floor, not in the building itself? Such shocking conditions were allowed during the regime of the former Government. In many places bad conditions still operate because the Government are still endeavouring to make up the leeway. It will be years before many of the problems will be solved. Corridors are crammed with records which should be stored in proper places. In the Treasury Building no amenities had been provided for employees working on three floors. That building is perhaps the largest State building and I repeat that there were no amenities on three floors for employees. Ministers took action immediately to provide them.

Mr. Aikens: What do you mean by "amenities"?

Mr. KNOX: The Government found that a shocking and disgraceful condition existed in the kitchen of Parliament House. Had such a condition existed in any cafe the owner would have been liable for prosecution. The Minister for Public Works and Local Government set about improving the kitchen and general working conditions. It was a shocking example of the way a Labour Government treated their employees.

Mr. Jesson interjected.

Mr. KNOX: The hon. member for Hinchinbrook might joke about this but the employees regard it as a serious matter. They know from the remarks of hon. members opposite how little sincerity was in their claim to be the champions of the working people.

I should like to make reference to something that could be done in the future in regard to the Public Service. A system should be set up to enable a public servant who shows a better way of doing his job to be recompensed for his advice. I know the difficulty of interpreting recognition in the form of a monetary reward, but there should be some reward to a public servant who is able to bring about an improvement in his work.

Mr. Jesson: Give him a medal?

Mr. KNOX: The hon. member is always making slighting remarks about the Public Service. There should be an interchange between the States of officers of the Public Service, not necessarily senior officers. Our officers should be sent to the other States to acquire experience. Recently some junior officers were sent to New South Wales to get extra experience to become better qualified to carry out their tasks. More can be done

in that regard. I am sure that junior officers of the Public Service would appreciate the opportunity of going to the South or the West—wherever information can be gleaned—on an exchange basis, so that they could do their work here more efficiently and be of greater service to the State.

I know that the Government are considering an improvement in the present Public Service superannuation scheme.

Mr. Aikens: Why bring that up? What about our superannuation scheme?

Mr. KNOX: The hon. member for Mundingburra is always thinking of himself first and the Public Service last.

Mr. Aikens: I will swap my superannuation for any public servant's superannuation.

Mr. KNOX: The hon. member can make his own speech about anything that he wants. I am speaking now on what the Public Service wants. Public servants want a just and equitable superannuation scheme. The Premier has appointed a committee to draw up an improved superannuation scheme for public servants, and after it has been examined and found to be actuarially sound, I hope that the unions concerned will be asked for advice and suggestions on how it should operate. If young men are to be induced to enter the State Public Service they will have to be given some measure of security, which is something that hitherto they have not had.

(Time expired.)

Mr. GRAHAM (Mackay) (12.42 p.m.): After listening to the speech of the hon. member for Nundah, I think we could nominate him as the champion of the Public Service. I could make a comparison between his contribution to the debate and that of the hon. member for Sandgate, but it is not my purpose to do that.

I desire to associate myself and the people of Mackay with the expressions of loyalty to the Crown. I should like also to express my appreciation of the way in which His Excellency the Governor is fulfilling his duties. It is gratifying to know that Sir Henry Abel Smith is taking a keen interest in Queensland and is visiting many parts of it to make himself conversant with its potentialities.

Whether or not hon. members opposite agree, Queensland has made great progress over the years. Most of the credit for the development that has taken place must go to past Governments. However, much still remains to be done, and if the present Government can display the same administrative capacity as past Governments have done, they will have something to talk about. The only setbacks Queensland has received in the last 50 years have occurred during the periods when Labour has been defeated at the polls. I refer particularly to the period of 1929-32 and the present period. As yet we have to

see just what the Nicklin-Morris Government will do, but judging them on their performance over the last 12 months I do not think they will do very much.

As I say, Queensland was subjected to a very severe setback during the period 1929-1932. It did not take the people long to realise that they had made a tragic mistake in 1929, because in 1932 they returned Labour to power. They recognised that only under a Labour administration could the State progress. The hon. member for Nundah urged the House to believe that the Labour Party was all that was bad. Let me inform him that it is only by the continuance of Labour's administration that the useful people of the community can receive what they are entitled to from this great State. In 1957 an anti-Labour Government came into power not because the people desired it but because the Labour Party changed itself, thanks to dissension within its ranks. We make no apology about it, but, unfortunately, the reins of government were handed over to the Nicklin-Morris parties. Despite the fact that the new Government have been in office only 12 months, the people already realise their tremendous mistake and the tremendous set-back the State will suffer because of it.

Mr. Pizzey: You do not really believe that.

Mr. GRAHAM: If I did not believe it I would not be saying it. That is the difference between members of the Government and members of the Opposition. We say what we believe. We do not stand in the Chamber and tell a pack of untruths. We say what we believe to be true because we are sincere in our desire to see the State progress. It will take years for Queensland to recover from the present short regime of the Nicklin-Morris Government.

The average Queenslanders is proud of his heritage, and he gladly plays his part in developing the State. No-one will deny that Queenslanders have made a great contribution to the nation's wealth. Therefore Queensland is entitled to greater recognition from the Federal Government. The failure of the Menzies-Fadden Government to carry out their obligations to the State is no reason why the State Government should fall into line and help to retard its progress. I know hon. members opposite will say, "Look what we have done already." They have made a great show, but that goes for nought. They have spent a great deal of money on advertising the Nicklin-Morris Government. They have set no limit to their efforts to fool the people into believing they will be better off because of the defeat of Labour; but we have yet to see results. We can be guided only by results and therefore we should say right now that after only 12 months in office the Nicklin-Morris Government have failed miserably. Give them two more years and we will have more definite proof. For 14 or 15 years or more the Labour Government were able

to show credit balances in the Consolidated Revenue Account but after only one year the present Government have shown a deficit of £1,514,000. It cannot be denied that the handling of finance is the test of a Government. If they cannot handle the State's finances what will its future be? Could any private person or company continue to show a loss year after year? Eventually bankruptcy must follow, and the same can happen with Governments. If the Government are prepared to do the right thing by the people they cannot go on a spending spree to try and capitalise on their return and make themselves good fellows with the people while piling up huge deficits. They have a greater obligation and responsibility to the people of Queensland. The journeying overseas of the Minister for Labour and Industry was again so much eye-wash. In all sincerity I say that I do not think he was entitled to a holiday overseas for six or seven weeks merely because he had been appointed Minister for Labour and Industry. The mere fact of his appointment did not entitle him to spend the State's money in gallivanting overseas on a holiday—that is all it could be termed. Not for one moment do I think that his overseas trip will bring industry to Queensland. The same results could have been achieved had he stayed at home. Maybe he has done damage by going overseas. Now that they have seen him, people overseas may be more convinced than ever that Queensland is a good place to keep away from. He should have let them come here to find out for themselves.

Let us take a look at these three publications issued by the Nicklin-Morris Government. The average Queenslanders knows his State as well as anyone else. He knows what industries are established in Queensland, indeed he knows Queensland and all about it from the top to the bottom. But the Government had to print these booklets at the taxpayers' expense in a vain effort to say, "Look what we have done." I challenge hon. members of the Government to point to one achievement of the Government in these publications. Nine months is the period of pregnancy. The only thing the Government have done during that period is to give birth to an inefficient, inert Government. By their actions this Government, born as they were as a result of internecine strife within a political organisation, have proved that they are not capable of producing anything. Indeed they are in office on a minority vote. In fact these publications show what the Labour Government have done. The Nicklin-Morris Government are trying to capitalise on what has been done in 30 years of Labour rule in Queensland. They are trying to gull the people into believing that what has been done has been the result of one short year of Tory rule. They hope that the people of Queensland will read and believe. Despite all the Government's efforts the people of Queensland will need only one opportunity to change the Government at the next general State elections. The present high standards enjoyed by

the people of Queensland which are being slowly but surely taken away from them by the Nicklin-Morris Government are the result of 40 years of Labour rule. What the people of Queensland enjoy today, whether they be small businessmen, farmers, graziers, or the working class about whom we are most concerned, is the result of the long period of Labour rule. In the last 12 months we see what has been taken from the working class and how their standards are being lowered. Hon. members opposite cannot deny that. We see how the Government are trying to implement a policy that will retard the progress of this great State and deny the people the right of land usage and many other factors.

The people will rise up when they find that they have been taken for a ride and remove the Government from office. The land policy of the Government will have a very detrimental effect on the welfare of this State. I do not pose as an authority on land; perhaps no-one knows less of land matters than I, but I do know that the policy of the Government will have a detrimental effect on the future of this great State. The hon. member for Roma, the hon. member for Balonne, and the hon. member for Aubigny, and the Minister for Public Lands want to do something to benefit the few at the expense of the many. The freeholding of land can only have one result. You cannot legislate for today or tomorrow; you must legislate for the future. If the Government carry out their policy of freeholding land it will mean that generations yet unborn will be denied the right to use the land.

Mr. Ewan interjected.

Mr. GRAHAM: The hon. member should be the last to criticise the land policy of the Labour Government. The hon. member achieved success under that land policy, therefore it is hypocritical of him to condemn our policy. It is regrettable that a man who obtained great benefit from the land policy of the Labour Government should now condemn that Government. The Minister for Lands said that the users of the land should own the land. The users of the land have no right to own it. The leasehold policy gives everybody in this generation, and future generations, the right to use the land.

Mr. Pizzey: What about the cane farmers at Mackay? Would you take away their freehold?

Mr. GRAHAM: Of course you would not take it away from those who own it. I do not oppose the freeholding of quarter acre allotments, but I am against the freeholding of thousands of acres. That policy will result in the exploitation of the common man.

(Leave to continue speech tomorrow granted.)

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.