

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER 1959**

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## THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER, 1959

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

### QUESTIONS

LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL CHRISTIAN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD. GOLD MINING LEASE

Mr. LLOYD (Kedron) asked the Minister for Development, Mines, and Main Roads—

“Has any application been received by his Department from the Lockhart River Aboriginal Christian Co-operative Society Ltd. for a gold mining lease within the area of the Lockhart River Mission Reserve? If such application has been received, what is the policy of his Department in relation to the granting of such a lease?”

Hon. E. EVANS (Mirani) replied—

“No application for a gold mining lease by the Co-operative Society has been received. The substance of considerable correspondence is that in March last the Chairman of the Australian Board of Missions applied on behalf of the Lockhart River Aboriginal Christian Co-operative Society Ltd. for an Authority to Prospect. The Board of Missions has been informed on more than one occasion that, provided it was established that the Co-operative was competent to apply for and hold, the Department of Mines would grant—(a) a Dredging Lease for mining for gold over an area of 3 miles by 2 chains (48 acres) along Alpha Creek; and (b) an Authority to Prospect, for gold only, for an initial term of one year and on certain conditions over two areas aggregating approximately 28 square miles in area. The Australian Board of Missions was informed on May 14, 1959, that the Solicitor-General considered the Co-operative to be legally competent to hold, and on June 26, 1959, the Board indicated it was waiting for the Department to concentrate on the granting of entitlements in accordance with its previous applications. On July 2 the Chairman of the Board was informed that the Department can only grant such titles for mining purposes as it is empowered by existing laws.”

### NOTIFICATION OF FATAL ACCIDENT LOGAN ROAD, BURANDA

Mr. AIKENS (Mundingburra) asked the Minister for Labour and Industry—

“(1) Did a man named Robert Young run down with a car and kill Mrs. Alice Grace Rowley Badenoch in Logan Road, Buranda, on August 29 at 10 p.m.?”

“(2) Did Young abandon his car after the accident and not give any report or indication to the Police that he was the

killer until he went with his solicitor to the Woolloongabba Police Station the next day?”

“(3) Has Young been charged with failing to remain at the scene of the accident as required by law and, if not, can that be taken to indicate that motor killers and maimers will be considered to have fulfilled the requirements of the law if they drive on or abandon their cars and report to the Police later, when it suits their personal convenience or when sober enough to do so?”

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

“(1) On August 30, 1959, Robert Young was arrested at Brisbane and charged that on August 29, 1959, at Brisbane in the State of Queensland he unlawfully killed one Alice Grace Rowley Badenoch. On October 2, 1959, at the Court of Petty Sessions, Brisbane, following evidence having been tendered by the prosecution to the Court at the hearing of that charge against the defendant Robert Young, the Stipendiary Magistrate dismissed that charge and discharged the defendant.”

“(2) As this is the subject of possible further action, I consider it inadvisable to answer it at this stage.”

“(3) In view of the Magistrate's decision on 2nd October, this matter is still in action by the Police Department. The phrasing of this question follows the same pattern as others asked by the hon. member on traffic breaches, all of which are couched in such terms as to lead to and encourage lawlessness as they suggest that the law is not being stringently administered. This is completely untrue, and he is doing a grave disservice to those people who are making constant and consistent efforts to stamp out this type of lawlessness.”

### SENILE ANNEXE, HOSPITAL BUILDINGS, TOWNSVILLE

Mr. AIKENS (Mundingburra) asked the Minister for Health and Home Affairs—

“(1) Does he appreciate the inconvenience caused to relatives of northerners in senile annexes established at Oakey and other southern centres, who wish to visit these patients?”

“(2) Has any decision been made to convert all or portion of the old hospital buildings at Townsville to a senile annexe?”

“(3) If so, will he fully inform the House on the matter?”

Hon. H. W. NOBLE (Yeronga) replied—

“(1 to 3) In planning accommodation in both senile annexes and chronic wards the question of convenience for relatives to visit patients has been kept in mind. When senile annexes were first established it was a matter of urgency that the many old folk

who were accommodated in mental hospitals should be taken out of those hospitals. This object was best achieved by the establishment of the Dalby, Oakey, and Mt. Lofty senile annexes. However, the position will soon be reached that it will not be necessary for old folk whose mental faculties have deteriorated to be admitted to mental hospitals at all. Honourable Members will agree, I feel sure, that it would have been very unjust to allow those old folk who had been admitted to mental hospitals to stay there for the remainder of their lives and to admit fresh cases direct to senile annexes. In future, it is confidently expected that by the provision of chronic wards in addition to the senile annexes old folk requiring such accommodation will be admitted to beds in that portion of the State where their family reside. As regards Townsville, portion of the old hospital buildings are to be remodelled for use as accommodation for aged and chronic cases."

#### BUILDING ALLOTMENTS, MAREEBA

**Mr. GILMORE** (Tablelands) asked the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation—

"In view of the shortage of allotments and the desire of Mareeba people to erect their own homes, will he give consideration to the question of making allotments available in Mareeba as early as possible?"

**Hon. A. G. MULLER** (Fassifern) replied—

"Forty allotments in Mareeba will be offered for sale by public auction as soon as the necessary road access has been constructed. The Mareeba Shire Council was recently authorised to proceed with the work. A number of other allotments are affected by irrigation pipe lines in use and these will be made available after the provision of access roads when it is practicable to do so."

#### UNIVERSITY PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS AND STUDENTS FROM BRISBANE AND IPSWICH

**Mr. GARDNER** (Rockhampton) asked the Minister for Education—

"What is the number of (a) students from Brisbane and Ipswich or students who had normal daily travelling services available to them to attend day classes at the University who sat for Scholarship in 1954 and the number who passed; (b) students who sat for Junior (same areas as (a)) in 1956; (c) those who sat for Senior in 1958 (same area as (a)); (d) students who entered the University in 1959 from 1958 Senior examinations (day and evening classes); (e) students who sat for Senior 1950 to 1959, both inclusive, and the number who entered the University; and (f) day students who entered the University in 1950 to 1959 inclusive?"

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

"The Honourable Member is informed that information is available in respect of the aggregate examination results and total enrolments at the University in particular years but existing records do not separate statistics according to the place of residence or home address of the person concerned. The information required would necessitate extensive research into the progress through primary, secondary schools and the university of every individual student. It is regretted that the necessary staff is not available to undertake this work."

#### PAPERS

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

Report of the Rural Fires Board for the year 1958-1959.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under the State Electricity Commission Acts, 1937 to 1958.

#### SEASONAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS.

**Mr. DEWAR** (Chermside) (11.13 a.m.): I move—

"That this Parliament commends the efforts being made by the Minister for Labour and Industry to overcome the long standing pattern of seasonal unemployment in Queensland which has caused concern to successive Governments for so many years; in particular by the initiation of the principle of Regional Conferences, and the consequential setting up of Regional Advisory Councils."

**Mr. Davies:** You will find this a very hard task.

**Mr. DEWAR:** It did not take the hon. member very long to get into discord.

Following the election of the present Government in August, 1957, steps were taken very quickly to give effect to the promise in their policy speech that co-operation between employers and employees would be encouraged. A conference comprising representatives of both employers and employees from almost every section of industry in Queensland was convened on 2 October, 1957, a very short time after we became the Government. From that conference, and from later meetings, has been formed the State Ministry of Labour Advisory Committee. The committee consists of representatives from all spheres of industrial activity, such as the Queensland Cane Growers' Council, the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Manufactures, the Australian

Sugar Producers' Association, the Queensland State Service Union, the Queensland Teachers' Union, the Professional Officers' Association, the Federated Clerks' Union, the United Graziers' Association, the Australian Workers' Union, the Amalgamated Foodstuffs Union, the Shop Assistants' Union, and others. The Trades and Labour Council, after attending the initial meeting, withdrew its representatives. You may recall that a comment on it appeared in the Press on 28 September, under the heading, "T.L.C. boycott meeting on jobs in Townsville." Since that time the Townsville Trades and Labour Council has indicated a definite desire to become associated with the advisory committee and I understand that discussions are taking place in its ranks about when it will become actively associated. So, despite the sneers of the official Opposition—and I have not heard any from the Queensland Labour Party as yet—responsible people in the community are taking an active interest. It is evident that, no matter what the A.L.P. thinks about the need for a tangible programme to overcome the problems of unemployment in the State, others do not think the same way. The A.L.P. was not interested in the National Safety in Industry Convention that was held in Brisbane recently. It showed a complete lack of interest in the safety of the workers. Its members did not bother to attend the conference to express their opinions. But despite the fact that the A.L.P. appears to have no faith or interest in the formation of the advisory committee, at least the responsible people in the community have—those who are concerned with the various aspects of organisation of trade and those who are concerned with employment, including union officials, who are interested in the welfare of their members. They, the responsible people of the community, are right behind the formation of the committee. I repeat, despite the fact that the A.L.P. not only is not interested in it but also chooses to sneer every time—

**Mr. Graham:** What proof have you of that?

**Mr. DEWAR:** I say the A.L.P. chooses to sneer at every effort or statement made on these matters.

What are the objectives of the committee? The first is to consult with the Minister and, through him, to advise the State Government on employment, industrial relations, employee welfare and related industrial and economic matters. What could be more important to employment in the State than to have a responsible set-up to advise the Minister on those matters?

The second objective is to advise the Department of Labour and Industry on matters within its administration.

The activities of the committee will not impinge on the normal operations of the established conciliation and arbitration machinery. Its discussions will be entirely non-party and non-party-political. It will meet quarterly in various parts of the State.

The items concerned with the motion that will be discussed on a continuing basis include the possibility of co-operation between all sections of industry towards the development of secondary industry. What aim could be greater for the State? Another subject is the launching of a scheme promoted by the Minister for Labour and Industry, through the Government, asking for the co-operation of all sections of the community not merely to help in whatever sphere they are interested in but to get together and discuss ways and means of developing the State.

Another subject for discussion will be ways and means of creating, if possible, industries in Central and North Queensland to overcome the present problem of seasonal employment. That is the real meat of the motion. The Government recognise the problem just as have other Governments in the past but the basic difference between this Government and past Governments is that, having recognised the existence of the problem, they are doing something about it. They are not just talking as the A.L.P. Government did. Hot air was all they gave us; hot air is their stock in trade.

Requests have been received for the formation of similar committees in country centres. Such committees already have been established in Cairns, Townsville, Bowen and Charters Towers. Innisfail has representatives on the Cairns committee. Steps are being taken to accede to the request for the formation of committees at Mackay, Maryborough, and Bundaberg. Some of those committees may already have been formed. In these country centres the problem of seasonal unemployment is of major importance. Much of the work of the new committees will be aimed at finding a solution to the problem. We all realise that it exists and that is why the Minister for Labour and Industry has suggested to the Government that these advisory committees be set up. Having recognised the existence of the problem we are hopeful that something may be done at round-table conferences where the problems of employer and employee may be shared with an idea of creating favourable circumstances whereby industry may be attracted to different parts of the State because industry will know that the climate for the establishment of industry is suitable.

On 29 September, 1949, the hon. member for South Brisbane, then a Minister of the Crown, said—

"There are two main factors responsible for unemployment in this State. The principal one is seasonal employment. The seasonal industries of Queensland are unique so far as the Australian States are concerned. The ebb and flow of seasonal employment is much more severe in this State than in any other State, and unfortunately the slack seasons coincide with the wet season when it is not possible to undertake major works in the districts concerned

to absorb unemployed seasonal workers. The second main factor is that this State has not the same concentrations of secondary industries as New South Wales, Victoria, and to a lesser extent South Australia. Economists regard unemployment of 3 to 4 per cent. of the labour force as a normal contingency of the movement between jobs that is characteristic of a healthy economy and a free and mobile labour force."

The figures showing the number of persons receiving unemployment benefit in Queensland clearly indicate the extent of seasonal influence on the State's employment. From May to November each year employment is high and unemployment figures are at a low level. From December the number of unemployed begins to increase, reaching its peak in January and February, to slowly decline in March and April. That is the seasonal pattern in Queensland. I shall quote the figures of persons receiving unemployment benefits in Queensland. But at this stage, without any thought of attacking any person—because I honestly believe this—

**Mr. Lloyd:** You wouldn't know!

**Mr. DEWAR:** There is a chance I might. The hon. member lives by his wits; that is why he looks half starved all the time.

I have discussed this matter with many men and I know the opinion of a large percentage of them. Many people in seasonal industries such as sugar and meat, particularly meat, where they receive high wages, are quite satisfied to work six, eight or nine months of the year because of their fairly substantial earnings during the season. They are prepared to draw unemployment benefit for two or three months. There is a fairly large percentage of persons drawing unemployment benefits who are quite happy to do so because it gives them a chance to attend to things about the home which they are unable to attend to when they work long hours. Many men work much overtime during the season and they are content to depend on unemployment benefits for a while.

Look at the figures that support my statements about seasonal unemployment. In April, 1957, before this Government came into power, there were 3,876 persons in receipt of unemployment benefit, compared with 2,223 in April the year before; an increase of 1,600 is a very high percentage. In the month of May, before we became the Government, the number drawing unemployment benefit was 3,009, compared with 1,500 in the same month the year before, or an increase of 100 per cent. In June the year before we became the Government 2,800 were drawing unemployment benefit compared with 1,200 in the same month the year before, or an increase of over 100 per cent. In July the year before we got in the number drawing unemployment benefits was 2,411, compared with 909 in July the previous year, showing an increase of nearly 200 per cent. When the Labour Party talks

about the unemployment figures it is appropriate to look at the figures when they were the Government. We know that seasonal unemployment is high in the early part of the year. When we became the Government in August, 1957—

**Mr. Davies:** That is well known.

**Mr. DEWAR:** The average person is very happy about it. I think if any Minister cared to talk about it he would say that work had accumulated in his office during the period when the Labour Party was busy stabbing itself in the back, not caring about the interests of the State and that it took two to three months to clear it up and get on with our policy. When we were returned in August we had to operate on the loan allocation approved by the Loan Council prior to that. The blame for any difficulty during the first twelve months can hardly be laid on the shoulders of this Government because we had to operate on a loan allocation fixed by the Loan Council before we became the Government. It was not until 1958-59 that the benefits of the policy of this Government could be given effect to. It is not to the Government's discredit that the number receiving unemployment benefits rose during the first year of their office, because the Government were then operating under conditions created by their predecessors. I admit that the number receiving unemployment benefits at May, 1958, was 5,799, compared with 3,000 in the same month the previous year, that the figures for June and July, 1958, were higher than for the same months in the previous year, but it is significant that for every month in 1959 the number receiving unemployment benefits is appreciably lower than the number receiving similar benefits in the same months in 1958.

**A.L.P. Members** interjected.

**Mr. DEWAR:** One hon. member opposite has said that the figures are not down. They do not want a reduction in the number; they want the number to be high so that they can batten on the workers as they have in the past, or play on their fears by saying during the next election campaign, "Look at what the Tories have done to you." Hon. members opposite do not care a damn about the working man. They want high unemployment figures merely to ensure their return as the Government. What a sorry lot! They have a vested interest in unemployment. Just as a bat or vampire depends for life on blood, they depend on high unemployment as an argument in their favour. If they cannot speak of that, they are tongue-tied.

**Mr. Aikens:** Many of them will be unemployed after the next election.

**Mr. DEWAR:** That may be right. In the early months of the year reasonable unemployment is at its peak. Unemployment has

decreased for the months of January, February, March and April of this year, compared with the same months in 1958, as revealed in the following table:—

Month	Decrease
January	1,000
February	2,500
March	1,100
April	2,000

These figures were computed by the Commonwealth Statistician.

**Mr. Davies:** What is the total?

**Mr. DEWAR:** Here are the figures:—

	1958	1959	Decrease
May	5,799	5,631	1,000
June	4,905	4,477	400
July	3,907	3,008	900

The Government cannot be held responsible for the position in their first year of office, because their hands were tied by the financial arrangements entered into by the previous Government at a Loan Council meeting. Any financial stringency during that period could not be attributed to the present Government. In addition to the lag in work the Government's legacy included a raided Treasury. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition referred to the position yesterday and castigated the previous Government for sacking 400 Housing Commission workers in February, four months before my Government assumed office. In addition, the Government found that dismissal notices had been issued a week before the election to nearly 1,000 men in the Railway Department. Because of those factors the Government were not able to reduce appreciably during the first year of office the number receiving unemployment benefits in the State. The Government can claim everlasting credit, however, for the great improvement in their second year of office, particularly when it is remembered that this State has had Labour Governments for 30 years.

The overall number of employees in Queensland has been rising steadily. From the trend of employment it is possible to discern peak periods from June to November and the low periods from December to March. Wage and salary earners in civilian employment have risen from 334,400 in February 1953 to 379,600 in February 1959. That shows an increase in the number of employed persons of 45,000 in six years. It is interesting to recall that in February 1953 there were 7,000 persons receiving unemployment benefits whereas in February 1959 the number was 6,866. That is a very interesting point. I repeat that in February 1953, four years before we became the Government, there were 7,002 persons receiving unemployment benefits in Queensland but in February 1959 there were only 6,866, a decrease of 136. There was this decrease in this year of this so-called infamous Country-Liberal Party Government, who have been held out to be a Government who batten on the workers. In February 1953 a Labour Government were

in their heyday; they were not running around sticking knives in each other's backs. They were crying what jolly good fellows they were, and that they were in power for ever. Within that period there were fluctuations, but in every year the peaks for each month were substantially above the figures of the previous year. Of the main population centres Brisbane has, understandably, the highest number of persons receiving unemployment benefits. In February 1959 the number was 2,199 and in February 1956 it was 894. The other main centres are:—

Town	February 1959	February 1956
Toowoomba	268	Nil
Ipswich	156	Nil
Maryborough	331	Nil
Bundaberg	652	285
Rockhampton	413	372
Mackay	852	402
Ayr	173	216
Townsville	567	494
Cairns	542	155
Ingham	176	204
Innisfail	272	188

There was only an increase of 70 for the Townsville area in the three years despite the influx of people into it. The figures for Brisbane are exaggerated, and those for the country centres may be understated because of the normal tendency for the casual worker to come to the city seeking employment, and those who have their homes in Brisbane using it as a centre from which to move north when seasonal employment is offering.

Each town has its own pattern of employment depending on the industries and resulting occupations, nevertheless, a survey of 14 of the bigger towns outside Brisbane shows that January and February are universally low employment months for towns as far apart as Ipswich and Ingham, Toowoomba and Cairns, Gympie and Atherton.

It is this time factor which makes the position more difficult to remedy. There is a varying starting date for industries. For example, the meat-killing season in Rockhampton and Gladstone starts earlier than in Townsville, but this does not affect the slack periods in January and February.

The rainfall figures for these areas show the difficulty of making use of any type of public works to boost employment during the slack periods. For 1959 the figures for Ingham, Tully, Townsville, and Mackay were 60, 94, 24, and 35 respectively.

The following are the main categories of seasonal employees:—

(a) Migratory—Cane cutters, shearers, fruit pickers, drovers.

(b) Non-migratory—Meat workers, sugar mill hands, cannery workers.

(c) Miscellaneous—Those employed in associated activities such as transport and many classes of building workers due to industry practices.

Distorting the picture is the problem of displacement of labour in areas subject to seasonal fluctuations as a result of mechanisation, for example, bulk sugar loading at Mackay. One of the difficulties associated with the provision of suitable employment for migratory workers, such as canecutters and shearers, is that their income is far higher than that offered for work that they could perform in slack-season months. A second point concerns the appropriate skills that are needed for any alternative work. For example, the cane-cutter may not be a very effective operator of a pneumatic drill. If these difficulties are to be overcome, local knowledge of the men and conditions is particularly necessary to help fit the men for suitable jobs.

In the non-migratory field, only in conditions of the direction of labour, to which both Government parties are firmly opposed, would it be possible to regard the non-migratory group as a source of labour for public works employment remote from their own home areas. An analysis of this group indicates that migratory workers are composed mainly of single men under 35 years of age, while the non-migratory workers more or less follow the normal pattern of age distribution. The ideal for them, therefore, would be some work similar to their main source of income, such as canning.

The ultimate solution of the problem for meatworkers depends largely on a change in the pattern of beef production. At present, except for a few properties, cattle are raised on native pastures. The carrying capacity is low, even in areas where the annual rainfall is high. Moreover, because of the lack of nutrients in the grass, the carrying capacity during the winter and spring months falls away sharply. These are the months when cattle in marketable condition are consigned for slaughter at the meatworks, and year-round marketing does not fit into this pattern. To change the pattern will require pastures that will enable more beasts to be carried—and carried all the year round—so that there can be a regular intake into the meatworks of fat cattle ready for killing.

The State Government are expanding their research work on tropical pastures and other problems associated with an expansion of the beef-cattle industry in Queensland. About 12 months ago I spent a little time on a property known as "The Orient," which is owned by Mr. John Murray, the Federal member for Herbert. During that time I saw what Mr. Murray has done in an effort to solve the problems associated with the pastoral industry. It has been shown that pastures, based on centrosema, para grass, guinea grass and molasses grass, can be developed to carry almost a beast to the acre. That is being done on land that might normally carry a beast to 25 acres and, in the "dry," would not fatten a beast to 100 acres. The most attractive area for early

development lies in the wet belt, where the annual rainfall is assured and the country is free from frost.

Mr. Murray's property is of 25,000 acres, and consists mainly of spear grass and blady grass country. Under the normal conditions of burning off, the soil is reduced to the colour and consistency of a brick. The need in the area was for grass farming, and Mr. Murray worked on guinea grass, molasses grass, and the legume centrosema. This legume spreads well and puts down about 10 tons of humus an acre each year. It grows all the year round, as does guinea grass, and will grow anywhere except in wet, swampy country.

A tremendous opportunity exists in the wet parts of the tropics for an expansion of the beef industry. Only this week, Mr. J. W. Fletcher, who has been associated with the pastoral industry for the greater part of his life, made a similar comment. He referred particularly to Northern Australia and the Channel Country area.

It has always been recognised by most people that Queensland has two main cattle-fattening areas—the Channel Country and the Barkly Tableland spreading into the Northern Territory. In the years that I have been in this House, I have heard many speeches by hon. members and I have done some reading on the subject myself, but I have not heard any reference to the cattle-fattening potential of the North. I believe that a pasture improvement research centre based on Townsville is badly needed, it would give great impetus to the industry. There is a tremendous task ahead with pasture improvement but its possibilities have been clearly and conclusively demonstrated by Mr. Murray. Mr. Murray holds the view that a system of breeding cattle inland and taking them into the wet areas of the tropical North on properties where pasture improvement is practised will build up the cattle-fattening potential of the animal and will mean that, instead of the five-year-old beast being the backbone of the beef industry, in time we will kill beasts 2½ to 3 years old and thus be better able to compete on overseas markets, at the same time increasing the cattle-fattening potential of the State. I agree with him entirely.

In my view the expansion of the beef-cattle industry has the greatest possibility for overcoming seasonal unemployment in the North. With wholesale development of pasture improvement, the land from Townsville north will become the greatest fattening area of Australia and will have year-round killing at the five northern meatworks. In one blow that would wipe out seasonal unemployment in the meat industry.

The other industry with seasonal unemployment is the sugar industry. Apart from those concerned with mill maintenance, mill workers commence about June and operate till the end of November or early in December. With the trend towards automation and mechanical handling, and from

some association I had with the industry in a trip recently to the Ayr-Home Hill district, I think the day is not far distant when cane will be cut mechanically. We already have mechanical loading of raw sugar at Mackay, Lucinda Point and Townsville and soon we will have it at Mourilyan. We have seen the mechanical harvesting of cotton and other primary products. In each case it leads to a reduction in the number of men employed. That means industry has to be found to absorb the displaced labour. If we can take care of the meat industry's problems by all-the-year-round killing of beasts through methods that have been tried and proven at "The Orient" near Ingham, we have only to overcome the problem associated with the mechanical cutting of cane.

If mechanical cutting of cane is introduced—as I expect it will be—there will be no seasonal unemployment in the cane-cutting side of the industry. Seasonal unemployment as we know it in the meat and sugar industries could well disappear altogether in three to five years. While there is an immediate need to be concerned about any steps that can be taken to utilise the services of men who require employment when not gainfully employed in the industries they usually follow, the long-term plan must be the setting up of industries that will absorb all people all the year round irrespective of the part of the State in which they live. It is interesting to compare the unemployment benefits paid in the State and at the same time look at the figures showing the number of men in employment since this Government came into power. The figures I gave indicated quite clearly that in our second year of office there has been an appreciable drop in the number of people in receipt of unemployment benefits. Without going into too many figures that can be boring let me point out that in June, 1957, before we became the Government, there were 378,400 wage and salary earners in civilian employment. At June, 1959, the figure was 384,500, in other words, an increase of approximately 6,000 in civilian employment since we assumed office.

In their very weak attempt to castigate the Government the Opposition made disparaging comments that they hope might register in some quarters. When they referred to the high incidence of unemployment in the State they speciously chose to ignore the fact that we have kept pace with unemployment and that during the term of our office from June, 1957, to June, 1959, 6,000 additional civilians have found employment in Queensland under the policies of this Government.

**Mr. Burrows:** Have you related that to the increase in population?

**Mr. DEWAR:** No, I have not because I do not think—

**Mr. Burrows:** No, because it does not suit you.

**Mr. DEWAR:** I do not think that the increase in population in Queensland has kept pace with the increase in the other States. One of the main reasons for that has been that people have considered that Queensland is largely dependent on seasonal industries. Until we wipe out the problem of seasonal unemployment we will not attract the number of people to the State that we need to make it function properly. The State is so vast and its potential so great that we need many more people than we have now.

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

**Mr. DEWAR:** I thank the hon. member for Sherwood and other hon. members for their indulgence.

In considering the possibility of extending our beef potential in North Queensland let me point out that there are 600,000,000 acres of well-watered country in Australia, of this total, 390,000,000 acres are capable of development. The balance is either well occupied or comparatively useless. Seventy-five per cent. of the 390,000,000 acres of well-watered country in Australia capable of development is in Northern Australia. In other words 300,000,000 acres of well-watered country is available in the northern portion of Australia. Half of the well-watered country of Australia is to be found in the North. I say this to the Government: rather than pursue a policy of spending a good deal of money on roads to the channel country and areas that are prone to drought we should concentrate our activities on this well-watered area. I have advocated the policy of building roads to the channel country in the past, but I did so in ignorance of the possibilities of this northern area for cattle production. There was a devastating drought in Central Australia during the last three years, and in South-western Queensland some holdings lost nearly all their livestock.

**Mr. Power:** You cannot blame the Labour Party for the drought.

**Mr. DEWAR:** The drought started under your Labour Government. The hon. member takes credit for everything else, so he may as well take credit for the drought. An area of 300,000,000 acres of the best watered country in Australia is in North Queensland, and with the benefit of pasture improvement its potentialities are tremendous. The men in North Queensland have not to go and look at the sky and pray for rain before they plant. The rain comes, and they do not have to worry about irrigation. They can plan their lives on an ordered existence because the rain falls every year.

**Mr. Jesson:** What about irrigation on the Burdekin?

**Mr. DEWAR:** This is not an irrigation area.

**Mr. Jesson:** You are talking of the North.

**Mr. DEWAR:** I am talking of the 300,000,000 acres in the Far North. They do not need irrigation.

**Mr. Jesson:** They do on the Burdekin.

**Mr. DEWAR:** On the Burdekin, yes. I am not talking of the Burdekin. The C.S.I.R.O. are doing much work on pasture improvement, which will pay heavy dividends to the meat industry. There are problems still to be overcome. It is hoped that the C.S.I.R.O. will extend its activities to North Queensland. Approaches have been made with this end in view. Those who read the recent publication "Rural Research in the C.S.I.R.O." for September, 1959, or have seen what is being done at Samford, at "Rodds Bay" near Gladstone, and at "Brian Pastures" near Gayndah appreciate the substantial progress made towards solving the problems of sub-tropical pastures in that part of Queensland south of the Tropic of Capricorn. It is hardly necessary to emphasise the significance of the statement that—

"Research has shown that nutrient deficiencies and the inherently limited production of the native grasses are the main factors responsible (for the low carrying capacity at present); the temperatures and rainfall should support vastly greater production. Indeed there is already evidence that the potential annual production from sown pastures is at least five times that from the native spear grass."

This statement with regard to the 43,000,000 acres of country suitable for cattle grazing in what is known as the spear grass zone is indicative of the possibilities. Add to that the possibilities in other areas and the prospect is indeed a bright one.

Without detailing their contributions to this picture it can be mentioned that other developments, State and Federal, also have their importance. The new Commonwealth Development Bank may well be a useful source of finance. The greater flexibility in the administration of the Lands Department and the greater security of tenure under the 1959 Land Bill should also encourage this development by attracting the much-needed capital.

New roads being built, particularly those that act as feeder roads to the railway system or enable the transport of cattle from areas which formerly had to walk the stock to railhead or port, will play a big part. The day of the road train has come, and its significance cannot be underrated.

It is hardly necessary to say, too, that the reconstruction of the Mt. Isa-Townsville railway must benefit all associated with the cattle industry as well as those who mine the copper, and other products of Mt. Isa and the uranium of Mary Kathleen.

In this connection it is worthy of note that the optimistic reports of prospects for meat sales in overseas markets will assist in encouraging the investment needed. Those who decried sales to the United States forgot that such a fillip to the beef cattle industry would assist greatly those who sought means

to improve their properties. Already there is evidence of such improvements being made, as a direct result of the money that became available from overseas sales.

It may be said that the development in the beef cattle industry referred to might be the ultimate solution of seasonal unemployment problems but that the effects are far too remote for those unemployed now. In part this would be true. Other measures are being planned for the immediate future. Amongst them are moves to encourage the establishment of canneries that will treat meat during the meat-killing season, but will treat a wide range of other products during the off-season for meat. These other products include tropical fruits, vegetables, and fish. While it may be correct that some of the plant for one form of canning is unsuitable for another form, other items are suitable. Careful planning should enable such general canneries to operate for most months of the year.

The extent to which an overall expansion of industry can provide casual jobs—as well as absorb a number of those displaced by mechanisation of other processes—should not be overlooked. That overall expansion in Townsville, for example, can be built round the new copper refinery, the expansion of plants that will supply materials such as cement and timber for the Mt. Isa railway, and the supply of the requirements of the new mining centre at Weipa. Should the time come that iron ore is mined at Mourilyan or elsewhere there will be a further impetus.

**Mr. Morris:** Have you thought of the possibility of using the newly-discovered Hovercraft in the development of northern Australia?

**Mr. DEWAR:** I am afraid I do not know much about the Hovercraft. I have seen photographs of it, but I have not considered its possible use. It may be of some advantage in the Gulf country.

North Queensland requires permanent industries. Pasture improvements such as that suggested by many people, particularly Mr. Murray, may make meat killing a permanent industry rather than a seasonal one as at present. Mechanisation of cane-cutting would also be of great benefit, and we may eventually have no seasonal unemployment or certainly not to the present extent.

**Mr. Morris:** Much has been done to extend the cattle season.

**Mr. DEWAR:** There is no doubt that the cattle seasons have been extended, but until permanent industries are established in the North the complete problem of seasonal unemployment will not be possible of solution. Attempts are being made to correct the position.

I know the Minister is considering an approach to interested parties for the purpose of revitalisation of the forestry programme. That is an avenue of Government trade.

The Government grow trees and sell them to industry, although in my view at times at too high a price. The Minister realises as well as we do that seasonal unemployment is coincident with the wet season, so that men who finish work in the sugar areas such as Townsville and Cairns cannot, during that wet period, be employed on public works. The time at which they are unemployed in their industry, as the hon. member for South Brisbane pointed out in 1949, is the time of the wet season when public works cannot be carried out. It is necessary therefore to think in terms of some project where men might be prepared to journey to work. As a Government we do not believe in the direction of labour. A married man concerned with the livelihood of his family might be prepared, under suitable conditions, to journey from his home to another place for three or four months if employment there could be found for him. The Minister is thinking in terms of the possible boosting of Forestry project work in areas in South and southern Queensland that are not so much affected by the wet season. It might be possible to perform creative work from which revenue will be derived. It may be possible to approach the powers that be to get money to create employment in those areas.

**Mr. Morris:** A great deal of work is now being done both here and in the Federal sphere to work out a scheme which might be mutually acceptable.

**Mr. DEWAR:** It is pleasing to hear that. We need money that is extraneous to the normal requirements to create employment when it is needed.

**Mr. Lloyd:** It has taken you two years to realise that.

**Mr. DEWAR:** The Government of the hon. member for Kedron were in power for 30 years and we cannot be expected to clear up their mess in two years. Each centre will have its special problems and its local solutions. There are possibilities that cannot be neglected of supplying frozen milk to outlying mining centres, and later to the nearby islands to the north and east of Australia, should the new frosonic milk process developed in England be found to have the merits ascribed to it. Allied to this is the prospect of using Sindi and Sawarhal cattle with their ability to produce under tropical conditions, for crossing with cattle already in the area. What is more, there is the use of tropical pastures similar to those which are to be used for beef cattle, and the picture takes on an even brighter hue. From time to time it has been mentioned that the Minister for Labour and Industry has been negotiating for the establishment of a fertiliser plant based on Mt. Morgan. Understandably, he has had to be guarded in his statements on this matter, but the prospect is there. It goes beyond the mere establishment of a factory employing so many men, it includes the supply to

that factory of the materials it will require, both for construction and operation. The question goes further because one major industry almost invariably leads to others using by-products or processing the requirements of the major concern.

One aspect of efforts to reduce seasonal unemployment needs very careful consideration by the unions concerned, and it is the need for industrial harmony. It is apparent that the future calls for the investment of considerable sums of capital if the final solution is to be reached. Nothing could discourage investors more than the repetition of such disputes as that which occurred at Queerah or the type of industrial record which the waterside workers had at some northern ports. There will be a need for a breadth of vision, a sense of co-operation in the interests of all.

**Mr. Morris:** The tragedy about industrial trouble is that very frequently it is started by a handful of men not interested in the economy of the country and all they want to do is to disrupt it.

**Mr. DEWAR:** The really bad industrial disputes are commenced by an irresponsible group who pay homage to an overseas ideology foreign to this country. Far too many of our people suffer as a result of the efforts of these "ratbags."

To overcome the problem, much more is needed than the inactivity of the petty squibs on the other side of the House when they were the Government. For years they did nothing but talk about seasonal unemployment, but failed to produce anything of a concrete nature that would even start to overcome the problem. Although we may not have overcome the problem yet, at least we have shown that we realise the need to do something. There is no room in this matter for socialist pipe-dream bungling, no room for talk without action. What we want is action by free enterprise and planning by enterprising people.

The North will prosper, despite action, or lack of action, by Governments. It will go ahead because the potential is there and free-thinking people will see to it that it does go ahead. It is to the everlasting credit of the Minister for Labour and Industry and this Government that they have taken action to trigger off a climate that can develop the North, a climate conducive to letting people in all walks of life get together to overcome this very serious problem.

I congratulate the Government and the Minister on the action they have taken.

**Mr. RAMSDEN (Merthyr) (12.13 p.m.):** I have much pleasure in seconding the motion so ably moved by the hon. member for Chermide, and in commending the efforts of the Minister for Labour and Industry to overcome the long-standing pattern of seasonal unemployment in Queensland, which has caused concern to successive Governments

for so many years. I refer particularly to the initiation of the principle of regional conferences, and the consequential setting up of Regional Advisory Councils.

My colleague, the hon. member for Chermiside, has ably covered very many aspects of the subject, and I should like to preface my remarks by saying that if other hon. members did as I did when talking to members, both white and coloured, of our sister Parliaments, they would have been left with two impressions. I asked two questions of all those to whom I spoke: firstly, what is your country's greatest immediate need? And secondly, what are you going to say to your people when you return to your home? In every instance the answer to the first question was, "Money for development."

**Mr. A. Jones:** That applies to all of us.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** Of course it does, and what I am saying now applies equally to every member-country of the British Commonwealth. When I asked, "What are you going to tell your people when you go home?" again in every case the reply, in general terms, was, "Firstly, I am going to tell them what a hospitable country Australia is. Then I am going to tell them the marvels of your achievement in 100 years. Thirdly, I am going to tell them of the magnificent wealth and developmental potential of your country." Those of us who attended that very interesting presentation of the division sand-glass in this chamber will never forget the wonder in the voice and eyes of the Indian member who made a presentation when he said that what impressed him most was the fact that the people in rural industries here lived in comparable luxury and enjoyed comparable benefit with the city dwellers. To him that was a matter of wonder. To us it is merely a standard of living that we have accepted as the normal.

I raise these matters so that we may see our own conditions in better perspective. We live so close to the trees in the wood that very often we cannot see the wood for the trees. When we take cognisance of our own conditions as seen through the eyes of many of our Commonwealth colleagues, we realise that we are indeed a fortunate people, that we have little to moan about and much to thank God for.

Many of the visiting parliamentarians told me, as they must have told all who talked to them, that their countries wanted money for development, that they wanted higher standards of living and that they wanted more people in employment. All that I learned from them ties up with the views recently expressed by Mr. Sebald, the United States High Commissioner to Australia, who recently said in Washington that those who say that China under communism has made considerable economic progress should remember that the rate of progress there does not compare with the rate of progress in Australia in the last decade.

I preface my remarks with these observations because I do not want an argument to develop on a false basis. I want to assure the House that, when I talk about the problems confronting us in the north of this vast State, I want each one to remember that they are really very minor when we compare our wonderful country and our very high standard of living with most other Commonwealth countries, which do not enjoy the standard of living that we refer to rather proudly as the Australian way of life.

Having said that, to put the matter in its right perspective, I commend the Minister for Labour and Industry on the concerted efforts he is making to overcome seasonal unemployment. I particularly commend him for setting up regional advisory councils in various parts of the State, which, we feel sure will help him to bring to the various less-privileged parts of the State the same overwhelming prosperity as the advent of this Government has brought to the rest of Queensland in their two years of office after nearly 30 years of socialism in action. I say again, in two years under a Country Party-Liberal Government Queensland has seen a development and a progress unprecedented in any two years of Labour's long administration.

**Mr. Power:** Where?

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** I am very glad the hon. member came in. I threw out the bait twice and they sat in silence both times. If they will just listen they will learn a lot.

**Mr. Power:** You have a record number of people in gaol since this Government came in.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** There will be a great reduction in unemployment soon. Labour in office after nearly 30 years was tired, unimaginative and arrogant. They still would be if they were in power. They were kept in power because Labour had built up in the State a terrible propaganda machine that created in the people a fear complex about all the dreadful things that would befall them if ever they deposed them and a non-Labour Government took over the reins.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** They almost believed it themselves.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** They did. The Labour propagandists did a very good job. They allied the Moore Government with the depression instead of bringing home the factual and historical truth that the depression was a world-wide trade recession, and at its height it just happened that in Queensland we had a non-Labour Government.

**Opposition Members interjected.**

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** Listen to the howls! We could also remind them that at that time Labour was in office in New South Wales. We could remind them that Labour was in office in the Commonwealth Parliament. Again we could remind them that as soon

as some glimmer of light started to appear in the economy of the nation the people of every State, all the people of the Commonwealth, threw out the Governments of the day. Everywhere they changed the Government of the day irrespective of its political colour.

**Mr. Donald:** You are wrong.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** I am wrong, am I? I am very sorry for the abysmal ignorance of those who sit on the Opposition benches.

This propaganda machine has been over-worked. Every time anybody opened his mouth he was told, "Remember what the Moore Government did to you." Nobody told them what the Lang Government did to them in New South Wales; nobody told them what the Scullin Government did to them in the Federal sphere. The propaganda machine has worked overtime ever since the re-election of Labour after the depression. Another instrument of propaganda was the fear of the sack engendered in the Public Service. They were told, "If ever these dreadful Tories get into power you will get the sack. If ever these dreadful Tories get into power you will have longer working hours. If ever these dreadful Tories get into power public servants will lose their privileges." Hon. members opposite are very silent because they know these things are true.

**Mr. Gilmore** interjected.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** As a matter of fact they kept the number on the ballot paper to intimidate the elector.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. Power:** How did you ever get into Parliament? You are all right from the shoulders down.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** How did I get into Parliament? Because the people of Merthyr voted for me—

**Mr. Donald:** Thirty-five per cent.!

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** I shall come to that in a moment. I am glad hon. members opposite came in on that.

The next great fear that Labour put into the minds of the people was that if we got in free hospitals would be wiped out.

**Mr. Power:** You are getting close to it.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** I am glad the hon. member came in on that one too. Since we became the Government 300 additional free beds have been made available in the metropolitan area.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** All these instruments of propaganda were well developed. The people became fear-ridden. The numbering

of the ballot papers was carried out to keep the Queensland people in fear, and they were in the same position as the primitive African who fears the witch doctor but can do nothing about it. The split in the Labour Party with the rising of mate against mate and Minister against Minister and unionist against unionist gave the people of Queensland an opportunity they never had for years—to throw off the chain of Socialism.

**Mr. Power:** You are a political accident.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** I might be; but if I am I am going to keep on recurring.

People used the unique opportunity to express their feelings and for the first time since the depression we found a non-Labour Government in office. What happened?

**Mr. Power:** What a tragedy!

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** The hon. member says, "What a tragedy." The hon. member is not using that little bit of grey matter between his ears. As the hon. member for Chermide said, notices of dismissal which had been given out by the previous Government were cancelled when we took office. Have the public servants lost any benefits? I know many public servants and they told me that after the election they had butterflies in the stomach about what might happen but that they were now better off than they were under the Labour Government.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** They have better super-annuation.

**Mr. RAMSDEN.** Yes, superannuation is another improvement. As I said before we have 300 more free public hospital beds available in Queensland than when we took office. Has the State deteriorated as our opponents claim? On the contrary the State has made unprecedented progress during the last two years.

**Mr. Lloyd:** What has this to do with unemployment?

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** I am shocked at the abysmal ignorance of the hon. member for Kedron. I am asked what has this to do with the motion. The Minister for Labour and Industry and the Government and all members of their parties want North Queensland to share in the general wealth and prosperity which the State has experienced since we came to office. I am sure that the hon. member for Mundingburra would agree with me that Labour has neglected the North over the years.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** Look at Hinchinbrook.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** I am reminded to look at Hinchinbrook. The hon. member for Hinchinbrook thinks so little of the North that he sent a telegram from Burleigh Heads to say that he was nominating for the Hinchinbrook seat.

**Mr. Lloyd:** They claim that you are nominating for Clayfield.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** No, I am quite satisfied where I am. I want to remind the Leader of the Opposition of his own estimate of the State when we took office. The hon. gentleman told the House that a Fulbright scholar had said that industry had indicated that if they had their time over again they would not establish here. He said that industry would turn to the South. Of course, as the Minister for Labour and Industry pointed out, the Leader of the Opposition was not dealing with the period during which the Government have been in office. The statements referred to the period of office of the previous Government, and the Leader of the Opposition was really indicting the Labour Government of which he was a Minister.

The truth is that Mr. Hunker, the Fulbright scholar whose report was quoted, arrived in Brisbane on 14 March, 1957, five months before the present Government assumed office. He commenced his task immediately at the Queensland University and was on his way back to the United States in the first week of November, 1957.

**Mr. Aikens:** I was not in the Chamber when you said something about the hon. member for Hinchinbrook. Would you mind repeating it?

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** I said something with which I am sure the hon. member for Mundingburra would heartily agree, that North Queensland was treated by Labour Governments as a forgotten centre.

**Mr. Power:** There is no need to crawl to him.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** He knows that is so. The fact is that in stating that industry had a desire to leave the State the Fulbright scholar was dealing with a period prior to the election of the Government.

Hon. members opposite have made a great song and dance about the few points they bring up time and time again, but let me deal with prosperity, which we hope Regional Advisory Councils will assist in bringing to the North. The hon. member for Chermside said that we have just come through one of the most devastating droughts since 1902. During the three years to 30 June, 1959, Queensland lost through drought 1,298,650 head of cattle and 5,587,087 head of sheep. Those losses had a very grave effect on the economy of the State, employment and the price of meat. Having come through that very difficult period, the vista of prosperity of which we have spoken is beginning to unfold before us.

**Mr. Aikens:** It is a long while getting to the North. It is travelling very slowly up there.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** If the hon. member for Mundingburra had been in the Chamber instead of practising pool, he would have heard my previous statement.

**Mr. AIKENS:** I rise to a point of order. I am not quite sure what the hon. member for Merthyr is referring to, but I can assure him that I was called out of the Chamber by a messenger in order to do some work for my electorate. I do not splash around in the swimming pool either in the day or night.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** I accept the hon. member's explanation.

If he had been in the Chamber he would have heard my statement that we hope Regional Advisory Councils will bring to North Queensland some of the general prosperity being enjoyed throughout the whole State.

I shall deal quickly now with industrial development in the State from 30 June, 1956. One of the measuring sticks by which modern communities assess prosperity is the building industry. Opposition members are always taking us to task on housing.

**Mr. Davies:** Deservedly.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** I am glad of the interjection by the hon. member for Maryborough. I am now speaking about new houses and not about conversions of old buildings. For the June quarter of 1956-1957, the year previous to our taking office, 1,637 new houses and flats were begun, but in the following year, our first year in office, the number was 1,968, an increase of 331. The figure for the June quarter of 1958-1959 was 2,128, an increase of 591 on the 1956-1957 figure.

Dealing with houses and flats completed, the figure is 1,891 for 1956-1957 and it rose to 2,190 in 1958-1959, an increase of 299. Those figures do not include conversions of old buildings. The figures for new houses and flats presently under construction are not yet available.

Dealing with the value of buildings other than houses and flats constructed, the monthly average for the June quarter 1957-1958 was £4,666,000 and for 1958-1959 £5,250,000 an increase of £584,000. I hope that hon. members opposite will not suggest that these figures show a depressed economy.

**Mr. Lloyd:** The Morris statistical revue.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** I am sure, Mr. Speaker, you will not object if I do not reply to such an inane interjection.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I hope that the hon. member will not mind my saying it, but it is difficult to connect his remarks with the motion before the House.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** It is not difficult to connect my remarks to it, because the information I am supplying has a vital effect on it. The figures are very much to the

point. Since the Government took office we have given general growth to the industries of the State. I am quoting the figures to show how important it is that the advisory councils in the North function and do their job.

**Mr. Morris:** Housing is one of the big problems that has been discussed by some of the advisory councils in the North.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** That is true. I think it was at Townsville that the question of housing was raised because of the lack of permanent houses. Companies had to subsidise their employees to get houses. They were losing employees. That is pertinent to the general motion. Nobody will deny that cement is not a commodity needed in the North.

**Mr. Davies:** Who helped the industry to be established in the North?

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** I ask the hon. member to listen. In 1956-1957 313,302 tons of cement were sold in Queensland and in the following year 331,123 tons, despite the cessation of the Tully Falls dam scheme. In 1958, an all-time record was created in that 339,470 tons were sold, an increase of 11.5 per cent. in two years. That is a phenomenal increase in an allegedly depressed economy, which hon. members opposite would have us believe exists in Queensland.

The same story can be told of fibrous plaster and brick production. Only the other day the hon. member for Brisbane "slated" the Housing Commission for building brick homes rather than wooden homes. Brick production in Queensland has been as follows:—

	Number of Bricks
1957	4,621,000
1958	4,915,000
1959	5,869,000

**Mr. Aikens:** How many of them were made in the North?

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** I am pleased that the hon. member for Mundingburra raised that point, as the whole purpose of the motion is to overcome the problem of seasonal unemployment in the North, and to give employers and employees in that part of the State an opportunity of getting together and publicising their needs.

I come now to the field of mineral resources.

Production figures for the last two years were as follows:—

	Copper Tons	Lead Tons	Silver Ounces
1957-1958	27,000	37,000	3,000,000
1958-1959	36,000	45,000	4,000,000

**Mr. Morris:** An increase in copper production will result in the establishment of a number of ancillary industries.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** That is quite true.

Do the figures that I have quoted show the story and record of a moribund, inept, and lazy Government, or do they convey the very enviable record of a Government whose efforts the people of Queensland will appreciate?

**Mr. Aikens:** It is remarkable how much interest is shown in North Queensland during the year before an election.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** This is not a sudden interest in North Queensland during the year preceding an election. In our last policy speech we promised to bring development to North Queensland by every means at our disposal. Within a few months of our assumption of office—I think it was in September, 1957—the first meeting was called as a preliminary to setting up Regional Advisory Councils. This is no mere pre-election stunt.

I could continue for some time to paint the picture of prosperity that has come to Queensland since we assumed office, prosperity in which we want the North to share.

**Mr. Aikens:** Come up and see us some time.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** I assure the hon. member that I am making no extravagant claims. The progress that I have referred to has been evidenced throughout the greater part of the State, but there are some pockets that so far have not shared in it. However, the Minister for Labour and Industry has taken every step possible to give effect to the Government's pledge. It is sincerely hoped that co-operation between capital and labour will be achieved following his efforts. I assure the hon. member that everything possible will be done to promote the interests of North Queensland. Very soon after we took office, the Minister called a conference of representatives of employers and employees in almost every section of industry in the State. From that regional conference came later meetings and from them was formed the State Ministry of Labour Advisory Committee. I think the hon. member for Chermide told the House, but I shall tell hon. members just in case he did not, that such organisations as the Shop Assistants' Union, the Amalgamated Foodstuffs Union, the A.W.U., the Federated Clerks' Union, the U.G.A., the Professional Officers' Association, the Teachers' Union, the State Service Union, the Australian Sugar Producers' Association, the Queensland Chamber of Manufactures, the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce, the Queensland Cane Growers' Council, the Metal Trades Employers' Association and the Retailers' Association of Queensland were all represented at one big meeting. They had a charter, which said that the Minister was to be chairman, and that the council was to consist of eight employee and eight employer representatives. The object was to consult with the Minister and, through him, to advise the State Government

on employment, on industrial conditions, on employee welfare, and on related industrial and economic matters, and they were to advise the Department of Labour and Industry on matters within its administration.

I heard a criticism from the Opposition benches earlier to the effect that what we were doing was giving the government of the country into the hands of those people. Nothing could be further from the truth. We are merely giving a democratic right to the people who are interested—to the people who must work together if the common good is to be upheld—to give to the Government their advice and opinions. It is the responsibility of the Government to decide whether to accept that advice and those opinions. We set out to get greater co-operation among all sections of the community, to get more accurate and complete statistics on all aspects of industrial safety and the industrial accident rate, and to further the other aims mentioned by the hon. member for Chermerside.

Now I should like to tell hon. members some of the suggestions—and they are only suggestions; there is nothing firm about them—that have already been made and that are under consideration by the State Ministry of Labour Advisory Committee which met at Cairns. It was suggested, for instance, that a £100,000 investment in cold-storage facilities at the Cairns wharf be set up, and that Cairns be developed as an outlet for the far northern cattle industry. If such a project could be brought about there would possibly be other industries established, such as those based on the byproducts of meat.

**Mr. Davies:** Too many "ifs" about all this.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** At least we have "ifs". Labour did not even have an "if." They were not even interested.

Another suggestion that has been raised is that the Queensland Government discuss with the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. Ltd. the establishment of industries based on by-products of sugar-cane. I shall have something more to say about that shortly in connection with another township. With the development of the tobacco industry in the North it has been suggested that the Government might well encourage the establishment of a tobacco factory at Cairns, a port which incidentally could be further developed by making it the port of entry for timber supplies from Borneo and the Philippines. Such ventures would go a long way towards solving the problem of seasonal unemployment in the Cairns district caused by the wet season. Industries such as have been mentioned would do much to keep men employed when outside work was impossible because of the tropical rain.

Further projects to help offset seasonal unemployment have been suggested. These projects would not only provide off-season employment but in the long run would be of lasting benefit to the North. But the projects all call for money—money for development. I prefaced my remarks with

the statement that money for development is an urgent need of every country of the Commonwealth.

One such project being discussed is for industrial reclamation to be carried out at Cairns as a Public Works programme and the construction of a highway from Cairns to Cooktown to Weipa so that the Far North could be opened up and developed. To my way of thinking this project is a very important one. If carried out it could well influence the company developing Weipa to set up its aluminium factory in the course of time on the East coast. An access road such as that suggested could in a few years be one of the North's richest assets. It would encourage white employees to go to Weipa more readily when the call for labour goes out.

I think that with the development of the world's largest bauxite field at Weipa the State must prepare an invincible case to present to the Commonwealth Government for an allocation of part of the defence vote to harbour, road and rail improvements in the Far North.

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

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** I thank the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt and other hon. members for the courtesy.

If the North is to be developed then an all-weather road of 80 miles between Lynd and Forsayth to provide a good road from Cairns to Cooktown, through to Darwin and back through Cloncurry to the coast, is most necessary. Such a project might well be presented as a defence project.

Further suggestions have been made, such as the erection of a modern smelting plant at Mareeba; the extension of the fishing industry and the establishment of a combined meat and fish cannery at Cairns.

**Mr. Davies:** A fruit cannery at Cairns, did you say?

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** A combined meat and fish cannery at Cairns.

Innisfail also has been under consideration. There is strong support for getting the Palmerston Highway from the Tablelands to Innisfail widened to enable produce to be shipped through Mourilyan Harbour. It is also believed that the establishment of a fertiliser industry at Innisfail would do much to take up the slack in seasonal unemployment.

Similar meetings have been held in Townsville. I am sorry that the hon. member for Mackay is not in the Chamber because he was present at the meeting of the Advisory Council held in Mackay about a month ago. He gave it his support. A second meeting in Mackay was held on Monday of this week, 12 October, when Mr. Young, the Director of Secondary Industries, attended. At that meeting they held a long and technical discussion on the question of the establishment of a paper-making industry

from bagasse, a by-product of sugar-cane. So it will be seen that not only are we taking into account Cairns and Townsville, but also further down the coast.

**Mr. Davies:** Mr. Young went round as the representative of the A.L.P. Government and had discussions with representatives of industry.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** If that is true it is a pity Labour did not take notice of his recommendations.

**Mr. Davies:** You have not established any industry like the paper mill at Petrie or the hardboard factory.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** When we have been in power for 30 years, as Labour was, we will have established many things.

I repeat that similar meetings have been held in Townsville, and a Regional Advisory Council was established there to submit proposals in regard to industrial expansion, increased employment, and matters associated with secondary industry development in the area bounded by Ingham in the North and Bowen in the South, Bowen itself being excluded. The representatives at that meeting were from the Townsville Chamber of Commerce, the Country Women's Association, North Queensland Employers' Association, Townsville Development League, Townsville Trades and Labour Council, the Australian Workers' Union, the Federated Clerks' Union, Townsville Harbour Board, Townsville Regional Electricity Board, the Ayr, Hinchinbrook, and Thuringowa Shire Councils, Townsville City Council, North Queensland Master Builders Association, and Townsville and District Tourist Development Association. The only party missing was the North Queensland Labour Party. I was surprised it was not represented.

**Mr. AIKENS:** I rise to a point of order. The hon. member for Merthyr is probably joking, but one cannot allow these things to appear in "Hansard" without correction. I was present and I was the only politician present. Let the hon. member for Merthyr put that in his pipe and smoke it.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** It gives me much pleasure to put that on the record—that the hon. member for Mundingburra did show sufficient interest to be there.

**Mr. Aikens:** Where were all your political mates?

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** This is the Townsville meeting.

**Mr. Aikens:** Haven't you got any up there?

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** Not yet. I repeat that Bowen itself was excluded, because contact has been established by the departmental investigating officer with Bowen Town Council and business interests. These business interests are contributing to a scheme to ensure

salary for five years to provide a highly-trained research and publicity officer for the Bowen area. This officer will be stationed in the council chambers and will have close liaison with the secondary industry division of the Department of Labour and Industry. Following contact by the same departmental officer, an advisory council similar to the Cairns body is being set up at Charters Towers, and Innisfail has representatives on the Cairns Advisory Council. Let me say that the point in calling together these advisory councils is, in my opinion, a vital step in getting all sections of the community in each area to see the common problem, to get the various groups in any given area to co-operate with one another in attempting to solve those problems, and then either to expand existing industry or introduce and establish new ones which in time will do away for ever with seasonal unemployment.

At 2.15 p.m.,

*In accordance with Sessional Order, the House proceeded with Government business.*

## SUPPLY

### COMMITTEE—FINANCIAL STATEMENT— RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

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

Debate resumed from 14 October (see p. 648) on Mr. Hiley's motion—

"That there be granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1959-1960, a sum not exceeding £1,339 to defray the salary of Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Governor."

**Mr. HERBERT** (Sherwood) (2.16 p.m.): I have certain things to say on the subject of housing, my remarks being prompted by the statements of the hon. member for Brisbane. I am sorry he is not in the Chamber to hear some of the facts that I shall put before the Committee.

It was obvious that he did not intend to speak during the early stages of the debate. Probably the Leader of the Opposition did not take his colleagues into his confidence and did not tell them of his intention to move an amendment, consequently the hon. member for Brisbane had to jump up at short notice to second the motion. As he had no material prepared, he made many mis-statements. I can understand his errors on financial matters, as his experience is possibly wider about mid-week race meetings, so I shall skip over the peculiar propositions advanced by him on finance, and restrict my comment to his statements about housing.

Some of those were quite at variance with the truth. The first I shall deal with is one on which he dwelt at length. He gave instances of unfortunate people in his area who could not obtain houses, and he then said, "They have altered the categories in

the letting of houses." Those are his exact words. I have looked at the facts in relation to the letting of houses, and the points priority rating. There has been no change in the system since this Government have been in office. Indeed, the points priority rating now operating was introduced in 1945, and operated for 12 years during the period of office of the Government supported by the hon. member for Brisbane.

**An A.L.P. Member:** He did not say that.

**Mr. HERBERT:** I am giving his exact words from the pulls of "Hansard." He said, "They have altered the categories." Once a statement has been made in this Chamber, it cannot be expunged from "Hansard."

This is the points priority rating—

(1) For families facing ejection from present dwellings and families living in tents, huts or similar unsuitable premises, 100 points;

(2) Families living in buildings condemned by local or State authorities, 80 points;

(3) Families separated owing to lack of accommodation, 60 points;

(4) Families living in overcrowded conditions, 40 points;

(5) Families sharing houses with other families, 40 points;

and a further three points is given for each child.

**Mr. Davies:** Do you agree with those?

**Mr. HERBERT:** Whether I agree or not, the hon. member for Brisbane made the statement that the Government had changed the system and that therefore the position was now worse for the people. In actual fact, the Government have not altered the rating. It remains exactly as it was when the previous Government were in office, and the hon. member's statement was completely untrue.

In regard to his comment on the housing shortage, I give these figures from the Department of National Development housing report of 1959—

DEFICIENCY OF SELF-CONTAINED DWELLINGS,  
QUEENSLAND

	Homes
In 1947	29,000
In 1954	12,000
At 30 June, 1958	5,300

In other words, Queensland had a housing need of 367,800 homes and a supply of 362,500, giving a deficiency of approximately 5,000. That is the actual position.

**Mr. Davies:** You do not believe that.

**Mr. HERBERT:** Those are the figures of the Government statistician and I do not think the hon. member will suggest they are wrong. I refer him to an article appearing in the "Telegraph" of today's date—

"State has best house year since 1954". The figures in that article were released by the Commonwealth statistician and the hon. member can read the story himself. For the benefit of having the "Hansard" report complete on the subject I give hon. members the figures associated with this best year since 1954, and I shall compare them with the record of the previous Government of which Mr. Mann was a member—

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! The hon. member must refer to other hon. members by their proper titles.

**Mr. HERBERT:** The particulars of houses and flats completed in Queensland are—

Year	Houses	Flats	Total
1956-1957	7,217	238	7,455
1957-1958	7,357	359	7,716
1958-1959	8,206	693	8,899

In other words there were 8,899 houses and flats erected in Queensland in this Government's first full housing year. The number of flats has risen from 359 to 693 as a result of the Government's amendment to the Landlord and Tenant Act last year which enabled landlords to provide accommodation.

I should like the hon. member for Brisbane to have a look at the picture that obtained when the Government came into office. There were many tenements in Gregory Terrace—this so-called temporary housing accommodation. Why, one would not put cattle into them, but many Queensland families had to occupy them because the previous Government did nothing to alleviate the position. By 6 October last there were only five families living in that temporary housing accommodation.

**Mr. Power** interjected.

**Mr. HERBERT:** I daresay the hon. member for Baroona obtains many votes in that area. I repeat that on 6 October last there were only five families left in that accommodation and they in turn will be moved out into decent accommodation. In 1950, under a Labour Government, a Government that claimed to be the friends of the workers, there were 1,887 people accommodated in so-called temporary accommodation. On 31 July, 1957, there were 391 but since then all except five families have been moved out. The only other temporary accommodation still existing is at Garbutt, Townsville, and it is hoped to close it shortly. Those figures give hon. members some idea of what the Government have done in their first year of home building. They have removed the blot of temporary housing from the landscape. The establishment of the co-operative housing movement has introduced a considerable amount of new capital into housing in the State and I quote the money made available under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement—

Year	Amount
1957-1958	£739,500
1958-1959	£993,000
1959-1960	£1,060,000

That means that over £1,000,000 of new capital was introduced into Queensland's housing system. I assure hon. members that the story of the record year reported in today's paper will be repeated in 12 months' time.

Under the Co-operative Housing Societies Act of 1958, £1,600,000 in loans to co-operative housing societies has been guaranteed by the State Government. In addition, there will be guarantees for a further £400,000 in respect of which applications are expected to be lodged shortly. That paints a remarkable picture of the activities of co-operative housing societies, which hon. members opposite said would not and could not work.

The number of homes built by the Queensland Housing Commission for the last three years has been as follows:—

	No. of Homes
1956-1957 . . . . .	1,912
1957-1958 . . . . .	1,504
1958-1959 . . . . .	1,775

Those figures show the actual number of homes built by the Housing Commission, but its total disbursements make very interesting reading. Here are the figures:—

	£
1956-1957 . . . . .	7,483,304
1957-1958 . . . . .	6,869,233
1958-1959 . . . . .	8,324,623

Those figures show an appreciable increase during the last three years.

Another statement by the hon. member for Brisbane was that poor people could not afford to put down a deposit on the purchase of a home. When his party was in office £250 was the minimum deposit on a home, and anyone who did not have as much as that could not get one. He told us a story about poor people who were unable to raise £250, a figure that was fixed by the previous Government. We have made it possible for people to acquire homes on a deposit of £25. It is a progressive purchase plan, and many people have taken advantage of it. It works in this way: there is an initial payment of £25, and thereafter not less than £1 a week in addition to the rent payments until, with the savings bank interest that accrues it accumulates to the minimum deposit required. Under the agreement with the Commonwealth Government the minimum deposit is £250, but we accept an amount of £25 and put it in a savings bank account. The prospective home-owner continues to pay £1 a week until he has accumulated the necessary deposit of £250. By that means many people own homes who otherwise would not have been able to accumulate the deposit of £250. At the State election next year many people will support us because of our progressive housing plan.

**An Opposition Member:** Is that why you are standing for Salisbury?

**Mr. HERBERT:** I am standing for the area in which I live. I advise some hon. members opposite to do the same, instead of running round Queensland looking for electorates that might be silly enough to return them.

I intend now to compare housing production in Queensland with actual housing needs. In round figures, the current housing need for new marriages is about 5,500 a year. The requirements following a reasonable level of net migration bring the figure to approximately 7,000 a year, and with some allowance for holiday homes and the replacement of destroyed buildings, the actual requirement would be about 8,000 dwelling units a year. The number actually constructed in the calendar year 1958, not the financial year, was well over 8,000 and now we have this figure of almost 9,000. In other words, with the deficiency of 5,000 we have a building programme of 1,000 a year above normal requirements. That is if we only maintain the present rate. So, very shortly, Queensland will have solved its housing problem in the main. Naturally there will always be some people unable to meet normal commitments and therefore requiring assistance from the State or a charitable organisation; but people able to pay normal rents will be catered for within the Government's next term of office. The solution of the housing problem has been brought about only by the administrative acts of the present Government and the direction of the Housing Commission by a Minister who understands the business associated with home-building. I feel sure those facts and figures are an adequate reply to the remarkable comments of the hon. member for Brisbane on housing. I only wish he were present in the Chamber to be enlightened.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** There are only three A.L.P. members in the Chamber.

**Mr. HERBERT:** It is a wonder there are even three. Generally the Government side keep up their numbers but most hon. members opposite seem to have given it away. They are probably out looking for jobs in anticipation of next year.

I turn now to a very interesting subject—the aboriginal settlements and missions in the State. Over the past 12 months I have visited most of them and I think making such visits should become a duty for many more hon. members. The aboriginal problem is expensive. It is already costing the State a great deal and in the future it will cost a great deal more. I think some comment should be made about the mission stations. These are my own views, not necessarily those of the Government, because we on this side have a freedom of expression not to be found among hon. members opposite. Above all, I do not want any of my comments to be interpreted as an attack in any way on the missionaries working in the area. They are dedicated men, men who are giving a

service that it needs dedication to undertake. There can be no doubting their sincerity or Christian attitude to the life they lead. Unfortunately, there are many factors in the mission stations of North Queensland that even the most dedicated of men would find very hard to overcome.

I shall deal with the missions in the order in which I visited them recently in the company of the Minister. The first was Mona Mona Mission, just outside Cairns. Mona Mona Mission is run by the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The superintendent is Mr. Lidster, a man very experienced in native affairs. He has 319 natives under his care—151 adults, 94 children of school age and 74 of pre-school age. The mission will not be with us very much longer because the Flaggy Creek dam will inundate most of the area. Where to put the mission is a problem that faces the department at the moment. I think Mona Mona has advanced to the stage where the State Government could very well undertake the further care of the natives. Most of them are up to a standard suitable for assimilation. Many have moved into Kuranda and I am sure that the hon. member for Cook, who is in the Chamber, will agree that the natives who have moved from Mona Mona into the community are worthwhile citizens of the North.

**Mr. Gilmore:** Doing a good job, too.

**Mr. HERBERT:** Yes. I am glad to have a man who lives very close to them endorse my remarks. The hon. member for Tablelands has a very keen appreciation of the aboriginal problem. Much has been said about assimilation in recent years. I have spoken on the subject at meetings. At almost every meeting I have been asked the same question: "How would you like one of your youngsters to marry a native?" That seems to be the general interpretation of what assimilation means amongst people who do not look at the subject very closely. That is not the meaning of assimilation at all. Assimilation means the training of the aboriginal population to the stage where they are prepared to accept their place in the community and be accepted by the Australian community on an equal footing. In other words, once a native has been trained to the stage where he can adapt himself to European standards of hygiene, morals, and conduct he has been assimilated into the community. It does not necessarily mean inter-marriage. In the metropolitan area there are a considerable number of native families. Marriages are usually between people of their own race. The Australian natives could be assimilated without necessarily inter-marriage although that will probably occur eventually. But I stress the fact that assimilation does not necessarily mean racial mixing by any means. If we can train these people to accept full citizenship they would be no longer a charge on the State. Instead they would be contributing to the general funds of the State and become

Australian citizens in every way. That has been the policy in relation to aboriginals for some time but unfortunately the general public does not seem to realise that we have no intention of asking that they be accepted into the community as mates for our children.

When Flaggy Creek Dam inundates Mona Mona within the next five years or however long it takes to build the dam, that mission no longer will be a problem.

It is a completely different story at the Yarrabah Mission, a large mission of 349 adults, 135 children at school, and 160 pre-school children, a total of 644. At most of the mission stations the very young children are in considerable numbers and the aboriginal population is growing. Yarrabah is controlled by the Church of England with Mr. J. Wilcox as superintendent. It has a number of disadvantages. In the first place it is very hard to get in and out of Yarrabah. When travelling by boat from Cairns the water is very shallow. The launch can come only within a mile of the shore where it is necessary to transfer to a dinghy and finally wade ashore if the tide is out. Sometimes at high tide the dinghy can get to the jetty. If anybody at Yarrabah requires hospital attention it is many hours before he can be got to Cairns. There is need for an airstrip at Yarrabah big enough to take the bush pilot planes. But that is an expensive item that would require careful consideration. Although Yarrabah is on the mainland the cost of a road would be prohibitive. It would have to negotiate a cliff, costing even more than an airstrip. Yarrabah is a well advanced mission although some of the facilities are not quite up to the standard they should be. A definite effort is being made to bring Yarrabah up to a high standard. Leaving the two missions in the Cairns area and crossing over the Divide one comes to the really primitive native areas. The first we visited was Edward River. The settlement run by Mr. Green contains 173 adults, 46 school-children, 37 pre-school children, a total of 256. Edward River is one of the most primitive missions in Queensland. The people have not progressed very far along the road to assimilation. The mission station has been in action for approximately 20 years, but so far I doubt if any of the natives are even toilet-trained; and that is something we expect of our children at three years of age. With the Australian aboriginal it is a different story. It is all wrapped up with the legends passed down from father to son, and so far the missionaries have not been able to get through to them on the matter of personal hygiene. The aboriginal believes that if any enemy can get hold of any part of his body—his hair or finger-nail or even human excreta—and wrap it up in bark and put it on an ant-heap that he will die. It is ingrained in him. He will not use the lavatory where his enemy could get his excreta and cause his demise. That is a belief called Pourri-Pourri which is prevalent

throughout the North. The aboriginals will not use lavatories if there is any way of avoiding them. While they are wandering round the scrub in a nomadic hunting state it is all right. They move from one place to another but immediately you settle them in a mission station like the Mitchell River and keep 400 of them there for 20 years you can imagine the contamination which leads to 80 per cent. of the hookworm because of bare feet walking on the contaminated ground. New drugs are being experimented with in the hope of wiping out the hookworm. That does not overcome the problem of introducing these natives to closer civilisation. No normal family would tolerate a family with this idea of hygiene. That is a problem which is difficult to solve. I do not pretend to be able to give the answer when these men who are practised in this native work have been unable to find the answer. The Edward River mission has also an interesting feature. All the houses are built of pandanus leaf and have no windows. The primitive aboriginal will not live in a house with windows. He is frightened that the evil spirits will get at him. If you give him a house with windows he will nail a sheet of tin over it. As a matter of fact, most of them sneak outside when it gets dark and sleep in the open. If you give them a house with an opening they will not live in it. Imagine the condition of a house on ground level completely enclosed, with no ventilation and no hygiene, after a short period. Those people cannot be introduced into a normal Australian community. From the Edward River we move on to the Mitchell River. Between the Edward River and the Mitchell River lies the Holroyd River area which is inhabited by primitive tribes and has no contact with white men. The mission station superintendent at Edward River told us that there could be up to 50 families in the Holyroyd area. A full-blood male aboriginal and his wife were sent there and some of the primitive aboriginals had come in for a few presents but they would not settle down with the aboriginal who was sent in. I think that a small group like that should be left alone. They would probably be happier. The Mitchell River is a big station with 342 full-bloods, 116 school children and 76 pre-school making a total of 534. Mr. Currington is looking after it and he has a wizard assisting him, Mr. Chapman, who received the M.B.E. recently for his services. He is in his 80th year and retired from the Church of England Mission Service. By his own choice he retired to the Mitchell River station. He is still living among the people to whom he has dedicated his life. He is a very interesting man whose experience in Northern mission stations goes back 60 years, when that work was not a very healthy occupation.

**Mr. Power:** He deserved the M.B.E.

**Mr. HERBERT:** He certainly earned his decoration. He is still living among those natives, and can give those who are carrying

out research into the problems of the native population the benefit of a wealth of experience.

He established the Edward River Mission as a subsidiary of the Mitchell River Mission. There are two large rivers between the establishments, and the natives do not like to cross these rivers which are tribal boundaries.

The Edward and Mitchell River Missions are the two major Anglican missions on that side of the Divide. The remainder in the Gulf area, with one exception, are Presbyterian Missions, and are giving remarkable service. The exception is the mission at Doomadgee, which is run by the Brethren. It is very close to the Northern Territory border, in very dry country. When we visited it there were 8 or 9 inches of bull dust all over the ground. It has a herd of good cattle. Doomadgee by virtue of its position is not an impressive station. As a matter of fact, it is very depressing, probably because of the environment. The mission was moved inland on one occasion from a desert location on the shores of the Gulf opposite Mornington Island. The natives at that mission do not seem to be particularly happy, but I do not suppose that could be expected in the environment of Doomadgee. Those who have visited the area know that all that country is very much the same, and that it does not offer much to induce happiness.

**Mr. Gaven:** How do the cattle do?

**Mr. HERBERT:** Very well. All of these missions have good herds. They need them, because at present prices the missionaries could not afford to buy meat. Aboriginals are meat eaters. If the meat had to be bought, the authorities could not afford to give them all they require.

The Mornington Island Mission is a very interesting place. Rev. Belcher and his Presbyterian associates on the island have done a remarkable job. I have been told that some years ago the mission did not make a very good impression on visitors, but the position has improved considerably, and an important feature is that natives on the island have an opportunity to graduate into better-class housing. Many mission stations have a uniform type of housing, and consequently there is no incentive to natives to do well and so get into a better home. At Mornington there are different grades of houses. The family in one home has a daughter who is a nursing sister on the mainland, and another at a Church High School in Charters Towers. Some of the families are of a very high standard, but others are of a very low standard, and I refer to the natives who came from Bentinck Island. Most hon. members know the Bentinck Island story. Some years ago that island, which is a short distance from Mornington, experienced very high tides coincident with a bad season, and the only fresh water well on the island turned salty. By the time the natives of Mornington Island were able to report the distress of the natives

on Bentinck Island, and the missionary got to that island, many of the natives had died and the rest were removed from the island in a very emaciated condition and taken to Mornington.

The Bentinck Island natives were not used to clothing of any sort or housing. Many of them still camp on the beach. They build wurleys on the beach, although the missionary and his associates have managed to introduce some of the young girls into a dormitory, and there is some hope that within the next generation these youngsters will accept living in-doors as the first step towards assimilation. They have done a good job with them, but some of the older people do not respond to the approaches made by the church. They took them back to Bentinck Island after some 10 or 15 years for a holiday. The food supplies were rejuvenated and the wells were fresh again, and the people had the time of their lives for a while. After a month they all wanted to go home because they had no tobacco. They wanted to go to Mornington to get their tobacco ration. That looks like the first step into assimilating them into our society because the natives have become addicted to smoking. These islanders will be accepted into the Mornington community and will catch up with the Mornington Island standard of development.

We now come to Aurukun where the Rev. McKenzie is at work. He was decorated by the Queen for work done. He is a man known throughout the length and breadth of Australia both as a missionary and as a member of the Presbyterian Church. Aurukun is a monument to the work he has put in. Under his jurisdiction there are 523 people, 329 adults, 138 school-children and 56 pre-school children. Mrs. McKenzie does a wonderful job in educating the natives in that area. The Rev. McKenzie, however, has some ideas not shared by other missionaries. He does not dress the girls in Mother Hubbards because he believes that one of the reasons for the incidence of T.B. amongst natives is the attempt to clothe people who have been unclothed for centuries. They easily contract T.B. Most of the girls spend their lives unclathed from the waist up. He has the complete trust of the natives and although he is growing older he is still a great tower of strength in the Gulf area and his work will live long after he has passed on.

I mentioned his wife and her educational system. The education of the natives has to be carefully considered. The Minister for Health and Home Affairs made a very wise step in relation to the education of the aboriginals. He took Professor Schonell with him on a trip. His standing in the educational world is without parallel. The professor spent much time in the school rooms and discovered things that would not occur to the normal observer. In some of the Readers the aboriginal children were taught to read sentences about Paul and Mary going for a drive over the snow in a

dog sled. Even if the aboriginal child could read the words they did not make an impression on him. They would probably understand a story about Jim chasing a wallaby across a paddock. The professor is in the process of re-casting the books for the children to use; it will be prepared in a way that the children can understand and appreciate. The education of the average aboriginal population does not go far beyond fourth grade State school education, although in a few cases it does. Their major failing is in arithmetic. The Australian native cannot add. He is a hopeless failure at arithmetic, perhaps because of something in his make-up. He cannot handle sums, and simple arithmetic that even most members of the Opposition can handle with ease. He has no appreciation of money, and if you gave him £100 he would have it all spent by the next day.

**Mr. A. Jones:** You try them in a two-up game!

**Mr. HERBERT:** I am talking about primitive natives, not those of Charters Towers. The fact that aboriginals can understand what is going on in a two-up game is indicative of their failing. They will go to a two-up game and lose all their money. If you give them a large sum of money and say that it has to last a fortnight, they will spend it all in one day.

From Aurukun we moved to Weipa, which has been very much in the news lately. A plane lands there virtually every day, so that the natives are becoming quite blasé about the benefits of civilization. The mining people are operating fairly extensively in the area, and the type of home being built there for the natives is such that if the other natives in the Gulf country hear about it they will make a headlong rush for Weipa.

At Weipa, which is a problem all on its own, there are 174 natives, consisting of 116 adults, 33 school children, and 25 pre-school children. Mr. Winn, who controls Weipa, a very experienced man in the Presbyterian Church service, does a very good job.

I move now to Mapoon, a depressing place if ever there was one. I am not now, of course, reflecting on the Rev. Filmer, who is in control of it. He has a problem that has been handed down to him, one that I do not think he or anyone else can solve. The population there is 263, consisting of 144 adults, 68 school children and 51 pre-school children. There are many bush lawyers among them, and whenever the Rev. Filmer attempts to remonstrate with them they tell him that he is a man of God and should turn the other cheek. Only a proportion of the natives are aboriginals. There is a good deal of island blood and mixed blood in the area. It is a very old settlement and most of the buildings are dilapidated. Some of the galvanised iron in the church has so many holes in it that it looks like lace filigree work. There is no decent soil in the area

with the result that it is virtually impossible to grow any crops. Things always seem to be going wrong on the settlement, and something will have to be done about it in the near future. The missionary took us to Red Beach, about 8 miles away, which is suggested as the only suitable alternative spot in the vicinity, but I think the main trouble is that it is very difficult to get the natives to live anywhere else. The Minister has submitted a plan to the responsible authorities, and I think it should be acceptable to everyone concerned. One moment the natives tell you that they want to leave, and the next they say that they will not live anywhere else. Mapoon is a blot on the mission stations in the Gulf area. When I say that I mean no reflection on the people controlling it at present. It is very probable that in the past some people with good intentions but wrong ideas got into the area. In addition, some of the natives there would be problems wherever they were.

**Dr. Noble** interjected.

**Mr. HERBERT:** The Minister is arranging for a committee of the natives to go to Bamaga. Some of them told me that they did not want to go there, although I am sure that they have never seen the place. Once they see Bamaga there will be no doubt about it; they will move so quickly that you will not be able to keep them back.

Bamaga, right on the tip of the Cape, is a different story. It is a Government station with a total population of 702, made up of 465 adults, 137 children of school age, and 100 of pre-school age. That is a big settlement. It includes the Coral Creek area, which was reserved for T.B. patients, most of whom are convalescent. Bamaga, being a Government station, has advanced greatly because it has not quite the same problems of finance as those that face the churches.

That brings me to my own idea, not necessarily the Government's or the Minister's. I think that with the aboriginal stations in the Gulf we have to decide when they cease to be a church responsibility and become a State responsibility. Primitive native communities being nomadic, only one person can get them to live in one settlement, and that is a missionary. Only a churchman, with his sincerity and dedication, would put up with the hardships involved in attempting to attract the people to living in the one place. Once he attracts them there, the question arises of how long it remains the church's responsibility to look after them. Remember, most of the missionaries, while trying to teach the people religion, have to be their judges, too, if they commit a crime. It is very awkward for a missionary to dispense justice and then offer spiritual guidance to the prisoner. Once the church has the natives prepared to live in settlements and beginning to accept living in houses, it is very likely the State's responsibility to take them over for further development, looking

after their temporal needs while retaining the churches to look after their spiritual needs. I might be wrong. The plain fact of the matter is that we could not possibly afford to take over all the mission stations even if the churches agreed to it, and of course there is a considerable division of thought among church people on the subject. I do not for one moment say we should take over some of the less developed missions but some of those nearer to the big cities have developed to the stage where the State could very well step in. With its hospital and education systems the State could raise the natives just a little further than the churches can.

**Dr. Noble:** The State could teach trades and so on.

**Mr. HERBERT:** Yes, the State has the facilities of the education system to introduce trade teaching, to send the natives to various hostels and schools throughout the State, selecting those with some capabilities. We must face it; on many of the mission stations the people grow up and, as soon as they are old enough, go out to work on a station, then come back and have children, who grow up in the same way. Except for the absolutely exceptional ones there is very little chance to get further. If the State takes a greater interest in the mission stations we will see a great step forward in assimilation. It has become obvious on the stations that the State runs now that a great deal can be done, but it will be many generations before many of the people can be assimilated.

**Mr. Davies:** What is the reaction of the missionaries to that?

**Mr. HERBERT:** Missionaries vary in their attitude. Every one has a different idea. That is the whole crux of the problem. As yet nobody seems to be able to sway a majority following. Some people think the State should keep out of it altogether but give the missions millions of pounds for development; but whether the State should hand over very large sums to be disbursed without supervision is questionable.

**Mr. Bjelke-Petersen:** They do supervise it to an extent.

**Mr. HERBERT:** At the moment the State gives them considerable sums and supervises, through the Department of Native Affairs, the spending of that money. At the moment it is working very well. There is no doubt about it, it would be very foolish to interfere in any way with some of the missions. Unfortunately weather conditions prevented us from getting into Cooktown and I did not have an opportunity to see the Hope Vale mission. I have been assured that Hope Vale, run by the Lutheran Church, is a model mission station that is doing very good work. I cannot speak from personal experience about Hope Vale but I can in respect of the others I have mentioned.

**Mr. Jesson:** Don't you think it should be a matter for the Commonwealth Government to look after the aboriginals?

**Mr. HERBERT:** I am not going to pass the responsibility off onto the Federal Government at all. It is a Queensland problem. They are Queensland citizens and the problem they present has to be faced by the Queensland Government. The Minister has tackled the problem by doing what has never been done before. In his first term of office he has visited every mission station in Queensland. He has been to the Northern Territory, Central Australia, and South Australia to see what has been done there. From what he has seen he has been able to evolve a policy based on experience. Very careful consideration will need to be given to the problem at Cabinet level in conjunction with the churches. I do not say that the State should step in and override the wishes of the churches. That is the last thing that should be done. But by round-table discussion I think we can get a good deal further. My personal opinion is that once we get to the stage where the natives accept living in the one place and living in houses to a certain degree the State Government should come in increasingly until eventually they run the settlements.

Palm Island, the biggest aboriginal station in Queensland, has improved tremendously in the last few years. An adult population of 611, 384 school children, 279 pre-school children, a total of 1,274, is a big population in anyone's language. The superintendent, Mr. Bartlam, is doing a wonderful job. He has built a road over the range on the island, felled a lot of scrub and has got good pasture growing. He should be able to raise enough cattle to make the island self-sufficient for meat. Other mission stations have sent their problem natives to Palm Island. He is doing a very commendable job with them. When I was opening the show up there this year I saw that a number of the aboriginals had reached a very high standard. They were quite capable of being assimilated into the community, but they did not want to be because frankly they realised they were well off on Palm Island. We shall have to face up to that aspect. The natives like to go to the mainland for a holiday, but they like to return to Palm Island because conditions are so good. That speaks for itself. We will have to consider it very carefully to make sure that we do not introduce a system that cares for the natives so well that they do not want to be assimilated. Most of the work they do is on stations. If natives are sent hundreds of miles away to work they cannot be expected to remain long so far away from their wives and families in the settlement. Naturally they get homesick and want to come back to the settlement. If a system could be evolved to provide houses on the stations they would probably stay longer.

**Dr. Noble:** Those who are trained are going out and doing well.

**Mr. HERBERT:** The main avenues of work open to them at the moment are jobs on stations, as railway fettlers and cane-cutters. None of them has very much future. There are some who have shown a great deal of improvement. Two of them are at the Teachers' Training College, but they are exceptional. We want to be able to do something for most of them who have only the intellectual capacity of the standard required for manual work.

**Mr. Davies:** You mentioned one church mission that was doing very well. Is there more than one?

**Mr. HERBERT:** Two of the best are Mornington Island and Aurukun. I have been told by the Minister and other hon. members who have been to Hope Vale that that is very well run by the Lutherans. It is not fair to differentiate between mission stations. It is necessary to consider the calibre of the people at the different stations. Some might have a good tribe and others might have the residue of a number of tribes or a collection of useless natives.

**Mr. Davies:** You would admit that the previous Governments did good work.

**Mr. HERBERT:** This is not a political problem. This is a matter that should have been tackled years ago. The treatment cannot be considered on a political level. The present Minister is making tremendous efforts to solve it. It is no use making it a political issue. It is not an action that will be popular in many quarters. It may have been glossed over in the past, but that is not in the best interests of the native population.

There are many other aspects with which I should like to deal, but time will not permit.

In closing, I should like to mention that the missionaries are dedicated men who are doing a good job. The officers of the Department of Health and Home Affairs are doing a good job too. None of the criticism I have levelled is directed at them. If the Government take the right steps we cannot only save money—which is our responsibility—but also introduce these people to a life far better than they have at present.

**Hon. P. J. R. HILTON** (Carnarvon) (3.14 p.m.): I wish to refer to the remarks of the hon. member for Sherwood regarding visits by former Ministers in Labour Governments to mission stations.

**Mr. Herbert:** I said in his first term.

**Mr. HILTON:** The hon. member for Charters Towers took a very deep personal interest in these stations and visited them.

**Mr. A. Jones:** I visited every one in Queensland.

**Mr. Herbert:** During your first two years?

**Mr. A. Jones:** Yes.

**Mr. HILTON:** Prior to that the hon. member for Belyando made personal visits, and the late hon. E. M. Hanlon visited them all on more than one occasion.

**Mr. Herbert:** Did they go to the other States to see how they ran them?

**Mr. HILTON:** I presume they did. The fact remains that they were very concerned for the welfare of the aboriginals in Queensland. Members from other States paid a tribute to the Queensland Government for their care and attention of aboriginals. Queensland was an example to the rest of Australia. All fair people must agree, and I am pleased that the present Minister for Health and Home Affairs is continuing the good work. It is most important that at this stage of our advancement we should do the right thing by those people who are in some respects unfortunate, but who with care and attention can be equipped to play a useful part in society.

That work, of course, requires a great deal of money. I agree with an interjection made from the Opposition benches that the Commonwealth Government should to a greater extent share the cost of caring for those people. I hope in due course that they will realise that obligation.

Having made those statements, I now turn to the Financial Statement as presented by the Treasurer. I gained certain impressions as I listened to the Treasurer delivering his statement. As an accountant he saw that it contained a wealth of information for the Committee. He described many aspects of the financial relationship between the State and the Commonwealth and the State's financial position in very eloquent language, at times revealing himself as the super-accountant divorced entirely from party affiliation. Then again, realising the very sorry financial position of the State and the fact that the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments have a similar political philosophy, he would hurriedly re-marry his party and try to smooth out the lamentable position he had revealed as between the Commonwealth and the State.

I was struck most forcibly by his description of the new formula as improving the position from one of gross insufficiency to one of barest sufficiency. There has never been any argument about gross insufficiency of allocations to Queensland and other States. Even when in Opposition the Treasurer held that view. In, I think, his 1955 Budget speech he made a very telling and penetrating attack on the policy being pursued by the Commonwealth Government. It is not rare for him with his great knowledge of economics, and his skill in accountancy to give a very critical and analytical review of the financial trends in Australia. It is not unusual of him to castigate the Commonwealth Government.

The ex-Treasurer, of course, the hon. member for Bundaberg, time and time again in his very forthright and forceful manner, has

emphasised the gross insufficiency of financial treatment of Queensland by the Commonwealth Government, but let us now examine what the Treasurer describes as a position of barest sufficiency. In using that phrase he is dealing fairly severely with the position, although using nice words. I doubt if the new formula does provide the degree of barest sufficiency with which the Treasurer credited it, because, as the hon. member for South Brisbane said, in a very comprehensive speech, under the old formula Queensland had an advantage and the opportunity over the years of getting a greater degree of financial satisfaction than is possible under the new formula. The hon. member for South Brisbane revealed that during the time he was Premier the extra allocations from the Commonwealth amounted to £15,000,000 and that under the new formula over the next six years the extra allocations will be in the neighbourhood of £13,000,000. There is a grave financial position facing the State, because all reserve funds have been exhausted; there is nothing put by for a rainy day, and in addition, far-reaching new taxes are about to be imposed by the present Government. The estimated surplus of £15,467 is a mere bagatelle which could go overnight with an increase in the basic wage. The Treasurer did not reveal to what extent provision had been made for basic wage increases when the Estimates were being prepared. I know that departmental officers take that factor into consideration. Because of the extraordinary amount of inflation under the present Government it was found necessary to increase the basic wage over the last few years. I suggest to the Minister for Transport that an increase of 1s. a week to employees in his department would knock the small surplus sky high. If that is the case we will finish up with a grave deficiency.

**Mr. Chalk:** Every 1s. a week increase represents £75,000 to the Railway Department.

**Mr. HILTON:** To that department alone. It is useless the Treasurer budgeting for a small surplus of £15,000 because with the present trend there will be a big deficit at the end of this financial year. In his statement the Treasurer said, regarding the new formula—

“The essential changes in the basis of entitlement were that the old basic formula (to which the State had a right) and the supplementary grant (which depended entirely on the decision of the Commonwealth) were amalgamated into a new basic grant; in addition, the arithmetic of calculation was upgraded and the new entitlement was made subject not only to appropriate annual escalation in relation to movement of population and in the average wage, but to a small added betterment factor designed to allow for the need for either new or augmented services.”

There is no doubt of the upward movement and with it the basic wage will increase, the deficit will increase, and there will be a

thumping big deficit at the end of the year before the next Premiers' Conference is held and before additional grants can be made to the State to offset increased obligations it will be called upon to meet. There are stringent conditions associated with the new formula, and here I sound a note of warning. The Treasurer in his Financial Statement said—

"It was a further condition of the offer of the improved formula, that the State of South Australia should retire from its position as an aided State and that Queensland should withdraw any application; and that neither State should again apply to become an aided State except in special or unexpected circumstances which endangered their budgetary position in relation to other States."

That phrase has a wealth of meaning. In comparing Queensland's budgetary position with those of the other States, we must remember that this is the only State with free hospitalisation, which is a big drain on Consolidated Revenue. I am afraid that the new formula will force the Government to reconsider Queensland's free-hospital policy. We can well understand the considerable increases recently announced for intermediate and private wards.

I intend to deal now with the new and increased taxation of the State Government. If a Labour Government had brought down this Budget there would have been black headlines in "The Courier-Mail": "Highly Increased Taxation". However, as we have an anti-Labour Government, the Budget was described by "The Courier-Mail" as a "tidy" Budget. The main emphasis was placed on reductions in land tax, from which only a few people will receive relief.

The Treasurer has understated the effect of the new taxation. On page 13 he says—

"It is anticipated that these variations will result in an increase of £690,000 for a full year and half that sum during the current year."

On page 12, however, the anticipated additional revenue from stamp duty, transfers of Crown leases and succession and probate duty for this year alone is £662,017. Allowing for some increase following increased population and development—which incidentally was started by Labour—the estimate of £690,000 for a full year is definitely an understatement.

It is significant that already the Government have received numerous protests against this new form of taxation and the increased taxes that are to be levied, particularly on primary producers. Again we find a Government who are dominated by the Country Party doing the "dirty" on the people who put them into office. It will not be very long before they have to answer to their supporters for their misdeeds.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** It will not cost anyone a penny unless he sells his property at a profit.

**Mr. HILTON:** What about the increases? In any case, are not people always selling property? Country people have to retire at some time or another. Many country people have spoken to me about the increased taxes, and they are very bitter towards the Government.

I can appreciate that the Treasurer has been compelled to take this step because of the conditions laid down in the formula. This Government are at the mercy of the predatory Commonwealth Government who are bleeding the taxpayers and the States, and ruining the economy of Australia. Each year the position grows worse.

**Mr. Wordsworth** interjected.

**Mr. HILTON:** Is the hon. member for Mulgrave supporting the recent Budget in its entirety? I challenge him to answer the question.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** This Budget? Certainly.

**Mr. HILTON:** The last Commonwealth Budget.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** No. I am talking about the State Budget. I have not seen the Commonwealth Budget. I am a State member, not Federal.

**Mr. HILTON:** The hon. member's interjection was in reply to my statement that each and every year inflation in Australia is growing apace and the Commonwealth Government are responsible for it.

That brings me to the point at which I want to make some observations about the growth of monopolies in Queensland and elsewhere throughout the Commonwealth and about the financial trends under way, including hire purchase. I think it is time we took stock of the position and called for Commonwealth-wide action to arrest these dangerous trends. I recall reading a book in the Parliamentary library just after I entered Parliament. It was written by an eminent U.S. economist, Mr. Stuart Chase, and was entitled, "Government in Business". He dealt very effectively with all the trends that preceded the great depression of 1929 to 1932 and so on. Many of the elements associated with Australia's economy today are comparable with those that prevailed in the United States before that depression. The time has come for concerted action against such trends.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** Who is going to bell the cat, though?

**Mr. HILTON:** The Commonwealth Government have the primary responsibility and there should be concerted action by all State Governments, irrespective of their party affiliations. It should come from this Government, too. Action should be taken at least to ensure that the trend of monopolies is arrested, that hire purchase is put in its right place and that we will not be faced with another great depression

because of unhealthy trends. I do not intend to debate hire purchase at length but I make the observation that the interest charged at present is out of all proportion to the services rendered. Having all the statistics in front of me, I venture the opinion that the rate should be at the most 8 or 10 per cent. simple interest with monthly rests. The flat and extortionate rate of interest is legalised usury and it is forcing up interest rates in other directions. Shortly the Government will have to pay more and more for the loan money necessary to develop the State and the Commonwealth.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** Custom Credit recently reduced its interest rate.

**Mr. HILTON:** It should be still further reduced. Much needs to be said about arresting the monopolistic trend. Take the happenings in Queensland in recent years, the take-overs and the mergers that have narrowed down ownership of Brisbane's main departmental and grocery establishments. Myers now control two former Queensland firms, McWhirters and Allan and Stark, while the merger of Woolworths and the B.C.C. has created a retailing empire of giant proportions. Obviously surviving businesses face economic hardship and may eventually be forced through unfair competition to leave the field. That is already the case in many of our provincial towns where the big monopolies have extended their operations. Businesses that have served farming and pastoral communities for years and years, giving them a few months' credit in times of drought and so on, have been forced out of the field. That is just one instance of how these big monopolies are adversely affecting the provincial towns of Queensland. I know that in my electorate two major stores would carry orchardists whose crop had been affected by hail for one or two years. But now because of the big monopolies that service has gone by the board. To make matters worse they cannot go to the banks and readily get overdrafts as they did in the past, even though they might have substantial security to offer. I am saying in all seriousness it is reaching such alarming proportions that there should be concerted action by the Parliament of Queensland and other Parliaments—

**Mr. Wordsworth:** By all States.

**Mr. HILTON:** By all States to insist that the Commonwealth Government that have displayed such a monopolistic attitude in their financial relations with the States, by weight of public opinion are compelled to take action to prevent the creation of these monopolies. On present trends, these monopolies will eventually crush all the small men out of business, make it difficult for people employed in industry and perhaps wreck the whole economy of the States. The Commonwealth Government could immediately appoint a committee to inquire into these

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matters. The basis of that inquiry should be that it is in the public interest to establish—

(a) That monopoly power is increasing dangerously;

(b) That restrictive business practices are tending to have a seriously harmful effect on the smaller business and manufacturing concerns;

(c) That the provisions of the Australian Industries Preservation Act are adequate or to what extent the Act could be made adequate; and

(d) That remedial action should be taken to curb unhealthy economic trends, situations or practices.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** Would not Section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution prevent it?

**Mr. HILTON:** Certainly not. The Social and Economic Council of the United Nations has given consideration to what was termed "restrictive business practices". The report published in 1953 mentions the countries that sent information to the United Nations Social and Economic Council dealing with the growth of monopolies and restrictive trade practices. Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, France, Iran, Iraq, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, and the United States of America all furnished information to the Social and Economic Council of the United Nations Organisation regarding the legislation they had already enacted or were about to enact. It is significant that although all countries were requested to send information nothing was sent by the Commonwealth Government. As far as I know the Australian Industries Preservation Act passed in 1906 providing for the restriction of monopolies and the elimination of restrictive trade practices is still on the Statute book. But the Commonwealth Government did not bother to send along particulars of that ancient legislation to the United Nations in response to its request for information on this important subject.

I speak apart from party politics, and I strongly urge that the Government investigate the whole matter of monopolies, combines and cartels and their associated practices, and that they be subjected to a searching inquiry by a select Senate committee. The Commonwealth Government should appoint a select Senate committee to go into the matter thoroughly and let the public know what has happened and what is happening in this fair land of ours.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** T. C. Beirne is the only large store that has not been taken over.

**Mr. HILTON:** You never know what is going to happen in that respect. I think certain action is required at the present time. I believe that that subject is listed for discussion on the agenda of the 35th trade-union congress that commenced yesterday

in Brisbane. I presume it will come up for discussion. I received a copy of that agenda which contains 21 resolutions. I am in agreement particularly with the one dealing with the growth of monopolies. I think that is something that comes within the rightful sphere of trade-unionism—to see that these big monopolies do not develop to the detriment of the workers and the people generally. But there are other resolutions on this agenda to which I feel obliged to make some reference. I do so because during the Address in Reply I made certain observations in this Chamber which dealt with the great rift that occurred in the A.L.P., the cause of which I attributed to Communist influence and to those who sought to impose a complete policy of Left Wing Socialism on the people of Queensland and of Australia. It is interesting to look at some of the resolutions on this agenda. I mention it because it reinforces my earlier statement regarding this very grave matter. The resolution to which I refer comes under the heading of "Elections". It is Resolution 106 submitted by the Boilermakers' Association of Australia, Brisbane Branch, No. 3. That society is affiliated with the Australian Labour Party, and the secretary in Queensland is a big shot on the Q.C.E. The resolution contains the following:—

"That Congress calls upon the Australian Labour Party to co-operate closely with the trade-union movement in drawing up a policy for presentation to electors—State and Federal, such a policy to include free education, free dental and hospital treatment, home ownership, international peace and free trade with all countries."

This is the kernel—

"Further, Congress calls upon trade unions to ensure that only candidates understanding socialism and pledged to its introduction receive Labour endorsement."

**Mr. Windsor:** They levied their men £2 to fight the election.

**Mr. HILTON:** That would be true. That is relevant to the point I wish to make. As I said during my speech on the Address in Reply the real rift in the A.L.P. came about because of those people who did not believe in a complete policy of socialism. In other words, Socialism, be it achieved by evolution or revolution, that would enslave all the people is repugnant to me, and I think most fair-minded people who have considered the matter would agree, but those who are opposed to it are no longer acceptable in A.L.P. circles.

I speak as one who has been a member of a trade union since the age of 15 years when I commenced to earn my livelihood. I have always been interested in the subject. The first book I read on the subject was Bellamy's "Looking Backwards". I suppose other hon. members have read it. When I read that book in my youthful years, the thought occurred to me, "If that could be

accomplished, what a wonderful thing it would be for the whole of the world, and why has it not been started long ago."

I followed that by reading of the experiences of the Lane expedition from this country to South America to establish a Utopia in that country. The history of that expedition revealed very vividly the weaknesses of a policy of complete socialism and the fact that the human element must always be considered. The colony failed miserably because they disagreed, despite the fact that it was composed of the most ardent Socialists and enthusiasts imbued with the idea of creating this Utopia on earth, people who had for years before embarking for South America been considering the plan. It failed despite the firm determination of those who were still inspired with ideals to carry on. That history convinced me that it would be impossible to create a complete Socialist society in this or any other country except under a ruthless dictatorship.

I want it to be clearly understood that I am opposed to predatory capitalism as exemplified by combines and monopolies that can exploit the people. They can be controlled, but the answer is not in a policy of complete socialism.

I firmly believe that we of the Queensland Labour Party point the way to a middle course that should be pursued, with restriction of monopolistic combines, so as to prevent a dictatorial policy from being imposed on the people, a policy that will eventually bring disaster and ruin to them.

Resolutions 188 to 190 are very revealing of the political philosophy put forward by those unions affiliated with the Australian Labour Party in this State. Resolution 188 was submitted by the Building Workers' Industrial Union of Australia, Queensland Branch. Hon. members know the big strong man who controls that union, so there is no need for me to mention his name. It is amazing that any Australian-born person should sponsor a resolution such as this—

"That Congress welcome the amazing accomplishments of our brothers in Socialist lands exemplified today in the sending of a rocket from the Soviet Union about a quarter of a million miles to land on the moon at almost the exact place and exact time as planned by the scientists concerned."

That part of the resolution is all right—we must give credit for any great scientific achievement, but the resolution continues—

"That Congress send a message of congratulations to A.U.C.C.T.U. of the Soviet Union upon this latest amazing scientific achievement. That Congress draw the attention of all concerned that contrary to the lies and slander published by those who exploit the people, the lands of socialism where workers and farmers in unity control the destiny of the people, lead the world in many fields.

"That Congress urge leaders of the Labour Movement at all levels, and workers generally, to more and more boldly, and in the best possible, positive, ways, show that the workers of the world are winning the struggle against their exploiters and for peace and have already established many socialist lands where most of the ills created by capitalist forms of society have been abolished.

"That in order to assist the workers and farmers of Australia to better understand that the way forward is by way of the transition to a socialist society, the Trades and Labour Council of Queensland arrange for continued publicity around the accomplishments and objectives of the workers in socialist lands and in particular upon points of the Soviet 7 year plan—

**HOUSING**—That in the next 7 years, the Soviet Union will build 15,000,000 flats and 7,000,000 homes—a total of 22,000,000 home units. That this means rehousing 88 million of its population in 7 years.

**WAGES AND FARM INCOMES**—That the Soviet Union 7 year plan aims to increase real wages and farm incomes by 40 %.

**TAXATION**—That all taxation will be abolished in the Soviet Union within the next 7 years.

**HOURS OF WORK**—That hours of work will be reduced to 40 and to 35, and in some industries even to 30 hours."

Hon. members will note that the hours will be reduced to 40. The workers of Queensland under a Labour Government are enjoying a 40-hour week. Continuing with Resolution 188—

**CHILD CARE**—The present 2,280,000 kindergartens will be increased to 4,200,000."

A similar resolution on Socialism, following the Russian type, was submitted by the Australian Railways Union, Queensland Branch, another union affiliated with the A.L.P. The big man of that union is an important man on the Q.C.E. Resolution 190 was framed by the Operative Painters and Decorators' Union of Australia, Queensland Branch, and it read—

"That Congress affirm that only under Socialism will the problems of the Australian workers and the people in general be finally resolved in their favour.

We therefore affirm that the objective of the Queensland Trade Unions is Socialism and we urge all unions and their members to do their utmost to ensure that there is the most widespread knowledge of the Socialist objective of the Labour Movement."

Those unions are affiliated with the Australian Labour Party and exert a dominating influence at the present time. I am certain that those key resolutions will be carried and

that only those men who subscribe to the full-scale policy which I refer to as Left Wing Socialism, will be endorsed, and they will be pledged to implement—

**Mr. Mann:** You subscribed to it for a long while.

**Mr. HILTON:** Not to Socialism. I am prepared to debate that point on any platform. The policy and objective of the Australian Labour Party was altered drastically at the last Federal conference. Certainly there was a socialistic objective, but it was never the objective of the A.L.P. to take over all business enterprises, all manufacturing concerns, all farms and everything else. There was an alteration as the hon. member for Kedron knows full well at the last Federal convention. I make the point that only those who are prepared to sponsor the full-scale socialist policy will receive the favours of those who control the Australian Labour Party at the present time. I utter that word of warning to those members of the A.L.P. who refuse to believe in a fantastic policy that would spell ruin to the workers and make them slaves in a dictatorship.

**Mr. Burrows** interjected.

**Mr. HILTON:** Would the hon. member for Port Curtis like to have his small selection taken over and made part of one of the communes that would be set up if the people who control the A.L.P. had their way? I am sure he would not entertain the thought for a moment. I sound a note of warning to him that he is skating on thin ice. He will be told to subscribe to their policy and implement it, or else!

**Mr. Burrows:** Why did you leave the A.L.P. Was it because of the alteration of that part of the platform?

**Mr. HILTON:** I left it, firstly, because a manifest injustice was perpetrated upon the Leader of the Australian Labour Party in this State, and, secondly, because a considered attempt was made to undermine what we know as constitutional government, in that a body that was not elected by the people tried to dictate in minute detail the implementation and timing of all legislation. That attempt was made by people who wanted to destroy what they termed the "Rightist" element and pave the way towards the implementation of full-scale Socialism.

**A.L.P. Members** interjected.

**Mr. HILTON:** I am prepared to debate this subject on any public platform. If anybody had any doubts about where I stood, I made my position quite clear at the 1950 Labour-in-Politics Convention in Toowoomba. I argued at that time that a clear line of demarcation should be drawn between the policy of the Australian Labour Party and the Socialist policy of the Communists. I was elected after that, and I deeply appreciated the vote of confidence reposed in me by

a majority of the Caucus of the A.L.P. as it was then constituted. Nobody can accuse me of not making my position clear. The very platform of the A.L.P. clearly revealed that never at any time was it supposed that a policy of complete socialisation would be imposed by the A.L.P.

**Mr. Aikens:** It has always been in the platform of the Labour Party, and you subscribed to it for years.

**Mr. HILTON:** The hon. member for Mundingburra has just arrived, and I do not intend to go over all that ground again.

I wish now to refer to the expressions of opinion by me and other members of my party about the efforts of the Communists to take over complete control of the A.L.P. and to sneak into office not directly as Communists but as selected delegates of the A.L.P.

**Mr. Lloyd:** Why don't you give us something constructive?

**Mr. HILTON:** This is constructive, if the hon. member for Kedron will listen. I think he values the freedom of this country, and I should be disappointed if he failed to support my remarks. We will talk about the phony peace conference to be held next month. It has been given the high-sounding name of the Australian and New Zealand Congress on International Co-operation and Disarmament. The title sounds very interesting indeed, but of course the conference has been sponsored and engineered by the Communists not only in Australia but also in other countries. The alarming aspect of it is that it has been approved by the Australian Labour Party and by the Q.C.E. here in Brisbane, according to a report in the "New Age" newspaper and I suppose, in the very near future, perhaps in the next week or two, certain delegates will be appointed.

**Mr. Aikens:** Who publishes the "New Age" newspaper?

**Mr. HILTON:** It is the official organ of the Australian Labour Party in this State.

**Mr. Aikens:** Who is responsible for its publication?

**Mr. HILTON:** I could not answer that.

**Mr. Aikens:** Who provides the money for it?

**Mr. Davies:** Let the hon. member read the speech by Hon. Reg. Pollard, A.L.P. member in the House of Representatives last week.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nicholson):** Order!

**Mr. HILTON:** I will read what I propose to read and I will make the point that the conference has been approved by the Australian Labour Party despite the fact that it is communist-inspired. Already in Victoria and New South Wales delegates have

been appointed. It has been approved in Queensland and I presume that in the very near future the Queensland delegates will be appointed.

**Mr. Mann:** Do you believe in the dropping of the atomic bomb?

**Mr. HILTON:** No, certainly I do not; but I make this observation as a preliminary to what I want to say. On International affairs we are linked with S.E.A.T.O. and with the Mother country and it is the responsibility of the elected Government of the country to handle international affairs. No sensible man wants to see an atomic bomb dropped. It is at once amusing and serious to see on the front cover the illustration of the Communists pushing along the Labour fellows trying to cash in on noble ideals and on public opinion.

**Opposition Members interjected.**

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN:** Order! I remind hon. members that it is highly disorderly to be cross-firing in the Chamber when an hon. member is speaking. If there is any more of it I will have to deal with those responsible.

**Mr. Mann:** Tell us something about Santamaria.

**Mr. HILTON:** I thought that was coming. The hon. member for Brisbane and a few others, every time I mention a telling truth that cuts them to the core, seek to escape by screaming "Santamaria" as though he were going around the country waiting to stab them through the heart. Santamaria is an intelligent man, highly educated, who all the way along the line has fought Communism in no mistakable manner. He has fought it publicly. If you only heard him speak—I have not heard him but I have heard others mention the fact—I am sure he would make a profound impression on you.

My time is limited and I do not intend to waste any more of it on these inane interjections coming from the A.L.P. members who in the very near future will have to sign on the dotted line and make the pledge for their Communist associates. Let me return to the subject of the peace conference, which has the full approval of the Australian Labour Party in Queensland. In case they want to squeal "Santamaria" again, or something of the sort, let us see what the Anglican Synod in Victoria had to say about that phony peace conference. I shall quote a report from the southern papers. Hon. members opposite will not be able to blame Santamaria for the resolutions that were carried. They come from a very reputable body of clergymen assembled at the Anglican Synod in Victoria only the other day. They are as follows—

"Anglicans Ban Peace Congress

"Communist plans to 'make respectable' their 'peace' congress in Melbourne next month received a severe setback last week, when the Victorian Anglican Synod decided to have no part of it.

"It rejected a proposal to send a six-man delegation, and also turned down a proposal to send a team of ten 'observers.'

"Attempts to commit the Church of England to support the congress have failed dismally.

"Earlier the Dean of Melbourne, Rev. Barton Babbage, withdrew his sponsorship when it became public knowledge that the congress was operating under Communist auspices.

"Impressively styled the Australian-New Zealand Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament, the rally is due to open on November 7—the Soviet national day.

"All the organisation and preparatory work has been done by Communists and well-known 'party liners'."

**Mr. Aikens:** Was the A.L.P. affiliated with the Congress?

**Mr. HILTON:** They are sponsoring the so-called peace proposals. They are in full accord with it. Let me mention another resolution in respect of Communism carried at that Synod—

"Deadly Challenge to Christianity

"Earlier, the Synod carried a motion that 'Communism is absolutely incompatible with Christianity, and constitutes a deadly and growing challenge to it'.

The motion went on:—

"This Synod requests His Grace the Archbishop to take such steps as he thinks proper, including the calling in of such advisers, and the obtaining of such reports as he thinks fit, to promulgate an authoritative statement of the position of the Church of England in the diocese in relation to Communism, its philosophy, objectives, strategy and tactics, so that such statement may be made available to the clergy and laity for the use and information of both the adult members and the youth of the Church'."

**Mr. Lloyd:** Is that the Presbyterian church?

**Mr. HILTON:** No, the Anglican Synod in Victoria.

**Mr. Thackeray:** What paper are you quoting from?

**Mr. HILTON:** It is published in all the Melbourne Press. The hon. member can look at it in the parliamentary library for himself.

I commend those clergymen for having the courage of their convictions and passing those resolutions which serve as a warning to Australia of what is going on. It reinforces the statement I made previously about how far the Communists have got these suckers of the A.L.P. working for them.

I want to mention another matter associated with this phoney peace conference. All delegates, of course, must be approved

by the sponsoring committee in Brisbane. The members of that sponsoring committee are mentioned in a circular that has been sent out. The name of Mr. Frank Waters, one-time member of this Assembly, is included. He is the man who was refused admission to the last 1956 Labour-in-Politics Convention because of his association with Communists. Even the left-wingers were not game to move that he be admitted. But now he is back in the A.L.P. It is interesting to note that he is the chief man on this sponsoring committee that is going to say who are the delegates to go to this phoney peace conference. It reminds me of a very succulent little piece I have been able to pick up in "The Courier-Mail" of 1 November 1941. It reads—

"Has Prediction Come True?

"At a packed Congress of the Australian Russian Association held in the Brisbane City Hall on 31 October, 1941, Mr. Frank Waters said:—

'I believe that this congress will lead to the 'cleansing' of the Labor Party and the Forgan Smiths, Coopers, Hanlons and Fallons will receive the reward due to them.'

'Instead of their expelling Taylor and Marriott they in turn will be expelled.'

'These members of Caucus who on Wednesday (29 October, 1941) voted to expel Mr. Taylor will also be dealt with.'

'The motion was moved by Mr. Cooper, and seconded by Mr. Power.'

'Mr. Mann spoke in favour of it, supported by Mr. Devries of the A.W.U.'"

I mention that purely for the purpose of pointing out that Mr. Frank Waters, despite his expulsion from the A.L.P. for many years has been re-admitted to the fold. He is now the big man in selecting the delegates who will go to this phoney conference. It illustrates how the Communists are strangling them to death; and it is time every fair-thinking Australian took serious notice of what is happening.

**Mr. Davies:** Do you say that Waters is a Communist?

**Mr. Aikens:** Do you say that in your opinion the hon. member for Brisbane is a political contortionist?

**Mr. HILTON:** I will let the hon. member for Brisbane explain his attitude. The hon. member for Maryborough asks, is Mr. Waters a Communist. I will give a frank answer. As far as I know I have never seen him with a ticket. I am not in a position to know whether he carries a Party ticket or whether he is an under-cover Communist who is not allowed under Party rules to carry a ticket. For the information of the hon. member who has rushed in to defend Mr. Waters, if he knows anything about Communism—

**Mr. Thackeray:** Do you?

**Mr. HILTON:** My word I do.

If the hon. member for Maryborough knows anything about Communism he knows that there are Party members who carry their tickets and who act publicly and unashamedly in the cause of Communism—which is their right in this democratic country, although they fight to destroy Democracy. The dangerous fellows are those who are obliged not to carry a Party ticket. The under-cover men are the dangerous ones. I never saw Waters at a Communist Party meeting. I do not know whether he is a Communist or not; but the fact that the 1956 Labour in Politics Convention refused him admission should answer that question very fully indeed.

**Mr. WINDSOR** (Fortitude Valley) (4.14 p.m.): I am sorry that the Treasurer is not here because I wanted to compliment him on his very fine Budget. Usually figures are rather dull, but the Treasurer has presented his figures in an interesting and easy-to-understand way. We may have particular knowledge of a department here and there but generally speaking we are not in a position to express an opinion. The Treasurer has had the gigantic task of checking and approving the figures for 425 departments which are listed. In order to do this he must have had to concentrate on the job for weeks and weeks. I stress that point for the benefit of hon. members opposite.

Table C 4 in the tables relating to the Treasurer's Financial Statement gives the revenue and expenditure during the last 100 years. It covers 100 years of progress. The revenue for 1860 was £178,589, which had increased by 1870 to £743,058, or 420 per cent. The revenue in 1890 had increased to £3,211,000 from £1,612,313 10 years before, an increase of 100 per cent. In 1900 the revenue was £4,500,000, an increase of 48 per cent.

**Mr. Houston:** What was the population?

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN:** I warn the hon. member that if he interrupts again I will deal with him for disorderly conduct.

**Mr. WINDSOR:** By 1910 the revenue had jumped to £5,119,253, an increase of only 10 per cent. In the complete table, that is the lowest increase in any decade. In fact, in the years from 1900 to 1910 the revenue had dropped by almost £1,000,000 for each of the years, but the leeway was made up in 1910 when revenue increased by 10 per cent. By 1920 revenue amounted to £11,293,743, an increase of 214 per cent., and by 1930 it had increased by 48 per cent. to £15,997,869.

**Mr. Houston:** What do those figures prove?

**Mr. WINDSOR:** They are a barometer of progress in the last 100 years.

**Mr. Houston:** I can read them.

**Mr. WINDSOR:** Yes, but the hon. member cannot understand them. By 1940 revenue was £20,755,504, an increase of 33 per cent. in the preceding 10 years. In 1950 it rose to £37,000,000 and by 1959 it rose still further to £99,000,000, an increase of 250 per cent.

If the figure for 1959, £99,000,000, is divided by the figure for 1860, £178,589, it is found that the revenue is 555 times as great as in 1860.

**Mr. Houston:** What was the growth in population?

**Mr. WINDSOR:** From 30,000 to approximately 1,400,000.

**Mr. Houston:** What was the rate of increase?

**Mr. WINDSOR:** I have not worked it out. As the hon. member was a school teacher, I shall leave that to him.

**Mr. Davies:** Will the hon. member answer one question? As he is dealing with finance and Commonwealth assistance, does he agree with the Minister in charge of the Chamber that the Commonwealth Government always give Queensland the brush-off?

**Mr. WINDSOR:** I am dealing with the Budget. As a parallel illustration I could give the hon. members my 33 years' experience in business which has increased over 600 times in that period. If we in Queensland progress at the rate we have over the next 100 years our revenue will be £555,000,000,000. I know that those are hard figures to understand by hon. members opposite.

I am sure that all members of the Committee are very pleased at the result of the recent British elections because if they are true Australians they will realise that the Britisher has come to light and kicked out those people who have been strangling the nation. The result shows that it was virtually only the Communists who lost their deposits, and if hon. members of the Opposition still associate with them at the next election they too will lose their deposits.

We are all deeply concerned with the introduction of new industries into Queensland. There is much red tape to be gone through in the establishment of an industry, particularly in our cities. Whilst I am not complaining about the Brisbane City Council I say that there should be some sort of liaison established so that prospective businesses who want to establish here can settle quickly. If hon. members will bear with me I will cite my own experience in an effort to extend my own works just recently. I wanted the extension done quickly and I took a plan to the council. I was asked for a £10 deposit which duly went in. It was found that we were up to the alignment of one street and I donated a corner, but the council said, "We will attend to the surveying and the titles." I made a donation of 66 feet each

way which represented a fair piece of land. When I handed the plan in to the council an officer said, "You will have to get an alignment survey." I said, "What for; you should be satisfied with your own surveying; why will it not do?" The council said that I would have to go to the Surveyor-General. I got a firm of surveyors to do the job but there was this continually going from one to another. We wanted to get the job done quickly. It took 10 weeks to get that permit from the council. I fail to see why there should be so much duplication and waste of time. The City Council would not approve of the plan until they had an alignment certificate. When I eventually got the alignment certificate I took it to the council official, who said to me, "I don't want to keep it. I only want to see it." So you can guess how I felt. A liaison officer should be appointed so that all formalities can be completed, not in ten weeks, but in one week. A delay of 10 weeks could easily cost a firm £10,000 in wages.

**Mr. Davies:** If there was an A.L.P. council that would not happen.

**Mr. WINDSOR:** We are now suffering from 34 years of A.L.P. red tape. If the cause of the delay could be removed, it is quite possible that many more businesses would be established in Brisbane.

In fairness to the Brisbane City Council, I point out that some departments are very efficient and do not waste the time of those who have dealings with them. On one occasion I wanted a power line shifted. I made my approach to the Electricity Department at half-past three on a Friday afternoon and said that I wanted it shifted on the Saturday morning. I agreed with the council official that I was not giving him very much notice, but the job was finished before one o'clock on the Saturday. I was so pleased that I wrote to the Lord Mayor and asked him to convey my thanks to members of the Electricity Department who had done the job. I got a letter back from the Lord Mayor thanking me for my words of appreciation and telling me that it was very seldom that the council received thanks for its work.

I greatly appreciated last week meeting the Parliamentary delegates from overseas. It made me realise how strong the British Commonwealth could be in a friendly atmosphere. I was told that in the gathering were representatives from 50 Parliaments. There were men of different colours, but that made no difference to the friendliness of the gathering. I made a friend of one coloured gentleman who told me that we should never tire in our efforts to be friendly towards one another.

**Opposition Members interjected.**

**Mr. WINDSOR:** I wish hon. members opposite would pay attention to what I am saying.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I remind hon. members that Standing Order No. 114 says—

"A member shall not interrupt another while addressing the House."

I am anxious to hear what the hon. member for Fortitude Valley has to say, but I cannot hear him for the noise.

**Mr. WINDSOR:** On our return from Toowoomba I took that gentleman to my home, and we had a very enjoyable evening. He was very musical. He was a keen worker for his church and a thorough gentleman. He enjoyed himself very much at my home. When I was taking him back to the Canberra in the evening he said to me, "Well, Bob, home life, family life, is a wonderful institution. It is a wonderful incentive for a man to get on. It makes you want to be better than you are."

Earlier in the debate the hon. member for Sherwood said that many aboriginals did not get much above the fourth grade of education, but I think they can teach us a great lesson in outlook and friendliness. Let me give another illustration. When my dear Mum was buried last May, in the cemetery was a group of coloured people. I did not know who they were. My brother introduced them to me and the senior among them came up to me. When he shook my hand he said these words, "Bob, you are the eldest?" I said, "Yes." He said, "I think you are burying a wonderful woman here this afternoon," and I said, "I think so, too." He said, "50 odd years ago I was coming over Sandy Creek bridge, wet, cold, and hungry. A lady who lived near the bridge, came out onto her veranda. That lady happened to be your mother. She invited me in out of the rain. Your father came out and bade me go into the bathroom and change my clothes. He gave me dry clothes to put on. They gave me a hot meal, dried my clothes out, and sent me on my way rejoicing." "Bob," he said, "That was 53 years ago. This is all I have in the world. There are 20 of us here today and I have brought these people along to pay a last tribute to a wonderful woman." I relate that so that we should not under-estimate those people. We might think they are not above fourth grade in mentality, but they can teach us a lesson in gratitude and appreciation.

It is wonderful how men can work together in a cause, for a certain institution or where there is loyalty among them. A gentleman was telling me the other day about a disastrous fire at a place where 40 or 50 men were employed. The building was about 120 feet long by 80 feet wide, and they were all assembled there in the morning. They said to the boss, "What are we going to do?" He replied, "There is only one thing to do. We will have to clear the mess up." He went to the Council and got an emergency plan so that he could go on with rebuilding. Those men went out into the bush with one or two lorries that were left and brought back posts and so on, and in less than four days they had the place rebuilt with a roof on ready

for work and not one of them lost an hour's work. He said to me that if all men could work at that pace they would make enough in 20 hours a week to keep them in comfort, meaning that with the right incentive we can accomplish wonders.

**Mr. Jesson:** That means that those same men were loafing 20 hours a week before, when they were working twice as long.

**Mr. WINDSOR:** Not at all. It may have been done to hold their job.

**Mr. Davies:** You are making a very nice picture of friendship, but a few minutes ago you were joining with the hon. member for Carnarvon in calling us Communists.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! The hon. member is not allowed to make a speech by way of interjection.

**Mr. WINDSOR:** I was being a good friend by giving the hon. member a warning. I do not want him to be destroyed by his own silliness. That is why I issued the warning. Summing up, I have given one or two instances of how jobs can be done when men are willing. The worker in Queensland is a mighty worker if he is given an opportunity to express himself, if he is given an opportunity to go ahead. Pay him adequately, give him incentive and he will work. He is loyal. There are no better skilled workmen in the world than we have in Australia today. Both worker and employer respond to incentive. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." "Love your employee as yourself."

**Mr. Mann:** Tell that to some of the shipping companies.

**Mr. WINDSOR:** That is a bee in the hon. member's bonnet.

**Mr. Mann:** It is not a bee in my bonnet, it is true.

**Mr. WINDSOR:** It might be, but it cuts both ways. Every man must have a sense of responsibility. If we all have that sense of responsibility the next 100 years should be beyond imagination.

I congratulate the Treasurer on his Financial Statement. He has had a wonderful success over the last 100 years. (Laughter.)

**Mr. Lloyd:** Rip van Winkle!

**Mr. WINDSOR:** If he continues in the same way in the next 100 years his income should be £550,000,000,000. (Laughter.)

**Mr. BYRNE (Mourilyan) (4.37 p.m.):** Coming from a sugar district I thought I should make my contribution to the discussion. Throughout the sugar districts there is a feeling of uncertainty in the minds of the growers. The difficulties are becoming accentuated for reasons I shall deal with as I go along. Today we have to contend with increased production in the various mill areas. By the adoption of scientific methods both in the field and in the mill, by the

introduction of new varieties with increased sugar content, by the successful elimination of various cane pests, particularly the grub, the industry is producing peak requirements from a much smaller area of land than previously. I am one of those who believe that the problems of the industry at present are capable of being solved as they have been in the past. The Treasurer indicated that he did not believe that a royal commission would assist the industry. Probably the hon. gentleman has good reasons for saying that; but I am certainly of opinion that the time has arrived when the Premier and the Prime Minister should take joint action to see that something is done to eliminate the fears in the minds of the growers and to enable us to produce the required quantity of sugar from the area assigned to the various growers. I believe if the Premier and the Prime Minister were to go overseas and interview the Prime Minister of England it should be possible to alleviate the position in which we find ourselves today when many areas are producing their peak from 35 to 40 per cent. of their area. I remind hon. members that the late E. M. Hanlon and subsequently Mr. Gair and Mr. Collins thought it advisable to go overseas in order to get a better deal for Queensland. Everybody in the industry knows of the great success achieved by the late Mr. Hanlon and subsequently by Mr. Gair. As a result of their efforts the industry was able to participate in benefits, particularly in regard to the increased peak that was allotted to the various mills.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** Don't forget they had the sugar industry leaders with them.

**Mr. BYRNE:** There has always been complete confidence in representatives of the sugar industry, who are men of fine calibre and who are actuated by the highest motives. They have been able to do much in the interests of this great industry. We cannot afford to sit still and do nothing. With all respect, we can indict this Government for the situation in which we now find ourselves because they have had some years' notice of what would take place. When we know that the small grower is unable to make a living and that his allotment is curtailed from time time we should do something about it. I repeat that it is incumbent upon the Premier of this State to see that we get a better deal than we have been getting. I think that high level representation is very necessary to secure the better deal to which they are entitled. Markets in the Near East could be exploited. In fact we should investigate every possible avenue. I think that could be done even under the International Agreement, provided we can put a case to Great Britain and other signatories to the agreement.

**Mr. Coburn:** You cannot break the agreement with other sugar-producing countries.

**Mr. BYRNE:** I am making the point that, although we have every confidence in our representatives, the situation could be

improved by top-level representations of the Premier and Prime Minister. Those in the industry knew the present position would arise; the writing was on the wall. In certain districts only 35 to 40 per cent. of the gross assigned area produces the mill peak. Those who will suffer are the soldier settlers and the small growers who have come into the industry in latter years. They started when new assignments were granted in 1952 and 1953. They have cleared and cultivated the land and are only now bringing their farms to full production, only to find that their quota has now been reduced to the level regarded as a living quota, 500, 600 and 700 tons. In some instances the figure may be a little higher. The smaller growers will suffer, not the larger growers or the mills.

Employment in the industry will be curtailed severely. I shall mention shortly the result of representations by a former Labour Government and the advantage to the industry of those representations. We should endeavour at least to maintain our position, instead of slipping back.

The hon. member for Chermiside suggested that unemployment in the sugar industry during the slack season could be overcome by the transfer of men from one industry to another, and probably from one district to another. I believe he made the statement in good faith, but I ask him how employment will be found for the meatworkers who will soon be unemployed, in addition to the wharf labourers, cane-cutters and mill workers. I shall be happy to learn of any industry in which they will be able to find work. The idea is a good one, but I think it is impossible of accomplishment.

The problem has to be faced. Businessmen as well as cane-growers are concerned about the present situation and their future prospects. Whether they like it or not, the Government must take action. Smaller growers will demand a better deal than they are getting at present. The hon. member for Burdekin has said that the holding of any royal commission into the sugar industry would mean a repudiation of the international agreement.

**Mr. Coburn:** I said nothing of the kind.

**Mr. BYRNE:** The report is there.

**Mr. Coburn:** It is not.

**Mr. BYRNE:** I read it this morning, that there would be a repudiation of the international agreement. The hon. member for Burdekin also said that further markets might be found for our sugar. It would be a very good thing if we could find further markets and I suggest that there should be representations at the highest level in order that markets might be found, but at the same time we should not destroy the conditions of the international agreement. High-level representation is most desirable.

The area represented by the hon. member for Burdekin is well placed in comparison with other areas because it has not so many

small growers such as in the Tully and South Johnstone areas. The Burdekin area is predominately a large assignment area.

**Mr. Coburn:** It is the only area that has consistently produced its mill peak.

**Mr. BYRNE:** Criticism was levelled by the hon. member for Whitsunday at the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board. On that board there are men of known repute, high capabilities, and well regarded by the present Government. They are excellent men and competent in their jobs, and the criticism of the standard indulged in by the hon. member was not altogether in keeping with the best traditions of this Chamber. The board has done wonderful things over the years in difficult situations. I shall enlarge on that matter at a later date, but in the meantime I content myself with saying that the board is deserving of the thanks of every canegrower in Queensland.

The hon. member for Mulgrave criticised the board when dealing with criticism offered by an editor of a paper. He was of the opinion that if it continued there would be a sort of dictatorship set up. Such criticism of the board was not justified.

Labour Governments led by the late Hon. E. M. Hanlon and later by the Hon. V. C. Gair saw to the necessity of increasing the production of sugar. The figures I quote are informative and indicate the shrewdness of those hon. members in getting such worthwhile increases. In 1950 our peak was 916,900 tons and it grew to 963,080 tons in 1952, an increase of 46,180 tons; in 1953 the tonnage was 1,152,500 or an increase of 235,600 over 1950. In 1958 it was 1,207,400 tons or an increase of 290,500 tons over 1950. If this or any other Government can give us a similar increase in production over the next few years, we shall be indeed happy. It might be of interest to hon. members to learn that in 1929 the peak allotment was only 611,428 tons. The figures that I have quoted show that Labour did not neglect the sugar industry. On the contrary, from 1929 onwards its output was doubled.

I shall deal now with the value of Queensland's sugar production. These are the figures—

	£
1950 .. .. .	24,866,000
1957 .. .. .	61,853,000
1958 .. .. .	61,321,000

**Mr. Gilmore:** Do you remember that the Chifley Government refused an increase of 1d. a lb. to the sugar-growers? That is one of the reasons why the figure for 1950 was only £24,000,000.

**Mr. BYRNE:** I can also remember that in 1932 Senator McLachlan travelled throughout the State demanding that the sugar growers reduce the price by ½d. a lb.

As I say, the value of the sugar crop in 1950 was £24,000,000, compared with £61,000,000 in 1957-1958. During those

years the Labour Government made it possible for the sugar-growers to produce an additional 290,500 tons, and the value of their production increased by £37,000,000.

Activity in the sugar industry between 1950 and 1958 was tremendous. Scrub had to be felled and cleared, planting operations had to be carried on, and additional equipment had to be bought both by the mills and the growers. Every sugar district participated in the increased production and additional assignments had to be granted, particularly to the small growers. I said a little while ago that the Burdekin district is not badly off in comparison with other districts. Most of the farms in that area are relatively large. In the North the average farm is about 53 acres gross and 40 acres net, whereas farms in the Burdekin district are much larger. Pioneer in 1929 had a peak of 21,391 tons, in 1950 34,000 tons, and in 1953 45,000 tons. So in that mill alone the increase was 11,000 tons of sugar between 1950 and 1953. Think of the tremendous sum of money the mill brought into the area because of that increase that the Labour Government were able to get through the efforts of the State Premier and the Prime Minister.

Kalamia in 1929 had a peak of 26,053 tons, in 1950 35,600 tons and in 1953 48,000 tons, an increase of 12,400 tons from 1950 to 1953.

Therefore the Burdekin mills have been exceedingly well placed through the increase in peak production. There is nothing wrong with that. Every mill area has the right to send representatives before the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board to advocate an increase for its mills. Some take advantage of it; some do not. My own mill did not take advantage of it. In 1953 certain representations were made to the Board. It was said that they did not want any increase unless the existing growers wanted it themselves. I am pointing out the tremendous benefits brought about by the actions of a Labour Government—an increase of nearly 50,000 tons of sugar between 1950 and 1953.

**Mr. Aikens:** Why did they adopt that short-sighted policy in Tully?

**Mr. BYRNE:** I just explained that.

**Mr. Mann:** You were not here then. You were outside.

**Mr. Aikens:** I was here.

**Mr. BYRNE:** In the Burdekin area alone the amount involved is tremendous. The hon. member indicated that he thought there was no need for a Royal Commission. If a Royal Commission might indicate that the smaller growers should get a better allotment of sugar or cane than at present, that might be a reason why he does not support a Royal Commission.

**Mr. Coburn** interjected.

**Mr. BYRNE:** That has nothing to do with the question of a Royal Commission.

However, the Burdekin area has a very high c.c.s., the irrigation plant and equipment is highly efficient and the soil in the area is all that could be desired. Many other areas are not so well placed.

**Mr. Aikens:** Will you deal with the increase in mill peak to the C.S.R. mills?

**Mr. BYRNE:** I will come to that.

The mills themselves are not likely to suffer in this matter. They are able to look after themselves. They will have their peak quantity of sugar to crush. They will not suffer from automation; rather will it improve their position. They will not suffer from improved varieties or from a shorter crushing period. They will benefit from bulk handling. They are benefiting from the higher c.c.s., the shorter working week and the higher weekly output, which in some cases has nearly doubled over the last 10 years. Generally speaking, the operations of the mills have been very profitable. There is no doubt whatever that sugar-mills today are making huge profits. The co-operative mills distribute a very large amount of money back to their growers, in some areas as much as £250,000. Last year Mulgrave Mill paid even more than that back to its growers. The co-operative mills will still be able to pay a bonus to the growers. If both private and co-operative mills do well somebody will suffer. The one to suffer will be the small man who came into the industry later, in most instances a returned soldier on the absolute minimum. The private mills are going to get even greater profits. What do they do in return? Absolutely nothing.

**Mr. Aikens:** Your Government pandered to them.

**Mr. BYRNE:** No. They were able to say to the growers in the Tully area, "Here is an opportunity to acquire the mill" which they eventually did. Since then it has been able to distribute to growers as much as £250,000 by way of bonuses. Where do the profits of these private mills go? The C.S.R. mills make huge profits.

**Mr. Aikens:** Your Government gave Victoria mill an extra peak of 90,000 tons.

**Mr. BYRNE:** No. I would say that the contribution made by private mills to the progress and development of the sugar industry in the areas where they make their profits is virtually nil. The 'big man is all right; the small grower will be the one to suffer. There is good money to be made in the sugar industry for the man with the big assignment. Do not run away with the idea that he does not make big money.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** Generally speaking, are the assignments of the Tully farmers big enough?

**Mr. BYRNE:** The average runs about 53/40—some a little more. But I would say that in the Burdekin and other areas they have much bigger assignments than we have. Small growers, particularly those who came into the industry in 1952-1953 will suffer. They have not had the time or opportunity in my opinion to clear and cultivate the land and at the same time produce big crops. If the small grower is to suffer obviously we are not going to get the settlement we desire. We have always held that the sugar industry should belong to the small growers, not the very large growers. That was the idea running through the minds of the legislators about the time the Tully Mill was erected. We wanted the mill to be supplied by a considerable number of small growers not a few with very large assignments. They are in danger of losing their investment today because I do not think they can achieve much success with 600, 700 or 800 tons of cane. As a result, families will suffer and workers in other industries will suffer because the mills will crush their requirements in a shorter time. One mill in the Mackay district is about to close down, the cut will be a very small percentage of the gross area. The business people are affected very much. When our mills close there will be a tremendous number of workers unemployed, and for the life of me I cannot see where they will be employed. I know what the position was last year and I think it will be accentuated this year unless the hon. member for Chermside and his friends are able to bring about new industries to absorb the unemployed. I think that is something more than the hon. member can do. There are reports of financial strain all over the place. Anyone who is familiar with the sugar industry realises the position is not the same as it was years ago. In 1950 there was tremendous activity in the mills and in the fields and much equipment was required for various purposes. Many growers today have to cut back considerably on the quantity of cane they produce from the assigned area because the mills are limited to their peak allotments. To offset that, many growers are purchasing the adjoining farms or farms some distance away with the object of making themselves more secure. The small grower decides he cannot make a living and he gets out and sells his farm to another grower. There is nothing wrong with that because the bigger man is making his position more secure. Many of these small farmers are now seeking employment with shire councils or tendering for contract work which was usually done by other units in industry. There are also many small farmers who seek work elsewhere because they are not required to be on the farm all the year round. What is worrying me is what will happen to those people who have put all they possess into a home and are bringing up a young family unless they get continuous employment. If we can bring about an improvement to reach the standard that operated from 1950 to 1958, then all our difficulties will be solved.

When similar difficulties arose or were about to arise, a previous Labour Government got busy, and their efforts resulted in greatly increased activity in the industry. I refer to the period 1950 to 1958. That cannot be denied. Benefits were obtained by all cane-growing districts.

I suggest top-level representations for the purpose of allowing harvesting of cane from the net areas, and the disposal of sugar produced from that cane. A Labour Government achieved that result, and I suggest that it could be achieved at the present time if representations on the highest level were made for that purpose.

I am very concerned about the many northern people who were formerly able to obtain employment and who are now out of work and are coming to the south in order to get a better deal or more continuous employment. Many others are anxious to leave because they realise there are better opportunities in the south.

I have dealt solely with the sugar industry. In a later debate I shall deal with other matters. I urge the Government again to consider representations on the highest level to get a better deal for the sugar industry.

**Mr. GILMORE** (Tablelands) (5.17 p.m.): I congratulate the Treasurer on the Budget and his presentation of it. It is a very clear statement of facts. As hon. members opposite have not to date indulged in any worthwhile criticism, it would appear that it contains very little that does not meet with their approval. The Leader of the Opposition criticised it in very weak fashion, but he did not receive the full support of his colleagues.

An alteration of the formula for income tax reimbursements was long overdue. Credit for the change, in my view, should be given to the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. McEwen. As stated by the Treasurer, Queensland received £31,900,000 last year under the old formula and would have received £34,200,000 this year but for the alteration in it, whereas the allocation is £36,375,000, or a net gain of £2,175,000.

**Mr. Aikens:** Do you think that is enough?

**Mr. GILMORE:** It is at least a step in the right direction. Although Queensland may have received more in the long run if it had followed the example of South Australia, by applying to become a mendicant State, and by challenging the pay-roll tax, we may have fared worse in other ways.

One of the highlights of the Centenary Year Budget has been an increased allocation in all services, with economies effected where necessary. Some relief in the imposition of probate and succession duties has been given but I hope the day will come when this tax can be completely eliminated. To me it is nothing more or less than double taxation. Let me deal with it from the point of view of a young man starting off in life. Immediately he comes into the tax field he

meets his obligations by paying tax. He continues to do so whilst he is building up an estate. As soon as he passes on that estate which one would think would be tax free by the State becomes subject to probate and succession duty. That imposition is unfair to the person concerned and his beneficiaries. I think it would be better to pay a little more in income tax than impose probate and succession duty.

**Mr. Aikens:** You don't know the real reason for probate and succession duty; it is a capital tax.

**Mr. GILMORE:** It is double taxation.

It is pleasing to see that £1,193,000 has been provided for new university works and that there will be an increase of £227,749 in university endowment. Education in this country is more essential today than ever before and I am pleased to know that the Government approaches it from that angle, particularly so far as the University is concerned. I am also glad that there will be a 30 per cent. increase for the construction of technical colleges, State high and post-primary schools. Some £502,000 will be spent on the Barron River Hydro-electric extension project, supplying electricity by the most economic use of the water impounded in the Tinaroo Dam. With the same amount of water, the new powerhouse will provide nearly three times the amount of electricity generated now. With the extension of the channels the water will be diverted to its original use, the production of crops, and there will be a very little flow of the river available for the Barron Falls scheme. We look forward to the building of the Flaggy Creek Dam. The Koombooloomba Dam is fast nearing completion and it will not be long before we will have either to start another project or put a lot of the machinery in mothballs. I should hate to see all the highly-skilled personnel who worked on that project leave the North.

We have heard much about finance to strengthen the Mt. Isa railway line. Without anticipating anything, I hope at this late hour we will be able to get a loan for the job. The £3,300,000 now allocated for the purpose could with advantage be channelled into the building of the Flaggy Creek Dam.

From time to time visitors from overseas come to this country. They fly from Darwin to Sydney, and then they go to New Zealand. On their return to their own countries they write books telling the world all about Australia. Their example has been followed by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. He spent only a week-end in Mareeba, yet he comes back here posing as an authority on tobacco—growing and irrigation. He told us, for example, that the farmers in the area were dissatisfied with the water charges that have been imposed upon them.

I shall give hon. members a little of the history of irrigation in the Mareeba area. Before the Tinaroo Falls Dam was built, the level of the river fell so low at times

that the hydro-electricity board was forced to build a weir at the head of the falls. In about 1936 the farmers discovered that tobacco could be grown under irrigation. However, they were told by leading manufacturers that tobacco grown under irrigation was not acceptable. Later on, a few farmers on the Barron River and its tributaries started to irrigate and were told that their tobacco was acceptable to the Australian smoker.

The hydro-electricity board became aware of the danger presented by the use of water for irrigation, and no more pumping licences were issued. From 1936 until last year it was virtually impossible to get a licence to irrigate from the Barron River and its tributaries, as the water was required for the generation of electricity. The few favoured licensees were allowed to pump from the river free of charge, while those without licences were denied the use of the water.

The Tinaroo Falls Dam impounded ample water for all, but it was necessary to impose a charge to recoup some of the outlay. Much of the cost of the project will be financed by the taxpayers. No irrigation scheme in the world to my knowledge has been able completely to meet interest and redemption payments and maintenance charges, so that the taxpayer will be called upon to contribute towards those costs. When the scheme is finished, the charges could amount to about £1,000,000 a year. In order to find some way of getting a return, the Commission imposed a water charge on farmers irrigating from the various streams. The charge varies according to the extent to which the farmer is helped by the Tinaroo Falls Dam.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** More licences have been granted, too.

**Mr. GILMORE:** Seventy additional licences have been granted to use water from the Tinaroo Falls Dam. Farmers watering from other tributaries also have received licences.

The farmers realise that if they are to benefit from the water they should pay for it. The man who has never had a licence is very happy to pay. Of course, human nature being what it is, those who have been getting water for nothing are probably a little resentful of the charge, but I am sure they all realise its fairness. The channels should be and will be extended as fast as the money can be allocated. I realise the Treasurer's difficulty. After all, the Mt. Isa line was a heavy drain on the Treasury purse.

The charges in the Mareeba-Dimbulah area are £4 an acre-foot for water supplied from the channel, £4 an acre for water drawn from the stream and £1 an acre from Emerald Creek. That is not supplied from the Tinaroo Falls Dam and is in fact subject to shortages and rationing. I have seen the ration down to as low as five hours a week. £1 a week is contributed to pay for the officer who controls the flow of water to each farm. On uncommanded streams, like the Mary River, the charge is simply 6s. an acre, which assists in financing the whole scheme.

It might be as well to remind the Committee that the value of tobacco production before the Tinaroo Falls Dam was built was about £600,000. The dam so much inspired the confidence of the farmers that last year production increased to £2,300,000.

**Mr. Duggan:** What is the value of the land there per acre?

**Mr. GILMORE:** It varies.

**Mr. Duggan:** What is the average value?

**Mr. GILMORE:** I could not give that. It varies with the availability of water.

I am given to understand that some farms will be opened towards the end of this year and others will be opened next year.

**Mr. Davies:** Is this area in your electorate?

**Mr. GILMORE:** The Mareeba-Dimbulah area is in the Tablelands electorate. It is expected that the areas will be doubled within the next 12 months. Most growers are very happy because the Government have given them extra areas. It is well known that the previous Government wanted to restrict them to 40 acres a farm. It would be safe to assume that if the Labour Government had remained in office and if they had lived up to their true form, the water charges would have been even higher than they are now.

We heard in this Chamber an appeal for a cannery. We know the history of that. Had the cannery been commenced two years ago, it would have been just about in full production today and the growers would be facing disaster. I am given to understand that there is very little market in the South for the production and there is no overseas market for pineapples. Only recently growers have walked off farms in Southern Queensland where a cannery is established. Even the hon. member for Cook will admit now the mistake he made in advocating the establishment of a cannery in the North. I am sure the hon. member for Cairns, too, knows of the difficulties that the farmers would have been in.

**Mr. Wallace:** Don't bring me into it because I'm going to get stuck into you.

**Mr. GILMORE:** The hon. member must realise that these farmers would have been in difficulty today. If the hon. member cannot see that I do not know what he can see.

I should like to refer briefly to the new State movement. I strongly urge the new State movement to become more active than they have been lately. The records show that there were only 25,000 people in Queensland when it was decided to form the new State of Queensland. They looked north into a land where they could see no visible production but plenty of potential. They had the courage to commence a new State. This Parliamentary building is nearly 100 years old. They had the courage

and foresight to build a structure that even today is not too small to house members of Parliament. It is no wonder that the South does not want to lose the North. The North has carried the southern part of the State since it was first developed. Production per head of population in the North is double what it is in the South. The North is about to prosper even further. If ever the time were propitious for the North to form a new State it is now. The North is just starting to roll. Before the full benefit from the expanded operations of Mt. Isa Mines is felt, before Mary Kathleen and Weipa come into full production, before the increased production from the Tinaroo Falls dam scheme and other schemes is achieved, is the time for the North to get away from carrying the southern part of the State. That is part of our platform and policy. I hope that all North Queenslanders will realise that it is to the advantage of them all to have a new State of their own.

Let me say how pleased we are with the new main roads allocation. At last we are receiving our just dues. In the past the roads in the North were neglected. With the present Minister, spending what we are entitled to here, we see the Mulligan Highway, the Rex Highway, the Cook Highway and the Gillies Highway being improved. Even in Cairns, Suicide Bend, about which successive Labour Governments could do nothing, is a beautiful road.

I again commend the Treasurer for his Financial Statement.

**Mr. GRAHAM (Mackay) (5.40 p.m.):** The contributions to this debate have been most interesting. Indeed, it was enlightening to read the Financial Statement presented by the Treasurer. There are some interesting facts in the Financial Statement but I am at a loss to understand why the Treasurer covered the period from Federation to the present time. Of course, there were some interesting periods during that time. It would have been better if the Treasurer had outlined what the Government intend to do to overcome the problems of today. We know what happened in the pre-Federation period. We know the struggle that took place to uplift the working class and we appreciate the effect of two World Wars on the economy of the country, but what the people are most interested in, is not what happened in 1946 but what is happening at present and will happen in the future. It would also have been much more interesting if the Treasurer had given a more detailed account of what his Government intend to do if the people unfortunately return them to office again. We cannot shut our eyes to what is happening. We may think that there is prosperity and plenty. Some people are wealthy and some, including members of Parliament, are holding down comfortable jobs, but a section of the people is facing a time of trial and unless they are helped by the Government the future for them will

not be bright. There are definite signs of a depression and if the Treasurer had been more enlightening and a little more factual that would have been a benefit. During the last two years the basic wage has increased and is now higher than ever before. The cost of living is getting out of hand because of the actions of the Government; there is a growing pool of unemployment. The blame rests squarely on the shoulders of the Government. If the Government had shown wisdom, if they had been more concerned with the welfare of the ordinary man instead of the welfare of their wealthy class, perhaps the State would not be in the doldrums today. On reading again the Nicklin-Morris policy speech, I find this very interesting statement by the Premier—

“Labour’s 25 years of power in this State bred into its members a sense of impregnability and inevitable arrogance.” How truly that could be said of the present Government! And they have been in office only a few years.

Time and again Government members have displayed the very attitude of which Labour members were accused. Although Mr. Nicklin said it took 25 years to breed that attitude in supporters of the Labour Government, Government members have acquired it in two years, and therefore nothing too bad can be said of them.

The Premier’s policy speech contained this further passage—

“Entrenched behind unassailable barriers of blatantly rigged electoral boundaries backed by auxiliary forces of ghostly voters they became contemptuous of the will of the people and completely divorced from the environment from which they spring.”

In all truth that statement can be applied to the present Government. The Premier said that Labour members were “entrenched behind unassailable barriers of blatantly rigged electoral boundaries”, but what do we find? In view of the electoral reform shortly to be undertaken, surely we have justification for levelling the same charge against this Government!

**Mr. Windsor:** It will now be a fifty-fifty chance.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** The hon. member will not have an electorate to contest. Apparently the Government have taken only two years to accomplish something that they accused the Labour Party of doing during its 25 years of office.

The future of Queensland is not bright, despite the fact that Government members with an air of arrogance claim that Queensland will benefit from an alteration in the land laws, and the repeal of much beneficial legislation introduced by Labour Governments. In many ways the Government have acted to the detriment of the people.

Even the Treasurer admits that in recent months he has had to scrape the bottom of the barrel and unless the Menzies Government are more generous to Queensland, the position will become worse. In each of the last two years the deficit has been substantial, but now the Treasurer, by increasing certain taxes, hopes to have a surplus of £15,467. It is an easy matter to budget for a surplus if one is prepared to increase taxes in every available field. In 1956-1957 through ineptitude, or perhaps inexperience and inefficiency in Government the Treasurer produced a deficit of £1,514,000, and in 1957-1958 a further deficit of £1,190,000. I do not think that his prediction in regard to the present year will be achieved. It was only natural that the Government should consolidate their position in their first year of office. In their first year they were prepared to open the money bags and ingratiate themselves with the electors, but they finished with a deficit of over £1,500,000. In 1957-1958 their attitude was “We will make ourselves as sweet as possible with all sections of the community, we will not offend anyone.” But the next few months will tell a different story. In two years they have amassed a deficit of £3,000,000 but this year with increased taxation the Government hope to finish with the small surplus of £15,467.

On page 12 of the Financial Statement the Treasurer sets out sources of additional revenue which include £4,480,734 by way of tax reimbursement, £620,761 from the railways, £297,187 from stamp duty and £139,108 from mining. He hopes that if everything will come to pass, that nothing unforeseen will happen, that there will be no slump in the railways or in our general economy he will finish with a surplus of £15,000. I hope he does. Finance is the test of Government. It is easy to spend money, particularly when it is not your own. It is the function of the Government to see that the finances of the State are spent wisely and well. Consequently I hope that the Treasurer’s prediction will come true and that the people will be able to bear the burden of increased taxes. We have to carry an added financial obligation in respect of postal charges imposed by an unsympathetic Federal Government. There has been an outcry against them but I have not heard any great complaint from this Government.

As the Leader of the Opposition said, whatever the Menzies Government do will have the support and approbation of the Queensland Government because they are of the same political colour. The Queensland Government are prepared to overlook the sins of omission of the Federal Government.

**Mr. Windsor:** You do not believe that.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** I may be pardoned for saying it.

Speaking of seasonal unemployment in Queensland the hon. member for Chermiside referred to the formation of the advisory councils that the Minister for Labour and Industry had set up in Townsville, Cairns and Mackay. He complained that the Australian Labour Party was unsympathetic, that it would take no part in them, but I give the lie direct to that statement more particularly as it concerns the formation of the committee at Mackay. I do not know where the idea of committees originated but I read an article in a Commonwealth Government publication in which advisory councils was mentioned. I take it from that that the decision to set up Regional Advisory Councils is not the Minister's brain child. He has obviously got the idea from the Commonwealth and applied it to Queensland. I am not, of course, condemning in any way the setting up of Regional Advisory Councils. Although I do not think much good can result, some good may come of them.

Realising that there is a good deal of unemployment in the Mackay area, I asked the Minister to form a Regional Advisory Council there. That gives the lie direct to the statement of the hon. member for Chermiside that the A.L.P. has no interest in the Minister's scheme. I assert that I was responsible for having a Regional Advisory Council formed in Mackay. I attended both the initial meeting and the only other meeting that has been held. I listened with a great deal of interest to the Minister at the first meeting, and I was also very interested at the second meeting in hearing what was said by Mr. Young, Director of Secondary Industries, who was sent to Mackay by the Minister to discuss the problem of unemployment in that district.

It is quite wrong for the hon. member for Chermiside to imply that the A.L.P. is not interested in the formation of Regional Advisory Councils. Of course, we expect such statements from him. He is a typical Tory and hates anything that has to do with Labour. He is the most arrogant member on the other side of the Chamber, and no-one is surprised when he attacks the A.L.P.

I should like to know what purpose is to be achieved by the Regional Advisory Councils, other than to give advice to the Government.

**Mr. Aikens:** At least we can put the Government on the spot.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** The hon. member may think so, but the Government accept no responsibility for developing industry. The Minister has openly stated that although it is the duty of the Government to assist in the establishment of industry, they accept no responsibility for its establishment.

**Mr. Aikens:** We can pin them down as to why they will not assist.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** Maybe we can. I sincerely hope that when the occasion arises, we will be able to pin them down if they fail to carry out their responsibilities to assist in establishing industry.

In his opening remarks the Treasurer spoke about the affairs of Queensland in the early years of Federation.

**Mr. Aikens:** The hon. member for Chermiside has just come into the Chamber. Repeat what you said about him.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** He can read it in "Hansard". I have other matters to deal with.

From time to time—and this happened frequently during the war years—we hear a good deal about the tremendous responsibility that rests on Governments to develop the northern parts of Queensland, the most vulnerable part of Australia in the event of invasion.

It is well known that responsibility for the establishment of industry lies with private enterprise. I should like to read to the Committee an article on free enterprise published in the I.P.A. journal, "Facts". It says—

"We often hear the phrase 'free enterprise'.

"Most of us associate free enterprise with private ownership, private business, personal enterprise, as opposed to its opposite of government ownership and government direction and control.

"Certainly free enterprise means all these things; but it means something much more.

"It means a system in which every man should have the opportunity to make the most of himself.

"It means a system in which every man must be prepared to stand on his own two feet, to suffer the consequences of his mistakes as well as to reap the rewards of his successes.

"It leaves the individual free to make his own business decisions and choices; but the price of his freedom is responsibility. Under free enterprise the individual is free to seek personal profit; but he must also concern himself with the public good.

"The widest spread of individual opportunity; the incentive of rewards proportioned to contribution; the prospect of gain in return for efficient service; the penalty of loss for careless inefficiency; the freedom to plan and to execute, to act on one's own judgment; a high and continuing sense of responsibility for the national welfare and all that that implies; these are indispensable ingredients of TRUE free enterprise."

I stress the part that says free enterprise leaves the individual free to make his own business decisions and choices but the price of that freedom is responsibility. North Queensland has been developed to some extent; nevertheless it would seem that private

enterprise has failed in its responsibility there because so few industries have been established.

It will be remembered that the Minister for Labour and Industry said in a Press statement some time ago that 60 new industries worth £4,000,000 had begun operations in Queensland since the State Government launched its promotion campaign. Following that statement I asked the Minister a question about the registered names of the 60 companies associated with those industries, the type of industries, their location, listed capital, and so on, and he took umbrage at the question. He said it was couched in words that were provocative in that they appeared to cast doubts on the veracity of his statement and therefore did not warrant an answer. However, in his kindness he did answer it, he invited me to peruse a file of papers that he had with him giving the registered names of the various companies. It is remarkable to note that, while he said in his Press statement that 60 new companies worth £4,000,000 had commenced operations, he was able to list only 33 of them in his answer to me. Of those, only four were established in the North—Rural Oxygen and Fathom Fisheries Pty. Ltd. in Rockhampton, Nut Foods Pty. Ltd. in Townsville and North Queensland Potteries Ltd. in Mackay—all the others were in Brisbane. Had it not been for the fact that North Queensland Potteries Ltd. had some contracts for the manufacture of pipes in Mackay, that firm might never have been established there.

**Mr. Morris:** The raw material was a very important factor.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** They had the raw material there and fortunately they were able to capitalise on it and form a company to manufacture the goods in Mackay much more cheaply than in the South and rail them to Mackay. However, the fact remains that private enterprise has failed miserably in its obligation and responsibility to the North. Perhaps that is why the Minister sought the assistance of the many bodies in North Queensland that have representatives on the various advisory committees he has formed in an endeavour to encourage support for the establishment of industries in the North. He will realise the difficulty unless private enterprise is prepared to accept the full responsibility of establishing industries, irrespective of type, in the North. The Minister referred to this company in Mackay. The raw material was available in Mackay. They have established an industry that perhaps will become sufficiently large to supply the northern portion of the State with the article they manufacture. People in North Queensland are becoming more and more concerned at the lack of industry and the growing unemployment. I know that the Government are too. The slack seasons in the sugar industry are becoming longer; there are insufficient other industries to absorb the unemployed. The hon. member for Chermiside referred

to the increase in the number of people employed in Queensland. The increase is only to be expected in view of the State's increased population. But that is no answer to what is happening in the North. Consequently I say that the Government have to wake up to the fact that unless they make some investigations and do something about the problem we shall find the position worsening because of some factors which admittedly the Government are not responsible for but factors that create problems they could help to overcome. Many men born and bred in the North are leaving because of their failure to obtain permanent employment. The Government have fallen down on the job in connection with the sugar industry. Admittedly they have allowed the sugar industry to carry out its responsibilities. It is a highly organised industry which up to the present has operated very satisfactorily. The industry has had good seasons, it has been able to market its surplus sugar. The industry has been buoyant in the past but who can say it is today? It is facing a very serious problem.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** Would you break the International Agreement and let Cuba—

**Mr. GRAHAM:** I am not talking about breaking the International Agreement or anything else. I have not mentioned the International Agreement yet but I may later. The hon. member is a sugar man. He should not try to convince me that something could not have been done, that some investigation could not have been made to try to solve the problem.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** Our quota was not reduced this year or last year. We are selling our full quota every year.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** I grant the hon. member that. The editor of the Australian Sugar Journal says—

“As 1959 turns into its second half, and the crushing season in Australia opens one of the questions uppermost in the industry's mind is the price level that will apply to our 1959 season's exports, which, of course, depends largely upon the trend of market prices during the remainder of 1959 and into 1960.

“The world's raw sugar market is always prone to complex and perplexing behaviour, but seldom has it been so puzzling as in recent months.”

We know that the price of sugar has fallen.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** It has started to go up again.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** Unless something is done to stimulate the sugar industry it will remain in the doldrums. I wish to quote a statement by the editor of the Australian Sugar Journal which appeared in an article under the title, “The Problem Is

Not Ours Alone." The article says that the Minister, in reply to a question by Senator J. A. Cooke made the following Statement—

"I am not an authority on the International Sugar Agreement. I suppose I should be, but I am not. The International Sugar Agreement has, I understand, been one of the most successful of the international commodity arrangements. I ask the honourable Senator to put his question on notice."

The Federal Government have made no effort to help the industry in regard to the tremendous surplus of cane that was destroyed last year and this year.

**Mr. Byrne:** How many tons in Mackay?

**Mr. GRAHAM:** According to the newspaper over 750,000 tons of cane are to be destroyed in Mackay.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** Will be?

**Mr. GRAHAM:** It will be destroyed. According to the same authority, because of the high cost involved it is better to destroy the cane than carry it over for 12 months. Owing to the state of the market they will have to destroy the excess cane. Another factor that has to be considered is world sugar production.

The following appears in the Australian Sugar Journal:—

"The estimated total for 1957-1958 of 46 million tons is 23 per cent. higher than the production of 1951-1952, which itself included the record Cuban output of over seven million tons. If the estimate is compared with the year 1950-1951 the increase is 30 per cent. In the world beet industry the current total of 18.1 million tons is 37 per cent. higher than six years ago. If the figure is placed against the pre-war 1937-1938 crop the increase is 65 per cent."

If we hope to meet the position we have to accept the fact that the industry will reach a state of stagnation unless it is stimulated. There are ways and means of doing that.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** I should like to hear them. You cannot exploit other markets under the International Sugar Agreement.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** It is absolutely essential that we must restrict ourselves to the International Sugar Agreement, but is there no way of exploiting the Asian market? We have opposition from people in Australia in regard to trade with Red China. If the sugar is put on the market in Asian countries at a price acceptable to the Australian people it would be satisfactory. I do not think that the sugar producers would demand as much for their surplus production as they get for the Australian consumption. Would it not be better to harvest the cane which is now being destroyed and sell it at a lower figure? I believe that the sugar industry has taken the markets too easily. They had years of

prosperity and now they are facing up to some set-back and they do not know how to approach it. It is necessary for the State and Commonwealth Governments to come in on this matter. It is of vital importance to the people of Queensland that the industry be maintained, because there is a tremendous number of people dependent upon it. Automation has meant a reduction in the number of people working in the industry. The industry must be maintained. It supplies Australia's requirements at an economic price and many people depend on it for their livelihood. The Federal and State Governments must help to stimulate the industry. The industry requires labour, and people must be kept in the North to meet the industry's requirements. Despite the introduction of the mechanical harvester, a certain number of employees are required for cane harvesting, and the mills have to be manned. Migrants are brought to Queensland for the special purpose of working in the industry, yet we find that after a season they leave the North as quickly as possible as they realise there is no future for them in the area. That in itself would be bad enough, but the trend among those born in the North is the same. It should be a matter of concern to the Government. "The Courier-Mail" of 11 September, contained the information that in the past 12 months nearly half the migrants coming to Australia were absorbed by Victoria, an increase of 10 per cent. over the position in 1958. Why is it that they prefer Victoria? They find that in that State they have got greater opportunities and chances of employment than in Queensland. The trend in the North could be said of Queensland generally. "The Courier-Mail" on 26 July, 1958, in its leading article asked,

"Is something wrong with Queensland and Queenslanders? If statistics are correct, more people have left the State recently than have come here."

That was not a period of Labour administration; it was a period of Country-Liberal Party administration. How then can the Government say they have made a success of their task, or that they have the confidence of the people? That is the question asked by "The Courier-Mail," the mouth-piece of the Country-Liberal Party organisation. I repeat it, "Is there something wrong with Queensland and Queenslanders?" We can answer the question in the affirmative, "Yes, there is something wrong with Queensland. It is being badly governed." The affairs of the State are being mismanaged and the people are beginning to realise after two years of inefficient government that there is something wrong with the State. There is only one way in which they can rectify the position, and they will not have very long to wait, despite the efforts of the Nicklin-Morris Government to make their position safe by electoral manipulation. They eventually have to face their masters. The Government gained office on a minority vote of 43 per

cent. of the electors, and unless something of a sensational nature happens between now and next election they will not be the Government next year.

They are destroying any confidence that the people had in them. It is easy to understand why "The Courier-Mail" should ask—

"Is something wrong with Queensland and Queenslanders?"

"Alone among Australian States, we have reported a net loss in "migration" over a 12-month period.

"It is only two months since the Commonwealth Statistician first drew public attention to this alarming trend.

"He found that in 1957 only 396 more people came to Queensland than left it.

"This compared with a net gain to the State of 8,000 people the previous year and of 16,000 in 1950.

"The Premier (Mr. Nicklin) and his Cabinet, naturally reluctant to accept such a drop calmly, felt sure that the 1957 figure must be wrong."

The figure has not been proved to be wrong. Although that may be the Government's opinion, they have not proved it. Every Queensland must ask himself that. If the Government have done all that they think they have done, why do the people leave? It is not surprising that we get so few migrants to stop in Queensland. This newspaper article goes on to ask if jobs are harder to get here than anywhere else. Let the Government ask themselves that question. Yes, jobs are harder to get here than in the other States. I could quote a married man in Mackay who drew his last pay for 1958 in the first week of December and his first pay in 1959 in the last week of August. Do hon. members opposite say that everything in the garden is lovely? I can assure them that it is not so far as North Queensland is concerned.

Mr. Evans: It is not lovely over there.

Mr. GRAHAM: That is beside the point. The Minister cannot cloud the issue. It is because some of us are here and some are on the cross benches that Government members opposite are where they are.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. GRAHAM: Do not let the Government be too complacent about the matter and think that they are there for "keeps." This "Courier-Mail" article goes on to say—

"We know we have a good State, to put it mildly. We know all about its "potential."

"But "potential" becomes an empty word if it is just talked about. And population losses clearly don't help to translate it into achievement.

"Something is wrong, and it should be an urgent community task to find out what is."

What are the Government going to do? Are they going to allow the people of North Queensland to live on what they get from two or three months' work a year? Do they want them to have their standard of living reduced? The hon. member for Kurilpa said that the workers were getting too much money now and that the working man with a wife and three children was being overpaid. It is a different picture however when you find a man getting 22 weeks' work a year and drawing sustenance for the remaining 30 weeks. If the Government are not concerned about conditions in the North, the Opposition are. We look to the Government for a lead to solve the problem.

Although perhaps I should not touch on the matter, much has been said concerning the strengthening of the Mt. Isa railway line. It has received the greatest publicity and I know that the present Government would be happy when finality is reached. The Federal Government have a direct responsibility in financing the project. One wonders why in a prosperous country like Australia with its tremendous national income we should have to seek a miserly £30,000,000 outside Australia. The Federal Government are spending £200,000,000 on defence. I should like to quote a statement made at the Trades and Labour Council Convention on this phoney defence scheme.

Mr. Dewar interjected.

Mr. GRAHAM: The hon. member can read it in "The Courier-Mail". Much of the money that is spent in the name of defence is wasted.

The Queensland Government have been seriously hampered in their activities because of the failure of the Federal Government to provide finance for a very worthy project. I have here a booklet entitled "The Story of the Commonwealth Bank". It contains parts of the report of the Royal Commission on the Australian Monetary and Banking Systems, which was appointed by the Lyons Administration in 1935. Paragraph 504 of the report says—

"Because of this power, the Commonwealth Bank . . . can even make money available to Governments or to others free of any charge. (Interpreting this last and most vital statement, a letter from Mr. Justice Napier, Chairman of the Commission, received through Mr. Harris, of the Commonwealth Sub-Treasury, who was Secretary to the Commission, says, "This statement means that the Commonwealth Bank can make money available to Governments or to others on such terms as it chooses—even by way of a loan without interest, or even without requiring either interest or repayment of the principal.")"

Yet we find the Federal Government taking this Government for a ride and being responsible for the Treasurer's unsuccessful trip to Washington! Despite Mr. Menzies'

back-peddling and 2½ years of unsuccessful searching for finance, hon. members opposite still support their colleagues in the Federal Government! Condemnation of the Government in Canberra will have to come from the people of this State.

If the Mt. Isa line is not rebuilt it will have very serious repercussions, particularly in North Queensland. Again, if it is rebuilt with money provided by this Government the progress of North Queensland must be retarded because money that should be spent in other directions will have to be used on that project. If the Government will not face up to their responsibilities, God help North Queensland!

I revert now to the Treasurer's remarks about North Queensland's wonderful potential and its need for development. If we have to depend upon private enterprise to develop the North, we will not get very far. Private enterprise will establish itself only where it can exploit the people. In spite of North Queensland's unlimited potential for development, many people are beginning to wonder whether it is worth while staying there. They hold the opinion that they should go to fresh fields and pastures new where there is security for themselves and their children. Only recently the hon. member for Maryborough asked a question about the number of apprentices being signed on in Maryborough. I could very well ask the same question about Mackay, Sarina, Marian, Mirani, Finch Hatton, and other towns in the Mackay district. Many people will have to leave those places because their children cannot enter trades. Lads with excellent Junior passes cannot get jobs even in offices; they have to accept work in the mills and the field. North Queensland's progress is being seriously retarded, and the Government will have to do something about it. The Treasurer believes that with increased taxation he will show a surplus for 1959-1960, but I am afraid that unless something is done to stimulate industry in North Queensland he will finish the year with a deficit.

**Mr. ADAIR (Cook) (7.45 p.m.):** I always look forward to the opportunity to speak on the Financial Statement because it gives me time to raise matters of great importance to the large electorate I represent, which will be even larger with the redistribution.

This afternoon the hon. member for Sherwood gave a very interesting speech about the aboriginal missions. I represent most of those he mentioned. With transport supplied by the Minister for Health and Home Affairs he had the opportunity of visiting some that I have not been able to visit. Four mission stations I have not yet visited because to do so I would have to charter a plane, either the Bush Pilots or Mitchell Aircraft. I should very much like to go there to see the conditions for myself. I give much credit to those in charge of the missions for the good work they have done

over the years. They have brought the natives from the Myall stage up to the fourth grade standard of education. Many people condemn the mission workers and say they have not done a good job, but I believe that the Government will have to spend a great deal more money on those missions if the mainlanders and other coloured people are to be brought up to the standard required for assimilation. The missions cannot give them the necessary education and it is up to the Government to supply teachers. I know that the workers at Mapoon, Weipa, Aurukun, Mitchell River and Hope Vale are doing as well as they could be expected to in the circumstances with the lack of finance. Mapoon is a disgrace. The houses are falling down, the timber eaten by white-ants. The mission should never have been put there in the first place. There is not much possibility of growing anything there. I realise the difficulty in getting the mainlanders to shift to another area. In my young days I knocked around with a young aboriginal. I used to go fishing with him. If we ate a fowl or a fish in another tribe's area he would burn the bones to keep away the debbil-debbil, as he called it. We have to get them away from that sort of superstition. Some time ago at Thursday Island a case was brought by one native boy against another who had pointed the bone at him. The aboriginal who pointed the bone was fined £5 and goaled.

The hon. member for Sherwood made a good speech. He travelled through the area and must have taken an interest in the missions because of the good knowledge he displayed of what goes on.

Recently I went with a grazier to one of the best run missions in the area—Hope Vale Mission. He wanted to select two boys for droving. He spoke to at least 40 or 50 big strapping boys but not one of them wanted the job. I know why—they are too well treated there. We had to go back to the Cooktown reserve where he got two old men about 65 or 70 years of age. It is hard to judge their age and they do not know their own ages. I do not think that the aboriginals are even taught how to ride horses or to be stockmen. It is a natural instinct in them. The Government should do all in their power to help the missions by allocating more money or ensuring that the aboriginals are properly trained. The same grazier said afterwards, "If we could adopt young aboriginals from about 12 or 13 years of age and teach them riding and droving and everything else we would make good stockmen out of them. Union officials could come around to see that they are well cared for." But I do not think there is any possibility of that.

I compliment the Minister for Development, Mines and Main Roads on the work that is being carried out on the Mulligan Highway. A great deal of money is being spent on work which, when completed, will give the people in the area a very good road.

**Mr. Evans:** A prime mover has gone in now.

**Mr. ADAIR:** He will have difficulty until the road is properly formed. I cannot see him going over the range with this long semi-trailer. If he is able to transport cattle out of the area to the saleyards at Mareeba or Queerah it will mean much to the graziers on the Peninsula. Jack Guides has a transport which was started by Mr. Whitehouse who could not carry on. Mr. Whitehouse pioneered the transport from Cairns to Cooktown carrying benzine, oils and general goods. Now Mr. Guides has taken it over and is providing an excellent service with two lorries. I am afraid that unless he is issued with a transport licence other carriers will come in and spoil this excellent carrying service. I hope that the Minister will see that he is granted a transport licence.

The Government have allocated £187,196 for works in the Cooktown-Carbine section. That will mean much to that area and will help in the construction of a serviceable road for the cattle train that will be going through. The amount of £206,286 has been approved for the section between Desaillys Creek and Scrubby Creek.

**Mr. Evans:** We are looking after you.

**Mr. ADAIR:** I know you are. You have carried on work started by our Labour Government.

**Mr. Evans:** They did not do much.

**Mr. ADAIR:** Yes, they did.

**Mr. Evans:** Not since 1932.

**Mr. ADAIR:** A lot of money has been spent up to the present time. I give the Minister credit for spending money on that road too. I am here to represent those people in the far back area in order to see that they get what is due to them. I am pleased that the Government are carrying on with the construction of this road.

**Mr. Evans:** We are going further with it too.

**Mr. ADAIR:** You will probably go on to Laura.

**Mr. Evans:** Yes.

**Mr. Mann:** Right through to Weipa.

**Mr. ADAIR:** I do not think it will go that far. I regret that the Government have not seen fit to construct the road between Daintree and Bloomfield. I can see more merit in the construction of that road than in the construction of the road from Atherton to Herberton.

**Mr. Evans:** You know what we have done.

**Mr. ADAIR:** It will probably cost about the same. I know that surveyors have been sent through the coastal route, and I have

heard that the survey has not been successful. I do not know how true my information is, nevertheless I do know that a road could be constructed at low cost on the Daintree River inland to Bloomfield. I ask the Minister to do everything possible to have the road constructed. He has admitted that it would open up a large timber reserve, probably one of the best stands in the State in the Roaring Meg or Bloomfield area. The Roaring Meg Falls, apart from the Barron and Tully Falls, has great potential as a hydro-electric project.

**Mr. Evans:** There is much good agricultural country too.

**Mr. ADAIR:** Hundreds of square miles of it. The road would reduce the distance to Cooktown by 80 miles. The Mulligan Highway must be completed, but the other road is just as important. The residents of Cooktown would then be closer to Cairns and would have less difficulty in sending goods to Cairns.

**Mr. Harrison:** What length is it?

**Mr. ADAIR:** One hundred and fifty-four miles, but the section I am asking the Government to construct is only 18 miles in length.

Cooktown has a new lease of life. Much developmental work is to be undertaken in the near future. Cattle trains are due to commence very shortly. Two sawmills are starting. The one taken over from Bunning Bros. will commence operations within the next three or four months and will provide employment for at least 30 or 40 men.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** Taken over by Rankin Bros.?

**Mr. ADAIR:** Yes. They have a large block of timber in the Poverty area. I know the experience they possess. They are contractors and are operating now with TD24's on the Mulligan Highway. The construction of roads into the timber will not give them much trouble. The Government and particularly the Forestry Department should build roads into the area.

The two sawmills at Cooktown will create employment, and in addition mining has been commenced at Jubilee. Machinery worth up to £80,000 has been taken there for dredging and hydraulic sluicing of alluvial deposits.

The rail motor runs to Cooktown every week and on the Mulligan Highway dozens of tourist cars take visitors to Cooktown, whereas previously they could not get to the town. It now appears that Cooktown is going ahead.

**Mr. Ramsden:** You tell a different story from that of A.L.P. members.

**Mr. ADAIR:** I must be truthful. I entered Parliament for the purpose of seeking development in my area. I know the people up there have suffered long enough. The graziers live under harder conditions than probably any other graziers in the world.

I know that their expenses are probably the highest. While I am a member of this Chamber I will advocate the development of that area. If I have to give credit to anybody I give it to those people who are helping to develop the country.

Tobacco-growing has started on the Endeavour River. The hon. member for Tablelands knows Mr. Wood, a successful tobacco-grower in the Mareeba area, and if anybody can prove that tobacco can be grown in the Cooktown area it will be he. This season will determine whether it can be grown there. The people are waiting to see how Mr. Wood gets on and if he is successful there will be many growers in the Cooktown area next season.

I have mentioned to the Minister that his Government should construct a road from the Daintree to Bloomfield.

Mr. Evans: You know it is not a main road.

Mr. ADAIR: I know that. I do not think the road from Atherton to Herberton is a main road.

Mr. Evans: It is.

Mr. ADAIR: It is now.

Mr. Evans: It has been renamed.

Mr. ADAIR: We could rename other portions around that area.

Mr. Evans: The council would not do it.

Mr. Power: The Minister can direct them.

Mr. Evans: I do not direct. The hon. member has forgotten the £35,000 Federal grant.

Mr. ADAIR: You would not give it to the council when it was a council.

Mr. Evans: We gave it to the local authority.

Mr. ADAIR: There is an administrator there.

Mr. Evans: But there is still a local authority. You were in power before. You would not give it to them but we did.

Mr. ADAIR: I battled hard.

Mr. Evans: Your Government were no good.

Mr. ADAIR: I should like to see officers of the State Electricity Commission visit Roaring Meg Falls. There is as much water flowing over them as in the Barron River. I am sure if officers of the commission investigated possibilities at the falls they would find that they are worth harnessing. If they were harnessed a road, whether a main road or not, would be constructed.

Mr. Evans: You know that surveyors are in there. Immediately I get their report the Director of Development up there will make a further report to me. We cannot do more than that.

Mr. ADAIR: I hope the report is genuine. An excellent job is being carried out on the Cook Highway from Cairns to Mossman and the road is being widened. Workmen are now at White Cliffs. Just before I came down recently thousands of tons of earth fell down the mountainside. The Minister knows this is a difficult job. The white cliffs are so steep that it is obvious that the rock will fall. However, I am sure that the man in charge of the job, "Snowy" Baker, can handle the job and that road will be widened to the extent required. I hope that it will be widened right down to Buchan's Point.

Mr. Hiley: Will you agree that more is being done in Cook now than in the previous 20 years?

Mr. ADAIR: I would not say that, although I will admit that a good deal of work is being carried out. I am not trying to take any credit from the Government. On the contrary, I am very happy about the work that is being done in my electorate.

Nearly every speaker in the debate has referred to the sugar industry. Last year I think I was the only one who mentioned it, and I got a severe battering from Government members. While I realise that not very much can be done about the problem of over-production in the sugar industry, I point out that this year in the Mossman area alone about 32,000 tons of cane will be ploughed in.

I should like to read a letter that I received just before I came down to Brisbane. It was written on behalf of a Hambleton grower, and reads—

"From information received my client has an assignment of 100 acres gross and 75 acres net and to this assignment has been added a present cane farm peak of 1,150 tons.

"You will note that if he does grow his 75 acres of cane on the net assignment he will have only 15½ tons to the acre which is a very low tonnage and would make the farm economically impossible for the purpose of work.

"This is the first year that Mr. Davies has grown his net assignment and I feel that he has only got to that stage through hard and continuous work on the said farm as the mill cane inspector could easily verify to yourself.

"I do feel that some consideration should be given to this man for the purpose of increasing the present farm peak at present allocated to himself.

"As an example, he has now cut approximately 24 acres, and from this 24 acres 900 tons of cane have been removed."

That man grew 900 tons on 24 acres.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** Since that letter was written the farm peaks in that area have been increased.

**Mr. ADAIR:** That will not get him out of his trouble.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** His only redress is to get a majority of the farmers to agree to a new farm-peak scheme.

**Mr. ADAIR:** This man can take only 250 tons from the remaining 50 acres. If he had not put the whole area under cane, it would have been taken from him. Now that he has put it under cane, he is allowed only 15 tons an acre.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** He will not have too much cane left when the season ends.

**Mr. ADAIR:** He tells me that between 800 and 1,000 tons of cane will have to be ploughed in. He will have to sell his farm to one of the big farmers. That is happening throughout the area. All the small farmers will have to get out unless there is a re-shuffle of assignments. As the hon. member for Whitsunday said recently, there should be a full inquiry into cane assignments.

**Mr. Evans:** In the Mackay district they have had peaks for years and they are growing their peak on 34 per cent. of their net—34 per cent. of 75 per cent.

**Mr. ADAIR:** Mossman is the same way; but there is a lot of land in the Mackay area that I claim should not be growing cane. If cane goes down in price many of those farmers will have to walk off their land.

**Mr. Evans:** They get it crushed now, whatever they have, because they are getting their peaks off. They are growing higher tonnages.

**Mr. ADAIR:** Yes, but they have put extra ground under cane. They have to pay for grubbing and the cultivating of the land.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** They have not been forced to do that.

**Mr. ADAIR:** But if they do not put it under cane they will lose it.

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

**Mr. Hiley:** Not while a man is growing his peak.

**Mr. Evans:** It is put under in rotation.

**Mr. ADAIR:** The Mossman mill closes down early in November. It is one of the first mills to close down. With the 32,000 tons of cane that will have to be carted off or ploughed in, the mill will close down early next month. The mill workers and the cane cutters will lose money and revenue will be lost to the area.

**Mr. Wordsworth:** All those cutters will be able to get work in other areas.

**Mr. Byrne:** Bunkum!

**Mr. Wordsworth:** For your information, Innisfail is 100 men short. You should know that.

**Mr. Byrne:** That is only cane-cutters. Where are you going to place them?

**Mr. ADAIR:** Work has to be found. That is why I asked the Minister this morning whether the men who will be out of work in the Mossman and Port Douglas area will be given preference on road work on the Cook Highway. Even now, with the crushing on, the position in Mossman is serious. Unless some work is carried out there, many will be unemployed.

**Mr. Byrne:** That applies throughout the North.

**Mr. ADAIR:** But more so to Mossman because the mill finishes so early. Most other mills will go till nearly Christmas but Mossman will cease early in November. I ask the Minister to see to it that those men will have work somewhere in or near the area in the slack season.

**Mr. Evans:** I will answer that now. That job will be finished and preference will be given to men in that area.

**Mr. ADAIR:** I thank the Minister for that assurance.

I wish the Minister for Education were here. Mossman is a very progressive town, but the school is one of the oldest in the State. Already orders have gone out for its repair. The school committee and the people of Mossman generally believe, as I do, that a new modern school should be built to replace the old original building instead of simply renovating or repairing it. Mossman is an important town that is going to progress I hope that the Minister will give favourable consideration to the construction of a new school building. Port Douglas has one of the oldest schools in Queensland. It is the original school constructed when Port Douglas was the port for Cairns. The Minister has promised me a new school at the site of the court house or police station. I have heard nothing about it recently but I hope that he will carry out his promise.

I attended the official opening of the Tinaroo Falls dam. It was an impressive function. When the turncocks were turned it was very pleasing to see the water flowing through the channels. But credit should be given to the previous Government. The people in the area realise that the previous Government were responsible for the construction of the dam. Naturally the present Government take credit for work that is going on at the present time but most of the credit should go to the previous Ministers. Mr. Foley and Mr. Harold Collins. When the scheme is fully completed it will be of great advantage to tobacco farmers in the area. I do not altogether agree with the Minister

for Public Lands and Irrigation and the hon. member for Tablelands about the charges being imposed on the people along the Barron River. I know that the average person would say that £4 an acre foot is a fairly cheap rate.

**Mr. Muller:** That charge is in keeping with the charge applied throughout the State.

**Mr. ADAIR:** That is a different matter. I can understand the charge made to the farmers along the Walsh River where a dam was constructed to conserve the water. It is one matter to take the water out of the channels by gravity and another to pump it out of the Barron as these people have to do.

**Mr. Muller:** They have an assured water supply.

**Mr. ADAIR:** They have to go to a lot of expense to get it. They have to put engines in to pump the water onto their farms.

**Mr. Muller:** They would do that in any case.

**Mr. ADAIR:** Not only tobacco farmers but vegetables farmers in the area will find it a heavy charge to meet. I should like the Minister to consider whether the price could be reduced owing to the nature of the irrigation.

**Mr. Muller:** The charges cover only operation costs plus about 1 per cent.

**Mr. ADAIR:** I should like to know what the Cairns Regional Electricity Board gets their water for.

**Mr. Muller:** This water supply delays the need to build the Flaggy Creek dam for another couple of years. But for this water the Government would have been required to subsidise work on the Flaggy Creek dam as well.

**Mr. ADAIR:** I think the hon. member for Tablelands will support me when I say that an Eventide Home should be built at Mareeba. There are more aged people in Mareeba than in any town of equal size in Queensland. If an Eventide Home were built it would relieve the Cairns Base Hospital and other hospitals where many of these old people are housed at present. There is an Eventide Home at Charters Towers which caters for that territory and if one were built at Mareeba it would meet the needs of the Peninsula and surrounding areas.

**Dr. Noble:** The churches are building all the Eventide Homes now. They can build them for very little when they get our subsidy and the Commonwealth Government subsidy. The Presbyterian Church is interested in building. You might see those people.

**Mr. ADAIR:** I believe that a tin smelter should be built at Mareeba. Years ago there was a tin smelter at Irvinebank when there was more tin produced than is being produced now. The Far North produces 85 or 86 per cent. of the tin produced in Australia. It is a crying shame that the tin produced in this area should have to be sent down south to be smelted. Tin from the Tableland Tin Dredging Company and the Ravenshoe Tin Dredging Company and the tin produced in the different mining areas has to be shipped south. The miners are paid on the assay from the South. All that could be done in the area where the tin is mined. We need these secondary industries to provide employment for men in the area.

I asked a question this morning about the sinking of the barge in the Mourilyan Harbour. I hope the Minister will see that everything is done to facilitate the lifting of the barge. I went recently with the father of the boy who was drowned in the barge. Two divers were employed. These men risk their lives in the strong current, but there is very little they can do because there is no equipment for refloating the barge. I do not know what the Minister has in mind about the refloating of the barge. The parents of this lad are very concerned about it. I have a letter from them asking me again to make representations on this matter. The barge is lying on its side. When the tide is out, a person can walk on it. If the boat breaks up, the body of this boy will not be found. It would be quite easy at the moment to cut a hole in the side with an oxy-acetylene torch and remove the body.

As I have said, these two divers are risking their lives, although for what purpose I do not know. I spent 3½ hours there with Alan Healy, an excellent young diver. A few days before my visit he had seen the body through a porthole, but that was not possible at the time of my visit. I had to convey that information to the father. The parents are very concerned and want to know what is being done about removing the body. I ask the Minister to make further inquiries. Goodness knows how long it will be before the barge is refloated. It is in the middle of Mourilyan Harbour and until it is shifted the lighters cannot get into the port.

I asked a question some time ago about the iron ore deposit at Iron Range. My information is that the area is to be developed in the very near future.

**Mr. Evans:** I am going up there next week.

**Mr. ADAIR:** Iron ore will be sent to the South by ship through Portland Roads, a deep-water port. Thirty men are employed at the moment, and if the deposit is developed the district will benefit greatly.

I have asked the Minister on several occasions to place diamond drills at the disposal of miners in the Irvinebank, Herberton and Stanary Hill areas. The old

mines will produce again. The shafts in those mines are 200, 300, 400 and 500 feet deep, but miners with the capital have proved that by going into these mines and sinking further in old lodes they can get the mines back into production. Diamond drilling is the only method they can employ. The cost of dewatering mines, taking out the mullock and retrimbering the shafts, is too costly. With diamond drills the miners can bore below those lodes to determine if the lode is still available. The Government could be repaid at 10 per cent. as crushings go through the battery.

I was pleased to learn recently that the period of 15 years for a miner's phthisis pension is to be deleted from the Act. The information was given in reply to a question asked by a Government member. I raised the subject several times when the previous Government were in office and on other occasions since the present Government were elected. I understand that the matter is being considered now and that the 15-year period is going to be deleted.

**Mr. Evans:** I do not know where you got the information.

**Mr. ADAIR:** There are many miners in the Mareeba area who have been out of mining for several years and because of the time they have been out they are not eligible to draw the miners phthisis pension. If the time factor is deleted many who can prove they have worked in mines will be eligible for the pension. It is high time the Government met their responsibility of paying the men what they are entitled to.

A new pearl bed has been discovered off Darnley Island. The pearling industry round Thursday Island is as prosperous as it has ever been. The bulk of the shell coming from the new bed is first grade and a price of £900 a ton is being paid for it. That is probably the best price ever received for shell.

**Dr. Noble:** They are a bit selective in the type of shell they are buying.

**Mr. ADAIR:** A high proportion of the shell is first grade.

**Dr. Noble:** They will not take the poorer grade.

**Mr. ADAIR:** No. All the talk about Thursday Islanders not being efficient divers is hooey. They are better than the Japanese that were brought there. There are at least a dozen very competent divers.

**Dr. Noble:** The diving school is going well.

**Mr. ADAIR:** Yes, there are two instructors. Hundreds of Thursday Islanders are now employed in fettling gangs in the railway department and I was told by a foreman of a flying gang that they are good workers. They have proved they are quite capable of doing the work. They are not only working in the Cairns district but right through

Western Queensland. I saw them working in fettling gangs as I travelled down to Brisbane.

**Dr. Noble:** They are a wonderful race.

**Mr. ADAIR:** Yes. There is no comparison between the Thursday Islander and the aboriginal. The islanders are in a class of their own. I know that a lot of them will be assimilated with our people as time goes on, although we cannot possibly assimilate them in a body. The Department of Native Affairs will have to pick them out and as time goes on they will be absorbed into the white race.

**Dr. Noble:** They do not want to be assimilated. They are always happy to go back.

**Mr. ADAIR:** Two of the islanders are gangers in railway fettling gangs.

Men who work in flying gangs, fettling gangs, and bridge gangs in the Railway Department do very important work and should receive some consideration. I have been told that the cooking and eating utensils supplied to them are of very poor quality, they become rusty and useless after a very short time. They then have to replace them at their own expense. These men live and work under trying conditions, and the least the department can do is give them utensils made of enamel or aluminium, or some other metal that will not rust.

Another request I have to make is that men working in flying gangs and bridge gangs be provided with camping accommodation at their home stations, as was done until two or three years ago. For example, if their home station was at Cairns they could camp in the Cairns railway yards, which saved them the expense of having to board at a lodging place. I ask the Government to give this matter some consideration.

**Hon. E. EVANS** (Mirani—Minister for Development, Mines, and Main Roads) (8.43 p.m.): I had no intention of taking part in the debate until quite a few matters associated with some of this State's important industries were raised.

Firstly, I congratulate the Treasurer on the very fine Budget that he has brought down. Irrespective of politics, I am quite sure that every hon. member appreciates the Treasurer's ability and capacity for hard work.

I thank the hon. member for Cook for admitting that a good deal of work is being done in his area. The hon. member for Bremer, too, expressed his appreciation of what is being done by my department. This Government have proved by their legislation that they are acting in the interests of all the people, not only a section of them. What happened about the miners' pension? Did the Labour Government take any steps to protect the widows and give them the pension they were entitled to? No, but this

Government did. I introduced the Bill. Hon. members opposite gave me credit for it but they did not do it themselves.

Take what we did at Mt. Mulligan. Hon. members opposite could not believe that we would pay the men's wages and shift their homes.

Mr. Lloyd: You were morally obligated to.

Mr. EVANS: There was no moral obligation about it.

Mr. Lloyd: Of course there was.

Mr. EVANS: Even if there were a moral obligation the Labour Government must have known nothing about it when they closed Chillagoe down, so it is no use talking to me like that.

The Collinsville miners are to be congratulated. In the two years that I have been Minister there has been only one stop-work meeting in Collinsville. In the last financial year we had 30 men on non-productive work to bring the mechanisation back into operation because it had not worked; it was covered over. This financial year we will make a profit at the coke works and at Ogmoo and probably at Collinsville.

All I have heard from hon. members opposite in the debate so far has been calamity howling. "Why don't you do this?" they cry, and, "Why don't you do that?" "Why don't you sell sugar?" Where are we to sell it? But I will deal with that in a few minutes.

What has been done in the Cook electorate should have been done long ago. The people have been merely existing there without transport and we took immediate steps to remedy the position. We spent hundreds of thousands of pounds and we are going to spend more. Only last week, not only as an inducement for the people to stay there but also to attract more people there I made arrangements for a man with a prime mover and trailer to move his equipment out of Brisbane. It was 92 ft. long. He is going up there to bring the cattle in on wheels. Previously many cattle were lost and those that reached the markets had lost 100 to 150 lb. in weight.

Mr. Adair: They had to shoe some of them.

Mr. EVANS: Quite true, they had to shoe their bullocks. It is our duty to help those people. A purely city Government does not deserve to remain in office.

Facilities and amenities must be given to the people of the back-blocks. The Labour Government did nothing for them. They had not spent a pound on the Mulligan Highway since 1952. We have spent over £300,000 on it.

Mr. Dewar: They did not know where it was.

Mr. EVANS: Of course they did not. If amenities and facilities are not provided the drift to the city will continue. It is our job to arrest that drift so that people will return to the country to develop the great potential hon. members opposite talk so much about. All they were concerned about was where the people were, where the votes were. They know that is true.

Mr. Davies: Why did you take one representative away from the country and increase the number in the city?

Mr. EVANS: It is not enough merely to have representatives when they live in Brisbane. All the Labour representatives came down to live here as soon as they were elected. I know the hon. member for Cairns does not, but where did Labour's western representatives live and how often did their constituents see them? Their speeches are simply idle chatter. They are trying to bolster themselves up. They are trying to kid themselves that they did things they did not do. We have been here only two years but we are responsible for development throughout Queensland. Look what we are doing in the West. I have the Director of Development out there now investigating roads to bring the cattle in. The Australian Labour Party were in office for 40-odd years and what happened? Hon. members opposite know that cattle owners lost 200,000 head of cattle in the drought. Why did they lose them? Because they could not get them in as the cattle in the Channel Country will not travel by foot. We are investigating a route from Quilpie into the Channel Country.

Mr. Lloyd interjected.

Mr. EVANS: I know it hurts the hon. member because he is in Brisbane. He knows only Brisbane. I know it hurts! We are investigating a route from the Channel country into Winton and Dajarra. When these roads are built we will get help from the Federal Government.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. EVANS: Listen to them squealing! They cannot take it. We will get help and we will do the job. They were there for 40 years and did nothing. Where does the State's wealth come from? From the country areas, from primary industry. All hon. members think about, particularly the hon. member for Kedron, who made a week's tour—

Mr. Lloyd: Three weeks.

Mr. EVANS: I suppose he was in Cairns most of the time. Because he was in the North for a short time he comes back and tells us what we should do with our irrigation schemes. He tells us that we should not put a hydro scheme on the Barron River. Are we to waste that water or get cheap power? I immediately instructed my Commissioner to investigate. We are going to utilise the

enormous amount of water dammed there to give cheaper power to the people of North Queensland. Yet they tell us we are doing nothing in North Queensland.

**Mr. Lloyd:** You are taking over what we planned and started.

**Mr. EVANS:** The previous Government never planned anything. They made a mess of everything. They have no irrigation scheme in Queensland that is a success. Let one tell the Committee about some of them. They built the one at Marian. I asked the Government to build a 4-foot weir for which the sugar-mill would pay. They refused. They spent £220,000 on Marian Weir, but today there is not a pump lifting water out of it. Nobody wanted it. What did they do at Mundubbera? What did they do all over Queensland? They had no planning.

**Mr. Lloyd:** What about Tinaroo?

**Mr. EVANS:** I will tell the hon. member something about Tinaroo. We went on with Tinaroo, but it is going to cost £20,000 for every farm that gets water from that scheme.

**Mr. Lloyd:** What does it matter?

**Mr. EVANS:** What does it matter! The Deputy Leader of the Opposition says that economics do not matter.

The hon. member for Cook mentioned Iron Range. I am going to Iron Range and on Monday where B.H.P. are testing. I think the hon. member is on the right track. I think that they are going to do something. They asked me to come out and have a discussion with them. I will give the hon. member further information when I come back if he asks me a question. I think the House should know. There has been a lot of talk about why this and that has not been done at Weipa. Let me explain the position at Weipa. Weipa is an enormous project. When talking about Mt. Isa the hon. member for Mackay mentioned £22,000,000 or £29,000,000. Weipa is no £29,000,000 project; it will cost £45,000,000 to £50,000,000 to build the alumina plant.

**Mr. Wallace:** If it is built.

**Mr. EVANS:** It will be built.

**Opposition Members interjected.**

**Mr. EVANS:** Listen to the knockers. These people have spent much more than they committed themselves for. Hon. members opposite all approved of the agreement. They all approved of their commitments. The first thing they did was to bore a hole looking for oil which cost £100,000. They spent £500,000—and they are no friends of mine—before they asked for a franchise, and spent £75,000 boring at Blair Athol to test the coal deposits. When they build the alumina processing plant and a smelter the cost will be the best part of £200,000,000. The hon. member for Cairns would possibly make a mess of it. I do not blame those

people for wanting to be sure where they put their plant. £45,000,000 for a processing plant is a lot of money. I insisted on their having a paid-up capital of £2,000,000. I knew they could not handle it themselves; it was too big. They linked up with British Alumina and later they linked up with Tube Investments. Now they have linked up with Reynolds, the big American manufacturers of aluminium. They have financial strength. I met Mr. Mawby last week and they are discussing now with the Electrical consultants we brought out from England to advise us. They are discussing the matter of power for a smelter. They have a firm of Dutch engineers advising them on a harbour which will cost £4,000,000. Since the agreement was entered into, their annual expenditure has exceeded the amount laid down. They also have a drilling plant in Nebo today looking for more coal. Is that not progress? Would anybody say that Consolidated Zinc and those other companies would waste money? Of course they would not. They are making sure that the site they select for the alumina plant and the aluminium smelter will be in the correct place. The hon. member for Cairns said just now that they would never build it.

Let me get onto the sugar industry, about which there has been much idle, loose talk about what we should do, and why we should harvest all the crop, and stockpile it and look for more markets, and send the Premier and someone else overseas.

**Mr. Byrne:** A good idea.

**Mr. EVANS:** I thought the hon. member knew a bit more about it. Let me tell hon. members of the setup of the sugar industry. I know there is not one member opposite who understands it. We have the Australian market. The fruit processing people get their sugar for export processed fruit at world price and that allows them to compete on the world market. We are at a disadvantage because of our geographical position, being further away from the markets. The sugar used in fruit processing for export is counted in with Australian consumption. That is No. 1 market. No. 2 market is the negotiated price with the United Kingdom Government. We are paid for that 300,000 tons at cost of production in British Commonwealth countries plus a margin. That means that British Commonwealth countries who are signatories to the British Commonwealth Agreement put in their cost of production and these are pooled and the average cost of production is the price that Britain pays for it. Britain has honoured that agreement, although the Atlee Government did not. The Atlee Government pirated a deal with Cuba and were wiping us on the 300,000 tons, but when the Churchill Government were returned, at a time when only one agreement had been drawn up between Australia and the United Kingdom Government, Churchill saw the agreement and he honoured it, and it has been honoured ever since. I have

dealt with the Australian consumption plus the negotiated-price sugar sold to Great Britain. The balance is sold on the World market.

For years there was a plan called the Chadbourne plan. Chadbourne tried to control World market prices of sugar. His plan was a voluntary pool for sugar from various countries. Australia and other British Commonwealth countries could see the wisdom and common sense of the plan. Meetings were called of the Commonwealth sugar producing countries, and eventually we got other countries interested, and the International Agreement was drawn up. Then the war started, sugar prices soared and there was no need for control on the world market. To keep the agreement in existence, it was renewed annually by protocol. When the war ended it could be seen that the price of sugar would drop. The sugar producing countries met again and reformed the International Agreement. Some countries including Peru and Brazil refused to be parties to the agreement. Cuba agreed to it. Britain agreed to buy 1,000,000 tons of sugar that had been stock-piled in Cuba, and so Cuba agreed to be bound by the International Agreement.

To illustrate the detrimental effect if one country refuses to co-operate, I point out that in 1957 when Brazil was not a signatory to the agreement a small revolution took place in that country, the dictator wanted some money, and he put 100,000 tons of sugar on the world market. The price fell from about 5d. to about 3.5d. a lb.

We met again and quotas were established. Each signatory has a quota. Brazil became a signatory to the agreement and later ratified it, and so did Peru. Then there was a revolution in Cuba and we were afraid that that country would withdraw from the agreement, but Cuba again ratified the last agreement. We have quotas for sugar on the world market, and all signatories must stick to the agreement. It also covers stock-piling. Would any one with any sense who knew the set-up under the International Agreement, the greatest organisation of any primary industry in the world, argue in favour of stock-piling which would mean that Cuba would withdraw from the agreement?

**An A.L.P. Member:** One of your pals, the hon. member for Bundaberg, suggested it.

**Mr. EVANS:** I do not know that he was one of my pals. Anyone who suggested it is either ignorant or dishonest. The position is very clear. Peaks have been set, based on the Australian market, on the negotiated-price sugar, on our quota under the International Agreement and on the amount we can stock-pile.

**Mr. Byrne:** Ned Hanlon was able to tell us this in 1952.

**Mr. EVANS:** The hon. member does not know anything about it or he would not say what he has said. We have stock-piles. At

the end of the sugar season we will have a stock-pile of 135,000 tons. How much further can we go?

**Mr. Byrne** interjected.

**Mr. EVANS:** The hon. member has never grown any sugar. He does not know anything about it. That is why he has so much to say about it. The hon. member for Mourilyan does not know anything about it. I am telling him the facts. If we exceed our stockpile and break the international agreement, where will we be? The International Council is controlling the world price of sugar and it has set a minimum and a maximum price. The minimum is three cents and the maximum four cents, and today the world price in 3.27 cents.

**Mr. Davies:** Nobody suggested that the Sugar Agreement be broken.

**Mr. EVANS:** It was suggested. Hon. members opposite have said that we should break it and have asked why we do not sell to Ceylon, China, and Switzerland. We are a party to an agreement and if we sell outside of the agreement we are breaking it. If there is not control and Cuba puts surplus sugar on the world market, where will we be? In 1929 the world price fell to £5 and £6 a ton. We do not want that to happen today. There is nothing new in a system of peaks and controls because we have had them since 1929. There were certain shortfalls, which allowed us to harvest over our peaks. No primary industry in the world has the same organisation controlling it as the sugar industry. All the countries linked up in the agreement are producing their quotas.

**Mr. Mann:** Answer this question: don't you think it is criminal to plough back into the ground cane that has been produced?

**Mr. EVANS:** The hon. member uses the word "criminal". We in the industry, myself included, have spent money and done everything possible to make the industry efficient. We put in bulk installation methods to keep pace with the economy of the industry and we have spent hundreds of thousands of pounds on research. We have research being conducted by the mills and the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations. The Leader of the Opposition knows that research is the greatest thing any industry could have. We propagate our own cane.

**Mr. Lloyd:** Who is the "we"?

**Mr. EVANS:** The sugar industry; I am a member of the sugar industry. I was chairman of one of the biggest sugar mills in Queensland for 23 years, and I would be holding a reasonably prominent position in the industry.

**Mr. Mann:** Don't you think it is sheer waste to plough cane back into the ground?

**Mr. EVANS:** The hon. member is trying to make me say that we should harvest and crush it. Suppose he is right that it is

a waste. Suppose we agree on that. First of all, to harvest enough cane to make a ton of sugar would cost £10. There would be the freight and the cost of cutting. I know what I am talking about. To manufacture a ton of sugar would cost another £10, making £20 all told. We are going to leave 750,000 tons in Mackay. If you divide that amount by 8—it will be less with us because we have sweeter cane—there would be 90,000 tons of sugar at £20 a ton. You could not sell it; there is no market for it, and there is nowhere to store it. You would have to find that money to pay the cane-grower so that he could pay the cutters and you would have to pay the miller so that he could pay wages. God help Queensland if the hon. member for Brisbane got his way!

**Mr. Mann:** It could be subsidised by the Commonwealth Government, and you know it!

**Mr. EVANS:** Even if it were, where could we sell? Once you enter into an agreement with the main sugar-producing countries of the world, you must stick to it. Only a certain amount of sugar could be stockpiled. Hon. members opposite do not seem to realise that. I think they would be even silly enough to break the International Sugar Agreement if they had the chance.

**Mr. Mann:** Nobody suggested breaking it.

**Mr. EVANS:** Even if the Commonwealth Government gave us a subsidy, what would we do with the sugar? Under the terms of the Agreement we cannot stockpile more than a certain amount. Even if hon. members opposite would break the Agreement, I can assure them that we will not.

This Government are guided largely in this matter by the leaders of the sugar industry. Last year, on their recommendation, as well as that of the Sugar Board, it was decided how much cane over the peak would be crushed.

**Mr. Lloyd:** It was the C.S.R. Company.

**Mr. EVANS:** It was not the C.S.R. Company. Twenty leaders of the sugar industry representing the Australian Sugar Producers' Association and the Queensland Cane Growers' Association recommended by a majority of 18 to 2 what should be done. Would hon. members opposite have accepted their recommendations? Most of those men have their life savings in the sugar industry and we decided to accept their recommendation. The same conditions will apply this year. Those men—not Peter Byrne, or anybody else who has nothing to lose—will be making their recommendation to us. There could be something wrong with the redistribution of peaks. I am not saying that there is, but there could be. However, you cannot get away from the three markets that I have mentioned, that is, Australian consumption, negotiated price, and the quotas under the International Sugar Agreement.

**Mr. Byrne:** You are prepared to leave it there.

**Mr. EVANS:** What would the hon. member do?

**Mr. Byrne:** I would get the Premier to go to the Prime Minister in an effort to get a better deal for the sugar industry without interfering with the Agreement. You are doing nothing.

**Mr. EVANS:** It is a good job for the industry that the hon. member's party are not the Government. The Prime Minister has nothing to do with the International Sugar Agreement. If we broke away from it, it would be fatal to the industry. What is happening today in the butter industry, where there is no control? Butter is being sold at 3s. 3½d. a lb. while the cost of production is about 4s. 6d. a lb. It is an Australian-wide cost of production, and Victoria is producing it 10d. a lb. cheaper than Queensland. The cheaper Victoria produces it the poorer becomes the Queensland butter man, and the higher his cost of production the richer Victoria becomes. Do hon. members opposite want that to happen? If they were running the sugar industry that is precisely what would happen. No-one in Queensland wants to harvest the sugar more than I do, but, if it is harvested, where can it be sold? Let the hon. member for Mackay tell me where it can be sold. Can it be sold to Ceylon? Can it be sold to Japan? Of course it cannot.

**Mr. Wallace:** It is up to the Government to find a market.

**Mr. EVANS:** The Government cannot sell it because there is no market for it.

**Mr. Davies:** We know all of that about the International Sugar Agreement—we know what you have been telling us—but last year a certain quantity of cane was left in the field and this year there is far more; next year there will be far more still, and nobody seems to be tackling the problem.

**Mr. EVANS:** Peaks have been introduced and we have agreed unanimously throughout the industry for years that peaks are necessary. We have mill peaks.

**Mr. Davies:** We know that.

**Mr. EVANS:** The hon. member does not know it at all, or, if he does, he is not very intelligent. The mills are given a peak. Each of the 32 mills is told what it can crush. That is distributed among the farmers. If the farmer grows more, what are you to do about it? Are you to wreck the sugar industry because he grows more than his peak? I would like to harvest it all.

**Mr. Davies:** You are not going to face up to the situation and tell the industry what should be done.

**Mr. EVANS:** The hon. member knows so little about it; he is so ignorant of the facts.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. EVANS:** Mr. Nicholson, have I got the floor?

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Nicholson): Order!

**Mr. EVANS:** For 32 years conference after conference has agreed on peaks and carried resolutions unanimously. The peaks have been distributed. Now, because we have been so efficient and have decided to run a risk, to gamble, and the gods have been good to us and the weather has been good and we have grown more than we can sell, hon. members opposite want us to harvest the full crop and ruin the world organisation. If you entered into an agreement with other countries and those countries kept their part of it, would you not have to keep yours, or would you break it?

**Mr. Davies:** We advocate keeping the agreement.

**Mr. EVANS:** Hon. members opposite do not advocate any such thing, Mr. Nicholson. They are telling us we should break the agreement. They are the type of people who break agreements. We on this side are guided by the industry. If the industry is prepared to take a risk, if its leaders are willing to take a risk—and they are selected from all over Queensland—and if they are prepared to recommend to the Government that we harvest more than the peaks, I can assure you the Government will be guided by them. Silly, loose talk has been going on in the Chamber today because we have grown something we cannot sell. It is unfortunate, but it has happened. Because we have had a good season, are we going to wreck the organisation we have built up over the years? Are we going to wreck an agreement that is controlling the world price of sugar? Are we going to wreck the sugar industry?

**Mr. Jesson:** Nobody is suggesting it.

**Mr. EVANS:** Hon. members opposite are suggesting it. My idea, and the idea of the sugar industry, is that we should stand by the agreement. I repeat that if the leaders of the sugar industry say to us that they want to harvest more than the peaks we are prepared to give their recommendations every consideration.

I thought it pertinent to make those observations because I could see that hon. members opposite knew nothing about the subject. They made statements that indicated their lack of knowledge and they advocated a certain course just to get political publicity or political kudos. They must face up to the facts. If they were the Federal Government—I hold no brief for them—would they be a party to breaking a stockpile agreement

that they knew was entered into? That is the position. That is the reason I rose tonight. I have been a sugar-grower almost all my life.

**Mr. Mann:** Do you mean to say that the Commonwealth Government could not find any other way than ploughing £6,000,000 back?

**Mr. EVANS:** Can the hon. member tell me how he could sell it?

**Mr. Jesson:** Have you asked the Commonwealth Government?

**Mr. EVANS:** The hon. member should not be so childish.

**Mr. Jesson:** Never mind about being childish, I am asking you.

**Mr. EVANS:** Would the hon. member ask the Commonwealth Government to finance something he could not sell?

**Mr. Jesson:** Yes.

**Mr. EVANS:** I know he would. The position is so clear. The industry made all these rules and regulations. The industry fixed the mill peaks and farm peaks. They all agreed with the quotas the International Agreement gave us. They agreed with everything that has been done. They knew at conference after conference. They ratified all these things. We have gambled—and I was one who gambled. Today there is no market for the sugar. We are a party to an agreement under which we cannot stockpile any more than we have at the present time. If the hon. members for Mourilyan and Hinchinbrook would break that agreement and wreck that organisation—

**Mr. JESSON:** I rise to a point of order. I cannot let the Minister get away with that as I represent a sugar area. I make it very clear that I have no intention nor has it ever entered my mind to repudiate or do anything about the International Agreement. I do not like the Minister to keep on reiterating that expression so that it is recorded in "Hansard" and in a few months' time he can say that Jesson advocated so-and-so. I object to that and ask for the remark to be withdrawn.

**Mr. BYRNE:** I rise to a point of order. I never advocated in my speech this afternoon or at any time the breaking of the International Agreement.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN:** Order! We will have one point of order at a time.

**Mr. EVANS:** My statement was very clear. I said, "If the hon. member for Hinchinbrook would agree . . ." That was my statement.

**Mr. Mann:** Are you accepting his denial?

**Mr. EVANS:** No, I am not. I said, "If the hon. member for Hinchinbrook is prepared to advocate a stockpile which would break the International Agreement then he is not looking after the interests of the sugar industry."

Mr. JESSON: I rise to a further point of order. I never said anything about a stock-pile. All I interjected was, "Why don't they get off their backsides and try to sell it somewhere else or do something with the surplus?"

Mr. Dewar: You need not be disgusting.

Mr. Jesson: You would not know.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. EVANS: Let me reply to what the hon. member for Hinchinbrook said. He said, "Why don't we get off our backsides——"

Mr. JESSON: That is not the point. I object to his saying that I would destroy the agreement.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: I ask the hon. gentleman to accept the hon. member's denial.

Mr. EVANS: If he wants me to accept his denial! He wants to be clear on what he says. He says we should go out and look for a market. I have told the Committee a dozen times tonight that we have agreed with the International Council that they sell all our sugar on the world market over and above the two markets I have spoken about. We have agreed to that. Would the hon. member for Hinchinbrook want us to break that agreement?

Mr. Jesson: I never said that.

Mr. EVANS: It is useless talking. I hope I have cleared it up in the minds of the intelligent hon. members that we stand a party to an agreement. We are carrying out that agreement. We are guided by the sugar industry, and if the sugar industry makes representations to us—not the hon. member for Mourilyan; we would never have him in this; we know how he talks—and asked us to do certain things and they are satisfied to carry the result, we will give consideration to the matter. If we did stock-pile and if we harvested the 90,000 tons in Mackay, and we could finance it—which we could not—and then went to the Burdekin and did the same and if the other mills did the same you would not have a crushing at all next year. Do you want that to happen? Of course you do not. The hon. member for Maryborough does not. He can see the point, and so can the hon. member for Brisbane. You have your quotas and if you divert from them you are repudiating the agreement. I regret that I had to get up and talk. I suppose I should have given most of the members of the Opposition credit for having more intelligence. I have explained the actual position. The position is that we have overgrown the peak.

Mr. Graham: You are in a jam.

Mr. EVANS: Of course we are in a jam.

Mr. Graham: For years you did nothing.

Mr. Byrne: What about the 731,000 tons at Mackay that has to be ploughed in?

Mr. EVANS: Have I the floor?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Mourilyan was making a pertinent interjection.

Mr. Byrne: What about the 731,000 tons at Mackay that has to be ploughed in?

Mr. EVANS: It has to be ploughed in at Mackay as well as everywhere else. Where are you going to sell it. Will you tell me where we will sell it?

Mr. Davies: You must not go on drifting and drifting. You have been there three years.

Mr. EVANS: The hon. member says it must not go on. Would the hon. member agree that the industry is led by stable, capable men, but they have farm peaks. If you cannot sell it and you have an agreement under which you can only stock-pile a certain amount—what are you going to do with it?

Mr. Mann: The Commonwealth Government should not let it go back to the ground.

Mr. EVANS: It must go back. I think I have cleared the matter up. I am pleased now that I have spoken. I can see that there are a few hon. members there who are trying to make political capital out of the unfortunate position that has been created. I have every faith in the sugar industry and its leaders. The leaders will tell you what they are doing today is in the best interests of the sugar industry.

Mr. Graham: The big grower.

Mr. EVANS: Not the big grower—the rank-and-file grower.

Mr. Graham: It has been in the doldrums for two years.

Mr. EVANS: The hon. member has not one on his side who is prepared to risk his earnings in it, but we have them on this side. The people on this side and in Mackay and all the districts will tell you that they have gambled and got away with it. They have been able to harvest over their peaks this year. I had a Bundaberg chap in today. They were in an awful position in Bundaberg. Anderson and Scotney said to me "What can we do about it? We have had peaks for 30 years and controls for 30 years. Whether the controls are right or wrong you have to stick to your agreement." I know that the hon. member for Mourilyan would not stick to an agreement, but the people in the industry will. Agreements are either carried out or broken. That is the position.

Mr. BYRNE: I rise to a point of order. The Minister has said that I would not stick to an agreement. That is offensive to me. I could reply to him in a similar manner. I assure the hon. gentleman that any agreement I make I keep.

**Mr. EVANS:** Under Standing Orders I have to accept the hon. member's denial, but I must say that his attitude today and tonight, although he represents a sugar district, indicates he is prepared to break an agreement that leaders of the sugar industry have entered into.

**Mr. BYRNE:** I rise to a point of order. The Minister has said I am prepared to break an agreement. I said today as I have said at all times that I am not prepared to break the agreement. I made that manifestly clear. I mentioned it a dozen times. The statement should be withdrawn. The Minister should have more sense than to make it.

**Mr. EVANS:** I have to accept the hon. member's undertaking that he would not break the agreement, but I have to be guided by what he said. I have said tonight, and hon. members know it is true, that under the agreement we can stockpile only a certain tonnage. The hon. member for Mourilyan has stated that we should go beyond that, and the hon. member for Brisbane made the same statement. They must believe that the agreement should be broken.

Hon. members opposite are prepared to take advantage of the unfortunate position to curry favour with people who have grown more cane than can be harvested. No-one is more sympathetic than I am or more sympathetic than leaders of the industry. The cane has been grown; we have a market for 500,000 tons of sugar in Australia, 300,000 tons in England, and over 400,000 tons on the world market. No-one has told me where we can sell any more. We have agreed to allow the International Council to handle the marketing of our world sugar. It has investigated all possible markets in the world, in countries with the capacity to buy sugar. The 150,000 tons bought by Russia has been included. That has been of some help in the quotas.

Yet we have a body of hon. members opposite who contend that the cane should be harvested. Half of the mills are co-operatives. Where would they find the money to harvest the cane? The position next year would be ten times worse, even if the sugar could be stockpiled. I do not subscribe to that theory.

**Mr. Mann:** You admit that you have failed to deal with the situation.

**Mr. EVANS:** There is no way of dealing with it. The work cannot be financed. I was chairman of a mill for many years, and I know that not a bank in Queensland would advance money for harvesting of cane if the sugar could not be sold. Where would the mills get the money? When cane is harvested and there is no market for the sugar, no payment is made by the Sugar Board. The money would have to be found, and how could it be found?

**Mr. Mann:** The Commonwealth Government should subsidise it.

**Mr. EVANS:** The hon. member knows they would not do that.

I am pleased I have explained the position. I notice that the Leader of the Opposition has been very silent. He has enough intelligence to understand the actual position. He was a Cabinet Minister in the previous Government and understands the industry's position. It is unfortunate, but there is no market for the sugar. In those circumstances we are reluctantly compelled to tell the growers that the cane cannot be harvested as there is no market for the sugar. We could not finance the milling and we could not pay for the cutting. That is where the matter finishes. There is no alternative.

**Mr. WALLACE (Cairns)** (9.36 p.m.): I have listened attentively to the debate and I was amazed at some of the extravagant statements by members of the Government Party, particularly the statements of the Minister for Development, Mines, and Main Roads. He was completely off the beam when he attacked members on this side of the Chamber on statements that he said we made.

I was particularly interested in some of the rather extravagant statements of hon. members opposed to the Australian Labour Party who profess to be Labour people and friends of the worker. The only interest some of them have in the welfare of the people of this State is the complete destruction of the Australian Labour Party. I belong to the A.L.P. and I am proud of it. We are charged with being Communists or being associated with Communists, but people who make such statements do so only because they have no effective reply to our arguments. They merely attack us as being Communists or friends of the Communists. The members of the A.L.P. in this Chamber are as honourable as anybody else inside or outside it, and I regard such statements as a personal attack on the Party, and to attack my Party is to attack me. Those who attack my Party can expect a very forcible reply.

We have been accused of failing to do many things, but the Australian Labour Party came into office after 50 years of Tory government in this State. We were first returned in 1915, and it cannot be denied that before that the workers of the State, like the workers of older countries were subject to the will and whim of the employer. But after the Labour Government came into power in 1915 all was changed and the worker had the right to talk to his employer and demand certain improvements. After years of Labour Government from 1915 to 1929 Queensland was considered to be the best State in the Commonwealth. No-one can deny that. Then, unfortunately, there were three years under the forebears of hon. members opposite, and again

conditions changed for the worker because of maladministration by the anti-Labour Government. Then an A.L.P. Government were returned again, and were defeated a few years ago, but not because of actions by any A.L.P. hon. member on this side of the Chamber. It was only by accident that hon. members opposite were returned as the Government. When the A.L.P. were defeated, nobody could point the finger of scorn at their administration of the State.

**Mr. Graham:** Especially in the sugar industry.

**Mr. WALLACE:** I intend to deal with the sugar industry in a few minutes.

Many statements derogatory of the A.L.P. have been made by hon. members opposite. However, if we can judge from a statement by the the hon. member for Kurilpa on Tuesday last, there is a strong indication that the conditions that existed during the days of the Moore Government will return to Queensland. The hon. member expressed the opinion that the Government could legislate for the lengthening of trading hours. That statement links up with the one that he made recently that the workers of Queensland were receiving more in wages than was sufficient to clothe, feed, and educate their children. He said that they had enough left to buy amenities that are not essential for the ordinary working man. Those statements are a clear indication to the people of what is likely to happen if the Government are returned to power again. They can expect a severe drubbing.

**Mr. Tooth:** You are romancing.

**Mr. WALLACE:** The hon. member would not know what I am talking about. I have been through the mill more than once, and it is my earnest desire that the people of Queensland shall never suffer as I did. The Minister for Development, Mines, and Main Roads has been through similar experiences, and I am really surprised at his attack on members of the A.L.P.

Let me deal now with the sugar industry. Despite the Minister's statements, no-one on this side of the Committee has suggested that the International Sugar Agreement should be broken.

**Mr. Evans:** Did they suggest stockpiling?

**Mr. WALLACE:** They suggested none of those things.

I am sure that most hon. members opposite will agree that the hon. member for Mourilyan is a conscientious and honourable man. Whatever he says comes from his heart and is in the interests of the people he represents. Anyone associated with the sugar industry knows that most of the sugar-cane that was planted over the peak was grown more or less without permission. But it should not be destroyed if some use can be found for it. The hon. member for

Mourilyan suggested that the Premier might go overseas in an effort to save some of the cane that will otherwise have to be ploughed in.

The Minister was completely off the beam when he attacked members of the A.L.P. His attack will do him no good, either here or outside. I recognise that the Minister is a good worker and a good sugar man, but I do not recognise the right of anybody to attack hon. members of this party or any other party as he has done tonight when they have not made the statements he attributed to them.

**Mr. Evans:** Just answer this: How could the Premier sell it overseas?

**Mr. WALLACE:** I do not want to talk to the hon. gentleman any more.

As a North Queenslander I am very much concerned about what is going on in North Queensland and about what is likely to go on in the future. It was purely in that light that some hon. members on this side spoke on the lines they did this afternoon. The sugar industry, as the Minister has rightly said, is probably the most highly organised industry in this Commonwealth or indeed in any other part of the world.

**Mr. Evans:** In the world.

**Mr. WALLACE:** I believe that is so. It is true, of course, and cannot be denied, although the Minister and others have tried to deny it, that Australian Labour Party Governments in this Chamber have fostered the sugar industry from its infancy and they should be given credit for what they have done. Instead the Minister has sought to take credit away from them.

**Mr. Evans:** Why are you trying to destroy it?

**Mr. WALLACE:** I ask the Minister to wait a minute and not be so adamant in his suggestion that hon. members on this side are trying to destroy anything, or put words into anybody's mouth. He accepted the denial of two of my colleagues about statements he suggested they had made.

**Mr. Evans:** Under the Standing Orders I have to.

**Mr. WALLACE:** None of our people has such things in mind.

The Minister spoke of the right of people in the sugar industry to live. I remind him that sugar producers are not the only people to be considered. The whole population of North Queensland is affected by the success or failure of the sugar industry because it is the North's main industry. As a matter of fact, Queensland's economy is based largely on it. If the sugar industry fails, the economy of the State cannot be successful.

Mechanisation has already reached the industry. It would be futile for anybody in the Chamber or outside to suggest that it

is only round the corner. It is here and it has taken over almost completely. With cane-cutting machinery almost perfected, I predict that within seven to 10 years there will be no more cane-cutters in the industry.

**Mr. Evans:** You cannot stop mechanisation.

**Mr. WALLACE:** We know that. We are not suggesting otherwise. I am glad the Minister recognises it. But what does mechanisation, or automation, mean to the industry? For a start it means that every cane-cutter will be out of work. Many mill workers will be displaced. Eventually the industry will be wholly mechanised from the planting of the cane to the loading of the sugar into the ship's hold. No doubt engineers and scientists will develop the mechanisation of the mills so that it will be almost as effective there as in bulk loading and all the operations will be carried out with very few men. Moreover, at every port with bulk loading of sugar almost every wharf labourer will be out of work. With ports dependent entirely upon sugar we will lose all the wharf labourers. What are we to do to retain these people who are removed from their usual employment by the advancement of mechanisation? What are we to do to retain people in the area in which they have decided to live and rear their families?

**Mr. Evans:** What would you suggest?

**Mr. WALLACE:** I would suggest that the Government get busy and in collaboration with their Federal colleagues decide what they would do in a newly-discovered country. It is true that the Prime Minister, Mr. Nicklin and others, even the Minister for Labour and Industry, recently toured North Queensland. They have really rediscovered North Queensland. They found out there were things up there that we have known were there for a hundred years and more. They realised that industries could be developed. They found the Tinaroo Falls Dam up there. They discovered that Weipa has some bauxite. The Minister for Development, Mines, and Main Roads apparently realises now that the Government must do something to retain people in these northern areas because if we are going to save that portion of Australia for Australia we must keep it populated, we must develop it. Have the Government taken any positive action towards the establishment and development of industries in that part of Australia that can be of benefit to Queensland and the rest of Australia by retaining the population up there that is so necessary to hold it? Of course they have not.

**Mr. Evans:** What did you do in the last 40 years?

**Mr. WALLACE:** Never mind about the last 40 years. Probably I have done as much as the hon. gentleman has done. I have probably done more for my country than he has. Do not let anybody ask me what I have done for my country.

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**Mr. Evans:** I mean your party, your Government.

**Mr. WALLACE:** The Minister knows that I worked the same as he worked. I pride myself on being an honourable citizen.

**Mr. Evans:** My interjection was not personal.

**Mr. WALLACE:** I told the Committee just a while ago that up until 1915 there was no development in Queensland with the exception of the laying of some sections of railway line, some of them by private enterprise. The State as a Government did virtually nothing. But from 1915 to 1929 and from 1932 until we were defeated in 1957 there was tremendous development in Queensland which cannot be denied.

I heard the Minister for Development, Mines, and Main Roads suggest what they are going to do to bring cattle from the Channel country.

**Mr. Evans:** Don't you agree with that?

**Mr. WALLACE:** I agree that they must come in, but these things would have happened irrespective of who were the Government of Queensland today. For anyone to say other than that would be a sorry reflection on departmental officers at present in office who were in office when we were in Government. I have made the statement before. I do not want to kid the public. Any Government must be dependent on the advice they receive from their officers in the various departments. I give departmental officers full credit. The departmental officers, irrespective of the Government or the Minister in charge, would have seen that the plans we laid were brought to fruition. It is no use kidding us. We must give great credit to our departmental officers. We could not do without the advice and guidance of these public servants. I suggest to the Government that they advise the people of Northern Queensland what the true position is in relation to the likelihood of any industries being started in Northern Queensland.

**Mr. Hiley:** Isn't Townsville in North Queensland?

**Mr. WALLACE:** It is in North Queensland but not in Northern Queensland. Townsville is where the cut-off is. I was hoping somebody would say that. Townsville has had a wonderful contribution made to its economy by every Government in this State. Both the last Government and this Government have done wonderful things for Townsville. But let me say this: should by any chance the bottom fall out of the market for Mt. Isa metals and wool, where would Townsville be?

Dealing with the sugar industry, I do not wish to appear to be a "knocker," but I describe things as I see them. Despite all the success achieved by the sugar industry through organisation, it is still possible that much of

our sugar land in far Northern Queensland and in Central Queensland could at some future time be used for the purpose of fattening cattle. I say that in all sincerity.

**Mr. Evans:** I would agree with you, too.

**Mr. WALLACE:** There is a suggestion that the allocated sugar for Queensland could be given to another State. It has been said that a portion of that allocation could go to Western Australia.

**Mr. Evans:** You could not stop it.

**Mr. WALLACE:** I am not suggesting we could.

**Mr. Evans:** You couldn't.

**Mr. WALLACE:** It is possible that Cuba may withdraw from the International Sugar Agreement. If that happened, that would be the end of the great sugar industry in Queensland. That gives added weight to my request that the Government do something to create industries in far Northern Queensland that will keep the people there and guarantee the retention of that part of the State, and, indeed the whole of the State.

Regarding Weipa, I repeat that it will never function as a processing city or town. I am not the only person who thinks that. I read books on these things. I think the overseas pull will probably be too strong to allow it to function as a processing factory in Australia. I have very grave doubts that it will go any further than the stage it has now reached. I do believe that the people who have the right to prospect will use those rights, not for the purpose of processing aluminium, but for the purpose of seeing what else that part of the peninsula holds. I believe that the mining fields of Chillagoe and Etheridge going right through to the Cape are not devoid of precious metals for which they were famous in the early days. I know they have never been worked to capacity. The top of the ground has been merely scratched. By the use of modern machines and methods I believe that much can be recovered and the whole of the Peninsula could again become the thriving hive of industry that it was in my early days.

**Mr. Gilmore:** And prices were better.

**Mr. WALLACE:** I think the hon. member agrees with me. That is one thing the Government could do. Instead of letting outsiders do these things, the Government should by boring prove what minerals are in that area, and so reap the benefit in the interests of Queenslanders.

**Mr. Evans:** Do you know we have twice as many drills working as you had?

**Mr. WALLACE:** I am very pleased to know that. I want to see development, and no State can be developed purely on its mineral resources. Permanent industries must be established following the mining of minerals. After the minerals have been

extracted from a certain district, an industry must be established there, or the place will be merely a dead hole. That has been proved in other countries.

Perhaps I have said sufficient on that subject. The Minister does not agree with me, but I am very adamant in stating that Weipa will never function; it will certainly never function under the present Government.

I turn now to the great Tinaroo scheme. Much has been said about it during the last few days, and about the tobacco farmers on the Barron River. Slighting statements have been made about the very recent visit of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to North Queensland. It was even suggested that he was there only a couple of days. I spent at least 10 days with him. He remained in the area, and in all was up there three weeks. I congratulate him on his approach to the subjects brought to his notice while he was in that part of northern Queensland. Many of the problems affect the people in the electorate of the hon. member for Tablelands. I refer, of course, to the unwarranted charges for water pumped from the Barron River. Those farmers pay £4 an acre for it. For water delivered by canals to farms the charge is £4 per acre foot or approximately £8 per acre. On Emerald Creek where the hon. member has his farm the charge is £1 per acre, and in other areas it goes down to approximately 6s. per acre.

The Barron River farmers approached me some time ago. I have in my pocket a petition signed by 176 people who are working in and directly interested in the tobacco industry of the area. They are asking for some assistance.

**Mr. Duggan:** The Government said there was no problem there.

**Mr. WALLACE:** They did. I brought the petition back to my Party and it was discussed. The decision was that my promise to these people would be honoured, that another hon. member would accompany me to the district for the purpose of making inquiries. The Deputy Leader and I went to the area and met representatives of the tobacco farmers on a Saturday morning. During the afternoon, from approximately 12.45 p.m. to 6.30 or 6.45 p.m. we visited farmers and personally investigated the conditions. I say in all sincerity that the charges levied by the Irrigation Department are outside all bounds of decency. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition told the Committee this morning what it cost these people to pump their own water. The costs ranged from £11 to approximately £43 an acre to be irrigated. If anybody can tell me that the addition of another £4 an acre will make it economical to work tobacco then I do not know much about economics.

**Mr. Gilmore:** The £4 an acre represents a penny a pound.

**Mr. WALLACE:** Now that the hon. member has brought that up, it would appear to me that the Minister and his officers have assessed a price in relation to the Barron River tobacco farmers on their ability to farm and produce tobacco. The tobacco farmers approached the Minister in Mareeba some time ago. I am free to repeat that when they approached the Minister who was in the company of the hon. member for Tablelands, they expected to get a reply to their deputation. They did not receive a reply from the Minister but only received a reply through the courtesy of some person who saw the reply that the hon. member for Tablelands had received.

**Mr. Gilmore:** I personally delivered the Minister's reply.

**Mr. WALLACE:** The reply should have been sent to the Secretary of the Association. These people are not foolish; there are some smart men amongst them. They were very incensed at the attitude of the Minister in failing to send them a reply direct. The Minister acknowledged the cost of pumping was relatively high but he said the landholders had accepted the cost to obtain the advantage of irrigation and it was their responsibility entirely. He said that it was significant that in a number of cases the cost of pumping was increased by the use of relatively small pipelines to save capital cost at the expense of pumping. He further said that the initial cost of £4 an acre was not considered to be excessive having regard to the total return and the total cost of the production of tobacco particularly when this is compared with other proposals for irrigation in Warrill Valley and Mary Valley. The Barron River farmers at no time have refused to pay something for the right to use the water but point out that they have to purchase machinery and in some cases have to pump water for long distances to farms and drain it by excessive lifts from the bed of the river and that therefore they are entitled to more consideration than people in other places. They believe that a more equitable distribution of costs could have been made and that they should be on the same level as those people pumping from Emerald Creek. I think the request is reasonable, and for the life of me I cannot see how it is right to ask these people depending on their own pumps and their own efforts to raise water to pay £4 an acre in addition to the costs they have already incurred. I am sure that the Minister had no idea as to what the approximate costs were when he imposed this charge. Now he knows. He might be like other people I know. Having made a decision, he is probably reluctant to go back on it. The Government should take some cognisance of the costs that these farmers must incur before they even start to pay the £4 an acre, and grant them some remission of the charge.

I do not believe that the present Government will ever use the water from the Tinaroo Falls Dam for the purpose for which it was originally intended, that is, irrigation. It was the intention of the previous Government to use the organisation that was set up at Tinaroo Falls to build another dam at Flagg Creek, the water from which would be used for generating electricity.

It may be of interest to hon. members to hear some information about Queensland's imports of foodstuffs. These are the figures for foodstuffs of animal origin:—

Three-monthly period to—	Value of Imports	
	From overseas £	From other States £
September, 1957	105,887	769,107
September, 1958	165,203	762,199

The figures for fruit and vegetables preserved in liquid, which I suggest would be canned, were—

Three-monthly period to—	Value of Imports	
	From overseas £	From other States £
September, 1957	2,648	446,380
September, 1958	2,505	346,804

The figures covering all foodstuffs of vegetable origin were—

Three-monthly period to—	Value of Imports	
	From overseas £	From other States £
September, 1957	371,891	3,879,613
September, 1958	879,805	4,494,658

Those figures prove conclusively that there is a place for canneries in Queensland, and I suggest that that place is in the Far North where almost every known vegetable could be grown and canned. Even if it involved a small loss, it would be much better to grow and can these foodstuffs in Queensland than to import them.

Before I leave the subject I want to chide the hon. member for Tablelands for neglecting his electors in the Chamber today. I do not say that with any malice. I gave him an opportunity to come in and stop me saying this. I said to him, "Why don't you have a go for your farmers?" Many of the farmers concerned are in his electorate and some in the Cook electorate. I think he should have had a go for his farmers today.

**Mr. Gilmore:** It is the first time they have ever had anyone who would have a go for them. You stick to your wharf-lumpers in Cairns and your meat-workers in Queerah and I will look after Tablelands.

**Mr. WALLACE:** I have had to look after Tablelands constituents before today since the hon. member has been in office.

**Mr. Gilmore:** When you tried to take their land off them?

**Mr. WALLACE:** I do not want to take anything from them at all, but I suggest to the hon. member that he have a go.

**Mr. Gilmore:** I do not need any suggestions from you.

**Mr. WALLACE:** I would not be saying this if some hon. members opposite had not attacked the Deputy Leader of the Opposition over the farmers in the Tablelands electorate. Believe me, the new hon. member for Tablelands after the election will not be the sitting member.

**Mr. Gilmore:** I'd like to see that petition you are supposed to have.

**Mr. WALLACE:** I can show the hon. member the petition. I am not in the habit of telling lies, as he well knows. I can produce the petition at any given moment.

Another matter I had not intended to mention tonight but which I feel I must mention concerns the bodies in the cabin of the dredge in Mourilyan Harbour. It is true that I approached the Treasurer a fortnight or more ago. I would not like anybody to think, because I have no advice about what is going to happen, that I have not taken any action. I always like people to know that, when I promise to do something, I do it. I should be pleased at some early date to be advised of the position.

While quite a few houses have been built in Cairns and others are in the course of construction, we still have not nearly enough. We have no houses for those who cannot afford to buy one. Many people have been able to find the £250 deposit and have bought a house, but many others have to depend on rental homes. I honestly believe the onus is on the State to house its people. At the same time the people should not impose on the Government. Tenants should pay their rent and not fall into arrears. Unfortunately many people cannot get houses and have to live in very sub-standard places, second-class or even third-class, some of them with four or five families living together. That does not lead to contented family life and does not help the children develop properly. Overcrowding of homes tends to bring about juvenile delinquency. Children who cannot live in comfort with their own parents very quickly pick up habits they could well do without, and eventually, through no fault of their own, commit offences and attract police attention. In all seriousness I suggest that the Treasurer might give thought to the building of more rental homes because many people cannot afford to purchase homes.

**Mr. Rac:** These things do not happen in a year or so. You have had 30 years.

**Mr. WALLACE:** The hon. member is talking very foolishly. The Queensland Housing Commission has been operating only a few years. In the past the onus was on no-one but the landlords, the people with money who built houses for

rental. Owing to the exigencies of war the provision of homes has become part and parcel of government administration. The housing of the people has become the problem of Federal and State Governments.

Recently I have seen requests and suggestions in the Press that migrants should be brought to Australia and provided with homes immediately.

**Mr. Power:** And jobs.

**Mr. WALLACE:** I am not going to say anything about that at the moment. After all, charity begins at home. Many of the people begging for homes for rental were born and bred in this country. Some of them are returned soldiers rearing families. Through no fault of their own, they are not in the large income bracket. Anybody who is receiving not much better than the basic wage knows how hard it is to rear a family and provide a home.

I would not be prepared to discuss the matter of new States except for what has been said about the economy of North Queensland compared with the economy of South Queensland. Take the sugar industry away from far northern Queensland and it would be worth nothing. It is in the best interests of people in northern Queensland to remain as one State that can be further developed. Perhaps at a later date when the northern part of the State has reached the development of the northern part of New South Wales, it could be a self-supporting new State. The people in northern New South Wales are more concerned, in my opinion, about becoming an integral part of Queensland than becoming a new State. All their associations lie with Queensland. I think they would much prefer to become part of Queensland rather than a new State. I suggest to the people who consider we should have a new State to give thought to these matters.

I wished to speak briefly about tourist facilities. It was brought to my notice quite recently that owners of eating houses in Cairns had been sent a letter by the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau suggesting that they should pay over a certain percentage of all moneys collected by them from people directed to them by the Tourist Bureau. I believe that they should get a percentage for that purpose. It did appear to me that there was something wrong inasmuch as certain people were paying a certain thing and getting customers and other people were paying the same thing and getting no customers. It has been suggested to me—it is not my suggestion—that there is something rotten in the State of Denmark and the matter should be looked into. I leave it to the Minister for his consideration. If necessary I could produce one of the letters.

Progress reported.

The House adjourned at 10.28 p.m.