

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 30 AUGUST 1960

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Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. D. E. Nicholson, Murrumba) took the chair at 11 a.m.

APPROPRIATION BILL No. 1.

Assent reported by Mr. Speaker.

QUESTIONS

APPLICATIONS FOR HOMES, HOUSING COMMISSION

Mr. HANLON (Baroona) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

“(1) How many applications were on hand at June 30, 1960, for home purchase in the metropolitan area of Brisbane?”

“(2) How many applications, in all categories, for rental accommodation were lodged with the Housing Commission during the financial year ending June 30, 1960, and of these how many applications have been allocated rental accommodation?”

Hon. T. A. HILEY (Chatsworth) replied—

“(1) In the metropolitan area the number of applications on hand for home ownership at June 30, 1960, was 595.”

“(2)—

APPLICATIONS FOR STATE RENTAL HOUSES RECEIVED DURING PERIOD 1-7-59 TO 30-6-60

Points Priority :	Metro-politan Area	Country Centres	Total
100 Families facing ejection, living in tents, huts, or similar unsuitable premises	224	169	393
80 Families living in premises condemned by local or State Authorities	7	32	39
60 Families separated owing to lack of accommodation.	195	123	318
40 Families living under crowded conditions	48	74	122
40 Families sharing homes with other people	430	103	533
	904	501	1,405

In addition, during 1959-1960, 1,327 applications of nil priority—905 metropolitan and 422 country centres—were received. In respect of these applications offers of rental houses were made to 458 of the applicants; 90 of them declined the offers and 368 accepted and occupied the houses. A further 502 offers were made during the same period to applicants whose applications were lodged prior to July 1, 1959, and 67 of them declined the offers and 435 accepted and occupied the houses. In country centres 306 houses were allotted and accepted by applicants during

1959-1960 but the information in regard to the dates of lodgment of the respective applications is not available nor is any record kept in Head Office of the number of applicants who declined houses. From this it will be seen that the number of new tenancies during the year totalled 1,109, and were almost three times the number of fresh applications in the 100 point category. During the year real inroads were possible into the lower points categories.”

COURT SENTENCES, DRUNKEN DRIVERS

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) asked the Minister for Justice—

“(1) Was a man named Eberle and was a man named Watson found guilty of unlawfully killing in separate cases before Mr. Justice Jeffriess in the Northern Supreme Court?”

“(2) Did both charges arise out of the killing of cyclists while the accused were drunk and dangerously driving motor cars?”

“(3) Did Watson and Eberle receive sentences of five years' imprisonment following their convictions?”

“(4) (a) Did they subsequently appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeal, and (b) did the Court find that the sentences of five years' imprisonment imposed by Mr. Justice Jeffriess were 'manifestly excessive' and reduce the terms of imprisonment to eighteen months?”

“(5) Had the Crown any right to appeal to a higher or any Court against the decision of the Court of Criminal Appeal, and, if so, why was not an appeal lodged?”

“(6) If the Crown has no right of appeal against decisions of the Court of Criminal Appeal, will he consider the introduction of legislation to give the Crown such right and, if not, why not?”

“(7) Is he aware that, since the action of the Court of Criminal Appeal in reducing the sentences of Watson and Eberle, there has been a startling increase in the number of drunk-driving cases in the Townsville area?”

Hon. A. W. MUNRO (Toowong) replied—

“(1) Both Eberle and Watson were found guilty of manslaughter in separate cases before Mr. Justice Jeffriess in the Northern Supreme Court.”

“(2) In each of the cases against Watson and Eberle the deceased was a cyclist. The evidence in the case of Watson was that although the accused had consumed liquor, the case for the Crown was failure to keep a proper lookout. The case against Eberle was similar except that the offence took place at night.”

“(3) Yes.”

“(4) Yes.”

"(5) Application could be made by the Crown for special leave to appeal to the High Court. In relation to cases of this nature I may say that the object of punishment is mainly deterrent and the degree of punishment in each case must be considered in relation to all the facts of that particular case. To illustrate broadly the view of the law in these matters it may be said that the persons who commit this type of offence are usually of good character and any imprisonment is a drastic punishment for a person of good character whose crime is founded in negligence and not in a conscious desire to break the law. One important factor which is taken into consideration by the Court in these cases is that the person does not set out on his journey with the intention of committing a crime. The crime may be committed quite unexpectedly. Usually such a person is not a criminal within the ordinary acceptation of that word. I am advised that in view of the foregoing and the fact that the decision of the Court of Criminal Appeal was unanimous, there are no sustainable grounds on which to base an application for special leave to appeal."

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

"(7) No. With reference to this matter generally I may say that I share the concern of the Honourable Member for Townsville South at the dreadful toll of life by road accidents which may be caused by a variety of circumstances. However, I also concur with the statement of one of the Judges of the Court of Criminal Appeal when he said that a policy of strict law enforcement could be a much more effective deterrent to negligence than the imposition of a long term of imprisonment in the relatively rare cases in which a driver is found guilty of manslaughter. To this I might add that I contemplate that within the present Session there will be a strengthening of the law in connection with the offences of dangerous and drunken driving."

CONVEYANCING FEES

Mr. LLOYD (Kedron) asked the Minister for Justice—

"(1) Will he enumerate the table of conveyancing fees on the transfer of property charged by the Public Curator's Office?"

"(2) What conveyancing fees are now being charged by private solicitors?"

Hon. A. W. MUNRO (Toowong) replied—

"(1) The scale of conveyancing fees usually charged by the Public Curator in connection with the transfer of property is as follows:—

Consideration—	£	s.	d.
(a) Not over £200	2	2	0
(b) £201 to £400	2	12	6
(c) £401 to £600	3	13	6
(d) £601 to £800	4	14	6

	£	s.	d.
(e) £801 to £1,000	5	15	6
(f) £1,001 to £1,500	7	7	0
(g) £1,501 to £2,000	8	18	6
(h) £2,001 to £3,000	10	10	0
(i) £3,001 to £4,000	12	1	6
(j) £4,001 to £5,000	13	13	0
(k) Over £5,000— for every additional £1,000 or part thereof up to £10,000	1	1	0
(l) Over £10,000	As arranged"		

"These fees are payable by the transferee. The transferor is not charged any fee unless the Public Curator acts only for him and not for the transferee. The fees usually cover the stamping, transfer and registration of the necessary transfer documents and attention to other legal matters incidental to the transaction. This Scale of Fees was fixed in 1951 in accordance with Regulations under The Public Curator Acts. The Scale is at present under review by the Public Curator in the light of changed conditions since 1951."

"(2) There is no direct governmental control on conveyancing fees chargeable by solicitors. There is, however, provision for a review by the Taxing Officer of the Supreme Court of solicitors' charges in certain cases. The Taxing Officer seldom has conveyancing fees before him, but I understand that generally he would accept as reasonable conveyancing fees which conform to the conveyancing scale recommended by the Queensland Law Society Incorporated."

DOCKING FACILITIES FOR "MORIB"

Mr. LLOYD (Kedron) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

"(1) Is it a fact that the Department of Harbours and Marine has refused to make docking facilities available to the Darra Cement Company's ship, 'Morib,' to undergo maintenance and repairs?"

"(2) If so, and, if the cement company is prepared to pay painters and dockers casual rates of labour, will he give the department's reason for refusing to accept this work?"

Hon. T. A. HILEY (Chatsworth) replied—

"(1) Yes. There is an industrial dispute at the Dock where painters and dockers will not offer for permanent employment in accordance with the terms and conditions of their Award, but will agree to accept permanent engagements only at casual rates of labour. This dispute has been notified to the Deputy Registrar of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and I understand a Conciliator is to visit Brisbane today in an endeavour to settle the dispute."

"(2) If painters and dockers offer for work in accordance with the terms and conditions of their Award the work will be accepted."

WORKERS' DWELLINGS; PROFIT, COMMON-WEALTH-STATES HOUSING FUND

Mr. LLOYD (Kedron) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

“(1) How many Workers' Dwellings were completed during the financial year 1959-1960?”

“(2) How many applications for advances on Workers' Dwellings were withdrawn by applicants during the same period?”

“(3) What was the profit on sale of properties in the Profit and Loss Account of the Commonwealth-States Housing Fund during the same period?”

Hon. T. A. HILEY (Chatsworth) replied—

“(1) 531.”

“(2) 243.”

“(3) This information will not be available until the Accounts of the Commonwealth-State Housing Fund are finalised for 1959-1960.”

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE, FIREMAN L. TAYLOR, ROCKHAMPTON

Mr. THACKERAY (Rockhampton North) asked the Minister for Transport—

“(1) Will he inform the House if the Government recognises a prominent doctor at Rockhampton as a fully qualified medical practitioner, competent of diagnosing any illness and issuing a medical certificate on behalf of any patient?”

“(2) If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, why was fireman L. Taylor, Rockhampton, who was issued with a medical certificate for ten days' sick leave by this doctor, rejected by his department after being examined by the G.M.O., and another medical officer at Rockhampton?”

“(3) Will he furnish the House with the doctor's report on the nature of fireman L. Taylor's illness for ten days' sick leave, also the report of the G.M.O. and the report of the other doctor involved?”

“(4) On what grounds was the certificate issued by the doctor not acceptable?”

“(5) Is it the policy of the Government that Government employees visit the G.M.O. before a medical certificate will be accepted?”

“(6) Is the Railway Department prepared to accept any further certificate issued by the doctor involved?”

“(7) Does he consider that his department has slighted the doctor in not accepting the certificate?”

“(8) Has any sick pay been paid to fireman L. Taylor during the particular period involved? If so, how much? If not, is the department contemplating paying sick leave?”

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

“(1) to (8):—On July 8 I informed the Honourable Member by letter that I had carefully studied the file of correspondence relating to an application for leave lodged by fireman L. Taylor, Rockhampton, and that I was satisfied that the action taken by the General Manager at Rockhampton was fully justified. I therefore regret that the Honourable Member, in an apparent endeavour to make political capital out of the matter, has seen fit to ask a series of questions involving a Rockhampton medical practitioner, and that as a result it becomes necessary for me to place before this House facts which would otherwise be regarded as private professional matters between the doctor concerned, his patient and the Railway Department. Fireman L. C. Taylor of Rockhampton applied on May 19 to be granted leave from June 13 to 19, 1960. It will be noted that the application for leave was lodged almost a month in advance of the date on which it was desired that the leave commence. As the period during which the leave was desired coincided with Rockhampton Show and Carnival Week and as every endeavour is made to give the maximum number of enginemen a rostered working which would enable them to attend the Carnival at some time during Carnival Week, the application was not approved. Upon fireman Taylor receiving advice of the refusal of his leave, he informed the acting locomotive foreman that notwithstanding the refusal, he would not be working during Carnival Week. Fireman Taylor subsequently submitted a medical certificate from Dr. J. O'Duffy dated June 8, 1960, reading as follows:—‘This is to certify that on June 8, 1960, I examined L. C. Taylor who, in my opinion, is suffering from duodenal ulcer and will be unfit for duty up to and including ten days. He states that, the incapacity commenced in April, 1960. In view of the earlier application for leave during this period and the intimation by fireman Taylor that he would not in any case be working during Carnival Week, arrangements then were made for him to be examined by the Railway Medical Officer (Dr. N. Talbot) on Saturday, June 11, that being the first available time on which the appointment could be arranged. Dr. Talbot gave the following certificate dated June 13:—‘I can find no evidence, neither from his history nor my examination, that he has duodenal ulcer. During my questioning, he informed me that he applied for and was granted leave for Carnivals previous to this. There is in my opinion grave doubt that he has a duodenal ulcer and recommend that he be X-rayed to find out if one is present. I should then be in a position to give a positive reply if sick leave is necessary.’ The X-ray was taken by Dr. Gillogley on the morning of June 15 and his certificate

stated—'I can see no evidence of any active ulcer crater.' As a result of Dr. Gillogley's certificate the Railway Medical Officer informed the Department that in his opinion Taylor was fit to work. Fireman Taylor was then informed that the result of the X-ray examinations revealed that he was fit to carry out his normal duties, and therefore was instructed to report for duty at 3.40 p.m. on June 16. Fireman Taylor called at the General Manager's Office on the afternoon of June 15 and handed in a further certificate from Dr. O'Duffy dated June 15, and informed the leave clerk that he would not be reporting for duty as instructed. However, on the morning of June 16 fireman Taylor called on the roster clerk and stated he had received advice from Brisbane and would be reporting for duty, which he did at 3.40 p.m. as rostered. The Department reserves the right to arrange for the medical examination of an employee by the Railway Medical Officer if it considers the circumstances warrant such action. The matter as to whether the Department will be prepared to accept any further certificate issued by the Doctor involved will depend upon the circumstances of the case. Sick pay has not been paid to fireman L. Taylor for the period he was off duty and such payment is not contemplated."

BUILDING TRADE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. NEWTON (Belmont) asked the Minister for Public Works and Local Government—

"(1) What was the number of building trade workers employed by the Public Works Department at the end of December, 1959?"

"(2) Following the recent retrenchments that took place, what was the number engaged at the end of June, 1960?"

Hon. L. H. S. ROBERTS (Whitsunday) replied—

"(1) 2,816."

"(2) 2,318. By his previous association it is presumed the Honourable the Member will be well aware that the day-labour employment of building trades and allied employees by the Department of Public Works has always run to a pattern with a peak month of activity each financial year depending upon the requirements of that portion of the Department's Construction Programme which is essentially related to the urgent construction of school accommodation. Thus it is that the Department of Public Works must be left to organise its own affairs to suit financial provision and the related purposes for which financial provision is made. I would remind the Honourable

the Member that the figures referred to above are in excess of the number of day labour employees engaged by any previous Government."

RENTAL HOMES, SEVILLE ROAD AND MOUNT GRAVATT EAST

Mr. NEWTON (Belmont) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

"What is the number of rental homes that have been built in the Seville Road and Mount Gravatt East projects from August, 1957, up to the completion of these projects in August, 1960?"

Hon. T. A. HILEY (Chatsworth) replied—

"From August 1, 1957, to August 25, 1960, 252 houses have been erected of which 238 were purchased and 14 rented."

LAND HELD FOR HOUSING COMMISSION PURPOSES

Mr. HANLON (Baroona) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

"(1) What is the acreage of land held at date for the Queensland Housing Commission purposes of future building for home-ownership or home-rental, detailing the amount held in various cities and towns including an approximate detailing of various suburban site acreages in the metropolitan area?"

"(2) What acreage of land was purchased for such Housing Commission purposes during the period July 1, 1957, to June 30, 1960, detailed as in (1) above?"

"(3) What was the total amount paid for the land purchased during the period July 1, 1957, to June 30, 1960?"

Hon. T. A. HILEY (Chatsworth) replied—

"(1) 1,301 acres 1 rood 6 perches—Metropolitan, 720 acres 26 perches—Country, 581 acres 22 perches—the details being:—

	Acres	Roods	Perches
METROPOLITAN—			
Acacia Ridge	152	2	22-6
Balmoral	0	0	24-0
Camp Hill	1	2	34-2
Cannon Hill	1	1	26-5
Carina	8	0	30-2
Chermside	6	2	11-8
Coopers Plains	2	2	29-6
Coorparoo	0	3	0-3
Dinmore	1	0	31-6
Dutton Park	1	1	11-1
Grovely	4	2	28-8
Holland Park	38	3	12-1
Inala	153	1	2-6
Kangaroo Point	0	2	4-1
Kuraby	175	0	20-0
Manly	20	1	7-2
Mount Gravatt	102	2	21-6
Red Hill	0	1	37-1
Rocklea	4	1	18-9
Salisbury	0	2	23-8
Seven Hills	2	3	30-7
Stafford	35	2	17-4
Wellers Hill	0	0	24-9
Wynnum	3	1	21-5
Yeronga	0	1	0-0
Zillmere	0	1	13-3
Total	720	0	25-9

COUNTRY—

	Acres	Roods	Perches
Alpha	4	1	0-0
Aramac	1	1	2-6
Atherton	2	0	32-0
Ayr	9	0	32-0
Babinda	1	0	3-2
Baralaba	0	1	0-0
Barcardine	2	0	1-0
Beaudesert	0	3	8-0
Beenleigh	0	0	34-1
Benarkin	2	0	26-7
Biggenden	0	3	29-5
Biloela	4	2	30-5
Blackall	2	3	28-0
Bluff	1	1	19-7
Bollon	2	0	39-4
Bowen	9	2	21-54
Bundaberg	3	0	0-1
Burketown	0	2	0-0
Caboolture	1	2	16-0
Cairns	11	2	12-79
Capella	8	0	33-9
Charleville	4	0	30-2
Charters Towers	10	2	12-4
Chinchilla	6	0	11-4
Childers	0	3	8-0
Clare	2	0	8-9
Clermont	1	1	0-0
Cloncurry	0	3	18-84
Clifton	1	3	38-1
Collinsville	1	1	33-3
Cooktown	2	0	0-8
Croydon	1	0	10-0
Cunnamulla	2	1	13-46
Dalby	3	0	12-9
Dimbulah	1	3	0-0
Dirranbandi	2	3	21-9
Eidsvold	1	2	15-2
Emerald	2	3	30-2
Esk	2	2	0-0
Gatton	1	1	13-1
Gayndah	1	0	0-0
Gin Gin	0	3	11-7
Giru	0	3	11-9
Gladstone	30	2	20-1
Goondiwindi	6	0	27-5
Gordonvale	1	2	30-7
Gympie	5	0	19-8
Herberton	0	1	11-8
Home Hill	2	0	0-4
Howard	3	2	39-2
Hughenden	4	2	20-9
Imbil	2	3	20-9
Ingham	12	3	30-75
Inglewood	4	2	21-6
Injune	1	0	39-7
Ivanhoe	4	2	19-0
Ipswich	20	2	38-9
Isisford	3	0	0-0
Jandowae	1	3	38-0
Jericho	2	1	0-0
Julia Creek	0	3	7-4
Kairi	1	2	0-0
Kenilworth	0	1	25-6
Kingaroy	2	3	31-7
Kynuna	0	3	0-0
Laidley	0	0	32-0
Lawnton	16	0	0-0
Longreach	2	0	9-5
Mackay	9	1	25-1
Malanda	1	2	7-2
Mareeba	11	0	8-7
Marian	0	3	31-2
Maryborough	16	0	1-15
McKinlay	1	0	0-0
Miles	1	0	31-7
Millaa Millaa	0	1	20-1
Millaroo	2	1	14-0
Mirani	0	2	26-0
Mitchell	1	1	24-2
Monto	1	0	16-8
Morven	0	1	29-8
Mossman	1	3	2-9
Mount Garnett	2	2	0-0
Mount Morgan	2	3	20-0
Mulgildie	2	0	31-1
Mundubbera	1	2	15-0
Mungallala	1	0	0-0
Murgon	1	3	37-6
Muttaborra	1	3	39-6
Nanango	0	3	3-6
Nerang	0	2	0-0
Oakey	9	2	0-3
Ogmore	0	1	0-0
Pittsworth	0	3	39-6
Point Vernon	1	1	25-1
Proserpine	1	0	8-0

	Acres	Roods	Perches
Proston	1	0	10-8
Quilpie	1	1	0-0
Ravenshoe	0	3	33-7
Redbank	25	1	24-0
Redcliffe	2	0	12-0
Richmond	3	1	5-9
Rockhampton	16	1	32-5
Roma	6	0	19-1
Sarina	3	3	1-5
Scottville	0	2	0-0
Springsure	1	3	37-8
Southport	3	3	4-0
St. George	3	1	7-58
Surat	1	0	0-0
Talwood	0	1	39-7
Tambo	2	1	17-7
Tara	1	2	1-9
Taroom	2	0	6-0
Texas	1	3	39-7
Thallon	2	0	5-2
Thangool	0	2	2-8
Thargomindah	1	0	0-0
Theodore	0	1	38-3
Tolga	0	2	13-3
Toowoomba	38	0	26-5
Townsville	29	1	32-1
Tully	3	2	17-1
Wallangarra	3	1	0-6
Wandoan	0	1	0-0
Warwick	11	3	14-4
Winton	2	0	3-6
Wondai	3	0	32-0
Woodridge	67	0	27-1
Wowan	0	3	36-1
Wyandra	0	1	0-0
Yeppoon	0	1	8-2
Yuleba	0	2	15-7
Yungaburra	1	1	10-6
Total	581	0	22-0

The foregoing information does not include approximately 154 acres 1 rood 32 perches—Metropolitan, 89 acres 1 rood—Country, 65 acres 32 perches—on which houses have not yet been erected but for which contracts have been let.

	Acres	Roods	Perches
BRISBANE—			
Stafford	50	1	8-7
Kangaroo Point	0	2	4-1
Red Hill	0	1	37-1
Dutton Park	1	1	11-1
Wynnum	3	1	20-4
Chernside	5	2	15-4
Manly	15	2	0-0
Mount Gravatt	67	2	21-7

OTHER TOWNS—

Townsville	48	1	0-0
Ipswich	21	1	0-0
Redbank	35	3	3-0
Murgon	1	2	0-0
Mackay	8	3	8-0
Kenilworth	1	0	3-1
Wowan	1	0	0-0
Clifton	0	3	16-7
Giru	0	3	11-9
Muttaborra	1	0	0-0
Malanda	1	2	7-2
Tara	1	2	1-8
Southport	3	3	6-1
Childers	0	3	8-0
Beenleigh	1	3	12-6
Total	274	1	36-9

This information is confined to "purchases." It does not include the substantial areas of crown lands which have been set aside and vested in the Commission for housing purposes. Wherever such land is available my policy is to secure it in preference to using precious Housing money to buy on the open real estate market."

"(3) £253,942 13s. 3d."

APPLICATIONS FOR HOME-OWNERSHIP,
METROPOLITAN AREA

Mr. HANLON (Baroona) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

“What are the respective dates of lodgment of the earliest applications still held for home ownership under the £250-deposit scheme for each of the various areas in the metropolitan area for which homes have not yet been allocated?”

Hon. T. A. HILEY (Chatsworth) replied—

“The earliest enquiries in respect of the purchase of houses and for which houses have not been offered are April, 1959, for houses at Chermshire, Stafford, Zillmere; May, 1959, Grovely; September, 1959, for houses at Holland Park, Mt. Gravatt, Kenmore, Carina; October, 1959, for houses at Kalinga, Aspley, Rocklea; November, 1959, Geebung, Wynnum or Manly; January, 1960, for houses at Morningside. Application forms are completed only when houses are available and selected by applicants.”

REPORT ON STATE'S ELECTRICITY NEEDS

Mr. DONALD (Ipswich East) asked the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity—

“(1) Is there any truth in the statement made in the sub-leader in ‘The Courier-Mail’ of August 4, under the heading, ‘A Costly Report,’ that according to him there is no present intention of adopting any of the recommendations made by a British firm commissioned by the Government at a cost of £60,000 to report on Queensland electricity requirements for the next ten years?

(2) Is it the intention of the Government to have the report, referred to, printed?”

Hon. O. O. MADSEN (Warwick—Minister for Agriculture and Forestry), for **Hon. E. EVANS** (Mirani), replied—

“(1) No.”

“(2) Yes.”

BRUCE HIGHWAY SURFACING

Mr. COBURN (Burdekin) asked the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity—

“(1) Will he advise the sections, and the length of each section, which are presently under construction on the Bruce Highway with the object of providing them with a bitumen or concrete surface?”

“(2) When is it anticipated that each of these sections will be completed?”

Hon. O. O. MADSEN (Warwick—Minister for Agriculture and Forestry), for **Hon. E. EVANS** (Mirani), replied—

“(1 and 2) The sections of the Bruce Highway under construction with the object

of providing them with a bitumen or concrete surface, their lengths and anticipated dates of completion respectively are as follows:—Between Gin Gin and Miriam Vale, 5.45 miles, December, 1960; 3.71 miles, December, 1961. Between Gladstone and Mount Larcom, 6.90 miles, December, 1960. Between Marlborough and Sarina, 31.04 miles, June, 1961. In addition, the following similar information is supplied in respect to sections of the Brisbane to Cairns Road which are not declared as the Bruce Highway under the Main Roads Acts:—Between Mackay and Bowen, 8.51 miles, June, 1961. Between Bowen and Ayr, 10.40 miles, December, 1960. Between Giru and Woodstock, 1.00 miles, June, 1961.”

PILFERING ON RAILWAYS

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

“Is it a fact that, when pilferage has occurred in respect to goods consigned to railway stations staffed by a gate-keeper, the Commissioner disclaims all liability in the event of the train on which the remainder of the consignment is carried arriving at the destination outside the hours of duty of the station-mistress?”

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

“Goods consigned to a place in charge of a station-mistress are accepted for carriage only at owner's risk.”

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT CHECKERS

Mr. SHERRINGTON (Salisbury) asked the Minister for Transport—

“(1) What is the number of Railway Department checkers who have been retired during the three years, 1957, 1958 and 1959?”

“(2) To what extent have these personnel been replaced?”

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

“(1) Retirements, 1957: 13; 1958: 10; 1959: 19.”

“(2) Replacements, 1957: 11; 1958: 10; 1959: 19.”

INVALID BALLOT PAPERS, GENERAL ELECTION

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

“How many ballot papers were declared invalid at the last State election as a result of a returning officer failing to initial the ballot paper in (a) the State and (b) each electorate?”

Hon. A. W. MUNRO (Toowong) replied—

“Under the provisions of the Elections Acts, 1915 to 1959, a ballot paper may be rejected because it does not bear the initials of a presiding officer, electoral registrar or returning officer. A ballot paper may also be rejected for other reasons. In compiling electoral returns showing the results of the elections a returning officer is not required under the Acts to show in various categories the reasons why he rejected certain ballot papers. Up to the present no complaint has been lodged with the Department of Justice that ballot papers were declared invalid because of failure of an official to initial the ballot paper.”

GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Mr. RAMSDEN (Merthyr) asked the Minister for Public Works and Local Government—

“(1) How many separate local authorities are there in Queensland?”

“(2) What was the total amount paid to these local authorities by the State by way of grants or subsidies in the years 1956-1957, 1957-1958 and 1958-1959?”

“(3) For the years mentioned what percentage does such assistance from the State Government bear to the total expenditure by such local authorities?”

Hon. L. H. S. ROBERTS (Whitsunday) replied—

“(1) 132.”

“(2) The total subsidies paid by the Treasurer to Local Authorities was as follows:—1956-1957, £2,487,230; 1957-1958, £2,773,304; 1958-1959, £3,470,126; total, £8,730,760.”

“(3) The Government Statistician informs me that the total expenditure by the Local Authorities for the years mentioned was—1956-1957, £42,565,254; 1957-1958, £45,097,799; 1958-1959, not yet available.”

PORT DOUGLAS STATE SCHOOL SITE

Mr. ADAIR (Cook) asked the Minister for Education and Migration—

“Will he indicate when work will be commenced on the levelling of the site for the new school and grounds at Port Douglas?”

Hon. J. C. A. PIZZEY (Isis) replied—

“The Department of Public Works proposes to grade and fill the new site and is arranging for the preparation of a contour survey, so that the cost of this work can be estimated. A commencing date for this work is not yet available.”

HOME DEPOSITS HELD BY HOUSING COMMISSION

Mr. BROMLEY (Norman) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

“(1) What is the number of deposits on dwellings standing to the credit of would-be purchasers from the Housing Commission of homes throughout Queensland on which building has not yet been commenced?”

“(2) What interest, if any, is being paid on these deposits to would-be purchasers?”

Hon. T. A. HILEY (Chatsworth) replied—

“(1) Thirty-three as at August 25, 1960.”

“(2) Commonwealth Savings Bank Interest of 3 per cent. per annum on amounts up to £2,000 is credited to would-be purchasers.”

EMPLOYEES ON RAILWAY QUADRUPPLICATION PROJECT

Mr. MELLOY (Nudgee) asked the Minister for Transport—

“What was the number of employees engaged on the quadruplication project at June 30, 1959, and June 30, 1960?”

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

“The numbers of employees engaged on quadruplication work at June 30, 1959, and June 26, 1960, were respectively 621 and 375.”

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under the Fisheries Acts, 1957 to 1959.

Orders in Council under the Harbours Acts, 1955 to 1959.

Regulations under the Harbours Acts, 1955 to 1959.

Rules under the Queensland Marine Act of 1958.

Regulations under the Sugar Experiment Stations Acts, 1900 to 1959.

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

Regulations under the Forestry Act of 1959.

Proclamation under the Forestry Act of 1959.

Orders in Council and Notification under the State Transport Facilities Acts, 1946 to 1959.

Regulations under the State Transport Facilities Acts, 1946 to 1959.

FEES PAID BY CROWN TO BARRISTERS
AND SOLICITORS

ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. DAVIES (Maryborough): I move—
“That there be laid upon the table of the House a return showing all payments made by the Government to barristers and solicitors during the 1959-1960 financial year, stating the names of the recipients and the amounts received, respectively.”

Motion agreed to.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE—
FIRST ALLOTTED DAY

Debate resumed from 24 August (see p. 45) on Mr. Row's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. DUGGAN (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) (11.42 a.m.): As is customary, I offer my felicitations to the mover and the seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply for the honour bestowed on them in being asked to carry out that important duty. Very often in their maiden speeches the mover and the seconder of this motion seek to deal with matters of importance to their own electorates. The opportunity was seized upon on this occasion for a recital of various matters that one would expect to excite some interest in their local constituents. The seconder of the motion made a somewhat unusual speech inasmuch as it appeared to be a historical survey of the importance of Bowen and surrounding districts. Nevertheless, it was a thoughtful contribution. I hope that both hon. members will have a very happy association with this Assembly; I am sure they will pardon me if I do not wish them a very long association with it.

On my own behalf, and also that of the Opposition, I again express our loyalty to the Crown in the person of Her Majesty the Queen. I express also our very great appreciation of the work being done by her representative in this State, His Excellency the Governor, Colonel Sir Henry Abel Smith. Despite our political differences about the desirability or otherwise of having Australian appointees to this high office, I think all hon. members will agree that the present appointee has carried out the important duties appertaining to his office with very great distinction and great fidelity to duty. I do not know of any former occupant of the position who has been seized with this sense of duty to the same extent as is Sir Henry Abel Smith. Almost every day through the medium of the Press we hear of his travels throughout the State and his personal interest in the many activities of this large State of Queensland. One of his greatest attributes, I think, is his desire to familiarise himself with the problems of the State, which is evidenced by his keen personal desire to have first-hand information

about the various problems of industry. One aspect that pleases me, as Labour Leader in this State, is his willingness to converse with, and familiarise himself with the conditions of, the ordinary person in industry. He does not limit his association with people to purely social occasions or to the so-called high social strata. I hope that he and Lady May will continue to enjoy good health to enable him to carry on in his high office in the way he has been.

We have reached the position in 1960 where, for many years, the first general elections have been held following a term of office of a coalition Country-Liberal Government. We can truly say that the Government are now very much on their mettle. They can say no longer, as they have done on various occasions, that they are committed to certain decisions of the previous Government or that their financial allocations have been made in a contractual form, thus preventing them from altering prior decisions. So, from this time onwards, the Government will have to stand entirely on their own legs and be able to say to the people, at the next general election, that they accept full and complete responsibility for their legislative programme.

Before I deal with those responsibilities and how the Government have either shouldered or failed to discharge them, I should like to reiterate a charge that I have made previously and that the Premier seeks to accept in a very cavalier fashion, that is, that the Government are very much a minority Government. Of course, when I quoted figures in the House the other day, the Premier questioned their authenticity. It is not unusual for Government spokesmen to question the authenticity of figures used by members on this side of the Chamber, although when they support the Government's cause they proclaim their accuracy. When they are used by hon. members on this side of the Chamber they say they have been carelessly used or have not been compiled with due diligence. When they are an indictment of Government policy they very often disclaim responsibility, as is the case with the net loss of migration in this State. We find always that the Government can use figures very skilfully to support their claims. So, in the case of the loss of migration to this State, they question the formula that is used by the Commonwealth.

I want to put the Premier at ease immediately by telling him that the figures that I have used today have been drawn from official records, namely, the Government Gazette. I have a copy here containing most of the information that I have used. The rest of the figures were taken from succeeding issues of the Government Gazette.

Let us examine for a moment whether the Government, being a minority Government, can speak for the people as a whole. I do not suppose any Government in history have used the hustings to a greater extent than this Government to proclaim their belief in democracy and try to persuade the people

that it was being endangered in this country. We had the spectacle last session of the Government, after a great deal of time and a tremendous amount of research, introducing into this Assembly a Bill known as the Constitution (Declaration of Rights) Bill, whereby it was proclaimed that safeguards would be provided to protect people's rights in this democratic land of ours. We know, of course, what a complete fiasco that was because, in the main, apart from its propaganda effect it was simply a reiteration of many provisions that are embodied in the relevant statutes of the State. The fact is, of course, that there had been elections of Parliaments in this State for the last 100 years without any constitutional difficulties whatsoever and without any necessity for special action to preserve our democratic system of government. Obviously pressure was exercised on the Government to withdraw that Bill.

The Premier has likened me to Satan reproving sin in these matters. I should not mind so much if the Government took the attitude that politics is a hard game and played it hard. They do play politics hard under the guise of being gentlemen and suggest that no Rafferty rules tactics will apply. However, in fact they have been ruthless and savage, and have seized every possible opportunity to preserve their tenure of office. I would not mind that if they stated that that was their policy. One can feel respect for a man who approaches these things forthrightly, but let me remind hon. members what the present Premier said in 1949 about minority governments when speaking on the Electoral Districts Bill. I quote from "Hansard," Volume 155—

"The Government are a minority Government. They represent the minority of the electors of Queensland— Is that democracy? It is not."

Speaking on the same Bill, the present Treasurer had this to say—

"It is impossible for anyone— to acquit the Government of the charge that they have so arranged things as to give themselves an electoral advantage— There is no safeguard— that will ensure that a minority of votes can no longer elect a Government."

The hon. member for Fassifern said—

"If we frame legislation that will ensure that the minority party can remain in office, we shall make it more difficult for the will of the people to be carried out."

Those were the pronouncements of three senior members of the Government, or should I say they were three senior members until the resignation from the Cabinet of the hon. member for Fassifern, or, to put it perhaps more accurately, until the action of the Government in forcing him out of the Ministry. I shall have something more to say about that at a later stage.

A survey of the results of the election, compiled not from any figment of my imagination but from the official Government Gazettes, shows that, of the 740,026 valid votes cast, the Australian Labour Party received 294,895, or 39.84 per cent.— approximately 40 per cent.—the Country Party received 144,284 votes or 19.49 per cent., and the Liberal Party 178,347 votes or 24.1 per cent. The total of valid votes cast for Government candidates was 322,632 and that cast for candidates opposing the Government was 417,395. The Government therefore had an election deficit of 94,763 votes, and when that figure is compared with the total votes cast the tremendous extent to which the Government are a minority Government can be realised.

Mr. Herbert: What about the two untested seats?

Mr. DUGGAN: The hon. member can make his speech later.

Dr. Noble interjected.

Mr. DUGGAN: The hon. gentleman seems very concerned about that possibility. He should not adopt a complacent attitude, because we are building up strength and it will not be very long before all of those people will be voting Labour. When that happens, the hon. gentleman will revert to the role he played for so many years, without any great distinction, on this side of the Chamber.

With 40 per cent. of the votes the Australian Labour Party won 25 seats; with 19.49 per cent. of votes the Country Party won 26 seats, and with 24.1 per cent. of votes the Liberal Party won 20 seats. The combined Liberal and Country Parties, with less than 4 per cent. more than the A.L.P., have 46 seats, whereas the Australian Labour Party has 26 seats. Whereas it took on the average 11,795 votes to elect an A.L.P. candidate, only 8,917 votes were needed to elect each Liberal candidate and only 5,549 votes to elect each Country Party candidate. If we apply to the A.L.P. the Country Party average of 5,549 votes rather than 11,795 votes, the A.L.P. would have had 53 members instead of 25. On the Liberal Party average the A.L.P. would have had 33 members. Contrariwise, if we apply the A.L.P. average of 11,795 votes to the Liberal Party, that party would have had 15 members instead of 20. Again, if we apply the A.L.P. average of 11,795 to the Country Party, it would have had 12 members instead of 26. Those figures show very convincingly, if I may repeat the picturesque phrase of a Labour Senator when interviewed on television's Meet the Press session recently— and I think it is worth repeating—that, with the "Nicklinisation" of the electoral boundaries, we find the Government with a preponderance of seats but a minority of votes.

In all the statements by Government spokesmen we hear that they feel very deeply for the democratic feelings of the

community. All that they feel for is the warmth of the Government benches, and all that they strive for is retention of the possession of those benches. To that end they have peregrinating Ministers travelling to Tasmania and Tokyo, and attending country Cabinet meetings at public expense for the sole purpose of releasing information of a parochial nature to the people in the areas where they are held. Let there be no mistake about the fact that in my view there is no warrant for this constant travelling by Ministers, at great public expense, with a retinue of public servants to service their requirements. These Cabinet meetings very often coincide with a by-election in the area where they are held. It suits the Government's purpose if a Cabinet meeting can be held in such a place so that their candidate can have on the spot a number of Ministers and hangers-on, as well as private members, to campaign against his opponents.

Mr. Windsor: They gave you a car, which you did not have.

Mr. DUGGAN: I am very grateful for that. I have expressed my thanks for it. I like to give credit where it is due. At least I can pay the Premier the compliment that it was he who was able to help the hon. member for Ithaca, because I feel that his conception of the duties of the Leader of the Opposition would be such that he would want to give me a wheelbarrow. I pay the Premier the compliment that he has some conception of these things, and I publicly acknowledge my thanks to him for the consideration he has extended to me. Do not let it be said that the provision of a motor car for the Leader of the Opposition should stifle him in his duty to the people to expose the Government.

Opposition Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. DUGGAN: If the hon. member for Ithaca feels that my criticism of the Government is being tempered by that, he is greatly mistaken.

Mr. Knox: Do you want a bigger car?

Mr. DUGGAN: No, I simply want a very modest car. I can assure the hon. member that in my application I specified a very modest Australian-made car, a Holden or a Zephyr. For the benefit of the hon. member for Nundah, my wishes in that regard were very modest and very temperate.

Mr. Windsor: You look really good in it, Jack.

Mr. DUGGAN: I always thought the hon. member was a clairvoyant. I have not got it yet.

On the subject of the composition of the Government, we must acknowledge that it is a gross violation of electoral procedure to enable them to attain office on a minority vote. They had behind them, of course, the champions of industry. They had lavish funds available to them. I do not know of

any occasion where funds were spent more lavishly by the Liberal and Country Parties. It indicated the basic split and the basic political philosophical differences between the two parties in the provincial cities and the metropolitan area. The whole credit for the Government's achievement, of course, was placed at the doorstep of the Liberal Party; there was no recognition of the role played by the senior partner, who was entitled to it. The slogan was, "Life is better with the Liberals." In Brisbane and the provincial cities there was no mention whatever of the Country Party's contribution. They were a nonentity. There was no acknowledgment of the participation by the senior wing of the coalition, only "Life is better with the Liberals."

The hon. member for Toowoomba East, who got in by 97 votes, did not think it was a good election slogan, because he tore it down and replaced it with "Vote for Anderson." In the electorate of Toowoomba East there were big, expensive placards with Scotchlite tape and reflectorised material standing out at night. However, they were very quickly withdrawn, and the smiling face of the hon. member for Toowoomba East was substituted.

Mr. WINDSOR: I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition said that we had only "Life is better with the Liberals." We also had on that same placard, "Let the Country-Liberal Party continue the job."

Mr. DUGGAN: The hon. member for Ithaca found things politically unfavourable in the seat he previously represented, and had to search for a new electorate. He had one made up for him by a very obliging set of people. We gave him such a fright on this occasion that he has done nothing else but jump up in the precincts of this House on many occasions, expressing fear of what will happen in 1963. I suggest that he should just sit quietly and listen to what the Opposition has to say. If he does that and does not make too many interjections, he will make our task much easier.

Next to be exploited by the coalition parties were the alleged division in the ranks of Labour and the danger the country was in because of the threat of Communism. Now, of course, they have learned a lesson from their Liberal friends down at Canberra, because the Communists have been the bread-and-butter policy of the Menzies Administration for so many years. "Big Bob's" attitude is, "I hate the Coms., and the A.L.P. loves them." But they have won him many an election. Fortunately most people realise now that that sort of appeal to electors is unworthy of a democracy.

Notwithstanding that, every opportunity was taken to try to convince the people that there was very great internal division within the A.L.P. and that a great convulsion was taking place in the party—that some were to the left of centre, some to the right of centre, some were in the middle of the

road and some did not know whether they were on a road at all. That was the sort of programme the Country Party-Liberal propagandists put before the people of Queensland. Of course, they found out that they had to soft pedal a bit on that because, instead of there being a revolt within the ranks of the A.L.P., it was only too manifest that the revolt was in their own ranks. We saw a great many Country Party members bucking the party machine and standing as independents in spite of tremendous pressure exerted by the party machine. In the case of Roma, I go so far as to make the accusation that pressure was applied to graziers to the effect that, unless they withdrew their support from the independent, Mr. Condon, a member of the Country Party, their leases would be in danger when they became due for renewal. As a matter of fact, I have in my possession a letter from one of the executive members, who supported Mr. Condon, about the pressure that was exerted in Roma for that purpose.

Mr. Nicklin: Produce it!

Mr. DUGGAN: They got a fright. Even the Premier himself went out to a place like Roma!

Government Members interjected.

Mr. DUGGAN: I do not object to that, but how many Ministers did we find visiting that electorate? We had procession after procession of Ministers running out there and pressure being exerted all over the place.

Mr. Herbert: You went further than that trying to get back into Parliament.

Mr. DUGGAN: The hon. member for Sherwood ran away, too. I am very glad he has interjected because when he represented Inala he said in one of his cheeky interjections that he would long continue to represent that electorate. I challenged him and said that, when the redistribution took place, he would not be able to get out of Inala fast enough. That is what happened. He got out as fast as his legs would carry him; he ran away to the sanctuary of Sherwood and Graceville—not a very honourable exit for a man who claimed he was representing the people so well. He represented them so well that he ran from Inala with his tail curled well up.

The hon. member representing Redcliffe challenged the party machine and tremendous pressure was exerted on him, but his personal following and the disgust of the Liberals in the area enabled him to be returned.

The hon. member for South Coast got the fright of his life when another independent from the Country Party opposed him. This pattern was repeated throughout the State.

This coalition Government are the Government who have division in their ranks. First of all there is political incompatibility, because there is a great cleavage of opinion between the Country Party and the Liberal

Party about the doctrine to be adopted. That is shown whenever there is an opportunity for it to reveal itself. We had it, of course, in the redistribution, when the Government, frightened of Liberal encroachment, made the rural electorates so much less valuable on the basis of one man, one vote than the metropolitan area, where the constituencies were approximately halved. There are Country Party seats with less than half the enrolment that I have in Toowoomba West. The same applies to some of the other provincial cities. The Government say they are true democrats and that they believe in one man, one vote. They promised that when returned to office they would remove all these dishonourable devices, instead of which they practise them to the hilt on every possible occasion. What do we find with the return of the Government? They have forced out of the Ministry the former Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation, Mr. Muller.

It is with some distaste that I refer to this matter, and I hope I can refer to it in a way that does not lay me open to a charge of being unfair to the hon. member for Fassifern. He obviously appears to be the person who was involved in a taxation matter. That information was current before the election; I was acquainted of the possibility by people who should be in a position to know. I am not saying that there was any official release of the information; I heard it merely from people who have access to documents presented in the Federal House, and they suggested that the hon. member for Fassifern had been involved. I did not use the information during the election campaign, but that was not because of any fear of reprisals, as some people whispered.

Dr. Noble: You may have remembered McCawley.

Mr. DUGGAN: That is exactly the type of whisper. With all his educational advantages the hon. gentleman cannot resist interjecting. He was one of those who whispered that statement.

Dr. Noble: I did not do anything about it.

Mr. DUGGAN: Why did the hon. gentleman say it just now? He said it so often a few weeks ago that it was fresh in his mind.

Dr. Noble: What did it cost you?

Mr. DUGGAN: It did not cost the hon. gentleman a brass farthing, and I hope it never will. When I become obligated to the hon. gentleman, I shall feel very sorry for myself indeed.

As I say, that information was whispered during the election campaign, and I believe it was the reason for the expulsion from Cabinet of the hon. member for Fassifern. I say without any qualification that my personal view is that I am not concerned about any arrangements made by a taxpayer of Queensland, whether he is in public office or not. That is a matter between himself and

the Commissioner for Taxation. The incident occurred in 1955, and the report discloses that it did not come within the category of serious cases; it was merely a matter of carelessness. I am prepared to accept the Commissioner's declaration in that regard. I am not making an attack on the hon. member for Fassifern—I shall come back to him in a few moments—but I am attacking the clumsy device used by the Premier, as leader of the coalition, to force the hon. member out of Cabinet. Why did not the hon. gentleman have the courage to say that he believed it to be essential that there should be no suggestion of any irregularity, no matter how trivial, and had asked the hon. member not to stand for Cabinet? The Premier adopted the clumsy device of saying that he had offered the hon. member another portfolio. He went to Roma and extolled the virtues of the previous Minister for Lands and said what a magnificent job he had made of his portfolio, and what a wonderful team of Ministers he had. High praise was bestowed by him on the hon. member for Fassifern. Why was it necessary to remove the hon. member from office and suggest that there should be a change of portfolio? Why was not a change made in the Minister in charge of the Railway Department, where there was a record loss? Why was not the Minister for Health and Home Affairs removed from his portfolio? His administration has been calamitous. Why was not something done along those lines? The Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation was chosen as the "bunny," and, as I say, there is some doubt whether he was offered another major portfolio. Of course, when there was an internal revolt in the Party and some members wanted to "spill" when the vote was taken, the Premier, again being the tactician, not the person who believes in these high political ideals, did not accede to the hon. member's request.

Mr. Dewar: How do you know?

Mr. DUGGAN: I am informed by my ears, not my eyes. I would get a bit upset if I looked at the hon. member for long. Without any doubt Liberal pressure was exercised against the former Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation, to whom I wish to pay a tribute. He has been a member of this Assembly for many years, and when I was a Minister I always regarded him as the toughest member of the Opposition. He does not have the sartorial elegance of the Liberals; he does not come in here dressed in suits made by the best tailors of the State; he does not have the vocal eloquence of the Treasurer and some of his other Liberal colleagues who occupy the Ministerial bench, but he was always a fearless and hard-hitting debater. Whatever else he may not have possessed, he certainly had the attributes of being a hard worker, having a sincerity of purpose and a high degree of common sense. We on this side differed with him very

much on the Government's handling of their land policy—we still do—but I know that the Liberal people who had access to the entrepreneurs and the real estate agencies, and the big graziers who threw their money at the Government, thought that it would be better to deal with someone who had a less strong view on the cutting up of big estates. I challenge the Government to deny that they forced out their hardest and best-working Minister by using this tax matter as a device, knowing that he would take it in silence. In my opinion they lost the best Minister they had. They will rue the day they used this clumsy device to force out of office a man who was game enough to stand up to people who were endeavouring to gain some advantage for themselves.

The Government will have to stand on their own legs in future. No longer will the excuse be accepted that they are confronted with difficulties of somebody else's making. We left substantial balances in the various Trust Funds, but they deliberately used that money so that Queensland could become a mendicant State. The Treasurer advances the argument that we are now getting a greater percentage allocation than previously, but we certainly cannot withstand any siege on our finances. On the Treasurer's own admission the Treasury is virtually empty. He has had three deficits in a row. I realise that on occasions it is necessary to make financial arrangements for deficits; arrangements have to be made for Sinking Fund payments to amortise the deficits. But ultimately someone has to pay for the deficits. It is my considered opinion—and I think it is shared by all who have an understanding of these matters—that deficit financing is justified under certain conditions. It was done by the Commonwealth Government in their last Budget; other Governments have done the same thing. But a price has to be paid for these policies. We do not want to see human suffering through unemployment; we do not want to see public development retarded. Where there is evidence of these things, deficit budgeting can be justified. We have the admission from the Government that we are in a very difficult financial position. Both the Premier and the Treasurer have indicated that they are dissatisfied with the operation of the formula that they agreed to at the conference in Canberra. I look forward with a great deal of interest to seeing what the Treasurer's next Budget will contain. There has been a series of frenzied Cabinet meetings with the object of cutting down expenditure. Because of the Government's implied policies many people are fearful about what is likely to happen. One of the devices no doubt will be to cut down on maintenance. That is already obvious in some of the public institutions. The Government are not prepared to antagonise public opinion by cutting down on medical or nursing services, but if they can they will put off carrying out repairs to public buildings. They will conserve funds wherever they think public opinion will not

be aroused. They have proved to be very pliable material in the hands of public opinion. They have had no fixed programme but largely have adopted a policy of appeasement. As long as they were supporters of the Government those who have squealed the loudest have been given relief or redress.

At first no action was taken about the land valuations in the Lockyer area. In the first rounds of this trouble the Minister representing the area took a very strong, statesmanlike stand. He would not be intimidated. Of course, when pressure was exerted and it was found that, instead of five or six malcontents there were hundreds, the law was changed. We had the display of the then Minister—Mr. Heading—going up there. I liked the hon. gentleman very much and we were easy on him as he approached his retirement, but he made the admission that the amendment of the Valuation of Lands Act last year was introduced, not because it was right and proper, but because he had been asked to do it by a private member representing the area. Much the same thing happened with transport problems. When a complaint was made about transport difficulties and it was found that supporters of the Government were involved, they altered the law.

I know the hon. member for South Coast will have something to say about valuations of land, but I should like recorded again the changed attitude in this matter of hon. members opposite. I think I can say briefly that the attitude of the A.L.P. over the years was that the levying of land tax was primarily for the purpose of cutting up large estates; it was not originally conceived as a measure to derive revenue although, of course, with the tremendous development of metropolitan values, some of the banks and insurance companies, who can well afford to absorb these costs, became victims of that policy. But it was never intended to operate harshly on the primary producer.

Tables have been produced by Ministers to show that they do not wish to harass any section of the community, but what do we find? It may be interesting to know whether the Government will differentiate between the South Coast and the rest of the State. If the policy on valuations is sound it should be applied universally. It has been the Government's policy to encourage every person who came along with a grandiose scheme, and large sums of money have been expended on a number of land schemes. Incidentally, the land boom is something that the Government will have to face up to. I have met people who are very much opposed to control but, in the national interest, something will have to be done to deal with this problem of false valuations. In my view, many people will rue the day when they acted on mass propaganda that advised them strongly to invest in real estate.

This Government, more than any other, should deal with the problem, because the valuation of land is the basis upon which our production costs are determined. It does not matter very much, I suppose, if a person pays an excessive rate for an industrial site on which he is going to spend some hundreds of thousands of pounds for plant and equipment, because the added cost of the land is relatively small in the total cost. But if you force up the values of land used for primary production, as this Government have through the absence of control measures and policy, it becomes one of the greatest contributors to the inflationary spiral. As a primary producing State we are now faced with the position of costing ourselves out of markets. That calls for serious criticism of this Government.

At this stage, I shall confine myself to the attitude that Government members previously adopted in this matter. The Premier, who was Leader of the Opposition when an amendment to the Land Tax Act was introduced in 1951, said, and I quote from Vol. 202 of "Hansard"—

"Taxation on land is essentially a source of revenue that should be reserved for local authorities. There is a very grave reason today why local authorities should be the only authority taxing land. Knowing that local authorities have to meet the impact of ever-rising costs, knowing the tremendous difficulties they have in carrying out their works, the Treasurer should do something to help them, and he would make a very substantial contribution towards helping them if he got out of the land tax field altogether and allowed local authorities to be the only land-taxing authorities in the State.

"The same argument can be applied to landholders who today have to pay largely increased local-authority rates in addition to the land tax imposed by the State Government. If the State Government got out of the field of land tax, as they should, they would, in addition to giving local authorities some relief, be relieving those landholders who are hit heavily by increased local-authority rates."

During the second-reading stage of the Bill he said:—

"I am still of the opinion that the land-tax field should be vacated by State Governments, and Federal Governments too for that matter. After all, it is one of the most objectionable forms of taxation that can be imposed. It is a tax on your capital asset.

It is all very well for the Treasurer to say that the country should share in any unearned increment that may come to any landholder as a result of the public improvements. Do not let us forget that the landholder makes his contribution towards those improvements. Why should he have

his capital taxed as a result of improvements that are being made in the district for which he helps to pay?

We on this side give a definite undertaking to the home owners of this State that when we are returned after the next election we will progressively reduce the rates of land tax levied on the community."

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

Mr. DUGGAN: I am indebted to the hon. member for Ipswich West, and grateful to hon. members for their indulgence. The Premier had this to say on the Land Tax Acts Amendment Bill, his remarks appearing in Vol. 210 of "Hansard" at p. 1137—

"There is an unanswerable case for either a substantial reduction in land tax or its total abolition. I strongly advocate its total abolition, in view of the present sound financial position of the State.

Land tax is one of the most unfair taxes in this State. No sound principles can be advanced for the imposition of a land tax at the present time. Originally land tax was imposed to break up large estates. Where are the large estates in the community today?"

Then we heard a famous declaration by the hon. member for Whitsunday, who is now the Minister for Public Works and Local Government. On the amendment of the Land Tax Acts Amendment Bill he had this to say, as reported in Vol. 210 of "Hansard" at page 1214—

"I have said previously, and I repeat that this is one of the most wicked and vicious taxes ever inflicted on the people. Nobody can deny that it is a straight-out capital tax. A man may have £5,000 in the bank and he is not required to pay tax. Whatever that £5,000 produces, of course, is taxable. If he invests it in bonds, the same thing applies. If he invests in a building or business, or even buys a race-horse he is not required to pay tax, although the revenue produced from whatever he buys is taxable. But immediately he takes the £5,000 out of the bank and invests it in land, it becomes subject to land tax. It would appear that we shall continue to have land tax so long as we have a Labour Government in this State. The abolition of land tax is a plank of the Liberal-Country Party's platform as was proved by the recent abolition of Federal land tax."

The same hon. gentleman said recently that people on the South Coast who are exercising their democratic right to appeal against valuations could be likened to criminals being challenged by members of the Criminal Investigation Branch—a complete volte face, compared with the view he expressed when a member of the Opposition. In those days he asked for the abolition of land tax and promised its abolition if his

party was returned as the Government. Following the rapacious actions of the department in setting astronomically high valuations, even for Crown land, the Government have pursued a policy that has created a storm that is likely to develop into a tempest and engulf them.

What is the attitude of the Government? When the two hon. members representing the South Coast lodged their protests, the Treasurer said, "We are not very much concerned about the protests by them. Even if the two hon. members decided to leave the coalition, we would not be concerned, as we would still have a commanding majority." What a cynical attitude to adopt! In addition, we have the cynical attitude of the Minister for Public Works and Local Government, who repudiated all he said on the subject when in opposition.

Land tax and local authority charges for the land of the Surfers Paradise Hotel amount to £36,000. In view of that, how can another member of the Cabinet go to Japan and talk about tourism and hotels of international standard. The Treasurer on another occasion—and I have his speech with me—said that he believed people should acquire a second block of land. Many members of the community retire on the coast, and one man whose land is near the Surfers Paradise Hotel has had his land valued at £27,000. He will have to pay £26 a week in land tax and local-authority rates. I very much doubt whether southern capitalists will be prepared again to invest large sums of money in hotels of international standard if valuations and land tax remain at the present level.

Although many fingers will be burnt on the South Coast, I do not think it will affect the national economy. However, there will be a grave disruption of the national economy if we permit high valuations to affect our primary industries. This morning the Treasurer said that the biggest culprits were the wage-earners, who were trying to secure some recognition for their contribution to the economy and asking for marginal increases. The Government are intervening at both State and Federal levels. In a recent case before the Federal Court, Mr. Menzies intervened and was supported by this Government. This Government, in common with the Commonwealth Government, have given increases of as much as £18 a week, without any argument, to high members of the Public Service. They wonder why there is discontent in the trade unions because their members cannot get another miserable £1 1s. or £1 5s. a week, when, without any argument or discussion, the pattern is set by the Federal Government in giving astronomical increases without arbitration, to high officials in the Public Service. Heads of the departments, and Ministers of the various departments, have agreed to increases, sometimes as high as many hundreds of pounds a year, and sometimes £1,000, yet every time the worker asks for something he is told he must

go to the Industrial Court. I do not mind that so much because, belonging to the Labour Party, I believe in arbitration. But even the courts elect to ignore the basis upon which the margins were framed by the Federal tribunal. I should not mind if there was unanimity of opinion and uniform action in these matters. Whilst I regret the disruption that occurs in the community from time to time from the display of industrial strength by unions, I am extremely sympathetic to their demands.

Opposition Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. DUGGAN: I believe they have been shabbily treated by the Governments of this country, and it is completely unjust to charge them with being the main factor in the cost structure.

What is happening? The Government try to threaten, but they find they cannot threaten industrially. They use a deflationary device by opening up the imports into the country so that the trade unions will not be in as strong a position to bargain for their labour. When a wage increase is granted, the manufacturer and the business man pass it on the following day. The primary producer is not in that position. The Government say, "If we have not the industrial strength to combat the workers, we will weaken their position by bringing in a flood of imports." An action such as that will result in the diminution of the trade balance to about £100,000,000 this year. They have gone up from something like £850,000,000 to £1,050,000,000. What has that been designed for? To bring down prices at the expense of the wage-earner in the community. The Government have given big increases to judges and the hierarchy of the Public Service throughout the land. One would think that a Country Party Government would be the first to press for the rights of primary producers, yet sugar costs, for example, are going up the whole time, freights will probably increase in the near future—

Mr. Pizzey: Lifting import restrictions has reduced the price of fertilisers.

Mr. DUGGAN: The hon. member is going to throw men out of work! Is that his argument?

Mr. Pizzey: No. The manufacture of fertilisers is still going on, but they have reduced their price.

Mr. DUGGAN: They have reduced many things, such as quadruplication; the Government have reduced costs to the department by quadruplication. I should like to give other facts concerning the Railway Department, but unfortunately I have not the time.

There have been times when some types of industry in Australia have been given too much protection, but no-one can gainsay the fact that the present open-door policy—where you have American shirts coming into the country, when you have two of the largest spinners in the country, one prosperous, and

another in a very poor financial situation looking for orders and you are bringing American shirts and cotton goods into the country—is completely without justification. We have chocolate manufacturers in the country. Is there any justification for bringing in expensive chocolates from France and Switzerland? I could mention dozens of commodities that in my view are not necessary, but that will deprive men of employment. The Minister for Education and Migration said that fertiliser costs are being reduced. How will the manufacturers meet that?

A Government Member: What is the answer to it?

Mr. DUGGAN: Better management and lower profits.

All I can say is that the Minister's views on that matter are not shared by the business community as a whole or the trade-union movement. If that is his attitude I can see that we will have galloping unemployment. If he thinks his policy is sound for the country all I can say is that the main consolation he will get from being a senior member of the Government for three years will be to find at the end of his term that we have the highest ratio of unemployment of all the States and the highest rate of increase in the cost structure, all through a mistaken concept of the economy. If that is an informed opinion among the Government, God help Queensland.

Mr. Pizzey: Last year's unemployment figure was the lowest. There was less unemployment at July, 1960, than at July, 1957.

Mr. DUGGAN: And less in every other State, too. If we studied all the evidence available we should find that Queensland had not improved its position. It is the only State that is losing migrants.

Remember when the Minister for Labour and Industry went overseas and told us upon his return about the millions of pounds of capital that would flow into the country. Has it flowed in? Of course it has not.

I went along only to see the Premier open a factory at Strathpine only last Friday. He prepared quite a good speech; I was quite happy with it, but, having learned a lesson once before, I said to the person there, "When I came back from America in 1951 I got the department to buy a lot of land at Strathpine. I doubled what the department thought was necessary. I hope you people got in before the land boom." The Government claim they were responsible for Metal Manufacturers and Cable Manufacturers coming to Queensland, and I said, "Did you get in before the boom?" The reply was, "Oh yes, we have had this land since 1951." The Government claim they were responsible for bringing these new industries to Queensland, but they had every idea in 1951 of doing exactly that. I assure

the Premier that I am all for bringing industry to Queensland. I will not be a knocker about that. At no stage will the Opposition knock the development of industry. We will do all we possibly can to encourage it. But I deplore irresponsible claims by the Minister that are not backed by tangible results. I admire the sincerity and enthusiasm of the Minister for Labour and Industry but, politically, that is about all I can admire him for. He makes a whole lot of extravagant statements not borne out by facts, and the Government do the State a disservice when they permit it.

The position is becoming very serious. Wool has been declining in value at the rate of about 5 per cent. a year for the last five years—and wool is our principal commodity for earning overseas balances. Put that decline against the improvement in synthetic fibres and so on and the seriousness of the problem becomes apparent.

Everybody in North Queensland knows the parlous state of the sugar industry. The Cuban revolution might well accentuate its difficulties. Even allowing for an increased volume of sugar on the world market—and we have to sell about 25 per cent. of our production at the world price—it will have some repercussions.

Remember, too, that the recent agreement between the Australian and British Governments provided for a reduction in our mutton prices. Contemporaneously with that, the shipping companies propose to increase shipping freights by 5 per cent. from 1 September or 1 October. So we have a constant spiralling of prices.

In addition to that there is the problem posed by the European common market. I should like to speak more fully on the subject now but I shall have to defer it to some other occasion. But a warning should be sounded about the effect the agreement will have on our primary industries, because those elements are trying to make themselves self-sufficient in agricultural products. In no sense of disloyalty whatever I say that the United Kingdom will not care a tinker's curse about Australia but will be concerned about its own interests in deciding whether to join the others in the economic union in Europe or to stay out. It will do what it thinks best for the United Kingdom.

We have lost certain preferences. The other day we voluntarily surrendered some. No preference has been given within the common-market scheme for wheat and other industries fundamental to Australia's export earnings and we shall find ourselves in a very difficult position. The Government are doing nothing to find a way out of the economic morass into which they are heading the community because of inflation. Inflation affects not only the primary producer but also the worker, the man on a fixed income, and the pensioner.

The Government can be very pleased with the results of the election and their manipulation of the boundaries and false political propaganda, but they cannot be complacent, as a responsible Government, about the declining value of money, the tightening of spending, the evidence of at least some increase in unemployment, and the curtailment of several projects after a deficit, despite an increased allocation from the Commonwealth. The value of money is dropping, and I think that is one of the reasons why the Treasurer is so keen to introduce the system of decimal currency. The £1 has lost its value, and the actions of this Government are partly responsible for it. The introduction of another system of currency would help the Government in disclaiming responsibility for that loss of value.

I noticed with interest that a former member of this Parliament, Mr. Connolly, who represented the Kurilpa electorate, had been co-opted with two others to advise the Government on proposed changes in the State industrial law. The Government are entitled to command the services of any competent body to guide them. As a matter of fact, I suppose no Government in the history of Queensland have appointed so many commissions of inquiry and had so many special reports furnished to them as this Government. In the main, those reports have been acted upon only where it suited the Government. Take for example, the report on Progressive Land Settlement in Queensland. When the Government found that they could not get their way with the previous Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation, they appointed a commission to bring in a report suitable to them and the wealthy interests supporting them. I suppose, therefore, that we cannot complain very much about their decision to appoint this committee, but I regret that they did not see fit to include industrial representation on the panel. Whatever might be said against previous Labour Governments, I think it can be said without exaggeration that they can be proud of their contribution in the field of industrial law. They established machinery for dispensing industrial justice that has been adopted by other Governments and has played a major part in preserving industrial peace in the community. I said publicly when Mr. Connolly's appointment was announced, and I say again, that I make no attack on him personally. I think he is one of the brightest members of the Liberal Party, and I think it was unfortunate for them that, because of a party decision, they lost his services in this Chamber. Mr. Connolly may be a barrister of considerable ability, but I do not think he has practised very much in the industrial sphere. Why select him? Are there no experts in industrial law available?

When the Constitution (Declaration of Rights) Bill was under consideration, the Government sought the opinion of Dr. Louat, of Sydney, and by-passed members of the

legal profession in Queensland who could have guided them. Apparently on this occasion the Government think that no barristers with wide experience of industrial law are available to guide them. Is this a prelude to changing the composition of the Court and its personnel, or are the machinery and procedure of the Court to be altered to suit the wishes of the Government? If there is an amendment of the industrial law, I think the trade-union movement can expect the provision of harsher penalties. It does not matter whether the employer or the distributor "jacks up"; but if employees feel that they are being denied justice, the employers immediately have recourse to the penalty provisions of the law. I sound this note of warning to the trade union movement: they should not allow their action in permitting legal men to appear in courts in cases involving penal provisions of the Act to be used as a precedent for their appearance in other cases. On their behalf I say that the trade unions took that step after grave consideration and reflection only because the penal provisions of the Act were being used against their members and they thought, very properly, that if the deprivation of liberty of an individual was involved, he was entitled to the benefit of the best legal skill available.

But these things can be tremendously expensive. We have had a very satisfactory procedure in allowing laymen to appear before the courts. It has meant that we have had no legal jargon. There has been no impediment to people with practical knowledge putting forward their views. I warn the trade-union movement and the Labour movement against giving any encouragement to those who are traditionally opposed to us by placing in their hands weapons that might be used against us in the future.

I shall refer to an article that appeared in "The Courier-Mail" on 28 July, 1959, to give some indication of what has happened to the unions because of the Federal Arbitration Court system. It has become impossible for unions to carry out normal administrative duties because of the financial demands made on them as a result of the machinery provisions of the Federal Arbitration Act that permit, and in many cases compel legal representatives to appear. The secretary of the Printing Industry Employees' Union, Mr. Milliner, was charged under the Commonwealth Act with having incited a union member to refuse to work in accordance with his award. Judges Dunphy and Morgan heard the case in Brisbane, the informant in the proceedings—the Master Printers' Association—having the case presented by a Sydney barrister. Although the defendant had the right to seek leave to present his own case, the fact that an important union industrial principle was involved, and the appearance of a barrister for the informant, forced him to engage solicitors and counsel. The hearing took 3½ hours. Milliner, the defendant, was

fined £20, with taxed costs. The total cost to the union, excluding the fine, was £828 17s. 8d.

Two meat-workers appeared before the same Court on charges of having encouraged meat-workers to refrain from working in accordance with their award. Solicitors and counsel were engaged by both informants and defendants, and the hearings took four days. Both defendants were convicted, one being fined £115 and the other £10. Costs of the defence were £402 6s. 8d.

If the employers think that industrial relations will be improved by opening the door to legal representation before industrial tribunals, they are greatly mistaken. The unions will find other ways of meeting the problem. I think it is the wrong approach and, highly as I regard Mr. Connolly personally, I deplore the fact that the Government have chosen him to make a review of this important matter.

Mr. Aikens: Barristers come in the door and justice goes out the window.

Mr. DUGGAN: This is one of the few occasions on which I find myself in complete agreement with the hon. member.

Mr. Knox: I notice that you have a barrister in your team this time.

Mr. DUGGAN: And a very good one!

Mr. Knox: I hope that justice does not fly out the window.

Mr. DUGGAN: Oh, no, never! I am very pleased that we have such an addition. He is only one of several who will be coming in due course, so that we shall be strengthened from time to time.

In the short time that I have left I should like to deal briefly with the Railway Department. It is something of a joke, of course, that the present Minister in charge of railways used to be my most caustic critic when I held that portfolio, and in a private capacity he represented the constituency of Lockyer. Whenever I made any statement about transport he would spring to his feet, or write to the newspapers, and say how things should be changed. But we know now, of course, that the policy on the modernisation of the railways that my former Cabinet colleagues and I laid down and began to implement is not to be basically changed. Whatever had been started, or had been recommended to start, has largely been followed. In those days he would say that if the Railway Department had a new broom its finances could be greatly improved. But what has happened? I have gone back only about seven or eight years, but on a comparison of the figures the loss on the working account for this year—£2,632,543—is the highest on record, although it excludes provision for interest. If we add interest, on the basis of a rough calculation averaging out the increases over the last five years, it would mean a loss of something like

£6,000,000 on the railways last year. So, we cannot say there has been any veritable transformation in railway finances, although admittedly we did not have the full benefit of the introduction of diesels.

I was surprised to learn that, in an attempt to cut down costs, it is intended to reduce seriously services to the public and that Sunday trains will be restricted. Here is an instrumentality in which we have almost £100,000,000 invested, and its services being progressively reduced! If the story I heard is factual, the Government have virtually abandoned the electrification scheme. We have received the report of a firm of electrical consultants on the development of electricity services in this State. I believe that we should provide for the implementation of services that will encourage the use of the State's coal resources but the suggestion now is for dieselisation, which I think would be a retrograde step.

I am sure that if we had an electrified railway system giving clean, fast transport to the people of Brisbane we would not have all these bottlenecks and a Disneyland of traffic lights about the city. I came down on Monday morning at 1.30 a.m. and had to make a detour because some work was being done in Queen Street. In that detour, every light was against me despite the fact that there was no other traffic in the street. That is not a solution of our problems and I am disappointed to hear that the electrification scheme in the railways has been departed from. In spite of the ever-increasing number of traffic lights, with which we are grossly over-supplied, we are getting into more and more dislocation. I think the extension and electrification of the railway service in Brisbane would do much to relieve the traffic problem in the city.

I thank hon. members for their indulgence, and I am happy to join with my colleagues in paying our respects to Her Majesty's personal representative in this State, Sir Henry Abel Smith. I hope he will be able to carry on in his duties for many years.

Mr. WHARTON (Burnett) (12.48 p.m.): I should like to associate myself with the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Opening Speech. In doing so, I express pleasure at the indication that was given of the practical outlook of His Excellency the Governor. I feel sure that the personal touch that he gave to his address afforded as much pleasure to country people as have his many tours throughout the State. The people of Gayndah had the pleasure of a visit from His Excellency in 1957, on the occasion of the first Gayndah Orange Festival, a pleasure that was afforded to the people of Gin Gin this year. Gin Gin is also in my electorate, and, on their behalf, I have to thank His Excellency very much indeed for his interest in seeing the country and his keenness to meet the

people and discuss with them in a knowledgeable way their problems and interests. Similarly my electors have expressed pleasure with the interest shown by Lady May in women's affairs.

I sincerely thank the electors for returning me as the first representative of the Burnett electorate, thus enabling me to speak in the Thirty-sixth Parliament of Queensland as a member of a progressive Government.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to our eligibility to sit in this Chamber as a Government. If he examines the voting returns for Burnett he will find I am fully entitled to take my place, and I am sure that that can be said of all other Government members.

In some ways I replace the Hon. J. A. Heading, who was Minister for Public Works and Local Government in the previous Government. I do not know if I shall ever occupy the high offices held by him but I shall try to emulate his high principles, which earned for him the respect of all. I am sure that those who know him will join with me in wishing him a happy retirement.

I have noticed some enthusiasm for electorates in the southern and northern parts of the State, and the Leader of the Opposition touched on the fact that hon. members seemed to want to talk about their own electorates. I am sure he will understand that a new member is wise to stick to subjects of which he has personal knowledge. Accordingly I shall deal in general with the greater part of the State, extending from the central coast westward, and in particular with the Burnett electorate, which extends from Rodd's Bay on the coast just south of Gladstone to Bundaberg, taking in Lady Elliott Island but not the beautiful city of Bundaberg, and inland a distance of 130 miles. The electorate is made up of portions of the previous electorates of Marodian, Isis and Port Curtis and follows broadly the watershed of the Burnett River, taking in the shires of Gayndah, Perry, Kolan, Miriam Vale, Gooburrum, Woongarra, and part of Biggenden. The 9,000 electors are engaged mainly in primary industry, including mining and fishing. Many are employed in the sugar and dairying industries, as well as in mining, timber and transport operations. Others cater for the needs of the communities of Gayndah, Biggenden, Mt. Perry, Gin Gin Miriam Vale and Rosedale, as well as the tourist resorts of Bargara, Burnett Heads, Elliott Heads, and Moore Park. Basically, the people of my electorate depend either as primary producers or employees on primary production. The prosperity of the people of the electorate depends on the prosperity of sugar, tobacco, peanuts, cotton, dairying, grazing, pig-raising, fishing, citrus and small crops. I do not think I shall be called on to make an apology if later I speak on behalf of the great primary industries of our State.

The sugar industry in my electorate is located on the coastline. It is a very well organised and highly efficient industry. The supply of cane goes to five mills, at Gin Gin, Bingera, Fairymead, Millaquin and Qunaba. There are bulk-loading facilities at Burnett Heads, and a rum distillery at Millaquin. In the area of supply around Millaquin, the production per acre last year was the highest for the State. For that reason, I suggest that the sugar producers of the Burnett are entitled to share in any new markets that may become available.

It is to be noted that irrigation has played a very important role in the development of the sugar industry, particularly in maintaining peaks in the drier times, especially in the Woongarra and Gooburrum Shires, where underground supplies of water are available. In the Gin Gin area it is very dry, and no underground water is available. I hope that the advantages of irrigation will become available to that area in the future. Later in my speech I shall have more to say on irrigation.

The growing of tobacco on the coast round Bundaberg is a new industry to the area, and a very costly one. The land costs round £80 an acre to clear, and there £6,000 has been invested in the crop. Good crops depend on the selection of suitable soil types, which Burnett Heads has. I emphasise that point and sound a warning that for the production of good leaf the selection of the right soil type is very essential. We have the honour of producing the best leaf in the State. From the activity in the district, there is no doubt that one day this area of which I speak will be the State's leading tobacco producer.

I suggest that a research station be set up in the district to help the growers in their fight against the innumerable insects and pests and to combat the incidence of blue mould.

Previously the dairying industry played a very important role in the development of my electorate. The cream supply goes to three butter factories, and the milk goes to a cheese factory. Unfortunately, there has been a general drift away from the industry, a drift about which I am very concerned.

At the moment it is very dry in my area, and if the drought does not soon break there will be many difficulties ahead for the dairying industry. I think I should emphasise that the dairying industry played a great role in the development of the country. It provides a regular income, and also a balance in agriculture, with stock and crops. It provides the balance of economy in areas where the business people depend on a regular return. It is a shame that this industry, which has played such an important role, should receive a price that is less than the cost of production. Primary industries in the Burnett electorate are very diversified and I predict a great future for the development of mixed

farming there. I know of no better way to achieve the best use of the soil than to run stock and grow crops.

The grazing industry is very important to the electorate. The land and water lend themselves to it and no doubt there will be a great expansion in the beef-cattle industry if greater use is made of improved pastures and if pastures are irrigated wherever irrigation is available. I point out, though, that the beef industry is a seasonal one and in some years beef cannot be marketed.

I want to express appreciation of the work of the departmental officers who are assisting industries by their research. They cater not only for the grazing industry but also for tobacco and sugar, and indeed all industries associated with agriculture and stock, and they are giving excellent help to the man on the land. The Brian Pastures research station near Gayndah is a classic example. In the long run the consumer will reap the benefit of a better product while, at the same time, the producer will find the use of the fodder an economic proposition. Beef production is always a long-term venture and those engaged in it must be assured of security of tenure and adequate finance. Quick and careful transport to markets, adequate killing facilities and tick control are essential to successful beef production.

The citrus industry, situated mainly around Gayndah, is an excellent example of the benefits of irrigation. All the areas producing citrus crops are under irrigation; they could not do without it; it plays an important part in the Burnett electorate. As hon. members probably know, Gayndah citrus are famous throughout Australia and in the markets of the Near East. Like other primary industries, the citrus fruit industry is at the mercy of a supply-and-demand price. It finds itself at the end of the line after all costs are taken out. With the long hauls, rail freights pose a big problem not only for the actual marketing of the crop but also for bringing in fertilisers, insecticides and the materials for making cases. Freight adds to the cost of each and I venture to predict that the citrus industry will suffer from increased rail freights.

Now I turn to the need for better means of communication within the electorate. It is very important nowadays that communities should be linked by good roads. I compliment the Government on their foresight and active interest in providing good roads throughout my electorate and in extending the supply of electricity.

There are three main highways in the Burnett electorate. One goes north through Gayndah and Mundubbera to Rockhampton, and a high-level bridge is needed across Barambah Creek, preferably at Bon Accord. A link is also needed in the road over the Binjour Range, which is a very difficult route. There is also a coastal road to the north, which is now being bituminised, but there are still some missing links on the Gin Gin-Miriam Vale

section of the road and a road to Rosedale—nearer the coast that needs bituminising. We also need links between Gayndah and Mt. Perry, and Mt. Perry and Gin Gin, and a bridge over Baffle Creek is needed not only to serve the pioneers in that area but also to facilitate the development of a very beautiful section of coastline north of Baffle Creek that is now almost uninhabited.

The Burnett area has been very fortunate in the extension of the supply of electricity that has taken place. Electricity plays a very important role in the development of an area, and I hope that it will be possible in the near future for the Government to extend the supply to the residents of Rosedale.

I am concerned about the drift of population from the country to the cities. I believe that it has taken place partly because incomes from primary industries compare very unfavourably with those from other sources. It is disturbing to see a person who has built up an asset over the years in a country area sell out and invest the proceeds in hire purchase, for example. People should be encouraged at this stage to reinvest their money in country areas. It is all very well to pour money into Queen Street; but although we appreciate the value of Queen Street, we must not be entirely dependent upon it. I believe that we should try to restore a proper relativity between incomes from primary industries and those from other sources. It is very disappointing to see that primary producers are at the end of the line, as it were, and that they receive only what is left after others have taken out their costs.

We must have more people gainfully employed, not only in the Burnett but also in Queensland as a whole, and we must work for decentralisation. I know that the Government are keen to encourage decentralisation, and I believe that it will bring in its train quicker and greater development than could be brought about by any other step. It is a good idea to hold Cabinet meetings in country centres, but that does not go far enough. I believe that the Government will do their utmost to bring about decentralisation. The more people there are in country areas the more development we can expect and the more people there will be to share the burden of the cost of development. Decentralisation will bring security to people who have spent their lives in the country, particularly small businessmen who have served their little communities. Decentralisation would encourage them to remain where they are and help them to prosper in the future. It makes for a wider outlook in the development of the State and brings more amenities to people in the outback. It would give a real impetus to peace-time development, apart from being highly desirable in war-time. Money spent in the more remote parts of the State would be well spent and would be more than repaid in the future.

From my experience with irrigation I am aware of how much it can help to develop

the State. The best of land needs water; some land needs both fertiliser and water. An adequate water supply is essential to the success of any land undertaking. I compliment the Government on the Farm Water Supplies Assistance Act, which was one of the best pieces of legislation ever brought down. I hope more people will take advantage of it in future; undoubtedly the Government will play their part. I hope that that scheme and any others that may be initiated will be fostered so that the Burnett can have a real era of development. I go so far as to say that irrigation is of such importance to the State that I think it warrants a separate portfolio.

If we were able to help the pioneers to get comfortable homes, I am sure more womenfolk would be encouraged to play their part in developing the outback. Women who take their place beside their husbands and work to develop the State should not later be penalised by heavy probate duties. I know the Government will have a look at some of the problems that face widows because of probate duties.

The boys and girls in the Junior Farmer Movement will be the leading primary producers of tomorrow. The future of primary industry is in their hands. I hope that that movement will get every encouragement possible. I believe that the development of the State will come by individual enterprise. The Government's job is to do what the individual cannot. This Government will play their part and if the hurdles that hinder private enterprise can be removed it will be reflected in a grand total development of the State.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank hon. members for their patient hearing. I pledge my loyalty to our Sovereign and express the hope that Sir Henry Abel Smith may continue to be her representative in this State for many long years to come.

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South (2.30 p.m.): I want to comment on some remarks that have been made in this Assembly during the last few days, firstly by the hon. member for Bundaberg just prior to your election to the office of Speaker, and secondly by the Leader of the Opposition today in his speech on the Address in Reply.

The hon. member for Bundaberg said that Communism was rampant and on the march in Queensland today. Possibly it is. The Leader of the Opposition started to talk about the unrest among the industrial sections of the community brought about, he claimed, by the penal clauses of the various industrial laws and their application by the members of the Industrial Court.

I say to the hon. member for Bundaberg, and anyone else who happens to be interested, that I regard Communism as a distinct menace to this country and its people, but we are never going to combat or erase it from our social body simply by talking. The

real cause of Communism and industrial unrest in this country today is the social injustice that is being perpetrated and intensified on the workers from day to day.

The Leader of the Opposition talks very glibly and fluently about the penal clauses of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. They were written into the Act by the Government of which he was a member and they were stoutly defended by him when he was a Minister of the Crown. And they were just as viciously and brutally applied when his Government controlled the State as they are today.

I can remember being ordered out of this Parliament because, I think, I transgressed some Standing Order or other by dealing with it then. I should say that the greatest proselytizers of Communism in Australia today are, first of all, the Federal Government, and secondly, the Federal and the State Arbitration Courts.

The Federal Government decided not long ago to increase in a lavish way the salaries of its top-ranking civil servants and military top brass. They gave, for example, increases of £900 a year to brigadiers and rear admirals, and 4s. 6d. a week to privates and able seamen. The Industrial Court members did much the same thing the other day when they increased the salaries of Under Secretaries by £600 a year, knowing that they themselves will receive that £600 when the necessary Bill is brought before Parliament and gave a few shillings or nothing to the black-shirt workers. Is it any wonder that the black-shirt workers of Queensland are in a state of industrial ferment? Is it any wonder that the black-shirt workers in the Railway Department are talking about direct action?

If they do take direct action—if they engage in a strike or strike action—I shall be right behind them, fighting for the justice that has been denied them by both the Government and the A.L.P. I shall not run for a funk hole during a time of industrial disturbance as members of the A.L.P. have always done.

I have no doubt that, if industrial trouble comes to the Railway Department, many members of the A.L.P. will bolt for the funk holes that they have occupied so often in the past. I shall stand up with the workers in the railways, or any other group of workers, trying to get for them the simple wage justice that has been denied them over the years.

If we want to know the real reason for industrial unrest in Queensland today, particularly among manual workers, and what are particularly termed "black-shirt workers," let us have a look at the payments that are being made to members of the Industrial Court and these workers. In 1944, the members of the Court got £32 per week more than the fitter, whose wage is regarded as the base wage rate for a manual worker. This year,

after the Bill has been introduced to increase the salaries of the Industrial Court members by the same amount as the salaries of Under Secretaries were recently increased, an Industrial Court member will get £78 a week more than a fitter. In other words, from 1944 to 1960, a period of 16 years, the salaries of the members of the Industrial Court have increased by £46 a week more than the wages of a fitter. Is it any wonder that the men are talking strike? Is it any wonder that they are talking industrial action when the gap between the salaries of civil servants, particularly the top civil servants, and fitters, and the gap between the amounts received by salary employees and wages employees, is growing wider and wider every day?

I do not want anyone to leave the Chamber and circulate the erroneous assumption that I am opposed to a decent wage for the rank and file of the clerical section of Government employees. I am very happy to know that many clerical employees of the Government, and of outside industry, are receiving a decent living wage, but I think that the wages of the manual worker, the tradesman and the pick-and-shovel men should be increased in exactly the same proportion as the salaries of clerical employees. Recently the Industrial Court in an application under the Railway Award, after having given other Government servants increases in salary of from £600 a year down to 30s. a week, refused to give 20,000 railway men any increase at all. They gave the gangers an increase of 6d. a week. They are the people who are fostering Communism in this State. They are the proselytizers. They recruit more people to the Communist philosophy in one week than the most rabid and voluble propagandists of Communism would recruit in 12 months. Let us have wage justice in this State and there will be no need to fear Communism, because Communism is fostered and thrives on the sort of thing that I have pointed out today.

While on the subject of Communism, I remind hon. members of the recent denial of the Leader of the Opposition that the Australian Labour Party collaborates in any way with Communists. If the Leader of the Opposition had been in the Townsville South electorate during the recent election campaign he would have seen for himself the close collaboration and co-operation that existed between the Australian Labour Party and the Communist Party.

Mr. Tucker: Rot!

Mr. AIKENS: Rot, according to the hon. member for Townsville North, but I have brought into the House, as I customarily do, documentary evidence of the collaboration that cannot be disputed or brushed aside by some incoherent interjection from the Australian Labour Party benches.

At my meeting at the National Hotel on the Monday night in the second week of the campaign there was a concerted drive against

me by the Communist Party and the Australian Labour Party to prevent my speaking. I was on a lorry and I had a loudspeaker, a very powerful one, so hon. members can imagine that the Commos. and the A.L.P. stooges in the audience were not in the race in trying to prevent me from speaking. The Communist Party later issued a pamphlet called "Portlight." It bears the printed words, "Authorised by J. Nolan, 88 Esplanade, Belgian Gardens," which is not very far from where the hon. member for Townsville North lives. In this pamphlet the Communist Party boasted and gloated over the fact that its members went along in a combined effort with A.L.P. members to try to interrupt my meeting at the National Hotel. This passage from the pamphlet reads—

"Since Aikens deserted the Labour Movement, he now finds it very hard to get the attentive following at meetings as in the past. Tom will not forget the National get-together."

In other words, the pamphlet states that Aikens will never forget the get-together at the National Hotel between Communist and A.L.P. members to try to prevent his getting the attentive hearing that he always got in the past. If the vociferous members of the Australian Labour Party would like to peruse this document issued by the Communists, which exposes the collaboration between Communists and A.L.P. members in the last election campaign, I shall be happy to let them read it.

I wish to deal now with something that really concerns the welfare of this State, and in particular the people of Northern Queensland and, of course, Northern Queensland itself. Anyone who has studied economics knows that before you can divide wealth you must first of all create wealth. Here in Australia over the years we have had an abundance of land and few people, with the result that our grazing areas have been occupied, in the main, by graziers who have not had to worry about their production. They have not had to worry whether they produced one beast to every 15 acres or whether they ran one sheep to every 3 acres, because, as I say, there was plenty of land and very few people. But over recent years we have had an influx of migrants. We have had our own natural increase as well, and our population is increasing by leaps and bounds. Unfortunately, our production from the land is not keeping pace with the increase in our population. Consequently, if we are to retain this country, if we are to retain our present high standard of living, we must aim, first of all, at the production of more national wealth. National wealth does not mean merely figures in the bank; it does not mean figures that are juggled about loosely, and with abandon, by the hire-purchase companies and the various financial companies. National wealth means what it implies. If extra production from the land gives wealth, it is logical that all wealth comes from the land.

I know that many people believe we should cut the cake before it is baked. But it is well known in economic circles that before you can cut the cake you must have the cake.

In the North we have not bothered very much about the production of beef-cattle. As a matter of fact, we have not bothered very much about the production of any types of cattle. If it rained, there was abundant grass and the graziers turned off large herds of cattle. If it did not rain and we had a drought, as we are having at the present time, the graziers did not turn off very many cattle and they were not very much concerned about it. They simply said, "We have our good seasons and our bad seasons. They come and go; nothing much can be done to alter it. We have to take the good with the bad." We no longer can remain, shall we say, blowing about like a feather dancing on the wind and dependent on the vagaries of nature. We must help nature to produce the cattle and the wool that we so urgently need today, and we must produce it in ever-increasing quantities. What I say on sheep and cattle applies also to the various agricultural crops that are grown in Australia.

Because sheep and cattle affect Northern Queensland, and because they are, or should be, grown there in abundance, I intend to deal with them, and particularly with cattle. Very recently it was my pleasure to go to Northern Queensland, right up to the country that really matters, with Mr. John Murray, M.H.R., Liberal Member for Herbert. Naturally, once again I will be called "Tory Tom" for associating with Mr. Murray.

Mr. Graham: Birds of a feather.

Mr. AIKENS: If birds of a feather flock together, what about the Coms. with whom the hon. member for Mackay consorts when he is in Mackay? I am prepared to be branded as a Tory because I went to Northern Queensland to find out something about the beef-fattening industry from a man who probably knows more about it than anybody else in the North, if the hon. member for Mackay is prepared to be branded a Com. on his association with them. You have to use a pinch bar to break him away from the Coms. I went with Mr. Murray because he is the man who put this scheme into operation on his "Orient" property at Ingham. He is fattening one beast to an acre, one beast to 1½ acres, and one beast to 2 acres, as the case may be. Recently, they have got away from the rain country and have come down onto land this side of Ingham that is known generally as Wallum country. They have ploughed 500 acres of the Wallum country. Then they will harrow it, roll it, wait for a suitable fall of rain and then plant it with Centro or some legume or some grass, whichever is the more suitable, and then run a beast to the acre. Those men, irrespective of their political affiliations, are increasing the national

wealth of the country. That is what we should aim for, and they are the men we should help. Let them have their politics if they like. As a matter of fact, that man's politics are diametrically opposed to mine but I do not let politics interfere with me when the national welfare is involved.

Our first port of call was the experimental station at South Johnstone—and I regret to say that not very many members of Parliament bother to go along to that station. We had an effusion from the hon. member for Merthyr the other day when he told us about the 24 hours he spent on Magnetic Island. I know it very well. He arrived over there wearing a coloured shirt, pink shorts, sandals, and a straw hat. He was the cynosure of all eyes, and in those 24 hours, with his manly bearing and his robust appearance, he put a green glint of envy into the eyes of many of the tourists who were there, and in that 24 hours as a tourist he discovered Magnetic Island all over again. He, like so many other city slickers from Brisbane, sweating on their gold passes during the salubrious winter months, went to North Queensland and followed the time-worn, beaten tourist track. I am not making a particularly venomous attack on him because he only did what, unfortunately, far too many city-slicker types of politicians did before him and will probably do after him. They went to Green Island; they went to the Barron Falls; they went here and they went there; they followed in the track of the "Minister for Tourism"—the Minister for Labour and Industry—and they never got off it. But they did not go and see the potentialities of North Queensland; they did not go, first of all, to any of the experimental stations in the North, and in particular they did not go to the experimental station at South Johnstone to see how the pastures of that area can be improved and are being improved by the application of legumes and specially selected grass.

Mr. Houston: Was that your first visit there?

Mr. AIKENS: I have no time to answer interjections by "city-slicker" hon. members. I am dealing with the men who have their roots in the earth.

Many years ago—and I have heard this used around the House as an argument against cattle-fattening by people who do not know any better—a man named Brice Henry in the Tully area started a cattle-fattening scheme. It failed after some years because he planted only guinea grass; he did not plant a legume to provide a mulch and to provide for the regeneration of the soil. After many years, other men interested in cattle-fattening decided that grass without the legume was useless and so they began to import various legumes. One of the chief legumes was Centro. They also grew guinea grass, elephant grass and other grasses.

Having gone to the South Johnstone experimental station, we then went up to the area that is being developed by the South Johnstone experimental farm people. It is called Utchee Creek. There we walked through the rain forests and saw the various paddocks sown with different grasses and legumes. We saw, too, that the rain forest had been knocked down with bulldozers and the old methods, which, of course, left the heavy timber lying on the ground so that it was impossible to work the soil by mechanical means. They had to get in between the fallen timber with horses or with manual labour as best they could in order to plant the legumes and the grasses. And there we saw cattle running, one to the acre, one to 1½ acres, one to 2 acres, and so on, depending entirely on the type of grass and the type of legume that had been employed. We saw, right on the boundary, the rain forest as it is today, waiting for development and waiting to be cleared. There and then I put to Mr. Murray and to Mr. Saint-Smith, who is the manager of the South Johnstone experimental farm, "How are they going to clear the rain-forest country economically and plant the legumes and grasses to fatten their cattle if they are to depend on the old methods?" They told me that a new method of clearing rain-forest was to be tried. They intend to use helicopters to spray the rain-forest with hormones and kill all the vegetation, and have what they call a standing burn. If that standing burn is successful, they will be able to get between the standing trunks of the big timber, which will not be destroyed in the burn, and use the helicopter to plant the legumes and grasses and cultivate the soil mechanically.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen: That is wishful thinking.

Mr. AIKENS: It may be wishful thinking to a man who has made his living out of bull-doing scrub. Clearly he does not want to contemplate anything that might be an improvement on that method.

From there we went to the farm of Mr. Drew, who has been very successful. He is fattening cattle on centro and elephant grasses, which he keeps 12 inches to 18 inches high by mowing once a year. There you can see where this work is being done, and you can see the potentialities of the area. These men, who are competent to express an opinion, say that if we could throw open sufficient areas of land between Ingham and Mossman that are now lying idle, we could turn off between 300,000 and 400,000 head of fat cattle a year. Our great source of seasonal unemployment in the North is the meat industry. If we have a very bad year, as we have had this year, meat workers will work for only four or five months and lay off for seven or eight months. So if we can deal with the meat industry first, we will have struck a blow at the threat of unemployment that has hung over North Queensland for many years and that continues to hang over it and prevent its development.

These men claim it can be done. All they want is an opportunity to show that it can be done on a large scale as it is now being done on a modest scale.

The hon. member for Hinchinbrook mentioned only the other day that there were 250,000 acres of land in the Cardwell shire that were lying idle. I went into the Shire office in Cardwell and saw the very illuminating map they have there. Some land is not being used because it is classed as a timber reserve, some is being held for the development of the sugar industry, and some is classed as State forest. I believe we have a right to demand that the Minister for Lands and Irrigation and the Government make up their minds on what it is going to be used for. They should have it gazetted as State forest, so that officers of the Forestry Department can go in and get on with the task of regenerating the forest, and throw the rest of it open for grazing purposes. I am sure the hon. member for Mourilyan would not like to see the timber industry wiped out completely and replaced by cattle-fattening, but there is abundant scope for both industries in North Queensland. Much land that is useless today could be set aside as State forest and a progressive policy of regeneration could be followed by the Forestry Department. Men who are willing and eager and have the financial backing to engage in cattle fattening should be given an opportunity of using the rest of it. They will be able to turn off that area alone sufficient cattle to give our meat-workers a 12-months season, and this in turn will give the railways and other ancillary transport systems work all the year round and avoid the seasonal unemployment that has existed in the North for donkeys' years.

Mr. Coburn: What about the Burdekin?

Mr. AIKENS: The Burdekin can be developed by irrigation, but the area that I speak of can be developed merely by using its natural rainfall. Unlike the Channel country, which has two droughts in every five years, it has a high natural rainfall every year. The Burdekin will develop eventually on the basis of irrigation, but let us deal with first things first. Let us get into this country. Let the Government make up their mind what they are going to do with this land. Let the Government say, "We are going to make State forest of this portion and throw the rest open for cattle-fattening." It is a shocking shame—I suppose it was inherited from the previous Government—that in one shire alone 250,000 acres of land are lying idle and useless when it could be brought into production to add to the national wealth of the country.

Mr. Windsor: What would be the average rainfall?

Mr. AIKENS: Anything from 80 to 150 inches a year. Anyone who knows anything about the grazing industry knows that you cannot fatten cattle unless you get the store

cattle to fatten. Consequently it is not much use throwing open all this land in North Queensland to fatten cattle if they have not got a reserve of store cattle to draw upon to stock their properties. To ensure that there will be cattle to be fattened on the northern littoral we must ensure that the graziers in the western areas do all they possibly can to keep up their usual supply of fat cattle and also see that the supply of store stock will be maintained. Out in the West graziers have been saying for years, "If we have a good season we will rear a good few calves; if we have a poor season we will not rear too many calves." At a graziers' conference in Charters Towers the other day, one man—I suppose he is one of the outstanding graziers of North Queensland—made this astonishing statement: "Of every two calves born in North Queensland today only one lives to reach maturity. The other one dies of drought, disease or other cause." If we could reduce that ratio of 1:1 to 1:5 or 1:6, we would have all the store cattle we need to go onto the cattle-fattening areas along the northern littoral. Some graziers have started to do something about it. Unfortunately many are going along in the old way saying, "Why should we bother? What was good enough for our grandfathers and great-grandfathers is good enough for us." On the occasion of the opening of the Charters Towers show this year a grazier told me that this year he will lay down 100 tons of sorghum fodder silage and next year he will lay down 1,000 tons. If one grazier can do that, they can all do it if they want to or are made to. If they will not do it of their own volition I think they should be either incited or made to do it. I quoted to the Charters Towers grazier an article that I had read in "Ulster Commentary", which said—

"Spectacular Rise in Silage Production."

"The Ulsterman is blessed with an abundance of grass and he is not letting it grow under his feet", said an agriculture observer recently after a tour of Ulster farms."

It gives a picture of the Forage Harvester which "cuts grass, collects and chops it and blows it into the trailer, which is widely used on Ulster farms."

When I quoted that to him he said, "Yes, some of us have those machines up here." He told me that he was using one of them to lay down 100 tons of sorghum fodder silage this year. I suggest that if other graziers have not this machine or are not able to purchase it, or are not interested in laying down silage to keep their stock alive and grow more stock, the Government should set up a committee with power to force them to get that type of machine or some other similar machine so that they, as well as graziers who are interested, can lay down silage.

I came across some very remarkable statements in this little brochure. I do not know

how big Ulster is. Probably the hon. member for Burdekin could tell us. I should say that, in area, it would be half as big as the Dalrymple shire. Yet, because of its intensive cultivation, because of its silage and because of the assistance its Government give the farmers to lay down that silage, Ulster next year will have 1,000,000 head of cattle and lay down 1,000,000 tons of silage.

I mention that to show what can be done in a country if the Government and the farmers are prepared to co-operate in doing something about increasing their turnoff of stock.

I notice also in this document that they are setting up "Tom Thumb" factories to help in the establishment of industry. It also shows a plan and a photograph of a "Tom Thumb" factory, as they call it. It mentions, too, that the Government are assisting the people concerned in every possible way. So that I might have all the facts about the way in which the Government of Ulster are helping their people—and surely what can be done in Ulster can be done in Queensland—I wrote to the Minister for Commerce, Parliament House, Northern Ireland.

Mr. Davies interjected.

Mr. AIKENS: The hon. member, like other hon. members, may be actuated by sectarianism, but I am not. Unlike many hon. members, I am not a sectarian bigot.

Mr. Davies interjected.

Mr. AIKENS: The hon. member would be one of the worst sectarian bigots. I shall tell the story of how he put the skids under Bill Baxter, if he likes.

I wrote to the Minister for Commerce, Parliament House, Northern Ireland, as follows:—

"Dear Sir,

"On page 5 of your interesting little booklet 'Ulster Commentary', May issue, there appears an article headed 'Tom Thumb' Factories.

"In the article, mention is made of the way that your Government assists the establishment of industry in your country, although the full scope of this assistance is naturally restricted by the condensed nature of the article.

"I would be very grateful if you could, at your convenience, let me know as much as you possibly can about the assistance your Government gives towards the establishment of industry. For here, in North Queensland the lessons learned, even from the scant mention in the article, could well be applied, for the great benefit of our Northland and its people."

That letter went to Belfast on 27 June and unfortunately there has not been time for me to get a reply. What I have read shows the way in which the Government of that

small country are doing a tremendous job to increase its national wealth. I repeat, if a small, pocket-handkerchief sized country like Ulster can raise 1,000,000 head of cattle and lay down 1,000,000 tons of silage next year with Government assistance, surely we can do much better than that in Queensland with Government assistance and collaboration among members of the grazing fraternity.

Mr. Mann: That is a bit of a change.

Mr. AIKENS: Of course, it would be a joke to the hon. member for Brisbane, who spends all his time, as I said the other day, in the noisome dives of Spring Hill. He would not be interested in the production of cattle or anything else.

I want now to mention something about the cattle-fattening scheme in Northern Queensland. We have here a report on what actually caused all this land to be tied up. We have also a report on the visit of Government members of the Food and Agriculture Committee to Tully on Monday and Tuesday, 20 and 21 June. I commend the reading of this report to hon. members who are really sincere in their desire to see this country go ahead, and I repeat that this country can go ahead only if the production of food, the production of minerals and the production of all other forms of national wealth keep pace with the increase in population.

We know, of course, that there are people like the hon. member for Brisbane who think wealth can be manufactured simply by faking the figures in the banks. The hon. member for Brisbane believes, of course, that graziers should be allowed to earn a great deal of money simply by selling a few cattle at fantastically high prices. No doubt they can do that. The hon. member for Brisbane would say, "Let them turn off only a few head of cattle and sell them at fantastically high prices, and let us, as the representatives of the downtrodden working class, hop in and cut up the fantastically high prices among all sections of the community." In referring to "us," he means himself. That may be all right—it may be a temporary panacea—but sooner or later that policy would bring about the destruction of the country. We cannot make this country go ahead merely by producing a few cattle and selling them at fantastically high prices. If we are national-minded, we must agree that the only thing to do is to raise many cattle and sell them at a reasonable price. The aggregate sum to be cut up among all sections of the community will still be the same. I realise that in addressing those remarks to the hon. member for Brisbane through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was veritably casting pearls before swine, but nevertheless I thought it was worth the effort. I thought that perhaps he might take time off to read the remarks that I have made this afternoon on the pressing need, firstly, for the Government to get together with the graziers.

We talk at times of the "honourable men" of this country—the military "shiny-pants" and the "shiny-pants" of the Public Service—whose names we see from time to time in the New Year and Queen's Birthday Honours Lists. To my mind those men are not such great Australians. I should say that one of the greatest Australians was a man named Farrer, whose work enabled farmers to grow two ears of wheat where only one grew before. The men who are really helping the country are the men of the C.S.I.R.O., and the men in the wool industry who are growing 7 to 8 lb. of wool on a sheep's back compared with 3 or 4 lb. previously. They are the men who are pushing this country ahead and who will make it great.

Mr. Davies interjected.

Mr. AIKENS: And the sugar-farmers who are growing 50 and 60 tons of cane to the acre, whereas in the days when the hon. member for Brisbane was a cane-cutter, and he lasted only one day before getting the sack for laziness and inefficiency, only 8 to 10 tons of cane to the acre were grown. I shall tell the full story one day, if the hon. member for Brisbane wants me to.

Let all of us who are interested in the development of this country, and the welfare of our children and our children's children, get together irrespective of political bigotry and religious bigotry; and that applies to the hon. member for Brisbane. Let us get together with all those who are prepared to work towards increasing the national wealth of the country. Let us ask them what they want and give it to them, because unless we can turn off more cattle, grow more sugar and other crops, produce more wool and manufacture more of the articles that our people use from day to day to keep pace with the ever-growing demand from our population, the Commos will move in. That is what the hon. member for Brisbane and his Spring Hill Commo mates want. They would like to see this country fail. They would like to see poverty, misery and destitution. They want a perpetuation of wage injustice and other things that breed Communism, because they are so closely allied to Communism that the interests of the Communists are their interests, too.

(Time expired.)

Mr. NEWTON (Belmont) (3.10 p.m.): I associate myself with the expressions of loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, as expressed by other hon. members. I should also like to take this opportunity of complimenting the Government on their choice of His Excellency Sir Henry Abel Smith as Governor of Queensland.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. NEWTON: He has proved himself to be a very good mixer with the people irrespective of their various followings, and by extensive travelling he is endeavouring to get to know this great State of ours.

To the electors of Belmont I express my sincere thanks for the magnificent support they gave me in electing me as the first member for Belmont. I also express my sincere thanks to the Australian Labor Party branches and to affiliated unions and their members. They all have my assurance that I will serve them to the best of my ability and will give them every possible assistance in the many problems that confront them from time to time.

As the electorate that I represent consists mainly of working people, pensioners, small businessmen and small farmers, I intend to deal with matters that are of vital concern to them, and, in fact, to all members of the great Labour movement. Prior to the war I had experience in working on the land. Since the war I have had experience in the industrial field, and I am not ashamed of it. On the contrary, I am proud of it. The biggest problem facing us today is the ever-increasing costs created by the lifting of controls by the present Government.

Opposition Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. NEWTON: It is very difficult for these people to keep their heads above water. It is a pity, following our Centenary celebrations last year, that they are finding it difficult to live the way they should be. All people are entitled to the right of enjoyment of living, and in achieving that right we are dependent upon one another. The present Government during the last three years have done very little to help. Indeed, they have worsened living standards. They are living in the past, and they still believe that the old system of giving private enterprise unrestricted freedom will operate successfully and will solve today's problems. What they have not considered is that private enterprise today is big business, and it operates entirely differently from in the past. It does not care whom it hurts, or whom it squeezes out. It abuses the privileges that it gains with a completely free economy.

Because the Government agree with the ideals of big business we have seen the lifting of rent control. Today low-wage earners in this State are asked to pay, out of a State basic wage of £13 13s. or a Federal basic wage of £12 18s., £5 a week for an unfurnished house or flat.

Let us examine this subject, even with State rental homes. Since I took up my position here I have received information that a person got a maisonette at Inala for a rental of £4 12s. 6d. a week. We all know the position at Inala. You can add to the rental approximately 25s. to 30s. a week for fares. When we consider the wage-earner's margins, we find that the process worker and the unskilled worker will receive an increase of from 5s. to £3. That, of course, would include at the present time the 28 per cent. marginal increase that has been got through the Industrial Court, and also the 27s. 6d. and the 17s. 6d. that was got by the unions

through agreement with the employer. For tradesmen that amount can be increased by £4 16s. on the 28 per cent. that has been granted and by £5 2s. 6d. granted by agreement with the employers. That still leaves rentals far too high for the income those men receive.

Young single girls today are forced to pool their wages to get a flat or other accommodation. Their wage rates are very low. Those in the 17 to 18 years age group receive £6 12s. 7d. a week while a senior girl receives £12 3s., which includes her margins. Rents have become so inflated that the family man who wants a home today has to send his wife to work and let the children manage for themselves. None of us likes to see that.

Pensioners have had to pack up and get out, because they could not afford to pay the rents that were asked by the landlords when controls were lifted. The lifting of price control on essential foods, household items and clothing has placed a heavy burden on the wife of the wage-earner, while price-fixers and price rings operate to fill their own pockets.

The situation is getting completely out of control. It is no use the Government saying it is a national responsibility. That excuse is being used too often by Governments. Immediately they are pinned down on something they say it is a national responsibility. We are still a Government in this State and we must accept responsibility as a regional Government until an approach is made to the Federal Government.

Recent increases in the prices of sugar, butter and smallgoods have put those items out of the reach of the ordinary family. The increase in the price of the commodity itself is bad enough but, on top of that, the price of every article containing sugar or butter has increased, too, which has had a serious effect on the household budget, as well as on the diet.

Then we come to the worst aspect of all: the one meal of meat a day, which the housewife knows is essential for the health of the breadwinner who works hard in outside industry, where most employers look for brawn and muscle. It is important, too, for the rearing of healthy children. Because of the prevailing high prices, housewives are forced to buy mince and sausages and the poorer cuts of meat, such as so-called stewing steak and chops. With them, as with meat generally, it is a case of the poorest quality at the top price. Price-control and meat-grading are essential to protect the buying public of Queensland.

The Government have said that there is a shortage of meat in the State because the cattle are not available. If that is so, let us have a Royal Commission or an inquiry into the industry and let us see if all the huge blocks of land held by the graziers are being used to produce the beef required. I say this because I was at the opening of the

Cleveland Show and I have seen from time to time the great effort made by the small farmers of that area. A member of the Government said on that occasion that if the graziers did the same job as the small farmers of that area were doing, we would not have a shortage of meat in Queensland today. If the graziers are not using their land as they should to produce the beef, let us take the necessary action and give the land to those who will.

It has been said by the Government that meat prices are higher in New South Wales than here. So, too, is the basic wage higher in New South Wales. It is approximately £14 8s., as against £13 13s. in Queensland, although the figures may be a little higher now. All these things are causing undue hardship to the ordinary people because ever-increasing costs are being imposed on the family budget, and it is impossible with the present arrangement of the basic wage to get an increase. The Government refuse to re-introduce price control and oppose any direct increase in the basic wage. That was clearly indicated when they opposed any increase in the Federal basic wage early this year. It is useless for the Premier to say that the Government's attitude was neutral on that occasion.

The "C" Series Index no longer covers a large number of foodstuffs and other commodities that are used in the home today; it is a thing of the past. Unless reviewed to meet present-day requirements, it will remain inadequate. Both the A.W.U. and the Trades Hall unions have abided by arbitration on this important subject and have achieved no results. Why? If the truth is known, the Court is not happy about undertaking the task of straightening out the matter, because it has gone on so long and got out of control. The basic wage in this State should be increased to cover at least the costs that have been passed onto the public since the lifting of controls by the present Government—the increases have been enormous—and so give the ordinary people the decent standard of living to which they are entitled. Even the Press in Queensland agrees with the Australian Labour Party that some relief must be given. If the present Government believe in justice by lifting these controls, they must find some method by which justice can be given to all. Of course, Government members will say, "We are not opposed to quarterly cost-of-living adjustments." The increase of 2s. granted for the June quarter shows the true picture. However, because of the timing of the recent increase in the price of sugar, meat, butter, bacon, and many groceries, not forgetting fares, the wage-earners will now pay these increases and be denied any relief from consequent increases in the cost of living until the September basic-wage adjustment takes place. It is true, also, that they will not get this adjustment until some time in October. It is not the first time that they have had to wait for more than three months before the increases

are passed on to them. Immediately there is an increase in prices that increase should be passed onto the wage-earners, or adjustments should be made in advance to cover those articles that are expected to rise during the quarter. That would help to overcome the present delay in the increases reaching the pay packets of the working people, and at the same time it would make big business stop and think before applying price increases.

The business man who operates a small shop is also feeling the squeeze. Increased costs are passed onto him by big business, and if he is to exist he must automatically pass them on. At the same time he sees the big firms coming into his area and strangling him out of business. For these reasons he can no longer give credit to his customers, and many small businesses in the metropolitan area are closing. At the present time ground is being set aside in some Housing Commission areas for shopping centres. When it is offered for lease to enable people to establish small businesses and give service to the public, nobody comes forward to take it up because of the present difficulties.

The small business man realises today that price control assisted him, because the wage-earner, upon whom he relies almost solely for his business, was able to buy those commodities that are so necessary in the home. Everybody in this Chamber is aware of the increase in the number of self-service stores and chain stores in Queensland and the way they are putting the squeeze on small business men. If we look back, we see what assistance the small business man has given to the Labour movement and workers generally. The man operating a small store has it open when the workman is going to work in the morning and is still there when he comes home at night, and even later. He is there Saturdays and Sundays. The small business man was the only one who gave the workers any help in the 1929-1932 depression. I know something about that because I started work then. They were the only ones who would give us any credit. In many cases they did not have their money repaid until some time after the war. We realise what the small business man has meant to the ordinary working people.

The small crop farmer grows all types of vegetables, sometimes up to six different varieties. He plants in the hope that he can strike the top market. Here again the present system is a failure. When price control was lifted many of the small crop farmers thought they would benefit. But they have been faced with the position that housewives cannot afford to buy their produce because of the high prices asked by the agents. Then comes a glut, when the farmer can no longer afford to send his vegetables to market because instead of getting a cheque he would get a bill. What happens then? In goes the plough and the vegetables are ploughed back into the ground or those marketed are dumped by the merchants. That could have been avoided

and the housewife assisted had these "get-rich-quick" merchants been controlled instead of having an "open slather" on the small farmer and the public.

The small-crop farmer favours control and a steady market where he can dispose of his goods for a reasonable return. I can recall the Premier's words at the first Strawberry Festival held at Victoria Point when there was a glut of strawberries. The problem could have been solved if the people handling the farmers' goods had been prepared to handle more over a longer period and been satisfied with a small ratio of profit instead of doing what they did then and what is still happening today. They handle very little for a short period for a quick return of high profit. Unless the Government take a stand and re-introduce price control, or some other desirable method of control that will be satisfactory to all, we shall be faced with a crisis. The wage-earner and the housewife cannot carry the burden any longer. On the other hand, the small businessman and the small-crop farmer should be given consideration to help them meet their ever-growing problem.

People who live on pensions are still Queenslanders and are entitled to some relief and assistance in the matters I have mentioned. They have been hit the hardest of all by the lifting of price control in Queensland.

Educational facilities in the Belmont electorate will need looking into because it consists of some of the biggest land development schemes on the south side. Land has already been subdivided for housing, right through from Upper Mt. Gravatt to Capalaba. New sites for primary and secondary schools should be sought now to avoid heavy expense to a future Government. I shall keep the department fully informed on what is required. In the new Broadwater Road Queensland Housing Commission Estate over 400 homes have been built surrounded by about the same number that have been built by private owners. The Queensland Housing Commission is still buying land in this locality. A primary school is required for the area immediately to avoid over-crowding at other schools in adjacent areas. The Cavendish Road High School will need a non-stop building programme if it is to continue to absorb the intake from surrounding areas. Indications are that there will be a further intake of 200 students next year, plus whatever effect the Minister's decentralisation plan may have. This will make a total of approximately 1,200 students attending the high school, which is very popular because of its locality and because there is a good transport system to it.

The building of the new Mt. Gravatt High School has given very little relief to the Cavendish Road High School although a survey showed that you could count on your fingers the numbers by-passing it to attend the one at Cavendish Road. At the present time a number of children are by-passing the

Belmont Primary School. It may be said that that school has been overlooked in the provision of improvements and has very little in the way of the facilities that could be expected at a modern school. Although it is only 8 miles from the city it has no town water supply, which means that water is in short supply at times. The Minister is fully aware of the numerous problems associated with this school because they have been raised with him.

There is still a shortage of classrooms at some primary schools in my electorate. Now money is available again it is to be hoped that this lag will be overcome and that the rooms that are required for the intake next year will be provided.

There is no doubt that the Minister in charge of education has a big task, but I hope he will be able to circumvent the overcrowding of classes in schools during this term. The position that exists at the present time is not fair either to the teachers or the children. There are classes of 40 to 50 and over, and since the dismissal of married women—mostly senior teachers—by the Government, young teachers fresh from the Teachers' College are expected to teach these large classes. Today, in some of the large primary schools, there are very few senior teachers. If enrolments were looked into, instead of attendances, these schools would benefit by an extra teacher, which would relieve the position slightly.

The dismissal of day-labour workers in the Department of Public Works just before Easter has brought about a further lag in building extra classrooms where required. Those dismissals could have been avoided if the department had adhered to the 40-hour week instead of working on Saturdays at overtime rates, thereby considerably increasing the cost of school buildings. These men were dismissed, after giving good service to the department at a time when it was difficult to get a job, and they were robbed of payment for a number of statutory holidays that fell in that period. That sort of thing does not bring about good employer-employee relationships. It is a pity that the new Minister for Public Works and Local Government did not take that matter into consideration when he wrote letters to the employees of his department. The department and its employees have given good service to the public and whatever surplus funds were available from the school building fund have gone back into the pool to build more classrooms and schools, whilst the employees have received no more than is in the award. They have not received any extra concessions as a reward for their good service.

Whilst on education, let us have a look at the problems facing persons who are seeking employment today. Employers in industry are demanding a higher standard of education in apprentices and the present position at the Central Technical College is serious. The enrolment is 13,000, which is overcrowding

the facilities that are available. Unless a building programme is entered into and more space made available, there is little chance of apprentices getting the higher standard education that is required. Surely, after 100 years of progress, day-time training, both theoretical and practical, for apprentices would be a step in the right direction in a modern society. Because of modern trends and methods, and new mechanical techniques in industry today, a more modern approach should be applied in providing buildings and facilities for apprentices, not only in the metropolitan area but throughout the State.

I now intend to have something to say on industrial safety. During their last term of office, the Government held a Safety in Industry Convention. That was a step in the right direction, and it is to be hoped that further conventions of that nature will be held during the terms of future Parliaments, whatever party may be in power.

The appointment by the Government of additional scaffolding inspectors in some areas is an improvement, but, having seen the danger hazards in various parts of Queensland and having taken necessary action through employers and employees to rectify them, I should say that more scaffolding inspectors are required to give this State proper coverage.

Officers of the Machinery Department endeavour to do the work of scaffolding inspectors in various provincial cities, but experience has shown they have enough problems of their own without looking after scaffolding and the many other matters covered by the Act.

I am pleased to say that, after negotiation between employers and employees and building trade unions on the Taxation Building, safety helmets were provided by the employer for all employees on the site. I hope that during the term of this Parliament the Scaffolding Act will be amended to provide that employers shall provide safety helmets on all jobs. Recent experience proves the need for this amendment. The Minister will remember what happened in the sinking of pier holes at Pearce's Service Station in this city. Three building workers escaped just in time from a pier hole that was 16 feet in depth and caved in from the bottom. They could have been entombed by earth and debris, cut in half by corrugated iron, or killed by an acro tomb.

Three inspectors visited the job, one each from the Department of Mines, Scaffolding and Machinery. They had no power to operate, and could only advise. Yet there were six other pier holes down about 20 feet and one or two men working in each. A ladder was not provided for each pier hole, there was no overhead protection, and no safety helmets had been issued. The crane being used on this filled-in ground weighed 15 tons.

The usual practice in putting down pier holes is to use cylinder iron tube pipes or

concrete pipes, or to timber the pier hole as it is put down, thus giving the worker adequate protection. This was the first occasion on which galvanised tank iron had been used on pier holes, which meant that, as the worker went down there was a 3-foot opening at the bottom until additional sheets could be fixed in position to keep the earth from caving in on the workers.

Such new material was not subject to Government approval. The job should have been stopped immediately until tests were taken so that the iron could have been used without acro stays approximately every 18 inches down the pier hole over the heads of the workers. Pier holes have always been kept clear so that in the event of a cave-in workers could be rescued immediately.

The experience on this job proves that if safety in industry is to be enforced it must be enforced by one department. I suggest it should be the Department of Machinery and Scaffolding where there are men with job experience before they are appointed as inspectors. They know what is required.

Coverage of excavation work is sadly neglected at powerhouses and commercial and industrial buildings, and clauses should be inserted in the Act to cover the work.

I now turn to the covering of well holes and holes in floors. At present, as long as the hole is covered it is considered to be sufficient, but workmen still fall through the holes. Whatever covers them should be fixed with cleats underneath the various floors so that covers cannot be removed, and they should be guarded off.

On many jobs electrical leads run across roadways and have traffic passing over them, or go through pools of water. It should be an offence for any employer, firm or company to permit that to happen. We all know that a person who touches a live wire seldom gets a second chance.

Tools driven by electrical power are used extensively in industry. Some employers who realise the danger attached on the use of such tools provide Saf Paks on the job, and, if anything happens to the machine or the lead, the Saf Pak takes the shock. I hope the Government will give early consideration to an amendment of the Act to provide that Saf Paks must be supplied. I have a recent extract from the "Herald" newspaper of a report by a field officer of the Division of Occupational Safety, Department of Labour and Industry, who attended a Rotary Club meeting held at Wynnum. It shows that in the last financial year there were 237 deaths, 500 people were incapacitated, and a total of 58,998 persons were absent for more than one day as a result of accidents on the job.

If those figures are correct, a death occurs every third day because of inadequate safety on the job.

On the other hand, every member of this House must be fully aware how hard it is to find a person a light job when he has been

mained in industry and cannot return to his usual occupation. My experience shows that the trade unions and their members are doing everything possible to see that proper safety precautions are carried out on the job. But this cannot be achieved if the employers do not provide what is necessary to take precautions. Much has been said by the Minister for Labour and Industry about employer-employee relationships. I, too, believe in such a get-together, but if we agree with such discussions, all matters affecting wages, accommodation, safety and amenities should be part of them. They should not be tied to any one subject. Above all, trade-union officials should be present, as well as the employees themselves, to voice their opinions and to protect and safeguard their hard-won conditions.

I come now to the matter of housing. Let me start with securing a block of land. This has got right out of hand. How can a low-wage earner pay from £500 to £800 for a block of land—in some cases more—and then expect to build a home, furnish it, and rear a family?

Large investment companies are buying huge areas of land at very reasonable prices, but after subdividing it and putting in channelling and roads, they are allowed to charge enormous prices that return them enormous profits. No consideration or protection is given to people who are trying to get a block of land.

The Government have a responsibility to the public in this matter and should take action to see that enormous prices are not charged. Even the building societies that are operating today and are free from land agents and investment companies as directors are complaining about this hurdle, which has to be overcome. Nobody can tell me that a block of ground in the new suburbs around Brisbane is worth the high prices being charged by these people. Some Government men will probably say the Government are getting land for much less. But do not forget that the land sharks know the Government enjoy certain protection. That does not apply to the low-wage earners; for them there is no protection.

On the subject of home-ownership, I should like to refer to the Queensland Housing Commission Broadwater Road Estate, which starts at the Pacific Highway and goes back to the Green Belt. Because of its position and the good sites available, this project could be beautified to give it a modern appearance. The people buying the homes are playing their part, but although this project has been going for over three years much is lacking from the Government. To my knowledge, although a shopping centre has been set aside, nothing has been done to provide the shops. If the Government find that they cannot get people to lease the ground and build shops, they should build the shops and lease them as was done at Roma Street railway station.

I should like to refer to the open gullies through the project. The Government should put the necessary stormwater pipes in, and fill the areas in to make parklands and sporting grounds rather than leave the gullies as eyesores and harbourages for rats and other vermin. They are a menace to the health and welfare of the people and their children. Sumps are also causing concern to the people occupying the homes, because on a number of the sites the ground will not absorb the waste water and they have to continually bail the sumps out. This matter should be looked into. It is becoming as great a menace as the "little houses" behind the big houses.

Home-ownership can be encouraged only if the people get what is necessary for modern-day projects. The huge area of ground opposite the shopping centre, owned by the Commission and set aside for a park, should be drained and cleared and made available as a park before it is handed over to the Brisbane City Council. One of the most difficult tasks facing us is to get a bus service for the area. The Government are sympathetic and will issue the necessary license to the bus proprietor but the Council will not allow the bus to operate as it says the roads have not been made strong enough for it. It is to be hoped that, with the help of the Government, we will be able to change the Council's stand. People occupying the homes have to walk anything up to a mile or a mile and a half to the nearest transport to the city, and the distance will increase as houses extend towards the green belt. This is the only project to my knowledge in the metropolitan area where all the houses have been built for home ownership, apart from a small group along Broadwater Road built by the Labour Government for rental.

During the recent election campaign, much criticism was levelled against the Australian Labour Party by Government members on what we had done about housing. Being a Post-War Reconstruction Training carpenter and having worked for the Queensland Housing Commission on two occasions for lengthy periods, and for private employers, and having then become a State organiser of the Building Workers' Industrial Union, I am able to state quite clearly what has been done and what still remains to be done in the future. The problem of finding accommodation and of providing roofs over the heads of people who needed homes was tackled in many ways. The first was by turning army camps into temporary accommodation while at the same time building homes for rental and for home ownership. We made an immediate start on one of the biggest projects ever tackled by a Government in Queensland. Because private contractors were not very interested, it was necessary to do most of the work by day labour. The Labour Government, in addition to employing tradesmen and apprentices took over a large number of post-war trainees and taught them a trade. They built up a day-labour force that the Australian Labour Party as the Government

and the Building Trades Union were proud of because of the way they tackled the task of providing homes for the people.

There has been much criticism of the Queensland Housing Commission on the subject of temporary accommodation. The Labour Government did their best to get rid of as much temporary accommodation as possible but they were a sympathetic Government and it was not always possible to do away with all of it. In the short time I have been a member of this Assembly the subject has been raised more than once. I should like to draw the attention of Government members to the fact that their counterparts in the Federal sphere have seen fit, right up to the present, to use an army camp at Wacol for a migration holding centre. The Commonwealth have shown that often you can make a temporary accommodation camp look much better simply by using a paint pot and a brush.

I thank hon. members for the very good hearing they have given me.

Mr. ADAIR (Cook) (3.49 p.m.): I desire to associate myself with the sentiments of loyalty to the Throne expressed by previous speakers, and to pay a tribute to His Excellency the Governor on the way he is carrying out his duties. I do not think we have ever before had a Governor who travelled so extensively throughout the State.

I also wish to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the motion on their speeches. I am confident that both hon. members will be excellent representatives of their electorates.

The Opposition made a determined effort to see that I was defeated at the recent election, and I am very pleased to again be a member of this Assembly.

Mr. Windsor: Do you mean the A.L.P.?

Mr. ADAIR: Yes. I am very proud to have won the seat for the fourth time, and I believe that I shall be unopposed at the next election.

When I became member for Cook in 1953, it was the Cinderella electorate in Queensland. It is now one of the most important in the State. The responsibility for the progress and development that have taken place lies with previous Labour Governments and the present Government. I thank the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity and the Minister for Education and Migration for the sympathetic treatment they have given my electorate since they have been in office. I pay this tribute because the area can be developed only with the assistance of the Government in office. I hope that those Ministers and other Cabinet Ministers will continue to give their assistance.

In the redistribution of electorates, I was given the extra area of Mareeba. With the opening of the Tinaroo Falls Dam, Mareeba has become one of the most prosperous towns

of its size in Queensland. The irrigation scheme has made development possible, and many people are taking up new blocks of land in the area and many new buildings are being erected in the town. I believe that the sale of tobacco leaf produced in the Mareeba area realised over £3,000,000 last year and that the average price was the best in the State, and probably the best in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Aikens: Has this boom taken place since you became member for the district?

Mr. ADAIR: No, it has not. Slow progress with the reticulation of electricity is holding back development of the area. I ask the Minister to instruct the C.R.E.B. to speed up the installation of electricity in the Mareeba-Dimbulah area, and other adjacent areas, so that the farmers can use electric pumps to pump water from the irrigation channels.

S.P. betting is another matter of importance to the people of the North, the West, and the North-West of Queensland. The hon. member for Townsville South is not concerned about this matter because the people in Townsville can get all the betting they want. The residents of that area have no trouble to get S.P. betting.

Mr. Aikens: Where did you get that idea from?

Mr. ADAIR: They have trotting and racing every Saturday.

Mr. Aikens: Why didn't you say that, instead of talking about S.P. betting?

Mr. ADAIR: In my electorate—the most northern electorate of the State—it is impossible for the ordinary citizen to make a legal bet on a horse. If the Government legalised off-the-course betting they would be providing an amenity in areas like Cooktown, Mareeba and Mossman, where race meetings, perhaps, are confined to annual two-day meetings. That is the only opportunity those people have to place a legal bet. The two S.P. betting shops in Mareeba were closed down recently. S.P. betting in the area has been completely abolished.

Mr. Aikens: Were they closed down for S.P. betting, or for running a dice game?

Mr. ADAIR: For S.P. betting. I have been all through the West and all over the North. I do not care where one goes, with the exception of Mareeba, at every town he can place an S.P. bet. With the exception of Mareeba, all over Queensland a person can either go into a shop or make a phone call to place a bet.

Mr. Aikens: Don't you think they should have that?

Mr. ADAIR: Of course I do.

Mr. Aikens: I agree with you.

Mr. ADAIR: I should say that Mareeba is the only town in Queensland where a person

cannot make an S.P. bet. I think that hon. members from the West will favour legalised S.P. betting. I hope that northern members also will urge for it for the remote areas where race meetings are not held.

Mr. Hewitt: Have you always supported that policy?

Mr. ADAIR: Yes. I urged for it with the previous Government and will continue to do so until we get it. I think the Government will introduce legalised S.P. betting. I think that western members on the Government side and northern members on this side would not be opposed to it. People in the metropolitan area are able to bet legally only because race meetings are conducted every Saturday. A fence around a race track permits them to bet legally, either on local or southern events. The same privilege should be available to those living in the remote parts of the State.

Mareeba is different from other towns in Queensland in another way. At the present time the bowling clubs and golf clubs are closed down completely at the week-end. There is no chance of getting a drink in them at the week-end. The hon. member for Tablelands made the statement that it never happened in his time. It looks as though this has been done by the Government now that I represent the area. It would be hard to believe that these measures have been taken immediately after the elections simply because a Country Party member does not represent the electorate. I definitely make the statement that nowhere in this State do bowling clubs and golf clubs not serve liquor at the week-end. Mareeba would be the only place in the State that has been victimised.

Mr. Aikens: Why has it been victimised? Can you tell us that?

Mr. ADAIR: I cannot tell you that.

Mr. Burrows: You won't get a bet in Gladstone.

Mr. ADAIR: I will bet you I will get a bet in Gladstone, and there is no way in the world that this Government or any other Government will stop S.P. betting. I do not care what town you happen to be in, if you know a bookmaker you can get a bet on the phone. Hon. members know that. If that is what this Government believe in—that phone betting is all right—it simply means that only those people who know a bookmaker can place a bet on the phone. The worker has no opportunity of getting his 5/- or 10/- on a horse. In the first place, the bookmaker will not give him the credit. I have nothing against phone betting. I believe it is only right that a man should have a bet on a horse if he wants it, and, the sooner S.P. betting is legalised in this State, the better.

We have heard much about the importance of the development of cattle-fattening lands in the North. Most of the emphasis has been placed on the land around the Tully and Ingham areas.

Mr. Aikens: And right up as far as Mossman.

Mr. ADAIR: The richest cattle-fattening lands in the State are those lands extending from Mossman through to Cooktown, and, as the representative of that area, I ask the Government to send officers of the Department of Public Lands into that area to investigate it for themselves. In that area are thousands of acres of rich agricultural soil eminently suitable for cattle-fattening.

There is also land in the Tribulation-Bailey's Creek area and right up to Cooktown—and in the McIvor area—where three large rivers flow through rich cattle-grazing land that could be developed into as good cattle-fattening land as there is in the State.

When sugar assignments were made several years ago a Royal Commission was held into the possibility of growing sugar-cane in the Cooktown area, but the Commission decided against opening up that land for sugar-cane growing. Instead, the more thickly-populated areas round Tully and Ingham were developed, as it is again suggested that they should be for cattle-fattening. It would appear that the more isolated areas around Cooktown and Bloomfield will once again be overlooked.

I ask the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation to send officers of his department into the area so that they can see for themselves this vast tract of land that could be profitably used for cattle-fattening.

I am sorry that the Minister in charge of main roads is not in the Chamber. I have frequently spoken of the need for the construction of the missing link between the Daintree River and Bloomfield. This road is vital to the development of the Cooktown area. In itself the Mulligan Highway is very important to the graziers of the Coen and Laura districts, and other areas further north, but the missing link is equally important. It would not only shorten the distance from Cooktown to Cairns but would also open up large tracts of agricultural, timber and mineral country. In addition it would be one of the most attractive scenic drives in Queensland. I ask the Minister to see that the road is constructed as soon as possible.

We have heard a great deal of the bauxite deposit at Weipa, including the fact that it is one of the largest in the world. But the development of the field is no more advanced than it was two years ago. The company employs about 18 men on the field. The Minister has claimed that Comalco has spent the money it undertook to expend under the Agreement, but the rate of development is too slow. There will be unemployment in the North after the crushing season, and men could be employed at Weipa, on the construction of a harbour from which to ship the ore, and the building of 50 to 60 native huts. I do not know why the work is not being done at the present time, but

many workers could be absorbed on the field in such work. I think it is the duty of the Minister to press Comalco to undertake further developmental work.

The vessel "Wewak" has played a very important part in the development of the Cape York Peninsula. Since it commenced running in 1953 it has carried thousands of head of cattle to the meatworks in Cairns. Sea transport has been extended and two vessels are now carrying cattle from another area to Cairns. The Government should continue their subsidy of this work, as these vessels provide the cheapest means of transport. I think the charge is £3 10s. a head for cattle from Marina Plains and other points in the Peninsula to Cairns. Although road trains are operating now on the Laura Road, the cost of transport is far dearer than by the "Wewak." I urge the Government to do what they can to retain the subsidy on the "Wewak" and thus keep this means of transport for the Peninsula graziers. It is vital and essential that they should have it.

At present, the pearlers on Thursday Island are reaping rich harvests from the pearling beds at Darnley. Sabinino and other divers, including Okinawans, have brought in considerable tonnages of shell, and the prospects for this season being a record are very bright. The price of shell is just under £1,000 a ton. I saw a boat arrive at Thursday Island recently, after five neap tides, and it brought in 16 tons of pearlshell. That is very good, because Thursday Island is dependent on the pearling industry. I can see a bright future for the pearlers on Thursday Island, because contracts have been entered into with the pearl-buyers at a price that will be maintained for the next two to three years.

I should like the Minister for Health and Home Affairs to look into a matter that is very important to Torres Strait Islanders, who are good Australian citizens. Many of them fought for this country during the last war, and the previous one. They have been very loyal citizens of this State. Under the Torres Strait Islanders Act there is no chance of a Torres Strait Islander ever becoming exempt from its provisions. I have had several aboriginals exempted, but, the way the Act is framed at present, it is impossible for a Torres Strait Islander to be exempted. There is a vast difference between a Torres Strait Islander and an aboriginal. A Torres Strait Islander is far superior to an aboriginal. Many of them have Polynesian and Malayan blood in them and they are a very fine people. I will be discussing this matter with the Minister, and I will be asking him to try to have the Act altered so that Torres Strait Islanders may be exempted from the provisions of the Act. Throughout Queensland you can see them working on the railways. I can produce two of them who are railway gangers and are doing an excellent job.

Another serious problem on Thursday Island is the drinking of methylated spirits. I have broached the subject in the House on several occasions but the Minister has done nothing about it. Last year 2,500 gallons of metho. were used on Thursday Island. The population is only about 1,500. They use some methylated spirits as fuel to light stoves and for lamps, but I have been informed by the police at Thursday Island that 90 per cent. of the arrests for drunkenness are of people who have been drinking methylated spirits.

What is hard to understand is that Islanders on St. Paul's Island, are allowed to drink, while Islanders from other islands are not. I think it would be far better to let the Islanders drink beer in a bar than to have them drinking methylated spirits, which will eventually ruin their health and kill them.

A pearler told me that he had a crew out in the Darnley Waters and he had a drum of methylated spirits. He showed them the rat poisoning he had poured into the methylated spirits and he told them that if they drank it they would die. When he returned he found that they had drunk it and had got very sick, but none of them had died. I assure hon. members that the drinking of methylated spirits on Thursday Island is a very serious problem. It can be stopped—they are allowed restricted drinking in hotels. When the natives from Darnley, Murray Island and other islands come down the coast as far as Mackay in the trochus boats they call in and drink at the hotels on the way down—and there is nothing to stop them; they are allowed to drink—but on Thursday Island they cannot. The Government should investigate the matter. It could easily be rectified by allowing the islanders restricted drinking.

The people of Thursday Island have to pay the highest air fares in Queensland, and probably in Australia. Thursday Island is only 450 to 460 miles from Cairns but the air fare single is £22. The tourist rate for air travel from Cairns to Brisbane, just under 900 miles, is £18. Surely to goodness Thursday Islanders have enough to put up with in the high cost of living there. Bread is 2s. 3d. or 2s. 4d. a loaf and other foodstuffs cost nearly half as much again as down here. Pensioners get the same rate of pension no matter where they live. I asked the Premier to see if he could arrange a reduction in fares for people living at Thursday Island, but he politely told me that it was my problem, not his. I think the Government should try to get Ansett-A.N.A. to reduce the fares to make them comparable with those charged for similar distances in other parts of Queensland.

The shortage of houses in Cairns, Mareeba, Mossman and other towns in the Cook electorate is much more acute than it is in other parts of Queensland. I know that members representing metropolitan electorates claim

that there is a shortage of houses in Brisbane, but I think the residents of Brisbane are much more fortunate than the people of the North. Every three or four years a city as large as Cairns is built in the city of Brisbane, and new houses are being built all the time; but if we want decentralisation, Housing Commission homes must be built in Cairns, Mareeba, and other centres further north. I know people in the Cairns area who are living in what are virtually gunyahs and who find it impossible to rent a Commission home. Many of these people have not the £250 deposit required to buy a Housing Commission home, and the sooner the Government reduce the deposit, the better, because there is no possibility of their being able to save sufficient money to pay the deposit. I think the hon. member for Cairns will bear me out when I say that many people in the Cairns, Freshwater, Redlynch, and Mossman areas are paying £5 or £6 a week rent for flats, and it is almost impossible for them to get the 100 points that will give them the necessary priority for a Housing Commission home. When one makes representations for these people, very little is done about it because the homes are not there. I am not blaming the Clerks of Petty Sessions in the areas, but I believe that many more homes should be built in the Cook electorate.

Recently we had an influx of Federal members, who raced across the length and breadth of the State saying what they were going to do about the mining industry. Their remarks were given much publicity, but this sort of thing has gone on for as long as I can remember. They went to Herberton and through the mineral fields at Irvinebank and interviewed people. They said that when they got back to Canberra they would bring this and that up, and that they would stimulate development of the mining industry. But I take it all with a grain of salt. Nothing will be done about it and the mining industry will carry on as it has always carried on. It is a pity that these things happen. The 90-Mile mine is a very rich copper show. I know a lot about it because I was there when it was first opened. Thousands of tons of rich oxide of copper are being mined. Once you get past the oxide you get down to the sulphides and thousands of tons of sulphides will be mined. We export this copper ore to Japan. There is enough gold in the ore to pay the freight for the 90 miles to Einasleigh and then from Einasleigh to Mt. Isa. It seems wrong that we can produce such rich copper ore yet have to export it to Japan.

I suppose 94 or 95 per cent. of the tin produced in Australia is produced in the Far North. Tin produced at Irvinebank and recovered by the dredges operating in the Mt. Garnet area is consigned by rail to Cairns, and then to New South Wales for smelting. John Moffatt, who operated the mine in the Irvinebank district 60 years ago, smelted all the tin produced. Today, 60 years

later, we have not progressed; there is not a smelter operating in the North even though we mine over 94 per cent. of the tin produced in Australia. Indeed, we have to import tin from other countries. Yet Federal Members race about the country telling us what they are going to do when they get back to Canberra. It will be like the assistance they are going to give towards the development of the cattle-fattening areas—that will be all we hear about it. In the next election campaign when they are seeking votes they will be up here again telling us what they are going to do.

(Time expired.)

Mr. BROMLEY (Norman) (4.29 p.m.): May I preface my remarks by commenting and noting with dis favour the few Government members in attendance?

I have sworn my allegiance to the Crown on many previous occasions. I desire now to associate myself with the expressions of loyalty by hon. members to our Sovereign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I take the opportunity also on behalf of the electors of Norman to pay tribute to her representative in Queensland, our Governor, His Excellency Colonel Sir Henry Abel Smith, and congratulate those responsible for his appointment. By his inexhaustible energy and genuine interest in Queenslanders and the affairs of Queensland generally, he has endeared himself to us all. I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation to the Speakership, and pay my respects to the mover and the seconder of the motion, especially on their remarks concerning their own electorates.

At this stage, I should like to place on record my personal appreciation, and that of my colleagues of the Australian Labour Party and the electors of the former electorate of Buranda, for the sterling and sincere representation given them by Mr. Dick Brown over the great number of years he has been associated with public life.

Opposition Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. BROMLEY: May I also pay tribute to the hon. member for Hawthorne, Mr. Bill Baxter, for his capable representation of the people who formed a part of the old Norman electorate which has been incorporated in the new electorate under the redistribution. I thank the electors of Norman for their faith in me and I promise that I will endeavour to give them the service to which they are justly entitled.

All hon. members in this House, except the most bigoted, must agree that the people of Queensland, in the past three years, have not had the effective Government that they had a right to expect. Have we had any effective legislation enacted in the last three years to create stability? The Country-Liberal Government in their endeavour to protect and bolster the sectional interests that they represent have been, and are, without any shadow

of doubt, undoing all the good work done by previous Labour Governments and destroying the standard of living that was so high under successive Labour administrations.

Today it is the cost of living that is so high. A formidable attack has been launched on the standard of living of Australian workers, the main attack being directed against the justifiable amount of wage to which the worker is entitled. Those responsible see the need to hide their real intentions so they denounce recent basic wage increases and launch a welter of propaganda and blame wage increases for price increases and possible currency inflation. This propaganda, of course, is spearheaded by the Menzies Government and supported by this Government, the anti-union Press, certain so-called economic experts and every spokesman for the various organisations of employers. Their aim is to raise the level of profits at the expense of the workers.

This attack takes two main forms: continual and often steep rises in prices, and increasing vigorous opposition to just wages claims by the unions for the people they represent. Some anti-union, anti-worker propagandists say that recent increases have put excessive purchasing power into the hands of the workers. However, the purchasing power of current wages is less than in previous years. No doubt there is excessive purchasing power in the hands of some sections of the community but they are the wealthy shareholders of the big companies, highly-paid company directors and other high officials, as well as other members of the wealthy class.

Some statistical evidence denying the theory that the workers possess excessive purchasing power is provided by a leading bank. In January, 1960, the A.N.Z. Bank recorded that the real value of retail sales per head of population was declining. The bank's retail sales index showed—

“The volume of sales per head of population has been declining and in June, 1959, was 5.6 per cent. lower than in June, 1955.” This means that workers are spending more but are buying comparatively less. In fact, figures show that £414 million is owing on hire-purchase agreements, and that is on future capacity to pay.

The “Financial Review” on 28 January, 1960, said—

“Business pricing policies tend to pass on cost increases but not productivity gains.”

Dr. H. C. Coombs, Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia, recently commented on this fact. He said—

“It is clear that for a wide range of goods throughout the economy, prices are determined by management rather than by market prices. This has developed with

the emergence of strong monopolistic elements in our economy characterised among other things by 'gentlemen's agreements' on price policies and successful take-over bids."

In addition, there appears to be a general reluctance to pass on to consumers the advantage of lower costs achieved through higher productivity, despite the fact that, in manufacturing industries especially, there have been very significant reductions in unit costs of production. I do not find it difficult to conclude that there is considerable scope for price reduction in many fields of production and distribution."

This Government have destroyed the summit of the happiness of the people, security.

There can be no negative reply to this accusation. Even the Tory Press, the mouth-piece of this anti-worker Government, has been, and is, full of criticism of their ineffectual policy. I can visualise hon. members saying, "Heaven forbid that our Press should print these facts. What shall we do?" That is the point. What will they do? What have they done, and what are they going to do? Have they the knowledge to remedy the situation? I say they have not, and in support of that view I have only to refer hon. members to a few things that have affected the security of the people. After all, in regard to security, what is the main desire of the people? Is it not employment? Is it not the inherent right of all people to expect and demand full employment? All they have received for three years are promises. The Country-Liberal Government have obviously modelled their election policies, and Government policy, on the lines of their counter part in the Federal sphere—empty promises. They will not be successful forever if they adopt that policy in the next three years. Indeed, that will be demonstrated to the Government next year in the Federal elections, and of course in three years' time in Queensland.

I turn now to homes built for sale and rental, and I ask the Government whether I am right in saying that in 1957 they said, "We will provide homes for the people." The lag in homes is increasing. Hon. members have informed me, and I have personally found out to my everlasting sorrow, that it is virtually impossible for families today to obtain rental homes. We know how young people who wish to get married are exploited in the purchase of land by real estate dealers with overseas backgrounds. The Government are doing nothing to protect the people in this regard, nor are they discouraging the sale of land to Asians and people from foreign countries who have never seen the land they are buying but who intend to hold it until they can resell it at a tremendous profit.

The sale of land, the birthright of Australians, to foreign nationals is causing alarm to various organisations including the Returned Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia. I have with

me a recent copy of "Queensland Digger," the official organ of that organisation. The following passage appears in it—

"The claim made by a Chairman of one company—the Savoy Corporation that selling residential sites in Australia to overseas speculators was no different to selling Australian steel overseas was plainly ridiculous. Steel is a manufactured product, the export of which benefits the whole country, whilst real estate is a permanent asset, a part of our soil and our heritage. No nationals in other countries should be allowed to exploit our land and our people. No country should permit any investment within that country unless it conferred a benefit on the whole of the people.

Land must be made available, of course, for commercial development and industrial enterprise in Australia; but this reacts to Australia's benefits, whilst the selling of slices of Australia for exploitation purposes by non-Australians, benefited only the speculator, and the company which sees nothing wrong with the practice."

I should like the Government to take notice of this statement—

"The question of the transfer of land titles in such instances should be examined. If no provision exists in either State or Commonwealth law to prevent such transfers to overseas speculators, it needs urgent consideration by the Commonwealth and the State Governments concerned."

The post-war period has seen tremendous development in the growth of monopolies in Australia and of all fields of capitalist enterprise. In mentioning this, I intend to deal briefly with monopoly trends in real estate. Most of this is in the open for the people to see, such as the almost daily occurrence of take-overs as reported in the daily Press. Monopoly trends in real estate have not been as widely publicised, but developments here have followed the same pattern as in industry generally. The lack of home-building in the depression years, and the years of war, left a tremendous shortage of homes. This demand, together with that for industrial and commercial buildings, based on the expansion of Australian capitalism, has continued, with variations, since the war ended in 1945. Whilst it is true that homes were not built as quickly as people needed them—and they did need them very badly, even as they do today, and there is still a housing lag, particularly in rental homes, and this Government are not endeavouring to remedy the situation—there has been an unprecedented volume of building of all kinds in Australia since the war. Because of this, the land boom commenced and developed, and in this development, rising to great heights, monopoly trends have been, and are becoming, very pronounced. This, of course, has an important bearing on the final cost of homes. Brisbane suburban land in the last few years has jumped from £200 to £300 a block

to £750 to £1,000, and even up to £1,250. That is for the average block only. Some building sites are much dearer. Buying on terms wellnigh doubles those figures. We all know the high cost of interest, of course. The price of land today is determined arbitrarily by the subdividers, who can control the market and set their own price and allow only sufficient blocks on the market at any one time to ensure that the price stays put.

If land bought for subdivision and development was fully rated immediately it would tend to reduce the obvious exploitation of the public, on resale, as the land sharks would immediately place the land on sale to the public. They would place all the home sites on the market if it was fully rated. In my opinion, the system of selling Crown, municipal, or other property, for home sites by public auction should be abolished. I say that advisedly, because, as we all know, money tells at these auctions. Young working-class couples are not in the race, competing against investors and speculators when Government-owned land realises much more than the upset price. The selling-price of all publicly-owned land should be determined by the Land Court and applications should be called by public notice from genuine home-seekers for the purchase of the land at the declared price. In the event of more than one applicant, of course, a proper ballot should determine the successful one.

Mr. Aikens: Like they do with grazing land.

Mr. BROMLEY: I am dealing with land in the hands of real estate companies.

There are many indications of Government profiteering that we know of today, as well as exploitation by land sharks. I shall quote only one instance. Eleven freehold blocks at Brighton were sold at auction in March by the Government at an aggregate selling price of £7,345, compared with the aggregate upset price of £4,235. That is a flagrant case of profiteering, as the upset price must have included a substantial profit. Furthermore, reasonable terms should be allowed by the Crown on the sale of public land. In some cases where monopoly interests are evident in private sales, interest is charged at a flat rate for the period of repayment on the balance outstanding after the deposit is paid, that is, a flat rate on the full amount after the deposit is paid. This is exorbitant, and legislation should be enacted to reduce those high rates.

To give hon. members some indication of the excessive annual turnover of some of these monopolists in real estate, let me point out that the L. J. Hooker-Rex group claims a record turnover of £26,000,000 from real estate in 1958-1959 and, for the first eight months of this year, 1959-1960, nearly £27,000,000. Of course, that firm has interests as well in hotels, Festival Records Pty. Ltd., pastoral companies and finance companies.

1960—F

It may be news to some hon. members, though I doubt it, that recently Alfred Grant Pty. Ltd. made a deal with the Queensland Government to build 6½ miles of coastal road and canals from Caloundra to Mooloolaba in exchange for approximately 4,000 acres of first-class surf beach land, on the sale of which the Crown will receive only 10 per cent. of the proceeds, and, to quote the Alfred Grant group's own words, this will subdivide into approximately 14,000, possibly 16,000, blocks at an average of £600 a block—and I am being conservative here—which will be a total of £8,400,000. That is if they get only 14,000 blocks out of it. According to the Press report attributed to the firm, the cost of building the road and canals will be £4,500,000. Allowing for the cost of subdivision and the Government's take, which is only 10 per cent., the profit will still run into millions. It is not a bad handout from a State Government.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen: What do you suggest should have been done? Should we have let the land lie undeveloped?

Mr. BROMLEY: The land would have been developed. But why should the public be exploited? I say the Government should have developed the land instead of having it developed by exploitation and profiteering of that type, which are affecting people who want to buy land at a reasonable price.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen: Your Government should have developed it.

Mr. Mann: Don't worry about him.

Mr. Lloyd: He has shares in it.

Mr. BROMLEY: I do not mind if he has shares in it as long as he makes an intelligent interjection. Anyway, that is not a bad profit and not a bad type of handout from the State Government to the sections they represent.

Queensland's coastal areas contain some of our loveliest trees from both the decorative and scenic points of view. I think this is most important and that not enough consideration has been given to it, but the developers could not care less. We have all seen the way they develop the land. They raze everything to the ground, and the land when sold is very bare indeed. No wonder we get so much beach erosion! There is no natural vegetation left to stop the inroads of the sea.

All up and down the glamour coast of Queensland land speculation is rife. There is no argument about that. I am repeating it because not only is it rife but also blocks change hands a dozen times without a house being built on them. At the same time, legitimate sea-side homeseekers pay inflated prices for land because of the operations of these estate agents, finance companies, hire-purchase companies, banks, and so on, all of which must have their share of the profits out of the land before it passes to the public.

Mr. Ewan: Do you think they will sell all those blocks?

Mr. BROMLEY: They will sell them eventually, I think. They will sell them on a deposit, as the hon. member for Kedron said, and high interest rates will be in force and the public will be further exploited.

My industrial interests have brought me in touch with inquiries from persons concerned with the problems attributed to the change-over to automation in industry and the consequent effect on the health of employees directly associated with these problems. This is a challenge to the present State Government and one that we of the Australian Labour Party have been actively and keenly interested in. We realise that the health of the individual, particularly in relation to security, which is a big thing today, is of paramount importance. Difficulties that are constantly arising will not iron themselves out, and I believe that all parties should give this matter careful consideration. Unlike this coalition Government who do nothing but hope for the best, I say that these problems should be tackled early and earnestly. Occupational health should aim at these things: the promotion and maintenance of the highest degree of physical, mental and social well-being of workers in all occupations (we might as well include ourselves); the prevention among workers of ill-health caused by their working conditions; the protection of workers in their employment from risks resulting from factors adverse to health; the placing and maintenance of the worker in an occupational environment adapted to his physiological and psychological equipment—in other words, the adaptation of work to men and of each man to his job. Governments cannot know what is happening in the areas of employment without a full examination of the conditions of employment and the health of those workers employed in sections of industry, commerce, and the public services. I suggest that this Government set up a committee on which the unions are represented to collect data with a view to incorporating humane provisions in the Workers' Compensation Act. The present provisions of the Act appear to have been developed mainly to meet the direct hazards of hard physical labour on the roads and in mines, factories, etc. The partly-hidden, delayed, and unexplored hazards of the laboratory, office, classroom, and so on, involving, as they do, problems not so much of physical fatigue but nervous or mental fatigue, may present much greater difficulties in examination and classification and in the development of working codes of health, than they would in a factory. There is no measure, and little understanding, of nervous fatigue and its consequences. The rising incidence of heart ailments, which claimed 30,084 lives last year, cancer, which claimed the lives of 13,243, and other diseases among office and laboratory workers, may show that the hazards are greater in those occupations

and now call for more urgent attention and remedy. From the budding of trade unionism to the flowering of that great movement, work has become less laborious and hours of work have been shortened, but fatigue appears to have increased. Looking around me at hon. members, fatigue appears to be very serious here this afternoon.

Mr. Windsor: Look over on that side.

Mr. BROMLEY: No, I am looking over there.

The reduction of muscular effort has reduced muscular fatigue to a secondary level, but mechanised and automated work is performed with acts requiring constant attention, precision, dexterity and a high speed of execution. The fatigue has become a nervous fatigue for which there is no measurement. That, I think, is why Australians, according to official statistics, are becoming a nation of pill-swallowers. We all know that hon. members opposite are tenacious pie-eaters, but at the moment it appears that the people of Australia are becoming a nation of pill-swallowers. I shall give some figures to bolster up that argument. In the last seven years prescriptions dispensed by chemists have increased by over 350 per cent. Five million pounds in public money was paid to about 1,200 doctors in Queensland alone last year. This figure was made up as follows:—

£1,500,000 paid out of Medical Benefits Funds.

£1,100,000 paid by the Commonwealth Government.

£1,000,000 paid by subscriber patients.

£1,000,000 paid by the Commonwealth Government on behalf of pensioners.

£160,000 paid by the Repatriation Department.

£200,000 paid by the State Government Insurance Office in compensation claims.

In its note to the World Health Organisation on the Mental Health Problems of Automation, the International Labour Office pointed out—

“Among the effects of automation on employment, which are most likely to prove harmful to the Workers' Mental Health, those most usually mentioned are—monotony of work, change from day work to shift work; loss by the workers of any direct relationship with the purpose of his work, increase in nervous tension and perceptual fatigue—which are often harder to bear than physical fatigue; changes in the job structure and breaking up of traditional working groups, creation of new jobs to which unsuitable workers may be assigned; disappearance of certain types of work or even of certain occupations, which may bear particularly hard on older workers who in some cases

cannot be regraded; the quite common fear employees have—however unjustified so far in actual practice—of sudden large-scale redundancy. This particular consequence can be eliminated, however, by proper application of well-tryed human relations practices, for example, advance notice to all those affected, of impending changes in production methods or job assignments, consultation with the staff on planned changes and transfers, etc. Expansion of thought and development of inquiries into these problems will help to stabilise for all the feeling of security for the future."

So we move on from thoughts about employees' security in industry to the safety of people, particularly as it is affected by road accidents. Motor accidents last year killed 2,419 people throughout Australia, and 2,874 people were killed in other accidents. I realise that this great problem has been exercising the minds of a large section of the community for some considerable time, but, it appears, to little avail. The people apparently must be protected from themselves. There is an old saying that I remember quite well—"You have to be cruel to be kind." More stringent methods will have to be enforced; more safety precautions will have to be set up; better pedestrian crossings must be established, and money must be found to install more traffic lights outside the city proper. I refer particularly to the suburbs. I have made several representations to the authorities about safety precautions, but so far have not received one favourable answer or any co-operation in my endeavour to curtail the number of road accidents by the installation of various safety precautions.

It is a fact—and the parties concerned do not seem to realise it—that the majority of road fatalities occur outside the city area. All they are concerned with are those big gibbets in the city, whereas figures and facts prove that the accidents happen particularly in the outer suburbs which they neglect.

There were 385 road deaths in Queensland last year, an increase of 15 per cent. on the preceding 12 months; 102 were in Brisbane and 283 in the outside or country areas. Those figures prove my contention that more accidents occur outside the city area than in it.

Half of Brisbane's road fatalities were those of pedestrians, and over a period of four years approximately 35,000 lives were affected in Queensland. Yet, when I forwarded a letter to the Minister for Labour and Industry, who has charge of this department, requesting the installation of traffic lights at a point on Ipswich Road as a result of a pedestrian being knocked down by a motor car and a motor cycle whilst on the pedestrian crossing, he attempted to make cheap political propaganda in his reply. He

apparently does not care anything about the injuries to the person concerned. I shall quote the second paragraph of his letter—

"Due to the obvious disinterestedness and apathetic attitude by the previous Government to traffic hazards generally the Traffic Engineer's office, since its establishment, is receiving numerous requests concerning traffic matters which require attention."

You might note, and I stress the words, "Due to the obvious disinterestedness and apathetic attitude by the previous Government." On May 28 last we had an election and I think the choice of phrasing of that letter really points to the disinterestedness and apathetic attitude of the present Government. I think all hon. members will agree that after an election, when we refer to the previous Government, we refer to the Government that occupied the Treasury benches prior to the last election.

Mr. Davies: Quite right.

Mr. Hart: No.

Mr. BROMLEY: The hon. member must agree with me that the choice of phrasing is very apt. It might not mean much to the Government but it certainly means a lot to people who are injured on the roads. Until this Government recognise that fact, of course, accidents will continue to happen in mounting numbers.

This is the most important subject that I have to bring forward. If they do not take notice of anything else I say, they must take notice of this. I appeal to the Government to make more vehicles available to suburban police and to equip them with two-way radio. The sight of a police vehicle or a police uniform is often a useful deterrent to thoughtless, careless drivers and, of course, drunken drivers, who, there is no doubt, are potential criminals and killers. Increasing concern is being expressed by intelligent people on this side of the House and throughout the world—and not before time—about traffic accidents and deaths, and their relation to alcohol.

I do not want to conclude without mentioning some matters that affect the electorate of Norman. I appeal to the Government to take action to overcome the smog problem not only in the Woolloongabba area, but also in the area through to Juliette Street, Ipswich Road, and in the Logan Road area, where factories are situated, and to give priority to this work.

Mr. Ramsden: You should have been here three years ago to hear me speak on that subject.

Mr. BROMLEY: I read about it in "Hansard."

I have received repeated complaints about the smog problem, the latest being one that reached me today from business people in the area, and I put it on record. Woolloongabba is one of the busiest commercial centres

in Brisbane, and one of the main approaches to Brisbane from the South. I am sorry the Minister for Labour and Industry is not present, but I hope he will read my speech in "Hansard." The State is crying out for tourists. As first impressions are lasting, I venture to suggest that the sight of trains crossing the main street, preceded by an official with a red flag and a bell, would be a real eye-opener to southerners.

Mr. Windsor: You started it.

Mr. BROMLEY: And I will finish it. It is a real eye-opener, and the southerners must get their eyes full of smog and soot. If they were in the gallery listening to proceedings, they would probably get their ears filled by the hon. member for Windsor with something else.

Woolloongabba at the moment is not a very good advertisement for the Sunshine State. I hope something will be done to improve the area. I trust that the Government will co-operate with the Brisbane City Council and budget for developmental work in the Woolloongabba area to make the entrance to our city more attractive to visitors.

Finally, in view of the Government's efforts to eliminate traffic bottle-necks in various parts of the city, I suggest that something be done to prevent the banking-up of motor vehicles in Cavendish Road and Stanley Street, East, Coorparoo, in peak hours during the morning and afternoon, caused through trains going over the level crossings near Coorparoo railway station and in Stanley Street. A simple and effective remedy would be the widening of Stanley Street near Cavendish Road and the building of an overhead crossing or crossings at these points.

Mr. Baxter: Two angles.

Mr. BROMLEY: Two angles. I agree with the hon. member for Hawthorne. The solution would be comparatively inexpensive and would meet with the complete approval of the travelling public. The elimination of these bottle-necks should be given serious and urgent consideration.

Mr. SHERRINGTON (Salisbury) (5.9 p.m.): As a new member, I have gained impressions of the workings of Parliament. I am amazed and astounded at the apparent apathy of Government members in pledging their loyalty to our Sovereign. I am the fourth Australian Labour Party member to speak to the motion, and we have heard from a Q.L.P. member, an Independent, and a Government member. I hope this apparent apathy among Government members in pledging their loyalty is not indicative of their attitude to the problems of the people of Queensland. I think all hon. members will agree that there are many problems to be faced. I shall be very disappointed if Government members do not show a more positive approach to them than they have shown to their duty to speak to the motion.

Mr. Ewan: Who told you to say that?

Mr. SHERRINGTON: Nobody told me to say it.

I wish to be associated with the many expressions of loyalty to Her Majesty made by previous speakers. I pay tribute also to the wise understanding of Her Majesty in her appointment of His Excellency Sir Henry Abel Smith as Governor of this State. I feel sure that the greatest tribute that can be paid to him is that he has come to be regarded as a native-born son. During his term of office I feel sure that his name will become firmly imprinted in the history of our State.

I extend to you, Mr. Speaker, my congratulations on your elevation to your exalted office. Likewise, I extend congratulations to those who have been appointed Ministers of the Crown.

To the electors of Salisbury, I record my sincere appreciation of their confidence and trust in electing me as their first representative.

Opposition Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I fully appreciate the help given personally by many friends who assisted me in securing my election to this Assembly. I am deeply conscious of the responsibilities of the office, and the need of the people of worthy representation. I shall at all times endeavour to see that this trust is not misplaced.

Legislation that is placed before the House must be framed to give the maximum benefit to the State. It is the duty of Parliament to be fully alive to the rapidly-changing circumstances that develop in modern civilisation. I am sure that during the life of this Parliament our State will feel, to a great extent, the impact of the advent of automation as we move towards the culmination of a half-century of thought and invention in the development of the machine age. The impact of automation cannot be dismissed lightly, because it must have a far-reaching and varied effect on the economic structure of every section of industry and, indeed, on every facet of the social security of the people of this State. When we realise the benefits that will accrue materially through the implementation of automation, we cannot fail to realise the complications that can arise unless there is careful planning to stabilise our economy so that man may not become subservient to the machines he has created.

Automation, I feel, will bring such problems that it will be the duty of every person, from Government through administration, management and trade unions, and finally the skilled artisans and workers, to ensure by concerted effort that the threat of the machine to man's security will be removed, and that automation will be to his benefit and not to his detriment. The problems that will arise

will call for a reorganisation of our education system, as there will be a greater need for students to have recourse to extended and higher educational training.

Stress must be placed on vocational guidance for the students at an early age to channel their ability into its proper level and to guard against unnecessary years being spent in training not suited to the scholars' mental capacity. The need will arise for the establishment of many technological training centres throughout the State, and greater encouragement and assistance must be given to the student to avail himself of these opportunities and to see that the required number of technically qualified persons are available from our universities to take their places in the development of the State.

The situation will call for the appointment by the Government—and I wish to stress this opinion—of industrial research officers to explore constantly the impact of every new development that takes place. Their recommendations would be invaluable to the Government in framing legislation to protect the economic security of every section of the community. I do not think any one person could possibly have the complete answer to such a far-reaching problem as this, but, in offering these submissions, I desire to contribute in some small way to awakening in members of this Parliament and the people of Queensland a realisation of the need to solve these very real problems that will confront us in the immediate future.

One problem that will be accentuated by the increase in automation is that of the absorption of large numbers of technically equipped juveniles seeking employment at the completion of their training. From the increasing numbers of students attending colleges it can readily be realised that, in the years immediately ahead, the number seeking employment will grow to a very alarming proportion. At a conservative estimate of their numbers, within a short space of time there will be thrown on the labour market yearly some 26,000 juveniles ready to be absorbed into employment, which gives rise to the thought that some system of staggered commencing and leaving times at schools will have to be adopted. I feel sure that a progressive introduction to industry of such a large number seeking employment would be much preferable to the sudden taxing of the capacity of industry to absorb the work force that will be available for employment on the completion of the students' training.

One of the greatest disappointments facing the youth of today is that of having completed their study and then finding it difficult to enter into employment because of the vast number seeking positions at one particular time of the year. That is why I think we should seriously consider staggering the commencing and leaving times of the children to avoid throwing tremendous numbers suddenly on the labour market.

It can be seen that this problem is of an immediate nature. We cannot afford to be complacent and adopt the attitude that industry will take care of the placing of youths in employment in its own good time. That is the philosophy that has been adopted by members of the present Government, and that is why young people are waiting up to six months after the completion of their high-school education before obtaining a position in industry. The assimilation of these people into industry must be accomplished with timing and precision, so that the disappointment of long periods of unemployment following their school years will be overcome and the incentive of readily obtaining a position in industry will be provided for the scholar who desires it.

It would be the prerogative of industrial research officers to investigate matters such as these and to find ways and means of assimilating these people into industry. In making that statement, I also suggest to the great industrial trade-union movement of Queensland that it could well appoint industrial research officers to follow the trend that develops so quickly upon the advent of automation.

(Leave to continue speech tomorrow granted.)

The House adjourned at 5.24 p.m.