

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 23 AUGUST 1961**

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meeting with the Commonwealth Government on this matter. However, when Premier Heffron of New South Wales again requested support for a meeting, I, along with other Premiers, agreed to attend such a conference if the Commonwealth Government convened it. My earlier feelings in the matter were subsequently confirmed when the Prime Minister intimated that no useful purpose would be served by holding such a conference. These feelings were further confirmed when the Prime Minister pointed out that in its recent Budget his Government had agreed to a further increase of £5,000,000 in the borrowing programmes of Local Authorities and small semi-Governmental bodies, of which Queensland's share would amount to approximately £1,000,000, so that their rates of expenditure on employment giving works may be stepped up."

### WEDNESDAY, 23 AUGUST, 1961

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

#### DISALLOWANCE OF QUESTION

Mr. SPEAKER: I wish to advise hon. members, in case the matter is raised, that a question of which notice was given yesterday has been left off the business sheet. I refer to a question asked by the hon. member for Maryborough. It dealt with a Commonwealth matter, and the hon. member should know that matters pertaining to Commonwealth departments, and questions along those lines, are not permitted under the Standing Orders.

#### QUESTIONS

##### PREMIERS' CONFERENCE ON UNEMPLOYMENT

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

"Is he able and willing to inform the House of the reasons for his initial rejection of the proposal of the New South Wales Premier, Mr. Heffron, for a conference on the serious unemployment throughout Australia; then, some time later, his agreeing to participate in such a conference; and his final reversal of that decision following a statement rejecting a Premiers' Conference by the Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies?"

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

"The reason for my initial rejection of the proposal of the New South Wales Premier was because the suggestion for the holding of a Conference followed very shortly after the conclusion of the Loan Council Meeting, at which the unemployment position throughout Australia had been very thoroughly discussed. I felt that the States would not get anywhere at this juncture by requesting a further

##### VISIT TO QUEENSLAND OF FEDERAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) asked the Premier—

"(1) Did the Food and Agriculture Committee of the Federal Parliament recently visit Central Queensland and, if so, at whose invitation or on whose recommendation?"

"(2) Did the State Government prepare a written case as a basis for investigation and enquiry by the Committee with regard to the possibilities and potentialities of the Central District?"

"(3) Did a State Cabinet Minister accompany the Committee during its visit to Central Queensland and, if so, what was his name?"

"(4) Did the Food and Agriculture Committee of the Federal Parliament recently visit North Queensland and, if so, at whose invitation or on whose recommendation?"

"(5) Did the State Government prepare a written or any case as a basis for investigation and enquiry by the Committee with regard to the possibilities and potentialities of North Queensland?"

"(6) Did a State Cabinet Minister accompany the Committee during its visit to North Queensland and, if not, why not?"

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

"(1) Yes; but no invitation was extended by the State Government. However, when it became known that the Committee intended visiting Queensland, the Minister for Lands suggested that they include Central Queensland in their itinerary."

"(2) When the Committee advised its intention to visit the Central Queensland area, the Minister for Lands provided relevant information setting out the qualities and potentialities of the area."

"(3) No."

"(4) The Food and Agriculture Committee have visited North Queensland, but I am unaware who issued an invitation. I believe that it may have been issued by certain members of the Federal Parliament."

"(5) No; because the State Government was not consulted."

"(6) No."

UNEMPLOYMENT IN TOWNSVILLE

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) having asked the Minister for Labour and Industry question No. 5—

Hon. K. J. MORRIS (Mt. Coot-tha): Yesterday, notice of nine questions was directed to me, but copies of them were not received by me until this morning. I had engagements in my office today from 7.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. and I was not able to give the questions my customary attention, or to obtain the necessary detail for replies. Consequently I ask that the nine questions be listed for tomorrow.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will hon. members concerned please take note of the request of the Minister for Labour and Industry?

MOUNT ISA RAILWAY LOAN

Hon. P. J. R. HILTON (Carnarvon) asked the Premier—

"(1) Have negotiations between the State Government and the Commonwealth Government regarding the terms and conditions of the Mount Isa Railway Loan been finalised?"

"(2) Has the Commonwealth Government accepted any liability for sinking fund payments in respect of this loan?"

"(3) Can he advise the source of this loan, the rate of interest and other conditions stipulated?"

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

"(1 to 3) The negotiations have not been finalised. There is one point of difference—the entitlement of the State to sinking fund contributions by the Commonwealth. The State has submitted a suggestion as to how this point of difference might be resolved and is awaiting a reply to this submission. When agreement is reached, the House will be fully informed on the terms and conditions of the borrowing."

UNEMPLOYMENT IN QUEENSLAND

Mr. MELLOY (Nudgee) asked the Premier—

"(1) As he stated in reply to my request in the closing stages of the last session for the recall of Parliament in the event of a serious development of unemployment, that the Government was quite capable of handling any situation that might arise,

will he explain to the House the failure of the Government to take appropriate and positive action to remedy the very serious unemployment that has occurred in Queensland in the past three months?"

"(2) If the Government has no explanation, will he indicate to the House that the Government is aware of the serious unemployment position that exists in this State?"

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

"(1 and 2) As I have frequently stated, the Government has been fully alive to the unemployment situation which has arisen this year and has taken every step in its power to alleviate the position. An indication of its success in this direction might be gauged by the fact that the latest unemployment statistics show that the number of people receiving unemployment benefit is down by 35 per cent. on the peak figure in March of this year."

CONSTRUCTION OF MACKAY ABATTOIRS

Mr. GRAHAM (Mackay) asked the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry—

"When is it anticipated that building of the Mackay Abattoirs will commence?"

Hon. O. O. MADSEN (Warwick) replied—

"Certain procedures laid down under Section 39 of the Abattoirs Acts require that an Abattoir Board shall submit a description of the proposed site, plans and specifications, an estimate of costs and other information, to the Honourable the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry for his consideration. The site for the Mackay Abattoir has been approved and plans and specifications have been prepared. It is expected that the plans and specifications will be submitted for approval at an early date, when the Board will then be in a position to make application for the necessary finance. I might add that I have arranged for an officer of the Department to make his services available to the Board at short notice should the Board require assistance in the matters mentioned."

NUMBER OF HOUSING COMMISSION HOMES, MACKAY ELECTORATE

Mr. GRAHAM (Mackay) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

"How many Housing Commission homes have been erected within the Mackay Electorate in 1957-1958, 1958-1959, 1959-1960, and 1960-1961?"

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

"Commission homes erected within the Mackay electorate are—1957-1958, 18; 1958-1959, 8; 1959-1960, nil; 1960-1961, nil. I might add that over the same period twelve were erected in north Mackay and a contract was let on June 1 last for a further eight."

LOTTERY CONDUCTED BY NATIONAL CIVIC  
COUNCIL

**Mr. GRAHAM** (Mackay) asked the Minister for Justice—

“(1) Is it permissible for any organisation in Queensland to conduct a lottery without authority?”

“(2) If not, will he investigate the activities of an organisation known as the National Civic Council who are now conducting a lottery in Queensland known as the 1961 Queensland Gift?”

“(3) As the National Civic Council is known to be associated with a political organisation in Queensland and as the funds of the National Civic Council are known to be used for political purposes, will he take appropriate action to immediately curtail the activities of this body with regard to the continuation of this lottery?”

**Hon. A. W. MUNRO** (Toowong) replied—

“(1) No.”

“(2) Yes.”

“(3) The matter will be investigated and appropriate action taken.”

PURCHASE OF LAND FROM THOMAS  
BORTHWICK & SONS BY STATE HOUSING  
COMMISSION

**Mr. HOUSTON** (Bulimba) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

“(1) Has any officer of the Queensland Housing Commission made any enquiries regarding the possibility of purchasing all or part of the 300 acres of land stated as going to be sold by Thomas Borthwick & Sons at Murarrie? If so, what progress has been made?”

“(2) If no enquiries have been made, will he consider the purchase of this land for the Queensland Housing Commission?”

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

“Enquiries show that the company has stated its intention to sell but has not yet advertised the land for sale nor placed it in the hands of an agent. None of the land appears to be zoned for residential and most of it is presently zoned for noxious industries. I will consider its purchase but I have some doubts of the wisdom of alienating water front land and land close to the water front for housing purposes. This land could be of critical importance to the future industry development of the city. Just as I left the office I was informed that approximately 200 acres of the land is bounded by Bulimba Creek; it is low-lying, covered with tea-tree and subject to waterlogging, and is regarded as unsuitable for housing.

DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES, SOUTH BRISBANE  
DRY DOCK

**Mr. HOUSTON** (Bulimba) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

“(1) How many men have ceased to be employees of the Harbours and Marine Department since 30 June last?”

“(2) How many of these worked at or from the South Brisbane Dry Dock and what were their classifications?”

“(3) Is it contemplated that the services of any more employees from this dock will be dispensed with? If so, how many and what classifications will be affected?”

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

“(1) Fifty-four, of whom 9 have been replaced.”

“(2) All were employed at South Brisbane Dock. The classifications were—Boilermakers, 5; Boilermakers' Assistants, 1; Fitters, 5; Fitters' Assistants, 5; Shipwrights, 4; Painters and Dockers, 25; Total: 45. I would point out that of the 45 employees, 29 were casuals.”

“(3) Two unusual factors have served to limit employment opportunity at the South Brisbane Dock. The first is that employees from that Dock were frequently committed to meet spasmodic demands from Cairncross Dock. The Cairncross Dock is closed for a period of four months to install electrified pumping equipment and, consequently, that factor of labour demand will not reassert itself until the new year. The second factor is that, at the moment, the Department's dredging fleet is extremely active. The result is that we are employing more dredge crews, i.e., seamen, engineers and so on, but there is less demand for repair work because the dredges are working rather than being repaired. The staff will be maintained at the Dry Dock consistent with the current demand for docking services. The Government cannot afford to divert funds to provide an appearance of work in excess of the actual demand. As repair need becomes apparent, labour will be employed accordingly.”

BASIC WAGE AND COST-OF-LIVING ADJUST-  
MENTS, INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

**Mr. SHERRINGTON** (Salisbury) asked the Minister for Health and Home Affairs—

“(1) Has it been the established custom to automatically pass on basic wage and cost of living adjustments decided by the Arbitration Court to workers at the Institute for the Blind?”

“(2) Has he recently refused to grant an adjustment to female workers at this Institute when the Court increased female rates to seventy-five per centum of the male rates?”

“(3) If so, on what grounds has he broken away from established precedent?”

"(4) Is this an indication of Government policy to reduce at any cost expenses in Government Departments?"

**Hon. H. W. NOBLE** (Yeronga) replied—

"(1) The Queensland Industrial Institution for the Blind is conducted mainly to provide compassionate employment for blind workers and it is not—nor could it be made a profit-making activity."

"(2) The blind workers include many persons who are unable to make any very substantial return for the wages they receive. Of a total trading wage payment for 1960-1961 of £50,882, an amount of £20,292 would represent compassionate payments or, in other words, wages for which no return is received. Generally, the position is that the female blind-workers receive a greater proportion of compassionate wage payments in relation to their numbers than the male blind-workers. The net loss on the Institution's activities for 1960-1961 was £28,718, and payment of 75 per cent. of the married blind-worker's rate to the female blind-workers would merely add to this already very substantial loss without obtaining any extra return."

"(3) Apart from apprentices, all female blind-workers are in receipt of an income of £14 5s. per week—including their Commonwealth pensions—so that their total weekly income is substantially in excess of their sighted sisters in outside employment on the female basic wage of £10 13s. per week. In addition, the blind workers receive free tram, bus or train fares to and from work, free annual holiday rail passes anywhere in Queensland and other valuable concessions."

"(4) The female blind-workers, who are all single women, already receive more than 75 per cent. of the single male blind-worker's rate and there would be no possible justification for giving them a higher rate in view of the facts I have already stated."

#### COMPENSATION CLAIMS EXAMINED BY CARDIAC BOARD

**Mr. SHERRINGTON** (Salisbury) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

"Will he indicate (a) the number of suspected heart cases concerned with Compensation claims which have been examined by the Cardiac Board since its inception, (b) the number of cases examined at each sitting of the Board, (c) how many times the Board has met to examine these cases, and (d) the number of persons still awaiting an interview with the Board and an approximate time as to when the lag in hearings will be taken up?"

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

"(a) Forty-eight; (b) On an average, four cases at each sitting; (c) The Board has

met on 13 occasions. The Board meets once a week; (d) Twenty-nine new cases are awaiting determination. It is not possible to state the approximate time as to when the lag in hearings will be overtaken as this will depend on the number of new claims received necessitating reference to the Board. I intend to bring down amending legislation this Session to enable the number of Board members to be enlarged, thus facilitating the conduct of Board business."

#### DEVELOPMENTAL WORKS TO RELIEVE UNEMPLOYMENT, CAIRNS AND DISTRICT

**Mr. ADAIR** (Cook) asked the Premier—

"(1) Is he aware of the serious unemployment position now existing in Cairns and District?"

"(2) Will he indicate if the Government has any plans for major developmental works to be carried out in the area to relieve the unemployment position in the near future?"

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

"(1 and 2) The Government is at present in the process of implementing a vigorous works programme in all parts of the State, and is utilising all available funds for this purpose. At the same time, it is planning to assist Local Authorities with their Works Programmes with a view to stepping up their rates of expenditure on employment giving works. The Honourable Member can rest assured that the Cairns area is not being overlooked."

#### LAND VALUATIONS, GOLD COAST AND OTHER AREAS

**Mr. GAVEN** (South Coast) asked the Minister for Public Works and Local Government—

"In view of the fact that the City of the Gold Coast has been valued by the Valuer-General's Department three times in a period of ten years and the unimproved value of that City has been increased in that period by approximately 2,700 per cent., having now reached the astronomical figure of £28,000,000,—

(1) What are the existing valuations of the City of Redcliffe, Pine Shire, Caboolture Shire, Landsborough Shire, Maroochy Shire and Noosa Shire?

(2) When were they last valued by the Valuer-General's Department?

(3) On what date does the Valuer-General propose to revalue the above Local Authority areas?"

**Hon. H. RICHTER** (Somerset) replied—

"(1 to 3) The information is being prepared and will be supplied to the Honourable Member at a later date."

SEASONAL INDUSTRIES AND RELIEF OF  
UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. INCH** (Burke) asked the Premier—

“(1) Has the Government noted that the Seasonal Industries have made only a small impression in reducing the alarming number of unemployed in this State?”

“(2) In view of the expected early closure of meatworks and sugar mills in North Queensland, what positive steps will be taken by the Government to prevent spiralling unemployment when these displaced seasonal workers are added to the numbers already unemployed?”

“(3) As his own statement on the Loan Works Programme for 1961-1962 indicates that the additional £400,000 over last year's programme will be substantially taken up in increased costs, does he agree that to enable both State and Local Government authorities to effectively expand their work force, the Menzies Government should be pressed for the release of additional funds for such purposes?”

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

“(1 to 3) The hon. member can be assured that the employment position is being closely studied with a view to keeping in employment as many people as possible. In this connection, the recently announced statement by the Prime Minister that the Commonwealth Government has agreed to a further increase of £5,000,000 in the borrowing programmes of Local Authorities will thus enable those Authorities to step up their rates of expenditure on employment giving works. Queensland's share will amount to approximately £1,000,000.”

INSURANCE COVER, CAIRNS AERIAL  
AMBULANCE SERVICE

**Mr. WALLACE** (Cairns) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

“In view of the outstanding service rendered by the Cairns Aerial Ambulance Service, what is the reason for the State Government Insurance Office refusing to extend cover for aircraft and personnel other than workers' compensation of Q.A.T.B. staff whilst insisting that all cars and buildings be insured with the State Office?”

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

“(a) In regard to the insurance of aircraft, this Office has never transacted this type of business. Special facilities are required for such and there are only about four insurance offices in Queensland who transact such business, and these offices have world-wide facilities. As regards the insuring of personnel using the aircraft, Head Office has no record of having been asked for special cover. Further information is being sought from our decentralised Branch of the Office in Cairns.”

“(b) It is not correct to say that the State Government Insurance Office insists that all cars and buildings be insured with the Office. The Q.A.T.B. Cairns, like all other Centres, is free to place its business, apart from Workers' Compensation, where it chooses.”

TENDERS FOR STATE STORES BOARD,  
BRISBANE AND TOWNSVILLE AREAS

**Mr. THACKERAY** (Rockhampton North) asked the Premier—

“(1) Is it the policy of the Government to call tenders for the State Stores Board from the two divisions in Queensland, namely, the Brisbane and Townsville areas?”

“(2) If so, on what grounds can the Government substantiate its claim that it believes in decentralisation when hardware merchants in Rockhampton and district are denied the right to tender for Government requirements in the Central Queensland area?”

“(3) Will he take immediate steps to end this unfair practice?”

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

“(1) All Queensland firms are given equal rights of tendering through the State Stores.”

“(2 and 3) See answer to (1) ‘Rockhampton hardware merchants are not denied the right to tender for State Government requirements in the Central Queensland area or elsewhere in Queensland.’”

INSTRUMENTS FOR DOCTORS, PRINCESS  
ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

**Mr. BENNETT** (South Brisbane) asked the Minister for Health and Home Affairs—

“Is it correct that a women's auxiliary has been formed at the Princess Alexandra Hospital to raise funds to buy instruments for doctors that are badly needed at the hospital, but which the South Coast Hospitals Board refused to provide?”

**Hon. H. W. NOBLE** (Yeronga) replied—

“It is definitely incorrect and untrue that a Women's Auxiliary, or, for that matter, any other organisation, has been formed to raise funds to buy instruments for Doctors that are badly needed at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. All instruments necessary for the treatment of patients are provided by the Hospitals Board. The aim of the Women's Auxiliary is to provide additional amenities for Patients and Staff. I feel sure that Honourable Members will agree that it is highly desirable that community interest in our Hospitals be fostered, particularly when that interest is directed towards the provision of amenities for patients and staff that cannot be expected in the normal way from organisations controlling Hospitals.”

RETIRING AGE OF EMPLOYEES IN RAILWAY DEPARTMENT

**Mr. BENNETT** (South Brisbane) asked the Minister for Transport—

“(1) Does the Commissioner employ anybody in the Railways who has passed the retiring age of sixty-six?”

“(2) Did not Conductor Murphy recently work his special train to Mount Isa?”

“(3) Has not Conductor Murphy passed the retiring age of sixty-six?”

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

“(1 to 3) Because conductors and acting conductors were fully engaged during the heavy Exhibition traffic, conductor Murphy, who has passed the retiring age, was engaged temporarily for a period of nine days in the capacity of cook conductor.”

QUEENSLAND MOTOR NUMBER PLATE, NKV 855

**Mr. BROMLEY** (Norman) asked the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity—

“(1) When was the Queensland number plate NKV 855 issued?”

“(2) Was it the registered number of a private vehicle?”

“(3) Where and when was this number plate cancelled and, if it was returned to the Main Roads Department in Brisbane, how long was the time-lapse between the cancellation of the plate and arrival in Brisbane?”

“(4) If the plate was returned to Brisbane, did the Queensland Main Roads Department issue it to the Commonwealth Post Office Mary Street Pool?”

“(5) If the number plate was not returned to Brisbane Main Roads Department, is there in existence to his knowledge a Statutory Declaration to the effect that it was destroyed?”

**Hon. E. EVANS** (Mirani) replied—

“It is considered that a detailed reply to the question of the hon. gentleman would not be in the public interest. However, during the war, for security purposes, the practice was developed of making available numbers which had been cancelled. This practice has continued until a recent incident destroyed any value it had for this purpose. As a result of this, instructions were issued that the practice must cease and this instruction has now been given effect.”

PUBLIC WORKS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO RELIEVE UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. BROMLEY** (Norman) asked the Premier—

“In view of the worsening conditions in relation to the increasing figures of unemployment, will he indicate what positive steps his Government have taken either to provide employment through public works or in assistance to private enterprise?”

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

“I challenge the premise of the hon. member that unemployment figures are increasing—as I have indicated in a previous answer this morning statistics indicate they have decreased.”

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AT WESTBROOK REFORMATORY

**Mr. NEWTON** (Belmont) asked the Minister for Health and Home Affairs—

“What disciplinary action has been taken against the Superintendent and the Warders of the Westbrook reformatory who were responsible for the acts of sadism that were performed on the youths of that institution which have been reported in the press?”

**Hon. H. W. NOBLE** (Yeronga) replied—

“Public Servants are not the subjects of disciplinary action unless there is evidence against them beyond a reasonable doubt. The report of the Investigating Magistrate has not yet been received.”

SALE OF COLLINSVILLE MINE TO DAVIS CONTRACTORS CO. LTD.

**Mr. TUCKER** (Townsville North) asked the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity—

“Is it not a fact that the amount of £200,000 received for the sale of the Collinsville Mine to Davis Contractors Co. Ltd. is only a token amount of the true value of the equipment, assets and natural wealth of this mine which belonged to the people of Queensland?”

**Hon. E. EVANS** (Mirani) replied—

“At Bowen in April last the Honourable the Premier offered to give the State Coal Mine at Collinsville to the Miners' Union, but that offer was refused. The losses made up to June 30, 1957, by State Coal Mines at Collinsville, Ogmoo and Mount Mulligan and State Coke Works at Bowen established by the Labour Government total £1,739,494. The total losses to the State in respect of the State Coal Mine at Collinsville up to June 30, 1960, were £811,971 5s. 10d., and the further loss for the year ended June 30, 1961, is estimated at £115,000. In view of the fact that the Miners' Union refused this

mine as a gift, it is considered the price being obtained, which will be much in excess of £200,000, is very satisfactory."

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

"(1) What were the terms and conditions of the sale of the State Coal Mine at Collinsville to Davis Contractors Pty. Ltd.?"

"(2) What is the standing of the Company in the business and mining world and its connections?"

**Hon. E. EVANS** (Mirani) replied—

"(1) The terms and conditions are lengthy and will appear in detail in an Order in Council which it is anticipated will issue this week."

"(2) The standing of the Company, both financially and technically, is considered to be quite satisfactory."

#### STATE CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES; PUBLIC SERVICE SUPERANNUATION FUND

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

"(1) What were the balances of (a) cash and (b) investments held by the State as at June 30, 1961?"

"(2) What was the balance held to the credit of the Public Service Superannuation Fund as at June 30, 1961?"

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

"(1) The cash balance in the Treasury books at June 30, 1961, was a debit of £3,528,084. However, short term deposits at that date aggregated £6,350,000. Thus, the available cash was £2,821,916. The cost price of investments of Trust and Special Funds at June 30, 1961, amounted to £11,857,814. This latter figure is exclusive of amounts invested on account of specific Trust and Special Funds which totalled £44,227,186."

"(2) The credit balance in the Public Service Superannuation Fund at June 30, 1961, was £8,558,607."

#### NUMBER OF LABOURERS AND TRADESMEN, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

**Mr. LLOYD** (Kedron) asked the Minister for Public Works and Local Government—

"How many (a) labourers and (b) tradesmen were employed in the Brisbane metropolitan area and Queensland respectively by the Construction Branch of the Public Works Department at September 30, 1960, and June 30, 1961?"

**Hon. H. RICHTER** (Somerset) replied—

"Two hundred and nineteen labourers and 1,132 tradesmen were employed in the Brisbane Metropolitan Area and 501 labourers and 1,962 tradesmen were

employed in Queensland by the Construction Branch of the Public Works Department at September 30, 1960. At June 30, 1961, 219 labourers and 1,084 tradesmen were employed in the Brisbane Metropolitan Area and 422 labourers and 1,799 tradesmen were employed in Queensland. The Queensland employment figures include the numbers employed in the Brisbane Metropolitan Area. As at June 30, 1957, 300 labourers and 1,442 tradesmen were employed by the Construction Branch of the Public Works Department."

#### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES AND FINANCIAL LOSS, COLLINSVILLE STATE COAL MINE

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

"(1) How many working days were lost at the Collinsville State Coal Mine as a result of industrial disputes concerned only with the Collinsville Mine, from June 30, 1957, to the time of the dispute that existed at the time of the mine's closure?"

"(2) What was the total loss of the mine?"

"(3) What was the loss from June 30, 1957, to June 30, 1961?"

"(4) Is there any connection between the sale of the Collinsville State Coal Mine and the proposal to build a thermal power station on the Collinsville coalfields?"

**Hon. E. EVANS** (Mirani) replied—

"(1) The number of working days lost as a result of industrial disputes since July 1, 1957, total 22. Of these, 17 days lost in 1961 arose in respect of Collinsville."

"(2) The total losses of the State Coal Mine, Collinsville, up to June 30, 1960, were £811,971 5s. 10d., and the estimated further loss for the year 1960-1961 is £115,000."

"(3) The losses from June 30, 1957, to June 30, 1961, were as follows:—1957-1958, £58,773 0s. 6d.; 1958-1959, £56,902 9s. 1d.; 1959-1960, £71,063 0s. 2d.; 1960-1961 (Estimated), £115,000."

"(4) No. There is no existing proposal to build a thermal power station at Collinsville."

#### FINANCE FOR WATER CONSERVATION IN QUEENSLAND

**Mr. DAVIES** (Maryborough) asked the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation—

"In view of his statement in Brisbane recently that the State Government's financial resources were totally inadequate to carry out the water development necessary in Queensland and the statement by Mr. J. G. Beale, M.L.A., Chairman of the Water Research Foundation of Australia,



that water was the most limiting natural resource holding back Queensland's great development potential,—

(1) Which Government is to blame for "totally inadequate" funds being made available for this urgent work?

(2) If this is further evidence of the Menzies-McEwen Commonwealth Government's neglect of Queensland, will he make a public protest to the Federal Government and accuse them of sabotaging Queensland's efforts to develop its resources?"

**Hon. A. R. FLETCHER** (Cunningham) replied—

"(1 and 2) To report that funds for any particular purposes are totally inadequate does not necessarily mean laying blame on anyone. Normally finance for water conservation works is a State responsibility and significant progress has been made but the many demands for finance for Public Works in all categories to meet requirements in this vast State restrict funds available for this important work."

#### FORM OF QUESTIONS

**Mr. BENNETT** (South Brisbane) having given notice of a question—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I desire to advise the hon. member for South Brisbane that I will have a very close look at his question before I put it on the business sheet. There appears to be a great deal of superfluous material in it.

**Mr. BENNETT:** I should be pleased if you would, Mr. Speaker, because I consider it very important to the welfare of the State.

#### PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Regulations under the Main Roads Acts, 1920 to 1960.

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

Orders in Council under the Southern Electric Authority of Queensland Acts, 1952 to 1958.

Orders in Council under the Electric Light and Power Acts, 1896 to 1958.

Report by the Commissioner for Electricity Supply on Electrical Development in Queensland.

Reports to the State Electricity Commission of Queensland on Electrical Development in the State by Merz and McLellan as follows:—Parts I and II dated April, 1960; Part III dated June, 1960, and Supplementary Report dated March, 1961.

Orders in Council under the Water Acts, 1926 to 1961.

#### PRINTING OF REPORTS

**Mr. DUGGAN** (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) (11.28 a.m.): Mr. Speaker, the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity tabled two reports. May I ask him through you, Sir, whether it is intended that those reports be printed?

**Mr. Evans:** No, it is not intended that they be printed.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** Then may I ask the Premier through you, Mr. Speaker, whether he would consider printing those reports because the projects involve a tremendous amount of expenditure to the State—in excess of £100,000,000. It is a document that should be in the hands of all hon. members, and I invite the Premier to have it printed.

**Mr. Evans:** The electricity programme report will be circulated, and the Merz and McLellan report will be available.

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier) (11.32 a.m.): In view of the large size of the Merz and McLellan report, and the fact that it will be available in the Parliamentary Library for all hon. members, I do not think the expense of printing it is warranted.

#### SITTING DAYS

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier): I move—

"That, unless otherwise ordered, the House will meet for the dispatch of business at 11 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in each week, and that on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and after 2 o'clock p.m. on Thursdays, Government business shall take precedence of all other business."

Motion agreed to.

#### STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

##### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier): I move—

"That the Standing Orders Committee for the present session consist of the following members:—Mr. Speaker, Mr. Duggan, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Munro, Mr. Nicklin, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Walsh."

Motion agreed to.

#### LIBRARY, REFRESHMENT ROOMS, AND PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS COMMITTEES

##### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier): I move—

"That the Library, Refreshment Rooms, and Parliamentary Buildings Committees for the present session be constituted as follows—

Library: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Dean, Mr. Donald, Mr. Ewan, Mr. Houston, Mr. Ramsden and Mr. Tooth.

Refreshment Rooms: Mr. Speaker, Dr. Delamothe, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Lonergan, Mr. Mann, Mr. Marsden and Mr. Thackeray.

Parliamentary Buildings: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hanlon, Mr. Hewitt, Mr. Hodges, Mr. Hooper, Mr. Newton and Mr. Sherrington."

Motion agreed to.

#### PRINTING COMMITTEE

##### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier): I move—

"That a Select Committee be appointed to assist Mr. Speaker in all matters which relate to the printing to be executed by Order of the House, and for the purpose of selecting and arranging for printing returns and papers presented in pursuance of motions made by members."

"That such Committee consist of the following members:—Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Dufficy, Mr. Graham, Mr. Smith and Mr. Wallace."

Motion agreed to.

#### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

##### TEMPORARY CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY AND WAYS AND MEANS

##### APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 1

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier): I move—

"That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would otherwise prevent the constitution of Committees of Supply and Ways and Means, the receiving of Resolutions on the same day as they shall have passed in those Committees, and the passing of an Appropriation Bill through all its stages in one day."

Motion agreed to.

#### COMPANIES 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 consolidate and amend the law relating to companies."

Motion agreed to.

#### MINISTERIAL EXPENSES

##### ORDER FOR RETURN

**Mr. JONES** (Callide): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return, in the usual form, of expenses of Ministers for the year 1960-1961."

Motion agreed to.

#### VOTING AT BARCOO AND WHITSUNDAY BY-ELECTIONS

##### ORDER FOR RETURN

**Mr. O'DONNELL** (Barcoo): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return, in the usual form, giving details of the voting at the Barcoo and Whitsunday by-elections on 1 July, 1961."

Motion agreed to.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

##### RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

Debate resumed from 22 August (see p. ) on Mr. Camm's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

**Mr. DUGGAN** (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) (11.52 a.m.): While the matter is fresh in our minds I should like to take the opportunity to inform the Premier that I appreciate the procedure adopted by him this morning in dealing with motions standing in his name. I have long held the view that as far as possible Parliament should avoid needless repetition. I have often said that I considered that the Standing Orders should be examined and amended to provide for the practice that operates in the Commonwealth Parliament in order to short-circuit much of the circumlocution that occurs from time to time in this Assembly. I offer my thanks to the Premier for setting an example in that regard this morning when he moved the motions standing in his name. It seems to me to be a complete waste of time to read out what is already known to everybody in the Chamber. In that way valuable time is lost. I ask the Premier whether at some appropriate time he might examine the possibility of extending that principle to other matters which I think could be similarly dealt with to the advantage of the working of Parliament.

The memory of those in the Chamber will be very greatly taxed indeed to remember a period in the history of the Queensland Parliament when a Governor's Opening Speech contained so much written about so little. Yesterday was a classic example of time being taken up by His Excellency the Governor in reciting a lot of trivial matters in the House. On Monday evening many of us had the pleasure of being the guests of the Governor at the pre-session dinner he customarily extends each year to members of the Cabinet and other leading officials of the House. On that occasion he appeared to me to be in good health and had complete command of his voice. But we were all upset yesterday to see the obvious distress under which His Excellency was labouring in reading that very meagre document. I have no doubt that he would have had an opportunity on Monday of perusing the document, which perhaps explains his discomfort yesterday and obvious disinclination to recite these trivial matters with his customary enthusiasm.

As is the custom on these occasions I should like to reaffirm on my own behalf and on behalf of the members of the Opposition, our loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen. We assure her that we are very anxious indeed to see that the system of Government over which she presides will continue with benefits accruing to the citizens of her great dominions. I should like to say how much we wish to record our appreciation of the continual interest taken by His Excellency the Governor and Lady May in the working and development of the State and the life of its citizens. They have set a tremendously high standard in discharging their responsibilities, and we are all most appreciative of the way they have carried out their duties.

I have said on previous occasions, and I repeat it today, that we of the Australian Labour Party do not subscribe to the view that this office should necessarily be filled by people from outside Australia. Nevertheless, I am bound to confess that when the persons appointed to this responsible position set the very high standard that Sir Henry Abel Smith has done in this State, some of the criticisms are lessened to some extent. They are never intended to be criticism of the occupants of the office, nevertheless they are criticisms that we feel we are entitled to voice.

I should also like to extend the usual congratulatory references to the mover and seconder of the Address in Reply. A new member has been elected and, whilst I wish him a very happy sojourn in this Parliament, I do not, of course, hope that it will be a very long one. A very improved vote was registered in Whitsunday by the Australian Labour Party, which increased its vote in that area by 12 per cent. at a time when circumstances were not conducive to a very strongly violent reaction against the Government because, as everybody knows, it is predominantly a sugar-growing constituency and, the people in that area have been affected less, except for the seasonal workers, than the community generally in other parts of the State. People engaged in sugar-cane growing in North Queensland have not been affected to the same extent as the rest of the community by the economic circumstances of today. In addition to the normal markets for sugar, this year there was an unexpected opportunity of diverting additional supplies of sugar from Australia or Queensland to the United States. That, aligned with the dry conditions obtaining in North Queensland enabled all the available sugar to be marketed. Consequently there is less dissatisfaction in that part of the State than there is in non-sugar growing areas.

We on this side of the House have viewed with increasing alarm the deterioration that has set in in Queensland in recent times in regard to the Government of this State, and we feel that the opportunity should be seized on every possible occasion to focus

public attention on their misdeeds. Therefore we do not propose to permit this Address in Reply to go through in its present form. I have the honour on behalf of the Opposition to move an amendment to the Address that we have been invited to present to Her Majesty the Queen through His Excellency the Governor. I therefore move the following amendment—

“Add to the question the following words—

‘However, it is the opinion of this Legislature that, due in great measure to your present advisers having failed to successfully manage and extend the financial resources of the State, to encourage and foster new industrial enterprises, and to take adequate action to conserve and stabilise the economy, serious unemployment has become an established feature of the economy, overseas migrants are now loth to come to Queensland, and our own native-born citizens are migrating to southern States in such numbers that our much-needed population shows the lowest percentage growth in the Commonwealth, and, accordingly, we desire to inform you that for these and other reasons this Government does not possess the confidence of the House.’”

We have confined the reasons for this no-confidence motion to general subjects appertaining to the administration of the economy of the State but have deliberately left open other unspecified matters to give hon. members on this side of the House the opportunity to engage in some concerted team work and focus public attention upon other political misdeeds of the Government. For instance, there is a very widespread feeling of discontent throughout the State concerning its land laws. It is an extraordinary thing that in this State governed by a coalition government, the stronger force being the Country Party, there is increasing discontent and criticism, emanating not from the industrial constituencies but from the pastoral and agricultural parts of the State, and never in my history as a Parliamentarian, going back now over 25 years, have I seen the spectacle in this State of body after body of erstwhile political supporters gathering in their hundreds to protest against the administrative decisions of their own party.

We feel so strongly on this matter because it deals not only with land matters but also another matter of tremendous importance to the economy of Queensland, and I refer to transport, that I propose on a subsequent occasion again to focus public attention on the maladministration of transport in this State by directing a specific motion of no confidence against the Government in regard to its transport administration. I shall deal with it only in a very general and brief way today because I will be given the opportunity at a later date of dealing with these matters. I will make a broad survey

at this stage, knowing that other hon. members on this side of the Chamber will speak specifically about matters outside the ones I have enumerated in my amendment.

**Mr. Aikens:** I hope you don't sell the railwaymen down the line like your deputy did at Dalby.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is extremely well equipped to deal with that matter, but for the record I should like to point out that the statements made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition were made after consultation with the Road Transport Workers' Union and the Railways Union, and for the first time in my knowledge a man who was not present at the Dalby meeting, in the person of the Minister for Transport, but who was specifically and urgently asked to attend, made provision for a tape recorder to be secretly placed in that hall to record the discussions of those who criticised the administration of the Government. If that is the type of policy the hon. member for Townsville South wants to endorse and uphold in this House, he can express those feelings, but they are not shared by me or any of my colleagues, nor by any decent-thinking person in the community who is reinforced in his belief that this is merely another indication of the steps that we are slowly but progressively taking towards the implementation of a police state.

**Mr. Aikens:** What about the police shorthand-writers that you sent along to meetings?

**Mr. DUGGAN:** The hon. member is the most vocal hon. member in the House and no doubt will speak in due course. He can then assert whatever views he likes. All I say in closing is that whatever assertion he likes to make about me or my colleagues, we did not forfeit, as he has done, the confidence of the railway unions in this State. When I finished my term of office as Minister for Transport the railway employees in the Willowburn workshops at a cost of something in excess of £100, presented me with one of the most magnificent grandfather clocks I have seen in any home in this State. It was given to me in appreciation of the service I had rendered as Minister for Transport to them and to the State over a period of 10 years and, if the hon. member thinks that was a parochial and local matter, I inform him that Mr. Frank Nolan, secretary of the Australian Railways Union, at another gathering at the Trades Hall presented me with a token of their esteem, not only from his union but from all the affiliated unions, in appreciation of the service I gave to the industrial and political movements of this State. The hon. member can rant and say what he likes. I put those matters on record because of his allegations. When I launch a motion of no confidence in this House I should at least expect that this man who talks about Labour traditions would remain silent and let the Government members get up and berate me for taking this course. But we find, in the same way as

the Government are progressively trying to introduce a police state, he is trying to make this slow transition until he, as was the case with the hon. member for Redcliffe, will be duly accepted as a member of the Liberal Party.

I have some serious things to say, and I believe that they should be said. In the initial stages I want to draw attention specifically to the fact that when the present Government came into power in 1957 they did so largely because of a division in the ranks of the Labour Movement in this State. It may be said with truth that we lost control of the Government because we were prepared to go to the people on a pledge that we would honour our promises to the people. Later on I will be proving that this Government have forfeited their right to the confidence of the people because they have dishonoured their promises to the people of the State. Taking advantage of the situation which presented itself on that occasion the present Government came to power on the promise of better government for Queensland. On that occasion they said many things which, I think, were unworthy of a political party. I direct specific attention to some of the things that were said in the policy speech of the Premier, Mr. Nicklin, in 1957. Amongst other things he said—

"For many years the Labour Government in this State has been surrounded by an unwholesome odour, originating in plebiscites for selection of Labour candidates and pervading the whole realm of Governmental administration.

"It is a sad commentary on the long years of Labour rule in Queensland that the average person has now come to regard the average politician as a cross between a rogue and a fool.

"Low cunning and the ability to indulge successfully in sly political practices are generally regarded as attributes of the smart politician.

"On the other hand, political honesty and decency are considered to be indications of weakness and ineptitude.

"I have heard it said of myself on a number of occasions, 'Nicklin is too honest to be a politician'. I ask you as intelligent electors who may have been disposed to unthinkingly agree with such statements in the past, to reflect deeply on them and all that they imply."

We have reached a fairly low standard in the conduct of political campaigns when statements of such a nature are made. Following on that statement we then had a series of promises contained in the policy speech about giving decent government. I will deal with those matters which were known more adequately as the four "D's" in greater detail in a few moments' time. Mr. Nicklin is a man who is personally very highly regarded in the State, and is so regarded by me. I regard him as a man of

undoubted personal integrity and probity, and I have always said so. No-one has heard me attack the Premier in any personal capacity whatsoever. I have always had a high regard for him in his personal capacity and have had the highest possible appreciation of his quality. He is a quiet, unassuming man, who has never usurped or exercised the privileges of office for personal gain in order to attract to himself any particular notice or privilege. I suppose that of all the men who have occupied that office in Queensland none has been more humble in his dealings with those who have had contact with him. I hope, and I am certain, that I will never be obliged to withdraw those general statements concerning the Premier.

Of course, on their own accounts, they could not assume office in this State unless it was by some arrangement of a coalition character with the Liberals, and the Liberal Party, of course, with their principles and political philosophies, are poles apart so far as the Country Party is concerned. We have found evidence of it today in Victoria. Only a few days ago the Premier feted Mr. Bolte here on the occasion of the luncheon for the Lord Mayor of London. He gave him almost pride of place at that official function. While that dinner was tendered by a Government whose coalition Cabinet comprises Liberal and Country Party members, we find in the State that Mr. Bolte has the honour to represent in the Parliament as its Premier steps being taken to invite nominations from members of the Liberal Party who were prepared to stand against the Federal Country Party Leader, Mr. McEwen.

**Mr. Ramsden:** The A.L.P. are not too happy in Victoria.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** The A.L.P., of course, will speak for themselves, but if hon. members opposite want to take up that challenge they will be well advised to entrust it to someone who will make a better job of it than the hon. member for Merthyr. I should hate to think that a subject of such importance would be entrusted to a minor, irresponsible spokesman who is destined to remain a back bencher for the whole of the time he stays in the House.

However, I happened to be in Victoria and I have also had the opportunity of seeing much of the relevant literature. Indeed if it could be said that there was a fight in Victoria between the A.L.P. and the Bolte Liberal Government, it could be said with greater truth that the campaign was fought more savagely between the Country Party and the Liberal Party there. In N.S.W. we find the same thing happening. Why is it that in Queensland alone this combination has been able to succeed? Only because it wants to distribute benefits to its supporters and because they realise that if they do not hang together they will hang separately. Nevertheless it is a very unhappy alliance.

I stress the Liberal's part in the coalition because the Liberals are fairly smart operators. They employ professional publicists. They have a staff here and they have regular and large contributions flowing into their coffers which enable them to maintain a very large organisation in the State. They are professional organisers. They are in the happy position that they do not have to stoop, as was alleged today, to the inglorious level of going around selling tickets in Melbourne Cup sweeps to finance their operations. The way the money flows in makes that obnoxious course unnecessary for them. At the behest of these smart professional publicists, the Liberals selected the Premier, Mr. Nicklin, as the man whom they could put before the public as an antidote to so-called corrupt Labour politicians and others in the House. I make this as a general observation, not from a party point of view at all. Why the suggestion in this Parliament that only one man should be labelled as a symbol throughout the State, as "Honest Frank"? Would anyone suggest that the Deputy Leader of the Country Party, the Hon. Jack Pizzey, should not be referred to as "Honest Jack" or his colleagues as "Honest Otto" or "Honest Ernie" or "Honest Tom," "Honest Gordon" and so on? I know it is somewhat of an embarrassment to the Premier. Everyone knows he is honest. Nobody has challenged it. But why this tagging of the name on the chief citizen of the State, because it is found it comes out in a rounded phrase from these people?

At one time the chairman of a Country Party gathering would announce, "It is my pleasure, ladies and gentlemen, to introduce the Right Hon. the Prime Minister Robert Gordon Menzies, to address you." I can recall attending a gathering when the present Premier, then in Opposition, made one of his main speeches and the chairman said, "Now I have very great pleasure in introducing the Hon. Frank Nicklin to address you." But now with the "democratisation" process in the Country-Liberal Party they are dropping all these titles. They like to have the fanfare of trumpets and they like to have the regiment outside lined up for a guard of honour; they do not scorn ceremonial; they like to bedeck the Assembly with symbols of the past, but they get down to the common touch with "Honest Frank," so we find that this sort of thing has gained some general ascendancy. The Premier has become somewhat of a victim of this campaign. I remind hon. members that I have often referred to his humility and his modesty and his many other personal qualities which many other people could emulate. But I resent this suggestion that, in this Assembly of 78 men—it should be only 75; in fact, it should be fewer than that—there is only one who is entitled to have the name "Honest" Frank tagged onto him. Even the hon. member for Townsville South, with whom I had a slight brush a few moments ago, could be referred to as "Honest Tom." That is when he is acting in his

personal capacity, of course. If I liked to refer to him in his political capacity, I might refer to him as "Tory Tom."

I mention these things because the whole of the case that I wish to make on this matter revolves round these particular points. I think the Premier has become a victim of this smart publicity work on the part of those who are now beginning to impose heavy responsibilities on him. He has built up this reputation over a period of 25 years, and, as I have said, because of some aspects of political campaigning in the election in 1957, which he won with a minority vote, and the election in 1960, which he again won with a minority of the total votes cast, he has now been caught up in a web that is not of his own choosing.

I think it might be expected that when most political parties make certain election promises, at least some, if not all, of them can be honoured quickly, but the inexorable pressure of events has compelled the Government to repudiate many things, despite a desire to placate its supporters, and it is finding itself increasingly pressed. The pressure is coming not only from the A.L.P., but also internally from the Government's own supporters, and I hope it will continue. I am sure it will result in the ultimate disintegration and destruction of the Government, because their conduct of the affairs of Queensland in the last four years entitles them to be cast into political oblivion, as I am sure they will be in due course.

**Mr. Delamothé** interjected.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** The hon. member for Bowen should not interject, because I have here something about him. It is something also that is here for everyone to see. I would remind the hon. member for Merthyr, when he talks of the Victorian elections, that we have had three opportunities recently of testing what is happening here in regard to the A.L.P. In Brisbane, despite the most blatant gerrymandering of electorates by this Government, we obtained a majority in the City Council to the consternation and horror of the present Government, because when they manipulated the boundaries they boasted in Caucus, "It does not matter what happens. We of the Liberal Party will get 18 of the 28 seats in the metropolitan area." The hon. member for Merthyr would be well advised to get up and do something if he wants to retain his seat in this Chamber.

In the Whitsunday by-election, although we did not win, we increased our vote by 12 per cent., which is a fairly formidable increase. In Barcoo, despite the fact that it was held by a man of happy memory, a man who had a tremendous personal following in the West, the vote for the A.L.P. increased by 18 per cent. in the by-election held only a few weeks ago.

While the matter is fresh in my mind, I make this accusation against the Government. They knew full well that neither the

Q.L.P. nor the Country Party could win the seat by itself. There are some realists in their ranks, and they realised that they could not win. They came to an arrangement with the leader of the Q.L.P., Mr. Gair, not to run a Q.L.P. candidate out there, so that they might test for the first time how the votes might drift from the Q.L.P. and give them a pointer as to whether or not they might introduce preferential voting at a later date. I have it on very good authority that that was so. If it were the case, as I think it was, of course, the results speak for themselves. They did not want to expose themselves to the risk of introducing a measure that might rebound against them, so they thought that in this way they might be able to get some sort of indication whether or not they should proceed with the introduction of preferential voting.

**Mr. Ramsden:** Is that not what you did in Toowong last time?

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I am not going to waste time or money in trying to win Toowong under the present boundaries. Let the hon. member worry about Merthyr because it will keep him busy in the future.

I mentioned earlier how the Government came into office on the pledges they gave to the electors. I do not know of so many promises that have been violated, destroyed and broken. What became of the much-vaunted Bill of Rights that was mentioned in their policy speech? In order to prevent Labour again operating as the Government, in order to prevent all the snide practices alleged to be going on—most unworthy utterances—they were going to bring in the Bill of Rights. They agreed that they would bring in a Bill to provide for preferential voting. Despite the denials of hon. members opposite the Premier on television, in the sight and hearing of thousands of listeners and viewers, admitted when cross-examined that it was a plank of the Country Party and a plank of the Liberal Party, but that he had been instructed by the Bundaberg Convention not to implement it. I heard the Premier myself. I do not care what denials are made, it is there for the record. When they talk about vested interests, pressures and instructions, that is one that should be remembered. Without talking about the Roma meeting and other pressures brought to bear on the Government, but referring only to the pressures made in public and known by the public to have taken place, we become aware of the second major repudiation of these people.

We were told that the Government would operate on business lines. We were going to have accountants in charge, instead of Labour politicians running the financial affairs of the State. We were to have chartered accountants and other professional men running the affairs of the Government. I shall reveal in a few minutes how disastrous their record is in regard to the State's financial operations. They are almost at a

state of financial bankruptcy. What about all the promises made about road transport, how they were going to have an open road with free competition? They said that the railways would be gingered up and that people in country areas would be given a superior service. They talked about how costs would be cheaper, the road transport system would be more flexible. But instead they have repudiated their legal agreement made at a properly constituted conference where men met as men of honour and came to a certain understanding. What was agreed upon was regarded like the Bismarck note, a mere scrap of paper to be torn up to suit the convenience of this weak, inept Government.

Where is all this vaunted development about the millions flowing into Queensland? We were told how new enterprises would come here. Millions would flow into the State in a matter of days. We were told that thousands of migrants would migrate to Queensland. They said that it would not be a matter of more jobs but a matter of more jobs than the number of men available to fill them. But today we have the spectre of thousands of good Queenslanders tramping the countryside looking for work because the Government have fallen down on their job to find work for the people and to promote industry. What about their starry-eyed promises to the graziers and farmers? For the first time to my knowledge in politics the President of the United Graziers' Association has challenged the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation to a public debate, something unheard of in Queensland. You may hear it at the Queensland Club or at a dinner at the Bellevue Hotel, but never before has there been a challenge to the Minister for Public Lands by the President of the United Graziers' Association, probably the most powerful and strongest financial backer of the Country Party Government.

All along the line the coalition Government have prated about decency, democracy, decentralisation, development and other things, but they have shown by their shabby record why they are entitled to have a vote of no confidence recorded against them in this House. It is not a question of this agitation springing from the political enemies of the Government; it is from their erstwhile political supporters. So I say that it is no wonder, with this agitation springing up, that the Premier is a worried and harassed man. Every time one of these Ministers get into trouble it is not a question of standing on the record of the Government, but on the personal reputation and the political myth that has been created of "Honest Frank."

At Roma the other day the Minister for Transport, who spoke for a long time, did not finish up by saying, "I stand on this policy." He ended his peroration on that occasion by saying, "I entreat you; I ask you to stay firmly behind Frank Nicklin."

The Minister for Health and Home Affairs, when he got into bother in Cairns and there was a unanimous vote against the adoption of some aspects of health administration, did not say, "I stand or fall on this policy." No, he sent an urgent message to the Premier to come up and it became a question of passing a vote of confidence in Frank Nicklin, who threatened to resign if such a vote were not passed.

When the Premier went to Roma—as I said, a most courteous man; an extraordinarily courteous man—he was so incensed at the treatment he received that he could not get to his car quickly enough. He came back to Brisbane with his chin on his chest because of a vote of no confidence.

**Mr. Pizzey:** What are you dragging that up for?

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I am drawing attention to it. On all these occasions, most of these things spring very largely from the smart practices of the Liberal Party and the graziers whose operations are confined to Queen and George Streets and who do not go much beyond that. During the Barcoo by-election—I will have this placed in the records of "Hansard"—very expensive advertisements were inserted by the Country Party supporting Mr. Vandersee, the Country Party candidate. There were photographs of Mr. Rae, the hon. member for Gregory, and Mr. Hewitt, the hon. member for Mackenzie, alongside that of Mr. Vandersee and an exhortation to vote for these three Country Party stalwarts and strengthen the Central Queensland Country Party's representation "in your Parliament." But what happened out there?

When Mr. Lloyd Roberts died, what did the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity do? It is well known that he was a vigorous advocate for the development of North Queensland and a fairly vigorous critic—one of the few—of the Federal Government, and he made no secret of the fact that he wanted to increase northern representation in the Cabinet by having Mr. Hewitt elected to the Cabinet because he knew that with a single exception, every other Minister represents an electorate within a 200-mile radius of Brisbane, despite the fact that this is supposed to be a Country Party Government. When we were the Government we had Ministers from Longreach, Townsville, Charters Towers, and from areas all over the State. This Government is a Queen Street Government and Mr. Evans advocated a Country Party candidate in Mr. Hewitt, hon. member for Mackenzie, so that the North would have a greater voice in the Government. But what happened? In spite of the photographs of Mr. Rae, Mr. Hewitt and Mr. Vandersee appearing so closely together Mr. Rae gave his vote to a "city slicker," Mr. Richter. The Minister for Education held his proxy. Another rebel from the West, the hon. member for Balonne, handed his proxy to the Premier.

**Mr. Pizzey:** How do you happen to know about this?

**Mr. DUGGAN:** The Minister says, "How do you know about this?" He does not say it is not true because he knows it is true. Those are the sort of things that show us just how callow and hypocritical this Government can be. It makes me feel rather nauseated at times when I hear this bunk from the Premier, "We shall give you democratic Government, decent Government, development and decentralisation." When they got the opportunity to implement decentralisation, what did they do? They increased the representation of the industrial empire round Brisbane. It does not matter to me whom they elect to Cabinet. I do not have any say in it, nor do I want it. Without making any invidious statements about the hon. member for Somerset, for whom I have a high regard, I do point out that the hon. member for Mackenzie had the personal qualities and geographical representation to support his claim for elevation to the Cabinet. His election to Cabinet would have given some force to the Government's claim.

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

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I thank the hon. member for Maryborough for his action in moving that I be granted an extension of time and other hon. members for their indulgence.

All the Government have succeeded in doing is to develop this art of political ballyhoo to a high degree. I envy them their capacity to engage and to succeed in political ballyhoo, but they can only succeed for a while in pulling the wool over the eyes of the voters, and the time is getting very close for this Government when the voters will realise just what has been happening. The arch priest of this ballyhoo has been the Minister for Labour and Industry, although apparently somebody recently has been pulling his coattails because we have not seen or heard so much of him. Of all the Ministers he has made the most extravagant promises and has spent the most money on expensive literature and in cavorting round the world on several occasions, trying to sell Queensland but failing dismally. I shall deal with that matter later. Instead of the jobs being available for Queenslanders, as the Government promised, we have the unhappy spectacle of people born in this State, leaving the State. We have a dreadful record on the score of increase in population. We are losing migrants and our own native population to the southern States because those people have not been given the opportunity of sharing in the development of the State, as promised by the Government in 1957 and 1960. Decentralisation is nothing but a joke. The number of people employed in factories in the provincial cities and towns, with the exception of Townsville and Toowoomba and one or two others, has gone down gradually since the Government came to office. Yesterday we had the presentation by the Minister for Labour and

Industry of his report. It is a shocking report. I warn the Premier that he will incur condemnation and criticism of the Government if that is going to be the pattern of things to come. The report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Shops is a report of 2½ pages. The document last year contained 26 pages and gave statistical information showing, as I have pointed out, a decline in factory employment throughout the State. As the Government are afraid of these things, they are afraid to publish them. They decline to give us the facts or to follow the practice that has been adopted for 50 to 60 years. That document has been reduced in size from 26 pages to 2½ pages, and I invite the Government to reconsider what I believe to be a deliberate plan to prevent the House from becoming possessed of facts that hon. members are entitled to know.

In addition to the four "D's" the Premier referred to, there should have been a fifth "D" for Deficit. That has been one of the marked characteristics of the Government. The Treasurer had a very flourishing private practice and was very successful in carrying on his practice. We were told that once he was in control, the financial affairs of the State would improve considerably, yet we have had four deficits in a row, running at an average rate of approximately £1,000,000 a year. The Government's record is in marked contrast with the financial record of Labour Governments in Queensland. We have had record deficits in railway accounts. The hon. member for Lockyer told us what he was going to do when he became Minister for Transport, that he was going to run the Railway Department along business lines, that he would appoint a consultative committee, and so on. He was the man who knew the answers to every transport problem. Hon. members know how he used to rise from his seat, beat the table, run to the Press, ask questions about this and that, and challenge me about something else. He was going to alter all this. Yet his seat was not warm before he had to get the Premier to bring in Professor Hytten to help him run the railway. Then Ford, Bacon and Davis were employed at a cost of some thousands of pounds. We have his election speeches about running the railways as a business. In the last four years of Labour administration we had a total deficit of £13,500,000, but in the four years of this Government's administration there have been deficits of £23,500,000. Is that prudent business management? In the process of doing that they closed down branch lines, sacked hundreds of employees, destroyed much of the essential maintenance work, and have not made effective provision for the replacement of rolling stock. The Minister has been running up and down the country whinging about the difficulties of running the Railway Department and talking about the drought, or something else, being to blame. Did hon. members ever hear these excuses while he was in Opposition? Never on one occasion.



It was always inept Labour administration. If that was a true charge then, how much truer must it be today? In a comparable period of time, despite worsening services, we find a deficit of £13,500,000 under Labour administration compared with £23,500,000 under the present Administration. It was a sorry day for the State of Queensland when this terrible critic from Lockyer uprooted himself from this side of the House. It has been done at terrific cost to the taxpayers and the State.

I come now to deficits in our net migrant intake. Let us get on with some of the "D's." There has been a net loss of 300 in the migrant intake in the four years' reign of the present coalition. These people are not fools. Many of them have left the police states of occupied Europe to come to this country only to find that they are entering into almost another police state. They do not want to pick up the tangled threads of their lives in this State—a State of glorious opportunity, with a Bill of Rights. With all the glorious opportunity, we find that for the four years' term of the present Government, circumstances have caused them to leave this State.

There are many other "D's" that could well have been used by the Premier to describe the political system. I say now that it has been a hotch-potch coalition. It has been a disastrous coalition. It has been disastrous for the State of Queensland. One could say without equivocation or argument that it is a dismal, dabbling, desolate, dunder-headed, dangerous, disastrous Government. It is not very difficult to find more D's of that kind. We could go on.

**A Government Member:** It could be a Duggan Government.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** It would be a good Government if it were a Duggan Government. The present Government could be described as dreadful, dormant, diffident, dying, decadent, and doddering. That would come very close to the truth of it. Perhaps it might also be described—seeing the Premier used the four "D's"—as a domineering, dictatorial, demented, diminutive, and desolate government. All these are adjectives beginning with "D" that have been used by the coalition's supporters, not by me. Hon. members will find that the words I have used have been used by the Government's own supporters! We could go through the whole of the adjectives in the dictionary for some considerable time. For instance, it is a dangerous, debilitated and decaying Government. If the Premier wants to work along those lines, there is no shortage of adjectives starting with "D" with which to describe them.

I believe that the most important word in the dictionary which describes the Government is the word "dishonour," because this Government have dishonoured their legal contracts, dishonoured their platform, dishonoured their election pledges, dishonoured statements made while in Opposition, and dishonoured promises to their own rank and

file. I say that if the Premier wants to make an issue of these four "D's," I have outlined to the House today sufficient reasons why they should be doomed because of their dismal failure to operate the affairs of this State adequately.

The amendment provides for condemnation on the questions of population, lack of development and finance and it is essential that I cover some of those matters before I resume my seat.

In 1957 the Liberal leader, Mr. Morris, said—

"We wholeheartedly subscribe to a continuous migration policy . . . We will do all in our power to make this State the home of more and more people, more people to serve in its increasing factories, and more people to be customers for an ever-growing commerce and industry."

What do the figures that were released on 17 April last show? They show that for the year ended December, 1960, the population increases in the various States were as follows—

| State                        | Percentage<br>Population<br>Increase |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| New South Wales . . . . .    | 2.18                                 |
| Victoria . . . . .           | 2.91                                 |
| South Australia . . . . .    | 2.41                                 |
| Western Australia . . . . .  | 1.89                                 |
| Tasmania . . . . .           | 1.47                                 |
| Northern Territory . . . . . | 1.72                                 |
| Queensland . . . . .         | 1.36                                 |

This is the State of unbounded possibilities, the State of accelerating development!

Then let us look at the figures on the movement of population. In 1956, the last year Labour was in office, Queensland showed a net gain of 8,040 in the migrant population. In 1957, part of which was under Labour, the gain was 396. Then the decline began to set in. In 1958 there was a gain of 974, in 1959 a loss of 870 and in 1960 a loss of 185. It will be noted that in the two years, 1956 and 1957, when Labour was in office, there was a substantial net migration gain—8,040 and 396, while, under the first three years of the Nicklin-Morris Government there has been a total net loss of 81. Is that something to be proud of, something that can be explained away? I do not think so.

Furthermore, the Commonwealth Government Statistician released figures as recently as 5 June last. When we started to question the accuracy of the unemployment figures released by the Commonwealth we were told, of course, that we were disloyal and were not playing the game, but when we quote these figures no-one squeals louder about their accuracy than the Minister for Education and Migration.

**Mr. Pizzey:** They are only an assessment.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** An assessment my fat aunt! If the Government are dealing only with assessments, I ask them to accept not

only my assessment but the people's assessment and they will hang their heads in shame about these matters. Their own Commonwealth colleagues in their last statistician's report released on 5 June showed that during the year ended December, 1960, 11,596 persons arrived in Queensland from overseas while 11,781 left the State—more than came into it. The net migration gain for the whole of Australia is in striking contrast with Queensland's loss, and this is the important feature of it. It is obvious from this Government's smug complacency that they have been in office too long. Hon. members opposite used to rant and rave about Labour's having been too long in office after they had been there about 30 years, but the present Government have become lazy and complacent after only four years in office. Although Queensland sustained a net migration loss of 185 last year, the Commonwealth as a whole had a net gain of 90,135. Explain that away! Why has every other State been able to show an increase in population while Queensland alone has shown a loss? We are losing our best migrants—our native born migrants. They are going to other centres. So despite all this talk about how the present Government have stimulated employment and development in the State the figures are against them, and public opinion is against them in these matters, too.

This morning the Premier smugly said that the unemployment figures are down 35 per cent. It is a shocking admission for him as leader of the Government to adopt such a cynical attitude. He does not know his own mind. About the conference under pressure he said that because his leader in Canberra had said there was no justification for criticism he washed his hands of the matter, and the only time he or his deputy talks about the seriousness of unemployment is when they are down there begging for money. When we were in government they said, "It is no good the Labour Party going down there because they are crude in their approach. They have not the language of the diplomats. They could not go down dressed with all the trimmings that the Liberals and the Country Party members would have." But every time the Premier comes away he whinges and wails about the treatment meted out by the Federal authorities. The only time he uses these figures to boost his case is when the Government are begging for money from their friends down there who spurn them and turn their backs on them. So we find there has been deterioration in the unemployment position here. It is continuing day by day. I spoke this morning to a man who has instructions from his southern branch to sack 15 men from a well-established plant in Queensland, a plant that has been operating for many years. Wherever I go, I find similar evidence. Seasonal unemployment, which was cured to some extent in the last couple of months by employment in meatworks and the sugar industry, will again be swollen in a few weeks, yet the Government sit back and allow this to sort itself out as best it can.

Unfortunately I have not sufficient time to give all the figures, but supporting speakers will give them later. The fact that these things have happened is a shocking betrayal of election promises. We have many thousands of unemployed in Queensland, and the figures given by the Government are not the true figures because they do not include the many married women who have been displaced because their husbands are working and figures are not available showing those who are on short time in industry.

The dictatorial hand of the Government is also to be seen in black lists that have been circulated, and I charge the hon. member for Bowen with being a party to the dissemination of black lists relating to people involved in the Collinsville dispute. That is a very serious indictment.

**Dr. Delamothe** interjected.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I do not want to treat the hon. member for Bowen unfairly, because outside the Chamber he is not a bad fellow, but I advise him to tread very warily in this matter. He will be given a very hot reception because of the things he has attempted to begin.

**Dr. Delamothe:** When you go into that area as often as I do, you will be entitled to talk.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** Time will not permit me to deal with the hon. member now.

I do not want this debate to conclude without my making some reference to the finances of the State, because, after all, that is one of the most important tests of government.

The last year that Labour was in office, 1956-1957, we had a surplus in our accounts of £15,230. In the first year of the Liberal-Country Party Government, 1957-1958, Mr. Hiley budgeted for a deficit of £1,502,602, and the actual deficit was £1,514,308. He said then that he was going to scrape the barrel. In his Budget speech in October, 1958, he said—

"The policy of the Government will therefore be to exhaust the remaining reserves, and to budget for an additional deficit. It will then apply to become an aided State."

Not only did that represent a tremendous financial transformation, but it was also an admission by him that he had drained every reserve fund and every trust fund that he could lay his hands on. He did that without any complaint and was quite open about it. He made the admission in his Budget speech and thought it was very smart politically to do so.

In the second year, 1958-1959, he budgeted for a deficit of £1,828,299, and the actual deficit was £1,190,856. In the third year, 1959-1960, he budgeted for a surplus of £15,467, but he came up with a deficit of £164,675, his third successive deficit. In the

fourth year, 1960-1961, he budgeted for a deficit of £216,286, and the actual deficit was nearly thrice that amount, £618,243.

The aggregate deficit in four years of Liberal-Country Party Government is £3,488,082. We have been going into the red at the rate of over £1,000,000 a year, and people claim that all the brains of the financial community are on the Government benches, not on this side of the Chamber. Those four successive deficits have to be paid for, unless like Castro in Cuba the Government repudiate them, and interest has to be paid on them. If you make provision for sinking fund redemptions and retirements from loans, you might well find that you have to allocate the money set aside for that purpose to finding work for people in the State who cannot find it now.

This has been a dismal period. In 19 years under Labour there was a deficit on only two occasions. Under this Government we have had four deficits—record Treasury deficits, record Transport deficits, record deficits all round. This is a very poor showing from a Cabinet supposedly composed of professional men and with two accountants among its members.

**Mr. Ewan:** Record roads, schools, hospitals—

**Mr. DUGGAN:** All I can say is that if these men who came into power on the plea that they would run the State's affairs like they run their own private businesses, in fact run their businesses like they have the State's affairs, it is a wonder to me there were not more of them bankrupt a long while ago. That brings to mind the fact that there were a record number of bankruptcies in the State last year, even more than the previous year when a record was established. In Queensland last year companies with £4,000,000 capital went into bankruptcy, yet the Government use all their flowery words about professional men handling the reins of government.

What about all the development talked about by Government members? The Deputy Premier is in the Chamber now. No-one is more successful than he is in the art of telling the people just how Queensland is developing. We see the difference between what was envisaged when they came into power and what was exemplified at the Industrial Fair in Sydney. An ex-Premier of the State was in charge of that exhibit. What does he do? He is asked questions about motels. "What is the rate at Mackay for a motel?" "What are the roads like between Calen and somewhere else?" While I was down there with the hon. member for Bulimba I arranged for someone to find out the type of inquiry that was being made. In the main they were the type of question being asked while this gentleman was alongside the exhibit. I did not think I would receive a very warm welcome. I did not expect very much would

be said in my presence. There was some talk about some grandiose development scheme running into millions of pounds, but most of the conversation was about motels, tourist resorts, where to have a holiday, and matters like that. The payment of £2,500 a year, plus expenses, to a man to hand out that sort of information is a matter that I think the Government could well look at.

In case what I said about the record number of bankruptcies is disputed, I point out to hon. members opposite that on 6 August last one of the Brisbane newspapers reported that in 1960 there were 157 sequestration orders made whereas in 1961 the figure went up to 176. The 176 bankruptcies in 1961 represent 61 more than in 1929-1930, at the height of the depression, but the population has increased since then. A sharp increase has been recorded in the number of Queensland companies going into liquidation. In 1959-1960 51 companies, with a total capital of £3,500,000, were wound up, compared with 68, with a nominal capital of £4,500,000 in 1960-1961, yet the Government talk about their development programme for the State.

The Minister for Labour and Industry was not in the Chamber when I had occasion to criticise strongly the action of the Government in not revealing vital information that enables us to manage our affairs. Apparently they are going to treat the Opposition as being not entitled to know what is going on and govern completely by regulation. We have seen regulation after regulation laid on the table of the House.

**Mr. Nicklin:** All for the perusal of the Opposition.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I know, government by regulation! The Premier would abolish Parliament by regulation if he could. I object very strongly to this increasing tendency, firstly to withhold information from the Opposition, and secondly, when the information has leaked out, to engage in a heresy hunt to penalise the person who reveals it. Something appeared in "Truth" newspaper a few months ago of which I had received previous knowledge. It reflected on an aspect of the administration of the Department of Main Roads. Nearly every officer was asked how had this information got out and was he responsible for it. Strong measures were threatened so that a fear complex is developing everywhere along the line in the Public Service. If we cannot get the information we are entitled to we are getting to a dire state of affairs, yet they talk about decent government, decentralisation, democracy, and development, the four D's that amount to so much political ballyhoo to people outside.

In factory development Queensland shows up in a very sad light indeed. The Minister for Labour and Industry will be very hard-pressed to convince the people otherwise. He may point to this and that factory, but, of course, that sort of thing happens irrespective

of what government are in office. Because of an increase in population a new industry comes to an area. That is the normal development that occurs in any community where population is increasing. True it is that he can point to this factory starting here, and that factory starting somewhere else, but our manufacturing production, particularly during the last three years, compares most unfavourably with that of the other States. For the year 1958-1959, which is the last year for which records are available, and which is available in the Queensland Year Book at page 184, factory production per head of population was considerably lower in Queensland than in the other States. Here are the figures—

|                           | £     |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Queensland . . . . .      | 104.2 |
| South Australia . . . . . | 149.2 |
| Victoria . . . . .        | 211.5 |
| New South Wales . . . . . | 206.5 |

Yet, we have these people talking about the tremendous development that is taking place all the time.

I do not wish to extend this speech beyond the time the House has been kind enough to afford me. I have dealt with some facets of Government administration during the time at my disposal and I think they reveal the position in a general way. As I said, time does not permit of my dealing with every facet. I have dealt with the transport muddle, the land policy and the unemployment position. I have dealt with the deterioration in the finances of the State. I have dealt with the disintegration that has taken place inside, and the discontent outside, and the repudiation of promises by the Government in so many directions.

The public are getting fed up with all these things and on the two recent occasions on which they had the opportunity to do so, they have expressed the disapproval I have spoken of today. Other hon. members on this side will deal with other facets.

I should have liked to deal with the European Common Market. No doubt I will have an opportunity of doing so later. It has been placed on the business sheet for consideration in due course. I think I have said sufficient to indicate that the Government deserves the attack that has been launched on them today by the Opposition. I hope that those on the other side of the House who feel as I do, and there are many of them, will throw off the party-discipline shackle that Government members are so fond of saying exists over here. I know very well that if they were free men and did not have Ministers standing over them telling them that if they did not play ball, they would not get help here, there, and in other directions, they would cross the floor of the House. If they do not take heed of my warning, a timely warning, the public will take appropriate action when the opportunity presents itself. I have listened to attacks on the Government of which I was a member, but never in my

experience have I heard a recital of criticism or the volume of evidence accumulating outside such as has been heard against this Government, quite apart from what I have said here today. I could talk for hours on such matters. I do not know of any comparable period when in such a short time a great State has steadily gone downhill because of lack of sound, intelligent leadership and direction. With all this simmering discontent and faction fights, the Government are going slowly into a process of disintegration.

I suppose when the Government Party have their Caucus meeting my speech will be referred to as the type of speech highlighting their weaknesses. They will be told, "Do not let us widen the gap; pull together for a while, and leave it to honest Frank." But, Honest Frank can no longer hold this coalition Government together. This political myth, "So long as you leave things to Honest Frank they will be all right," is no longer tenable. This job is too big for one man to handle: all the Ministers should take some responsibility. It is just as dangerous for people to be lulled into a sense of security by the political myth, "Leave it to Honest Frank and everything will be all right," as it is to leave the control of the affairs of a country in the hands of a dictator.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Lloyd, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 1.1 p.m.