

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 1960

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

TUESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER, 1960

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

QUESTIONS

STRENGTH OF STATE CABINET

Mr. DUGGAN (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) asked the Premier—

“In view of (a) speculation current at Parliament House for some time, now substantiated by a report in the morning press, that a move is being made to add two members to State Cabinet and (b) the general feeling among electors that collectively Cabinet is not an overworked body, is he prepared to give the House an assurance that, since such increases could not be justified on either physical, administrative, or financial grounds, this move for two additional State Ministers will not have the support of the Government?”

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

“In view of his long Parliamentary experience, including several years as a Cabinet Minister and Deputy Premier, I am surprised that the Leader of the Opposition is apparently unaware of two important things, namely:—(1) That no increase in the number of Cabinet Ministers can be made without an Amendment to the ‘Officials in Parliament’ Acts; and (2) That, based on long and well-established custom, it is not the practice to disclose the Government’s intentions in regard to projected legislation in reply to Questions in Parliament. Furthermore, I cannot allow the statement of the Leader of the Opposition—that Cabinet is not an overworked body—to go unchallenged. Doubtless the Leader of the Opposition is basing his judgment on conditions obtaining in the Cabinets in which he served, but in all truthfulness, I can say that the Members of Cabinet in the previous and present Parliaments, were and are a hard working group of men. Ignoring all personal considerations, they have applied themselves assiduously to the task of administering the Departments under their control and attending to their ordinary Parliamentary duties with great benefit to the State and credit to themselves. Man for man, they have displayed a far greater measure of energy, enthusiasm and efficiency than their predecessors in a long line of successive Labour Governments, and they have performed their duties in a considerate, impartial and courteous manner, contrasting vividly with the arrogant and dictatorial attitude of some of those who preceded them. The post of Cabinet Minister is no sinecure. It demands the whole time and attention of the holder, who must be prepared to surrender the greater part of his personal convenience and comfort to

adequately serve the community. When a Minister himself, the Leader of the Opposition was often heard to complain of the vast amount of work he had to do—which makes his suggestion all the more amazing and in fact untrue.”

MAGPIE MENACE, RAINWORTH STATE SCHOOL

Mr. WINDSOR (Ithaca) asked the Minister for Education and Migration—

“Will he please investigate the magpie menace at the Rainworth State School as most of the children there are terrified by these birds?”

Hon. J. C. A. PIZZEY (Isis) replied—

“The matter has been investigated. The Head Teacher has already taken appropriate action to overcome the nuisance.”

LICENCE FEE, CAST-NETS

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

“(1) Is it a fact that the annual licence fee for cast-nets, used for the purpose of catching fishing bait, was increased from £1 to £2 10s. as from May last?”

“(2) If so, could the licence fee be reduced to the original £1 for pensioners and others in indigent circumstances, who use cast-nets only to catch bait for their own personal fishing?”

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

“(1) Prior to April 1, 1960, there was only one type of fisherman’s licence. The annual licence fee was One Pound and the licensee was entitled to use any prescribed net. From April 1, 1960, three types of licences came into operation—(a) A master fisherman’s licence with an annual fee of Five Pounds; (b) An employee fisherman’s licence with an annual fee of One Pound; and (c) a net fisherman’s licence (i.e. an amateur fisherman’s licence) with an annual fee of Two Pounds. I assume the Honourable Member has in mind the net fisherman’s licence. This licence entitles holder to use a number of prescribed nets, including a cast-net. It is not restricted to a cast-net only.”

“(2) I incline to the view that a cast-net might be made a separate category either at a reduced fee or even exempted if it is confined to the purpose of catching bait. I have asked my officers to examine this proposal.”

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE, GOVERNMENT DOCKYARDS

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

“(1) Is it a fact that he has refused to meet a deputation from the Ship Painters and Dockers for the purpose of settling the present dispute over permanent and casual employment at Government dockyards?”

"(2) As members of the Union are unable to receive unemployment benefit because of information given to the Department of Social Services by the Department of Harbours and Marine that the men are on strike, will he outline for the information of the House, the extent of casual employment that has been engaged at both the Cairncross and South Brisbane Docks since May 30 of this year?"

"(3) As valuable public property is lying idle because employers have refused to accept the Award provisions for casual work and the Union's attitude towards accepting the reduced working conditions of permanent work, will he reconsider his refusal to meet the Union particularly in view of the recent settlement of a similar dispute with southern employers?"

"(4) Is it not a fact that the acceptance of permanent work under the new Award would mean a reduction in the previous base rate of £16 15s. to £15 11s. weekly together with the abolition of travelling time?"

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

"(1) No request was received until after the men had refused work. The Union has been informed that where I have employees I will be prepared to meet them. At the moment I regret that I have no such employees."

"(2) A new Award providing for permanent employment conditions for full time employees came into force from March 14, 1960. It was, however, subject to appeal and the Commonwealth Court stayed the operation of the Award during the appeal. A decision on the appeal was given on May 27, 1960, and the conditions of the Award were applied by the Department of Harbours and Marine from June 30, 1960. For the period May 30, 1960, to June 29, 1960, casual painters and dockers were employed at South Brisbane Dock at the average rate of 30 per working day and at Cairncross at the average rate of 11 per working day. Since June 30, 1960, painters and dockers were employed at South Brisbane Dock as follows:—

Date	Number employed
July 5, 1960	1
July 14, 1960	2
July 18, 1960	2
July 21, 1960	6
July 27, 1960	4
July 28, 1960	27
July 29, 1960	12
August 2, 1960	1
August 3, 1960	1
August 5, 1960	1
August 15, 1960	1
August 22, 1960	2
August 23, 1960	1
August 30, 1960	1
August 31, 1960	4

No painters or dockers have been employed at Cairncross since June 29, 1960."

"(3) It is futile for the Honourable Member to suggest that the Government have refused to accept the Award provisions for casual work. Let me state quite clearly that we are fully prepared to meet and observe the Award. We are willing to employ all personnel engaged as permanent employees under the terms and conditions of the Award. Equally, when casual employees are required, we are quite willing to engage them as casual workers under the terms and conditions of the Award. In an endeavour to reach a settlement in the matter, the Under Treasurer reported the fact of an industrial dispute to the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. Conciliation Commissioner Whitehead visited Brisbane last week and conferred with the parties both separately and jointly. Unfortunately, no settlement could be reached. The Honourable Member refers to a recent settlement of a similar dispute with southern employers. My understanding is that an over Award payment of 15s. per week was and continues to be made in New South Wales to all water-front employees in the metal trade group. If the Union feels that it can justify a claim for improvement of the wages conditions of employees by 15s. per week, I would suggest that the Union should consider making its claim for an Award variation accordingly."

"(4) The question does not do justice to the facts. In the first place, a permanent employee receives the following annual benefits over a casual employee, namely:— Annual Leave, 10 working days; Sick Leave, 5 working days; Public Holidays, 9 working days; Long Service Leave, 5 working days. This totals 29 working days per year, the minimum value of which would be £90 3s. per annum or £1 14s. 8d. per week. In addition to the basic rate of £15 11s. mentioned in the question, there are other loadings. Thus for a man cleaning, painting and scraping a ship in dock, the minimum rate for a permanent employee is £17 7s. 6d. per week. Other loadings go much higher, e.g., when working in bilges the rate would be £20 7s. 6d. per week. It is true that travelling times and fares for employees at Cairncross Dock are cut out. These were paid when Cairncross was remote. There is now a Council bus service to the Dock. I might point out that permanent employees in other industries on the South Bank of the River more remote than Cairncross, receive neither travelling time nor fares. Might I add that I have an inherent dislike for casual work where permanent work can be organised. In my judgment it is poor consolation to any employee to point to a small increase in the apparent weekly wage on a casual basis and sacrifice continuity of work and such benefits as Annual and Sick Leave, Public Holidays and Long Service Leave. Surely it is the total annual wage

that matters and in pressing for casual work the Union is condemning its members to a smaller annual amount in order to be able to point to a higher weekly rate when they are working."

CAIRNS-EDMONTON RAIL MOTOR SERVICE

Mr. ADAIR (Cook) asked the Minister for Transport—

"When will the old, dilapidated rail motors now operating on the Cairns-Edmonton section be replaced by modern diesel rail motors?"

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

"The Department has on order ten twin-car diesel motor trains. Two trains have been delivered, but the delivery of the remainder has been delayed by industrial trouble at the Works of Commonwealth Engineering Company, Rocklea, where the units are being manufactured. Until that trouble ends it is impossible for me to indicate when a new car will be available to go to the Cairns area."

LIFTING OF ELECTRICITY SURCHARGE

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

"In view of the statement made by him at Ipswich on September 15, 1959, that if his Government were returned at the next elections the surcharge on electricity would be lifted, can he inform the House of the date when this surcharge will be abolished?"

Hon. E. EVANS (Mirani) replied—

"The matter referred to by the Honourable Member is under discussion with the State Electricity Commission and the Electric Authority concerned."

STATE PRIMARY SCHOOL, SOUTH MACKAY

Mr. THACKERAY (Rockhampton North), for **Mr. GRAHAM** (Mackay), asked the Minister for Education and Migration—

"(1) Has a report been submitted by the Regional Director of Education at Rockhampton on the advisability of establishing a Primary School in South Mackay?"

"(2) If the answer to the above question is in the negative, will he have a report compiled to ascertain if there is a need for a School in this area?"

Hon. J. C. A. PIZZEY (Isis) replied—

"(1. and 2.) Yes. The Regional Director has reported on the advisability of establishing a Primary School in South Mackay. As a result of that report action is now in train to secure a suitable site in that area."

INMATES OF SENILE ANNEXES

Mr. THACKERAY (Rockhampton North), for **Mr. GRAHAM** (Mackay), asked the Minister for Health and Home Affairs—

"Are the inmates of the senile annexes permitted to leave these institutions without permission? If not, why not?"

Hon. H. W. NOBLE (Yeronga) replied—

"The same rules that apply to patients in General Hospitals apply to patients in senile annexes."

CHANNEL DEPTH, CABBAGE TREE CREEK

Mr. DEAN (Sandgate) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

"Arising from the recent dredging operations at the mouth of Cabbage Tree Creek, Shorncliffe, what period will be allowed by the Department of Harbours and Marine as a fair test to determine how long the channel will maintain its present depth?"

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

"It is proposed to examine the newly-dredged channel at the mouth of Cabbage Tree Creek after it has been tested by experiencing the varied weather conditions of a full year. It would be unwise to proceed further until at least a full year's testing has been possible."

WATER HYDRANTS, SANDGATE STATE SCHOOL

Mr. DEAN (Sandgate) asked the Minister for Education and Migration—

"(1) Since the disastrous fire at the Sandgate State Primary School last year, has the Education Department taken any action to have water hydrants installed at strategic positions within the school grounds?"

"(2) If the Department has not taken action to instal hydrants, will it give urgent consideration to their installation?"

Hon. J. C. A. PIZZEY (Isis) replied—

"(1) No action has been taken to have water hydrants placed in the grounds of the Sandgate State School."

"(2) As, fortunately, the number of State School buildings destroyed by fire is comparatively small and as the cost of installing hydrants on all school sites connected to a town water supply would be prohibitive, it is not intended to consider such an installation at Sandgate."

OVERTIME PAID IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

RETURN TO ORDER

The following paper was laid upon the table:—

Return to an Order made by the House on 25 August last, on the motion of **Mr. Melloy**, showing the amount of overtime paid in each Government department (all funds) in 1959-1960.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid upon the table:—

Financial statements in connection with the Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Fund for the year ended June 30, 1960.

Notices under the Mines Regulation Acts, 1910 to 1958.

Order in Council under the Mining Acts, 1898 to 1955.

Orders in Council under the Mines Regulation Acts, 1910 to 1958.

Ordinance under the City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1959.

Regulation under the Apprentices and Minors Acts, 1929 to 1959.

Order in Council under the Libraries Acts, 1943 to 1949.

Proclamation under the State Education Acts, 1875 to 1957.

ACTS INTERPRETATION ACTS
AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

Hon. A. W. MUNRO (Toowong—Minister for Justice): I move—

“That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of the desirableness of introducing a Bill to amend the Acts Interpretation Acts, 1954 to 1957, in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

BARRISTERS ACT OF 1956 REPEAL
BILL

INITIATION

Hon. A. W. MUNRO (Toowong—Minister for Justice): I move—

“That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of the desirableness of introducing a Bill to repeal the Barristers Act of 1956.”

Motion agreed to.

OATHS ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

Hon. A. W. MUNRO (Toowong—Minister for Justice): I move—

“That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of the desirableness of introducing a Bill to amend the Oaths Acts, 1867 to 1959, in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE—THIRD ALLOTTED
DAY

Debate resumed from 1 September (see p. 181) on Mr. Row's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Hon. P. J. R. HILTON (Carnarvon) (11.27 a.m.): It is with great pleasure that I rise to participate in the debate on the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I wish very earnestly to associate myself with the sentiments expressed in the motion. I also endorse the tributes of previous speakers to His Excellency the Governor and his good Lady. I hope that in the future we shall have the opportunity every three years, after general elections are democratically held, to assemble here to express similar sentiments to Her Majesty the Queen and her representative in Queensland. Despite the many challenges to democracy throughout the world now and in the future, I trust that with God's help we shall be able to preserve the traditions and the institutions we have created. Remembering what has happened in the past, and realising the great opportunities before us in this country, we fervently hope that this Parliament will be able to function as it has for so many years.

I compliment the mover and the seconder of the motion, both of whom acquitted themselves creditably in their approach to the subject matters of their speeches. The standard of debate in the Chamber should be greatly raised by the new hon. members on both sides. Under your guidance, Mr. Speaker, I am confident that we can look forward to some very good debates in the present session.

It is true that we are beset with many political and social problems. It would appear that the more we advance scientifically and the more we organise socially the greater are the number of problems that beset us. In the short time available to me it is not possible to deal with all of them, but I shall make some observations on some of them, particularly as I see the political scene at the present time.

At the outset, let me point out that the Party I have the honour to lead does not suffer from any inferiority complex. We will endeavour, to the utmost of our ability, to make worth-while contributions to the matters that come before us for consideration.

Mr. Aikens: Did you hear what the hon. member for Brisbane said about you the other day?

Mr. HILTON: Regardless of what the hon. member for Brisbane may have said, I repeat, we will endeavour to make an intelligent contribution, and not merely an expression of sentiments that are unworthy.

I listened with attention to the Leader of the Opposition's analyses of the voting

in the recent general elections. It is true, if his figures are correct, they reveal that the Government are in office on a minority vote of the electors. However, I want to continue with one aspect of the argument used by the Leader of the Opposition. He stated that it took an average of 11,795 votes to elect an A.L.P. candidate, 8,917 votes to elect a Liberal Party candidate, and 5,549 votes to elect a Country Party candidate, but he made no reference whatever to the votes recorded for the Queensland Labour Party.

Mr. Aikens: Nor those recorded by me.

Mr. HILTON: He avoided that. The hon. member for Townsville South is quite correct in his interjection. Taking the position a little further, I point out that it took over 21,000 votes to have one Queensland Labour Party member elected. The Queensland Labour Party received approximately 85,000 votes in the 57 contested electorates. Excluding the votes cast for Independent candidates, and taking into consideration the fact that financial resources permitted the Queensland Labour Party to contest only 57 seats, the figures clearly reveal that a united Labour Party would have polled at least 380,000 votes. I go further and say that the vitalising influence of a united Labour Party in the old tradition would have taken that figure probably beyond 400,000 votes, and, despite the redistribution by the present Government, Labour would have been in power once again in this State.

Mr. Dewar: You are pulling your own legs.

Mr. HILTON: Any thinking person will agree that the redistribution was not carried out entirely with the idea of giving equality of voting strength in every area in Queensland. We know as a fact that country members of Parliament were reduced in number and an increase was made in city representation. Let us not pull our own legs on that.

I have no complaint about the redistribution in my own electorate. Whether it was because of geographical considerations or other factors that the Commission deemed it unwise to make changes, I do not know, in some cases it was clearly evident that favourable consideration was given to certain candidates by the redistribution. Let us not pull our legs on that point. I think it is safe to say that there were political considerations behind the redistribution as it was carried out. It is passing strange that a Government comprised, in the main, of Country Party members should have reduced the country representation and given extra representation to the city of Brisbane. All thinking people can work out the reason for that. Irrespective of the method of redistribution, and even if each electorate had an equal number of electors, the Government could still be elected on a minority vote. I want to be logical. I do

not subscribe to the logic of the Leader of the Opposition. I believe there were political considerations behind the redistribution.

Mr. Aikens: Are there not political considerations behind every redistribution? Why not be fair and say so?

Mr. HILTON: I have already intimated that that is so. South Australia presents the most glaring example of it. The position in Victoria was similar, although it has now been rectified. Even in the Mother of Parliaments to some extent there was gross inequality of voting strength, as I mentioned in this House some ten years ago.

Mr. Aikens: What about the redistributions by the Government of which you were a member?

Mr. HILTON: How many were made? I firmly believe that it is wise to set a voting strength for large country electorates on the same principle as is used in the Senate, which was devised to prevent domination by the densely populated States. That system should be followed, irrespective of the area of the State.

Mr. Aikens: Do you agree that one country vote is worth the votes of three city slickers?

Mr. HILTON: In my electorate, certainly.

I emphasise that the present Government would not last very long, despite a redistribution of electorates, with a revitalised Labour Party. The same may be said of the present Federal Government.

I now draw attention to the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition about Communism. I made a note of them. They read—

“On behalf of myself, and on behalf of everybody behind me, I point out that we take second place to no-one in our loyalty to the Crown and the Queen and in our repugnance to Communism. We are aware of the menace of Communism in Australia. Half of the people who talk about this menace are doing the very thing that they accuse others of doing. If they were sincere Labour people they could do more to defeat Communism by remaining loyal to the A.L.P. than by trying to create disunity and bring about division in the ranks of people outside. This is the device the Fascists and Communists have used. They divide gradually. Naturally, if you are a divided force it makes it much easier for those who are opposed to you. While I am Leader of the Australian Labour Party we shall have nothing to be ashamed of in our stand against Communism. We are opposed to it.”

Those are very laudable sentiments. I accept as a fact that the Leader of the Opposition is not a Communist and that he is not favourably disposed to Communism, but in what way is any effective fight being waged against Communism in the Australian Labour Party today? If it can be demonstrated that an effective fight is being waged, I shall be

four-square behind it and I shall aid them in their fight. But no effective fight is being waged by the Australian Labour Party against Communism at the present time.

Mr. Aikens: And never has been.

Mr. HILTON: Yes, there has, and I will prove it. Until an effective fight is waged again, there will never be a united Labour Party in this State, or even in Australia.

Mr. Thackeray: Who wrote this for you—Mr. Santamaria?

Mr. HILTON: I submit that the only way a united Labour Party can be brought about is by a full subscription to these important points: a full regard for democratic constitutional government; an effective and unrelenting fight against Communism; a clarification of Labour's objective on foreign policy and the ultimate goal of the party in this country. One of my friends in the A.L.P. interjected, "Who wrote this for you—Mr. Santamaria?" Let me quote something that is not from Mr. Santamaria.

Mr. Thackeray: That was.

Mr. HILTON: I will quote something that I do not think has ever been seen by Mr. Santamaria. I am utterly opposed to the raising of the sectarian issue. I regard sectarianism as a disease of the mind that never achieved anything worth while anywhere. It is a denial of one of the fundamental precepts of Christianity; it is a denial of the sentiments of the Lord's Prayer, which is common to all Christians. This is a pluralist country and I firmly stand against any church party trying to run its affairs. That is a stand I have always taken, and always will. I fully subscribe to the view that leaders of Christian thought have a full right and obligation to utter warnings, and to intimate what they consider right in social and political questions. Let us examine these points objectively. Let us not have the red herring of sectarianism drawn across the path when we discuss these matters.

The Labour Party's fight against Communism really started in this State away back in 1926 when it brought in a pledge against Communism. Even in those far-off days the Communist Party, by its own methods, was endeavouring to subvert the Australian Labour Party, and we know what happened then. One of the great unions of this State withdrew its affiliation from the Australian Labour Party. It is only in very recent times—since this change of front towards Communism in the Australian Labour Party—that that union has again affiliated with the Australian Labour Party.

Mr. Thackeray: Are you referring to the A.R.U.?

Mr. HILTON: Yes, of course I am. I was a member of the A.R.U. in 1926. Immediately that party withdrew its affiliation from the Australian Labour Party I resigned from it.

Mr. Thackeray: You say the A.R.U. is Communist controlled?

Mr. HILTON: I say it withdrew its affiliation from the Australian Labour Party when the pledge against Communism by every member of the party was insisted on.

Mr. Duggan: The pledge is still there.

Mr. HILTON: I know it is there, and it is a pity it was not acted upon by those members who now say they are opposed to Communism.

Let me come to another period; nobody can accuse me of quoting Mr. Santamaria on this occasion. I have here a pamphlet published by the late Professor Harold J. Laski—I think he has now passed away—who was chairman of the British Labour Party in the post-war years. It was issued during the post-war years by the then Premier, the late Hon. E. M. Hanlon, to all members of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Mr. Walsh: Many of them were not in the party then.

Mr. HILTON: Many were not, but on that occasion Mr. Hanlon thought it prudent to have the members of his party informed of the insidious influences of Communism and of the way in which they were seeking to take over the Labour Party. He circulated the pamphlet among all members of the Parliamentary Labour Party. I do not subscribe to the views expressed by Professor Harold J. Laski on extreme Socialism but it is very interesting to read what he had to say, on page 12 of the booklet, dealing with the morality of the Communists and the way they were seeking to subvert the British Labour Party. He said—

"They act like a secret battalion of paratroopers within the brigade whose discipline they have accepted. They meet secretly to propose their own line of action; they have one set of rules to regulate their conduct to one another, and a different set of rules to be observed towards those who are not in the battalion."

He goes on—

"His (the Communist's) philosophy of history entitles him to judge his own actions by one criterion, and his opponents' actions by another. He develops an elaborate and tortuous casuistry which permits him to make agreements, to accept obligations, which he can break whenever his service to that future of which he alone has the key, appears to demand it."

In other words, Professor Laski wrote of the absolute lack of morality of the Communist Party and said that, while its members kept secret the fact that they were members of the Communist Party, they were infiltrating the ranks of the British Labour Party. That was quite true, of course, and warnings were sent out in this country.

Let me quote another warning—one that was issued by the late Clarrie Fallon. He

addressed the annual A.W.U. delegates convention in January, 1945, in picturesque language typical, of course, of a strong industrial leader, and he was reported as follows:—

“Addressing the annual delegates’ meeting last Monday, Mr. C. G. Fallon, Queensland Secretary of the Australian Workers’ Union, and former Federal President of the A.L.P., said that the union owed it to the pioneers of the great Labour movement, and to the people and future of Australia, to see that no Communist ‘heelers’ obtained or retained, any official position in the union or in the Labour movement. ‘These heelers must be rooted out, or they will help the Communists and other haters of Australian Labour in their deliberate intention to betray the working-class movement, render Labour Government in Australia impossible, and provide the conditions necessary for the creation of a Nazi dictatorship,’ he added, ‘Nine men would have brought the A.W.U. in New South Wales under Communist control if the Queensland President, Mr. T. Dougherty, had not ventilated the position. Then the Federal Executive cleaned up the New South Wales Executive.’ He urged all unionists to wake up before it was too late to escape the fate of European dictator-controlled countries. It was the deliberate intention of the Communist Party to produce in Australia the state of confusion, turmoil, uncertainty and despair which had prevailed in European countries after the last war. Unionists must awaken from complacency, and help active members and their leaders to defeat the enemy within.

“Unionists must make the very small effort necessary to defeat what, after all, were ‘scabs’ against them and the Labour movement.

“Australians had nothing of value to learn from any foreign philosophy. They must render to their own class and movement the small measure of loyalty and assistance which was all that was necessary to ensure that they would never be reduced to the dreadful conditions to which the peoples of Germany and other dictator countries have been reduced.”

Those words were pregnant with warning. They were said by the late Clarrie Fallon not very many years ago, and I know of nothing that has taken place since then to make them less applicable today. An analysis of the position will show that the problem is more grave now than it was then.

Mr. Aikens: Are you going to tell us why it is more grave?

Mr. HILTON: Any man who takes an interest in the political scene knows without my telling him; but so that it will be on the record, let us see what happened with unity tickets. What would have happened

in Queensland in the days of Clarrie Fallon if any A.L.P. member had stood with known communists on a unity ticket?

Mr. Thackeray: What about the Democratic Labour Party giving its preferences to the Liberal Party in Victoria?

Mr. HILTON: Let me deal objectively with one point at a time. I am not going to be sidetracked by inane interjections. Despite the fact that the Federal Labour Party has issued dictum after dictum against unity tickets, the practice of standing on unity tickets has been followed in every election of importance. Nobody can deny that, and I want to hear members of the Australian Labour Party in this Chamber openly condemn unity tickets. Let members of that party tell the House that they disapprove of the practice, and that they will fight against it. As Clarrie Fallon pointed out, the trade union movement was built up without the aid of Communists. It has achieved wonderful things in this country, and its impact on the social conditions of the people has been very great. We have nothing to learn and nothing to gain from the communist philosophy, so why bother about this insidious and dangerous movement? Why give the Communists a hearing at all? Of course it is true that unity tickets are in use, and when anybody talks of dividing the Labour Party the real answer is that its present sorry state is due to the machinations of the Communist Party with its insidious, evil influence, about which we were warned in the post-war years.

Mr. Mann: Dr. Evatt’s expulsion of Santamaria brought it to this position.

Mr. HILTON: My research into this question reveals that Mr. Santamaria was never a member of the Australian Labour Party. He was brought into the fight against Communism, and rightly so, by prominent members of the Labour Party in Victoria, men who are still prominent there—Mr. Vic. Stout, Mr. P. Kennelly, Mr. F. Crean, and many others. That has never been denied.

Mr. Walsh: And Dr. Evatt invited him to write part of his policy speech on one occasion.

Mr. Thackeray: The Olympic Games are being held in Rome. How many Communists are sitting in the House of Parliament in Rome today?

Mr. HILTON: That has nothing whatever to do with it. Mr. Fallon pointed out in his warning that only nine members were necessary to bring the A.W.U. under Communist domination in New South Wales. The interjections of some hon. members of the A.L.P. show that they know little or nothing about this important subject. In reply to their remarks about Mr. Santamaria, I challenge them to disprove the facts that I have stated. It is true—I have said this before—that on one occasion Dr. Evatt approached Mr. Santamaria and asked him to assist in writing part

of his policy speech, yet those hon. members stand up and say that this man's sinister influence has destroyed the Labour Party.

Mr. Bennett: He has done a lot of harm.

Mr. HILTON: None whatever, as far as I can see. If anything was perpetrated that was not in accordance with justice and fact, those controlling the Labour Party had every opportunity of adjusting and rectifying the matter without going before the public, without raising sectarian issues, and without dividing and destroying the Labour Party.

Mr. Duggan: Would you deny that Mr. Santamaria has held secret meetings as well as public meetings since he has been in Queensland?

Mr. HILTON: I would not be in a position to know because I have never been associated with him. However, I point out that all members of this Parliament received an invitation to attend his meeting. I went to hear him for the first time in my life and, with others who have no direct association with politics, I was much impressed with his obvious sincerity, his eloquence and the fact that until his voice broke down he answered written questions submitted by people at the meeting.

Mr. Bennett: Why doesn't he stand for Parliament himself?

Mr. HILTON: That is his own personal business. This is a democracy and he is entitled to follow whatever line of action he thinks is in the best interests of Australia.

Mr. Duggan: Why does he convene meetings in secret?

Mr. HILTON: I do not know that he does.

Dealing further with this division of the Labour Party, I draw attention to the fact that the stand taken by the ex-Premier of Queensland, and all members of his Cabinet except the present Leader of the Opposition, has been dramatically endorsed recently by the National Executive of the British Labour Party. Only a few weeks ago we read that the National Executive of the British Labour Party had laid down in no uncertain terms that the policy of direction should not be used against the elected representatives of the people.

Mr. Walsh: Direction does not apply.

Mr. HILTON: Let there be no misunderstanding; it said that there should be no policy of direction.

I think the following has been mentioned before in this House, but in case it has not I quote it now to have it on record:—

"A foremost member of the British Cabinet during the term of the Labour Government, Mr. Herbert Morrison, stated in an address in 1949 entitled 'British Parliamentary Democracy':—

"The first essential of the British system is that the Cabinet has the

responsibility for governing in the national interest . . . The British system lays great stress on the individual responsibility of Ministers and of every Member of Parliament . . . Like Burke, one of the greatest students of the British Constitution, we believe that the Member of Parliament should not be a mere delegate, a mere puppet of his constituents. He should be their representative, making up his own mind after taking into account all the circumstances—not the least his constituents' views—and acting as it seems to him the general public interest requires."

It is refreshing to know that the stand taken on behalf of constitutional government in this State by the former Labour Cabinet, with the exception of one member of it, is strongly endorsed now by the National Executive of the British Labour Party.

Mr. Aikens: To which one do you refer?

Mr. HILTON: The hon. member knows that it was the Government led by Mr. Gair.

I now take this disastrous state of the Labour Party a little further. Let us examine the matter of the compulsory levy being enforced or trying to be enforced by the A.C.T.U. to assist to pay the expenses of visits of alleged union delegates from Communist China and Russia to Australia. Now they are trying to bring in a few other people, but I do not know whether they will come. What is involved in this very vital principle at the present time?

First of all, I point out that the A.C.T.U. is supposed to be associated with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. That body was formed on the initiative of the British and United States trade-union leaders in 1948, when it was realised that the Communists had captured control of the World Federation of Trade Unions. Obviously, their evil machinations have not been confined to Australia.

It was thought by the British and American trade unions that the quickest results could be obtained by forming another organisation that had not been captured by the Communists and from which the Communists were excluded. Already the I.C.F.T.U. is recognised as the international trade-union body of the free world. The A.C.T.U. is affiliated with the I.C.F.T.U., and, as such, is bound by its policy.

The I.C.F.T.U. has a strict ban upon visits of trade-union leaders to Communist countries, and, as it correctly considers the trade unions of Communist countries to be Government bodies to assist Communism, it also does not invite the alleged trade-union leaders of those countries to the countries of the free world.

It is obvious that the A.C.T.U.'s actions over reciprocal visits are a direct contravention of the policy of the I.C.F.T.U., with which the A.C.T.U. is affiliated. Because

of that, it is clear that Communist influence is now again in control of the A.C.T.U., and the final dispositions of the free trade unions of the world will be seen in due course. But it is an absolute negation of democracy that the A.C.T.U. should endeavour to bring alleged representatives of unions from China and Russia to this country. What can they contribute towards free unionism in this country?

Mr. Thackeray: What about the A.B.C. bringing in two Russian musicians?

Mr. HILTON: I am talking about trade-union representatives, and it is very important that any man who has the interests of the Labour movement at heart should take careful notice of these matters.

Let me read again the text of a resolution adopted by the Executive Board of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions at its meeting in New York City in December, 1955. It states—

“Noting the increasing efforts of the Communist countries to secure an exchange of labour delegations with free lands;

“Realising that the Communist dictatorship seek such delegation exchanges for the purpose of (1) winning moral respectability and legitimacy for their state company unions; (2) misleading the workers of the free world into accepting these organisations, run by the Communist Party, as bona fide free trade unions; (3) facilitating Communist infiltration and subversion in the free world; and (4) promoting the expansionist interests of Soviet imperialism;

“Emphasizes that elementary international labour solidarity, the most vital interests of human freedom everywhere and world peace, require that no free trade union organisation should exchange delegations with any country which (1) denies its people the fundamental human rights specified in the Charter of the United Nations; (2) denies its workers the right of freedom of association and organisation, the right of genuine collective bargaining and the right to strike; and (3) penalises workers for advocating free trade unionism and democracy;

“Urges all affiliates to inform the General Secretary about any invitation for such visits received by them from any dictatorship country so that they may be fully appraised of the aims and consequences of this Communist drive and that the I.C.F.T.U. may be enabled to work all the more effectively in defeating this Communist strategy of confusion and disruption of the free world labour movement.”

Mr. Aikens: What has this to do with unemployment in the North?

Mr. HILTON: It has a great deal to do with the future political life of Australia and

the future of trade unionism in Australia. If any hon. member doubts my statements about trade unionism in China, Russia and elsewhere, let me read the charter, if I may call it that, of trade unions under the Chinese Communist regime.

Mr. Thackeray: Where did you get that from?

Mr. HILTON: From the report of the free trade unions of the world, and I invite the hon. member to read it. The following passage is of interest:—

“The Chinese Communist regime regards the ‘trade union movement’ as its ‘transmission belt’ to ensure complete submission of the workers to its will, to create perfect ‘labour discipline,’ so that under Communist whip-cracking cadres, the workers will sweat themselves in ‘labour emulation campaigns’ and, finally, to make the ‘unions’ and the workers act as policemen in order to guarantee their own enslavement.”

Article 4 of the Rules of Procedure for settling disputes may be of interest to those who prattle about ‘trade unionism in China. It states—

“... Labour bureaus of the people’s governments shall be the organs for mediation and arbitration in all labour disputes. If there is no decision or agreement, disputes must go before a people’s court for final judgment, but, in the meantime, workers are strictly forbidden to stop work or in any other way hinder production.”

(Time expired.)

Mr. WINDSOR (Ithaca) (12.7 p.m.): I associate myself and the electors of Ithaca with the expressions of loyalty to our most gracious Queen, and thank His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Abel Smith, and Lady May for the wonderful way in which they have fraternised with and endeared themselves to the people of Queensland. I offer to you, Mr. Speaker, my congratulations on your being elected to the chair, and promise you my full support.

I compliment and thank the mover and the seconder of the motion. Indeed, I congratulate all new members on both sides of the Chamber, particularly Government members, who have gained the support of the people of their electorates. The recent election was made easier for the Government because of the excellent characters of the leaders of the two Government parties, the Premier and the Minister for Labour and Industry. Wherever I went in Ithaca during the election campaign I found that the people of the electorate proclaimed our leaders as gentlemen.

The Government’s task at the election was also made easier because of their three years’ experience in Government. The people realised that the Government were a good Government and gave them a further term of office. At the end of the next three years the people will know that they have a

wonderful Government and that they are very lucky to have them. I do not care to speculate on the period during which hon. members opposite will be required by the people to grace those benches.

Mr. Bennett: Why did you run away from the Valley?

Mr. WINDSOR: I shall answer that question in a moment.

A new member virtually accused Government members last week of being disloyal, but I point out that older members were merely being courteous and were following the recognised practice by allowing new members the right to speak at the earliest opportunity. On the score of loyalty, I point out that in World War I. I was overseas for 4½ years. I came back. In World War II. I was a P.T. instructor in the V.D.C. for six years.

Mr. Aikens: The V.A.D.?

Mr. WINDSOR: No, the Volunteer Defence Corps, in case the hon. member does not know. For six years I did my duty in this homeland, training and teaching business men and boys engaged in essential industry the art of unarmed combat.

If our accuser has a better record, I should like to hear about it. While I have breath in my body I will uphold the democratic way of life in this Parliament. I will not sell out to any foreign ideology.

The Leader of the Opposition said I was very perturbed at the last elections. He virtually told me that I was like a fly in a bottle running about, trying to find an easy Liberal seat. I do not know whether he realises it, but I have here a pamphlet from our young friend who contested the seat for Labour. He put out a letter to the people of Ithaca about a week before the election date telling them what a wonderful man he was, what he was going to do for them, giving his private address, and saying to them, "You will always be welcome to see me either at my own home or at Parliament House." Of course, my winning of the seat was unexpected; to think that a Labour Party seat would elect a Liberal-Country Party candidate!

I wish to compliment Mr. Pat Hanlon on the dignified and sincere representation he gave the electors of Ithaca. I hope that my representation may be as dignified and sincere. Last week another Australian Labour Party member of the House said it was a pity we had done away with the temporary homes that were in existence when we put them out of office. The conditions that existed in 1957 were an indictment on any party, let alone the Labour Party, who claim to have wonderful sympathy for the worker. During my first term of office as member for Fortitude Valley I used to drive twice daily around Gregory Terrace and Victoria Park. On the northern slopes of Gregory Terrace there were rows of sheds—sub-standard homes—that the Opposition

called homes for the workers. With them anything would do as homes for the workers. I could take you to Victoria Park, where there were the same horrible conditions—breeding places for delinquents—and to Holland Park, with its acres of the same sub-standard homes. The Opposition back benchers now say that it is a pity we did away with them. The Opposition wanted to keep them there for the rest of their lives.

Mr. Newton: They were better off. Look at the conditions of some of them now.

Mr. WINDSOR: When we came into office we promised that if we were returned to power we would do away with some of the conditions. We have done away with them. Where have they gone?

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. WINDSOR: They have gone into happy homes of their own, into a different atmosphere altogether.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The conduct of hon. members, particularly on my left, is grossly disorderly. Standing Orders rule that hon. members shall be heard without interruption. If there is any more of it, I will take action.

Mr. WINDSOR: The conditions that existed previously could not have been bettered as a means of generating delinquency.

I must take hon. members back to 1957 now, because I have to answer the statement by the new hon. member that it is a pity those conditions were done away with. I have here a shocking denunciation of the Gair-Walsh Administration—an advertisement published in "Truth" of 28 July, 1957, showing those wonderful conditions.

Mr. Aikens: And that advertisement was put in by the A.L.P.!

Mr. WINDSOR: Yes, to deceive the people of Queensland into thinking that it was the Q.L.P. that was doing all these nasty things to the workers of Queensland. But, in the words of Sir Arthur Fadden, why lay the charge at the feet of the Q.L.P. when the great A.L.P. has been married to it for 25 years? They lived together for 25 years but now they are divorced, and the divorce was made absolute by a certain co-respondent who was known then as one of the leaders of the great Australian Labour Party. Their love has turned to hate.

Recently the Leader of the Opposition was absolutely delighted to think that the A.L.P. had won a few seats at the expense of the Q.L.P. Another hon. member remarked to me that there were still four too many Q.L.P. members in this House, so I say to the members of that party, "Look out next time, boys, for your heads."

I think it is amazing that a new hon. member should come into the House and bemoan and bewail the fact that those conditions have been done away with and that the workers of Queensland are happy again under this Government. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, why hon. members opposite love to have rented homes. They love to be the landlord. They love to tag their man for the rest of his life. One of their great leaders said, "When a man owns his own home he is no longer an adherent of the Labour Party; he becomes a little capitalist." I can prove that. I have known many and many an occasion when a man has bought a block of land, built his own home, got married and had a family and, looking for a little more happiness, has bought a small car. Then his happiness is almost complete. With that home, and with his wife and a car, he has got a little substance together. With substance he gets sense, and with sense he will invariably vote Country-Liberal—and hon. members opposite know that. The only opposition member who has any sense of responsibility is the hon. member for Sandgate. He commended the Government for the work they have done in trying to preserve this wonderful building. One has only to look at the table, the rostrum, the Speaker's chair, and the architraves in this Chamber to see the magnificent workmanship of days gone by. In this machine age we see the stamp of monotony; individuality is missing. I commend the hon. member for Sandgate upon his keen observation.

The hon. member for Somerset said that our primary industries were the greatest earners of export income, and I agree with him. But you, Mr. Speaker, and all hon. members will realise that secondary industries are growing in importance each year. We must have a balanced economy in this State, and we must remember that we cannot depend solely on primary production. Although exports from primary industries bring our greatest income, they employ only about one-tenth of the people employed in secondary industries, something that we, as a Government, must consider very seriously. Each year from 28,000 to 30,000 girls and boys have to be absorbed in employment, and we must see that they are put into jobs that will give them an opportunity of using their gifts and talents to the best advantage. They are Queensland's greatest assets.

Mr. Walsh: Were you ever a striker?

Mr. WINDSOR: I will have the hon. member on any day.

In a very few years 55 new factories have been erected at Meeandah, but the roads leading to that area are capable of carrying satisfactorily only one-tenth of the traffic that is now using them. From the turn-off at the Hamilton Hotel to Pinkenba there is only one small strip of bitumen, and in wet weather everyone has to pull off the road to give way to heavy transports. Travelling

along that road the other morning, I passed 30 petrol tankers. They were smashing the road to pieces because of the loads they were carrying. We are trying to increase the wealth of Queensland, but we are not getting the co-operation of those whose duty it is—I do not know who is really responsible—to provide adequate roads. Unless we can develop the State, our children will not reap the benefit that they should.

I also believe that a tax rebate of at least 20 per cent. should be allowed for depreciation on plant and machinery for each year. When the late Ben Chifley took office after World War II, he gave Australia a chance to recover from the effects of war by introducing a 40 per cent. depreciation allowance. That was the means of saving, not only my firm of engineers, but also many other firms in Queensland. It enabled us to replace obsolete and worn-out machinery with up-to-date plant. The only way we shall be able to compete successfully against foreign competition will be to have up-to-date machinery. We already have the skilled men to do it. Unless the Federal Government can see their way clear to allow us 20 per cent. depreciation every year—or at least 40 per cent. every three years—to keep our plant up-to-date, we have no chance; we might as well shut up shop.

Mr. Walsh: Who reduced it?

Mr. WINDSOR: Never mind that. That is your business.

Mr. Walsh: Your own party reduced it.

Mr. WINDSOR: An adequate rate of depreciation would encourage industry to provide for the 30,000 new employees who are coming into industry each year.

Mr. Aikens: Why not send some of them up north?

Mr. WINDSOR: They are going there, and you know it!

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I remind the hon. member that he must address the Chair, not other hon. members.

Mr. WINDSOR: It is to be regretted that we are not getting the assistance we should be. Industry is trying to strengthen the economy of the State. We need help so that the State's children will be channelled into the right employment. In that way we can stabilise our economy and bring wealth to the State. Even though plant and machinery may not be worn out in three years, it is out-moded by then. The Federal Government should permit us a rate of depreciation that is applicable today and thus give us an opportunity to carry on and finish the task that we have been called upon to do.

Mr. INCH (Burke) (12.28 p.m.): As a new member in the Assembly, I am very happy to associate myself with other hon. members in their expressions of loyalty to Her Most

Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I know that the residents of the Burke electorate would like me to include them in my affirmation of loyalty. We sincerely trust that Her Majesty's reign will be a very long one and that it will be blessed with peace and happiness.

I congratulate the Government on the appointment of His Excellency Colonel Sir Henry Abel Smith as Governor of the State. Sir Henry has travelled extensively throughout Queensland, taking a keen interest in the State's industries and the activities of the people. In doing so he has earned the respect and admiration of all Queenslanders.

To the various branches of the Australian Labour Party throughout my electorate, and the members of the affiliated unions, I extend my sincere thanks for their wonderful support during the election campaign. To my colleagues in the Parliamentary Labour Party I extend my sincere thanks for the valuable assistance they are giving me in my parliamentary duties.

In this debate I think it is incumbent upon me to urge for the further development of the north-western part of the State, which I have the honour to represent, and to make some mention of the requirements of the people who have been associated with its development and who are doing everything possible to produce the wealth of the grazing and mineral areas.

The development of a State is dependent upon many factors—means of communication, roads, health and medical facilities for the people, and also educational facilities—and I wish to speak on several of those matters this morning. Unfortunately for the people in the Far North-west of Queensland, the roads there are in a deplorable condition. They are very little better than during the days of the teamsters. During wet weather it is virtually impossible for anyone to move on them for days on end, with the result that travel is severely restricted.

In this regard, the construction of an all-weather highway from Townsville to Mt. Isa to connect with the macadamised highway to Darwin is essential for the development of the Far North-west. It would also provide a means of the more rapid movement of troops and essential supplies should Australia ever again be forced to defend herself against aggression from the North.

Such a road would also serve the rich pastoral and mining areas through which it will pass and, to a great extent, encourage the growth of intertown trade among the smaller western towns, something that is vital to their existence. The business that has been lost to the southern States could be recovered if this important link was constructed. It would add to the progress of Far North-western Queensland and also enhance the prospects of trade through the port of Townsville. Some indication of the

loss in trade to this port can be gleaned from the fact that one transport company alone, operating out of Alice Springs to Mt. Isa, conveys in the vicinity of from 250 to 300 tons of foodstuffs each week to Mt. Isa. When consideration is given to the fact that there are several of those transport companies operating and also the rapid expansion of the Mt. Isa and Cloncurry areas, it will be realised that there will be a corresponding increase in this trade to the detriment of the port of Townsville.

I realise that the demands made upon the financial resources of a Government to provide essential means of communication are at all times heavy and that some of the roads that are advocated do not carry a very high priority. But, as I have said, the road that I advocate will prove to be most important in Queensland, not only from the point of view of the development of the Far North-west but also as a strategic defence highway.

Mr. Hanlon: It is valuable to Australia.

Mr. INCH: It is. One could be excused for believing that, by their refusal to help in the construction and rehabilitation of the railway from Townsville to Mt. Isa, and also to contribute towards the cost of this important highway, the Federal Government are absolutely heedless of the developmental requirements of North Queensland, as well as of our defence needs. It seems to me that they have not taken any heed of the lesson that was brought sharply home to the people of Queensland and Australia during the last Pacific war, when the Japanese attempted to invade our shores. I am afraid that, unless some attention is paid to this matter and every assistance given to developing the Far North-west of Queensland and the Territory in order to provide a means of closer settlement, the time will surely come again when we will be invaded, because north of Australia there are countries with teeming millions of people with nowhere to expand. Those people are casting covetous glances at Australia, and we may rest assured that sooner or later another attempt will be made to invade Australia and to take our country from us.

While on the subject of essential means of communication, I was very pleased to read in a recent newspaper article that a contract had been let for the first stage of the rehabilitation of the Townsville-Mt. Isa railway, that is, the section from Richmond to Duchess. The people of the area are very thankful for that step. But I deplore the fact that no indication has been given, as far as I am aware, that the present railway facilities at Mt. Isa will be replaced by structures of modern design to cope with present requirements. In view of the ever-increasing revenue received by the Railway Department, mainly from Mt. Isa Mines and local business interests, better facilities should be constructed. If the Minister for Transport took cognisance of the buoyancy in revenue

from those sources, I am sure improved facilities would be provided. The department receives in revenue from Mt. Isa Mines alone between £250,000 and £300,000 a month. That amount and the revenue obtained from business activities in Mt. Isa and beyond the railhead, even into the Northern Territory, more than warrant construction of adequate facilities as well as improvements in working conditions of railway employees in the western districts. On that point I draw the Minister's attention to the fact that during the last 10 years the population of the area has grown to over 12,000 and that railway traffic and revenue have increased enormously, to a far greater extent than was envisaged when the present facilities were provided. They are now outmoded and inadequate. Having regard to the increase in business and traffic that can be expected from this area in the future, it is reasonable to seek the building of a new railway station and goods shed to cope with present and future requirements.

The railway station and goods shed are weather-beaten, white-ant eaten, dilapidated, and absolutely rotten, and it is high time they were replaced. As an indication of the treatment meted out to the western areas, I point out that recently a small annexe to the parcels office at Mt. Isa was built, ostensibly for the purpose of relieving congestion. It is so small that the people of Mt. Isa wondered what it was going to be, and many and varied were the opinions as to its purpose. The consensus was that it was to house toilet facilities for the staff at the railway station. You can imagine the storm of indignation that came from the people of Mt. Isa and the business interests when they learned its purpose. It seems to me that the requirements of the western people are being sacrificed to assuage the residents of the metropolitan area.

The working conditions of the railway employees at Mt. Isa leave much to be desired. There is a shortage of trained personnel, and the employees are required to work under conditions reminiscent of the coolie system in Asian countries. Because of the shortage of space and the congestion and conglomeration of goods in the confined space in the railway station and goods shed, their working places are cramped beyond all reason. Ventilation in these places, even by fans, is almost non-existent. This is in a place where extreme temperatures of up to 104 degrees, are experienced for days on end. Such conditions are not conducive to effective service by the staff to the general public and business people, and as a result, serious delays occur in the delivery of goods and merchandise.

The housing facilities for married employees are not only inadequate in the number of houses provided, but the houses that are occupied are in a bad state of repair and badly in need of painting. Some of the married employees have had to rent

houses from outside sources, that are unfurnished and are purely and simply sub-standard dwellings. They are a disgrace.

A large sum of money is being spent on the quadruplication of the metropolitan railway system, and on the construction of some new suburban railway stations and the renovation of others. I should like to know why part of that money cannot be diverted for the construction of homes for railway workers in the far western districts and to provide better conditions for them. Why should they be expected to suffer merely because residents of the metropolitan area want the best of everything? The conditions in the West demand that the men should be properly housed, and that their amenities should be the best. The extreme temperatures experienced out there and the dust, demand that something should be done for employees in the goods shed, the railway station, and on the line at Mt. Isa. There is room for a great deal of improvement in the working conditions of the employees. Considering the amount of business that is being transacted, and the amount that may be expected from the development and expansion programme of Mt. Isa Mines, it is only reasonable to expect that the working conditions of the railway employees in that district should be improved, and better facilities made available to the general public in the western areas generally.

Many of the hospitals in the far-western areas are of the cottage type and low-built. They are constructed of weather-board and corrugated iron, and I have often thought what a holocaust it would be, and what a tremendous loss of life there would be among patients, if one of them ever went up in flames. Conditions in some of the hospitals are really primitive.

Here I must pay a tribute to the doctors and the nursing staffs for the wonderful service they have given, and continue to give, the people of the West.

Construction of the new hospital at Mt. Isa is expected to be completed soon, and I understand that a surgeon-specialist, Dr. Prenderville, has been appointed medical superintendent.

I believe the time is now opportune to urge the Minister for Health and Home Affairs to appoint a resident pathologist in this centre to help medical officers in western districts to obtain quick and reliable tests in cases of suspected disease. In the Far West there is a fairly high incidence of skin cancer and allied skin complaints, especially among those people the nature of whose employment subjects them to long exposure to the sun's rays. In most cases the doctors are quick to recognise the symptoms and they are able to give the immediate attention that is required, but sometimes the disease is deep-seated and difficult to diagnose. In the absence of a pathologist locally, most of

the patients are recommended to travel either to the Brisbane General Hospital or to the Townsville General Hospital for specialist attention and for a reliable test. The loss of wages and the payment of fares and accommodation expenses impose a very heavy financial burden upon the average wage-earner—and an unnecessary one when tests show the case to be negative. The position would be alleviated by the appointment of a pathologist. The surrounding districts of Camooweal, Cloncurry, Dajarra and Burketown, to mention but a few, would add to the number of people who would benefit from the appointment. In the circumstances I see no reason why the people of the Far West, and the members of the medical profession there, should not have the benefit of such an appointment, and should not enjoy the same amenities as their fellow men enjoy in larger centres, such as Townsville, Innisfail and Cairns. Periodic visits by an ear-nose-and-throat specialist and an eye specialist would also be a desirable service for the people of the North-west, and so would the establishment of a dental clinic at the new hospital at Mt. Isa to meet the needs of pensioners, low-wage earners and their families. Sinusitis, throat complaints and ear complaints are prevalent, caused no doubt by the dust in the West. Blight, trachoma and other diseases of the eye often leave people with impaired sight. Because a long and expensive journey to the coast is necessary to seek specialist attention to correct these defects, or at least to arrest their development, many adults and children have imperfect vision. Our students of today could well become our scientists and technicians of tomorrow, and it is our duty to ensure that these children are not handicapped or retarded in their education because they have impaired eyesight that could have been prevented or minimised by the provision of specialist services. I hope the Government and the Minister responsible will give favourable consideration to my suggestion that these medical services should be provided for the people of the Far North-west.

Educational standards, improved school accommodation and better conditions for the teaching staff are allied with the present and future development of the Mt. Isa and Cloncurry areas. I wish to deal briefly with several matters that should be accepted as standard policy in these areas, where development and expansion of communities and industry are taking place with great rapidity. First, I draw the attention of this Assembly to the necessity for the provision of facilities for an advanced secondary education to meet the requirements of industrialised communities. It could safely be assumed that in industries of the magnitude of those already established in this area, 30 per cent. of the staff would specialise in the particular duties for which they are engaged, and this, in turn, indicates that there is a steady and increasing demand for men of ability and high educational standards. If facilities were available

for a student to receive education to a third-year standard in science and civil, industrial and mining engineering, it would be an invaluable asset to the community generally and to industry. It would have the added advantage that he would receive a practical as well as a theoretical education.

Mr. Pizzey: He can matriculate in that way now. You are thinking more of the diploma course, are you?

Mr. INCH: Yes.

Whilst on the subject of education and school facilities I take the opportunity to commend the Government for the establishment of the new Barkly State School. Without this school educational facilities and school accommodation in Mt. Isa would have reached a stage of utter chaos. By contrast with this school, however, existing facilities and classroom accommodation at the Mine and Town State Schools in Mt. Isa and at the Cloncurry State School are deplorable. Classroom furniture in one of these schools dates back to the 1932 era; it is broken and ink-stained. It should be replaced progressively with the more modern type furniture in use in schools to-day. Classrooms are overcrowded and the overflow of students is accommodated in so-called temporary classrooms—they have been in use for from three to five years—under the schools and enclosed by corrugated-iron walls.

When I was talking about the conditions of railway men I mentioned the high temperatures in railway stations and goods sheds. Teachers and students have to endure the same trying conditions in these temporary classrooms. No child or teacher can be expected to give of his best under such appalling conditions. I ask the Government to give serious consideration to air-conditioning all schools in north-western Queensland. School examinations usually are held in November. Because of the extreme heat at that time of the year the children are lifeless and listless. Because of the heat and the nervous pangs associated with sitting for examinations under such trying conditions, they cannot do justice to their tuition and study.

Amenities for teaching staff in the western districts are practically non-existent. They are at the stage where I should say they are absolutely shocking.

One of the main subjects to which I wish to refer is refrigerators for the teaching staff. In many instances they are provided by school committees but the cost should be subsidised by the Department of Education. In the summer months many teachers are unable to return to their homes for lunch and have to take cut lunches to school. By mid-day the lunches are reduced to a mass of butter oil. As I say, some of the committees have seen fit to purchase refrigerators for the use of teachers and so give them some chance of enjoying their lunches and keeping their smallgoods in a wholesome condition.

The conditions at these schools warrant the immediate attention of the Department of Education, but accommodation at these schools should be planned not only for present-day but also for the future requirements of the areas.

Barrack accommodation for 23 teachers is provided, by courtesy of Mt. Isa Mines, at a rental of £6 10s. a week. Other or alternative accommodation could perhaps be obtained at private homes, but, in many instances, it would be out of the question. At the end of this year the services of 12 married teachers are to be dispensed with, and this will mean that, at the commencement of the 1961 school year, a total of 35 teachers will require accommodation.

Staff accommodation is also becoming a very serious problem in the Far West, and steps should be taken to provide hostels for teachers as was done at Cunnamulla, where adequate provision has been made.

No Government can possibly ignore the just demands of people who have done so much for the development and the economy of the State in the production of beef, wool, and mineral wealth.

Before I resume my seat, I should like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, upon your election to the high office of Speaker in this Parliament. I have listened to the comments of some of the older members of this House, and judging by them, I am satisfied that you will carry out your duties with strict impartiality and according to the usages and customs of this Parliament. I honestly think that you will do everything in your power to assist new members in following the correct procedures of the House.

Mr. PILBEAM (Rockhampton South) (2.20 p.m.): I welcome the opportunity to convey a message of loyalty to Her Majesty on behalf of the people of Rockhampton in particular, and of Central Queensland in general.

I join with other hon. members in congratulating Queensland on having an admirable Governor. We in Rockhampton have been neglected in the past in the matter of visits from Vice-Regal representatives. For instance, during the whole seven-year term of the former Governor-General, Sir William Slim, Rockhampton was not favoured by one visit from him. No charge of that nature could be levelled at Sir Henry. He has always proved himself to be a friend of Rockhampton and has made it his business to visit us, both officially and unofficially, on many occasions. He has been kind enough to refer to us as his friends, and has included even me in that category. I assure hon. members that that friendship is highly treasured by me.

I join with other hon. members in congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, on your appointment to your high office. I assure you, despite what you may have heard to

the contrary, that I have always been amenable to discipline. I congratulate you and assure you that you will always receive the utmost respect from me.

I listened with great interest to Sir Henry's address, and I must say I was impressed by the achievements of the Country-Liberal Government over the past three years. I do not propose to recapitulate them now, or to embellish them, but I should like to refer to a few of the Government's accomplishments in my area for which the people of Rockhampton are extremely grateful. I think their greatest achievement for Rockhampton people was assistance in the construction of the road to Port Alma, a wonderful road out of which will flow most of Central Queensland's development. Already, before the completion of the road, we are assured of an important oil terminal, and we have a reasonable chance of securing an £18,000,000 oil refinery, so that we must be grateful to the Government for the help they have given in this respect.

We also have to thank the Government for the help they have given us in the rehabilitation of the port. It will be a very good port and will play an important part in the future history of Queensland. We must thank them also for the construction of a new high school at South Rockhampton, and the aid they gave the city to acquire properties that have been an eyesore in Rockhampton for years. I thank them also in advance for the construction of a new police station and a new railway station.

I feel, in joining this party, that I have a chance to help Rockhampton and Central Queensland to find their way out of the political wilderness in which they have wandered for the past 40 years, and to enter a new phase of full development and full population of the area.

Before I proceed to matters of general import, I should like to deal with a few personal items. I do not believe in personalities—I do not engage in them—but a few personal charges have been levelled at me in this House. I did not have the opportunity to defend myself on those occasions, and I should like briefly to refer to them now. Reference has been made to my rejoining this party and to the fact that I had had a dispute with it. I do not seek to deny either of those facts. I certainly did have a dispute with the party, and I certainly have rejoined it. However, there were mistakes on both sides, and the party was big enough to come to me and express its regret for its part in the incident. I likewise expressed my regret, and we have now resolved our differences. I am quite sure that from now on I will be a loyal member of the party and will be able to help it in what I hope will be the rehabilitation of Central Queensland.

Another matter that I wish to mention relates to properties in the city of Rockhampton. There were two blocks of properties that were covered by restrictive trusts,

and the buildings on them were in a wretched state of repair. We did not feel like spending tremendous sums of money on them when we did not hold a proper title. The position was so untenable that about five years ago Alderman Gardner and I, during the term of the Gair Government, came to Brisbane and offered the buildings to the Government for nothing to relieve the city of a liability. However, that offer was not availed of. Eventually we were able to come to terms with the present Government on the basis that we acquired the properties for £90,000. In other words, the Government gained £90,000. We are now on the verge of acquiring an unhindered freehold title to those buildings. We have sold half of them for £140,000. We are reconstructing the buildings that we are holding, and have plenty of property left for all the civic needs of the city. That was very good business, and I make no apology for it.

I have been charged with acquiring some personal gain from the transaction.

Mr. Duggan: I do not think those charges were made by members of this Parliament.

Mr. PILBEAM: If they were not, I apologise. I make it quite clear that no private person, myself included, derived one penny from the transaction. It has been a good thing for the city of Rockhampton and for the Government, too. First-class buildings, to the standard of the building renaissance being carried on in Rockhampton at the present time, are being built in a depressed area.

The charge has also been levelled against me that I have spent Rockhampton ratepayers' money outside the city area. I certainly make no apology for that. The main project on which the ratepayers' money was spent was the building of the road to Port Alma. The latest development should convince everyone that that was the greatest stroke of business Rockhampton ever transacted. It is true that we used the ratepayers' money outside the city, but it was done with the full co-operation and support of the Government. The rewards will be great; indeed, they have already started to accrue.

Mr. Evans: Other cities throughout Queensland are doing it, and it is quite right.

Mr. PILBEAM: I shall proceed to broader issues. The course I intend to pursue in this House will be to get clear identification of, and support for, Central Queensland. I have listened to the speeches of hon. members on both sides of the House. They have advocated the development of South Queensland, the development of Queensland, and the development of North Queensland, but I do not think I have heard once the words "Central Queensland." If hon. members do not mind, I will try it once to see how the acoustics sound—"Central Queensland." We will never develop this State fully until we

realise that it consists of three divisions—Southern, Central and Northern. The pioneers realised that when they laid down the railway system in divisions. We must understand the great need to develop Central Queensland equally with the other two portions of the State.

Probably most hon. members would not even recognise what Central Queensland is, so I produce some maps of it—and they can be made available. They are based on the definitions contained in the various Acts and are used by the Central Queensland Local Government Association, as well as by the Capricornia New State Movement. The names includes the shires of Boulia, Diamantina, Winton, Barcoo, Longreach, Isisford, Ilfracombe, Aramac, Balcaldine, Blackall, Jericho, Belyando, Tambo, Bauhinia, Emerald, Peak Downs, Nebo, Broadsound, Fitzroy, Livingstone, Daringa, Taroom, Banana, Monto, Calliope, Miriam Vale, Mt. Morgan, the City of Rockhampton, and the town of Gladstone. We should like to include Mackay and one or two other smaller shires in that vicinity.

Mr. Evans: It should be included, too.

Mr. PILBEAM: Yes, but unfortunately Mackay has indicated that it is a member of the Northern Queensland Local Government Association, so we do not feel justified in including it. We do not feel justified, either—although we should like to do so—in claiming any Ministers of the Crown as Ministers for Central Queensland. We think the only ministers we have are ministers of religion, and there is a slight difference.

In Central Queensland we have all the ingredients that should go towards making a fully-developed and fully-populated separate State, but that is for the future; I do not intend to discuss it now. We have the fertile agricultural valleys of the Dawson and Callide, and we have the rolling, sheep country of the West—one of the best sheep countries in the world. Within a radius of 200 miles of Rockhampton we have 2,500,000 head of cattle, the greatest number for one area in Australia. We have great mineral wealth, too; we have any number of open-cut coalmines, and we have the great copper and gold mine of Mt. Morgan. We also produce 70 per cent. of Queensland's cotton and 34.1 per cent. of its wool. So we have the potential to justify development. We have two ports, both of which will be first-class when developed. Gladstone is already fully developed and Port Alma will be.

So we feel justified in asking that, on all counts, Central Queensland be recognised as having a separate identity and as being capable of separate development. How much we have fallen short of that recognition in the past can be gauged from a study of population figures. Central Queensland has had the poorest increase in population of any part of Australia. I will give hon. members

some census figures for Central Queensland and North Queensland—a pretty fair comparison. They are—

	1947.	1954.	Increase.
Central Queens- land	104,316	115,975	10%
North Queens- land	198,117	235,205	16%

What makes the position worse is that, compared with the increased population in the principal centres, such as Rockhampton, Mt. Morgan and Gladstone, the population in the rural areas of Central Queensland has been almost at a standstill for the last 10 years.

I stress the point that if we want to populate the area fully we must have a change in policy, and the change I advocate is the recognition that there are three portions of the State, all reasonably equal. I know that the Minister might differ from me on this question, but we believe that the three sections of the State should be considered independently in developing Queensland as a whole. We believe that there should be a development officer at Rockhampton working in the interests of Central Queensland, just as there is a development officer at Townsville working in the interests of North Queensland. The position is so serious that we are considering a proposal to subsidise a private development officer in Rockhampton, who will be given the task of outlining to the Minister the scheme that we wish to see advanced in Central Queensland.

I appreciate and applaud the action of the Government in developing North Queensland. Nobody could quarrel with the work that has been done on the Tully River, in the Burdekin area, or at Tinaroo Falls, and nobody could quarrel with the decision of the Government to spend £29,000,000 on the railway line between Townsville and Mt. Isa. We do not mind when big developmental programmes are carried out in other districts, but we think it is high time that Central Queensland had at least one also. I know that the Minister is at present investigating the possibility of a developmental scheme in the Fitzroy basin, which I hope will reach fruition. However, because of a document that was made public about three years ago over the signature of the Co-ordinator-General of Public Works, in which he said that no developmental projects were contemplated in Central Queensland, we believe that we are being left behind. We do not think that is just. We say, "If there is justification for them, it is all right with us if you spend £100,000,000 on projects for the development of North Queensland; but at least some of the money should be spent on projects in Central Queensland."

Worthwhile industries always follow such big developmental schemes. For instance, a cement works was established in North Queensland because of the big orders for cement for the Tinaroo Falls scheme and

others of a similar nature. If a big developmental scheme was undertaken in Central Queensland, cement would be manufactured in Rockhampton too.

I understand fully the difficulties of the Minister in the building of highways, and I know that if he had his way they would all be built simultaneously. But again we must have some regard for the railway system. The pioneers of the State must have had in mind a policy of decentralisation when they built a central line west from Rockhampton and others running west from Brisbane and Townsville. History shows that the highways did not follow the same plan. We fought for years in Central Queensland to prevent highways being built parallel to the railways. We now know that we were wrong in doing that; it was the worst mistake anybody could make. We know now that the roads and railways are complementary, that the roads that attract revenue from the railways are not those running parallel to them but those running away from them. The full implication of such a policy is now apparent in Central Queensland. There is no road from Bogantungan to Barcaldine, and so there is a big hole in the development of the State. Queensland will never be adequately developed unless the highways are laid down in such a way that they will encourage decentralisation.

I know it is largely a question of finance, but we do not like to see priorities disturbed. On the other hand we do not like to see roads being built before more vital roads are even gazetted. For instance, it is thought in Rockhampton that the road from Longreach to Rockhampton should have a higher priority than say the road direct to Brisbane from Barcaldine through Blackall, Tambo, and Charleville. The lack of this road connection has had a disastrous effect on Rockhampton's economy. It has meant that we are divorced entirely from the people in the West. It has meant also that what has been produced in the West was lost to us because it went direct to Brisbane. We suffer in Rockhampton because of drainage roads—roads that drain the area into Brisbane. The roads run from north to south instead of from east to west. East-west roads make for decentralisation. The effect of building north-south roads is to develop the city and not the State. The plea I make on this occasion is that we should be given every consideration when we ask for the construction of an all-weather road from Longreach to Rockhampton as early as possible.

Another matter that has been debated in Rockhampton recently is the construction of a road from Windorah to Yaraka. I am completely in agreement with the Minister about the construction of cattle exit roads from the Channel country, and we certainly do not quarrel with the number of roads being built. But in Rockhampton and Gladstone at the present time there is an unemployment problem which we think

could be alleviated if we had more cattle coming into Rockhampton. We have country round Rockhampton that can absorb the starving cattle from the Channel Country and we therefore ask the Minister to give serious consideration to the construction of the Windorah-Yaraka road. Of course we do not ask that it be the first to be constructed but it should be built while the other roads are being constructed under the present scheme.

We in Rockhampton have had many arguments thrown at us about the number of cattle going past our door. We are told that when cattle go past our door we should not get others to replace them. Here is an economic problem which, if considered logically, is as simple as this: the home market has to be supplied before there can be any exportable surplus. If people from the South buy cattle at Rockhampton for the home market and pay more than an economic export price, the cattle have to go. We cannot hold the beasts in Rockhampton merely by out-bidding every Tom, Dick and Harry who comes to Rockhampton. But if we can get more cattle in than local requirements we shall have a greater exportable surplus, and accordingly can export more. We are being very realistic when we ask the Minister to grant a higher priority to the construction of the Windorah-Yaraka Road.

When we talk about developmental schemes for Central Queensland we must bear in mind the waters of the Fitzroy River. Probably not many hon. members know that the Fitzroy is the second largest river system in Australia, second only to the Murray-Darling system; it has more than 50 per cent. of the waters of that great system. The Department of Irrigation and Water Supply holds plans for four schemes that will conserve just as much water in the Fitzroy as is being conserved in all of the schemes on the Murray-Darling system. Therefore we have every developmental possibility in Central Queensland that can be envisaged with the conservation of water. Anyone who has studied the matter can tell hon. members how much can be done in the Fitzroy basin with the conservation of water. If water was made available, the brigalow belt of Central Queensland could carry a population of 2,000,000. That is a thought for the far-distant future. I am happy that the Minister has indicated already that he has instructed Mr. Hansen, the North Queensland developmental officer, to investigate the possibilities of one of those schemes. Nearer to home, in Rockhampton, we have the possibility of converting the Fitzroy River from a salt-water to a fresh-water stream right to the city's boundaries. We could do it with the construction of a barrage across the river, just sufficiently high to stop the encroachment of salt water. I ask for the sympathetic consideration of the Government in regard to this scheme also. We are at present at the stage where we

have found the money to allow the scheme to be tested by a large scale-model at the University. If the preliminary investigations are satisfactory and the barrage is eventually constructed across the river, it would give Rockhampton the best fresh-water supply in Queensland and make that city one of the greatest industrial potentials in the State.

Industry requires water and we have the water at Rockhampton. All we have to do is stop the encroachment of the salt water and we have rich industrial possibilities. We have had inquiries on an industrial basis from all over Australia, conditional on the barrage being placed across the river. We feel that we have every right to ask for the sympathetic consideration of the Government for this scheme.

I think most people know Rockhampton and realise that we are subject to seasonal unemployment. Of course the remedy is more cattle and, in that regard, we welcome the experiments that are now being conducted to fatten more cattle in the spear grass country. But, we also need some stable industries. When we seek new industries for the area we find that we are strangled by concessional rail freights, legacies of previous Governments, admittedly, but, in the main they still exist. The stranglehold of concessional freights should be removed so that Rockhampton may become an industrial centre.

I have not the time to mention all such freights but I give a few examples. The people of Aramac grow a large quantity of wool and we have asked them to send it to Rockhampton. There is no market in Australia for scoured wool; it all goes overseas. We could send the wool over Port Alma but it is sent from Brisbane because the people of Aramac can freight their wool to Brisbane slightly cheaper than to Port Alma although one centre is about twice as far from Aramac as the other.

I will give another instance. A well known firm of pickle manufacturers in Rockhampton had a lucrative business with Cairns and then suddenly lost it. They know the cause. Brisbane manufacturers were given a freight rate between Brisbane and Cairns virtually the same as the rate between Rockhampton and Cairns. How can you compete under those conditions when southern manufacturers can obtain a stranglehold through concessional freight rates?

We ask the Government, and I am proud to be a member of it, to revise those freight concessions, and so allow Central Queensland and Rockhampton to develop their industries on an equal footing with other parts of the State.

When we have industries on the verge of being established in Rockhampton, there is an immediate attempt from other parts of the State to lure them away. At present

there is an investigation into the construction of another power station and it was more or less tentatively agreed that it should be constructed on the coalfield at Callide. As soon as we become hopeful about that we find there are moves afoot to have it shifted to Southern Queensland. Those are the things that discourage us. Apparently if it is in Central Queensland it is assumed it is open to everyone to have a go at it.

Another project about which we are concerned at the moment is the oil refinery that Ampol proposes to build at Port Alma. I say quite clearly that, whatever is acquired by other ports in Queensland, is done with our good wishes. I have never said a word against any other port or place in Queensland. We wish Gladstone every success in all its undertakings.

Mr. Duggan: Do you think it would help us to appreciate your problem if the Treasurer presented the report of the committee of inquiry into Gladstone and Rockhampton?

Mr. PILBEAM: That is not my business. I had nothing to do with it. An attempt has been made to whip up controversy between the two ports. I never subscribe to that. Every time Gladstone has acquired anything of a worth-while nature I have made it my business to go there and offer congratulations. I have never said a word—and never will—against Gladstone or any part of its activities, but, in return, we ask that when we look like getting something we should be helped, not opposed.

I am concerned at the efforts being made by other Queensland ports, against which we have never said a word, to draw Ampol away from Port Alma. The matter is between Ampol and Rockhampton. Ampol has the money and it will decide where it will go. We certainly will assist it with every means in our power, but if it appears that any other undertaking is going to set up an establishment elsewhere, we will not attempt to antagonise the other place. Ampol has fully investigated Port Alma. A detailed engineering report has not been made—that will take about eight months—but Ampol has checked on the water and the availability of land and we feel reasonably sure that with the sympathetic support of the rest of the State and the Government, who represent the State, we will have an oil refinery. That will be good for the whole of the State, including Rockhampton.

Mr. Aikens: Did they not say the water in Gladstone Harbour was too shallow?

Mr. PILBEAM: I have never said a word against Gladstone, and I have nothing against Gladstone.

I shall now deal with an immediate problem facing Rockhampton, that is, unemployment. It was alluded to this morning by

several hon. members. In Rockhampton we pride ourselves on self-help first; then we request others to help us. When we wanted the road to Port Alma, we put up 40 per cent. of the money. When we wanted a new breast wharf at Port Alma, the city guaranteed interest and redemption payments on the new wharf, something that has not been done anywhere else in Australia. In the matter of unemployment, the city of Rockhampton is prepared to accept some responsibility. We suggest, as I have suggested to the Government, that it is a matter of concern not only for Rockhampton, but for the State Government and the Federal Government. We think we are making a very generous offer in undertaking to pay a third of the amount to a pool for the purpose of providing work for seasonal unemployed for three or four months of the year. We suggest that we should subscribe £25,000, and the State and Federal Governments subscribe £25,000 each, to make a pool of £75,000 so that employment can be provided for 300 or 400 men for three or four months of the year. That is the most practical solution we can offer, and I submit the proposal to the Government for their consideration.

While asking the Government to support us in developmental work, the construction of highways and all the other matters for which Governments are responsible, we do not ask the Government to help us in a way in which we do not want to be helped. We do not ask the Government to enter the commercial field. We have had the melancholy experience in Rockhampton of Government-sponsored and Government-controlled organisations. We have the examples of the Queensland-British Food Corporation, the State stations and the State butcher shops. The latest instance is the cannery at Koongal. There is now a move on foot to establish a district abattoir at Rockhampton, something that can be financed only by the prices that the Rockhampton people pay for meat. Rockhampton has the best and cheapest meat in Australia. We have not too many things, but at least we have that. We do not want it taken from us by having a district abattoir forced on us. We are already well catered for. We do not think unemployment will be at all relieved by the construction of a district abattoir. We have expressions of opinion from all the big unions. The A.M.I.E.U. does not want it; the Australian Railways Union does not want it; the waterside workers do not want it; the City Council does not want it; the Chamber of Commerce and Development does not want it; and yet a small group is pushing ahead with a move to give us this district abattoir, which we do not want.

We suggest that if the Government have £250,000 or £500,000 to spare they spend it on the road between Rockhampton and Barcaldine, or on some other development

scheme in their own field. We ask the Government not to enter the field of commercial undertakings. We would sooner leave that to private enterprise.

Mr. Aikens: Brisbane and Townsville have abattoirs.

Mr. PILBEAM: That is right, but we do not want one in Rockhampton.

I should like to say a few words about my own people. I have told you about their self-help; they are very good people; they are prepared to develop their own area, and build up their own economy. We have no scheme to put roads into any other part of Queensland. I cannot say the same for other parts of Australia.

I think the best contribution I can make to any message of loyalty to Her Majesty should take the form of offering to co-operate fully with anyone prepared to assist us to develop, not two-thirds of the State, but three-thirds of the State; offering to develop not only South Queensland, but North Queensland and Central Queensland, too. I say in all seriousness that we should render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto Central Queensland the things that by right of law and justice belong to Central Queensland.

Mr. DIPLOCK (Aubigny) (2.58 p.m.): I join with previous speakers in their expressions of loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen, and I compliment His Excellency the Governor and Lady May on their sustained interest in the welfare of all sections of the people of this State, and on their active interest in all phases of industry of Queensland. I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation to the chair, and I congratulate the Ministers who have again been allotted Cabinet rank. I have to be honest and say that during the past three years I have been treated very fairly by each of them.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. DIPLOCK: I should like to place on record my appreciation of the courtesy and assistance extended to me at all times by the former Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation. I had occasion to visit him often, and at all times I found him helpful and co-operative. I should like to thank sincerely the people of Aubigny for returning me as their member for this term. The Government might still have cause to wonder why they lost a seat that had been in anti-Labour hands for a period of 58 years. The Government, on the word of their own spokesman, cannot lay any of the blame at the feet of the previous member because of any of his shortcomings, as various Ministers who visited the area described him as one of the hardest working members of the Government. One Minister went so far as to say that he was the one man on the Government side who really knew something about the land. He said it would have a very great impact on the Government if they

lost the services of a man who knew so much about cattle. They cannot in any way ascribe the loss of the Aubigny seat to any shortcomings on the part of the former member for Aubigny. But there must have been a reason, and, at the risk of losing the seat at the end of the three-year term, I hope to point out to the Government what it might have been.

In his speech His Excellency the Governor said of people living in areas removed from the metropolis—

“These men and women possess immense faith in their soil and are acquiring an ever-increasing knowledge of how to receive from it its gifts, under all conditions. This faith in the future is further reflected by the immense civic pride shown in the townships and countryside.”

Later in the speech he said—

“My Ministers inform me that the changing face of Queensland's economy is most plainly evident in the growth of secondary industries.”

I agree wholeheartedly with both statements; but the Government are treading on very dangerous ground if they think that the people to whom the sentiments refer will be satisfied with a pat on the back without receiving any real help.

Let us consider what practical and real encouragement has been extended by the present Government to the people and the towns in my area that Labour Governments were accused of neglecting. In considering the matter, let us not forget that the Country Party members of the present Government are supposed to be the champions of the interests of the country people. Let us not forget, either, that the Opposition of the time dubbed previous Governments “Queen Street Governments” because of their alleged indifference to the welfare of country areas. Finally, let us not forget the loud cries of the present Government, when in Opposition, about decentralisation and the fostering of private industry.

Dalby, the largest town in the present electorate of Aubigny, has made much progress in the past few years. It is the natural business centre for a very rich district. The council has pursued a programme designed to provide for the people of the area those modern amenities about which His Excellency saw fit to comment, and those engaged in the business world have shown the civic pride referred to by His Excellency by modernising their business premises. We have in Dalby at the present time a number of establishments that would compare very favourably with those in other towns of comparable size. But what have the present Government done for Dalby during their term of office? Obviously a vital factor that aids the progress of any country town is the establishment of a secondary industry in that town or district. Such an industry was established in Dalby by Napier Bros., and

it has been of vital importance to its development. Despite the unsympathetic attitude of the present Government, it will develop into one of the biggest of its kind in the Commonwealth. Under successive Labour Governments, work carried out by the firm for the Railway Department was greatly increased, and resulted in the full employment of 140 men in its Railway Section when this Government took office. In three years work carried out by this firm has been whittled down gradually but systematically until rock-bottom has been reached and the firm has been forced to close down the railway section of its works. The cost factor was not the reason for this, because officers of the department often pointed out to the firm when doing an audit that they were not charging as much for the work they were doing as they were entitled to charge.

In an endeavour to retain the services of a number of its loyal servants, the firm proposed an alternative scheme to the Railway Department, under which work would be carried out at prices beyond competition. This would have kept the men in employment but would have been of very little financial benefit to the firm. I am not submitting a case for Napier Brothers; I am submitting a case for the 140 men who were working there and who are now out of employment and have absolutely no chance of being employed in the Dalby area. It was suggested that the men could be absorbed in the main section of Napiers' works, but that was not possible because the workmen required in that section must be skilled in working steel and iron.

Most of these men left the city at the behest of the Government and went west. They left their homes here and built new homes in Dalby, and many of them migrated because either they or members of their family suffered from chest complaints. They are now left with these alternatives: either selling their homes and coming back to the city, where there is little chance of their getting employment, or leaving their families in Dalby and looking for work elsewhere. That is not the treatment these men could justifiably expect from a Government that is supposed to foster private enterprise and has promised to encourage decentralisation. I suggest to the Government that if this treatment is to be handed out to an industry removed from the metropolis, the slogan should be, "Go West, young man, but be prepared to fend for yourself when you get there because we do not accept the responsibility of helping to provide employment there for you."

Mr. Aikens: It seems that you are getting nearly as raw a deal as we are getting in the North.

Mr. DIPLOCK: Nearly. This is one reason why a record number of people in Dalby were not prepared to be influenced by the promises of a number of Cabinet Ministers

who invaded the town just prior to the election. The former member for Aubigny was made aware of this situation a few days before polling day, and the Government tried to save him. Two days before the date of the election, when he was accompanied on the platform by the Minister for Education, he received a telegram from the Minister for Railways just as the meeting opened. Like the magician taking a rabbit out of the hat, he opened the telegram and surprisedly read, "Railways will make available repair work Napiers to the extent of £15,000 during the coming financial year." They decided to give the firm £15,000 worth of work and they made that promise two days before the election. Those who were interested realised that this was only a bait, that it only meant prolonging the evil day for a few workers, at the most, for a week or two. The bait was wasted.

Now we look for the second reason why the Government lost this seat, and consider the treatment meted out to the children of the town in the provision of education facilities.

The Electoral Redistribution Commission did a very good job—one that was very favourable to Government Party candidates. There must have been very strong reasons why this seat was lost. I suggest that probably the lack of a sympathetic interest in the provision of educational facilities at Dalby was reason No. 2.

On the occasion of the first visit of the Minister for Education to help Mr. Sparkes in his campaign, Mr. Sparkes is reported as having described the Dalby State school as a disgraceful collection mainly of temporary classrooms. Again, on the occasion of the visit of the Minister for Development, Mines, and Main Roads, he is reported as having described the school as a disgrace to the town of Dalby.

Mr. Pizzey: It was the same school as was there when you were Minister.

Mr. DIPLOCK: I shall come to that in a moment. He continued,

"The school has about 15 temporary classrooms, and if the rain continues during the night the children would have to wear gum-boots to get into the school."

Although the school buildings leave much to be desired the school is not quite as bad as described.

Mr. Pizzey: You have there the most expensive septic block in Queensland.

Mr. DIPLOCK: The children cannot live in a septic block, any more than the Minister or I can.

The previous Government realised the necessity for a new school. Provision was made for plans—

Mr. Pizzey: Plans, and that was as far as it went.

Mr. DIPLOCK: Money was made available for the planning. Had the previous Government remained in office a new school at Dalby would now be a reality, not something merely in the promise stage. In the past three years the present Government have done nothing but add to the collection of temporary classrooms. To the credit of previous Governments, let me place on record the fact that the temporary classrooms built in the post-war years, when material and man-power were scarce, were ceiled, lined, and well-ventilated, and the lighting was reasonably good. Those built in the past three years by the present Government, under the main school block, are not ceiled, and only partly lined, and the attention of pupils is distracted by the noise from above. I am sure the Minister will not disagree with that. When class movements are taking place upstairs, both pupils and teachers are treated to a shower of dust from the floor above. When the Minister in charge of electricity visited the school he realised immediately that the lighting was very poor and immediately arranged for the hurried installation of electric lights.

Although they cost a lot of money to install, they were practically useless because of the fact that the walls of the temporary rooms built by the present Government are not 7 feet high, and the lights had to be installed between the floor joists. Consequently they provide little or no light.

These temporary rooms are built under the school, and it should be obvious that the ventilation is not all that could be desired. I should like to place on record that when the former member, with the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity, left the State school and went to the Convent School he said, "I have just come from over the road, where the accommodation is appalling, and I congratulate you children on having been provided with such a school as you have at the present time."

Mr. Aikens: Who said that, Jim Sparkes?

Mr. DIPLOCK: That is right, in the company of the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity. I think that should go on record, and I trust that when an official visit is made on the next occasion there will not be the need for a comparison between one school and the other.

The third factor which could have caused the Government to lose the electorate of Aubigny is the lack of a suitable maternity block at the Dalby Hospital. Shortly after the present Government took office the Minister for Health and Home Affairs visited Dalby to open the beautiful general ward block provided by the previous Government—

Mr. Pizzey: It is a wonder you did not put a "labour" ward in there when you were in.

Mr. DIPLOCK: That is what I want the Government to do. A brand-new shiny

board was appointed. All former board members were sacked, and the people of Dalby were advised not to worry, that everything in the garden, so far as the hospital facilities were concerned, was going to be lovely. I have been reliably informed that the present board have made a conscientious, if not a very effective, effort to have a maternity block established. The maternity block at the hospital at the present time caused Mr. Sparkes again to say—"The maternity section at the Dalby Hospital is a disgrace to any town, not only Dalby."

I agree entirely with such criticism. So, if the Government want to win the Aubigny electorate, that is how to do it—build new schools, live up to their promises to foster private enterprise, foster decentralisation, and give Dalby a new maternity block. I am sure that the people of Dalby will be so very grateful that a Country Party candidate for Aubigny will have a chance of sitting on the Government benches after the next election.

Oakey, the town next in size to Dalby in the Aubigny electorate, is the centre of a very rich farming and dairying area, and in many ways serves as the official centre for a number of towns within a 15-mile radius of it. The Government offices—and they include the C.P.S. office, the Agriculture and Stock office, the police station and the courthouse—are consequently visited by many people on official business. At present they would be a disgrace to Bullamakanga. They are inadequate as far as accommodation is concerned and offer no conveniences to the public.

If one person goes to the counter at the C.P.S. office any other person who has business to transact has to wait outside; there is not enough room for the two inside. The Agriculture and Stock Department building is small, badly furnished, badly lit, and I should say, as one person goes in, the other has to back out.

Mr. Aikens: How long have the offices been there?

Mr. DIPLOCK: I should say 80 years—certainly a long time. They are not convenient for the public and certainly not a credit to either this or previous Governments.

The economic stability of Oakey and district has been seriously affected by the regulations relating to country-killed beef being brought into the Greater Brisbane area. I should like Country Party members to listen to this point. These regulations have resulted in a large percentage of the former employees of the Oakey abattoirs being unemployed with little or no chance of finding other employment, and I put on record that no public or Government money has been expended on these abattoirs; they are run purely by private enterprise.

Mr. Ewan: They are still working, are they not?

Mr. DIPLOCK: Of course, but not with nearly the same number of employees as previously.

Mr. Ewan: There is a shortage of cattle.

Mr. DIPLOCK: It is not the shortage of cattle.

This is another example of the Government's asking people to leave the city and not living up to their responsibility to help them when they do.

The operations of buyers from the Oakey abattoirs have had a big effect on the district, not only on the Oakey market but on the western markets, and have benefited producers whose interests the Country Party members profess to protect.

Since 1955, when a resolution of the Queensland Meat Industry Board made it permissible for meat slaughtered in the country abattoirs where an inspector was permanently employed to be brought into the Brisbane area, the capacity of the Oakey abattoirs gradually increased, and in the peak period last year 200 men were employed and 1,200 cattle and 700 calves were slaughtered each week.

The abattoir was erected to Commonwealth Government export specifications and provision was made for the handling of by-products, including the dry-rendering of fats and manufacture of fertilisers.

Mr. Aikens: Is there a local newspaper in Oakey?

Mr. DIPLOCK: No, but there is at Toowoomba.

One of the major problems that a producer or a purchaser has to contend with has been the wastage brought about by travelling stock over long distances and the resulting bruising. I can give a case of the loss of approximately £250 by one producer who sent 42 prime cows from Wallumbilla to the abattoirs in Brisbane. That does not reflect on the work of the abattoirs. These 42 animals were bruised in transit to such an extent that much of the meat had to be classed as inferior, and in the one transaction that producer lost £250. We cannot expect producers to take that treatment and like it. By eliminating the travel factor, better carcasses are produced. That is one of the reasons why country-killed beefs holds its bloom and is more succulent than meat from cattle that have been subjected to long journeys. The establishment of abattoirs such as that at Oakey is therefore of benefit to both the producer and the consumer. The elimination of waste through travel and unnecessary freight on bone, waste and so on, should tend to an advantageous adjustment in the cost of living.

The health of the people is protected because all meats produced at the Oakey abattoirs are under the supervision of a staff of Commonwealth meat inspectors. Their inspection is considerably more rigid

than the State requirements at country slaughterhouses. A visit to the abattoirs would convince even the most critical that it would be difficult to find a more hygienic meatworks in Queensland.

Mr. Aikens: Why can't the meat be sold in Brisbane?

Mr. DIPLOCK: Because of the regulations.

Mr. Aikens: Were they in force when your Government had control of the State?

Mr. DIPLOCK: No, they were not. They were introduced after that. The meat was delivered to Brisbane in hygienically sealed and efficiently insulated frig-mobiles.

One hon. member this morning referred to the menace to health because of the class of wagons today delivering meat around Brisbane. All Oakey Abattoir vehicles are at all times under the supervision of properly appointed Commonwealth inspectors.

I asked the Minister for Agriculture and Stock a series of questions on this matter on 1 March of this year. His replies were very indefinite. Bluntly, all he tried to do was to cover up, and he seemed very concerned that some men in Brisbane might be unemployed for part of the year. He seemed to pay little attention, and attached little importance, to the fact that the consumer and the producer, and the men who work in the country abattoirs, had an equal right to protection.

I have discussed this matter with many Country Party members, and they agree with me. Whether they are prepared to stand up in this House and say so, or whether they are prepared to push for the repeal of these regulations in their own Caucus, I do not know. However, they have said privately they agree that the regulations are unwarranted. I appeal to them to live up to what the country people expect of them.

I should like to make a few remarks about the recent election. Firstly, I place on record that the change in the ballot-paper has resulted in a great increase in the number of informal votes in my electorate. I saw the number of ballot-papers that were rejected because the presiding officer did not put his initials on the back. That is very wrong, and very unfair. In the country areas, many people travel long distances to register their votes, which become invalid if the presiding officer does not place his initials on record. I am a little sore about it, because I think I would have doubled my majority if they had all been regarded as valid.

It is very pleasant to have visits from the Ministers of the Crown during an election campaign, but they should endeavour to live up to the definite promises they make from the public platform. I take this opportunity to remind the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity that he

led the people of the Cecil Plains area to expect a bitumen-surfaced road from Cecil Plains to Dalby, and he made a definite promise on the Cooyar bridge.

I should like to bring to the notice of the Minister for "tourism"—or "joy flights," or "many journeys"—that just outside Dalby is a lake known as Lake Broadwater. Hundreds of people visit this inland lake every week-end, and quite a few aquatic carnivals are held there. If the Minister wants to make our State more attractive, I suggest he pay more attention to the requests for a bitumen road by the people interested in that area.

Mr. Pizzey: What promises did I make?

Mr. Aikens: You weren't there.

Mr. Pizzey: I was there twice.

Mr. Aikens: That's why you lost the seat.

Mr. Pizzey: I made no promises.

Mr. DIPLOCK: If the Minister made no promises, I cannot be disappointed; but I will very much appreciate anything the Government can do in the next three years.

Mr. EWAN (Roma) (3.31 p.m.): I desire to reaffirm my allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. and to associate myself and the people of the Roma electorate with the sentiments expressed in the motion so admirably moved by the hon. member for Hinchinbrook and seconded by the hon. member for Bowen.

I take this opportunity to thank the people of the Roma electorate sincerely for continuing to repose their confidence in me and for returning me with a very strong majority. They can rest assured I will continue my best efforts on their behalf and on behalf of Queensland generally.

To you, Mr. Speaker, I extend my congratulations on your elevation to your high and honourable position. I am very confident that you will maintain its traditions worthily and add lustre to your high and important office.

To my leader, the Premier, and the other members of Cabinet, may I say, "Thank you" for the helpful understanding and sympathetic assistance given to me in my representations during my last three years in Parliament. I look forward with confidence to a continuance of that helpful attitude and sympathetic understanding of the problems of my constituents.

I think it can be said with a great degree of confidence that the present Cabinet has, during the last three years, contributed in no small measure to the evident advancement and progress in the State. I trust that world economic affairs will enable the Government to present a similar balance-sheet of progress at the end of this term.

Queenslanders are indeed fortunate with Her Majesty's choice of the present Governor, His Excellency Sir Henry Abel Smith. He

and Lady May have a complete and sympathetic understanding of many of our problems and a tremendous capacity for work, too. Everyone will agree that they have endeared themselves to every section of the community they have come in contact with. I was tremendously impressed with His Excellency's words delivered at the opening of Parliament, and it gives me infinite pleasure to quote them. He said—

"I have recently visited Shires and Towns in the south-west and central districts of Queensland. In some areas drought conditions have existed for four years, yet the hearts of our citizens in these stricken lands are full of practical courage. They plan to mitigate, by hard work and the aid of scientific achievements, the worst effects of these periodic rainless seasons. These men and women possess immense faith in their soil and are acquiring an ever-increasing knowledge of how to receive from it its gifts, under all conditions.

This faith in the future is further reflected by the immense civic pride shown in the townships and countryside. In the most isolated areas, due to voluntary communal effort, modern amenities have been provided which are often lacking in more favourably situated towns.

These Queenslanders fill me with confidence for the future. Success in achieving the great destiny which beckons to us rests on the character of the people. The men of the outback are setting us a noble example, and I firmly believe that their spirit is carried in the breast of every Queenslander."

How true those words are when one has lived and worked, as I have, with these people since 1920 and shared their joys and sorrows, their triumphs and reverses. I experienced the great cattle slump of 1922, when prices fell from £20 to 30s. a head; the world-wide depression of 1929 to 1932, when sheep prices fell from £2 to 2s. 6d. a head, and the price of wool from 24d. to 7d. a pound; the droughts in 1924-25, 1927-30, 1935-36, 1942-46, followed by the bounteous years from 1947 to 1952, and then the drought from 1956 to 1960; the boom from 1948 to 1952, when wool prices rose from 16d. a pound to an average of 142d. a pound, and sheep were readily saleable at £5 a head, which was followed by a progressive decline in values to an average of a mere 48d. a pound today, and the boom prices in cattle of the last two years. All those things make me doubly appreciative of His Excellency's words. Truly the western people have set a remarkable example of progress and development that is worthy of emulation by every other section of the community, and we, as a Government, must, by sympathetic and generous administration, ensure that their practical courage is fostered and encouraged by every means at our disposal. I say that despite the fact that there have been one or two remarks made in this Chamber

disparaging these people whom the Governor has seen fit to mention so eulogistically in his Opening Speech.

Much has been done administratively during the last three years, and, as time goes by, the lands legislation enacted during that period will stand out like a beacon light along the path of progress and development, and the names of the Honourable Alf. Muller and Sir William Payne, and others, will long be remembered in the lands history of this State.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. EWAN: I hear the cock crowing on the Opposition benches, but much more remains to be done and we, as administrators, must get on with the job.

There are two matters that I think I must stress. First, I think we should press on as speedily as we can with the consolidation of the Land Acts to enable all amendments to be incorporated in the principal Act. That will do away with the misunderstanding and confusion that have existed for many years and have in fact become a legal paradise to the detriment of the landholder, occasioning endless controversy. Secondly, I believe that the classification of land production potential is of the utmost urgency. Following the tremendous development and the adoption of modern methods of improvement and production that have become evident over the past 15 years, I believe that a complete classification of land production potential must be undertaken if we are to succeed in developing to the full our primary industries. It must be undertaken in accordance with the capacity of the land to produce certain commodities on a sound and economic basis, governed by natural rainfall, the mineral content of the soil, requirements of plant and animal life, the absorptivity and successful marketing of produce, availability of transport, and the proven ability to produce and sustain certain plant or animal life in order to exploit whatever form of production is best suited to the area, and geographically and economically sustain the greatest population on a basis of reasonable living conditions and advancement.

We know from experience that certain areas of the State are best suited for mixed farming, for dairying, for cattle-breeding and/or fattening, for the breeding of sheep or fat-lamb raising, or for the production of wool only, for the production of sugar, tobacco, cane, timber, and many other commodities. So why not let us classify these proven areas and endeavour to prevent a recurrence of the many tragic mistakes of the past when people were encouraged by successive Governments to settle on land in different areas and undertake certain forms of production for which the land was altogether unsuited? We have seen areas of land opened up as grazing selections with ringbarking conditions imposed, only for

the settlers to find that when the conditions have been fulfilled and the timber ringbarked, a tremendous crop of cypress pine has come up, making it impossible to graze the land because grass could not grow on it. That has shown in no uncertain way nature's method of reforestation and that the land should have been used exclusively for the growing of timber.

Continually we see a conflict between forestry and land administration. Therefore I think that all forestry land should be defined, set aside and separately administered. What is the use of having one department endeavouring to grow timber when another department opens up the land for another specific purpose, at the same time imposing conditions that necessitate ringbarking? It is a waste of time to the individual, and to the department, and a wastage of the great assets of the State.

Mr. Davies: Does the hon. member realise that, if the Government keep on cutting down their operations in the timber industry, one day there will be no timber left?

Mr. EWAN: If only the hon. member would travel round Queensland and see for himself how nature rejuvenates the timber resources of the State, and see the great timber resources of the Carnarvon Ranges, which he has never seen—and probably few hon. members and a few people outside the Chamber, even officers of the Forestry Department, know that area well—he would not make such asinine remarks.

I think it can be said safely that at least half of the State can be economically used only for the grazing of sheep and cattle, so do not let us delude ourselves into believing that it can be used for agricultural purposes. If, with the advance of science, it can be transformed into agricultural land, as some people like to believe, these questions arise: What are we going to do with the production? How can the production be economically absorbed unless the population of the State increases tenfold, or there is a radical alteration in the world's methods of distribution? Is it likely that the population of Queensland will increase tenfold in the next 30 years? I may be wrong, but I do not think that it will. Therefore, if my reasoning is sound, we must not be niggardly in dealing with the arid areas of the State, which have to meet and overcome market fluctuations and seasonal vagaries and the very many frustrations that I have dealt with briefly earlier in my speech. So I submit that a complete classification of land production potential of Queensland must be undertaken with the least possible delay if we are to reach full development in many areas that have been retarded for years.

I was somewhat amazed at the following statement made recently by the Leader of the Opposition—

"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, 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. Dufficy: That is pretty right.

Mr. EWAN: I think the hon. member for Warrego, being a westerner for a few short years, might perhaps know otherwise. I honestly believe that if the Leader of the Opposition believed what he said he has been the subject of one of the greatest leg-pulls in his life.

Mr. Duggan: That is only half the story. We will tell the full story if you want us to.

Mr. EWAN: Firstly, let me tell hon. members that Mr. Condon has not been a member of the Country Party since 1951. He was elected as representative of the Democratic Union in 1951 and is on the consultative committee of the Democratic Union, which was fostered and established by Mr. Charles Russell, former Federal member for Maranoa. One of the principal objects of that union was, in view of there being no candidate justifying the confidence of the union—the union, mind you!—finding an independent candidate would obviously be a matter for consideration. So that the Leader of the Opposition stated an untruth when he said that Mr. Condon was a member of the Country Party.

Mr. Duggan: He was a member.

Mr. EWAN: It is definitely untrue that he is presently a member of the Country Party.

Mr. Duggan: The letter I got was from a Country Party member.

Mr. EWAN: And the hon. member would not table it. As a matter of fact, I have a letter from one of the executive members. Since the Leader of the Opposition made his assertion I have communicated with every member of the executive, and each one has denied having written any letter to the Leader of the Opposition. In fact, I have telegrams here that I am prepared to table indicating that the Leader of the Opposition was either suffering from the greatest leg-pull of his career or deliberately prevaricating.

Now, let me deal with this extraordinary statement about procession after procession of Ministers going to a place like Roma—and he said it in a derogatory sense—"A place like Roma!" It is a place I am proud to live in and a place I am proud to represent, despite what the Leader of the Opposition has said.

Let us see what this "procession after procession," in the extravagant language of the Leader of the Opposition, was. What did it consist of? The Premier of this State—the Leader of the Country Party and Leader of the Government—certainly visited as many of the electorates of Government members during the election campaign as he was physically able and capable of doing. Where is this great procession? The Minister for Health and Home Affairs happened to be in Miles to lay the foundation stone of a beautiful block of nurses' quarters, which the Labour Government had neglected to provide. I suggested he might come and say a few words at my meeting in Miles that night, and he generously acceded to my request. He spoke in support of me, and helped me very considerably.

Let me deal further with this statement about procession after procession of Ministers. The Minister for Education came to Miles and spoke on my behalf. According to the Leader of the Opposition, those visits constituted a procession after procession of Ministers.

Mr. Duggan: What about the Deputy Prime Minister and the present Minister for Public Lands?

Mr. EWAN: Did not the Deputy Prime Minister thereby bestow a great honour on me.

Mr. Duggan: Because you were rattled.

Mr. EWAN: I will tell the story. The Deputy Prime Minister, prior to the elevation to that position of Mr. John McEwen, who belongs to the same clan as I do—and I am proud of it—was conscious of the assistance I had rendered to him personally and politically over a period of years, and he even asked if he could come out there and assist me. I said to him, "All Australians are proud of the work you have done, but do not come out." He said, "I will, Bill. I would like to come out and help you," and I said, "I would be delighted." Those are the people who constitute this procession after procession of Ministers. In 1953 seven Labour Ministers campaigned against me in my electorate, but they would not bring their Federal leader to the electorates, particularly those in the west. Why? Were they ashamed of him? Hon. members can draw their own conclusions. I have exploded the myth about procession after procession of Ministers.

But the Leader of the Opposition did not tell us of his great concern for the Independent candidate. He did not mention that two or three days before the election,

by advertisement in "The Western Star," the Independent published a telegram purporting to come from the then Leader of the Q.L.P., Hon. V. C. Gair, advising and recommending Q.L.P. electors in the Roma electorate to support Mr. Condon, and indicating in no uncertain way that Mr. Condon was then carrying the banner of the Q.L.P. Where does the loyalty of the Leader of the Opposition lie—with his own party, or with the Q.L.P.? What did he do for his fully accredited candidate in the Roma electorate? Not a damn thing. It was just as well he did not go out there, because, when he delivered his policy speech at Toowoomba, staunch old Labourites in Roma told me, "That is the end of our chances of winning the election."

Mr. Duggan: That is why I got a 2,700 majority.

Mr. EWAN: I am talking of the whole of the State.

Mr. Duggan: And that is why we got 90,000 more votes than we got previously.

Mr. EWAN: The analysis of the Leader of the Opposition was the most absurd thing I have ever listened to. Surely he does not imagine that he can mislead the intelligent people of Queensland by publishing such a stupid analysis. In effect, what he said was that if they had 50 or 60 candidates in 50 or 60 electorates and only two were returned, the average number of votes for the return of each member would be the total of the votes cast in the 50 electorates divided by the two candidates. The leader of the Q.L.P. said it took 21,000 votes to elect a Q.L.P. member. I did not think the Leader of the Opposition would descend to such sleight-of-hand tactics.

Mr. Duggan: Did you get 50 per cent. of the votes?

Mr. EWAN: His analysis was most ridiculous.

Mr. Duggan: Did you get 50 per cent. of the votes?

Mr. EWAN: To illustrate the absurdity of his argument, let us assume that five candidates stand for a seat, and that each of them receives a certain number of votes. Would the Leader of the Opposition reject the leading candidate because he did not get 50 per cent. of the votes? See how absurd his reasoning is! I am absolutely surprised. At one time I thought the Leader of the Opposition was a man of discernment, intellect and character, but I have received a severe jolt. However, my time is rapidly running out and I wish to deal with more important subjects than a general round-table discussion with the Leader of the Opposition.

I wish now to deal with a very important subject which could, to a very great extent, influence the rural, social and industrial development of Queensland. I refer to the

recent very important natural petroliferous gas discoveries in the Roma electorate by Australian Associated Oilfields and its associated companies, Associated Freneys, Papuan Apianiapi Ltd., and Mines Administration Ltd. At the outset, I wish to say how we appreciate the manner in which these companies, particularly Mines Administration Ltd. have carried out very important work in the area. We, at least—and the rest of the people in this State—should be deeply appreciative of the tremendous service being rendered by these companies. I wish to place on record that their shareholders should be very proud of themselves as good Australians, and good Queenslanders, in subscribing the necessary capital to enable this very important work to be undertaken.

I should like to explain the tremendous possibilities of natural gas, which is a new industry in Australia. It has never been used before. In the U.S.A., and to a lesser extent in Canada, it is a very important industry. In the U.S.A. over 23,000 miles of natural-gas pipeline serve more than 23,000,000 people. In Canada there are 17,000 miles of gas pipeline from the oil-fields and the natural-gas bores. In many instances the gas is piped 600, 700, 800, 900, and 1,000 miles to centres of industry. It is used in every conceivable form; even by the householder, but mainly by the large industrial concerns for the generation of electricity, which, as every thinking person will concede, is so necessary here, particularly at an economic cost, if Queensland is to develop as the United States of America and Canada have developed industrially in the last 20 to 30 years. It would result in greatly improved social conditions that are so necessary to bring joy and contentment to the people of this fair State.

The discovery of gas in Roma is not new. It was first discovered while the town-water bore was being deepened in the early part of this century. If my memory serves me rightly, that was somewhere in the vicinity of 1906. A tremendous flow of gas was encountered and the bore was allowed to run wild. The gas just flowed out, and ultimately it caught fire. In those days, with a lack of technical knowledge, it was found very difficult to put it out. It lit up the town, and was visible for miles. It was ultimately put out by lowering an old steam boiler over the flame.

At a later period one of the oil bores produced gas and it, too, caught fire. The huge steel derrick was reduced to a molten mass in a very short period. Many wells were drilled in the vicinity of Hospital Hill; quite a few of them produced gas and many of them were allowed to flow wild. That has been going on for over 50 years. Many companies engaged in the search for oil and many hundreds of thousands of pounds were lost. Strangely enough, in most instances results were encouraging but not commercially so. Unfortunately most of the drilling sites were selected on very little

information—mainly on surface geology, which anyone who has read anything about oil prospecting knows is of no practical value.

In 1950 some geophysical work was carried out with gravity and seismic surveys, but drilling on the interpretation of these surveys was not a success. In fact the present company, which was operating so efficiently on the field at the time, did not believe—and still does not believe—that the 60 wells that were drilled in that 40-year period, without geophysical services and without adequate drilling techniques, could possibly test thoroughly an area of approximately 500,000 acres. In 1959 they commenced a re-examination of the Roma area. This included a complete study of all the previous data, which was found in some instances to be reliable and in others to be completely unreliable. Above all, it was found to be very difficult to interpret.

In August, 1959, Mines Administration brought out from the United States of America a seismic team, who commenced a detailed survey of a block approximately 20 miles by 5 miles, running from Roma to Wallumbilla. For the information of those who are not familiar with the seismic survey, a hole is drilled down a couple of hundred feet and gelignite exploded at the bottom, and the seismic equipment, which is similar to the equipment that registers earthquakes by the impressions made on a ribbon, indicates to those with sufficient knowledge to interpret it the underground strata likely to be encountered in drilling. Remember that this survey extended over a block 20 miles by 5 miles, running from near Roma to Wallumbilla. The first well was commenced early in 1960. It was sited at Timbury Hills and produced 1,250,000 cubic feet of petroliferous gas per day from a quarter-inch choke pipe. The gas came from the Hospital Hill sandstone. That is a sandstone unit in the Moolayember formation, the lowest Mesozoic formation known. The production was proved to have come from the same formation as the production obtained from the Hospital Hill wells.

The next site selected for testing was near Pickenjinnie, approximately 20 miles east of the Timbury Hills location. This well encountered four gas sands, three in the Mesozoic formation and one in the Permian. A combined test of the top two yielded a steady flow of over 6,500,000 cubic feet a day on a one-inch choke. Strangely enough, this did not cause any excitement, yet it is capable of producing about 480 barrels of condensate a day. In America, if you located an oil well that will produce even 200 barrels of oil a day, there would be tremendous excitement. I do not think the people of Queensland realise the importance of that discovery.

The third site was selected at Latemore Creek, and this well has been sunk to a

depth of 4,490 feet. They have proved in that well a gas supply of 600,000 cubic feet a day.

The company plans to carry on drilling, to make a further survey and to put more bores down with the object of proving, if possible, a minimum supply in the Roma area of 20,000,000 cubic feet of gas a day. Remembering that today 10,000,000 cubic feet of gas a day is available from these wells, that should indicate to all hon. members the importance of this discovery.

History is now being made in Roma, because the gas from one of these wells—this is purely a pilot scheme—is being supplied to the Roma powerhouse. That will give the company a chance to conduct a long test on one of its wells, and it will also enable the engines in the powerhouse to be tested of natural gas. The supply envisaged in the initial stages of this trial is 70,000 cubic feet a day, which may be increased as other engines are used for power generated by natural gas.

It is envisaged that the total market for natural gas in Roma in the next few years, without the addition of new industry, would be about 500,000 cubic feet a day. It is also envisaged that we could establish there industries producing carbon black, sulphur, polythene, plastics, and similar commodities, but those industries will not be established unless we can prove a flow of 20,000,000 cubic feet a day, and a reserve of 20 years' supply. The sale of gas could lead to the establishment in Roma of one of the biggest industries in Queensland. Gas could be piped 300 miles to Brisbane and other centres without difficulty, and could even be piped to Weipa for use in the production of aluminium from bauxite.

I also wish to place on record my appreciation, and the appreciation of the people in my electorate, of the fact that the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity has seen fit, because of these tremendously important discoveries of gas, to make a trip to Canada and the United States of America to gain first-hand knowledge of the marketing of gas. If Australian Associated Oilfields Ltd and Mines Administration Ltd can bring to a successful conclusion the wonderful work they are doing, perhaps establishing new industries in Queensland, the Minister must be congratulated on his initiative in gaining the knowledge that will enable him to take the steps necessary for the development of this State and industry generally in the further discovery that I am confident will be made in the Roma area in the very near future.

Strangely enough, although the Commonwealth Government subsidised Australian Associated Oilfields Ltd. for the original seismic survey and the cost of the Pickenjinnie well, they are not now prepared to subsidise further drilling or seismic work on the grounds that no new stratigraphic information can

be obtained that will be useful in bringing in further supplies of gas and oil. I hope that the Government, and the Minister concerned, will make submissions to the Commonwealth Government and induce them to change their policy and grant a subsidy that will enable this tremendously important work to be continued.

(Time expired.)

Mr TUCKER (Townsville South) (4.9 p.m.): As the newly-elected representative for Townsville North, I have the honour of representing part of the most exciting city in Queensland today, the city of Townsville. I publicly thank the citizens of Townsville North for the faith they have shown in me by electing me as their parliamentary representative. I will try to continue to live up to my lifelong motto: "The only time I dare not fail is the last time I try." I also express my thanks to all those loyal members of the Australian Labor Party who strove so mightily on my behalf, and to all the union leaders, members and Labour supporters who did not waver when the campaign against me was strongest.

I assure His Excellency Sir Henry Abel Smith that the citizens of Townsville are second to none in loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, a loyalty that has been clearly shown on many occasions. We have welcomed Sir Henry and his charming wife previously, and we will be proud to have them with us again in the near future.

Townsville was the great base from which the Japanese spearhead was blunted, and finally destroyed, during the war in the Pacific. For that reason, we, as citizens of Townsville are particularly conscious of our vulnerability in the North.

One has only to glance at the appalling record of northern settlement to realise how the present Government have failed ignominiously, and that they are making no real impact on the problem of filling the empty or partly-developed areas. When I look at the huge concentration of people in industry in the metropolitan area of Brisbane—I think there are over 500,000 people in this area—I say emphatically that, considering the resources and importance of the North-land the impact of Government policies on that area has been insignificant. But despite the lack of co-operation from the "Queen Street" Government, Townsville will not be denied and is pushing steadily onwards. If it is not already, it is about to become, the second city in Queensland. Strategically situated, as I mentioned previously, it is the front door to the whole of the North-land. Nowhere else in Australia is there a land of such potential—rich agricultural lands, minerals unlimited, huge areas on which beef-cattle thrive and great tracts of country from which are taken Australia's most valuable timber. A large percentage of this wealth in the form of sugar, silver-lead, copper and beef—to

mention but a few—flows through the busy port of Townsville. Mt. Isa is one of the richest mines in the world on the score of immense, easily-worked, high-grade copper ore bodies with adjoining lead, zinc and silver ore, and in the near future it will be larger than any other single enterprise in Australia. Reliable estimates place the ore resources at a minimum of 200,000,000 tons—enough, at the present rate of extraction, for another 40 years. Efficient rail transport connects this unique area with the port of Townsville, 603 miles away. The £30,000,000 reconstruction of the railway line is now under way. The Federal Government's decision to make this a loan repayable by the State, instead of treating it on a national basis akin to the Snowy River scheme, is another blot on their already shabby record.

The first stage of Mt. Isa Mines modern electrolytic copper refinery at Stuart, six miles from the Townsville Post Office, is already operating with an annual capacity of 40,000 tons, which will be extended to 60,000 tons in 1961 and 75,000 tons in 1962. The wire-drawing plant and copper-rod plant will be commissioned very shortly. The company has already announced that it will extend the refinery's capacity to 100,000 tons a year, worth more than £30,000,000 a year. It already employs 350 men and is as modern as any in the world. It will continue to expand with Mt. Isa, and all its products, after processing, will be shipped through the port of Townsville. The shipment of these metals through the port has lightened, to some extent, the impact of the bulk-loading of sugar on waterside workers in Townsville. Although they were hit hard by the advent of this mechanised process, for the reasons stated previously, the result was not as disastrous as that in Mackay. Nevertheless, they have suffered badly, and are the victims of the Government's dilatory attitude towards the advent of mechanisation and their lack of planning in advance for these mechanised processes, which cannot be held back if we are to progress. It is small satisfaction to those who fall by the wayside through mechanisation that profits have reached a record high level. True, the Minister for Labour and Industry did call a conference in Townsville at one stage, but its farcical nature can be assessed by the fact that the number of delegates allowed from the trade unions could be numbered on the fingers of one hand. If the Minister was sincere in his remark in this Chamber last week that he was the most highly regarded of all Ministers who have held his portfolio, he knows nothing of the feeling towards him in Townsville. The Australian Labour Party was not invited to send any representatives to the conference, yet the hypocritical statement was made later that we have shown so little interest that we did not attend the conference. It is small wonder that there is a complete lack of confidence in the Government in Townsville and other industrial areas.

Adjacent to the copper refinery is the cement works of North Australian Cement Ltd. It employs between 175 and 200 men throughout the year, and is also making a valuable contribution to Townsville's expansion. Its output this year will possibly be 70,000 tons of cement. Improvements are being continually made to the plant and equipment, bringing the total value to within striking distance of £2,000,000.

In the industrial area of Garbutt many new industries are springing up, some subsidiaries of southern firms and some begun by enterprising young men with faith in the North. One striking example of the way in which the North is exploited can be seen in the use of steel. Industries in Townsville that use steel either in manufacturing processes or in building or fencing construction are forced to use imported steel. This costs £78 to £84 a ton plus £18 a ton freight and charges, while Australian steel could be brought in for from £56 to £65 a ton. Australian steel is shipped overseas in ever-increasing quantities through southern ports, and we all acknowledge that it is equal to the best in the world.

With the rapid expansion of the city of Townsville—a city deep within the tropics where hygiene is of paramount importance—the local authority faces a colossal task. My opinion is that more substantial subsidies should be provided by the Government to enable local authorities in the North to cope with such works as sewerage, water reticulation, and roads, to mention but three.

On the subject of education, Townsville's great need at the moment is a second new high school, yet this Government, who claim to have done so much for Townsville, have not yet completed the first new high school. Rockhampton, with a population lower than Townsville, now has two new high schools, as well as one functioning at the technical college. Young girls need to be trained in domestic economy, hygiene, cooking, dress-making and so on, but facilities in Townsville to cope with these essential subjects for primary and secondary students are quite inadequate.

The Pimlico State High School has no home science department, that at the West End State School is not nearly big enough for all the students who should attend it, and that at the Townsville State High School is housed in an old dilapidated building. Instead of being model institutions from which the future mothers in this glorious part of our State could gain inspiration when the time comes to establish their own homes, they are sub-standard, and are certainly not likely to inspire our rising youth to better things.

Most primary schools in my area are bulging at the seams. It would appear that additional buildings at these schools have come to a halt in favour of the University project. Although I have no argument against the building of the University—indeed, I welcome

it with open arms—I would say that primary-school buildings should not be neglected in favour of it. Without the solid foundation of primary-school education, the whole edifice must collapse.

Two of the great curses of the North are the high cost of living and seasonal unemployment. The long haul of goods from the South at savage freight rates is one of the big contributing factors in living costs. The allowances for the various zones are unrealistic, and until the Government faces up to these facts the majority of migrants will gravitate to the metropolitan area.

Population is our most crying need and until living conditions are made attractive our wide open spaces will remain that way. Industries also will have to receive strong consideration to allow them to compete with their counterparts in the South. Present conditions are not conducive to the setting up of new industries. I speak of this on a broad basis rather than with particular reference to Townsville.

Cane-harvesting is now in full swing and a big work force is employed on this work in the North. The shame of it is that after the crushing, with nothing further to keep them in the North the men comprising this work force will move south, taking with them a great percentage of the money they have earned. Planned reforestation could make use of this work force and keep it in the North all the year. Timber is being taken out of our reserves at an alarming rate and is not being replaced. The Government should act quickly in this matter.

On present indications, the two meat-exporting companies at Townsville will close by the middle of September. Swift (Australia) Company Pty. Ltd. at Alligator Creek is working on a minimum kill of 400 a day with a 12-butcher gang. It is expected that the works will close on about 14 September. It is interesting to note that if the company exceeds the quota of 400 and treats, say, 410 head a day, it is obliged to pay slaughtermen an additional 25 per cent. The company therefore keeps its kill at a maximum of 400 a day, or just under that number. It is expected that the Ross River works of Q.M.E. Company Pty. Ltd. will close on about 23 September. The present kill with a six-butcher gang varies from 200 to 282 head a day. The season has been of just over four months' duration—the shortest on record. The earnings of each man for the season are hundreds of pounds less than last year. Not only has the season been the shortest on record, but no killing has been done on Sundays, whereas in previous seasons employees would expect to work on 11 or 12 Sundays at penalty rates. The union advises that 40 men are registered as unemployed at the union office, and the number is growing rapidly. So apprehensive are many of these men about their low earnings this year that the union has had a number of inquiries about long-service leave and its

cash equivalent. Very shortly hundreds of men will face many months of enforced idleness.

We must all agree that that is a most undesirable and heartbreaking state of affairs. I agree with the hon. member for Townsville South, who climbed on the bandwagon of the hon. member for Herbert by declaring that greater beef production was the answer. I cannot see the hon. member for Townsville South in the Chamber.

Mr. Aikens: I'm here. Can't you see?

Mr. TUCKER: I can hear.

I do not agree that that will happen in the near future unless something is done about the large companies and families that have a stranglehold on the inland breeding grounds. I agree with the former Minister for Lands and Irrigation, who rejected the big graziers' requests to throw open the Tully land reserves for timber and agriculture. He is reported to have said, "Any action to destroy the timber-growing potential of the area would be criminal." Because of his vision and his intestinal fortitude in this matter, he sits today in the Government back benches. He had the temerity to "buck" the Northern Cattle Committee of the Central and Northern Association of the United Graziers' Association. He had the temerity to speak the truth on these matters; our timber lands are already far too few and dwindling fast. The greedy graziers, of course, couldn't care less. These lands are rich and easily exploited, and offer a quick reward for a comparatively small outlay. That has been the pattern of their approach to the industry throughout the past century. The semi-tropical Queensland climate makes the husbandry of a grazing animal a simple process. None of the rigors of Europe and North America have to be contended with. There is no winter housing, and no fodder supplementation. Graziers have allowed their livestock to grow and multiply on their pastures with but little effort on their part to supplement what nature has already supplied. The readiness with which this process has been accepted by the industry has materially affected the expansion of livestock production in this State. As a consequence, losses in time of partial, or complete, drought have been appalling.

In all fairness, I must admit that not all graziers have the same approach, and I pay a tribute to those wise men who have introduced pasture improvement and fodder conservation. However, their numbers are pitifully small and the big majority still work on our great grandfathers' principle.

In any scheme of land development it is very important that the breeding areas be developed at the same time as the coastal fattening lands. Those splendid lands in the Gulf and the western areas, now virtually lying idle and held by large companies and families, must be resumed as soon as the present leases expire and made available in smaller living areas.

When one observes hundreds of people balloting for one block of land, it is obvious that many are eager for an opportunity to go on the land. People on smaller living areas would pay more attention to their stock and pastures, rather than rely on the fallacy of vast areas as an insurance against drought. That is the way to boost beef production, and to populate the North and put to good use vast areas of idle land.

There is land in the Ingham-Tully area—there are thousands of acres of it along the coast in the 100-inch rainfall belt—waiting to be drained and cleared. Perhaps it would be described as wallum country. It would require effort, but it has been proved that with wise drainage and careful management, and the application of fertiliser to improve pasture, it can be turned into glorious country. Mr. Wally Lehman, on his Beachmere farm near Caboolture has shown what can be done in that type of country with improved pastures such as paspalum and clover, interspersed with the natural mat grass and giant couch. The research stations at South Johnstone and Beerwah would jump at the opportunity of demonstrating what remarkable things can be done to that type of country.

If people want land on which to fatten cattle in the high-rainfall areas, make this land available to them. Let them make a valuable contribution to the country from which they have taken so much wealth. That is the way to increase beef production. Let us get down to the foundations; make them sound with virile and enthusiastic people, and the industry will prosper. Let us take it out of the hands of those who have failed miserably over the past 60 years or more. It is a sad commentary on their ability when one reads that there were as many beef cattle in Australia in 1898 as there were in 1958. It is sad to think that thousands of meatworkers are workless because of these incompetents and that beef prices soar, taking beef off the table of the average family, because a minority of men and companies have not progressed with the times.

There is a definite obligation on the Government to remove the present stagnation. With closer settlement, the need for feeder roads will make its presence felt immediately as cattle will have to be transported quickly from breeding to fattening areas.

Western Australia reputedly received £5,000,000 from the Commonwealth Government for development. That money was to be spent north of the 21st parallel. Why should not the same amount be available to Queensland?

As I move towards the end of this, my initial speech in the House, I pause to pay tribute to Mr. George Keyatta and Mr. George Jesson, two loyal members of the Australian Labour Party who ably represented parts of the city of Townsville and district for two decades and more. Their work on behalf of the city of Townsville

will ever be remembered. The "temporary" member for Hinchinbrook paid Mr. Jesson an unconscious compliment in his speech when he expressed the appreciation and thanks of his district for the clearing up of the Mt. Garnet sludge. I say here and now that no-one fought as hard or as long as Mr. Jesson in this House to have that menace eradicated. It is entirely due to his representations that the Herbert River is now clear.

The Premier's facetious reference to Mr. Jesson's defeat was in bad taste and, in accordance with the smugness we have come to expect from a Government devoid of feeling for the average man.

I should be failing in my duty to those loyal members of my party in Townsville if I did not repudiate with every means at my disposal the accusation by the hon. member for Townsville South in this debate last week. In his speech he declared that the A.L.P. had collaborated with the Communists to stop him talking at the National Hotel and to bring about his defeat. During the clash that followed his remark he called me a pipsqueak. I may be a "pip"—and he will find in the course of the next three years that I have a very big squeak. I say to all here gathered that his remark is completely untrue and that he knows it to be untrue. I have here a leaflet issued by the Communist Party of Australia headed "Communist Party Views on Mundingburra" and I shall read part of it. It begins—

"The Communist Party has called upon workers to vote for Aikens, because of the close association he has had with the Trade Unions and the good work he has carried out in the past.

"However, we now express deep concern at his attitude during the present election campaign. It has been particularly noticeable that during the last few weeks he has made no attempt to expose Tory reaction as the main enemy. In fact he has not even mentioned them.

"But the Tories have mentioned Aikens. Over 4 T O Pearce (Liberal-Country Party member for Haughton) frankly said they were supporting Aikens for Mundingburra 'because he lived in the electorate'.

"While it is quite noticeable that Aikens excludes the Tories from any attacks, he has gone out of his way to slander and vilify the Labour Party.

"However, while being critical of the Labour Government, the Communist Party directs its main blow at monopoly—the political masters of the Tories."

It concludes in this way—

"Because of the paramount need to build unity, to defeat the Liberals, and because of the first-past-the-post voting system in Queensland, the Communist Party is contesting only eight seats. Vote Hughie Fay for Townsville. Aikens for Mundingburra."

To those workers who were deluded into voting for the hon. member, I say that if he ever had any Labour leanings, he long ago sold that heritage for 40 pieces of silver. It is significant that in Townsville North I was opposed by, among others, both a Liberal and a Communist candidate, yet in Townsville South they were conspicuous by their absence. As we listened to the hon. member's sickening lauding of the Federal Liberal member for Herbert, it became increasingly obvious who had been responsible for keeping Roy Pope sitting on the sidelines. I say here and now that I am not afraid of his bull voice or his bluff, and I expose him for the liar and fraud that he is.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I inform the hon. member for Townsville North that that is unparliamentary language, and I ask him to withdraw it.

Mr. TUCKER: In deference to you, Mr. Speaker, I certainly withdraw my last remark. In conclusion, I offer my congratulations to you on being elected to your high office. I am certain that you will discharge your duties with justice to all and with dignity and honour to yourself.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah) (4.38 p.m.): As I rise to support the motion moved and seconded respectively by my colleagues, the hon. member for Hinchinbrook and the hon. member for Bowen, the thought uppermost in my mind is one of deep appreciation to our very esteemed Governor, Sir Henry Abel Smith, and his wife, Lady May, for the outstanding and valuable work they are continually carrying out in the interests of our State and of our association with the throne and British Empire. There is no doubt that His Excellency and Lady May have endeared themselves to, and earned the respect of, all sections of the community. Never does one hear other than the highest praise for their keen interest and work, and I personally heartily endorse those sentiments.

Whilst speaking words of appreciation, I should like to take this opportunity of publicly congratulating my leader, the Premier, and all other Ministers upon their election to ministerial rank, and you, Mr. Speaker, upon your elevation to the high and honoured position of Speaker of this Assembly. I also congratulate the new Ministers for Public Works and Local Government, and Public Lands and Irrigation.

To be the guiding force in any Government, as Ministers are, is not an easy task. They have to accept responsibility for all aspects of Government, and, viewing present conditions in a general way, it seems that their task during the next three years will not be easy.

I say that having in mind that the last two Commonwealth loans were under-subscribed, which shows a general tightening in money. No doubt this, in turn, is being reflected in the money available to State Governments,

including the Queensland Government, for public expenditure. I wish the Ministers in charge of the various departments well, and I am sure that they will deal with the problems confronting them with credit to themselves and in the interests of the advancement of the State.

While it is generally agreed that finance is not readily available to the Government in proportion to the costs confronting them, it must be remembered that the same difficulty applies to the individual in every walk of life. I know that the man on the basic wage must find it very difficult to live at a reasonable standard and at the same time meet the upward trend of costs. The same difficulty applies to the primary-producing section of the community. They are always at the end of the receiving line when relief is given. Apart from improving their efficiency—that oft-repeated phrase—they have no real opportunity to meet the rising costs that come at them from every direction. They do not have an opportunity to demand the prices to which they are sometimes entitled. The dairy-farmer, the agriculturist, the sheep man, and the cattle man all have to take what they are offered for their commodities. Although the prices for cattle have been reasonably good recently, the cattle-men have been confronted with many years of hardship in the past. I take strong exception to the words of the previous speaker when he referred to greedy graziers and people who do little or nothing with their land but merely wait for their cattle or sheep to grow. He said that they did nothing about fodder conservation. From his remarks it is quite evident that he had little realisation of what has been done by those engaged in this great industry.

Mr. Windsor: No knowledge.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: No knowledge whatever.

Mr. Donald: You would not defend them!

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Not only would I defend them, but I would say that there are very few sections of the community who have had to put up with greater hardship. Few people have worked as hard in the interests of the State as the pioneers in the inland areas. I am both happy and proud to have an opportunity to defend them, and I shall defend them on every occasion.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The hon. member's interjection clearly shows his lack of appreciation of what they have done.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Graham interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! If I hear any more from the hon. member for Mackay I will have to deal with him.

Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, is a member not permitted to make a reasonable interjection in this Chamber? Have I not the right to interject?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! It is not a relevant interjection. It is noisy and disorderly.

Mr. Graham: I was not making a noisy interjection at all.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! If the hon. member persists I will have to deal with him.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I shall conclude by reiterating what I said. I am deeply concerned at the fact that hon. members opposite have so little appreciation of the country section of the community when they refer to them so disparagingly.

Mr. DONALD: I rise to a point of order. The previous speaker, the hon. member for Townsville North, did not attack the graziers as a whole, but merely a certain section of them, and he named them. It is not fair that the hon. member for Barambah should take an advantage like that.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: There is no denying the fact that people living in country areas have spent large sums of money on the development of their land. They are the type of people we want, and the more we can encourage them to go into the country, the better.

How to overcome the general trend of rising costs, which is affecting the whole community including the primary-producing section, is something that is causing grave concern to the primary producer.

Mr. Graham: And to everybody else.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Yes, and to everybody else. But, as I said, the primary-producing section cannot pass on the costs or go on strike.

Mr. Graham: Does not the grazier withhold his meat from the market?

Mr. Ewan: Of course he does not!

Mr. Graham: He seems to be the worst of the lot.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: There may be a tendency on the part of Governments to think in terms of how they can get greater revenue to meet public demand for employment and the construction of roads, for development, and so on, for which we hon. members are continually pressing. Still, I think we must be conscious of the fact that a Government must not, particularly at this time, inflict greater penalties on any section of the community by additional forms of taxation. I have opposed such measures on various occasions in the past, as hon. members are aware. Perhaps there is no likelihood of that happening in the immediate

future, but who knows? We all know of the losses incurred by the State railways and other instrumentalities. There may be some justification for increases in that direction.

However, speaking of rising costs and the difficulty of the community as a whole, particularly the inland community, of getting an adequate return—and I am now thinking especially of that section of the community that I represent, throughout the South Burnett—the closely-settled producing section of the State—

Mr. Graham: What about the workers you represent?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I am talking of one particular section at the moment. Whilst people throughout the whole of the State should be called upon to meet increased costs, why should they be called upon to meet increased costs, say, from the railways, which are always showing particularly heavy losses? I always think, when talking of inland areas, that the people who live in those areas should be allowed to call on other means of transport when the opportunity is available. I am sure that here again you could say that the community are called upon to pay a subsidy towards the railways for the great losses incurred year after year. It surprises me, therefore, that the union leaders in the railways are continually talking of strike. Surely they should realise that it cannot go on for ever. I often wonder if the men in the great railway undertaking are not more deeply concerned for their own personal futures.

Mr. Graham: They are very concerned.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: We are concerned about it, but the unions do not appear to be concerned.

Mr. Lloyd: We are concerned, too.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: They talk strike and go on strike.

Mr. Houston: Why do they go on strike, just for the fun of it?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Hon. members opposite, by their interjections, talk in terms of the principles of strike, but nobody would know what those so-called principles are from the attitude adopted from time to time by various unions that go on strike after hearing a decision of the Arbitration Court. It is more or less the attitude of a spoilt boy—"If you don't give me what I want I will be naughty." If anybody can tell me that is a principle the unions are entitled to have, I would say there is no principle whatsoever about it.

I believe, as an individual and a member of the Government, that we must not concentrate our thoughts and energies upon continually pouring large sums of money into the railways, into a system that we know is receding into the background in so many parts of the world. We must look at the

problem from another angle. Road transport has to be considered. Apart altogether from border-hopping, road transport is proving of great benefit. The public are aware of the importance and value of quick, efficient, door-to-door service.

Mr. Aikens: Do you want to place the country in pawn to the oil companies?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The people of country towns and districts know the answer to that question. We must not be guilty of holding back the progress and development of the country by countering forms of transport other than rail transport.

We all realise the excellent job being done by the Minister for Transport in a very difficult period of our history. In my opinion it is a period of transition from rail transport to a more modern, rapid and efficient service. Not many hon. members would like to take over the responsibilities being accepted by the Minister for Transport. His task is very difficult. In dealing with the case of road transport versus rail transport, I am speaking sincerely. I have had considerable experience of both road and rail transport over a number of years in my business, and I consider the subject from a business viewpoint.

Mr. Aikens: Why not look at it from a national viewpoint instead of a narrow-minded viewpoint?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The problem has been considered from a narrow viewpoint for far too long. If the State is to be developed as it can be, we must take the national viewpoint and advance with the times.

Mr. Aikens: And place our country in pawn to the oil companies.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Some people such as the hon. member for Townsville South have a one-track mind. What would we do in industry if we did not have oil? That is a very idle interjection. In most spheres of business speed is the essence of the contract. The methods of transport are changing rapidly. For instance, dozens of light aircraft are being imported every year and service stations for them are being established throughout the State. Archerfield has a number of airline terminals. At Eagle Farm two modern light aircraft terminals are being constructed, as well as motels for those who use this means of transport. In view of the changes in the mode of travel and the demands of the community, all hon. members must agree that in the interests of our people we should not seek to prevent development by restricting those individuals who wish to establish legitimate transport businesses, and by refusing to grant permits to road operators. I have a very high regard for the Commissioner for Transport, Mr. Kropp, and the staff of his department—they are carrying out a policy laid down by the previous Government and to

an extent by the present Government—but in my opinion, on the payment of a just fee, an individual should have complete freedom to establish a legitimate transport business, and I shall continue to press for that right. While rail transport has played a big part in various industries, such as mining at Mt. Isa and others in the outback, it is not the ideal means of transport for all industries.

There are many angles to this argument that I wish to advance. I have spoken of the benefits of a good, quick and efficient door-to-door service. I should say that while we have to develop the primary industries in our State to meet the increase in costs, we should make it possible to have a more economic and efficient means of transport than rail transport.

Mr. Aikens: Don't you get freight concessions for your bulldozers?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: No, I do not. I pay dearly for the transport of such equipment, as any hon. member should know. It is a rather costly method of transport. We should make more modern transport available to the producers and the people of the inland areas to help them meet to-day's spiralling cost structure. I have in mind the cartage of maize in my own area. Even with the transport fees being paid today, transport operators in the South Burnett can save the growers from 2s. to 3s. a bag, depending on the location. Let me quote my own position. I have 1,000 bags harvested and stacked on one property, and 3s. a bag represents a considerable sum that I have to pay to subsidise the railways against road transport.

Mr. Graham: What do you pay to road transport?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: When it was in operation, at one period, road transport was carting it to Brisbane 3s. a bag cheaper than it could be carted by rail.

Mr. Aikens: The driver is working 16 hours a day for "scab" wages.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I have listened carefully to hon. members opposite at various times when they have been speaking of high costs, which affect us all. I have never been able to reconcile the statements of hon. members opposite with their attitude in supporting the continual clamour of the unions for a 35-hour week and longer annual leave.

Mr. Lloyd: We can explain it to you.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The hon. gentleman cannot explain it. With the granting of those claims we would have a further spiralling of costs within the price structure. I fail to see how hon. members opposite can reconcile their attitude of supporting the unions with countering rising costs.

Mr. Graham: Are rising costs the only factor?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: They are not the only factor. Hon. members opposite want somebody else to meet the rising cost structure. They cannot have their cake and eat it, too. We must take every possible step to meet rising costs. We cannot do it simply by cutting down the number of working hours.

Mr. Lloyd: Many other factors are involved.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: We know that, as individuals. Very few people in the primary-producing section of the community that I represent can afford to pay increased wages and meet ever-rising costs, too.

Mr. Lloyd: What about interest charges?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: They all come into the general price structure. Many costs have to be met by people who employ labour, and very few are able to pay the wages demanded of them today.

Mr. Graham: Why do graziers die poor men?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: They have to meet the spiral of rising costs either by greater efforts in production or by the use of mechanical equipment. That applies to many farming industries.

I often think that the unions who are always talking about strike action ought to stop and think and try to appreciate some of the facts in their own interests and in the interests of their members, whether they be railwaymen or workers in private industry. In so many cases in both primary and secondary industry the conditions that can be met are limited. Many farmers are able to carry on only with the help of the members of their own families.

Talking of primary industries, I was interested in the suggestion of a member of the Opposition, who sought to make a case against the Federal Government that they lifted import restrictions on primary industry commodities and others to break down the bargaining power of the unions with the various industries concerned. What an amazing argument that is! Hon. members who think like that fail to realise that in this world no man liveth to himself and, in the same way, no nation lives to itself. We have to work with other countries. We expect them to buy our products and, in return, we must open our doors to them and make it possible for them to sell some of their goods to us.

Mr. Lloyd: Even to the importation of peanut oil from South Africa?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: It comes from New Guinea. We have the mandate over New Guinea.

Mr. Lloyd: Are you happy with the state of the peanut industry at the moment?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: It is in quite a happy position. There has been a big improvement.

Mr. Lloyd: For how many years are they assured a market?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: At the present rate of sales they expect to sell most of their peanuts by June next year. Many aspects will no doubt improve as time goes on. I can speak on that subject and I probably will on another occasion. It is rather a lengthy one and of course the hon. gentleman would like to side-track me; but I assure hon. members that there is no easy road to success. We in this country have to compete with other countries.

There is no substance whatever in the suggestion that import restrictions were lifted to counter the bargaining strength of the unions in their demands for better wages and conditions. Nor is there any short-cut to success or progress in the State.

I was very amused to hear the hon. member for Townsville South speaking in an airy fashion the other day of how, in the near future, helicopters will be flying over the dense jungles of North Queensland killing the dense scrubs.

Mr. Aikens: That is right. They will kill the rain forest with hormones and later they will plant the cultivated soil with seed.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: When I heard the hon. member speaking in that way I had visions of the devastation caused by a volcano, where you see the mountain-side desolate, ruined, as though it had been burnt. For about eight years my sister and I have operated a fleet of small aircraft in the State, and we have found that virgin brigalow can be killed very readily with the use of certain expensive chemicals, but suckers and small growth cannot be destroyed so easily.

Mr. Aikens: How do you know?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: We have been eight years at it, so we have a fairly good idea. You can readily kill the black wattle that grows in various parts; you can kill the bean tree that grows up in the Monogoolby area, and you can kill the groundsel. Apart from that, no hormones are available that will kill the scrub trees, the eucalypt suckers. We have worked for years in close association with the chemical companies of Australia.

Mr. Aikens: Men who know something about it say that you can.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I should be very interested if the hon. member could tell the House, or me, how and when it can be done. I assure him that we have carried out experiments in association with chemical companies; from time to time we have supplied a plane and pilot to make these tests. At the moment it is neither practicable nor possible to do what the hon. member suggested could be done.

Mr. Aikens: They are going to try it.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Unless they have found something new in recent weeks, they will not succeed.

As hon. members know, aerial spraying is quite a big industry in Queensland and has been of great benefit to the State. Several companies similar to the one in which I am interested have planes flying over the length and breadth of Queensland carrying out the destruction of waste timbers, insects, pests, seeding and so on. I am very interested in the problem of spraying groundsel in the small-crop farms of North Coast. It is a very difficult job, and I was not surprised when action was taken by the Government to license the pilots. They now have to pass an examination on the chemicals they use, and they have to go before a panel and give a practical explanation of the technique of flying. The action taken so far is very good and will be of some help, but we must not overlook the fact that with the increasing use of aerial spraying, many conditions will be encountered that a knowledge of chemical contents and all the skill of highly-skilled pilots will not overcome. Time and time again farmers call upon aircraft to spray areas among crops that are susceptible to certain hormones. You either do it or you do not do it, because there is always a risk in those cases. At times a drift is encountered that cannot be forecast, and the fumes from certain chemicals are very effective over big areas. However, I congratulate the Government on the initial steps they have taken.

The hon. member for Townsville South spoke in a rather scathing way of some of our primary producers, people I am always willing and anxious to defend.

Mr. Aikens: Bunkum!

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The hon. member said that he knew of one farmer who had stored 1,000 tons of ensilage during the last year, and he said that if that farmer could do it, everybody else should be able to do it.

Mr. Aikens: That is exactly what I said.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: He also said that if the others did not do that, they should be compelled to do it. I was rather surprised to hear the hon. member say that, because I thought he would have more practical understanding. One might as well say that if a business in Queen Street produces a certain article and achieves certain sales figures, every other business in Brisbane producing a similar article should be able to achieve similar sales figures.

Mr. Aikens: You forget one important point—that the land on which they live and from which they make a living belongs to the people, and they should use it to the fullest extent.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The hon. member is again a little off the track. I should like to put the hon. member for Townsville South on one farm and I would go onto another.

Mr. Windsor: He would starve.

Mr. Aikens: You would be over at my place every day "bumming" a feed.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: The hon. member would then have to produce bag for bag of maize, or peanuts, or whatever it might be, with me. I doubt very much if he could do it.

Graziers and others who are in the process of developing their land might not be in a position to give time and money to the storage of crops. They may be in hilly or undulating country where it is not possible to use those methods. There may be many reasons why they cannot use them. These things are governed mainly by pounds, shillings and pence, and as one who has moved around the State considerably in the last 15 years, I believe that primary producers are developing their land as quickly as possible, taking into consideration the income they receive and the high cost of equipment.

Before concluding my remarks, I wish to refer to the progress being made towards the discovery of oil in Queensland. I do not know whether this applies to hon. members opposite, but many people have the utmost confidence that it is only a matter of time before that objective is achieved. The search is intense; full-scale operations are in progress in various parts of the State. With the hon. member for Roma, I should like to congratulate the Minister for the progressive spirit he has shown in seeking to encourage capital and men to embark on this costly and immense undertaking. By showing a sympathetic spirit he has achieved amazing results.

Since the discovery of natural gas at Roma the Government are co-operating with the company in every way. Had the gas been discovered in the past I am sure that many previous Governments would not have shown the same sympathy or willingness to help develop the project as quickly as the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity has acted on this occasion. I congratulate Mr. Clark, the Under-Secretary of the Mines Department, for his good work and the way he has assisted the Minister. I have always taken a great interest in the search for oil and kept abreast of these activities throughout the State. I have often visited boring sites, and have travelled as far west as Betoota. The interest of the hon. member for Roma naturally is centred on activities in his own electorate in the Roma district, where intense gas pressures have been discovered. Approximately 480 barrels of oil could be recovered if the gas was converted. I congratulate the three companies associated with the project. Mines Administration Limited have carried out very

efficient and excellent work as drillers. The encouragement given by the Minister in this trial period will intensify the search for the oil that ultimately will be located. Bearing in mind the intense activity in the search for oil throughout the State, I think that we are on the threshold of one of the biggest advances in the State when ultimately we are able to add oil to the resources of Queensland.

The results of the discovery of oil will be more far-reaching than we can imagine. Bearing this in mind, the hon. member for Roma and I think that it is very necessary and important that the Minister and his departmental officers go overseas in the early future to investigate the techniques of the industry so that when they return they will be able to play an important role in this great industry when oil is discovered here. With all the resources with which it has been blessed and all its great possibilities, what a wonderful future the State has! Great problems will confront us before we can take full advantage of the State's potential, but when great problems have to be faced I always think of the Australian pioneers who in their day must have faced almost insurmountable obstacles. They paved the way for us to make this State what it is. So let us as a State seek, in the spirit of the pioneers, to play our part. Surely we can get away from strikes and threats of strike that occur from time to time in this State. I plead with hon. members opposite, in the privileged position they hold, to adopt the spirit of our pioneers and get away from these things that hold us up; let us all put our shoulders to the wheel and attain for this great State of ours the destiny it deserves.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Lloyd, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5.18 p.m.