

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 1959

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

QUESTIONS

CANCER RESEARCH AND DETECTION CLINIC; DIAGNOSIS OF CANCER CASES

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

“(1) In view of the fact that part (1) of my question answered by him on Tuesday, November 17, specifically referred to the submittal to the cancer clinic of all suspected cases within the hospital area (not the hospital itself), how could he distort part (2) of the question as an attack on hospital doctors?”

“(2) Will he in future carefully read questions submitted to him by me before replying in order to avoid distress to innocent people?”

“(3) Is he aware that, among many others, I received a letter from an outstanding and prominent woman doctor, practising as a specialist in Queensland in another branch of medicine, telling me of a gross and inexcusable act of incapacity on the part of another doctor who diagnosed cancer of the bowel in her husband and who wanted to perform an operation that undoubtedly would have resulted in her husband's death, but that a further examination by a Brisbane specialist proved that cancer was not and never had been present?”

“(4) If I officially submit this shocking case to him for investigation, what guarantee can he give me that this noble and courageous woman doctor will not be persecuted and victimised by the B.M.A. for exposing to me things about the medical profession that the B.M.A. insist should be hushed up behind the closed doors of their Association?”

“(5) As my previous question obviously referred to all doctors, the great majority of whom are in private practice, what does he propose to do to prevent them operating on patients for non-existent cancer?”

Hon. H. W. NOBLE (Yeronga) replied—

“(1 to 5) It would appear that the Honourable Member and the prominent woman doctor are unaware that there is a statutory body—the Medical Board—which has the power to hear charges of misconduct in a professional respect. It is suggested that if there is any substance in the prominent woman doctor's allegation she submit her complaint in writing to the Medical Board.”

UNNECESSARY SURGICAL OPERATIONS

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

“(1) Did he as reported in ‘Hansard’ on page 1373, volume 202 of the 1951-1952 Session, say, inter alia, ‘Every specimen removed from the human body at the time of an operation should be sent to a Government laboratory for pathological examination . . . if it was found on an examination of specimens removed from the human body that a particular surgeon had removed a series of normal organs, he should become suspect by the Secretary for Health and Home Affairs, and action should be taken to prevent him from doing any similar operations?’”

“(2) If so, what steps has he taken or does he propose to take now that he is Minister for Health and Home Affairs to put into practice these suggestions that he then so strenuously made as a Member of the Opposition?”

“(3) Did he also say on the same occasion after paying a compliment to the majority of Queensland doctors—‘But because of the actions of a few who have prostituted the trust reposed in them by the people, some action should be taken along the lines I have suggested?’”

“(4) If so, (a) what are the names of the doctors who were branded by him as professional medical prostitutes, (b) where were they practising and (c) what action has he taken to end their nefarious actions since he became Minister?”

“(5) If none of the doctors referred to are still practising in Queensland, what has become of them, and if they have moved to other States, what action has he taken to acquaint his Ministerial colleagues in those States of their reprehensible actions while in practice in Queensland?”

Hon. H. W. NOBLE (Yeronga) replied—

“(1) Yes, I made the statement. In other words, I was advocating a surgical audit. I still believe in surgical audits and I am in very good company because at present these are in all accredited hospitals in the U.S.A.”

“(2) At the present time the Department is endeavouring to increase the number of pathologists in our hospitals. The new Pathology Block at South Brisbane is ready for occupation, applications for pathologists, viz., a director and 5 heads of sections are firstly being sought. These applications are now being considered and appointments should be made in the near future. There has always been a shortage of these specialists, but with the better remuneration this Government now gives these doctors in Queensland, and the early implementation of a superannuation scheme for them, we have been fortunate in obtaining some excellent applications both from Australia and overseas. With the new laboratory

fully functioning and later more appointments in this specialty at the Brisbane General, the Department may be able to give consideration to this surgical audit in our own hospitals. I would add that surgical audits are not so much for detection of unethical conduct, but for the increase of medical knowledge and improved standards."

"(3) I have watched the position since becoming Minister. I might say that I have been informed that my speech in 1951 had the salutary effect of stopping a good deal of what I spoke about. So far as I know there is no worry in this regard today."

"(4) I do not intend to name these people or give any further information against them. To the best of my knowledge these men are now practising ethically."

"(5) See answer to (4)."

STANTHORPE HOSPITAL BOARD

Hon. P. J. R. HILTON (Carnarvon) asked the Minister for Health and Home Affairs—

"(1) In view of the extraordinary happenings in connection with staff matters at the Stanthorpe hospital in recent times will he arrange for a public inquiry to be held (a) to ensure that no injustice is inflicted upon any member of the staff and (b) to restore public confidence in the administration of this institution?"

"(2) As the particular political circumstances which caused the Government to appoint an extra member to this Board no longer exist, will he reduce the number of Board members to the original number of five, thereby effecting an economy and providing for a more satisfactory working number of Board members?"

Hon. H. W. NOBLE (Yeronga) replied—

"At a special meeting on November 11, the Stanthorpe Hospitals Board passed a resolution requesting that the Department conduct an inquiry into certain staff matters at their hospital. I have now directed that such an inquiry be made and feel that this will meet the position. The extra member was appointed to this Board after mature consideration and it is not intended to make any change."

SUBSIDIES PAID TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Hon. P. J. R. HILTON (Carnarvon) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

"Will he supply the House with a statement showing the rates of subsidy now applicable to local authority undertakings and indicate any alterations made in such rates since the present Government took office?"

Hon. T. A. HILEY (Coorparoo) replied—

"The information sought by the Honourable Member is being prepared and will be tabled as early as possible."

CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD, ROMA TO INJUNE

Mr. EWAN (Roma) asked the Minister for Development, Mines, and Main Roads—

"Relative to the construction of the road from Roma to Injune and particularly the diversion through Mr. Hammond's property, (a) what progress has been made in the preparation of surveys and plans and (b) can he indicate the possible date of the release of permanent works on this road?"

Hon. E. EVANS (Mirani) replied—

"(a) The survey of the whole road, including the deviation through Mr. Hammond's property, has been virtually completed. Plans for the construction of a bridge over Eumamurrin Creek are in hand, and design information for the section from the Roma Town boundary towards Bungil Creek bridge has been obtained. (b) No. The schemes will be released as soon as possible."

REGISTRATION OF MASTER PAINTERS

Mr. HANLON (Ithaca), for **Mr. GRAHAM** (Mackay), asked the Minister for Labour and Industry—

"In view of the approach that has been made by the Queensland Master Painters, Signwriters and Decorators Association and the Operative Painters and Decorators Union with regard to the question of the registration of master painters, will he inform the House if it is intended to grant the request of these organisations on this matter?"

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

"The policy to refuse to grant registration of licensing in certain trades is in accord with the policy of previous Governments, of which the Honourable Member was a member. It refused similar requests with respect to painters, building contractors, fuel merchants, piano tuners, photographers and hairdressers. I personally took the question of licensing painters, etc. to Cabinet for discussion, but Cabinet decided not to vary the position at the present time."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Hon. P. J. R. HILTON (Carnarvon) (11.4 a.m.), by leave: I wish to make a personal explanation. In "Hansard" No. 14 at page 1204 I am reported as having made the following interjection while the Treasurer was speaking during the debate on the Stamp Acts Amendment Bill:—

"There was a caption in 'The Courier-Mail' to the effect that the finances of Queensland were never in a sadder state."

My interjection on that occasion was—

"There was a caption in 'The Courier-Mail' to the effect that the finances of Queensland were never in a sounder state."

I make this correction because such an interjection by me does not make sense when it is compared with the points I made in my speech.

The word "sadder" should read "sunder."

FORESTRY BILL

COMMITTEE

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

Clause 1 to 7, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Clause 8—Conservator of Forests to be corporation sole—

Hon. A. G. MULLER (Fassifern—Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation) (11.12 a.m.): I move the following amendment—

"On page 11, after line 3, insert the following paragraph:—

"The Conservator of Forests, representing the Crown as such corporation, shall have and may exercise, for all the purposes of this Act, all the powers, privileges, rights and remedies of the Crown."

The need for this amendment arises from a recent judgment of the Full Court of New South Wales. There is a doubt whether the corporation constituted by the Conservator of Forests under this clause represents the Crown and has and may exercise all its powers, privileges, rights and remedies. Clause 12 (2) provides that the Conservator of Forests may exercise his powers, functions, etc., on behalf of the Crown and in the exercise and carrying out of such powers, functions, etc., he has the privileges, rights and remedies of the Crown. The degree of control exercised by the Minister was considered as determining the matter. However, as the doubt has been raised we should put it beyond question by inserting the amendment.

Amendment (Mr. Muller) agreed to.

Clause 8, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 9 to 25, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Clause 26—Restriction on alienation, etc.; Revocation of declaration—

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

"On page 28, line 31, after the words 'on a resolution' insert the words—

'whereof not less than fourteen days' notice should have been given'."

I mentioned this matter on the second reading, which relates to the revocation of any area. This will mean that when the matter is brought into the House for consideration at least 14 days' notice must be given, thus affording hon. members the opportunity of

making investigations as to whether it would be wise to revoke the area so determined. The amendment will give hon. members, the Press and all interested persons an opportunity to lodge an objection. It is a very desirable provision and it will cover the point raised by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. DUGGAN (North Toowoomba—Leader of the Opposition) (11.16 a.m.): I am grateful to the Minister for moving the amendment. It strengthens the clause considerably. We had a long discussion on this point, and I do not want to open up a general debate on it again now. There is a good deal of natural and justifiable perturbation about the possibility of action being taken to revoke the declaration that an area of land should be set aside for the purposes stated in the clause. The Minister has adopted a very reasonable approach. All hon. members and outside parties should be given an opportunity to express an opinion.

A very desirable precedent has thus been set. The Bill has been printed, but it can be improved, and the Minister has elected to amend it for that purpose.

I am grateful to him. I think the amendment will achieve the purpose for which it has been designed, and I extend my thanks to the Minister.

Amendment (Mr. Muller) agreed to.

Clause 26, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 27—Amalgamation and naming of State Forests—as read, agreed to.

Clause 28—Power to set apart and declare Timber Reserves—

Mr. A. J. SMITH (Carpentaria) (11.18 a.m.): At the earliest opportunity I should like the Minister to consider declaring areas along river banks and watercourses to be timber reserves. Any person who has travelled in country districts will know of the destruction of timber not only on the banks of rivers, but also on their watersheds. In the early days of development of Mt. Isa, there was wholesale destruction of river gums along the Leichhardt River. In the Brisbane area the same position exists on the Pine River, a favourite picnic spot. All the good timber has been destroyed, and there is now no possible chance of regeneration of shade trees. Action should be taken to remedy this position. It may be said that preservation of timber on water courses would not be practicable, but I suggest the point I have raised should be given serious consideration, whether the river banks and watercourses are Crown land, leasehold, or freehold.

With the reconstruction of the Collinsville-Townsville-Mt. Isa railway there will be a great demand for sleepers. I can envisage wholesale destruction of timber along the river banks and on river courses unless some action to prevent it is taken.

It may not be possible under the Bill, but the Executive Council may be able to declare river banks, particularly the banks of main rivers, to be timber reserves.

Those who have done much flying will know of the devastation in the Burdekin and other river basins through soil erosion caused by wholesale destruction of trees on the banks and nearby areas in the early days when the land was thrown open for settlement. The roots of big trees hold the earth on the banks together and the removal of timber from the banks can cause soil erosion, a matter with which the Government are concerned and which involves money. Much damage was caused in the area under the control of the Burdekin River Trust. Trees have been destroyed along the banks of the Ross River. The Minister should seriously consider this matter because with closer settlement there will be wholesale destruction of timber along the banks of our watercourses. An area of a chain or half a chain on either side of a watercourse can be used as a stock route. There should be legislation for the preservation of the timber resources along watercourses.

Hon. A. G. MULLER (Fassifern—Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation) (11.22 a.m.): There is a good deal of wisdom in the point made by the hon. member because once trees are taken they cannot be replaced. I might say that the co-ordinating boards and the Department of Forestry are watching the matter closely, but on occasions it is hard to define where a river bank begins and ends. Sometimes ringbarking is conducted to a lower level, but the Forestry Department does not allow people to ringbark shade trees close to a stream. Occasionally people do what they are not permitted to do. Shade for stock is important and this too is closely watched by the co-ordinating boards. There is an inclination on the part of some lessees to ringbark as close as they can to streams particularly parts which are flooded at times. I agree that precaution should be taken to see that as much timber is preserved as possible.

Clause 28, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 29 and 30, as read, agreed to.

Clause 31—Restriction on alienation—

Hon. A. G. MULLER (Fassifern—Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation) (11.24 a.m.): I have an amendment to move on this clause which is complementary to that moved on Clause 26. I move—

“On page 31, line 30, after the words ‘on a resolution’ insert the words—
‘whereof not less than 14 days’ notice shall have been given.’”

Amendment (Mr. Muller) agreed to.

Clause 31, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 32 and 33, as read, agreed to.

Clause 34—Powers of Conservator of Forests in relation to use, etc., of State Forests—

Mr. FOLEY (Belyando) (11.25 a.m.): There is power for the Conservator of Forests to purchase, hire or rent plant, equipment, means or rights of access, or any other thing which he deems necessary. I am not certain whether I am speaking on the correct clause, but I wish to raise a matter affecting loggers in North Queensland, who some years ago formed a Logging Association. They have invested large sums of money in plant, such as heavy tractors and trucks, that is used for snigging and hauling timber out of gorges and other almost inaccessible places.

During the time that I was Minister for Public Lands, from time to time I received deputations from the loggers, who sought to come to an arrangement with the Director of Forests on contract rates for hauling timber. It became obvious to me that there was a good deal of room for argument on the working life of, for example, certain types of tractors; one may have a working life of 10,000 hours, while another may have 15,000 hours. If these men cannot get reasonable rates for the use of their very expensive plant, they must be placed at a disadvantage in carrying out operations that are essential not only to the industry, but also to the department itself. I should like the Minister to appoint an arbitrator, to hear the submissions from both sides and give an unbiased decision.

Hon. A. G. MULLER (Fassifern—Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation) (11.28 a.m.): There has been no change by the present Government in the rates payable under logging contracts. However, I have recently received complaints from members of the Logging Association, who, because of changing conditions, are not getting as much work from the mills as previously. It is not so much a matter of prices, as of getting more work.

This is a matter that the Director of Forests is watching very closely. He realises that the loggers have invested a good deal of capital in plant that is virtually useless for any other purpose. If anything can be done to help them, I am prepared to discuss the matter with the Director. After all, he is quite capable of watching the interests of all sections of the industry.

I said yesterday that within a couple of days a signal honour would be conferred on Mr. Grenning, and I now make the following announcement:—

“The Institute of Foresters of Australia, in commemoration of the work of a distinguished Australian Forester, N. W. Jolly, has established an award for outstanding contribution to the cause of Forestry in Australia.

“The award is to be made periodically to the Australian Forester who has rendered outstanding service. The election to

the award is made by the Council of the Institute, which is representative of the States and the Capital Territory.

"It is fitting that the first award should be made, in Queensland's Centenary year, to a distinguished Queenslander, Mr. V. Grenning, M.Sc., Director of Forests in that State since 1932."

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MULLER: The award goes on—

"Educated at Brisbane Grammar School, Victor Grenning, Rhodes scholar for 1919, proceeded to Oxford and devoted his Scholarship to the study of Forestry in England and the continent of Europe.

"He returned to Queensland in 1924 and joined the Forest Service, where, as the first Queensland-born professional Forester, he played a pioneering role in the development of forestry policy and practice in the State.

"Through his long career as Director of Forests he has continued to inspire his staff to serve this country and the cause of Forestry in particular, honestly and assiduously.

"He has contributed wisely to the Councils of Australian and British Commonwealth Forestry.

"The award of the N. W. Jolly Memorial to him is a tribute to a very able and honoured Forester and is a mark of the respect and esteem of his professional colleagues."

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Clause 34, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 35 and 36, as read, agreed to.

Clause 37—Mining leases over State Forest or Timber Reserve—

Mr. A. J. SMITH (Carpentaria) (11.33 a.m.): The clause is a very important one but from my experience I think the Conservator of Forests should be given even greater powers to control all the trees in the State, especially as there will be an intensification of mining activities in Queensland soon. In the early days the mining companies used wood as fuel for the boilers for their power and they let out contracts for the supply of firewood. In my area there was wholesale destruction of the mountain gum, a great steam-producing timber. There should be a greater measure of control to prevent the destruction of trees, particularly near growing townships. It is to the credit of those responsible for the building of the township of Mary Kathleen that over 1,000 houses were erected without disturbing a single tree.

Mr. Aikens: Was not that the same with the mine site at Mt. Isa?

Mr. A. J. SMITH: No. Thirty odd years ago, when Mt. Isa was in its infancy, they had boilers using wood as fuel; tenders were

let to contractors for the mountain gum, and there was wholesale destruction of timber. Luckily, when the late Jimmy Corbould returned from one of his overseas trips and saw it, he took the matter up with the Government and had a 20-square-mile area declared a timber reserve at Mt. Isa; but it was too late to prevent the destruction of mountain gum, carbean, river gum, bloodwood and other trees. Once cut, most of them do not grow again although mountain gum springs up from the stump in a few years. Because of the future intensification of mining activities the Conservator of Forests should have greater power. Do not restrict him to the State forests because with that restriction he would control only a small area. I ask that in the future when any mining concern makes application to the Department of Mines for a mining lease that the application be sent to the Minister for Public Lands, who in turn should ensure through the Conservator of Forests that wholesale destruction of trees does not occur. Although over 1,000 houses have been built in the Mary Kathleen township not one tree has been disturbed. That is a credit to the company and the policy of tree preservation. In the old days at Kuridala, as the hon. member for Mundingburra knows, mining companies were responsible for the wholesale destruction of trees. Ultimately mining companies may use only diesel oil for power but meanwhile timber is being used for wood fires. In the early days of mining timber was handy and cheap and mining companies took advantage of wood fuel. In my area we do not have great forests like the coastal areas. We have only mountain gum, carbean, river gum, and that national asset, gidyea. The Minister will know from his visits that where these timbers have been destroyed the hills have been left barren. I appeal to him to start now so that through his department the Conservator of Forests and the Department of Mines can co-ordinate their efforts so that there is no wholesale destruction of timber in the State.

Hon. A. G. MULLER (Fassifern—Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation) (11.38 a.m.): I am delighted that the hon. member has raised this matter; I am equally delighted to be able to tell him that we have tightened up the conditions. All he said is perfectly true. After a very close investigation of the matter an understanding has been reached with the Forestry Department, the Department of Mines, the Department of Main Roads, and the Department of Local Government. Before a mining lease is granted it must be referred to me for approval as I refer other matters to the Minister for Mines for his approval. As the hon. member pointed out, in the old days heavy destruction of timber occurred as settlement took place in forestry areas following the granting of mining leases. The Forestry Department was powerless to prevent it. After numerous conferences we have been able to reach a workable understanding. Under the

Bill if any timber is taken from a forestry reserve it has to be paid for. We have control of all the timber. If there is unnecessary destruction we have power to intervene. The hon. member will realise that in a mining area a certain amount of timber has to be destroyed as the area is cleared to make way for mining operations.

Mr. A. J. Smith: I admit that.

Mr. MULLER: At the same time reasonable discretion should be exercised and the Forestry Department are taking the necessary power under the legislation. There has been a similar difficulty with local authorities that have removed metal and gravel. They have said, "These are Crown reserves, nobody uses the material, we should be entitled to go in at will and take whatever we require." Although the Forestry Department has not been hard it did insist that no local authority could go into reserves and take road-making material without its approval. Some local authorities regarded that as highhanded action, but unless some control is exercised over areas which are the responsibility of the department things could easily get out of hand. I was delighted to hear the hon. member speak in the strain in which he did and I assure him I will be mindful of the points he has raised and every attention will be given to them. If the hon. member knows of any breach of the regulation I invite him to advise the department of it promptly.

Mr. FOLEY (Belyando) (11.41 a.m.): This clause tightens up conditions in connection with mining leases. I recollect an arrangement that was made some years ago as a result of a conference between Mr. Staines, the then Under Secretary for Mines, and Mr. Callaghan, then a member of the Land Administration Board. When they first met it was like a meeting of two Kilkenny cats; each was insisting on retaining certain rights in accordance with previous practice. However, after a conference it was agreed to make provision in the Land Act that when applications were made for mining leases the department should confer with the Minister for Public Lands before deciding on the matter. Apparently this is a continuation of that policy. I do not see any provision in the clause or the Bill relating to prospectors. It has always been the practice in Queensland for the prospector to be permitted to take whatever timber he required free of any charge or stumpage rate by the Forestry Department. This type of miner is really the advance guard of the mining industry. He goes into the isolated parts, very often working on a low income granted by the Department of Mines—possibly £2 or £3 a week, the rate varying between single men and married men. We should not insist on a charge or a stumpage rate for the timber he may use for timbering his shaft. I understand there is a stumpage rate charged to leaseholders who use a tremendous quantity of timber, such

as is used in a coal mine or a place like Mt. Isa. In those cases the country would be denuded of much of its timber.

Mr. Evans: That is where they are developed.

Mr. FOLEY: Yes. They are in a position to pay for it, but the prospector who works in isolated areas has only a few pounds with which to carry on, and we should allow the old practice of permitting him to take timber free of charge. The amount he would use would be little but it would mean much to him.

Mr. ADAIR (Cook) (11.44 a.m.): I think that the prospector should be given the right to use any timber that he requires to timber his mine. If they had to pay for the timber, many of the miners in the Irvinebank, Stanley Hill and Wolfram Camp areas would not be able to carry on.

When I was mining up there and I wanted stringy bark, bloodwood or other timber suitable for mines, I took the timber and I was not charged for it. I should like the Minister to keep in mind that those miners are only struggling along, but they are developing the mining industry and it is essential that they be able to use the timber they require, free of charge. Bloodwood is one of the best timbers for mining purposes. It will last for years underground. In my opinion men who are mining in isolated areas should not be charged for timber.

Hon. A. G. MULLER (Fassifern—Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation) (11.46 a.m.): I refer the hon. member for Belyando to this passage in clause 37 (2)—

"The Governor in Council or the Conservator of Forests, as the case may be, may, in addition to or in lieu of fixing any such conditions, require such sum to be deposited with the Conservator of Forests as will, in his opinion, be sufficient to meet all loss or damage to the State Forest and to all works thereon, if any, vested in or under the control of the Conservator of Forests by reason of the grant of the lease, permit or license."

In other words, provision is made to recover the value of the timber. A person cannot go into a forest and remove timber. He must pay a deposit before he is allowed to do so.

Mr. Foley: It would not be very practicable for a miner on the tip of Cape York to make such arrangements.

Mr. MULLER: It would not make a great deal of difference whether he was at Cape York or at Maryborough. He has to put in a deposit which in the opinion of the Conservator is reasonable. Of course, he takes the risk of losing it. It is impossible to cover every detail, but the hon. member should realise that if a miner is in a place such as Cape York—

Mr. Foley: Take Mt. Isa.

Mr. MULLER: We do not even have to go as far as Mt. Isa. In those big areas they can go into a forest and remove timber without being noticed, but the provision is designed to allow the Forestry Department to recover any loss in that direction.

The next point was raised by the hon. member for Cook. I remind him that under the Act those who have a miner's right can use timber for mining purposes, except timber from State forests. They are required to pay for timber from State forests. That is as far as we can go. It must be realised that miners may take timber that is invaluable for forestry purposes. Some latitude is allowed.

These matters have been given a great deal of consideration. Several conferences of representatives of the Mines Department, the Land Administration Board and the Forestry Department have been held. As the hon. member for Belyando has reminded us, it was difficult in the past to get agreement between different departments, and the representatives from these bodies did not agree to all these things, but they were happy to come to a compromise, and as far as I know the interests of all departments have been considered.

Clause 37, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 38 to 43, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Clause 44—Construction of other Acts, &c.—

Mr. A. J. SMITH (Carpentaria) (11.49 a.m.): I rise to speak on the indiscriminate removal of sand and gravel from river beds. I have watched the position closely. It happens even in the precincts of Brisbane. With modern earth-moving equipment such as bulldozers and so on, those with contracts to supply sand and gravel go to river beds and gouge great holes in them. These men are not concerned where they scour for sand and gravel. They create deep cavities and when the flood water comes trees are scoured out. On the Pine River near Aspley one can see sand and gravel pits but no trees. Trees washed down the river can cause great damage to bridges erected by the Main Roads Department. The indiscriminate removal of sand and gravel has caused a lot of trouble. More will be caused with the growing population. Loam is also taken from river beds for gardens and top-dressing of lawns and bowling greens. I know the Minister is interested. There are various forest and land rangers in the different areas and a licence or a permit should be given by them before anyone is allowed to remove sand, gravel or loam from river beds and banks. The licence should be only for a restricted area. One can see sand and gravel pits on the Leichhardt and Cloncurry Rivers, and by the use of bulldozers and earth-moving equipment it is an easy matter to take away sand and gravel. I hope that the Minister will see that protection is given to these areas.

Mr. ADAIR (Cook) (11.53 a.m.): From the Kamerunga crossing on the Barron River much sand and gravel for building purposes is taken into Cairns. The men are taking the gravel out of the centre of the Barron River which deepens the river and to an extent protects the banks. The Cairns City Council and the Mulgrave Shire Council want to take gravel from an area and I claim that this will lead to the destruction of cane land on the side of Freshwater Creek. I have seen it under 15 feet of water at flood time. If the department allows this to be done it will mean the destruction of the farms. The Minister should look at this land and seek further advice before permission is given to the council.

Mr. AIKENS (Mundingburra) (11.54 a.m.): The removal of sand and gravel from river beds has been a contentious problem, and, as one with a considerable amount of experience in local authority work I can speak on the matter with first-hand knowledge. I can speak with a good deal of feeling, too. The bed of the Ross River from Aplin's Weir to the mouth is under the control of the Department of Harbours and Marine. I want to know whether it will be bound by this clause. From time to time I have received complaints that people have been taking sand and gravel from the bed of Ross River so close to the banks that they were being endangered. I made a complaint that resulted in a conference comprising the Townsville Harbour Master, a representative of the Townsville Harbour Board, and a representative of the Townsville City Council, and the matter was resolved satisfactorily to all concerned. Since then, however, another man has bought an allotment on the river bank through which he goes to get sand and gravel from the river. Complaints have reached me from time to time that he is removing sand and gravel in such a way as to endanger the river banks.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I am trying to see how the hon. member's remarks apply to forestry.

Mr. AIKENS: There is a reference in the clause to the removal of sand and gravel from river beds, and so on.

All I ask is that we be told to whom we can go to have these matters resolved. When the last complaint was made to me I got in touch with the three people whom I mentioned previously, but not one of them seem to know whether he had now any authority to deal with the matter. We know, of course, that the land up to the river banks is under the control of the local authority, and that the river bed is controlled by the harbour board.

Mr. Walsh: If it is a tidal stream.

Mr. AIKENS: It is a tidal stream.

If the matter is not covered in the Bill, I ask the Minister to discuss the matter with his colleagues and bring down a measure, either by Act of Parliament or regulation, to give at least one person lawful authority to hear and determine the complaints that are made from time to time.

Hon. A. G. MULLER (Fassifern—Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation) (11.57 a.m.): The removal of sand and gravel from river beds is a matter for the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, while the Forestry Department controls banks and beds of streams not covered by water. In the case of tidal streams, it is a matter for the Department of Harbours and Marine. In that case, of course, the Bill does not apply. One department or another has control of the removal of sand and gravel. I agree that a very close watch must be kept. In some instances the removal of sand and gravel can divert a stream. Under the provisions of the Bill, either the Department of Forestry or the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission will have full control.

Mr. AIKENS (Mundingburra) (11.58 a.m.): As occurs far too frequently, there are no legal men in the Chamber. When determining what is the bank or the bed of a river, one can get into an interminable legal argument. On one occasion we appealed to the City Solicitor in Townsville to tell us the limits of the banks of a small tidal creek, and his Solomon-like reply was, "If you can tell me where a snake's body ends and its tail begins, I will tell you where the legal bank of the river is." The Minister says that the bank comes under the control of one department and the bed under that of another. However, there is still the argument as to what is the bank and what is the bed.

Mr. Muller: The water determines that. Anything under water comes under the control of the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, and anything above water is controlled by the Department of Forestry.

Mr. AIKENS: I am sure that the hon. member for Carpentaria will agree that some western rivers are miles wide when they are in flood.

Progress reported.

SUPPLY

SEVENTEENTH ALLOTTED DAY—RECEPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

The Resolutions reported from Committee of Supply on Tuesday, 17 November, were presented and, on motion of Mr. Hiley, received.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

The Resolutions being taken as read—

Hon. T. A. HILEY (Cooorparoo—Treasurer and Minister for Housing): I move—

"That the Resolutions be now agreed to."

Hon. members indicating a desire to discuss certain Resolutions—

Resolutions 1 and 2 agreed to.

Resolution 3—Department of Labour and Industry—

Mr. TOOTH (Kelvin Grove) (12.3 p.m.): In rising to support the adoption of Resolution No. 3, I think it appropriate on this occasion to express once more to the Minister for Labour and Industry and his colleagues the appreciation of hon. members for the splendid progress and development that has occurred in recent times in Queensland's industrial potential and the spectacular advance we have made on the road towards a more balanced economy and a greater degree of self-sufficiency.

The extent of that development can be gauged from a public statement made recently by the Premier in which he revealed, amongst other facts, that in the 12 months ended 30 June this year Queensland's employment figures rose by 6,000, that employment has progressively increased until it is now at its greatest volume in the history of the State, and that industrial development in the State is at a record peak. He further revealed that 60 new industries, with a total capital of £4,000,000, had been established in recent months and that in the September quarter of the current year another 25 major companies either had started operations or were in the process of purchasing land and buildings to start them. Finally—and this is the real touchstone of prosperity—he revealed that the savings bank deposits in Queensland had increased during the life of the Nicklin-Morris Government by £6 5s. a head. The Premier is indeed on sound ground in claiming, notwithstanding the Jeremiahs of the Opposition and their continual cry of "Blue ruin," that the State is on the threshold of the greatest period of development in its history. He is undoubtedly justified, too, in his reference to the greatly increased tempo of economic development that is directly traceable to the assumption of office by the Country-Liberal Government. These claims are fully substantiated by the facts just cited. The achievements mentioned are largely the result of the unremitting efforts of the Minister for Labour and Industry and his colleagues to create in Queensland a political and industrial climate that will stimulate and encourage secondary industries and enable us to exploit fully our vast potential. A satisfactory political climate now undoubtedly exists with no threat of extreme policies, no prospect of socialistic experimentation, no danger of vindictive class legislation, but rather with an emphasis on complete interdependence of all sections and the entire community of interest of all groups in our society. In his efforts to produce a similar climate in the industrial field the Minister for Labour and Industry adopted some original methods, and he has had some measure of success. His first major step was to create a top-level committee, the State Ministry of Labour Advisory Council, which

was representative of leaders in labour and management, to solve difficulties, to find common ground and generally to promote peace in industry.

This committee, right from its inception, showed signs of achieving a great deal and, indeed, has actually achieved a great deal. But unfortunately it has suffered one severe reverse. The Queensland Trades and Labour Council who took part in its formation, who accepted its charter, and who originally sent four representatives to its conferences, suddenly without explanation or apology withdrew from its meetings and severed association with its activities. The pertinent questions are: Why this volte face? Who promoted this change of front? I offer no prizes for the answers. They are obvious to all. They are known to all of us. A similar pattern was revealed when the Minister took the second important step in his search for industrial peace and harmony in Queensland by setting up regional Labour Advisory Committees in various provincial centres in the State.

Mr. Power: They were set up long before the present Minister took over.

Mr. Morris: That does not weaken its value.

Mr. TOOTH: In Townsville the local Trades and Labour Council refused to co-operate except on unreasonable terms and conditions. I ask: who are the most influential group in that organisation? Who are responsible for the unco-operative attitude? Again no prizes are offered for the answers. It is a sad fact but one we must face that in Queensland, as in all parts of the free world, there is a small group of fanatics who, in their zeal to create the so-called revolutionary situation, have a vested interest in industrial disorder and in the poverty and misery which flow from it.

Mr. Davies: Would the hon. member tell us how he got on with the few Comms. in the Liberal Party conference in the South?

Mr. TOOTH: I refer again to this group notwithstanding the facetious attempts by the hon. member for Maryborough to divert attention from this problem. I refer again to this group who are determined at all costs to create this so-called revolutionary situation, and to create a situation whereby poverty and misery will take the place of prosperity and progress, the group who, in their phoney peace conferences cry "Peace! Peace!" when there is no peace, a group who talk of the peoples' democracies where there is no democracy and of the peoples' justice where tyranny and fear reign supreme.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. TOOTH: I am indeed sorry to find that hon. members in this House are springing to their defence and are anxious that this account that I am trying to give should be distorted and confused. These people about

whom I am talking influence the thinking and guide the activities of so many well-meaning Socialists in our midst. There is little wonder that the Minister, when speaking on his Estimates recently, referred to known Communists who moved out to Mt. Isa to foment trouble there, as some of the people working to pull down this State of Queensland. It is the duty of every hon. member of this House, particularly those who claim to have the ear of the industrial movement, to make every effort to counter those pernicious things rather than truckle with them and compromise with them. This is the way a real contribution can be made and should be made, irrespective of party political alignment, for the future progress and welfare of Queensland.

Mr. AIKENS (Mundingburra) (12.11 p.m.): It has long been the custom in this House that on the day of Resolutions members confine themselves strictly to the matter before the House and take up as little time as possible. I regret the fact—not that I have much to say about the subject of his speech—that the hon. member for Kelvin Grove took up a considerable amount of time in making a speech that was blatant political propaganda.

Mr. Morris: It was very relevant to our present problems.

Mr. AIKENS: If the Minister is going to indulge in political propaganda, let me give him some advice; for goodness sake, see that your brief is properly prepared. It was in Townsville when the Minister made a statement similar to the hon. member's statement and he was miles out. He came in half briefed and went off half cocked. I am not taking one side or the other. The Minister should take note of the example set by me—know the subject about which he speaks. In the Townsville area at the present time we have indications of record unemployment in one of the longest slack periods in our history. Unfortunately the sugar season has not been as long as expected because in every area of the State the whole of the sugar-producing areas grew their full assignment of cane and there were no shortfalls anywhere, and so nothing to be made up in the Burdekin area where they have irrigation, or in the Tully, Ingham or other Northern areas where the rainfall is so great, as was the case in years gone by. Consequently, we will have a large standover of cane. And the mills will close much earlier and we will have a much longer lay-off in the sugar industry this year than normally. With the introduction of bulk sugar handling at Townsville a number of men in the mills have lost their jobs. In one mill in the Lower Burdekin area there were 27 men employed in the sugar room handling, stacking and loading bags of sugar onto the railway trucks for transportation to the wharf, and now there is only one man in that room. The meatworks, because of drought conditions, and despite the fact that the Ross works had a record kill, closed earlier this year, so we will have one

of our longest and most tragic unemployed off-seasons in the meat industry. When the sugar industry and the meat industry close down for the slack period in the Townsville area, it affects the railways. In turn it affects all the business men in Townsville and surrounding areas. The only way in which some relief could be afforded would be an early commencement of the Mt. Isa line.

According to my question to the Premier a few days ago, all the assembly and storage and most of the prefabrication of the material required for the Mt. Isa line will be done in Townsville. That job should be started as soon as possible in order to relieve the tremendous amount of unemployment we will have in Townsville between now and the commencement of the next meat and sugar seasons.

Mr. Burrows: Nothing will be done in Townsville if it can be done in Brisbane.

Mr. AIKENS: Unfortunately that has been the policy in the past. I admit the truth of the hon. member's statement as it applies to the past, and it is possible that it may be the policy for the future. That was the real reason I rose to speak. I appeal to the Minister and every Government member not to perpetuate the Brisbane-first policy that has always been the policy of past Governments.

If there is going to be assembly of materials for the Mt. Isa line, or if there is to be any storage or any prefabrication of any materials, then let it be done in North Queensland as close to the job as possible.

We were all very pleased to read the account and see photographs in the newspaper yesterday of the Premier signing an agreement on behalf of the Government with an American firm to supervise the construction of the Mt. Isa line. Why that agreement was not signed with an Australian firm, I will never know, and I am sure the people of Australia, and particularly the people of Queensland, will never know. I think there are many firms in Australia that could do the job as well if not better than the American firm, nevertheless the die is cast.

To quote Omar Khayyam—

"The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ,

Moves on: nor all thy Piety nor Wit

Shall lure it back to cancel half a line,

Nor all thy Tears wash out a Word of it."

The agreement has been signed, and I direct an appeal to the Minister for Labour and Industry. Up to the present I have had no reason to doubt what he says about his desire to decentralise industry in Queensland. I give him credit for an honest expression of opinion but we are waiting to see it carried out. I appeal to him to come to Townsville or send a responsible officer to Townsville to make an assessment of the tremendous unemployment problem that is growing there, and then immediately get onto those who

are responsible for the purchase of goods for the Mt. Isa line. We all know what a wet season in North Queensland means. From the beginning of January, or whenever the wet season starts, and no-one knows when it will start, right up to the end of March or early April, everything not under shelter will be bogged down and flood-bound. It will be virtually impossible to get out onto the track and do other than certain foundation work, nevertheless all the equipment and material will have to be assembled so that those doing the work can get away to a flying start the moment the wet season is over. I ask the Minister to get onto those who are responsible for it. I do not know whether the supervising American firm is to be responsible for it, or whether another contract is to be let for the construction of the line.

I can remember being on a council and on one occasion the council appointed a prominent man down here as the shire council consulting engineer. When we wrote and asked him to come to Cloncurry and have a look at some work, he said, "Oh, no, I am not the constructing engineer. I am not going out to the bush among the spinifex, flies and so on to have a look at the work. I am only the consulting engineer. You send anything you need down to me for consultation and I will do it." It is possible that the American consultants will never leave America but we will have to send everything over to them, that they will tell us from their isolated position in America what should be done on the Mt. Isa line. It is possible that they will work on the same lines as the shire council consulting engineer in Brisbane to whom I have referred.

I appeal to the Minister to take action for an early start on the assembly, storage and prefabrication of material in and around Townsville. I am not suggesting it should be done at Townsville only. It could perhaps be done in Charters Towers where facilities are available for it.

Mr. Coburn: Ayr.

Mr. AIKENS: At Ayr, and various other places. The material should be assembled, stored and prefabricated so that it will be ready immediately the wet season is over. If that is done I am certain that a great deal of the unemployment in the Townsville area which, I repeat, appears to be on the way to an all-time record both in numbers and length of unemployment, will be grappled with in some measure.

Mr. GARDNER (Rockhampton) (12.20 p.m.): The hon. member for Mundingburra spoke of seasonal work in the North. The same problem arises in Central Queensland. In yesterday's Courier-Mail the number of unemployed in Rockhampton was given as 991. The problem of seasonal work throughout the State calls for great thought if it is

to be adequately tackled. Recently in Rockhampton a very representative gathering dealt with the situation and I do not think a great amount of success will flow from the meeting. It was decided to approach the Government for a grant and for the local authority to seek a loan to undertake work for the employment of the men. Parliamentarians from Central Queensland waited on the Premier and expressed the fear that 1,000 or so men would be out of work in the Rockhampton and Gladstone districts when the meatworks cut out. The purchasing power of the people is cut when men are unemployed. It is expected that the reconstruction of the Mt. Isa line will help to some extent by men being employed in cutting sleepers. There should be a reorientation of thinking about seasonal work in the State. Are we getting anywhere when we make our usual appeals when the sugar mills and meatworks cut out? We usually ask the Government for money and that men be employed on main roads work or that councils be given loans to undertake local authority work. Approximately 800 of the 991 unemployed in Rockhampton would be drawing £6 2s. a week in social service payments. That means, in round figures, £4,800 a week paid to the unemployed for which there is no return to the community and no development. In 10 weeks £48,000 would be paid out on that basis and I again say that there should be some reorientation of thinking.

The Minister for Labour and Industry should endeavour to overcome the problem of seasonal unemployment in various parts of the State by an approach to the Commonwealth Government, who, after all, control social services. Some scheme should be devised under which local authorities in areas where there is a good deal of seasonal unemployment could embark on worth-while projects, subsidised on a £1 for £1 basis by the Commonwealth Government. After all, the moneys paid out in unemployment benefits return nothing of material value to the State. The men receive £6 2s. a week and are allowed to earn another £2, which is barely enough for them to live on. I am sure that most of them would gladly welcome a scheme that would allow them to work for full wages. In my own area, for example, a good deal of work could be done on the Fitzroy River frontage. If 800 men are unemployed for 10 weeks the cost in social services is £48,000, and if it was supplemented by a grant from the Commonwealth Government the money that was made available could give full employment to a number of men on something really worth while.

It is essential that there should be some reorientation of thinking on the part of the various authorities, and particularly the unions. Irrespective of how many secondary industries are established in areas where there are seasonal industries, there will still be a certain amount of unemployment. I refer

now particularly to areas that depend on the sugar industry and meatworks for employment.

We all want to see men fully employed in useful work. No sensible man would want to exist on a social services hand-out; most men prefer to work full-time on some worth-while project. A scheme along the lines that I have suggested should be submitted to the Commonwealth Government. A tremendous amount is being spent by the Commonwealth Government in unemployment benefits throughout Australia, and it could be used for a more useful purpose. A deputation is to wait today on the Premier and the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation seeking a scheme in my area that will probably cost £2,000,000. Schemes like that could be subsidised by the Commonwealth Government and used by local authorities to absorb unemployment.

A good deal has been said by the present Government about the development of secondary industries in Queensland. In my opinion, the term "secondary industries" has been misused. I am referring now to some of the figures that the Minister for Labour and Industry quoted. I am somewhat upset to read in statements by the Minister that he is unable to direct firms that are coming to Queensland to go to any particular centre. Certainly we should be able to make North and Central Queensland attractive to industry. Central and North Queensland have room for the expansion of secondary industry but it is remarkable that most industries coming to the State spread their wings and settle into the ambit of what I like to call the Brisbane octopus. If we are to hold the State we must have more people acclimatised in Central and North Queensland. To have only 320,000 people north of the Brisbane Line is not to have a sound distribution of population; the number is inadequate so I hope that the policy of decentralisation will be fostered and extended.

The Minister should be prepared to give concessions for secondary industries to set up operations in Central and North Queensland and to expand. The south-eastern corner of the State is already well catered for. All the arguments about freight and other difficulties can be overcome by scientific movement and by arrangement within the Department of Labour and Industry to give the necessary encouragement. That is very important to Central Queensland, where the people have committed themselves to a great job in the interests of the State.

Within the last fortnight the Premier announced that a cement works will start in Rockhampton and will ultimately employ many men. He named two firms—Darra Cement and North Australian Cement—who were to begin operations at Parkhurst, about 6 miles from Rockhampton. As it turns out, not one ton of cement a year will be manufactured in Central Queensland. Cement will be brought in bulk from Darra and

Townsville, repacked and distributed so that the installation will be more or less a bulk-handling store and will not employ many men.

Mr. Hanlon interjected.

Mr. GARDNER: Enthusiasts in Rockhampton are battling to start a cement works to cater for the requirements of Central Queensland and we are submitting proposals to the Premier. We do not want the concerns that are well established merely to set up a depot and, as the hon. member for Ithaca interjected, to come in and simply cramp out local organisations.

The problems of seasonal unemployment will not be solved merely by introducing new secondary industries. True, more work is created but there must be a reorientation of Government and union points of view to cater for the seasonal worker.

Mr. LLOYD (Kedron) (12.34 p.m.): I was rather puzzled when the hon. member for Kelvin Grove called "Not formal" to this resolution but it is obvious that he sought to present an argument of his own and to give the Minister a chance to repeat some of the filthy and irresponsible statements he made a week or so ago. However, it was refreshing to hear the hon. member for Kelvin Grove say that the Government were encouraging as far as possible an industrial relationship between employers and employees which would create harmony in industry. He said that the Government had achieved a great deal through their committees and councils. But at the same time we must remember that in his next breath the hon. member for Kelvin Grove spoke of circumstances in which he included every decent trade unionist in Queensland in one category, calling them all Comms. He said that the Trades and Labour Council was a Communist supporter. That is one of the most damaging statements to industrial harmony that could be made by any member of the Government. If it is the Government's intention to create industrial harmony they should endeavour to understand the work that every trade unionist in Queensland is trying to do on behalf of his union. They should realise the wonderful work that has been done ever since there has been a Parliament in Queensland. They should realise how members of the trade union movement have contributed to the development of the State and the improvement of working conditions and living standards. Most of the benefits people enjoy today have stemmed from the ideals and efforts of members and leaders of the trade union movement. It is unfortunate that the hon. member for Kelvin Grove should make such a speech and endeavour to include all people in one category.

Mr. Morris: He did not.

Mr. LLOYD: The Minister is jumping to the defence of the hon. member for Kelvin Grove. The hon. member for Kelvin Grove is in the Chamber and quite able to look after himself.

The hon. member for Kelvin Grove spoke about the Labour Advisory Council created by the Minister. No doubt the Trades and Labour Council and the trade union movement generally sent delegates along for a short time. Unfortunately, they found themselves being embarrassed by decisions of a Council that was controlled by the employers. When decisions are given against the policy of the trade union movement, if the voice of the trade union movement is not sufficiently strong to secure a majority decision, the Council no longer is of any worthwhile benefit to the State or the trade union movement. There has to be both give and take in discussions.

I am not here to defend anyone in the category mentioned by the hon. member for Kelvin Grove. In the past when it has become necessary for Governments to battle against the influence of people coming within that category it has always been an A.L.P. Government who have most forcibly and most successfully countered the subversive tactics of people in the community engaged in activities against the best interests of the country. We will continue that work. Fine ideals and a fine spirit have always been evident within the trade union movement in Queensland and Australia. Trade union members will be just as strong and sincere in their opposition to Communism in the future as they have been in the past.

I regret that on a number of occasions members of the panel of Temporary Chairmen of Committees have seen fit to allow time to be taken up with discussions of the type that was started last week by the Minister. It was one of the most unfortunate occurrences and did not help to maintain a high standard of debate in this Chamber. I do not wish to refer to it at length. I do think that before statements are made there should be some substantiation, and statements should not be made about a secretary of a trade union, who endeavours to look after the interests of the members, which are offensive to him. Such statements should not be made under privilege of this House—attacking men who are honestly endeavouring to improve the lot of members of their union. I register that protest. One of the panel of temporary chairmen refused to allow a point of order based on the ground that the statements were untrue and offensive. The Minister himself has seen fit to write what amounts to an apology to one man whose name was mentioned.

Mr. Morris: That is not true. Why say things that are not true? I will give you the history of that matter. I will quote it if you want it.

Mr. LLOYD: It is unfortunate that the Minister who is supposed to be attempting to create industrial harmony should go to such lengths to destroy the harmony which he and his Government are supposed to be trying to bring about between employer and employees. I shall read the letter so it will be recorded in "Hansard" which the Minister wrote to the secretary of the A.R.U.

Mr. Morris: If you don't read it I will.

Mr. LLOYD: I shall read it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I hope the hon. member will get on to the more orderly business of discussing the Estimates. I am not going to stop the hon. member from reading that letter. Throughout the debate there has been a good deal of toleration shown to members who, as the hon. member for Mundingburra said, deviated into purely political discussion. Having made his point I suggest the hon. member should get back to the matter before the House.

Mr. LLOYD: I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your tolerance. The reason I moved a certain resolution the other evening was in order to have the matter discussed further. I read the following letter which was written to Mr. F. G. Nolan, State Secretary of the Australian Railways Union:—

"I have for acknowledgement your letter of October 30. You ask me whether the Nolan I refer to is yourself, Francis George Nolan, State Secretary of the Australian Railways Union. In reply, I state that it is not you, and I will ensure that this is stated in the House at the earliest possible opportunity. You are quite at liberty to use this letter wherever you feel that its use is desirable. Yours sincerely, Ken. J. Morris, Deputy Premier and Minister for Labour and Industry."

The only other remark I should like to make is that a colleague of the Minister saw fit to communicate with Mr. J. Egerton of the Boilermakers' Association and apologise for the statement made in relation to Mr. Egerton. The hon. member for Kelvin Grove made a number of statements about full employment. Many similar statements have been challenged in previous debates. According to the figures supplied by the Commonwealth Statistician the number of employees in large industrial factories in Queensland has shown a decrease. The remarks of the hon. member for Mundingburra and the hon. member for Rockhampton clearly indicate that there are pockets of unemployed that should be given a great deal of attention by the Minister and his government. The minister would be better employed doing that than coming in here and making vague statements for the purpose of political propaganda. Large pockets of unemployment are to be found in towns along the coast, and the position is not improving. The Government cannot transfer their responsibility to

the advisory council or committees established to advise on ways and means of overcoming unemployment. They should not sit back and wait for recommendations. The unemployed and business people of those towns are waiting for positive action by the Government. They will not get it if the Government merely form committees and so shelve their responsibility.

Seasonal work creates unemployment, which in turn leads to migration from country districts to the cities. The tendency is aggravated by mechanisation in primary industries, and consequential unemployment.

All aspects must be considered carefully. It is all very well for the Minister to speak of new industries in Queensland. They are having no effect on employment. New industries are undoubtedly being established in the State, but that has always been the case. In the post-war years to 1958 there was a yearly increase of 10 per cent. in persons employed in secondary industries. The increase is certainly not now of that order.

Mr. Morris: It is going on more rapidly and you know it.

Mr. LLOYD: The figures support my statement. From 1945-1946 to 1957-1958 there was a yearly increase of 10 per cent. The increase was steady and regular until 1957-1958 when there was a slight slump, according to the figures for the number employed in secondary industries and overall employment. The reasons are twofold, mechanisation and political climate, about which the hon. member for Kelvin Grove has spoken, but which has not been favourable during the term of office of the Government.

Industry should receive more encouragement than at present. Much depends on the personal approach by the Government to industrialists. Some complaints on this score have been received in the past few weeks. Whether they are well founded or not, I do not know at the moment.

Mr. Morris: Rubbish!

Mr. LLOYD: If the complaints are well founded, we will have a great deal more to say on the subject.

Mr. Morris: You know it is not true.

Mr. LLOYD: All I know is that an industry that was supposed to be coming here is not now coming here. Whether the reasons given are well founded, I do not know, but much more will be said about it if that is correct. If they are to be successful in their efforts to encourage industry to Queensland, the Government will have to maintain the attitude of previous Governments.

I do not think, however, that we should go to the extent suggested in regard to certain industries. During the past six or 12 months there has been an inflow of overseas capital to Australia. The Minister in a statement during the early days of the Government

spoke of repatriation of capital, and the need to be much more generous in that respect. I do not share his opinion. I do not think his colleagues in the Federal sphere believe that we should go to the extent that he wishes us to go.

Mr. Morris: Don't you believe in the repatriation of capital?

Mr. LLOYD: To a certain extent but I do not think we should go any further than at present as it might have a harmful effect. The Government seem to be interested only in the immediate encouragement of industry regardless of what their policy will have on the people of Queensland in future. We must maintain a steady balance, not only for ourselves but for future generations.

The hon. member for Kelvin Grove said nothing to which we need reply. Perhaps the only reply would be to his charge that all the great unions were in the one category.

Mr. Morris: He did not say that.

Mr. LLOYD: Then what did he say?

Mr. Morris: I will tell you afterwards.

Mr. LLOYD: I appreciate the Minister's assurance that he will explain what the hon. member for Kelvin Grove said.

I do not agree with the Minister's instruction that traffic police disguised as civilians should patrol the streets of Brisbane to trap motorists. On many occasions, because of a momentary lapse, some small traffic breach might be committed by a person driving a car.

Mr. Aikens: Speeding, dangerous and drunken drivers are not memory lapses. They are deliberate.

Mr. LLOYD: I agree with regard to the more serious offences but it is not necessary to have traffic policemen disguised as civilians to catch a motorist speeding on the road. A speeding motorist could be detected by a man in uniform. This disguising of traffic police is a snide method of doing things.

Mr. Ramsden: Are you objecting to plainclothes police?

Mr. LLOYD: Let us assume that people are law-abiding and endeavour to drive motor vehicles without committing traffic breaches. I do not think it right to go to the extent that the Minister has gone. Traffic policemen are a deterrent to people committing breaches, but they should move round the streets in uniform. Objection was raised when the sign "Police" was installed on police patrol cars as it indicated that the occupants were police.

Mr. Power: Are you not aware that we have had plainclothes police for years.

Mr. LLOYD: Certainly. It is essential to have plainclothes police; they do a wonderful job. It is not right to have police "disguised"

as civilians in an endeavour to trap people who commit minor offences. Is it because the Government are hungry for revenue or that they are sincerely trying to break down the incidence of accidents? Anyone who commits a serious breach can be caught by a man in uniform and there is no need to have traffic men dressed in civilian clothes. In my opinion, it is a snide way of detecting minor traffic breaches. Every man should be regarded as honest and law-abiding until he is proved guilty. I realise that there are plainclothes men in the Police Force, but their duties relate mainly to the prevention and detection of crime, a much more serious matter than offences under the traffic regulations.

I think that the Commissioner has gone too far in placing "Police" signs on patrol cars. He says, "We are proud of the fact that the police are on the job. Their presence will be a deterrent to crime." By the same token, the presence of uniformed traffic policemen should be a sufficient deterrent to the commission of traffic offences.

Mr. FOLEY (Belyando) (12.57 p.m.): There should be no unemployment in a State with Queensland's resources. Much of it would be avoided if the Government embarked on a programme of intelligent planning for the expenditure of public moneys in areas that are beset by seasonal unemployment. Prior to the defeat of the Labour Government, systematic planning of developmental works was carried on throughout the State mainly for the purpose of giving work to the huge army of non-tradesmen who are skilled in main roads work, bridge building, railway construction work, irrigation construction work, and so on. During the period of the Moore Government, a miserable £4,500,000 was spent in this State on public works. Following the return of Labour and until its defeat in 1957, successive State Governments expended large sums of money on various public works with the result that Queensland's unemployment figure, which includes unemployables, was as low as 5 per cent.

It is now an accepted economic principle that, in periods of low business activity, Governments should bridge the gap by increasing expenditure on public developmental work to absorb men displaced in industry. Why should not the same principle be applied to benefit seasonal workers in the slack?

Mr. Coburn: How was the position dealt with in previous years?

Mr. FOLEY: I have already explained that after the depression the Labour Government, immediately they assumed office, brought in a developmental policy of public works of all kinds throughout the State and gradually absorbed the army of unemployed. The policy of the Moore Government towards the end of their regime had been to depress conditions further by refusing to raise public loans for developmental works.

Dr. Noble: That was common to the whole of the Commonwealth.

Mr. FOLEY: It was, but, when Mr. W. Forgan Smith attended his first Loan Council meeting after his Government's election in 1932, he had the fight of his life in inducing it to expand the loan-raising programme. He won through and came back with £6,250,000—£2,000,000 more than had been spent by the Moore Government in their last year. The following year he got another £2,000,000 increase and so it went on till we were spending £10,000,000 of loan funds, which was at that time considered to be an enormous programme. It grew until, towards the end of Labour's regime, we were spending something like £51,000,000 a year from all sources, including Loan Fund and Trust and Special Funds, on various developmental projects throughout the State.

The Minister in charge of such an important department should try to time the spending on public works to coincide with periods of seasonal unemployment. For instance, in the sugar industry in North Queensland there is a slack period every year when cutting ceases and only a few cane-cutters can be absorbed on cultivation and other field work. It means unproductive expenditure in the form of social service payments being made to a body of people because there is no work for them. During the slack season in the meat industry in Rockhampton, nearly 1,000 unemployed live on social service. This mass unemployment causes a general business depression. A taxi-driver said to me the other day, "No good, too much unemployment in meat works!" Every business man has the same story to tell. Business falls off, but the Government take no action to meet this position which obtained year after year. Surely we have reached the stage where we can plan to meet these periods of seasonal unemployment. In my own area an army of men were working in the bush under hard and difficult conditions cutting sleeper blocks for the railway department. Many were employed in big sawmills at Anakie and Clermont cutting the blocks in two and trimming them ready for laying on the line. When that work cut out there was no other field of employment to absorb them. But for odd road jobs here and there they would have all finished up on social service.

In the post-depression period successive Labour Governments evolved a scheme under which they subsidised councils for various projects undertaken by them which had the effect of absorbing the State's unemployed. Surely today, instead of reducing subsidies, particularly in areas of seasonal unemployment subsidies should be increased to induce local authorities to spend more money out of loan funds or Treasury loans to carry out necessary works in their areas.

In Rockhampton at the present time 900 people are drawing social service payments. I read just the other day that the Rockhampton City Council are well behind in their

water and sewerage programme. The Mayor of Rockhampton said that it was because they could not get sufficient loan funds. The limit to what can be done is dependent largely upon the amount of money available, but other methods can be adopted. If various mining projects in the Rockhampton district were subsidised they could employ prospecting miners which would lead to further development of mining fields which in turn could absorb great numbers of unemployed. What are known as the Anakie gem fields extend over thousands of square miles. This vast area contains patches of gravel from which can be extracted varying quantities of sapphires. Owing to the fact that it is scattered all over the district comparatively few men are working in the industry at the present time. If there was an increase in the prospecting allowance I think many independent types of unemployed workers would engage in prospecting work.

Dr. Noble: Do they find many sapphires there?

Mr. FOLEY: Yes, there are still a few prospectors there. Their luck varies; sometimes they strike a good patch that brings in a good harvest and, of course, during other periods they are not so lucky. This State is capable of carrying more than double its present population; and that is an objective we should aim to achieve. We cannot expect to increase our population greatly unless we have a sympathetic Government prepared to do everything possible to assist in the establishment of industry to absorb great numbers of people. There are various ways in which we can help. It is only a matter of planning in the right way in carrying out our public works programmes. People are not satisfied to live on the low standard of social service allowance; they are willing to work if they are given the opportunity to do so. It is no use saying that we did not do it when we were the Government. We did do it. We carried out activities in various parts of the State and we had reached the point when less than five per cent. of our people were unemployed; and the greater number of those were, owing to various causes, actually unemployable. I offer these suggestions to the Minister in the hope that he will show that enthusiasm which, according to the public Press, he appears to have, and that he will try and put into effect plans that will reduce unemployment to the minimum in this State.

Mr. HANLON (Ithaca) (2.28 p.m.): In view of the claims made by the hon. member for Kelvin Grove and the Minister regarding the efforts of the Government to promote industry, I shall refer briefly to a matter raised by the hon. member for Maryborough when the Minister's Estimates were before the House. That was that the Secondary Industries Division did not utilise to the fullest extent the funds made available in the last financial year. I believe that the Secondary Industries Division is doing a very good job. It was established by past Governments and

it has continued under this Government, and is doing very good work for the State in attracting industry and thereby providing more avenues of employment. But I cannot understand why it did not use all the funds provided for the assistance of secondary industries. I know that this comes under the Trust and Special Funds, but it is part of the activities of that department. If the Secondary Industries Division is to be as beneficial as it was intended to be by prior Governments, and this, I do not know why the amount of £23,600 was not utilised last year instead of only £3,498.

When the hon. member for Maryborough raised this point during the debate on the Estimates of the department, the Minister said a great deal of notice could not be taken of the fact that only £3,000 of the £23,000 had been utilised, as most of the assistance is in the form of guarantees of loans from banks or other institutions. Yet we find this statement in the report of the Director of Secondary Industries—

“There have also been many inquiries for assistance but, by reason of the fact that there has been insufficient security, or banks have been unwilling to accept the guarantee on behalf of the enquirer, no firm application has been lodged.”

Apparently the Government were prepared to guarantee the loans required by certain applicants. Although the Government regarded those undertakings as sound enough to warrant a Government guarantee, the banks for some reason or other were not prepared to provide the money. I cannot understand therefore why £20,000 of Government funds were not utilised for the purpose of assisting those industries. If the A.B.C. company, to use that name, required £20,000 and the Government were prepared to guarantee such a loan from a bank, why was that amount not utilised to assist the company when the bank refused to give the loan? The Minister's reply that the main form of assistance to secondary industries is guarantee of loans does not explain the fact that £20,000 of the amount appropriated for assistance was not used when loans were refused by banks or financial institutions. Hon. members who represent northern and central electorates have urged the Government to encourage the setting up of industries in those districts to meet seasonal unemployment. I cannot understand why the Government did not go out of their way to utilise this amount of money to establish industries in other parts of the State. I agree with the hon. member for Rockhampton as to the ballyhoo indulged in by the Minister and the Premier about a cement works at Rockhampton. I think the Premier made the announcement. It is clear that Darra and North Australian cement interests have made an announcement as to Rockhampton merely to prevent another firm establishing a cement works in that city. They have said they will provide distribution facilities for cement, whether it comes from Darra or from the

North. They are merely saying to other firms interested in establishing a cement works at Rockhampton, “We are there. We have our distribution facilities, and, if anybody else wants to start a cement works, we give warning that we will have the edge on them.” No indication has been given by the Darra or North Australian firms that they intend to establish a cement works at Rockhampton. They are merely filling a vacuum and so preventing a company not associated with them or in their group from establishing an independent cement works. The announcement of the Premier does not do him or the Minister any credit. They indulged in a lot of ballyhoo about the great opportunities for Central Queensland through the action of the Darra and North Australian cement companies. The Government are in effect helping these people to put a confidence trick over the people of Central Queensland in that they will start a cement works in Rockhampton when in fact they are only trying to keep other firms out of the area.

The Minister has not given a very good account of himself in meeting the threat of unemployment in the North and Central Queensland. The help given to the sugar industry in so many ways by State and Federal Governments over a long time has kept people in the north of the State. The Minister should not say that if a man cannot secure employment in North or Central Queensland he should come to a job in Brisbane. It would be untrue to suggest that he is creating employment in southern Queensland for people who cannot get employment in the North. We want men employed where they have been living, whether in the North or the Central part. The sugar industry has been the backbone of the progress and the commercial life of North Queensland. Unless work can be found for those displaced by mechanisation men will drift away from the North, and it will not be a bright outlook for that part of the State. I am disappointed, in view of the remarks made by hon. members representing Central Queensland, that so much money has been left unexpended in the Vote for the Secondary Industries Division. Private enterprise will only go to the North if there is a profit to be made. Private enterprise that gets farther away from its markets has to be encouraged but the Government are not disposed to help private enterprise in this regard.

As the hon. member for Belyando said, they do not seem to be carrying on the public works programme in the North initiated by Labour. I hope that the Government will not, because of the arrangements made for the reconditioning of the Mt. Isa railway line, use that work as an excuse for not pushing ahead with other developmental work in the North. No doubt the reconstruction work will provide employment generally in the North, but it is not being carried out as developmental work. It is an economic project associated with the Mt. Isa mine. It

is not special developmental work, but is being undertaken because Mt. Isa's production is increasing to such an extent that a better line is required. It is an economic project standing on its own. The Government will say that they are spending £30,000,000 in the North on this line over the next five or six years, but they are required over 20 years or more to pay the loan off at an exorbitant interest rate. Over the 20-year period of the loan the Government will pay about £15,000,000 in interest to the Commonwealth Government and it will not have cost that Government a fraction of that sum to get the money. The interest that Queensland will in that time pay the Commonwealth Government—in my opinion unfairly—will equal the annual provision for the Department of Health and Home Affairs, the Department of Education, or any other department. A good deal of necessary developmental work could be carried out in North Queensland with the money that will have to be paid in interest to the Commonwealth Government. The people of the North should keep harping at the Government to initiate projects such as the Tinaroo Falls Dam, and others for which Labour was responsible, to provide employment and attract private enterprise.

I should like the Minister to explain why he did not use all the money voted last year for assistance to secondary industries in attracting new industries to North Queensland.

Mr. ADAIR (Cook) (2.42 p.m.): Unemployment in North Queensland during the slack season will be very acute unless the Government take definite steps to avoid it. The Barron Falls Dam will shortly have to be raised 12 ft. and a high-level bridge built. That work could be started now, because construction work is already proceeding in the area. It will have to stop with the onset of the wet season.

We hear a good deal these days about the reconstruction of the Mt. Isa railway line, and I point out that all the sleepers necessary for the job could be obtained from the huge ironwood stands in the Cape York Peninsula. I have seen ironwood sleepers 50 years old that were just as good as the day they were put in. A good deal of employment could be provided at sleeper mills in the Peninsula and in transporting the sleepers to the points where they were needed. There are unlimited supplies of ironwood between Laura and Coen. Over two years ago the Minister told me that within six months there would be mass employment at Weipa, but fewer men are employed there today than there were then; only about 35 men are working there now.

In the Press we read of the proposed construction of an alumina plant at Weipa. If that is so, the population will grow to at

least 3,000 or 4,000 so why do not the Government press for home building there, and create employment for those in the Cairns area?

As soon as the wet season starts, the timber mills will be virtually idle. They will not close down but many men will be put off. I visited some of them recently and saw the logs stored. There is plenty of timber to be cut; it is only a matter of putting on more cutters. In most areas there are bitumen roads near the timber and most of it comes from Crown land. The onus is on the Government to see that the mills stockpile enough timber to keep the men in continuous employment.

Mr. COBURN (Burdekin) (2.48 p.m.): It is quite obvious that none of us should be complacent about unemployment. I am convinced that the Minister is just as anxious as any other hon. member to solve the problem.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. COBURN: It is our duty not so much to criticise as to be constructive. It is up to each hon. member to bring forward schemes to relieve unemployment in his area. As long as I can remember we have had the problem of unemployment and I have never seen it really solved, but, with planning, it can be reduced to a minimum. I have been in touch with the Premier and other members of Cabinet about work that I thought could be done in my electorate and I am pleased that a programme will be undertaken soon to relieve seasonal unemployment. The Minister for Development, Mines, and Main Roads told me that he has let a contract for £132,000 for the construction, gravelling and bitumen-surfacing of the road from Wangaratta Creek to Gumlu. A contract for £282,000 has been let for the construction of 13 miles of the Clevedon Highway from Giru to a position opposite Nome.

Mr. Walsh: How many men will that employ?

Mr. COBURN: It will employ at least some men; it will be a contribution towards the relief of unemployment. I am pleased to say that the successful contractors are both from Ayr. The Minister for Public Works has informed me that £10,000 will be spent on additional classrooms at the East Ayr school. Although it may not be assistance on a big scale it is another contribution to the relief of unemployment. It is very necessary for the people to show initiative and submit to the Government proposals for work that they think is essential in their districts.

As I have said before in the Chamber a former Labour Government set up committees that were charged with the responsibility of submitting to the Government particulars of work that should be done. Why that excellent scheme fell into disuse, I do not know.

Mr. Walsh: Full employment.

Mr. COBURN: Even if there were full employment that was no reason for abandoning the scheme. The committees could have operated as soon as it was again necessary. Millions and millions of tons of sand and gravel are available in the Burdekin River. I understand from men skilled in concrete work that nowhere in Australia is there better gravel for making concrete than the aggregate in the Burdekin. I suggested to the Premier that concrete sleepers instead of wooden sleepers should be used in the reconstruction of the Collinsville-Mt. Isa railway line, but he told me that concrete sleepers would cost at least four times as much as wooden sleepers. He also said that where they had been used a good deal of trouble had occurred with them. Apparently that idea is out. But it is well for people in industry to know that should they consider the establishment of cement factories in North Queensland that there is no better place from which to get gravel supplies than the Burdekin River. Prior to the building of the new bridge the main road between the North and South was a road that ran right across the bed of the river. The gravel is very accessible. Of course that road across the river will be washed away in some future flood. But there would be no difficulty to get any quantity of sand and gravel at a minimum cost. I hope that the Minister will make it known to industrialists interested in the manufacture of cement that this is an ideal source of raw materials for cement making. I understand that they use about five times as much gravel and sand as the other components. It is much cheaper to have the industry established where the sand and gravel are available than where the other components are. In our own area when the slack season came on in recent years a big expansion programme was carried out in connection with the sugar mills, much more so than was done previously, but unfortunately for the working men of the area those plants now have been almost completed, so they will revert to the old system of overhaul of plants during the slack season, which will give employment to a good many of the men who are regularly employed at the sugar mill, but not as many as were employed during the expansion programme. All workers at sugar mills do not immediately become unemployed when the mill ceases crushing. A good many of them are permanent workers throughout the year and are engaged in overhaul and the reconstruction of lines during that period.

Mr. Walsh: How many are employed?

Mr. COBURN: A fairly substantial number. The manager of one of the mills in the Ayr district told me recently that if he can get two miles of rails from the Railway Department after they start pulling up the line under the reconstruction scheme, in March, he will guarantee to give 30 men two months' work. If 30 men can be

employed for two months re-laying a stretch of two miles of tramline used for carting cane it is not hard to work out how many will be required under the great reconstruction scheme in connection with the Mt. Isa-Townsville railway line. I do not think that denomination is quite accurate because I think the line will be reconstructed right from Collinsville to Mt. Isa. So there should be a large number of men getting employment all along the line, and many of them will be able still to live in their own homes and work on this reconstruction scheme. It will extend over such a large area that men will be drawn from the various towns en route from Collinsville to Mt. Isa. The Minister for Health and Home Affairs was one Minister whom I contacted, and I have been urging him to start the Bowen Hospital as soon as possible because of the unemployment, the Merinda meatworks having closed down. I understand that early in the New Year a start will be made on the Bowen Hospital. Perhaps the hon. member for Bundaberg will ask how many it will employ. It will contribute towards the relief of unemployment. At Bowen and Ayr we have large hospital work to be undertaken, and the most appropriate time to commence it during the slack period when labour is readily available.

Another proposal I submit for consideration of the Minister for Labour and Industry is that he discuss with his colleague the Minister for Transport the question of the railway line between Ayr and Townsville. Two very fine high-level bridges have in recent years been constructed.

Mr. Aikens: Thanks to me.

Mr. COBURN: Thanks to the hon. member for Mundingburra, and all those who made their contribution towards it. These two high-level bridges have overcome the great delays that we used to experience in traffic between Home Hill and Townsville. We who live on the Burdekin saw traffic disrupted every time the Burdekin flooded when we had the old low-level railway bridge in existence. That has gone. We also saw delays at Haughton because when the water rose above the bridge all railway traffic had to cease. We still have lowlying areas around Barratta, and reed beds between Giru and Cromarty. If we are to do away entirely with railway delays during the wet season, the line in the Barratta and Giru to Cromarty reed-bed area will have to be raised. That work would provide a good deal of employment and it could be undertaken in the wet season because much of it would involve stone pitching.

Another suggestion I make with regard to the railway is that the line from Stuart to Nome be duplicated. The line from Townsville to Stuart has been duplicated. Nome is the junction for the Alligator Creek meatworks and the line carries a great deal of traffic, particularly in the killing season. It would be of great benefit

if a double line were built from Nome to Stuart, as we would then have a duplicated line from Townsville Central station to Nome.

The Minister is interested in the relief of unemployment and he could discuss these matters with the Minister for Transport. The Federal Government too should be very interested in the relief of unemployment. Through unemployment agencies they pay money each week to unemployed persons. The Federal Government should be prepared to subsidise on a £1 for £1 basis schemes undertaken for the express purpose of relieving unemployment. No argument could be adduced to refute that suggestion.

I ask the Minister for Labour and Industry to invite local authorities to suggest schemes which they could undertake during slack periods, the schemes being confined to work which would not be done in normal circumstances by them. If in the opinion of the Department of Labour and Industry the work suggested by local authorities was essential for the relief of unemployment and was work which would not be done ordinarily by councils, it could be financed by contributions of 33½ per cent. each from the Federal Government, the State Government and the local authority. In that way many of our towns could be beautified and fine sporting fields and parks provided. Employment in that way would reduce the drain on the employment fund, and at the same time give those engaged on the work a full wage instead of the pittance that they now get in unemployment benefits.

I hope my suggestions give the Minister food for thought. I make them as a means of overcoming the great problem of unemployment, particularly in areas that depend on the meat and sugar industries.

Mr. DONALD (Bremer) (3.4 p.m.): I had no intention of participating in the debate on this resolution, but as a trade unionist and a member of the working-class movement, I must answer the accusations made against unionists and the trade union movement generally by the hon. member for Kelvin Grove.

He asked why certain people advocated democracy where he said there was no democracy and why they should cry for peace where he said there was no peace. But for the people who have fought for democracy, the hon. member would not be able to speak in this Chamber and but for the people who were courageous enough to work for peace, there would be no peace at all.

His statements were not original. He merely echoed what the Minister for Labour and Industry had said at the concluding stage of the debate on the estimates of his department. Everything that the hon. member for Kelvin Grove said this morning had already been said by the Minister. However, I do not think anyone advocating

peace and democracy would be guilty of delivering a speech and echoing the sentiments expressed by the hon. member in his speech. To say the least of it, it would not make for peace nor for democracy. The hon. member for Kelvin Grove had the audacity to attack the most democratic institution in this State, the trade union movement. No-one can challenge the truth of that. The hon. member is only able to sit in this Chamber because four out of every ten electors in his electorate voted for him at the last election. If that is true democracy, I do not know the meaning of the word. The former member for Kelvin Grove represented the majority of the electors. He was an excellent parliamentarian, a wonderful citizen, a member of the trade union movement, a man of integrity and one possessed of a splendid nature, and above all a loyal mate.

Mr. Tooth: A very fine man indeed.

Mr. DONALD: That is one time when the hon. member has spoken the truth. I agree with the hon. member for Mundingburra that the speech made by the hon. member for Kelvin Grove was most provocative and entirely out of order and that it was not a speech which would be delivered by anyone advocating democracy. He demonstrated in this Assembly that he knew very little of democracy or of the people who fought and sacrificed their lives to have democracy established not only in the British Empire but elsewhere. Men and women fought successfully for electors to exercise a vote for the selection of their parliamentary representatives, and they were far more militant than the men he tried to traduce this morning.

Mr. TOOTH: I rise to a point of order. At no time did I traduce trade unionists. I have a great admiration for the trade union movement and have been a member of a trade union for 40 years. I assert that the hon. member's statement is completely false.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member for Bremer.

Mr. DONALD: If he did not traduce the trade union movement he had a very peculiar way of expressing himself. He is not a trade unionist now in spite of the fact that he claims 40 years' membership. He still has to join a trade union because an association of teachers is not a trade union. I repeat that he knows very little of democracy.

Mr. TOOTH: I rise to another point of order. The Queensland Teachers' Union is a trade union registered in the Industrial Court.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Might I say to hon. members that I have been pretty lenient in this debate. If the hon. member who

has the floor has made his point in regard to what he is answering he might get back to the resolution now being discussed.

Mr. DONALD: I do so quite willingly. The trade union movement has grown in numbers and influence in spite of the opposition from the political party of which the hon. member for Kelvin Grove is now a member.

This opposition has at times been cruel and brutal, bringing about victimisation, persecution and gaoling to many whose only crime was that they were trade unionists. The trade unions can and will look after their own business and that of their members without outside interference. The trade union movement does not want assistance from a non-unionist member of this Parliament. If leaders of the trade union movement have refrained from attending conferences convened by the Minister, they must have had a very good reason for it. Probably they were instructed by a democratic vote of their members not to attend. Is it right in a democracy that representatives of an organisation of workers should be compelled to attend a conference convened by an anti-trade union Minister?

We have heard a good deal about the Mt. Isa dispute. Was it any different from any other industrial dispute? Was it not a dispute between employer and employee? Is it not a fact that the Minister requested trade union representatives to go to Mt. Isa? And is it not a fact also that following their visit to Mt. Isa industrial peace now prevails on the field? These are the men that the Minister tried to traduce.

Who were the men who went to Mt. Isa? They are no strangers to me or to anyone else in the industrial world. No-one can point the finger of scorn at any of them. I shall refer to some of them. First of all, there is Mr. George Whiteside, secretary of the Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen's Association, whom I have known for many years. No-one in this Chamber is a better citizen than he and no-one desires industrial peace more than he.

Then there is Jack Egerton, whom I knew when he was an apprentice at the Ipswich railway workshops. He was elected on a democratic vote to the secretaryship of the Boilermakers' Society of Australia. Can anyone fault his citizenship? What did he do at Mt. Isa that anyone could take exception to? He went there at the Minister's invitation and had his fare paid by the Government. He played his part in settling an industrial dispute, yet he is being maligned.

Mr. Morris: Don't you know where he went before that? Did he hide that from you?

Mr. DONALD: A trade union leader never hides anything.

Mr. Morris: Then why don't you admit it?

Mr. DONALD: All I will admit is that these men are accused of being associates of Communists. Does the Minister forget that two accredited representatives of the Soviet Union in Australia recently attended the annual meeting of the Federal Council of the Liberal Party?

Mr. Frank Nolan, Secretary of the Australian Railway Union, whom I have known for more than 30 years, was also at Mt. Isa. I am prepared to admit that he has always been a militant unionist. That I claim is to his credit. He, like the gentlemen I have mentioned, is an efficient trade union official.

I come now to Mr. Dawson. Our opponents say, "Gerry Dawson was there." It was not Gerry Dawson. It was Archie Dawson, secretary of the Electrical Trades Union. He had a perfect right to be there. His men wanted him there and the Minister asked him to go. No-one can deny that he did a good job.

Mr. Morris: Why don't you tell us about their earlier visits? Don't you know that they went there and urged a ban.

Mr. DONALD: I shall go right back to the genesis of the dispute. If there is an industrial dispute anywhere, even if only one unionist is involved, it is the duty of the union official to go there, even at personal sacrifice, to see that justice is done. I am sure that the legal men in the Chamber will agree with the maxim that not only should justice be done, but it should appear to be done. I am making no apologies for what the trade union leaders did at Mt. Isa, nor do I think that they would wish me to. They went because they thought their members needed their assistance, and they carried out their duty as they saw it. The matter is now before the court and, though I will not attempt to anticipate the decision, I think it will again be proved, as the court has done so often in the past, that what the workers wanted they were justly entitled to. That has been so throughout the history of the trade union movement.

Are there any better citizens in the British Commonwealth of Nations than the members of the trade unions? They have demonstrated their worth in peace and in war, and anyone who attacks them under the privilege of Parliament should be ashamed of himself.

An attempt has been made here to show that the State is prosperous and we have heard the Minister boast that there are more people in employment now than ever before. That may be, but is the number of people employed an indication of prosperity? Cannot prosperity be better judged by the number of people under-employed—and there are hundreds of them—and the number unemployed? With increased population there must be more employed. If it were not so, the position would be really serious.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen: Where are they under-employed?

Mr. DONALD: In many places. In this very building people are under-employed. Every casual worker is under-employed, glad to get a day here, a half-day there. That is what I mean by under-employment. Probably the hon. member would not understand; he has so little sympathy for those who have to work hard for their living and chase jobs all over the place. It is not so very many years since casual workers were denied the right to vote because in having to go from place to place for jobs, they were not in one place long enough to be enrolled. It was the Labour Party that gave them the franchise.

It is obvious that we must have new and expanding industries to absorb the youth leaving primary and secondary schools. We have children who left school last year and who are not yet in permanent, gainful employment. There will be others in the very near future, so new industries will just have to be established. While we have unemployment in any degree it is far from satisfactory to have a Vote for the encouragement of secondary industries underspent by some millions.

The warnings about unemployment given by hon. members during the debate should be heeded by the Minister and I am sure he will. Even the hon. member for Burdekin, who is always anxious not to offend the Government and who never misses an opportunity to attempt to offend and belittle the Australian Labour Party, apologised for unemployment in his district and concluded his speech with a plea that it be relieved. He gave us a solution but was it new? Has it not always been apparent to us?

The hon. member for Kelvin Grove painted a rosy picture of full employment but he should know now that there is serious unemployment and acute under-employment. The other hon. members who drew attention to the unemployment in their electorates were not speaking just for the sake of talking. They were discussing a subject they knew something about. They have seen the unemployment and they know it is serious. They are telling the truth and giving facts.

Several hon. members opposite interjected that we never had full employment in Australia. Such interjections reflect the limited knowledge of Government members of the economy of Australia. Everyone should know that during the most difficult post-war years we enjoyed full employment. We enjoyed full employment because the Australian Labour Party Government, firstly under the leadership of the late John Curtin and subsequently the late Ben Chifley, were able to draw up plans and put them into such successful operation that not only was employment found for every able-bodied man and woman in Australia who wanted to work but also for the tens of thousands who were released from the armed services. They enjoyed full employment until 1949 when

the people of Australia made a tragic mistake by dismissing the best administration they ever had.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen: They seem to be satisfied; they have put them back every time ever since.

Mr. DONALD: On a minority vote.

There could be full employment today. But when the people in control of the economic destiny of the nation refuse to have full employment there is little that we, as an Opposition, can do to bring it about, but the State Government could help. Should there be any carpenter or building worker out of employment when people are looking for homes? Can there be any justification for over-crowded classrooms or children having to put up with untenable conditions such as exist at Dinmore when there are unemployed builders? Should there be any unemployment when Brisbane and other cities are crying out for sewerage and water reticulation? If there is a genuine desire by Governments throughout the Commonwealth to solve the problem of unemployment they could do much. I am prepared to admit that they might find difficulty in getting the required finance. But who holds the finances of the Commonwealth? It is not the working class. I admit that it is the working class that produces all the wealth. Unfortunately they cannot get sufficient earnings to buy back what they create; if they did there would be no unemployment. I was surprised that an ex-school teacher like the hon. member for Burdekin should cite such an example. He said that 22 men would be employed—

Mr. Coburn: Thirty men.

Mr. DONALD: —30 men would be employed in laying two miles—

Mr. Coburn: Two months.

Mr. DONALD: —for two months constructing two miles of cane tramline. He gave that as an example of how long it would take and how many men would be employed to reconstruct the Mt. Isa-Collinsville line. Does he forget that we have passed the stage where all the work is done by man-power? A great deal of machinery and modern equipment will be used on the Mt. Isa line. The ratio of man-power to machinery on the reconstruction of the Mt. Isa line will be totally different from the ratio of man-power to machinery when that line was first laid or the cane-line being re-constructed. Let us be sensible about these things. I am quite prepared to admit that it will absorb some men and anything that creates employment is welcomed by members of the A.L.P. When we say that we believe in productivity and that that additional productivity means better living standards, we mean it. We do not mean that there should be increased sugar-cane and pineapples that the producers cannot sell.

Much has been said about the Mt. Isa rail project. I wish to quote the following, which appeared in "The Queensland Times" this morning:—

**"To Cost £22,500—Mt. Isa Line Project
Work for Ipswich**

"Cabinet this week approved expenditure of £22,500 at the Ipswich Railway Workshops for the Mt. Isa Line project.

"The Transport Minister (Mr. G. Chalk) said tonight this was the first approved expenditure on the project apart from administrative costs. The expenditure announced by Mr. Chalk was—

Conversion of 50 W type waggons to W/R class waggons to allow the carriage of rails from Townsville to the work sites for which the total expenditure will be £15,000.

Fitting of plough mechanism to 15 T-type waggons for use as ploughs in the ripping up of existing ballast. This work, also to be carried out at Ipswich, will cost about £7,500."

I hope that no hon. member in this Chamber is so narrow as to suggest that this work should have gone north. I say, with the full knowledge that it is correct, that this work will be carried out at the Ipswich railway workshops cheaper and better than it could be carried out anywhere else in this State. In Ipswich we have technicians and experts and all the machinery and facilities to turn out a good job. The Ipswich railway workshops men have earned the reputation of turning out better work at a lesser cost than can be done elsewhere. Hon. members only have to turn up "Hansard" and read the answer to a question I asked a few sessions ago to verify that what I say is correct.

Let me say in conclusion that we on this side do not exploit the unemployment position as we are accused of doing by members of the Government. We hate to see a single man or woman unemployed. We will do everything we can while we are in Opposition and again when we become the Government, to ensure that there is full employment and that the people live under decent conditions. Government members may laugh about the unemployment position and be indifferent to it, but sooner or later the people will move them back to the shades of Opposition from which they so recently emerged.

Mr. WALSH (Bundaberg) (3.28 p.m.): The importance of this debate has been indicated by the fact that members generally, particularly on this side of the House, are prepared to devote much time in discussing the various phases of this department. It is true that some phases of it may be indirectly associated with the harmonious relations between the industrial wing and the Government. To that extent the hon. member for Kelvin Grove thought he was right in bringing up the points that he made. I do not think anyone would accuse me of siding with

the Communists, but I do not think we have reached the stage in democracy, as I understand it, when, before discussing peace in any quarter that we must have regard to their religion or politics or any other affiliation they may have. But when the matter has reached the stage, as has been publicised, that the Communist element had wanted to more or less dictate the terms and conditions, then it is time for each person to indicate that they are against such practices.

Mr. Coburn: Some of those at the conference objected to all this.

Mr. WALSH: That may be. World leaders are prepared to enter into negotiations with people whose outlook is diametrically opposed to their form of democracy; and that is the only way that the world can arrive at peace. But once it is known that the Communists are going to dictate the manner in which a conference is to be run, and the decisions to be arrived at by it, any movement, whether the Labour Movement, the Liberal Movement, or any other movement, must of necessity dissociate itself from it.

The mere fact that the capitalist Press may present a certain picture does not mean that it should be taken as the official picture. Persons such as J. B. Priestly, a world famous figure, have come out here. He had to get inside the conference before he knew what was happening, and I think he adopted the right attitude.

That leads me to the views expressed on the industrial side. I said even in the days when I was a member of Labour Governments that too frequently we found people in the Labour Party or in official positions in trade unions, who were prepared to condemn others simply because they were critical of the Labour Government or of trade union officials. They would suggest that any person who had radical views or was in some way opposed to their own ideas was tainted with a particular philosophy. In my opinion that is wrong. We must recognise the right of trade unionists to elect their officials in any way they choose, subject, of course, to ballots being conducted on a proper basis, as long as the election is in accordance with the rules of the union. In those conditions I do not think it is right for the Minister or anyone else to brand a man as Communist, Labour or Liberal simply because he has to represent his union at a particular conference. If harmonious relations are desired, they are not obtained in that way. Everyone knows what I personally would do with Communists, and my outlook is in no way different from my outlook 20 years ago. As long as union members exercise their democratic right to elect officials, I think we should be satisfied. Even if we disagree with the men who have been elected, we should not condemn a trade union merely because of a few who have

clutched onto it, like the fleas on the dogs, the ticks on the cows, or the bugs in the beds.

Mr. Tooth: I agree with you entirely.

Mr. WALSH: I am glad of that, but the hon. member did not express himself in that way. If he had made it clear that he was completely against Communists as such within the trade union movement, I would agree with him. I have made that clear, and if every hon. member on this side of the Chamber does not make it equally clear that that is his stand, I cannot help it. But I have always objected to those people who condemn certain unionists merely because their union is controlled by an individual whose affiliations are different from theirs.

The next think I say to the Minister is that the department has been known for many years as the Department of Labour and Industry. I think we have reached the stage, after the Minister's term of office, when it will have to be given a new title. As time goes on it is becoming more evident that the Minister is displaying less and less interest in employment. I think the word "Labour" in the title of the department means the employment of labour. The Minister is taking less and less interest in the employment of labour. If he had more interest in it, he would have put before the House on behalf of the Government some concrete plan to meet the ever-growing problem of unemployment in this State. I should say that unemployment is the greatest problem confronting any Government.

Mr. Morris: Of course it is.

Mr. WALSH: I agree, but the Minister does not seem to be doing much about it. His activities on behalf of the Tourist Bureau will not in themselves solve the problem of unemployment. It is a threat to Queensland, just as it would be conceded by all hon. members that it is the greatest threat to all nations of the world. Once the nation has thousands of unemployed who are unable to earn money to maintain, clothe and educate their families, we will experience the same real threat to our society as is being experienced in other countries of the world. Unless we can maintain our people in a state of security, and that means full employment, then like the Asiatic races they will clutch at any form of philosophy to give them relief. It is because of that that I think the Government have not seriously set out to meet the position. Figures were quoted over the air this morning regarding the number of vacant jobs, and I have no doubt that the Minister will present a mass of figures indicating a number of people unemployed on a given date and another number at another date. But that is not finding jobs for the unemployed. There has been an increase of 6,000 vacant jobs in the Commonwealth. What does that mean? Does it mean that technical men are short.

Mr. Morris: That is exactly what it does mean. That is the tragedy of the unemployed situation. We have people unemployed when there are jobs vacant and there are not the tradesmen to fill them.

Mr. WALSH: I am not condemning the Minister's point of view. He must remember that there are thousands and thousands of men available year in and year out when the seasonal industries, the meat works, the cane industry and the shearing industries cut out. There are those who do not hold specific trade qualifications. We can put them in the unskilled field of labour. There are thousands of them. In Bundaberg there were 113 people unemployed when the sugar industry was at its peak. The mills have now closed down and there will be thousands of men available from the fields, the milling side of the cane industry and the labourers incidental to normal employment in the season. There will be some 4,000 or 5,000 meat workers and no-one can say that they will be absorbed into jobs already made for them.

Mr. Morris: You have not that number today. We were faced with that number in February and March.

Mr. WALSH: The Minister might have his own statistics. Industries are closing down and men are seeking social service payments. If we cannot find full employment for those seeking jobs when industry is in full swing, how can we accommodate the men who will be unemployed during the slack season? We come to the point where the Government should be planning. I do not know what schemes the Government have in mind although mention was made of the North Coast road and boosting up different seaside resorts and a new recreation area for Bribie Island. Those things are all very desirable, but they do not provide the means of making for mass employment in any particular centre.

I do not condemn the Government without offering suggestions.

Mr. Morris: You recognise that it is hardly likely that you could get one scheme that would absorb the whole of the unemployed. If you could get ten schemes, each to take one-tenth, you would be doing better.

Mr. WALSH: It does not matter if you only employ ten on some job. It is idle to say, as the hon. member for Burdekin says, that thousands of pounds should be spent on main roads work. Anybody with any sense knows that the labour factor in road construction is infinitesimal. Most of it is done by heavy machinery. In the days of Public Estate Improvement projects, one could see large camps of men in various areas.

Mr. Richter: Have you any solution?

Mr. WALSH: I propose to make suggestions that should be of benefit. The advisory committees that functioned in various centres

prior to the war were not needed during and immediately after the war, when there was full employment. Men were discharged from the various services gradually, and the Government of the day did a remarkable job in absorbing them into employment. In addition to men in the services, the Allied Works Council employed huge numbers of men during the war. As a matter of fact, a greater proportion of Australia's population was engaged in war industries than that of any other country. In the immediate post-war years, over 800,000 people had to be found jobs. That was the tremendous task that confronted a Labour Government.

Mr. Pizzey: There was still seasonal unemployment.

Mr. WALSH: The Minister for Education is not correct. If there was any seasonal unemployment during that period, it was very slight. As a matter of fact, very great difficulty was experienced in getting enough cane-cutters.

Mr. Pizzey: I am speaking of the period from 1952 to 1956.

Mr. WALSH: That is getting away from the immediate post-war period. Although there was a measure of unemployment during that period, it did not nearly approach today's figure. I am sure that at that time the hon. gentleman did not hear complaints in Bundaberg and Childers about unemployment. Today, at the height of the crushing season, 130 men are out of work in Bundaberg.

I come now to some suggestions. During the depression, and immediately after the defeat of the anti-Labour Government in 1932, one of Labour's first steps in reducing unemployment was to encourage revival in the building industry. Apart altogether from tradesmen such as carpenters and plumbers who are engaged in the actual building work, one must remember that the effect of a revival in the building industry is felt right back to the forests where the logs are cut. A chain of employment is created, forgetting altogether about forestry work.

Mr. Morris: You don't need to leave forestry out of it. It is included.

Mr. WALSH: I am not leaving it out. I shall deal with it from a completely different angle. I point out to the hon. member for Somerset that even the iron roofing and the nails have to be manufactured and transported. Everything associated with the building industry creates employment in dozens of other industries.

Mr. Richter: A good deal of capital is involved.

Mr. WALSH: The Federal Government could help a great deal by doing the right thing by the States.

Forestry lends itself to the employment of very many unskilled labourers. The Government should plan, as the previous Government did, for the development of forestry

areas adjacent to districts with seasonal industries. Anybody who travels by plane over Maryborough can look down on the magnificent work done on the forestry plantation. Funds should be made available to develop areas near Bundaberg, Cairns, Mackay, and so on, in the slack season.

It is all very well to say that the reconstruction of the Collinsville-Mt. Isa railway line will mean the employment of many hundreds of men. Of course it will, the more the better. But nobody expects a man with three or four or five children to travel 1,000 miles to live in a camp or a bondwood hut to work on the railway. It is no good saying what the previous Government did or did not do. The present Government have the responsibility to meet the situation. If they direct funds into activities to employ men for two or three months, or even only part of the time, they will greatly relieve the position.

The hon. member for Burdekin mentioned a subject I intended to raise in any case, as I have raised it before, and that is the large amount of money spent by the Federal Government on social service payments. The hon. member for Rockhampton stressed it this morning. I suggest that the State Government take the matter up with the Federal Government to devise a plan similar to that which operated years ago when the local authorities were subsidised, as the hon. member for Burdekin said, on the basis of the Commonwealth one-third, the State one-third, and the local authority one-third.

Mr. Morris: We have taken that up with the Federal Government. I will tell you all about it later.

Mr. WALSH: Not very much was made available by the Commonwealth Government—only about £140,000. However, the State Government made available a similar sum and the local authorities did their share so they were able to go ahead with projects of their choice. Goondiwindi built a fine hall and shops and supplemented its water supply. It was left to the local authorities to submit proposals and the Co-ordinator-General determined the priority.

Mr. Morris: I will be very glad to give you the details of the discussions.

Mr. WALSH: We will be happy to hear any plan. We have been going along for a long time and we have not seen anything spectacular. All we have seen has been the Minister running about with his tourism, and beautification schemes on the North Coast, Bribie Island, and elsewhere. We want a large-scale plan related to employment and to the future development of the State and the expansion of its economy. For those reasons I hope the Government will, firstly, give consideration to the requests made by the local authorities for additional finance between January and June each year and, secondly, re-examine their plan to see if they

can boost the works programme to relieve the position immediately. In the next six months the Commonwealth Government will spend hundreds of thousands of pounds on social service payments to unemployed in Queensland. Would it not be better if that money were made available to the State Government and local authorities? As people became employed they would become taxpayers and the Commonwealth Government would get much of their money back. In addition, the money probably could be spent on a scheme that would add to production within the State.

I have made the point before but I think it necessary to make it again: in this Parliament we are inclined to overstress the part the Government play in attracting secondary industries to the State—not that this Government have done much about that, despite what the Minister will say. I challenge the Minister to give details of any one major industry that has become established in Queensland since the Government came into power. He has tried to belittle what the previous Government did. Let me draw his attention to the projects undertaken even within the six or seven years prior to the defeat of the Labour Government. Surely he would not claim any credit for the paper mills at Petrie or the copper refinery in North Queensland. Does he think that his Government were responsible for the expenditure by the Holden people at Strathpine? What about the Burnie board factory at Ipswich or the works established at Geebung and Zillmere?

Mr. Jesson: The North Queensland Cement Works.

Mr. WALSH: Yes, the North Queensland Cement Works. The Government of the day guaranteed that company to the extent of £500,000.

Mr. Morris: I shall throw one in straight away. What did you do to get the Willys jeep factory here?

Mr. WALSH: Is that part of Red China?

Mr. Morris: Willys jeep—motor vehicles!

Mr. WALSH: I have never heard of them. I heard something about the Minister's getting an assembly plant established at East Brisbane by somebody by the name of Hartnett, but I have heard nothing further about it. If the Minister has a list of major industries established in Queensland since his Government took office, let him give it to the House and to the people.

Mr. Morris: I did two weeks ago.

Mr. WALSH: I know the Minister's tricks.

The Government can play only a limited part. The people with the capital have the final say because it is their money. Many people in Bundaberg are asking each and every type of industry to come to that city, but it is not their money. The local authority

have their part to play in water supply, electricity supply and transport communication. If every local authority had a water supply sufficient to meet the needs of any major secondary industry that might establish itself in its area it would have grounds for constantly extending invitations to industry, but industry itself has the final say of whether available markets justified its establishment.

No doubt the Government can assist in association with local authorities. A major industry might ask a local authority to grant a concession in water rates. A regional electricity board might be called upon to give a concession in electricity rates. It is here that the Government could assist in the establishment of industry. The Government should see whether it is possible to assist local authorities that receive requests to grant concessions to industries that may become established in their localities. Secondary industries provide additional employment but they do not meet the position of seasonal unemployment. I should like the Minister for Agriculture and Stock to review the power of the Peanut Board to allocate quotas for the growing of peanuts. In the Bundaberg area there are numbers of farmers who are prepared to proceed with the cultivation of peanuts. Why should they be restricted as they are today under the limited quotas?

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen: They try to be fair and divide it as evenly as possible among the growers.

Mr. WALSH: We are talking of expansion of industry. It is time that the Peanut Marketing Board gave consideration to the price of the commodities that it markets. If the people cannot get peanuts at a reasonable price less will be sold. The Board should do all it can to boost the sale of peanuts rather than place unnecessary restrictions on the production of peanuts in districts where there is seasonal unemployment.

Cotton production is developing well in the Bundaberg area. Many farmers adjacent to my electorate are now taking a keen interest in cotton production. Many people will be employed in that industry in the sugar off-season.

The Minister for Agriculture and Stock will agree that Bundaberg is becoming one of the best tobacco-producing districts in this State. Already production for the first year was valued at about £500,000. That is another industry that is seasonal, but the employment of labour at the time it is needed in tobacco-growing absorbs many of the unemployed from the sugar industry. Those are features that require consideration. The Government have the problem of finding money from the Commonwealth. I hope that the hon. member for Burdekin and others will take a different view about excess production.

Mr. Coburn: The sugar industry believes in it.

Mr. WALSH: The sugar industry does not believe in it. The hon. member regards the organisation as the industry itself, but it is not the industry. The industry is the people who grow the cane. These people have to leave 40 per cent. of the crop standing in the field. They are the people of whom I speak, not the executives. Let us get away from the idea that because we have a limited market for sugar that we can do nothing more about it. Let us go further in the field of research and exploit the avenues in which the product can be used in other industries.

Mr. Coburn: You know that they are doing that.

Mr. WALSH: I have not seen any evidence of it from the hon. member for Burdekin. The hon. member for Burdekin is satisfied because he represents an area with irrigation, where they get a 100 per cent. crop each year, but that is not the case in North Queensland—Cairns, Mackay, or at Bundaberg. Thousands of growers in those areas should be considered. It is a general problem. That is why I express amazement, but I am not going to elaborate on it.

Mr. Coburn: Too dangerous.

Mr. WALSH: No. There is nothing too dangerous for me to discuss in regard to sugar. I could lose the hon. member on that subject.

I notice that no protest was made by anybody when the Government recently decontrolled the price of sugar. The sugar organisation did not protest. After a period of 43 years somebody suddenly decided to decontrol the price of sugar, which in my opinion will wreck the foundations of the sugar industry.

I will not pursue that subject, Mr. Speaker. You have been tolerant enough to allow me to make the point.

The sugar industry has been one of the major avenues of employment in North Queensland for many years, and it is being mechanised. In the Bundaberg district I should say that mechanisation will be undertaken to a greater extent than in any other district. Hon. members will be shocked to hear that one company which last year employed 157 cutters engaged only 35 this year. Those figures give some idea of the displacement of field labour by cutting machines. Because of the flat nature of the country, the Bundaberg district lends itself to mechanisation. Those of us who view the position seriously and who are considering the prospects for the future want some action now in order to cope with the real crash when it comes, when hundreds of men will be displaced through improved mechanisation. I am not condemning mechanisation in any way. The industry has adopted mechanisation over the last 35 years, both in the field and in the mill, and no-one realises that better than I do, but the fact remains that it is

creating a growing problem in the north. Although it should not be so, there is an air of despondency in northern towns such as Mackay and Innisfail because the Government are not grappling with the problem of unemployment.

I hope the Government will give serious consideration to promoting different avenues of employment in order at least to give some relief to seasonal workers.

Mr. CLARK (Fitzroy) (4.2 p.m.): I want to discuss unemployment not only in Queensland but throughout Australia. The army of unemployed throughout the Commonwealth is greater in number than for many years past, and I can envisage that it will grow even larger.

We were told by Government members from the hustings that if they were returned as the Government there would be more jobs than men to fill them. That certainly is not the case. Take the position in the Central district. As the hon. member for Rockhampton said earlier, there are 1,000 unemployed persons in Rockhampton and that would be the minimum number, as the figure refers only to men who have registered for sustenance. In Gladstone approximately 300 men are unemployed, and again that is the minimum number as the figure represents only those who have registered for employment. The position is aggravated in the Central District because of the seasonal nature of the industries. The Lakes Creek and Gladstone meatworks when operating to capacity provide work for 2,500 to 3,000 men. At the moment both works are virtually closed, and work has to be found for the men.

Sugar mills are coming to the end of the crushing season. Many men in Central Queensland find employment in the sugar industry. When the crushing terminates this season, the number of unemployed persons in the Central district will be even greater than at the moment. It is something of which the Government should take cognisance, as most of these men will be up against it long before Christmas. The Government have the duty of finding work to employ some of the unemployed, and I suggest one or two projects to absorb some of them. Much has been said about the reconstruction of the Mt. Isa railway, but that work will not employ the numbers some hon. members think it will. We have heard of the part machinery plays in industry. We want work on which labourers can be employed because most of those out of work are labourers. With the exception of a few butchers most of the men at the Lakes Creek and Gladstone meatworks are labourers. If the Government do not find employment quickly for these men they will not occupy the Treasury benches after the next election.

A lot of surveying has been done on the road from Rockhampton to Mt. Morgan. There are many bends on the range section

which need straightening; there are sections that need widening. Such work would take up quite a number of labourers. A few machines might have to be used, but the class of work we want is for labourers.

I previously mentioned the duplication of the railway line from Rockhampton to Bajool. If the Government proceeded with that work they would go a long way towards relieving unemployment in Rockhampton. A road to the West would absorb many of the unemployed. Councils want to do as much work as they can but many use machinery and that does away with some labouring work.

Mr. Windsor: The hon. member for Bundaberg said that roadmaking was a waste of time.

Mr. CLARK: No-one said that. We must have roads. Many families in Rockhampton will be in a bad way before Christmas if the men do not get work. The Minister for Transport is now in the Chamber and I repeat my remarks about the duplication of the line from Rockhampton to Bajool. In a few years the Government will have to undertake the job. That part of Central Queensland will develop and it will be necessary to duplicate the line. Diesel-electric locomotives operate on the main line through Rockhampton and I have often seen steam trains standing at Midgee and Archer waiting for the diesel to pass. It does not take long for the diesel to come to Midgee and Archer after leaving Rockhampton. The difficulty could be overcome by duplicating the line.

A good deal has been said about the establishment of secondary industries. There are greater possibilities for secondary industry in and around Rockhampton than in any other part of Queensland. I have referred to this matter before, but a good thing cannot be repeated too often. The Lakes Creek meatworks treats approximately 1,000 bullocks a day, and a cannery should be established somewhere in the vicinity. A boot and shoe factory could also be established.

Again, to the north and south of Rockhampton there are all the necessities for the manufacture of cement. I refer now to lime, gypsum, clay, and all the other raw materials used in cement manufacture. The Premier recently made a statement in the Press that there was a possibility of cement works being established in Rockhampton. However, from what I have heard it will be merely an agency for the existing cement works at Darra and Townsville. It appears that the Rockhampton merchants, who are agents for those cement works, do not want one established in Central Queensland. If private enterprise had not fallen down on the job, a cement works would have been established in Rockhampton before Townsville.

Again, the best wheat in Queensland, including even the Darling Downs, is grown in Central Queensland. I refer now to the Dawson and Callide Valleys and the Peak Downs area. Enough wheat is grown there

to warrant the establishment of a flour mill in Rockhampton. That is another instance of private enterprise falling down on the job.

I appeal to the Minister to do everything possible to encourage the establishment of secondary industries in Rockhampton. There are hundreds of thousands of tons of pyrites at Mt. Morgan, and years ago the Government should have helped the Mt. Morgan company to set up a chemical works. If that was done, a fertiliser works would soon follow. Enough sulphate of ammonia could be produced in Central Queensland to satisfy the demands of Queensland's sugar farmers, whose fertiliser costs would thereby be reduced considerably. Sulphur could be produced from the Mt. Morgan pyrites, and ammonia from Baralaba coal. They are the two main ingredients of nitrogenous fertilisers such as sulphate of ammonia.

I ask the Minister in charge of main roads to make a start on the road from Mt. Morgan, and the Minister for Transport to give urgent consideration to duplicating the railway line from Rockhampton to Bajool.

Mr. A. J. SMITH (Carpentaria) (4.15 p.m.): I have listened attentively to the debate. The relief of unemployment is a tremendous task and it cannot be done without money. That money, or most of it, must come from the Commonwealth.

At the present time the Commonwealth Government are anxious to make funds available to other States for the standardisation of railways. Before the last Federal election Mr. Menzies told Sir Thomas Playford that he was very anxious to have the line from Broken Hill to Port Pirie standardised, and to have the Commonwealth railways standardised, as well as to make an agreement with the New South Wales and Victorian Governments to standardise the Albury to Melbourne line.

It seems to me that as the Commonwealth Government are ready to make millions of pounds available for that purpose it might be opportune for the Queensland Government to bring down legislation this session to provide for an agreement with the Commonwealth Government for the standardisation of the railway from South Brisbane to Cairns. Look at the work it would create! It would have to be done in sections, of course, and would take many years and cost millions of pounds. The money would be made available, as it is to the other States, with repayment of 15 per cent. of the total cost over 50 years. Employment would be created in areas with seasonal industries and what a great asset to the State the line would be! Industrialists have said openly in the past, "We would like to set up our industry outside the metropolitan area but we cannot because railway facilities are inadequate and freights are high." In New South Wales standardisation of the railway will mean a great deal of progress with the decentralisation of industry, the development of Port Kembla and Wollongong and similar towns. The same could take place here.

The Labour Government in their wisdom when building the Burdekin River bridge bore in mind the eventual standardisation of the railway gauge along the coast of Queensland. What a pity that when the Commonwealth Government investigated the need to reconstruct the Collinsville-Mt. Isa line to meet the heavy expansion of Mt. Isa mines, Mr. Menzies did not take notice of his own railways committee's policy of standardising the gauge! The Mt. Isa line could have been standardised in conjunction with the standardisation of the coastal railway.

Throughout today suggestions have been made for relieving unemployment but nothing can be done without money and, as the Commonwealth Government are most anxious to make millions of pounds available for the standardisation of railways elsewhere, the matter might very well be favourably considered here. A question was asked in the House last week by the hon. member for Mundingburra about the reconstruction of the Mt. Isa line out of finances the Commonwealth Government made available for standardisation in other States. In his reply the Premier said that the railways in Queensland had been retarded because the previous Government did not take advantage of the Commonwealth Government's offer to make an agreement for the standardisation of railways. I am asking the Government now to ask the Commonwealth Government to enter into an agreement for the standardisation of the line from Brisbane to Cairns.

It has been suggested that all the work on the Mt. Isa line will be done by machinery. But a great deal of employment will be created. Men will be employed in repair shops and in factories where the machines are made. Work will be provided for engineers, fitters, turners, boilermakers, ironworkers, and the labourers who work with these tradesmen. Work will be created all round. Perhaps a great deal of employment will not be created in the field but there will be in the repair shops. When the east-west connection was made during the war years, despite mechanisation many tradesmen and labourers were employed. The Commonwealth Government are going to make money available for the line between Albury and Melbourne and from Broken Hill to Port Pirie. Between £25,000,000 and £30,000,000 will be spent on 500 miles of line. It is over 1,000 miles from Brisbane to Cairns. Look at the millions of pounds that could be spent there and the work that could be created for many years to come! Look at the industry that would follow! Look at the work that was created by the construction of the Story Bridge and the establishment of Evans Deakin shipbuilding yards! I ask the Government to create this employment that will bring not only development but prosperity to the State.

Hon. K. J. MORRIS (Mt. Coot-tha—Minister for Labour and Industry) (4.23 p.m.): Unfortunately I have insufficient time to reply to all the comments that have

been made in this very interesting debate. Much has been said about unemployment, which is the subject to which I shall devote most of my time. I have some facts to put before the House and I shall take this opportunity of doing so.

The hon. member for Bundaberg challenged me to give details of any major industry that had been established in Queensland since we assumed office. Naturally I have not got all my material here now, but I immediately asked the hon. member, "What about Willys Jeeps?" and he replied, "I don't know anything about it." If an hon. member cannot keep abreast of the times and know something about these very important matters I do not think he is justified in making criticisms in the House. I have told hon. members before that the Government were responsible for inducing the Willys Jeep people to come to Brisbane. As all people should know, the Willys jeep is a four-wheeled motor vehicle that is very important in various types of industry. We were able to persuade the management of this company to develop their industry in Queensland.

Mr. Aikens: Did you ask them to come to the North?

Mr. MORRIS: I asked them to come to Queensland. They have been established here for 12 months, and there have been some half-dozen big newspaper articles about this firm. I have one here that appeared on 6 November, which refers to this industry. This is what it says—

"Now exporting Rocklea jeeps.

Australia was becoming an exciting investment prospect for all types of business, American automobile executive, Mr. Keith Covelle, said in Brisbane.

There was a vast potential here for four-wheel drive vehicles. Mr. Covelle, vice-president and general manager of Willys Overland Export Corporation, Toledo, U.S.A., was visiting the new factory of Willys Motors (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. at Rocklea, Brisbane.

The Rocklea venture is half owned by the parent American Company and the balance by Australian shareholders.

Mr. Covelle said that in less than a year from the inception of production at Rocklea the company was exporting Willys Universal jeeps from Australia.

"We plan to utilise Australia in the expanding demand for these jeeps in surrounding countries" he said.

From the 30 per cent. last year the Australian content of the jeeps had risen to more than 70 per cent."

That is only one industry. I could spend the whole of my time giving other examples. Here is one important industry that the hon. member for Bundaberg knew nothing about and I advise him to give a more careful study to

the news of the day so that he will then discover what is just a pattern of many others.

Mr. Power: How many do they employ?

Mr. MORRIS: They employ several hundred people directly and indirectly.

Mr. Power: A lot of rot.

Mr. MORRIS: Does not the hon. member know it. Here is another hon. member who does not know the news of the day. He should read and know what he is talking about.

I wish to refer to the comments of the hon. member for Fitzroy who made a number of very sensible suggestions, but unfortunately he too is not aware of some of the latest developments. He went to some length to tell us of the need for secondary industries in Central Queensland and I could not agree more with him, but he should know that for two years we have been working and spending thousands of pounds on investigations to try and introduce a fertilizer works to Central Queensland. That is fairly common knowledge. I do not like to make public announcements until they are official—but there are three organisations with whom we have had negotiations, one of whom will be making an announcement in the next two months about establishing a works—I would not say at Rockhampton—but in Central Queensland. It is safer to say that I think one of the three organisations will announce its decision to start within the next two or three months. At present it proposes to manufacture sulphuric acid from pyrites from Mt. Morgan and to manufacture ammonia, sulphate of ammonia and urea. The manufacture of those chemicals is only the starting point in the manufacture of other chemicals associated with them, such as those in the alkali industry. All hon. members realise the tremendous opening for an alkali industry in Central Queensland, but these things cannot be achieved in a day or a month. Much hard work is required to encourage such industries.

The Chairman of Directors of Mt. Morgan Ltd. made a Press statement a couple of weeks ago. I know he would assure any hon. member who cares to get in touch with him that his company has received outstanding assistance from my department and its officers. There is nothing unusual in the fact that they have rendered assistance; they are merely doing what they are paid to do, but they take a delight in doing it. They are deeply interested in this type of work and they have given all the assistance that could be expected of them, and much more. They have done everything within their power to prove the benefits to be obtained by establishing industries in that area. I hope their efforts will be crowned with success.

I shall deal now with the statements of the hon. member for Fitzroy and, I think, the hon. member for Ithaca, about cement

works in Central Queensland. It is rather a pity that certain hon. members do not read the news or do not read it correctly. The position is that we have two huge cement works in Queensland, one in the North and the other at Darra.

Mr. Power: And don't forget the northern company was assisted by a Labour Government.

Mr. MORRIS: I grant the hon. member that.

Those two organisations are supplying the demand for cement throughout Queensland. There is a growing demand for cement in Central Queensland, but the amount required there is still less than the production of a factory working full time. The demand may increase in a year or so.

There are two methods of manufacturing cement, the vertical and to use a loose term, the horizontal method. The vertical method is not nearly as effective as the second method. Although a factory employing the vertical method requires a lower capital outlay it is not possible by that method to produce cement as economically as by the other method. Until the demand in Central Queensland is sufficient to absorb the output of a plant, it would be unwise to establish a cement works there. It would be working only half time. It could not be run economically. It is better in the meantime to pay freight on cement to Central Queensland. During the interim cement will be taken to Rockhampton for the central district, but the announcement was clear on the point that it is the intention of those companies to build a plant in Central Queensland to manufacture cement.

Mr. Hanlon: To stop anyone else from coming in, and then not build it.

Mr. MORRIS: The trouble with these gentlemen of the Opposition is that they cannot see good in anything. The hon. member speaks about stopping any other industry from going to Central Queensland. Does he know of any company that wants to go to Central Queensland to manufacture cement? Of course he does not. How in the name of fortune is the setting up of a depot in Central Queensland going to prevent any other organisation from establishing a cement works in that district, if it thinks it would be economic to do so? It would have to come from Darra or North Queensland, and the fact that a depot has been established in Central Queensland does not do a single thing to prevent people from developing a cement industry in Central Queensland if they wish to do so. The company has said that as soon as there is an economic quantity of cement being used in Central Queensland they will build a plant there. And it will not be long.

I do not like the way in which hon. members mis-state a situation for their own purpose. Every hon. member who spoke made some comment about unemployment. The hon. member for Fitzroy rightly said that most of our unemployed were labourers. The hon.

member for Bundaberg also quite rightly said that there was an increase of 6,000 in unfilled jobs. The hon. member for Belyando said that during the Labour Administration the number of unemployed was less than 5 per cent. He too was right. Today the number of unemployed is less than 2½ per cent. The hon. member for Belyando patted himself on the back because he said that it was less than 5 per cent.

I was disappointed in the speech of the hon. member for Bremer. I usually listen to him with great interest because he rarely makes incorrect statements but I think he draws the wrong inference occasionally. I do not think he deliberately says things that are wrong. He thinks they are right. He said that the hon. member for Kelvin Grove attacked all the trade unions, which is not true. All that the hon. member for Kelvin Grove said was that the Communists that were associated with Queensland life were injuring trade unions.

Mr. Jesson: He did not say that at all.

Mr. MORRIS: He did not suggest that all unionists were Communists. The hon. member for Bremer also said that I had sat in conference with Russian diplomats and others. I cannot say that that is a lie because it would be unparliamentary, but it is entirely untrue. I did not sit in conference with Russian diplomats. I neither met, talked to them, or saw them. I was most disappointed to think that the hon. member would deliberately say something that was not true. He further said that children who left school a year ago were still unemployed. I would remind him that three weeks ago, or perhaps less, he made a similar statement and I replied, "If you can get one person in that category unemployed who has any clerical ability, send him along to me and I will see that he gets a job quickly because such people are needed." He said that these people had clerical ability. That was three weeks ago and he has not sent one person to me.

Mr. DONALD: I rise to a point of order to correct the Minister. I said that at the end of the school year there would be a number of boys and girls leaving secondary schools looking for employment and that it was necessary to establish new industries to absorb them. I mentioned the matter to him in a private conversation.

Mr. MORRIS: It was not in private conversation. I am referring to something that the hon. member said in the House. I do not want to put him in the wrong light, but his statement appears in "Hansard". I interjected, "If you know of anyone send him to me. We are crying out for them."

The hon. member made another incorrect statement today when he said that my Vote—I presume he was referring to that for the Secondary Industries Division—was under-spent by millions. That is not true. My Vote last year was £4,905,721, and my

expenditure £4,948,020. As a matter of fact, I overspent the appropriation. The amount appropriated to the Secondary Industries Fund from Trust and Special Funds was £23,600, of which only £3,498 was spent. The reason for that is that we have good relations with industry and have been able to get bank guarantees in a way in which I presume our predecessors were unsuccessful. Much more money has been made available to industry by us than by the previous Government.

The hon. member also said that carpenters and other building tradesmen were out of work. I assure him that no employable building tradesman is unemployed today. As a matter of fact, there is a frantic search for them every day.

I am very grateful to the hon. member for Kelvin Grove for referring to the worry that the Government and I have in the relief of unemployment and the associated problem of the Communist element within the community. It is essential to have development of industry, and we can get it only by having harmony in industry. The community is composed of people with greatly varying political opinions; there are those on the extreme Left and those on the extreme Right. Quite frankly, those on the extreme Left are doing a great deal of harm to Queensland. I refer, of course, to the Communists. I suppose 95 per cent. of Queensland's trade unionists are other than extreme Left-wingers—they are law-abiding and hard-working members of the community—and it is a great pity that they should be hurt by the actions of a mere sprinkling of Communists.

When I was concluding the debate on the Estimates for my department I referred to some of these Communists, but time prevented me from developing what I wanted to say. I propose to do it now. I believe that many of these people are the enemies of Queensland. I mentioned their names; many of them are doing a great disservice to Queensland. It is said by hon. members opposite that we are opponents of the wage-earners, but the truth is quite the reverse. The people who are employed by this Government, whether in the Public Service or the Police Force, are getting a better deal now than ever before. Therefore it is not true to say that we are the enemies of the working people. But there is no room in Queensland for those who have a Communist policy and who set out deliberately to disrupt industry. We have given proof of that.

Through lack of time, when last I spoke I referred to a person called Nolan, without giving his Christian name or initials. On 30 October I received a letter from a Mr. F. G. Nolan of the Railway Department asking me if I referred to him. On 2 November—note, no delay—I replied telling him that he was not the Nolan.

Mr. Jesson: Who was the Nolan? Tell us that.

Mr. MORRIS: I will tell hon. members in a moment. I said it was not he and I quite generously added that I would make the announcement when I got the opportunity. This is the first opportunity I have had. I told him that in the meantime he could use my letter if he wanted to. What is wrong with that? I do not think one could be fairer than that.

Other people chose to read into my statement an accusation against them that they were Communists. I had a letter from Egerton, dated 11 November, in which he said, "For you, therefore, to label me a Communist is a grave injustice." I did not label him a Communist. He is labelling himself as a Communist by accepting the prime duty of denying it. If anybody can see in anything I said in the debate on the Estimates of my department that he was a Communist, he must have very good eyes because it is not there. After my reference to Communists there appeared a very big article in the paper headed—"Fought Mt. Isa Ban. Reply to Mr. Morris. And he says that the time he went out to Mt. Isa he went at my invitation because I paid his fare. It is quite true that I asked the Industrial Court to investigate the industrial trouble at Mt. Isa. Surely everyone will agree that it is very important to have industrial peace at Mt. Isa. So we called a conference. Obviously we did the right thing. We paid the fares of all those called together. But that is not the visit I was talking about. I have here a photostatic copy of a pamphlet dated 25 June, some three months earlier, that was distributed. It was issued by K. Morgan, a Communist, whom I denounced as a Communist. He is the secretary of the Mt. Isa Industrial Council and he says in the pamphlet—"Come to the triangle and listen to Jack Egerton." He goes on and names Jack Egerton with Fred Thompson, Loughlin and others who are all known to be Communists, and Egerton was on the platform with those people, and there is the circular announcing it.

Mr. DONALD: I rise to a point of order. Jack Egerton is not a Communist and I should like the Minister to withdraw the statement that Egerton and all those people are Communists. I know Jack Egerton is not a Communist.

Mr. MORRIS: I did not say that.

Mr. Donald: You did.

Mr. MORRIS: I did not say that Egerton was a Communist. The hon. member is deliberately trying to put into my mouth words I did not say. I said that Egerton appeared on the platform, according to the pamphlet I have shown to hon. members, with Communists, and I named among them, Thompson, Loughlin and others.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MORRIS: Hon. members opposite may twist things but I am not twisting them. If they want to know more about it here is a publication that shows what the largest union in the State thinks about what is going on at Mt. Isa. It is another warning issued by Mr. Bukowski to workers at Mt. Isa—"Watch those Disrupters." If I had time I should like to quote what Mr. Bukowski had to say throughout the whole of that pamphlet. Everyone knows that he is no friend of mine. He hates me as much as many other people do. But Mr. Bukowski goes to town in that pamphlet issued by the A.W.U. when he talks about the disrupters amongst the Communists who are trying to destroy conditions in Mt. Isa.

I do not mind a good honest Labour man. Good luck to him! Now that hon. members opposite have got me going I shall say something else. Last Sunday I watched a session on Television called "The Burning Question." It was a discussion on the Communist front. The speakers referred to the grave danger of the infiltration of the Communist front. One of the speakers was Dr. Lloyd Ross, secretary of the New South Wales branch of the Australian Railways Union. Although he is a Labour man—and good luck to him for that—he told viewers that the Communists are the people who will disrupt industry in this State. If only these people opposite would not associate with the Communists! If only they had enough courage to fight their own battles as Labour men and not associate with the Communists in our midst who are trying to make trouble, we should be a lot better off.

None of them will deny that 4KQ is the Labour Station in Queensland. I listened to a session from that station on Sunday, 20 September. I challenge them to bring the tape into the House. Violent expressions were made about the "Courier-Mail's" publicity about Russia's claim to the moon. There was a defence against the statement that the A.L.P. was Communist-led. There was support for the Russian visit to the United States of America and criticism of the democracies' approach to it. There was an attack on profits and a violent attack on several industries. There was Labour's case for the control of industry. They finished up with a real beauty: the last four minutes were spent on elaborating on the desirability of State ownership versus free enterprise. The station came out as the champion of Russia. Yet hon. members opposite try to tell me that they are not associating with Communists. I admire the true Labour man. The Labour man who is prepared to go along hand-in-glove with Communists does not deserve the name of Labour.

Unfortunately time always seems to beat me. Let me refer to something else.

I was literally shocked at the comment of the hon. member for Kedron when he spoke about our attempt to save lives at zebra crossings. It is common knowledge

that the Queensland motorist, more particularly the Brisbane motorist, has disregarded zebra crossings. We have tried to educate him but we have not been able to do so. Therefore the Police Commissioner has stationed officers in plain clothes at zebra crossings to try to save lives. After all, officers of the C.I.B. are in plain clothes. But what does the hon. member for Kedron say about what we have done? He says that it is a snide method of doing things. If he were on this side of the Chamber he would like to relax the law and permit any number of people to be killed because to relax the law would be popular with the motorist. The hon. member is concerned because a few motorists are booked. Those motorists have broken the law, and 95 per cent. of them would admit that they deserved punishment and that they would not do it again. If we are to take the hon. member's comments literally—that this is a snide way of going about it—what he would like would be to remove any application of the law in any case; and then the blood of the people killed would be on his head.

Mr. LLOYD: I rise to a point of order. That statement is offensive to me and I ask that it be withdrawn. I refer to the statement that I would ask that people be allowed to break the law.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ask the Minister to withdraw the remark.

Mr. MORRIS: Withdraw what?

Mr. LLOYD: The statement the Minister made that I would wish the law to be broken.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. gentleman made that remark I am sure he will withdraw it.

Mr. MORRIS: If I said it I withdraw it. I do not think I said it. But I say this: that there have been a large number of people killed at zebra crossings because motorists have disobeyed the law, and the hon. member says that we are wrong in looking into this problem and trying to save those lives and then he spoke of the people that drove through zebra crossings as people who committed minor offences. If that is the hon. member's idea of things I do not know what would happen if he were in charge. There is much more that I could say. I wanted to speak about the shopping hours, but I may have an opportunity of doing that a little later on.

When I was in Canberra I had earnest discussion with several Federal Ministers on this grave problem of unemployment. The amount of unemployment benefits in Queensland is well over £1,000,000—£128,000 less last financial year than the year before—and my colleagues and I have been discussing ways and means whereby with the co-operation of the Federal Government we can institute a scheme for the people who are

unemployed. As a result there will be visiting Brisbane very soon senior officers of the Federal departments to discuss with my colleagues and myself certain suggestions by members of the Cabinet to overcome unemployment. It is true, as the hon. member for Bundaberg said, that unemployment has been with us for many years. We are the first Government to attack this problem seriously. I do not propose to disclose the details of the proposals we have put to the Federal Government, but within the next couple of weeks there will be deep consultation on this problem and we shall aim at a long-term solution of it.

At 5 p.m.,

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Under the provisions of Standing Order No. 307 I shall now proceed to put the question for the Resolution under discussion and the questions for all other Resolutions not already agreed to by the House.

Resolution 3—Department of Labour and Industry—agreed to.

Resolutions 4 to 21, both inclusive, agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS

OPENING OF COMMITTEE

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

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

“(a) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1959-1960, a further sum not exceeding £47,535,702 be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

(b) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1959-1960, a further sum not exceeding £48,900,302 be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

(c) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1959-1960, a further sum not exceeding £16,278,000 be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

(d) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1958-1959, a supplementary sum not exceeding £820,247 15s. 11d. be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

(e) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1958-1959, a supplementary sum not exceeding £1,518,866 11s. 1d. be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

(f) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1958-1959, a supplementary sum not exceeding £1,500,989 0s. 11d. be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

(g) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1960-1961, a sum not exceeding £16,000,000 be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

(h) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1960-1961, a sum not exceeding £12,000,000 be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

(i) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1960-1961, a sum not exceeding £4,000,000 be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

Motion agreed to.

Resolutions, reported, received, and agreed to.

APPROPRIATION BILL No. 2

FIRST READING

A Bill, founded on the Resolutions reported from the Committee of Ways and Means, was introduced and read a first time.

SECOND READING

Hon. T. A. HILEY (Coorparoo—Treasurer and Minister for Housing) (5.5 p.m.): I move—

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

This is the final Appropriation Bill for the year and appropriates the estimated requirements for 1959-1960, the Estimates which have been before the House for several days. It also provides for the unforeseen expenditure incurred during 1958-1959 under Executive authority but without Parliamentary appropriation. Details of that are contained in the Auditor-General's Report.

The Bill provides also for the Vote on Account of 1960-1961, which enables the Government to function between 1 July next and the earliest opportunity that Parliament has to pass a further Supply Bill.

Certain expenditures are appropriated by the relevant Acts of Parliament, and payment is made without further legislative approval. These payments for 1959-1960 are estimated to aggregate £15,317,290, and are set out in detail in Parts A, B, C, D and E of the schedule to the Bill.

The estimated requirements for 1959-1960 are contained in Parts F, G, and H, and are—

	£
Part F. Consolidated Revenue Fund	86,535,702
Part G. Trust and Special Funds	76,900,302
Part H. Loan Fund	29,278,000
towards which Supply totalling was previously granted.	£80,000,000

This Supply was provided—

In November, 1958—

	£
Consolidated Revenue Fund	16,000,000
Trust and Special Funds	12,000,000
Loan Fund	4,000,000

In August, 1959—

Consolidated Revenue Fund	23,000,000
Trust and Special Funds	16,000,000
Loan Fund	9,000,000

The Vote on Account of 1960-1961 is contained in Clause 2 of the Bill and comprises—

	£
Consolidated Revenue Fund	16,000,000
Trust and Special Funds	12,000,000
Loan Fund	4,000,000

£32,000,000

This Vote on Account will provide Supply during July and August next, pending the passing of a further Appropriation Bill. The amounts are the same as those provided for the current year, and, despite increased costs and expanded services, are expected to be sufficient to meet requirements.

The Bill incorporates a special clause to which I should like to draw particular attention. It validates certain amounts made available from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for Public Service superannuation in past years.

The Public Service Acts, 1912 to 1954, which were repealed as from 1 April, 1959, provided, among other things, that the Consolidated Revenue Fund was permanently charged with the payments of—

(a) interest on the Fund; and

(b) certain additional benefits provided by the Government under Sections 21A and 21B which were inserted in 1948 and 1954, respectively.

An actuarial valuation of the Public Service Superannuation Fund as at 31 December, 1953, disclosed that the Government's liability in respect of the additional benefits was in the vicinity of £6,000,000. In August, 1955, my predecessor approved a recommendation that this liability be liquidated by the provision, annually, of an amount of £303,600. Provision was made for this amount in Schedule C of the Estimates for 1955-1956 and each subsequent year. On the assumption that the amount payable in respect of

such additional benefits had been appropriated under the Public Service Superannuation Acts, these amounts were not appropriated under the respective Appropriation Acts.

It has been ruled that so much of the £303,600 that did not represent actual payments during the particular financial year was not appropriated by the Public Service Acts and should have been provided under an Appropriation Act.

I am presenting this matter as a super-technical application of the fine principles of parliamentary appropriation, and I do not want hon. members to form the impression that the Government query either the propriety or the financial soundness of the decision that was made in 1955 by my predecessor. The Parliament at that time decided to confer certain additional benefits. The actuary measured the value of those benefits as representing £6,000,000 and the Treasurer of the day wisely said, "Instead of leaving this to drag on interminably for posterity, let us meet it on a 50-year repayment plan by providing £303,000 or so a year." That was a perfectly sound financial principle and indeed the Government are continuing it. But the technical point that arises is that the power of appropriation granted in that amending Bill applies to the actual payments made in benefit for that year. They are clearly appropriated. The provision on a 50-year basis to meet those payments is not clearly appropriated, and the purpose of the clause in the Bill is to resolve that doubt. The matter was drawn to our attention by the Auditor-General, and immediately, we said, "Parliament should be informed of this technicality and we should resolve the doubt by asking Parliament clearly to appropriate the difference between the actual payments that are made for additional benefits in each year"—and they will vary violently upwards and downwards according to the incidence of retirement—"and to appropriate fully the sum provided to meet the actuarial liability on a 50-year basis."

Whereas the old Public Service Superannuation Acts permanently appropriated the interest charge, the 1958 Act did not do so. As the latter Act was not passed until after the Final Appropriation Act for 1958-1959, no provision was made in the latter Act for the interest payments under the new Act, that is, from April to June, 1959.

The total amounts provided for Public Service superannuation each year have been stipulated in Part C of the Schedules to the respective appropriation Acts and the expenditure from the relevant Trust Fund has been properly appropriated.

The clause in the current Bill validates the amounts available to the extent to which they were not payable under the authority of the Superannuation Acts.

As the time for debate is limited, I do not propose to take up much of it, but there are two important aspects on which I would like to comment briefly.

There has been a good deal of discussion today on the pressure of unemployment and I thought it would interest the House to know what has happened this year in the very important field of debenture loan raisings because debenture loan raisings by semi-governmental and local bodies are an important part of public finance.

Although the Governmental borrowing programme for works allocated to Queensland represents only 12.37 per cent. of the total of the six States, the debenture borrowing programme represents 20.78 per cent. of the total for Australia. Relatively, the debenture loan raising programme is a critically important feature of Queensland finance, more important in Queensland than in any other State of the Commonwealth. Unlike the Governmental borrowing programme, which is underwritten by the Commonwealth Government, any moneys not raised under the debenture borrowing programme are lost to the State. It is critically important for the development of the State and the provision of employment that we should succeed in fully raising the debenture allocation made available to Queensland by the Loan Council.

Aggregate debenture loan raisings during recent years have been:—

	Amount	Per Cent.	Amount
	£	%	£
1953-1954	18,110,005	88.8	2,280,995
1954-1955	16,117,307	82.6	3,387,693
1955-1956	13,138,573	80.1	3,261,427
1956-1957	15,581,549	95.0	818,451
1957-1958	18,603,000	100.0	Nil
1958-1959	20,370,000	100.0	Nil

Mr. Lloyd: How did the other States fare over that period?

Mr. HILEY: I have not their figures with me. In Queensland this is a matter of critical importance. I think that in those bad years most of the States were in trouble. It was not peculiar to Queensland.

I am happy to report that indications are that the total allocation of £20,780,000 for 1959-1960 will be raised. I have already reported to the Committee the action taken by the Government to assist by investing their funds and transferring allocations not raised by 31 May, 1960. That gives us a month so that if one local authority cannot raise the money we can transfer the allocation to another local authority.

To 31 October last £12,721,719 or 61.2 per cent. of allocations were raised, as compared with £10,153,588 for the first four months of 1958-1959. Already we were £2,500,000 better off at the end of October this year than under the raising programme last year when we still raised 100 per cent.

The improvement has continued during the current month. Approvals to 16 November, 1959, aggregated £13,544,844 as compared with £11,514,688 to 16 November, 1958. Thus, to date, we are £2,000,000 in advance of last year with the total approval for the year only £410,000 more than 1958-1959. The position can only be regarded as most satisfactory. I have no hesitation in telling the House that unless some extraordinary thunderbolt hits the whole edifice of Australian public finance there is no reason in the world for any hon. member to have the faintest doubt about our succeeding in raising 100 per cent. of our allocation this year. The essence of that and the argument that has taken place during the year is that the Government can only raise and spend their money once. I have heard various quite laudable proposals—that we could with advantage spend money in this direction and in that. But if you are already raising all your money and already spending all your money you can embark upon some of these desirable objectives only by stopping some other activity.

Mr. Gair: You did not hear them from this part of the Chamber. You did not hear them from anyone who had experience.

Mr. Duggan: Only the suggestion about the standardisation of the railway line from Brisbane to Cairns which would cost the best part of £100,000,000!

Mr. HILEY: I heard more than that. I think the hon. member for Belyando made some proposals. I heard some from the hon. member for Burdekin and other hon. members suggested some desirable directions for expenditure. If you are employing all the resources that you are permitted to raise how can you command a greater use of them?

Mr. Walsh interjected.

Mr. HILEY: If you study our Loan Fund Estimates there is no reserve which we do not propose to use.

Mr. Walsh: There was a substantial amount in the Main Roads Fund.

Mr. HILEY: The Department of Main Roads this year will be using the whole of the fund. My colleague and I have had many discussions on that. We did find a tendency for some local authorities not to use as much as they could. At the moment my colleague has the whips out on the local authorities telling them they must get on with it. We do not make money available to them just to leave it to lie in idleness. The whole purpose is to carry out certain works and they are expected to get on with them. I suggested to my colleague that he may devise something comparable to what we did in connection with the local authority programme—in that case if they had not spent it all by 31 May it was put into the hands of others.

The second matter on which I wish to say something is the Mt. Isa railway. Earlier we had to inform the House that while there was provision for the Mt. Isa railway, owing to the uncertainty at that stage we did not know the terms of the expenditure, the timing and what it would be. Obviously what I am now about to present is a tentative assessment on information brought up to date as late as yesterday. In view of the interest of hon. members on both sides in employment I propose to present a number of facets of the Mt. Isa project as it is now unfolded. I refer to the programme on the engineering side. Dealing with design, current investigations are on the basis of the major project which involves reconstruction rather than restoration of bridges in the Hughenden-Duchess section. That has been made sufficiently clear to the House and it follows the total plan set out in the original project for the total reconstruction of the Mt. Isa to Collinsville line as submitted to the Commonwealth Government and to the World Bank. In other words, we are carrying out the original project. Inquiries are being made currently for surveyors to collect essential basic data. The survey drafting section of the Railway Engineering Branch has assigned eight men to the project. Wear tests on samples of probable quarry material from Julia Creek were carried out and the results were most satisfactory. That was most important. One of the troubles on the great western plains is that it is exceedingly difficult to get ballast material. In the extensive black-soil country it is difficult to find material suitable for road-making or railway ballast. My colleague, the Minister for Development, finds that availability of good road material has an infinite effect on the cost of local road construction. If no suitable material is available and it has to be transported to the job, costs are increased greatly. It was critically necessary to find suitable quarry material in the north-west of the State but there is every indication that there will be an extensive quarry at Julia Creek.

Arrangements are being made to investigate the properties of black soil, and the feasibility of mixing it with sand, to provide a material with better bedding qualities than black soil without any such addition.

An order has been placed by the Surveyor-General's Office on behalf of the unit to secure existing aerial photographs of the area from Hughenden to Duchess.

The possibility of using day-labour for loop extensions to alleviate unemployment conditions in North Queensland is being explored with the Townsville maintenance engineer.

In regard to field work, drilling equipment for test holes in proposed quarries is now on the way to the sites. We have been able to sample the surface material. Some boring is necessary to discover the extent of the deposits and to make sure that we do not

open up a quarry only to find later that sufficient material is not available as it goes only to a certain depth.

On the side of material and equipment, quotations have been received for switch points and crossings. No reply has to date been received to our written inquiry for rails, but we have had a general indication, after quoting the tonnages or rail required, that there will be no difficulty in securing the necessary amount from Australian sources. While we are still without a clear picture as to the fluency of it, the commencing date and monthly tonnages, we have had an indication that the total tonnages will be available broadly in the time they are required.

Mr. Duggan: In regard to signals, are you having a centralised traffic control?

Mr. HILEY: That is covered in the report. It is a technical feature with which the hon. gentleman would be more familiar than I am. I have made no detailed inquiries as to a centralised traffic control, but it is one of the features of the report of Ford, Bacon and Davis. I am sure I recollect it, and the Premier is nodding to signify that that is so.

Mr. Walsh: Other than rails, it is expected that a large proportion of the material required will originate in Queensland?

Mr. HILEY: My hope is that, with the exception of rails which necessarily must come from Australia's only steel works, most of the other materials will come from Queensland. I shall be very surprised and disappointed if Queensland manufacturers miss out even on the rolling-stock. They start with some very signal advantages. They are currently making for the Railway Department the very type of thing that will be required. Their establishments are in operation and they have a trained group of workers on similar production. There will not be one member of the Cabinet who will not weep tears of blood if Queensland manufacturers do not succeed in getting orders for the rolling stock. Some components such as signalling equipment may have to be obtained outside Queensland, but I should say that most of the material will be supplied in Queensland.

Mr. Davies: Bridge materials?

Mr. HILEY: The fabrication will be done in Queensland.

Mr. Hart: Engines?

Mr. HILEY: Yes. I have mentioned rolling-stock.

Mr. Walsh: Is there any suggestion that cement sleepers will be used?

Mr. HILEY: That aspect has been closely examined. The advice of the consultants is that the relative cost differential is so great that they cannot be considered. Some of those who are interested in cement

sleepers frankly admit that the costs are very great. One of the difficulties with the cement sleeper is that a special fixing device is needed to attach the rail to the sleeper. Dogspikes or the ordinary traditional methods of fixing rails to sleepers cannot be used. On that point I have been informed by a source that I regard as knowledgeable, although I cannot judge its reliability, that in some cases the cost of affixing the rail to a concrete sleeper is as much as the cost of a wooden sleeper itself. On the other hand, only quite recently the representative of a firm saw me and I sent him down to the consultants. This firm told me that they have a device, and it is used in some parts of the world, which would provide sleepers at 2½ times the cost of the wooden sleeper and that the method of fixation was simple. It is up to this firm to produce its product and allow it to be tested to discover whether it is suitable or not and for the consultants to advise us whether it would be economical to use it.

Mr. P. R. Smith: What is the main objection to the use of cement sleepers—changes in temperature?

Mr. HILEY: It is a highly technical matter and I should be out of my depth in discussing it. The use of concrete sleepers has been the subject of discussion by several Government members. I know that the Minister for Transport has been reading a lot about the use of cement sleepers. The matter has come under my notice on at least four occasions. We have had discussions with the consultants and it would be a question of their economical use.

Mr. Duggan: Your colleague said that a company for that purpose would start here.

Mr. HILEY: There are many other things besides sleepers. For instance, there are some places where, because of termites, wooden sleepers would be out of the picture. Any statement from me would be an uninformed guess by a layman. No matter how suitable the concrete sleeper might prove, the cost might be beyond our capacity to consider it. It is a matter upon which we will take the advice of the consultants. It is all too technical a subject and it would be wrong of me as a layman to inflict upon the House my smattering of knowledge on it.

Mr. Walsh: In the replacement factor they would be an improvement on the wooden sleeper.

Mr. HILEY: I might reach the conclusion very easily that we would love to be able to have concrete sleepers but we might not be able to afford them.

Mr. Duggan: It is 2½ times the cost of the wooden ones?

Mr. HILEY: Yes. We have an open mind and are seriously interested. I am glad to see that the interest is shared so widely. It is one of the most interesting technical questions put up by the Government.

Mr. Burrows: It has been well explored.

Mr. HILEY: And it will be too.

Inquiries have developed on the feasibility of placing orders through the Department Stores Branch for 50,000 sleepers as a further means of alleviating unemployment. We will have to get advice from the consultants very quickly whether or not we will be using wooden sleepers. We want to be in the position of being able to place orders for 50,000 sleepers quickly. There are pockets of unemployment and sleeper-cutting is a very useful contributor to the relief of unemployment. We do not want to miss the opportunity of providing employment by waiting too long.

Mr. Thackeray: We can get you that quantity in Rockhampton.

Mr. HILEY: Rockhampton will not be supplying the whole of the requirements. There are other places, too. I can assure the hon. member that the Government will spread the work over areas where it is most needed to combat unemployment.

Mr. Burrows: Fifty thousand will not go very far.

Mr. HILEY: That is only the first step. It would be foolish at this stage to fill completely the requirement for a four-year programme.

On the recommendation of the engineers, on 30 October the project manager requested, and the Minister authorised, the construction or purchase of the following equipment:—

Firstly, conversion of 50 "W" wagons to "WR" wagons for project rail loading. This work is to be performed at the Ipswich railway workshops.

Secondly, the construction of 15 ballast ploughs for use in spreading ballast. This work also is to be done in the Ipswich railway workshops.

Mr. Thackeray: Are you considering the use of aluminium in the construction of the new wagons?

Mr. HILEY: I have not heard of it. We are not constructing any new wagons. The existing "W" wagons will be converted to flat "WR" wagons for the transport of rails. I should be very surprised if the ballast ploughs are not built of steel. I will listen to the hon. member's suggestion seriously if he can show me an aluminium bull-dozer blade.

The third item authorised was the purchase of five 90-ton diesel-electric locomotives to ensure adequate motive power for the construction contractors' supply requirements, especially ballasting, and the fourth was the purchase of 200 20-ton ballast wagons for use in construction.

A very quick study by the consultants convinced them—and us in turn—that unless we have adequate ballast wagons the rate

of construction will be reduced to a crawl. Mr. Poor, the American consultant, who is usually very quiet and unexpressive, said to me with a twinkle in his eye, "We do not want to do this job with wheelbarrows." We must have sufficient ballast capacity to spread a considerable tonnage each day. It is essential to have long ballast trains hauled by powerful locomotives, and the Commissioner for Railways was instructed on 30 October to invite tenders for the diesel-electric locomotives and the ballast wagons that I referred to as the third and fourth items. They are the items that I mentioned in reply to the hon. member for Bundaberg. I shall be very disappointed if, on a competitive basis, that work is not done in Queensland.

Mr. Davies: Will you give preference to Queensland contractors?

Mr. HILEY: Yes, we shall give the usual preference. It is highly probable that Queensland contractors will submit very keen tenders.

Mr. Thackeray: Aluminium has been tried for "VJ" wagons and the results of the tests have been favourable.

Mr. HILEY: I should like the hon. member for Keppel to pass on to the Minister for Transport any information he has on that matter.

It is expected that the estimated annual expenditure will be somewhat along the following lines:—

1959-1960	..	..	..	1,500,000
1960-1961	..	..	..	6,700,000
1961-1962	..	..	..	7,600,000
1962-1963	..	..	..	6,900,000
1963-1964	..	..	..	3,500,000
1964-1965	..	..	..	800,000
				27,000,000

Mr. Hanlon: You will not spend the £3,300,000 this year?

Mr. HILEY: We think £1,500,000 will be spent this year. We will need that, then, to face up to the £6,700,000 next year.

Mr. Hanlon: Virtually what you earmarked last year will be spent this year?

Mr. HILEY: Yes.

Mr. Hanlon: This year's sum will not be spent till next year?

Mr. HILEY: That is right. We dare not let it go because we will be in a mess next year if we do. We will be committed. All the contracts will be entered into. It is so pressing and inescapable a requirement that if we allowed ourselves to run short in the middle we should be in quite a mess. We must regard it as a five-year project to be financed and met over the whole five years.

I have here some of the working details, broken up into the various sections. I will not weary the House with it at this stage but if any hon. member is interested I will let him see the details from which I have given the summaries.

Analysing the effect of the project on employment in North Queensland during the present year, we find that orders being placed during the next few months will relate to rolling-stock, rails, and sleepers. Only the last-mentioned category will require labour in North Queensland. However, it is expected that a contract to be let for the re-laying of track will require labour in the last quarter of the financial year.

In addition, it is proposed, as early as possible, to undertake the extension of a number of loops with day-labour forces, particularly in the Townsville district.

The following is a rough estimate by the consultants of man-years of employment on the construction phases of the Mt. Isa project during the respective years—

	Man-years
1959-1960	350
1960-1961	1,600
1961-1962	1,750
1962-1963	1,550
1963-1964	650
1964-1965	200
	—
	6,100
	—

This estimate does not include the employment in the manufacture of rolling-stock or equipment. It does include that on fabrication of steel for structures which may or may not be carried out in Queensland. The material will have to come from outside Queensland but we are more than hopeful that the whole of the fabrication work will be carried out here.

I thought those two matters warranted my taking what is ordinarily regarded as precious time on a day when the time is limited and when I usually prefer to say very little so that other hon. members may have the opportunity to raise as many matters as possible. However, the Government have felt all through that we should take every opportunity, in the rapidly-changing and developing phase of the Mt. Isa project, to make something in the nature of a progress report to hon. members. We know the great interest taken in it because it is a vital proposal for the State and concerns every Queenslanders irrespective of his political party and irrespective of where he comes from. Because of that the Government's policy has been to bring hon. members up to date with the latest information available whenever an opportunity presented itself. That is why I have taken the extra time.

Mr. Davies: Is the Treasurer in a position to tell us about the terms of the loan?

Mr. HILEY: Nothing beyond the information given by the Premier.

Mr. DUGGAN (North Toowoomba—Leader of the Opposition) (5.50 p.m.): I wish to say very briefly at this stage that I am indebted to the Treasurer for his remarks about the Mt. Isa project. The information has been informative and helpful. It will enable us to speak in more detail at a later stage of the debate. I want to examine one or two points during the dinner adjournment and come back to the Mt. Isa proposal at a later stage.

This Appropriation Bill is the last Bill of its kind that we shall have in the life of this Parliament. It might be appropriate for us to reflect on the work of the Government in the last three years as it is the last opportunity to discuss in broad outline the ramifications of the various departments and the impact of Government policy upon the economy of the State. I think we should have these periodical reviews because it enables us to determine whether the money appropriated is being used wisely, whether it has been spent in accordance with the pre-election promises of the Government, and whether we can indict the Government on their failure to carry out any part of their election mandate.

One of the first observations I want to make is that the Government, of course, were rather surprised, because of circumstances which need not be reiterated, that they became the Government. Suffice it to say, because of that situation, they approached the last elections with a greater measure of confidence than ever before. Although they received only a minority vote—the combined votes for the Parties on this side exceeded theirs—our representation in Parliament is much less. In their zeal to take advantage of the pre-election situation they came out with a whole series of glowing promises. They suggested, of course, that the retiring administration were tired men, they were complacent, they were not business men, there was not a sufficient influx of professional men to their ranks. Therefore, they said, the time was ripe for a change. They said that as the heavy hand of regimentation had been placed on the State it was an appropriate time for a change to be made. It became a competition between the Country Party and the Liberal Party as to who could offer the more attractive election promises to the people. So we had the spectacle of the Premier giving us their company prospectus. In that regard the Deputy Premier and Minister for Labour and Industry was not to be outdone. He had the benefit of the advice of skilled men like Mr. Porter and the other gentleman whose advice he could buy with the very extensive amount of money available to the Liberal Party for these purposes. He came out with very glowing promises of what they proposed to do. The main thing was that they were going to sort of "ginger-up" the government of the State. There was going to be a new phase of operations. They were going to

bring to bear the resources and abilities of trained business executives. They were going to serve their country with far greater zeal than their predecessors. Generally speaking that was the tone of the election propaganda speeches. Of course, it paid dividends. But one of the election promises they have failed to keep is to use their capacity to solve many of the problems of a political character. One thing that has struck me as an important phase of the Government's activities has been their disposition not to use the experience and advice of the great talent they had available, or allegedly had available to them, but instead they have had a disposition to delegate to other bodies the task of informing them on all sorts of subjects. A Prices Advisory Committee was appointed but very largely the advice of that body has been rejected. A report on the timber industry was tabled recently in the House. I presume that there will be a great deal of hesitancy on the part of the Government in implementing its recommendations because some of them involve increases in timber charges and so on which would, of course, increase the cost of home construction. I am sure that the Treasurer, who is also Minister for Housing, would not want to face an election when people had to pay £70 or £80 more for houses because of higher timber costs. It would not be a good advertisement at election time, so that is a recommendation that might be left in abeyance.

We also had an announcement about an inquiry into the licensing of sawmills. We also had the famous Electoral Boundaries Commission. There was not much need for much more than to comply with the statutory provisions because it is apparent to everybody that what the Government wanted was laid out clearly by Government members themselves, guided by experts outside who advise on the best way to carve up the electorates. It was close to what most people expected. I came in one day and made an announcement of what the position would be in the metropolitan area and the Premier made a scathing reply and said that Dame Rumour was a lying jade, that it was a figment of my imagination, but within four days it was revealed that what I had said was absolutely accurate.

Mr. Nicholson: Who is the spy?

Mr. DUGGAN: It is not a question of a spy; it is simply that my prognostication proved to be accurate. That is all.

Mr. Nicholson: White ants in the Public Service.

Mr. DUGGAN: The interjection of the hon. member is rather unworthy—that there are a lot of white ants around some of the Public Service departments. I say on behalf of public servants that since I have been Leader of the Opposition I do not know of one public servant who has betrayed to me any confidential information or any

information at all in any sense of disloyalty to the administration or to the Minister. I say that definitely as far as the Public Service as a whole is concerned.

Mr. Nicholson: You would not admit it if they did.

Mr. DUGGAN: I think it is a very unworthy suggestion of the hon. member who indicated that there were white ants in the Public Service. At some future time the hon. member will be very sorry he made that interjection. I repeat this now because I do not want to let it go as he will want to remove it from his proof.

Mr. Nicholson: I won't do that. I am not frightened of what I say if you are. I do not bow my head.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. DUGGAN: The hon. member will have time to make a speech if he wants to.

The next committee was one to inquire into the finances of the Brisbane City Council. I shall come back to these things later. I am dealing with all the committees at the moment, rather than what happened. There was also a committee to inquire into the Department of Public Lands. We had the Hytton report which has not seen the light of day either in public or in this House. We had a report on markets that caused the Government to hesitate before implementing it, mainly because in some country seats—they do not bother about the Labour Party—they are frightened that Independents might come in unless they do something to respect the wishes of primary producers in those areas.

I have dealt with a number of committees appointed by the Government since they assumed office for the purpose of helping them to arrive at decisions on certain matters. I have not named the committees in chronological sequence of appointment.

The Government appointed a parliamentary committee to inquire into juvenile delinquency. They then appointed a body to advise them on the incidence of Saturday trading, but some of the recommendations on that subject did not seem to be in accord with Government policy.

The Government obtained a liquor report. They did not appoint for that purpose a number of public servants or even Members of Parliament. The committee comprised members of the Liberal Party, but its report was so controversial and so full of political dynamite that the Government did not hesitate to reject it for the time being.

Mr. Hiley: What was that?

Mr. DUGGAN: The liquor report.

Mr. Pizzey: Who said it was a Government committee?

Mr. DUGGAN: I made it clear that it was composed neither of public servants nor Members of Parliament, that it was composed of members of the Liberal Party.

Then we had the appointment of the Employment Advisory Council, and an inquiry into employment in the beef industry.

Now, despite the fact that the Government have come to a decision about Port Alma, they have appointed a Committee of Inquiry with Sir Arthur Fadden as chairman to report as to the effects on Gladstone. I should have thought that inquiry would have preceded any decision by the Government as to Port Alma. Again, because of the pressure applied on the Government by their previous political supporters, they decided on the appointment of this further committee.

I am not debating the merits or demerits of any particular scheme, but, as so much Government money is involved, I should have thought that the inquiry proceeding at the moment should have preceded the decision of the Government as to Port Alma.

Then we had the rather famous Trade Promotion Committee which the Government appointed in an effort to sell Queensland in overseas countries.

I mention these things not because I am against the policy of seeking very informed opinion, which sometimes can be given only by people similar to those who have constituted these particular committees. I am not against the Government on their general principle of appointing committees to report on certain things, because I realise it is not always possible for Ministers individually or Cabinet collectively to examine in great detail the ramifications of many schemes and proposals that involve the expenditure of large sums of money. They have not the time or the opportunity to examine such proposals.

But what I am trying to prove from this cycle of events is that although the public were led to believe that the Government had so much wisdom in their ranks that they would not be obliged to depend more or less on public servants to control administration, that is just what is happening in every direction. One or two Ministers stand out a little in this respect, but generally speaking Government policy has been determined very largely by public servants, although in some instances I think there were general directions to these committees to furnish reports which the Government hoped would get them out of their dilemma in some fields. A notable example was the land inquiry of which Mr. Payne was Royal Commissioner. That was a notable case of the Government's finding themselves in extreme difficulty because of the policy announced by the Minister, and the repercussions that followed.

As a matter of fact, on going over some of the remarks I made on the same occasion last year, I find that I directed attention then to what I believed to be facts, and which I have since ascertained are the facts, relating

to the withdrawal of financial and other support by woolbroking firms, and so on, in consequence of the Government's land policy. The great experience, knowledge and persuasive powers of Mr. Payne were invoked by the Government to extricate themselves from that particular situation.

Having dealt in a general way with those matters I point out that the Treasurer, when introducing his Budget, took advantage of the fact that this is Centenary Year and reviewed the financial and other important developments in Queensland over the last 100 years. He made a very interesting survey. I appreciate speeches by the Treasurer when he is in the mood to give us the benefit of his advice, his collection of information and his amplified statements. I have found them extremely interesting, logical, and informative. His Budget was no exception, and in it he set out the difficulties confronting the Government. It was a rather welcome change to find a very clear indication that the Treasurer did not shirk the task of reducing Government funds to make Queensland virtually bankrupt in the eyes of the Loan Council so as to be able to put up a plea for more funds. Roughly £2,250,000 additional revenue was made available to the State for the present financial year because the tax reimbursement scheme took into account that Queensland was not in the sound and healthy financial position it was some time before. This was brought about as a deliberate act on the part of the Treasurer. He drew money from trust funds, suspense accounts and did it to such an extent that those funds were greatly depleted. He disposed of excess stocks within the Railway Department, the ramifications of which are extensive. He cut down on coal stocks and did other things which had the effect of providing more money for the Government. The Government started a campaign of selling scrap iron. By way of interjection earlier the Treasurer said we could only spend revenue once and once the stocks were disposed of and the proceeds paid into Consolidated Revenue, the stocks were gone. Despite all these things the Treasurer found himself in a position of financial tightness, if I might use that term.

Mr. Windsor: But still able to keep men employed.

Mr. DUGGAN: I think that the hon. member for Windsor would be well advised to leave the defence to my argument to the Treasurer because I am sure he can do better than the hon. member.

Mr. P. R. Smith: I, as hon. member for Windsor, did not interject.

Mr. DUGGAN: I beg the hon. member's pardon. I should have said the hon. member for Fortitude Valley. I was confused by the distribution of seats and regret the oversight on my part. I can say that in a few months' time there will be no such electorate as Fortitude Valley and I can assure the hon.

member for Fortitude Valley who has received the selection for Ithaca that for his own peace of mind he should concentrate purely on parochial matters of which he is more cognisant than on the wider matter of financial policy.

The excess expenditure to 31 October indicated a progressive deterioration in the finances up to that time, because last year for the four months the excess expenditure was £2,818,322 7s. 7d. whereas for the same period this year it is £3,051,019 4s. 4d. Of course the Treasurer in his reply will say, "Wait until the end of the financial year." I know that these things should not be examined on sectional periods. This tightness is apparent at the present time, and my observations lead me to the conclusion that there has been a great amount of tightening up so far as Government expenditure is concerned. Despite increased appropriations, hospitals boards generally have had to cut down greatly on the budgets which they submitted to the under-secretary. I know that the Treasurer will say there is nothing new about that, and that every year under various Governments, submissions have been made by the different sub-departments to departmental heads and then to the Co-Ordinator-General, who has been advised to cut them down before submitting them to Cabinet. The previous Government appointed a special sub-committee to deal with the Estimates before Cabinet considered them. That was rather a good idea. As I say, I am not unmindful of the fact that over a period of years submissions have been made by departmental heads for amounts much greater than they can hope to receive.

Mr. Hiley: That would be true of every department every year.

Mr. DUGGAN: That is so. This year, however, because of financial stringency, there has been a greater tightening-up than usual. From inquiries I have made I have found, for example, that maintenance has been neglected, particularly in some hospitals. Painting, repairs, and other items of maintenance that can be deferred without any great immediate impact on the administration of the institutions have been put to one side. That was done, I regret to say, in the Railway Department for many years. The tendency was not to replace locomotives and carriages and to neglect work on the permanent way. It could be said for some time that the rolling stock, of course, was not unduly obsolescent or unsafe, but eventually it became necessary to spend huge sums of money on replacing the rolling stock and on work on the permanent way. No doubt the Minister for Health and Home Affairs will get from the Under Secretary a statement that the administration of the hospitals has been maintained at a high standard of efficiency, but there is always the temptation in times of financial stringency to cut down on maintenance in every department. The Treasurer will probably say that on this

occasion it is being done for the sole purpose of conserving funds to relieve unemployment. I realise that I cannot, on the one hand, criticise the Government's financial policy and, on the other, speak of the evils of unemployment, without suggesting where money can be obtained. That is why I felt constrained this afternoon when the former Premier, who is seldom in the Chamber, tried to make political capital of the fact that the demand for money was not coming from his section.

Mr. Hilton: He was dealing with something for the future.

Mr. DUGGAN: If the hon. member was in a position to arbitrate on the matter, there are many projects in Queensland that I should spend £100,000,000 on before starting on the standardisation of the railways.

Mr. Hilton: He was dealing more with something for the future.

Mr. DUGGAN: I do not know that the hon. member for Carnarvon should defend the former Premier. I am not even criticising the hon. member for Carpentaria. What I am criticising is the action of the former Premier in speaking on a subject of which he knows nothing. The hon. member for Carpentaria, of course, is quite entitled to submit any proposal that he regards as worth while. The Treasurer is quite entitled to say, "On the one hand you are complaining about unemployment and, on the other hand, about our inability to balance the Budget. Something must suffer." I am not unmindful of our responsibility in facing up to that obligation.

If the present Government are returned to power at the next election, I can visualise a very intense tightening-up in expenditure. This Government naturally are inclined to play politics to a far greater extent than even I thought possible when they assumed office. Earlier they posed as men of great political integrity. I do not for a moment suggest that in their personal capacities they are not men of great integrity and honour; but they indicated that in the discharge of their political duties they were not going to be swayed by pressure groups or by political considerations. However, the whole of their policy has been conditioned and directed towards those ends. We saw that the other day on the question of preferential voting.

It does not matter very much to me what the Government do about it because they would not concern themselves about the attitude of the Opposition. They have the numbers to put through any proposals they like and they do not consult us on the desirability of legislation. So it is not a matter that comes within the province of the Leader of the Opposition to worry himself about. Realising that, I am not the type of person to worry unduly about the effects of Government legislation on the political prospects

of the Opposition. Only the electorates and the constituents can decide that. We can but state our case to the people at the appropriate time and ask them to support our attitude.

Unquestionably both Government parties allegedly are in favour of the preferential system of voting but, through sheer political expediency, they decided not to introduce it. I have never known such tenseness as there was in the House when the vote was taken. Even down this end of the building one could hear the doors banging with Government members coming out to consult with party officials, telephones being used— (Government laughter). I chuckle when I remember all the criticism about alleged direction from the Q.C.E. and others and I recall that Forgan Smith, when he was Premier, said "All the experts should be on tap but not on top." In the case of the Country-Liberal Party very often they seem to be on top as well as being on tap. Even the veriest political neophyte would know that the real consideration was whether it would be more advantageous to the Government. They have so gerrymandered the electorates that they are able to say, "We can come back with a safe working majority." No matter how much they protest that they adopted the recommendations for electoral redistribution, the Liberals say to themselves, "Our experts tell us we can win 18 out of 28 Brisbane seats." Naturally they hope that those mathematical conclusions will in due course be realised.

The members of the Country Party might not have all the suavity of the Liberals; they do not dress as elegantly and they do not use the same language. They are a down-to-earth set. As they are so close to the soil many take them for political rustics but they have been through the mill. They realise, "If we agree to this system of party representation and if we are returned as the Government, competition will be less keen for our Cabinet posts. That is one reason why we do not want too many in our ranks. Consequently it will be good if we retain the balance of power. The Liberal boys are mostly accountants, ex-bankers, and the like, good at figures. They will probably arrange matters in such a way that instead of our having a majority we will suddenly find our Leader, Mr. Nicklin, pushed aside in favour of the very ambitious Mr. Morris." I can quite appreciate that.

In that situation, naturally men like the hon. member for Southport hold a sort of balance of power. The combined Country-Liberal types are in a very strong bartering position. They stand to gain. If they want a new high school or a new hospital or a trip over to India for some parliamentary conference they can get away with it. All these considerations arise. Hon. members opposite have been actuated by a sense of getting back. After the very famous discussion in Caucus one gentleman stood up and very feelingly said, "It has taken us a very

long time to get here and we have got to stay here at all costs." That was the very passionate declaration of one gentleman who thought that if preferential voting were introduced he might not be able to express himself in those terms in the same place. Consequently he was very agitated about the matter.

Mr. Muller: The Government would have won either way.

Mr. DUGGAN: I am not very much concerned whether the Government introduce preferential voting or not. We will face up to the situation. The Press have asked me on several occasions to express my views but I said that I was not concerned about it, that I did not want to make it a three-party fight. They could have their little battles amongst themselves. I said that it was a matter that they could battle out between the Liberals and the Country Party members without bringing the Labour Party into it.

Mr. Windsor: You cannot separate them.

Mr. DUGGAN: That remains to be seen. In Victoria Mr. Bolte found it expedient to govern without the assistance of the Country Party. Several proposals had been thrown out because of the joint action of the Labour Party and the Country Party. If the hon. member for Fortitude Valley and the candidate for Ithaca would like to bring himself up to date and he wants an excellent example of political invective let him read the Victorian "Hansard" to see what Sir Henry Hyland had to say about the Liberals in Victoria. I can envisage the same thing happening here. I congratulate the hon. member for Gregory on his great luck today. Once his obvious success as a grazier becomes more apparent and he loses his interests in politics, he may retire so that we will win that seat back again at the next elections. These influences will gradually recede as various matters keep bubbling up. We look forward to that time with great interest. It is becoming very difficult to achieve political harmony in New South Wales between the Liberal and Country Parties.

I see the Minister for Public Lands looking at me with a smile of contentment on his face. I remember the first day I came down here after I was defeated. I congratulated him because he was worthy of the responsibility of Cabinet rank. He worked very hard in Opposition. Apart from the occasions when I have crossed swords with him I have a high respect for his political capacity. I had never seen a man with more enthusiastic gaiety. He was running up the stairs two at a time. But now that the period of settling in has passed the Government must face up to their responsibilities.

I think it is agreed throughout the English-speaking world that all political parties are committed to a programme of social welfare and social security. I do not think that any government would want to disturb the general

principles that underlie our social welfare programme. But there is a growing realisation that what concerns most people today is the spiralling effect of inflation. Many of the actions of this Government have accelerated that inflationary spiral and the Government will rue the day when the effects of their policy become even more apparent.

I have here a journal which the Liberals will not repudiate. This is the first time I have come across it although I understand it has been in the Parliamentary library for some time. It is called "Business Review", the official organ of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. I am sure that the Liberals would not want to repudiate this journal because some of them, until they became Ministers of the Crown, were company directors. This publication states—

"Depreciation of Money

Continuing their practice of recent years, the First National City Bank have prepared a table showing the depreciation of money in 35 countries over the period 1948-58. The decline in buying power is measured in each case by the rise in the official cost of living or consumer price index. From the office of the Associated Chambers of Manufactures of Australia comes the following reprint of part of the table:"

It sets out a total of 35 countries but unfortunately Australia is 29th on the list. Portugal has the smallest increase—.6 per cent. in 10 years, which is a fantastic indication of the control of their currency and price-control system. Switzerland was second with a 1.1 per cent. increase, then Belgium 1.3, Equador 1.5, Germany 1.7, India 1.7, United States 1.8. Then we come down to Pakistan, Norway, Japan, Canada, Italy, Denmark, Spain, and Turkey. Australia has 6.9, which is a very high increase. The figures in the "Financial Review" for the current period of the last quarter indicate that the increase in Australia has been about 3 per cent. this year. When those countries have less than 1 per cent. in three years, and we are 29th out of 35 major countries, it is time that we examined the cost structure. Last year and this year, when introducing his Estimates, the Treasurer indicated and explained that we are dependent on our primary industries. No-one is more anxious than I to see the development of secondary industries, but I would appreciate an approach from the angle of physical, financial and geographical difficulties that confront Queensland in developing those secondary industries. Predominantly the population of Australia is south of Brisbane. There are more advantages in having factories concentrated in New South Wales or Victoria. But there are other things that count in our favour in trying to develop our markets in the East. Despite America's refusal to recognise Red China, 1,200 firms recently selected delegates to examine the prospect of trade with Asia. If it is good enough for America, which refuses to recognise the Chinese Government, to send a delegation representing 1,200 firms it is an

indication that we in Queensland who are closer geographically ought to interest ourselves in a similar way. I am not unmindful of the difficulties of establishing secondary industries. There are no such problems in regard to primary industries. There are more pastures here for the application of scientific methods and the use of insecticides and chemicals for the soil in order to bring about an increasing yield. Cane efficiency is of a very high standard and we have no problems other than markets and price. There has been a rather unfortunate decline in the price of primary commodities in recent times, although there has been a slight improvement in the last few months, notably in the dairying industry, but it could be a short-lived improvement. Butter is in short supply in Great Britain and expensive and is rationed because of the drought in Europe. As that phase passes the butter-producing countries will increase productivity and we will lose access to that market at favourable prices. There has been a disastrous drop in lamb prices. Many other countries have developed the production of lambs, and the price in Australia is almost half what it was 12 months ago. That is the only redeeming feature of the situation as far as the consumer is concerned. A side of lamb can be brought for 2s. lb. and mutton sometimes for 10d. and 1s. lb. That is all right as far as the consumer is concerned.

Mr. Ewan: It balances the beef prices.

Mr. DUGGAN: It helps to balance the beef prices. The per capita consumption of beef fell last year because of high prices. The same thing happened in the Argentine when prices were too high. Some of the people in the beef industry with a long-term view would not want that to take place here. People get into the habit of not eating beef, and turn to mince and other types of meat. At the present time claims are being made that capons will be sold at a competitive price with beef. The capon industry is quite a large one in some parts of New South Wales, and I believe it is being developed in Queensland.

I say to the Treasurer, not in any sense of party criticism, that here is a great obligation on the Government and particularly on the Treasurer to do everything possible to prevent the fantastic appreciation of prices which is going on at the moment. We have had a 10.8 per cent. increase in the basic wage since the Government assumed office, 26s. a week, as well as a 28 per cent. increase in rents since they were decontrolled by the Government some time ago. These increases have an effect on the cost of living. On every occasion when the cost of living rises some sections have to ask for more money. The Railway Department has been able to absorb increased costs to date, but if they continue the Government will have to examine freight rates. Ultimately, all persons in the community will find that they are no better off because of the inflationary

spiral. That is particularly so with inflation of property values. The people are led to believe that they can get security in land and buildings. I think a great disservice is being done to the public by finance companies which are forming land trusts and asking for money on the basis that inflation will continue and that money can best be protected if it is invested in land and buildings, the argument being that they retain their value to a greater extent than money in the bank. The Treasurer will agree that virtually every major advertisement by these trusts has been framed in that way.

The Jasper affair in Great Britain arose in the same way. A great deal of money was used. The shares had a value of 5s. The Piccadilly hotel was bought, as well as other real estate and the shares increased in price to 25s. They were then used for the purpose of taking over other businesses on very attractive terms. The Treasurer probably knows the story better than I do. Millions of pounds are involved. I do not mention these things because I think that they warrant Government investigation, but merely to point out that they set in train an inflationary spiral which can have disastrous effect on a section of the community which can least afford to lose its money. People in that section experience the full impact of happenings such as the Jasper affair. The smart boys get out early. The ordinary persons lose their money. Those are the people who put their money into building societies in Great Britain, and as the Treasurer knows, building societies involved in the Jasper affair are not registered in Great Britain. The deposits amounted to £9,000,000 or £15,000,000. Those funds were used by these finance companies. The little person who is the main investor in building societies is the person who is most affected.

Mr. Windsor: Would you have been happy if it had gone down by £1 6s. 0d.?

Mr. DUGGAN: I cannot see the relevance of the interjection.

The Treasurer is aware of the matters to which I have referred. I urge him to use all his efforts to arrest inflation. When speaking of costs recently, I pointed out that they had risen to a far greater extent here than in other places.

The Treasurer said that, as certain rolling stock people are located in Brisbane, they will have an advantage over other people in the same field of business. He qualified his statement by saying that they were already established here and, secondly, that they had the know-how, plant and personnel to tender for rolling stock required for the Mt. Isa railway. That applies particularly to rolling stock required in Queensland. The fact that they are here is a disadvantage when they tender for goods required in other parts of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Engineering Co. was obliged to establish works in Western Australia, and has even

gone to South Africa in order to compete with British manufacturers. Clyde Industries, some of whose locomotives are used on the Queensland railway, no doubt have to allow approximately £1,000 for freight in sending a locomotive from Sydney to Brisbane, when competing with English Electric or any other local manufacturer such as Commonwealth Engineering. Those particular matters can have a very harmful effect upon the economic balance of Australia. I invite the Treasurer to exercise his powers and influence to prevent the inflationary spiral from continuing. It hits the small people, but the big "boys" know how to cope with it. They channel investments at the appropriate time into other avenues not affected to the same extent.

I notice that the Minister for Development, Mines, and Main Roads is not in the House but I should like to say that I regret it has been found necessary to go outside the Public Service for a new Commissioner for Main Roads. I have no criticism to offer about the appointee. From what I can gather he is a man well fitted to carry out his task, but I feel, however, that there is some reflection on the engineers in the Department of Main Roads that the Government had not sufficient confidence in any of them to make an appointment to this important office. The Department of Main Roads is one of the few Government Departments not fettered by the Public Service Regulations. I know that Ministers, and sometimes the Public Service Commissioner, are sometimes hamstrung by reason of the equal efficiency and seniority regulations and in such cases they are obliged to conform to the Act in the appointment of a person who is eligible and suitable for a position. In the case of the Department of Main Roads there was no prohibition on Mr. Kemp. He was able to recruit men from all over Australia; he was not obliged to worry about Public Service requirements. I was rather concerned about this when I had the honour, at one time of being in charge of that department. I asked Mr. Williams to see what could be done about the recruitment of young men to positions in the department. I do not want to particularise because there may be other engineers whom I have not met who were equally as competent as those I knew officially. There are some very competent men within the department and I understand that a Mr. Schubert was sent to America to investigate traffic matters. He was picked out as one who might benefit by a trip of that kind. I regret that the Public Service has not been able to satisfy the Government that it had in the top echelon a man who was able to carry out the duties of Commissioner. In the railway there was the familiar advertising slogan that every porter had the opportunity of carrying the Commissioner's baton as the private entering the Army had the opportunity of carrying the field marshal's baton. There is, today, great competition for engineers

everywhere. I know how difficult it is to retain engineers because of demands by private enterprise. There is a great shortage of engineers in Australia and the shortage is greater than in other countries. The training of engineers on a per capita basis does not show Australia in a favourable light when compared with America, the United Kingdom and other countries. It is very much behind the Soviet Union. I quoted figures when I discussed the Education Vote. If people feel that there is no reward for their services they tend to go outside. I know that there are in the Public Service doctors and others who could earn much more outside than the Minister for Health and Home Affairs pays them. They could earn higher remuneration outside but seized with the importance of their duties they remain in the Public Service. I agree with the hon. gentleman's statement this morning that if adequate remuneration and superannuation are given to these men they are happy to serve the public. I commend them for that attitude.

Dr. Noble: Superannuation is most important.

Mr. DUGGAN: If a man gets to a reasonable standard and knows that he can face retirement without fear and has not to alienate himself from his former environment, he will be satisfied. I commend that policy; I am in favour of it. In addition, of course, there is the natural ambition to reach the top of a department. I wish the new Commissioner for Main Roads a very happy term of office. I know that he will not take my criticism as personal; it is certainly not intended to be. However, I deplore the fact that we were not able to fill the position from within the department.

The Treasurer had a good deal to say on the reconstruction of the Mt. Isa railway line, and I again thank him for his courtesy in outlining so succinctly the most important phases of the scheme. From what he said, and from my understanding, after a period of years we have returned more or less to the position we were in when the previous Government went out of office. We definitely had in mind the utilisation of 90-ton locomotives with a 50-ton axle load, a proposal that has been adhered to by the consultants. The crossing stations and all the other matters that have come under the consideration of the consultants were also covered in broad terms by the original plan that was submitted to the Commonwealth authorities.

I do not want to be accused of being a "knocker," but there are some aspects of the Mt. Isa line that I am not very happy about, and I feel justified in placing on record the Opposition's point of view. In the first place, I deplore the general need to go outside Australia to get finance for these projects. I know that American opinion is hardening. Had we been successful in getting a loan from the World Bank, it may

well have been one of the conditions that we must accept goods rather than money. It has been found in the United States that money that has been hypothecated for certain purposes has in fact been used for others. In addition, the opinion is hardening in the United States that that country is carrying an undue proportion of the free world's debts. Only the other morning on the News Review I listened to a gentleman who is out here on matters dealing with aid given by the American authorities, and he claimed that the present debt of the United States is greater than the total debt of the free world. I was very surprised to hear that. If he is correct, it shows the extent to which those countries have been carried by the United States, which apparently is starting to cry "Enough!"

As I say, I do not approve of our going outside the country for money if it can be found locally. Naturally, too, we should endeavour to get as much material as possible from within the State. I am happy to know that the Treasurer concurs in that view. I am inclined to agree that his prediction will be realised. Apart from steel and electrical equipment, we should be able to provide most of the material from our own resources.

The more I examine these matters, the more it appears to me that there must be a better approach to the solution of our financial problems than has been tried up to the present. All the countries that were defeated in the last war—Germany, Italy, and Japan—have made fantastic financial and industrial recoveries.

Dr. Noble: They were helped tremendously by the other nations.

Mr. DUGGAN: That is so, and they did not have to maintain armies. As a matter of fact, Germany's factory equipment was taken away to prevent the Germans from re-engaging in the manufacture of armaments but it was realised that that would merely hasten economic stagnation and breed Communism. The Germans were then given new plant, which enabled them to compete successfully with the nations that had defeated them.

At 8 p.m.,

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Under the provisions of Standing Order No. 307 the sitting will be extended to enable the Treasurer to make his speech in reply, after which all questions necessary for the passage of the remaining stages of the Bill will be put without amendment or debate.

Hon. T. A. HILEY (Coorparoo—Treasurer and Minister for Housing) (8 p.m.), in reply: This is one day on which I feel almost a sense of regret that by the Standing Orders of the House so much time is allowed for debating the detailed Estimates and so little time for the challenge of the Appropriation Bill for the year that could provide such a

wide and interesting subject of debate. However, we are bound by the Standing Orders and, just as we have faithfully devoted the longest time in the British Empire—16 full days—to going meticulously through the details, so, in the terms of the same Standing Orders, we are now compelled to content ourselves with this very limited time for looking not narrowly at some facet of the finances of the State but broadly at some of their more important total aspects.

The Leader of the Opposition opened his remarks with the reference to broken promises but he did not specify any.

He cited a number of committees the Government have set up as some criticism of the way the Government have chosen to discharge their responsibilities. It is quite true that the Government have set up many committees and sought their advice. It is true, too, that some of those committees were dominantly drawn from members of the Public Service. Some of them were not. As a matter of fact, the list presented by the Leader of the Opposition does not by any means cover the full scope of the committees that were set up.

The Government have never hesitated to seek the advice of what they believed to be a properly constituted committee to dig and delve, to find the necessary facts, and to secure reactions widely according to the particular terms of reference. But the Government always of necessity, as any government should, reserve to themselves the right to govern. In other words, we consider the evidence tendered to us. If we accept it fully, we act upon it. If we accept it in part, we reflect action in part. If we disagree with it, we very properly reserve the right to give the public to understand that, although we have been advised in a certain direction, we do not accept the advice. It would be quite wrong for the House to get the impression that we have set up a whole series of committees, which have given advice, and we have done nothing about it. Indeed, to take the committees listed by the Leader of the Opposition—the advice tendered by the Prices Advisory Committee has been very largely accepted.

Mr. Lloyd: What about the re-control of commodities?

Mr. HILEY: We had no advice from the Prices Advisory Committee urging the re-control of commodities.

Mr. Hanlon: The Minister told us on one occasion when he did decontrol something that the Prices Advisory Committee had suggested he should not have.

Mr. Duggan: Chemists' lines.

Mr. HILEY: That may be so.

Mr. Duggan: That is one.

Mr. HILEY: I cannot remember any specific instances where the Prices Advisory Committee has urged us to re-control something and where the Government have flown in the face of that advice. Very largely we have accepted the advice tendered by the Committee.

The timber report, a very recent one, is now under consideration. Those who have read it will realise the great bulk of it, the width of its subject matter, and the tremendous number of aspects raised that call for very careful consideration. They are not considerations to be determined in Brisbane. Decisions made in the south-eastern part of the State could have a reflected effect in Maryborough and other places further away, even into New South Wales. I assure the House that the report of the Timber Advisory Committee is receiving very deep and serious consideration.

Mr. Lloyd: It might tend to increase the Brisbane price of timber from northern New South Wales, too.

Mr. HILEY: Exactly. That is the sort of thing that is receiving a good deal of consideration. I do not say it would but it could also have the effect of extending the competition of Brisbane millers into the Wide Bay district, and simply transfer an acute problem in the narrow south-eastern corner of the State to fields further away.

The report of the Elections Commission was adopted. The report dealing with the finances of the Brisbane City Council was adopted by the Government but declined by the City Council. There the matter rests, but at least the Government did set up a committee and adopt its report.

At the present time there is a Bill before the House which every hon. member must agree largely adopts the report of the Payne Commission.

The Hytten report was not accepted because quite frankly we did not think some of the suggestions were wise. We did not think that it offered a solution to some of the problems to which the Commissioner was asked to address his consideration.

Since we have received the report about the markets we have very properly allowed the public extended time in which to lodge objections. The objections will be considered by the committee and in turn by the Government. We hope to be able to consider the objections in time to allow the Minister for Agriculture and Stock to introduce a Bill which will, I suspect, very closely follow the recommendations of the committee. The Committee on Youth Problems has made its report but it is the type of report that does not suggest a series of immediate steps. But already the Minister for Health and Home Affairs and other Ministers have taken some action to give effect to a number of its suggestions. I expect that many of the suggestions included in the report will guide the Government for many years to come.

Mr. Lloyd: We may set up our own committee.

Mr. HILEY: You may. I do not recollect any reference to a committee on Saturday trading. That does not ring a bell in my mind.

Mr. Duggan: The Industrial Court asked the Minister to examine the matter.

Mr. HILEY: Reference was made to party committees. Committees of the political party organisation are not Government committees. It would not be our desire to say to our political parties, "You are not to set up any committees to examine any matters in which the party as such has an interest." They can set up any committee they like and any reports they submit will be carefully studied. But I ask hon. members opposite, "Please do not say that they are committees of the Government Party."

The employees' advisory committees set up by the Minister for Labour and Industry are permanently functioning committees. They are not hit-and-run committees that are intended to deal with the problem, find a solution, and then wind up. They are planning committees. The intention is that they shall function and assist in the areas where there is seasonal distress.

The committee on Central Queensland Ports, to which some reference was made, was in fact promised simultaneously with the promise to set up a committee on Port Alma. Although it is true that that committee commenced to function after the Port Alma committee report had been received and acted upon, it was not an after-thought that prompted the appointment of that committee. If anything, the request from the interested bodies to set up a committee on Central Queensland ports was antecedent to the request to set one up on Port Alma.

Mr. Hanlon: What would happen if they reported against the Port Alma proposal? What would you do then?

Mr. HILEY: If they do our faces will be red. That is a risk we have to run.

The Committee on trade promotion is of an advisory character. It was an earnest step to start something which will not be a flash in the pan. The evidence produced by the Minister for Labour and Industry is that the stimulation of secondary industry will be of slow momentum but the effect of it will be detectable for a generation to come. You do not establish an industrial community overnight; on the contrary the records of most heavily industrialised countries shows a very slow start and a slowly gathering momentum. It is our hope and belief that the work of the committee will bring about that result.

Mr. Gair: It has done nothing.

Mr. HILEY: It has shown some results.

Mr. Gair: It has done nothing.

Mr. HILEY: If that is the attitude of the hon. member it is apparent that he does not know what is going on or else it is impossible to satisfy him. When the hon. member has heard the names of the cases I am sure that he will eat those words, if not soon then within a few years.

Mr. Hanlon: Can you point to anything in the record of Labour Governments that discouraged firms that you were associated with, some of which were very successful.

Mr. HILEY: There was only one firm with which I was associated that was able to establish in Queensland a business to serve an all-Australian need. The rest were purely local service industries. I refer to the grievous mistake made by Labour in the years before uniform taxation. For some reason Governments of the day, I suspect because of the internal fight in the Labour movement—preferred to keep the manual working trades strong and predominant and wanted to keep the craft unions out, and adopted the device of crippling State taxation not in force in any other State. Uniform taxation changed all that. Had the policy of the Labour Party's high State taxation been in force that company would never have started in Queensland.

Mr. Hanlon: Over the last 10 years there would have been nothing very frightening about the Labour Government's policy as far as your companies were concerned.

Mr. HILEY: The memory of these things is not easily forgotten, especially when it is fortified from time to time by expressions that reflect the class hatred that is one of the despoiling factors that unfortunately, Labour parties have yet to live down.

Mr. Gair: Why did Courtaulds go to New South Wales?

Mr. HILEY: Because the market was there and New South Wales was not silly enough to have the form of taxation adopted by Mr. Forgan Smith for industry.

Mr. Lloyd: One reason you supported uniform taxation is your realisation of the effect State taxation would have here.

Mr. HILEY: Quite right. That is the only chance we have of matching the undeniable advantage of more population enjoyed by the Southern States of New South Wales and Victoria. It must be remembered that we did not have the advantage enjoyed by South Australia of being an aided State, which allowed the South Australian Government to keep services at a higher level and taxation at a lower level.

Mr. Gair: And South Australia has a favourable geographical position.

Mr. HILEY: Yes.

Mr. Gair: And 67 per cent. of its population in Adelaide.

Mr. HILEY: But it has not the natural advantages of Queensland. But for the fact that it was an aided State, South Australia could not have succeeded to the extent it did. It is interesting to study the way in which development has taken place in aided States. It has been far more rapid than in States that were not aided. That was one of the factors that led me to conclude that we had to solve the problem if Queensland was not to be an impoverished State forever.

The fact that the Government have set up all these committees and have acted on so many of the matters with which they dealt is a sign of busy Government. Hon. members opposite will realise the position when these things are summarised during the coming elections. The Government have succeeded in tackling and doing more in two years than previous Governments did in 10. We have tackled and cleaned up difficulties which had existed and had remained stagnant for years. If there is any fault to be found with the Government it is that we have attempted too much. I venture to say that without the assistance of the many committees that have given great service the Government could not possibly have done as much as they have done.

The Leader of the Opposition examined the broad financial outlook for the State and said there were signs of a great tightness. The fact is that never before has there been a greater programme of expenditure by any Government, and never has there been greater use of available resources. In other words never before have any Government made a greater direct contribution to employment. I defy the Opposition to show that the Government have failed to employ fully their resources or to organise their resources.

Mr. Burrows: What about the fact that main roads money was not used last year?

Mr. HILEY: That is true of last year. If the hon. member had been in the Chamber when the point was raised earlier, he would have heard my statement. If he looks at the Budget for this year, and I doubt sometimes whether he does read the Budget, he will find that it will be used this year.

Mr. Lloyd: Are you saying that the expenditure in the private sector has been reduced?

Mr. HILEY: No, it has not.

Mr. Lloyd: There is unemployment, and there must be some reason for it.

Mr. HILEY: It is a deep subject, requiring much study.

Mr. Lloyd: There are only two sectors of expenditure.

Mr. HILEY: I have listened to the statements by hon. members opposite on the effects of mechanisation in industry. That is one of the reasons

Mr. Lloyd: You have done a bit of it yourselves.

Mr. HILEY: Yes, and we have to do it if we are to be a progressive community instead of being contented to live like coolies.

Standardisation of the railway was mentioned. It was referred to in an oblique fashion. The Leader of the Opposition did not for a moment suggest that standardisation should be undertaken. He merely mentioned the type of suggestion by way of illustration.

When the late Mr. E. M. Hanlon was Premier I remember a very lengthy debate in which the proposal was examined. I venture to say with no voice of dissension, that both sides of the Chamber agreed that standardisation of railways would be unwise for Queensland.

Mr. A. J. Smith: Other States have taken advantage of the concessions.

Mr. HILEY: They have. I do not know whether the hon. member raised his voice on that occasion. If he thought at that time that standardisation would be a good thing for Queensland, why did he not say so?

Mr. A. J. Smith: I have always advocated it. When the building of the Mt. Isa railway was first mentioned, I suggested standardisation.

Mr. HILEY: Then all I can say is that the hon. member knows nothing of railway economics.

Mr. A. J. Smith: Over 50 years all that Victoria and New South Wales will have to pay is 15 per cent.

Mr. HILEY: And that was the offer to Queensland. It was considered, but it was thought that Queensland would be unwise to accept it. I do not know whether the hon. member has read the Clapp Report on which the whole proposal was based. That report was subject to a lengthy discussion in this House and I remember the late Mr. Hanlon speaking strongly against it. I presume he expressed the conviction of the Government of which he was the Leader. I do not remember a dissentient voice. I can remember a former member of this Parliament, Senator Maher, vehemently denouncing the scheme. I can remember also that one of Mr. Hanlon's objections was that it would drain the whole of the traffic from Western Queensland down to Sydney.

Mr. Burrows: That was part of the scheme.

Mr. HILEY: Precisely. It was to connect all the western terminals and take traffic from Cunnamulla to Bourke and thence to Sydney, and the late hon. gentleman vehemently opposed it.

Mr. A. J. Smith: The same as the continental railway.

Mr. HILEY: No. This was the Clapp standardisation scheme, connecting the whole of the West to Sydney. It was contained in the Clapp report. No member in the House would have anything to do with standardisation.

Mr. Burrows: The long milage in Queensland was another factor.

Mr. HILEY: I point out that the Queensland Parliament, having then decided not to accept the Clapp standardisation scheme, lost the opportunity for a rail standardisation scheme on the basis of Federal aid. The opportunity has gone, and if the opportunity ever presents itself again it is for this Parliament to make a decision. Parliament will have to consider whether it is wise to reconsider the decision it made with rectitude on that occasion and when there was complete unanimity on both sides of the House. There was no division between political parties on that occasion and both sides felt that the Clapp proposal was a bad deal for Queensland.

Before he concluded his speech the Leader of the Opposition made reference to the inflationary spiral and drew attention to a published list comparing all the changes in currency value in 36 countries of the world. He said that Portugal was the lowest of the lot. I ask him to consider the list again because it is significant that the rise is less in a country where the population is relatively static. He will find that some of the countries with the highest rate of inflation are those which are pressing on with migration and where the population is rising. My opinion is that one of the inescapable facts of migration is that it sets up increased values. Very powerful inflationary forces come with it. It might be different if there was simultaneous with migration a proportion of migration of capital. The position is different in these days of horsepower rather than man-power from what it was at the commencement of Queensland's history when our grandfathers and great-grandfathers first came to this country. My grandfather came out here as a working engineer, carrying his tools in his tool-box, a complete fitter ready to start work. Take the same man today. What does he need? He needs expensive premises, expensive machinery, and a tremendous background of electric power with the accompaniment of a modern mechanised industrial community. At this stage in Australia we are anxious to get all the people we can and with those people there must be a migration of capital so that those who come here may be provided with the tremendous expense factor necessary to provide working conditions with which the modern workman needs to be surrounded.

Mr. Duggan interjected.

Mr. HILEY: Nothing would worry me more than to find that we had an overseas debt that we could not reduce. It is hoped that every migrant will find a place in a

productive industry, the capacity of which will enable the repatriation of capital borrowed to encourage development.

The Leader of the Opposition expressed fear on the effect of rising costs on our exporting industries. That is a challenge to everyone in Australia who ponders the effects of inflation, particularly on industries that depend on export markets where the margin is slight and the prospect of increased prices is not very bright. However, the hon. member disregards the growing tendency each year in all our industries to command increasing productivity. That is the means by which a progressive community succeeds in offsetting the effect of inflation. When wages tend to increase, industry is stimulated to mechanise still further and keep production at a reasonable level. It is the increasing productivity of industry that offsets the pressures that accompany migration. As long as Australia succeeds in feeding into industry the means of retooling from time to time and avoids the mistake that Lancashire made when it found that its cotton-manufacturing competitors were using looms of the latest design, and as long as we have the sense, particularly in the primary industries to keep on introducing the very latest equipment that science and invention can bring to our aid, we should resolutely continue to attract all the migrants we can and accept the challenge of the inflationary pressure that results. We must never forget the offsetting effect of increased production.

The hon. member made brief reference to the appointment of the new Commissioner of Main Roads. Mr. Barton, who has just been appointed, started his career in the Main Roads Department, was trained there for years, and now comes back to it enriched with a wider experience than he may have obtained had he remained in the service of the department.

Mr. A. J. Smith: The inference is that it is unwise for engineers to stay in the Main Roads Department.

Mr. HILEY: Not at all. What I am saying is that very often a wider experience is of advantage to any man. It does not always pay a man to stop in one narrow environment.

Mr. A. J. Smith: The inference is that it is better for engineers to get out of the Main Roads Department and get experience.

Mr. HILEY: In some cases it is. It depends where they get it.

Mr. A. J. Smith: It is not much encouragement for men to stay in the department.

Mr. HILEY: In a field such as this, which is very technical, we want the best man we can get for the job. My colleague, the Minister for Development, Mines and Main Roads, after surveying the position very thoroughly, said to us, "I believe that Mr. Barton will make a better Main Roads engineer than anyone else I can suggest."

Mr. Thackeray: It was not favourably received, though, by the engineers generally.

Mr. HILEY: The hon. member would not expect it to be, would he?

Mr. Thackeray: There was a suggestion outside of a slight tinge of a political appointment.

Mr. HILEY: Frankly, I have not heard the suggestion of a political appointment. I repeat that I can understand the disappointment where these appointments are made; but it would be quite wrong to imagine that the Government have made a habit of it. While in one or two cases we have not hesitated to bring a man in from outside when we have thought it to be to the advantage of the office to be filled, do not let anyone imagine that we are making a regular habit of passing over men who have grown up and been trained in the various departments for the top jobs when they become available.

The next matter dealt with by the Leader of the Opposition was the Mt. Isa railway. There is only one important variation from the original report made by Ford, Bacon and Davis and that was in a revised report made about the middle of last year. Their first report had accepted some unbalanced grades. There was no equalising of grades between the outward track and the return track to Townsville. Some of the grades were a little steeper than would enable the building up of the larger-sized train it was desired to run. If I remember rightly, the steepest grade, on the first report, was 1 in 90, which would be looked upon by many of us who have seen grades of up to 1 in 45 as a very comfortable and easy grade. Remembering that the whole purpose of the railway was to permit travel for a very long distance with unbroken train sets and that it was hoped to be able to build a train that would roll unmarshalled, without any shunting requirement, from Townsville right through to Mt. Isa, in their later report they suggested a regrading, particularly on some of the steeper grades around Selheim and Charters Towers, to equalise the grades and lessen some so that, I believe I am right in informing the House, the maximum grade is now 1 in 105. So we will be able to use bigger trains and run fewer of them to carry the freight.

I might have misled the House a little when, by way of interjection, the Leader of the Opposition asked me if we proposed to have centralised traffic control. Centralised traffic control is a very important device, which is necessary where you start to get very dense traffic on the lines. I thought at first, and I told the House in quick response to the interjection, that the proposal included centralised traffic control. During the tea adjournment I made inquiries and learned that it does not. The term rang a bell in my mind and I find that what misled me

was that centralised traffic control is proposed in the quadruplication around Brisbane where in fact you have a dense traffic factor and you have to have your trains following one another with all the speed possible. Indeed, the assessment of the consultants for bigger and fewer trains means that the actual train density on the Mt. Isa line, after reconstruction and after Mt. Isa Mines increases its output, will still be relatively low. There will be very few trains a day but they will be big trains and fast trains, capable of handling a tremendous tonnage of goods without having a high train density.

Mr. Thackeray: Have you any idea of the maximum tonnage envisaged up there now?

Mr. HILEY: I made one mistake answering a question quickly, but I think it is about 900 tons. If the hon. member sees me later I will let him have the figure accurately.

Finally the Leader of the Opposition questioned the sources of funds. He criticised—and I was in entire agreement with him—the supply of funds from overseas linked to a requirement that part of those funds at any rate flow in the form of goods from overseas. The State Government have sent onto the Federal Government quite a number of tied offers from countries that have offered to provide part or all of the requirements. The tie to their offers has been that we accept goods from those countries. In every case without hesitation we informed the Federal Government, “We have had this offer. There are the details. But because of the tie we do not propose to seriously consider it.” We set our faces against any tie from overseas. On the basis that the money is now becoming available there is no tie whatever.

Mr. Hilton: Where is it coming from?

Mr. HILEY: All we know is that it is underwritten by the Commonwealth Government. I suspect that part of it will come from overseas but so far not one penny has been indicated as coming from overseas. They have indicated that they expect progressively to raise money overseas but they will underwrite it. They have to find the money. What they do not find themselves they have to raise overseas.

Mr. Gair: Is any of it going to be a grant?

Mr. HILEY: No.

Mr. Hanlon: Do you express the same pleasure and satisfaction as the Premier on the terms of the loan when the Commonwealth Government are not only not making a direct contribution but also making a profit out of us as well?

Mr. HILEY: When we have the exact terms expressed in the form of a written contract they will be presented to the House. At that time I shall not hesitate to express my concluded opinion as to whether I am very

satisfied, moderately satisfied or dissatisfied. After two years of waiting for the project—and I understand our predecessors also had been worrying and working towards this for quite a while—I am delighted, and I think every person in Queensland is delighted, to know the project is going ahead.

Some of this money could come from overseas. How much, no one is yet in a position to say, but had all the money to be raised on the Australian market I am bound to say that in my judgment it could never have happened for these simple reasons: we could never have got it from Loan Council; we could never have got the other States to agree for a loan raising within Australia to go wholly to the benefit of Queensland. We should have had no prospect at all of success had that been the only way to get the money. I think I have answered the points raised by the hon. gentleman.

Motion (Mr. Hiley) agreed to.

COMMITTEE

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

Clauses 1 to 9, both inclusive, schedule and preamble, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

THIRD READING

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

The House adjourned at 8.42 p.m.
