

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 29 AUGUST 1961

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

APPROPRIATION BILL No. 1

Assent reported by Mr. Speaker.

QUESTIONS

CLOSURE OF BRANCH RAILWAY LINES

Mr. DUGGAN (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister for Transport—

“(1) What branch railway lines, specifying individual mileages involved, have been closed down in Queensland since August, 1957, and on what dates did the closures operate?”

“(2) How many persons have been dismissed from the service as the direct result of such closures?”

“(3) What revenue has been derived from the sale of steel rails, buildings, and any other equipment, and from land, subsequent to the closure of these lines?”

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

“(1)—

“ Section of Line Closed	Miles Closed	Date Closed
Dimbulah—Mount Mulligan ..	29.9	1 July, 1958
Bunda Street—Qunaba ..	5.2	1 August, 1959
Victoria—Eton ..	1.9	1 August, 1959
Gowrie Junction—Wyreema ..	11.7	1 December, 1959
Glennelg Street—Terminus of South Brisbane, Wharf Branch ..	0.2	1 February, 1960
Munbilla—Mount Edwards ..	16.2	1 November, 1960
Lota—Cleveland ..	8.3	1 November, 1960
Warwick—Maryvale	18.5	1 November, 1960
Tirroan—Mount Perry ..	35.2	1 November, 1960
Innes—Morganville	4.8	1 November, 1960
Lappa—Mount Garnet ..	32.5	1 July, 1961
Malbon—Selwyn ..	41	1 July, 1961
Kajabbi—Dobbyn ..	19.5	1 July, 1961
Barlil—Winderam ..	12	1 July, 1961
Kingaroy Saleyards—Tarong ..	17	1 July, 1961
Nerang—Tweed Heads ..	20	1 July, 1961
Allora—Goomburra	9	1 July, 1961
Pengarry Junction—Crow's Nest ..	29	1 July, 1961

“(2) Only six persons have been dismissed—three station-mistresses and three temporary fettlers. However, one station mistress and one fettler have been re-employed and the other two station mistresses are wives of gangers.”

“(3) Certain materials have been retained for Departmental use. The proceeds from the sales of materials, buildings, equipment and land so far offered for sale amount to £181,429.”

SUPPLY OF SCHOOL REQUISITES

Mr. DUGGAN (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister for Education—

"(1) Is he aware of charges made in the editorial of the Queensland Teachers' Journal for May, 1961, that despite departmental promises to improve the position stock for State schools was being supplied in insufficient quantities and too late for use, that head teachers had complained that stock which should have been received late in 1959 had not arrived till late in January, 1960, that promises of a rapid redress of the problem had not been fulfilled in 1961, and that no pastel drawing books had been received in the larger primary schools for two years, occasioning a consequent real loss in pastel work?"

"(2) Are these charges true, and, if so, what is the explanation?"

Hon. J. C. A. PIZZEY (Isis) replied—

"(1) I am aware of the charges made in the editorial of the Queensland Teachers' Journal for May, 1961."

"(2) Despite the statements made in the editorial the schools have not suffered from a general lack of school stock. Information received from Principals of secondary schools and the Inspectors of secondary schools indicate that, in general, the position with regard to the supply of science equipment is satisfactory. It is true that certain items of science equipment not procurable in Australia and ordered from certain Brisbane business houses, were unfortunately held up by the Dockers' Strike in Britain. These items have been distributed to schools as they have become available. Pastel books and drawing books were in short supply at the beginning of the year, but the Government Printing Office has now effected delivery of considerable quantities and all school needs for the current year have been met."

DESTRUCTION OF NATIVE ANIMALS AND BIRDS

Mr. DUGGAN (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry—

"(1) In view of frequent protests appearing in the city and country Press that persons armed with shotguns and rifles are slaughtering protected animals and birds, is he able to inform the House whether any of the fauna officers in his Department have reported such offences and whether there have been any recent prosecutions under the Fauna Conservation Act?"

"(2) Is he aware of a letter in 'The Courier-Mail' of April 11 last by J. Pringle of Mount Isa who, when stating that at week-ends carloads of New Australians go out and slaughter all wild life in sight, including kookaburras, wagtails and plain turkeys, advocated that no firearms should

be sold to migrants until they had acquired some appreciation of the value of our native fauna? If so, will he give consideration to this suggestion?"

Hon. O. O. MADSEN (Warwick) replied—

"(1) Officers of my Department are constantly on the alert for breaches of the Fauna Conservation Act. Further, all police officers are ex officio fauna officers and have full authority to investigate complaints. During the year 1960-1961 there were nine successful prosecutions under "The Fauna Conservation Act of 1952" including the confiscation of firearms involved. Currently there are four (4) prosecutions approved for Brisbane, and prosecutions are under consideration for Cairns (6), Toowoomba (1), Atherton (2), Ingham (2) and Brisbane (1)."

"(2) Mr. Pringle's letter which appeared in the Courier-Mail in April was noted in my Department. However, generalised complaints such as contained in the letter are of little value. The experience of fauna officers in this field is that any follow-up enquiry is often fruitless. If indiscriminate shooting occurs in any district, factual reports should be submitted to the local police for enquiry. If incidents are reported immediately they occur, and suitable evidence obtained at the time, appropriate action as a deterrent can then be undertaken. It should also be kept in mind, however, that it is permissible for certain game and pest fauna to be shot legally. In order to conserve the fauna of the Mount Isa district two good sanctuaries are established at Rifle Creek and the Leichhardt River, and these are patrolled by officers of the Mount Isa Mines Co. My Department is constantly giving publicity to fauna conservation in the form of press and radio releases, journal articles, talks and, more recently, television. A range of Departmental literature is available on fauna conservation. The Commonwealth Immigration Department also provides suitable literature on fauna to migrants and their migrant newspaper, which has a wide circulation among New Australians, regularly features fauna protection. As a fauna conservation device, licensing and/or legislative control of the sale of firearms do not have a great deal of merit. On the other hand it has been established that the licensing of the shooter is of much more value. A limited shooter license system is already in force under the Fauna Conservation Act and consideration is now being given to the licensing of all hunters."

SMOG SURVEY OF BRISBANE AND IPSWICH

Mr. DUGGAN (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister for Health and Home Affairs—

"(1) Is it a fact, as reported in the 'Telegraph' of June 28 last that Brisbane's smog survey programme has been virtually abandoned?"

"(2) If so, what is the explanation?"

"(3) Has the report of the air pollution committee appointed by the Government been completed and, if so, will he make it available to Parliament?"

Hon. H. W. NOBLE (Yeronga) replied—

"(1) The Air Pollution survey of Brisbane and Ipswich was designed to start on March 1, 1959, and to end on February 29, 1960. The survey was carried out and completed as planned. It was never intended that the survey should continue indefinitely. However, certain measurements were made after the survey had been completed and one deposit gauge is still operating."

"(2) See reply to 1."

"(3) I understand the Air Pollution Committee has completed its report but I have not yet received it. A statement will be made after I have studied it."

POLICE OFFICER CHARGED WITH RAPE

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

"(1) Was a police officer recently brought before a closed Departmental Inquiry Board or similar body on a charge of having raped a sixteen years old girl in a police car in New Farm Park?"

"(2) Was he found guilty and dismissed from the Police Force?"

"(3) If the answers to Questions (1) and (2) are in the affirmative, why was he not charged in the same way as an ordinary citizen would have been charged, i.e. in Open Court under the Criminal Code?"

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

"(1 to 3) The complaint made by the girl in question was thoroughly investigated, and the file was submitted to the Solicitor-General for advice as to whether the available evidence would justify proceedings being taken against the Police Officer concerned for a criminal offence and, in the event of advice being against the taking of criminal proceedings, advice was sought as to what action should be taken or charge preferred against the Police officer. The advice received from the Solicitor-General was against the use of a criminal charge and was to the effect that a disciplinary charge of misconduct under The Police Acts should be preferred. A disciplinary charge of misconduct was preferred against the Police officer who pleaded 'Not Guilty' to the charge. An investigation was made by a Commissioned Officer of Police and, after consideration of the results of the investigation, the Commissioner of Police made a finding that the Police officer concerned was guilty of misconduct, and dismissed him from the Police Force. The Police officer in question has lodged an appeal against his dismissal, and this appeal will be heard by a Police

Appeal Board, comprising a Stipendiary Magistrate, a representative of the Commissioner of Police, and a representative of the Queensland Police Union."

CHARGE OF RAPE AGAINST POLICE OFFICER BY MRS. POSTMA

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

"(1) Did a woman named Postma recently make a charge against a police officer that he attempted to rape her while she was being held in custody in the watchhouse?"

"(2) If so, did the Government Analyst support the allegation after an examination of stains on certain clothes submitted to him for examination?"

"(3) What action, Departmental or or under the Criminal Code, has been taken or is proposed to be taken against the police officer concerned?"

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

"(1) A complaint was made by a woman regarding the conduct of a Constable in the City Watchhouse."

"(2) An examination was made at the Laboratory of Microbiology and Pathology of certain articles, which came into the possession of the investigating Officer during investigations regarding that woman's complaint."

"(3) After the complaint had been fully investigated, the file was submitted to the Solicitor-General for advice as to the sufficiency of the available evidence to justify proceedings being taken against the Constable, either for a criminal offence or for a disciplinary offence. The advice received from the Solicitor-General was that there certainly was not sufficient evidence to justify a criminal charge. The Solicitor-General advised that there was a prima facie case of a charge of misconduct under The Police Acts and Rules against the Constable for having indecently dealt with the woman in question. The Member of the Police Force concerned has been charged with an offence under The Police Acts and Rules. The charge has been denied by the Constable and a date has been fixed for the hearing of an investigation of the charge."

REVENUE FROM TOURIST INDUSTRY

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba) asked the Minister for Labour and Industry—

"Did he make the following statement about June 24 last—'Queensland tourist industry would get back an estimated £2,200 this year from every £10 spent by the State Government on tourist information'? If so, will he explain to the House how he estimated the figure £2,200 for every £10 spent?"

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

"Australian National Travel Association brought to Australia, representatives of a business organisation with considerable world experience in the Tourist Industry, to make a review of this industry. They were in various States of Australia, including Queensland, on this study and subsequently after having collected all available data, including much from several years' bookings at some of our Queensland resorts in relation to their own confidential booking records, made an assessment of the value of this industry. From this, the approximate total spendings were determined, and thus the figure I used, determined."

AMERICAN AND JAPANESE TOURISTS IN QUEENSLAND

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba) asked the Minister for Labour and Industry—

"How many (a) American and (b) Japanese tourists have come direct to Queensland to spend their holidays during the period 1 January, 1961, to 30 June, 1961?"

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

"It is quite impossible to obtain this information, as there are no means in existence whereby it can be ascertained. If we were to carry out a survey throughout all purveyors we could get a basis for approximate estimate but this would of necessity have to be on a voluntary basis and would entail a great deal of time, not justified in such a case."

STAFF OF QUEENSLAND TOURIST BUREAU, SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba) asked the Minister for Labour and Industry—

"(1) How many persons are employed at the Queensland Government Tourist Bureaus in (a) Sydney and (b) Melbourne?"

"(2) How many of these employees are from Queensland?"

"(3) How many of them have been to at least our main tourist attractions?"

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

"(1) (a), 22; (b) 19."

"(2) (a), 14; (b), 8. Immediately after the end of the war it was difficult to obtain staff for our Sydney and Melbourne Offices and it was necessary to employ staff who were not Queenslanders. However, it is now possible to obtain Queenslanders for transfer to our Interstate branches, and vacancies are now filled by Queenslanders. During the past two years seven employees have been transferred from Queensland to Sydney branch, and four to our Melbourne branch."

"(3) Most of our senior officers have visited the main tourist attractions of Queensland. During the past twelve months fourteen members of our Sydney staff have visited Queensland during the period of their recreation leave and nine from our Melbourne branch. Officers of our Interstate branches are granted an extra five days in addition to their normal leave, providing they spend three weeks of their leave in Queensland. Airlines and roadline companies and railways grant concessional fares to our employees, and certain purveyors in Queensland grant concessional accommodation."

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN LEAVING SCHOOL

Mr. HANLON (Baroona) asked the Minister for Labour and Industry—

"(1) Has his attention been drawn to a statement by the retiring Regional Director of Commonwealth Labour and National Service Department, Mr. F. Laws, as reported in the 'Telegraph' of August 23, 1961, that 818 children who left school last year are still out of jobs?"

"(2) In view of the numbers of young people who will be leaving school in a few months time, as reflected by figures given by the Minister for Education to the hon. member for Bulimba, what steps does he propose to take to correct this position whereby young Queenslanders leaving school face the most unfair and disheartening prospect of assuming the occupation of 'unemployed' which in many cases is also the occupation of their fathers?"

"(3) Is he aware of the impetus to juvenile delinquency given by the idleness and loss of confidence in themselves and their community created in such young people?"

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

"(1) Yes."

"(2 and 3) This is a problem which is realised not only by every Minister but by every senior Departmental officer who is, in his own field, making every effort to combat it."

POLICE MOTOR CYCLE ESCORTS

Mr. HANLON (Baroona) asked the Minister for Labour and Industry—

"(1) What is the basis on which police motor cycle escorts are provided?"

"(2) On how many individual occasions were such escorts provided in the past year?"

"(3) What was the cost of such escorts?"

"(4) What was the numerical strength of the escort provided during the recent visit of the Lord Mayor of London?"

"(5) How many man-hours were incurred in this regard during his visit?"

"(6) Will he consider the restriction of such escorts to only the most necessary formal occasions or at least reduce the size of such escorts, so that these policemen might be engaged in duties which would be of more value to the public?"

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

"(1) In practically all cases involving the visits of Diplomats, Ambassadors, Consular Representatives and other distinguished visitors, escorts are provided at the express request of the Chief Secretary's Department. Escorts are also provided for many of the functions in which His Excellency the State Governor takes part or in which he is in some way concerned. The requests for these escorts are on some occasions made by the Chief Secretary's Department but in most instances, by officials of the Governor's staff and the present practice is identical with that which has been operating for many years."

"(2) In regard to visiting Diplomats, Ambassadors and other distinguished visitors, the number of individual occasions on which escorts were provided in the past year was twenty (20). In regard to escorts provided for His Excellency the Governor, the number was twenty-two (22)."

"(3) For distinguished visitors and others, approximately sixty pounds (£60). For His Excellency, approximately forty-five pounds (£45)."

"(4) On the occasion of his arrival, departure and Civic Reception, five (5) motor cycle officers were provided; on all other movements, two (2) traffic officers for each occasion only."

"(5) Thirty-two (32) hours."

"(6) Yes."

APPLICATION TO HOUSING COMMISSION FOR RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

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

"(1) How many applications for rental accommodation are now registered with the Queensland Housing Commission (a) in the metropolitan area and (b) outside the metropolitan area?"

"(2) How many applications in all categories for rental accommodation were lodged with the Housing Commission during the financial year ended June 30, 1961, and of these how many have been allocated rental accommodation in (a) houses and (b) flats?"

"(3) How many applications are on hand for home purchase in the metropolitan area of Brisbane?"

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

"(1) (a) At July 31, 1961, 2,165 which have points priorities and 1,690 of nil priority compared with 2,241 and 1,703

respectively at July 31, 1960. (b) At June 30, 1961, 792 which have points priorities and 1,042 of nil priority compared with 859 and 1,183 respectively at June 30, 1960."

"(2) (a) and (b)—

APPLICATIONS FOR STATE RENTAL HOUSES RECEIVED DURING PERIOD 1-7-60 TO 30-6-61

Points Priority	Metro-politan Area	Country Centres	Total
100 Families facing ejection, living in tents, huts, or similar unsuitable premises ..	212	209	421
80 Families living in premises condemned by Local or State Authorities ..	..	34	34
60 Families separated owing to lack of accommodation ..	184	103	287
40 Families living under over-crowded conditions and Families sharing homes with other people ..	558	235	793
	954	581	1,535

In addition during 1960-1961, 1,403 applications of nil priority—932 metropolitan and 471 country centres—were received. In respect of the metropolitan applications lodged during 1960-1961 offers of 386 houses and 103 flats were made during the year of which offers 315 houses and 47 flats were accepted and 127 declined. Further offers of 442 houses and 59 flats were made during the same period to applicants whose applications were lodged prior to July 1, 1960, and of these offers 356 houses and 23 flats were accepted and 122 declined. In country centres 374 rental houses were occupied during 1960-1961, but the information in regard to the dates of lodgment of the respective applications is not available nor is any record kept in Head Office of the number of applicants who declined houses. From this it will be seen that the number of new tenancies during the year totalled 1,115."

"(3) 693 applications in respect of home ownership (486 Workers' Dwellings and 207 for purchase of properties)."

TRAFFIC POLICEMEN EMPLOYED ON PARKING METERS

Mr. LLOYD (Kedron) asked the Minister for Labour and Industry—

"(1) How many traffic policemen are employed on parking meters in Brisbane?"

"(2) In view of the serious outbreak of breaking and entering, what action is being taken to expand the work force of the Police Department to protect private property?"

"(3) What urgent police action is being taken against the reported influx of Southern criminals into the State?"

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

"(1) Seven traffic policemen under the supervision of one Sergeant. They also police "No Standing" zones and restricted parking areas."

"(2) The work force of the C.I. Branch has been expanded to combat this outbreak and protect private property generally. For some weeks past, special Wireless Patrols of C.I. Branch personnel have been in existence in the City Area, South Coast Area and Fortitude Valley Area, and operate from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m., 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. and 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. respectively, which gives complete coverage from 6 p.m. to 4 a.m. each shift. These Special Patrols augment the normal Wireless Patrols of C.I. Branch personnel which operate daily in the City Area, the South Coast Area and the Fortitude Valley Area from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m., 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. respectively and the Squad of ten men especially assigned to the investigation of House and Shop breaking offences and which operates from the C.I. Branch, City, in shifts from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., 8.45 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. The Special Wireless Patrols mentioned are being strengthened in all areas—the Fortitude Valley Area as from the 25th instant and the City and South Coast Areas as from the 28th instant by the addition of extra temporary Plain Clothes personnel, seconded from the uniform section, some of whom will perform foot patrols during the night. Also two Plain Clothes men are to be employed specifically to watch the movements of certain persons. A Sub-Inspector has been assigned to personally supervise the night time activities of C.I. Branch personnel who have been especially detailed for this special duty."

"(3) There is no evidence of any particular influx of southern criminals to this State."

WILSON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL AND WESTBROOK HOME FOR BOYS

Mr. LLOYD (Kedron) asked the Minister for Health and Home Affairs—

"(1) What was the cost of the conversion of the Wilson Ophthalmic Hospital?"

"(2) What was the cost of construction work recently carried out at the Westbrook Home for Boys?"

"(3) What expenditure is anticipated to complete the work necessary for segregation or separating youths of different ages at the Westbrook Home for Boys?"

"(4) How many youths over the age of seventeen years are at present at Westbrook Home?"

"(5) Does he intend to recommend sufficient expenditure to improve sleeping, toilet, bathing and laundry facilities at Westbrook?"

Hon. H. W. NOBLE (Yeronga) replied—

"(1) The cost to date is £25,339, and, in addition, Furniture and Equipment is expected to cost £6,647."

"(2) Expenditure to date is £5,626, and it is anticipated that completed cost will be £6,126."

"(3) Improvements to the Privilege Dormitory, estimated to cost £1,600, include provision of lounge and kitchenette, provision of individual lockers for each boy, and improvements to sleeping accommodation, including floor covering. Apart from this work, there only remains the construction of two partitions in the main Dormitory, the bulk of the work of subdividing the Dormitory to provide a separate unit for the more recalcitrant boys having already been completed."

"(4) Twenty."

"(5) The Department of Public Works is now proceeding with kitchen improvements, and is now preparing plans for further projects estimated to cost £55,000, including new bathrooms and change room £8,000, floodlit sports enclosure £4,000, manual training block (including equipment) £28,000, new laundry £15,000."

CLASSROOM ACCOMMODATION, EVERTON PARK STATE SCHOOL

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

"Has approval yet been given to the provision of additional classroom accommodation at the Everton Park State School? If not, what action is being taken to have this overdue work commenced?"

Hon. H. RICHTER (Somerset) replied—

"No. Plans for additional classroom accommodation at the Everton Park State School are being prepared. When plans are completed and the estimate of cost is available the proposal will be submitted to the Executive Council for consideration of approval of the expenditure involved."

HOUSING COMMISSION HOMES, MACKAY ELECTORATE

Mr. DAVIES (Maryborough), for **Mr. GRAHAM** (Mackay), asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

"In view of the fact that the Housing Commission did not erect any homes in the Mackay Electorate during 1959 and 1960, will he give immediate consideration to the possibility of having further homes erected in this Electorate at the earliest opportunity?"

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

"When assessing the need for the erection of houses the Housing Commission gives no consideration to Local Authority or Electorate boundaries of a city or

town. At Mackay the Commission has a pool of 87 Rental Houses vacancies from which average five houses in three months and over the last 12 months the Clerk of Petty Sessions at Mackay has held relatively few rental applications of high priority. At July 31, 1961, he held three rental applications of 100 points priority, 10 of families living in overcrowded conditions and three of families sharing accommodation with other families. In view of this and that work under a contract for eight houses in North Mackay has commenced, it is considered that the erection of houses at the present time in the Mackay Electorate is not warranted. The Honourable Member will recall that I advised him at some length by letter on June 1 last on the overall housing position at Mackay."

APPOINTMENT OF TEACHER OF MUSIC,
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, MACKAY

Mr. DAVIES (Maryborough), for **Mr. GRAHAM** (Mackay), asked the Minister for Education and Migration—

"Will he give immediate consideration to the appointment of a teacher of music in the Education Department in Mackay?"

Hon. J. C. A. PIZZEY (Isis) replied—

"The Honourable Member is informed that the appointment of a specialist teacher of music at Mackay is at present under consideration."

EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET

Mr. DAVIES (Maryborough), for **Mr. BENNETT** (South Brisbane), asked the Premier—

"(1) As Britain's entry into the European Common Market directly affects the trading capacity of Queensland, has he made submissions to the Australian Government in order to safeguard the marketing of Queensland's wool, meat, and butter?"

"(2) If so, what are the submissions made and have they been accepted by the Honourable the Prime Minister?"

"(3) If not, why has he failed to collate statistics in order to apprise both the Australian and English Governments of the vital concern Queensland has for its future in relation to this trading agreement?"

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

"(1 to 3) I hasten to assure the Honourable Member that Queensland's particular interests in Britain's entry into the European Economic Community have not been neglected. My Government has already made strong representations to the Commonwealth Government stressing the possible implications for Queensland. I

have been assured by the Right Honourable the Prime Minister that his Government is fully alive to the importance of this trade development, and is carefully watching the interests of Australia's principal export industries, which of course include Queensland's major primary industries."

ISSUE OF ARMS TO POLICE FORCE AND
METROPOLITAN SECURITY SERVICE

Mr. DAVIES (Maryborough), for **Mr. BENNETT** (South Brisbane), asked the Minister for Labour and Industry—

"Why is he restricting the issue of arms to members of the official Police Force whilst at the same time allowing members of the private Police Force known as the Metropolitan Security Service to have an unlimited supply of arms, many of which are unlicensed?"

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

"Recently there has been some re-organisation in relation to the issue of concealable firearms to members of the Police with a view to standardising the firearms being used. Until recently there has been a great variety of different classes of concealable firearms on issue to members of the Police Force and it is expected that efficiency will be improved through standardisation, and in relation to cost and distribution of ammunition, there will be a considerable saving. Individual issues of firearms and ammunition with the exception of issues to Detectives and Plain Clothes personnel are being withdrawn and the issue of concealable firearms and ammunition therefor is being made to Police Stations according to the requirements calculated for personnel attached to the respective Stations. The concealable firearms issued to Police Stations will be available for use as and when required by Police personnel attached to the Stations. Metropolitan Security Services, which incidentally, is not a Police Force, owns some concealable firearms in respect of which the Company concerned has been issued with licenses. Every employee of that Company who desires to have possession of a concealable firearm must apply for a license authorising him to do so. A thorough investigation is made regarding each application for a license for a concealable firearm, and a license is not issued unless the individual concerned is considered a fit and proper person to hold a license and he has good and sufficient reason for requiring possession of a concealable firearm. There is no necessity to have a license in Queensland for any rifle or shotgun which is not a concealable firearm and consequently all rifles and shotguns in Queensland are unlicensed irrespective of whether they are owned or possessed by employees of Metropolitan Security Services, members of the Police Force, or any other citizen."

TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT OF OVER-AGE
OFFICERS BY RAILWAY DEPARTMENT

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

"In view of his reply to my Question on August 23, 1961, regarding the necessity to employ over-age conductors because of the shortage of staff, will he say why the Department does not promote and employ other personnel so as to improve the efficiency of the system and in some measure relieve the large and ever-growing pool of unemployment in Queensland?"

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

"Appropriate steps are being taken to avoid any repetition of the circumstances."

REMOVAL OF SHOP FROM WATERFRONT,
SOUTHPORT

Mr. WALSH (Bundaberg) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

"(1) Was notice given to the Mayor of the City of the Gold Coast, Alderman Harley, ordering him to remove a shop from the waterfront at Southport?"

"(2) In whom did the land vest and who was the owner of the shop at the time of the notice?"

"(3) Was permission ever granted for the erection of the shop?"

"(4) Did ownership change at any time and, if so, was the change authorised?"

"(5) What were the reasons that led the Crown to order the removal?"

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

"(1) Yes."

"(2) The land was vested in the Crown. The shop was erected in 1950. Counsel's opinion obtained by Gold Coast City Council on August 27, 1958, was that the shop belonged to the Crown. This opinion was confirmed by the Solicitor-General."

"(3) Yes."

"(4) Harley disposed of his interests in the shop to one Hughes on November 1, 1958. No approval was sought or obtained from the Crown for this change of ownership. Indeed, Harley studiously avoided advising the Crown of the sale. I hold a prepared statement supplied by Harley in which he admits that, in 1959, he informed an officer of the Lands Department that he was the owner of the building and that he did not feel there was any point in complicating the position by telling that officer he had already sold the business to Hughes. It was not until October 17, 1960, when the Crown received a letter from Hughes advising that Harley was not the owner of the premises, but had sold to Hughes, that the Crown was aware of the sale said to have been made some two years earlier. Might I point out the background to this sale? As I have already

stated the Gold Coast City Council had Counsel's opinion on August 27, 1958. This opinion was to the effect—(i) that the Council had no power to grant a lease or license of the building to anyone; (ii) that the building was, in fact, the property of the Crown; (iii) that any future lease of the property or license to occupy it could be granted only by the Harbour Trust under the Harbour Acts; and (iv) that, by Section 65 of that Act, the Trust could not enter into a contract for the lease or license without first inviting public tenders. Despite this opinion, Harley sold this shop to Hughes on November 1, 1958. I leave it to the House to judge the propriety of that sale against this background."

"(5) In the general policy of waterfront improvements, the Government is quite firm in its policy that it will not permit general commercial structures to be erected on the foreshores in competition with shopkeepers who are ratepayers to the local Council. To do so would indeed bring a storm of protest from all waterfront local authorities. The Crown will give limited permits for boat hiring, slipways and similar activities which of necessity must be on the waterfront. Indeed, Mr. Harley secured his original permit as an adjunct to the boat hiring business which he was then conducting. He ceased to conduct that business many years ago and, in doing so, destroyed the background against which the original permit was issued. However, although it had been advised that the shop was now the property of the Crown, the Crown did not desire to take advantage of the presence of the shop in this particular case. Accordingly, it was decided to give Harley, who had erected the shop, the right to remove it. In these circumstances the treatment could be described as generous. The Crown could well have asserted its ownership of the shop."

NEW POLICE STATION AT AYR

Mr. COBURN (Burdekin) asked the Minister for Labour and Industry—

"(1) Have plans and specifications been completed for the proposed new police station at Ayr? If so, when is it anticipated that construction of the building will be commenced?"

"(2) Will the work be undertaken by day labour or contract?"

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

"(1) Sketch plans have been prepared by the Department of Public Works and approved by the Commissioner of Police. It is not known when construction of the building will be commenced, as this is a matter for the Department of Public Works."

"(2) This is a matter for decision by the Department of Public Works."

NUMBER OF APPRENTICES ALLOCATED BY APPRENTICESHIP OFFICE

Mr. NEWTON (Belmont) asked the Minister for Education and Migration—

"How many apprentices were allocated in all trades by the apprenticeship office from (a) February to July, 1960, and (b) February to July, 1961?"

Hon. J. C. A. PIZZEY (Isis) replied—

"The numbers of apprentices allocated, but not necessarily indentured, in all trades by the Apprenticeship Office were—(a) February to July, 1960—2,399; (b) February to July, 1961—2,326. The Honourable Member is informed that the following numbers of apprentices were indentured—From July 1, 1959 to June 30, 1960, 2,947; From July 1, 1960 to June 30, 1961, 3,479. This represents an increase of 532 during the last financial year over the figures for the previous year."

ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION AT BELMONT STATE SCHOOL

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

"Has any consideration been given to providing the additional accommodation at Belmont State School as requested by the Education Department on continued representation made to that Department during the past twelve months?"

Hon. H. RICHTER (Somerset) replied—

"A request was received from the Education Department in November, 1959, for the replacement of two existing classrooms at the Belmont State School by two new classrooms of modern design. As funds have not been available for the replacement of serviceable classroom accommodation no action was taken to carry out the work requested. The Education Department recently advised that an additional classroom is required at the school as well as the two replacement classrooms previously requested. Plans for the work requested will be prepared as soon as the services of an architect can be made available."

EVICION OF TENANTS BY HOUSING COMMISSION

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

"(1) What is the number of formal eviction orders served by the Queensland Housing Commission on tenants occupying State rental homes from January, 1961, to July, 1961?"

"(2) Of this number how many were evicted by the Commission with a warrant of possession from the Court?"

"(3) Of those evicted through a court order how many were given seven days to

meet the arrears and what number was given the full forty-five days to meet the arrears?"

"(4) For the same period what is the number of houses that were repossessed from people buying homes from the Commission?"

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

"(1) Eighty-seven."

"(2) Ten."

"(3) Due to the serious circumstances of the case, one was evicted on a seven-day warrant. None of the evictions were on a forty-five-day warrant."

"(4) Five."

ELECTRIC OR GAS STOVES IN OFFICIAL RESIDENCES

Mr. ADAIR (Cook) asked the Minister for Public Works and Local Government—

"Is it Government policy to provide for the installation of electric or gas stoves in official residences occupied by school teachers, public servants, police or other Crown employees outside the Metropolitan area, where electricity or gas is available?"

Hon. H. RICHTER (Somerset) replied—

"Yes, except where electricity tariffs are too high or where connection of electric stoves is not permitted by the electricity authority. It is the practice to install improved cooking facilities as the replacement of existing stoves becomes necessary."

EXTENSIONS TO FRESHWATER SCHOOL

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

"Owing to the inconvenience now experienced at the Freshwater State School by pupils being forced to sit in an open area under the school, when will the new extensions to the school be commenced?"

Hon. J. C. A. PIZZEY (Isis) replied—

"Executive Council approval has been given for the enlargement of accommodation at the Freshwater State School so that, in future, there will be three (3) classrooms as well as library, staff and storeroom. Work resultant from this approval is expected to be commenced later this year."

INVESTIGATION OF RAILWAY DEPARTMENT BY MESSRS. FORD, BACON AND DAVIS

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

"(1) What are the qualifications of Messrs. Ford, Bacon and Davis to act as transport experts?"

"(2) Has he any details of railway systems which have been investigated by this company?"

"(3) Does he possess any details of improvements obtained as a result of investigations carried out to railway systems by this company?"

"(4) What improvements to the Queensland railways have been suggested to date as a result of the present investigation?"

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

"(1 to 3) Messrs. Ford, Bacon and Davis are recognised as one of the largest firms of Railway Consultants in the world. The World Bank has made use of their advices, but as a matter of interest to the Honourable Member, I will obtain from their New York office and table in the House a schedule of their more important commitments over the post-war period."

"(4) Interim reports have been received and these are now being examined with a view to ascertaining whether any of the suggestions can be implemented prior to receipt of the overall report."

BOOM GATES AND BLINKING LIGHTS, HUGH STREET LEVEL CROSSING, GARBUTT

Mr. TUCKER (Townsville North) asked the Minister for Transport—

"In view of the recent collision between a private vehicle and a train at the Hugh Street level crossing, Garbutt, when the occupants of the vehicle were fortunate to escape with their lives, would he be prepared to install boom gates and blinker lights at this level crossing to ensure that there will not be future fatalities at this dangerous point?"

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

"This crossing is fitted with reflectorised warning signs. It is contended that the accident was the result of negligence on the part of the driver of the road vehicle. It cannot be agreed to install boom gates and blinker lights at this level crossing at the present time as there are other crossings in Queensland where the circumstances warrant prior consideration of such installations."

REGISTRATION OF MECHANICAL LOADERS AND OTHER VEHICLES BY ROAD CONTRACTORS

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

"(1) Are all vehicles including large capacity mechanical loaders used by contractors on main roads work required to be registered under the Main Roads Acts?"

"(2) If so, would he enquire whether the contractor or contractors working on the main coastal road south from Stuart are complying with the Act?"

Hon. E. EVANS (Mirani) replied—

"(1) Any motor vehicle which is used on a dedicated road is required to be registered under the Main Roads Regulations."

"(2) Recent investigations showed that there is a large capacity truck carrying New South Wales registration plates being used by a sub-contractor on this job. Action was put in hand some weeks ago to ensure that the Regulations are observed in respect of this vehicle. Prosecutions were recently instituted against the contractor for the job for using unregistered vehicles."

NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICERS IN TOWNSVILLE

Mr. TUCKER (Townsville North) asked the Minister for Labour and Industry—

"(1) What were the numbers of police officers stationed in Townsville during the years 1959-1960 and 1960-1961?"

"(2) Does he feel that these numbers are adequate for a city which it is reliably anticipated will be shown to be the second in Queensland when the results of the recent census are made known?"

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

"(1) At June 30, 1960, 80; at June 30, 1961, 92. I would add that, at these dates, there were seven and three unfilled vacancies respectively, so that the approved strength was 87 at June 30, 1960, and 95 at June 30, 1961."

"(2) The claims of Townsville for increased Police personnel will be considered in the current financial year, in conjunction with the rest of the State."

SALE OF PACKAGED ICE CREAM

Mr. MELLOY (Nudgee) asked the Minister for Health and Home Affairs—

"(1) What are the requirements in relation to the packaging of ice cream for sale to the public particularly in regard to the sale of what are known as family bricks?"

"(2) What action is taken to ensure the hygienic distribution of this food?"

Hon. H. W. NOBLE (Yeronga) replied—

"(1) The requirements in relation to the packaging of ice cream are covered by The Food and Drug Regulations, the relevant Regulation stating—'No person shall deliver to a customer any article of food which is ordinarily consumed in the same state in which it is sold unless such food is completely wrapped in a clean unprinted paper or other suitable material'."

"(2) Inspections are carried out by State and Local Authority inspectors."

SALE OF COAL TO POWER HOUSES

Mr. BURROWS (Port Curtis) asked the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity—

"In respect to the report of the State Electricity Commission on electrical development in Queensland, what are the present ruling prices of coal as supplied to power-houses at present serving the South-Eastern and Central areas of the State and what is the reason for the difference between such prices and those quoted on pages 4 and 5 for Callide and West Moreton Coals, respectively, dealing with proposals to build additional stations in those areas?"

Hon. E. EVANS (Mirani) replied—

"The present average ruling prices of coal ex mine supplied to power-houses at present serving the South-Eastern and Central areas of the State are as follows:—South-Eastern Queensland, 61s.; Central Queensland—Callide, 27s.; Blair Athol, 30s.; Bluff, 63s. The reason for the difference between these prices and those quoted in the Report is that the greater quantity of coal required for a new major power-station and the limitation on the number of sources of supply permits the introduction of more efficient plant and methods and enables advantage to be taken of the other practical and economic benefits arising from operations on a large scale."

REMOVAL OF DINMORE STATE SCHOOL

Mr. DONALD (Ipswich East) asked the Minister for Education and Migration—

"In view of the inconvenience caused by the heavy road and rail traffic to the teaching staff and pupils of the Dinmore State School, plus the inadequate playground area, will he take the necessary steps to have the school removed to the site purchased some years ago or erect a new school on this property?"

Hon. J. C. A. PIZZEY (Isis) replied—

"The provision of accommodation on a new school site at Dinmore is dependent on the availability of funds for the purpose. The Honourable Member is informed that every effort will be made to provide this accommodation when finances are available."

OVERTIME PAID IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Mr. DEAN (Sandgate) asked the Premier—

"Will he supply a return showing the amount of overtime paid in each Government Department (all funds) during 1960-1961?"

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

"The information is being obtained and will be tabled in due course."

NUMBER OF SAWMILLS AND PLANTINGS AT FORESTRY STATIONS

Mr. DAVIES (Maryborough) asked the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry—

"(1) What was the number of sawmills in the State during the years 1958-1959, 1959-1960 and 1960-1961, and what was the average number of workers engaged in these mills during these years?"

"(2) How many men are employed at Tuan Forestry, Maryborough, at the present time?"

"(3) How many acres were planted at Tuan during 1960 and 1961 planting seasons?"

"(4) How many men were engaged in forestry work at the various forestry stations throughout the State at June 30, 1960, and at July 31, 1961?"

"(5) How many acres were planted at various forestry stations throughout the State during 1960 and 1961 planting seasons?"

Hon. O. O. MADSEN (Warwick) replied—

"(1 to 5) The answer to the question asked by the Honourable Member for Maryborough is almost entirely statistical and is quite lengthy. With the permission of the House I table a statement setting out the required information."

Whereupon the hon. gentleman laid upon the table the statement referred to.

NEW INSURANCE BUILDING, MARYBOROUGH

Mr. DAVIES (Maryborough) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

"When does he expect plans, specifications, &c., for the new Insurance Building in Maryborough to be finalised and when does he expect work to commence?"

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

"I would point out that the special lease of the land on which the building is to be constructed was not finalised until last week. I am, therefore, unable to indicate at present a firm date for completion of plans, specifications, etc., and commencement of the work."

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC, MATERNITY HOSPITAL, MARYBOROUGH

Mr. DAVIES (Maryborough) asked the Minister for Health and Home Affairs—

"(1) Is he opposed to the provision of ante-natal clinics in Government maternity hospitals? If so, will he give his reasons?"

"(2) Does he intend having provision made for an ante-natal clinic in the new maternity hospital to be constructed in Maryborough? If not, will he reconsider his decision because public opinion has indicated that citizens generally are strongly in favour of the inclusion of an ante-natal clinic in a maternity hospital?"

Hon. H. W. NOBLE (Yeronga) replied—

“(1) No. The location is governed entirely by the facts of each particular case. The Honourable Member may rest assured that the Department will provide satisfactory ante-natal treatment facilities at State Hospitals.”

“(2) The matter of whether an ante-natal Clinic should be provided in the proposed new Maternity Block at Maryborough is at present being investigated. I might point out that the great majority of obstetric cases are patients of private doctors who attend to all classes of patients in their surgeries.”

RIGHT OF APPEAL AGAINST CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

Mr. BROMLEY (Norman) asked the Minister for Justice—

“Will he give consideration to the suggestion that in all cases of convictions in a Law Court the convicted person be handed in writing, understandable to the lay mind, the information that he or she has the right of appeal?”

Hon. A. W. MUNRO (Toowong) replied—

“The fact of there being certain rights of appeal in cases of this nature is known generally. However, it is the function of a convicted person's legal adviser, rather than that of a Court, to advise on the rights of appeal in a specific case. The full implementation of the suggestion of the Honourable Member would involve the preparation of long treatises of a general nature which, unless properly interpreted, could be misleading to persons not having a detailed knowledge of the law. In the net result a procedure as suggested would quite probably do more harm than good. As a general comment I may say that, in matters of law, it is easy to make a simple matter complex, but it is difficult to make a complex matter simple.”

TOWNSVILLE-MOUNT ISA RAILWAY

Mr. BROMLEY (Norman) asked the Minister for Transport—

“In view of conflicting reported statements that work on the Townsville-Mount Isa railway rehabilitation scheme is being skimped and that statements are being made by responsible persons that the consultants to the Queensland Railways, Ford, Bacon and Davis, are allegedly not allowing the Hornibrook Construction Group to do a thorough and safe job, will he appoint an independent tribunal to examine progress on this important project, and unlike other Governmental instituted inquiries, have the findings made public?”

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

“I have no knowledge that the rehabilitation of the Mount Isa Rail Link is

being skimped, or that the consultants are not allowing the Hornibrook Construction Group to do a thorough and safe job. If the Honourable Member has any positive information on which he has based his question, I suggest that he lodge it with me immediately. Might I add that earlier this month I made a personal inspection of a major portion of the project work and found progress to be very satisfactory.”

BALLOT FOR STRIKE ACTION, A.F.U.L.E.

Mr. RAMSDEN (Merthyr), without notice, asked the Minister for Labour and Industry—

“(1) How many trade unionists are members of the Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Enginemmen?”

“(2) In the recent ballot for strike action how many of the votes were in favour of strike action?”

“(3) What was the ratio of those votes to the total union membership?”

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

“I would advise that as at 31 December, 1960, the membership was stated to be 2,639. Votes cast were as follows:—

In favour 1,003; against 679; informal 19; non-voters 938.

“The percentage of votes in relation to total union membership, which were cast in favour of strike action, was 38 per cent.”

VOTING AT BARCOO AND WHITSUNDAY BY-ELECTIONS

RETURN TO ORDER

The following paper was laid on the table:—

Return to an Order made by the House on 23 August last, on the motion of Mr. O'Donnell, giving details of the voting at the Barcoo and Whitsunday by-elections on 1 July, 1961.

PAPERS

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

Report of the Literature Board of Review under the Objectionable Literature Act of 1954 for the year 1960-1961.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Order in Council under the Co-operative Housing Societies Acts, 1958 to 1961.

Order in Council under the Stamp Acts, 1894 to 1961.

Order in Council under the State Housing Acts, 1945 to 1961.

Regulations under the Stamp Acts, 1894 to 1961.

Regulations under the State Housing Acts, 1945 to 1961.

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

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

Order in Council under the Forestry Act of 1959.

Proclamations under the Forestry Act of 1959.

Regulations under the Audit Acts, 1874 to 1960, the Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Acts, 1944 to 1961, and the Local Government Acts, 1936 to 1960.

Regulations under the Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Acts, 1944 to 1961.

At 12 noon,

In accordance with Standing Order No. 17, the House proceeded with Government business.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE—FIRST ALLOTTED DAY

Debate resumed from 23 August (see p. 17) on Mr. Camm's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, on which Mr. Duggan had moved 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.'

Mr. LLOYD (Kedron) (12.1 p.m.): I second the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition. The statement of the Prime Minister of Australia which was published this morning points very strongly to the need for this no-confidence amendment.

All hon. members must feel very strongly about the treatment meted out to Queensland by the Commonwealth Government during

the past 10 years. We have witnessed from time to time the tremendous assistance made available by the Commonwealth to all the other States for projects and large-scale developmental work. It is in marked contrast with the neglect of Queensland. The statement of the Prime Minister this morning is a remarkable one. He said he knew of no protest that had been received from the Queensland Government about the terms of the Mt. Isa railway loan. We have already seen the type of assistance being made available to Western Australia, and the other States, with Commonwealth Government contributions reaching up to 70 per cent. of the capital cost of works. We have been unable to get any satisfaction either on the terms of the loan made available by the Commonwealth for the reconstruction of the Mt. Isa railway or on any direct assistance. We have heard only one statement, and that was made last week, when the Treasurer said that the only approaches that were being made were about a legal battle between the Commonwealth Government and the Queensland Government over sinking-fund contributions, which will, if the Queensland Government are successful, mean a very small contribution by the Commonwealth. We realise the importance of the Mt. Isa mines project to the whole economy of Australia, not merely because of the level of employment it offers the people of Queensland but also because of the export trade. The mine's mineral production is of tremendous importance to Australia. Surely the people of Queensland are entitled to expect their Government not to be tied to the apron strings of a political party in this matter but to register a very strong protest to the Commonwealth Government for their failure to recognise the national importance of the project.

We can, I think, take the last White Paper published by the Commonwealth Government in relation to Commonwealth payments to or for the States. On page 24, in the chapter headed "Other Payments for Specific Purposes of a Capital Nature," we find an outline of the whole of the assistance made available to other States in past years. For comparison let us take the current Western Australian project, the standardisation of the railway gauge between Kalgoorlie and Kwinana, £41,000,000, with a 70-per-cent. contribution by the Commonwealth and 30-per-cent. by the State. Compare that with the Mt. Isa project! For Victoria and New South Wales alone there has been a contribution up to 30 June, 1961, of over £10,000,000 and during the present financial year there will be an expenditure of £4,000,000. The Commonwealth Government are meeting 70 per cent. of the cost. In South Australia there has been an expenditure of £5,000,000 on rail standardisation and already we can see signs of another large project, which will be assisted by the Commonwealth Government, by the expenditure of £50,000 on initial survey work for a proposal for the conversion to 4 ft. 8½ in.

gauge of the 3 ft. 6 in. gauge Petersborough division, which includes the line from Broken Hill to Port Pirie. That is another project that will be subject to the 70 per cent. direct contribution by the Commonwealth Government. A loan of £1,250,000 was made for the dieselisation of the Port Pirie-Broken Hill line—a further contribution by the Commonwealth Government to the South Australian Government. In Western Australia, direct assistance to the extent of £5,000,000 has been given by the Commonwealth Government to the northern developmental scheme, and I understand that the Government of Western Australia is finding it very difficult to find projects north of the 20th parallel on which to expend that money.

A list of the works that have been approved is set out, and I think I should read it to give hon. members an idea of the type of work upon which this money is being expended. On page 25 of the White Paper, this list appears—

"The following projects have been approved by the Commonwealth:—

- (1) The construction of a deep water port at Black Rocks near Derby. (This project was subsequently suspended and the Commonwealth's approval was withdrawn.)
- (2) The construction of a new berth at the Wyndham jetty.
- (3) The reconstruction of the existing jetty at Wyndham (to the extent of 50 per cent of the cost).
- (4) The carrying out of extensive investigations in the Napier-Broome Bay area to decide upon the most suitable and economic means of servicing the North Kimberley area.
- (5) The construction of a diversion dam on the Ord River.
- (6) The construction of a main channel from the Ord River diversion dam."

These works are all of comparatively minor importance when compared with the projects that former Labour Governments, in particular, had on the boards for a number of years for North Queensland or the western part of the State.

The additional contributions made by the Commonwealth to the Government of Western Australia include a further £5,000,000 for water supply. The pattern is the same over a number of years. Former Labour Governments of Queensland continually voiced their resentment of the Commonwealth Government's attitude to this State, and we were accused by the Premier and the Treasurer, who were then in Opposition, of causing disruption in Commonwealth-State relationships. They said that we could not expect to receive any assistance because of the attitude that we were adopting towards the Commonwealth Government. When they were elected to the Government benches, they decided that they would adopt this aristocratic approach, this gentlemanly approach, this

timid approach, to the Commonwealth Government and this has failed to get any direct assistance for Queensland. During the past few years we have seen the failure of several approaches by the State Government not only to the Commonwealth Government but also to the Premiers' Conference and the Loan Council. In regard to the Federal Aid Roads Grant, when the Premier and the Treasurer arrived back from the conference in February last year, they suddenly discovered that, although there had been an increase in the grant, the formula had been altered to give the greatest possible benefit to Victoria and that Queensland would lose £1,500,000 over a period of five years.

There is also a new formula covering income tax reimbursements to the States. The Premier returned from the Premiers' Conference and told the people of Queensland that the star of federation was in the ascendancy and that at last we had a formula on which we could work for the future. But he omitted to mention that, because of the sudden impact of large wage increases and the cost of Government during the first 12 months of operation of that formula, the State Government were unable to budget to meet their commitments during that year.

The result of all this has been that in the past three years we have seen the greatest increase in unemployment since the depression years. We must insist that the Premier and the Treasurer revise their thinking in regard to their attitude towards the Commonwealth Government and base their approaches on obtaining additional assistance. The formula gave them a chance, an opportunity, so we were told, so that in special circumstances the Queensland Government could make independent approaches to the Commonwealth Government for special assistance. We have not heard anything about the serious impact of unemployment on the economy of Queensland, or the necessity to undertake additional works and receive additional finance from the Commonwealth Government to bring employment to the level where the people can be given what they are entitled to—full employment in the State. The statement by the Prime Minister that the Queensland Government had made no protest about the Commonwealth Government's contribution to the reconstruction of the Mt. Isa railway line was a shocking indictment of the Queensland Government. We should like to hear something from the Premier about this matter. The people of Queensland are entitled to know something of the attitude being adopted by the Queensland Government. We cannot afford such a Government in Queensland. In past years I do not think any Labour Government ever tied themselves to the apron strings of a political party when it came to matters affecting Queensland's development. Labour Governments in Queensland have been outspoken about Queensland development and its national importance. Unless there is some denial by the Premier we must accept the Prime Minister's

statement as being factual, that there has been no protest. The Treasurer says that there has been some negotiation with the Commonwealth Government about sinking fund payments. Any contribution by the Commonwealth Government on the basis of sinking fund payments would be very small compared with the direct assistance given to all other States for similar construction work on railways.

Mr. Hiley: Sinking fund contributions work out at about 72 per cent.

Mr. LLOYD: Of course the repayment would be over a period of 20 years whereas all other States have a repayment period of 50 years.

Mr. Hiley: Read what you are talking about. The sinking fund endures for 53 years.

Mr. LLOYD: It is all very well for the Treasurer to make these statements when he has already told us that it is a legal battle to decide whether the State is entitled to this 70 per cent. The Commonwealth Government have already legalised any direct assistance by that Government to State Governments by way of rail standardisation. I have yet to hear of any efforts having been made by the Treasurer or Premier to have the Commonwealth Government enact similar legislation to make it legal for the Commonwealth Government to make this direct assistance available for rail re-construction in Queensland. Why should we have to engage in a legal battle with the Commonwealth Government to receive assistance? The Premier, the Treasurer, and indeed every member of the Government at the present time, stands indicted unless it is categorically denied that they have failed to make any protest to the Commonwealth Government.

Included in the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition is the subject of unemployment. In the last three or four years, from time to time, the Deputy Premier has endeavoured to convince us and the people of Queensland that there has been tremendous industrial development throughout the State, that the level of employment of wage and salary earners has been climbing continually. Naturally we would expect some small increase in the level of employment over the years as the population increases. But we did not expect to read in the past 12 months the startling figures disclosed by the Commonwealth Statistician showing the loss of population in Queensland by way of net migration, and the falling off during the past 12 months in the level of employment in the State's larger factories. There have been statements by the Premier in regard to Queensland development which indicate that the Government seem to rely on the fact that there has been some development at Weipa, that the Mt. Isa railway reconstruction will develop further mineral industries in that area, and that

Amoco will have a good effect on Queensland development, but there has not been any tendency, during the past few years, that would bear out such statements.

Last year the net loss in population through migration from Queensland was 3,162. That indicates clearly that Queensland is losing skilled tradesmen to the highly industrialised southern States. Advertisements appear from time to time in our newspapers similar to that inserted by the Victorian Railways last year, inviting skilled tradesmen from this State to enter the employ of that Government. There has been a drop of 2,500 in the level of employment in the railway services in this State; there has been a tendency for skilled men to go to wherever good employment is available, and they have been going from this State to the southern States.

A high level of employment is essential in a State such as this where industry should be expanding, but the figures for the last two years reveal that in the larger factories in Queensland as at June, 1960, the level of employment was 33,191, whereas at June, 1961, it had dropped to 30,414. In other words, although our figures for wage and salary earners have been increasing, according to figures supplied from time to time by the Deputy Premier to this Parliament, the manufacturing industries of Queensland are deteriorating, with a reduction in the numbers employed in the larger factories. The fact that this State has the lowest per capita value of productivity in manufacturing industries in Australia is an indication of the failure of the Government to encourage the growth of secondary industry here.

This year there has been a reduction in the numbers employed in all factories.

The Government have tried to shrug off suggestions of unemployment during the past four years. The matter was raised by the Opposition in 1958 when the unemployment figure stood at 4,905. That was the number seeking unemployment benefit; no doubt during that time actual unemployment would be in the vicinity of 8,000. At that time we were told it was because of the drought. In 1959 the figure stood at 4,477. The late hon. member for Mulgrave, when moving the Address in Reply at that time told us it was because there was too much rain. In 1960 with the number receiving unemployment benefit at 3,064 we were told that we were in for a tremendous wave of prosperity. The Treasurer, in his inimitable style, addressing the House in 1960, said—

"We see much that encourages us to believe that the coming year should be an even better one—better for production, better for investment, better for development, better for employment."

In 1961 the number receiving unemployment benefit was 9,632. At the present time there are some 20,000 people unemployed in Queensland, and that number can be augmented by those working short time, and

by many others in industry whose employers, to maintain them in some form of employment, are asking them to take holidays in addition to their ordinary entitlement.

The number of females employed in industry has dropped alarmingly. So, in actual fact, we are faced at present with a very difficult situation, particularly as we feel that the level of unemployment is far higher than the figures supplied by the Commonwealth Bureau of Statistics would indicate, and we think that a great deal more could be done than simply racing from town to town in Queensland forming unemployment committees amongst members of Chambers of Commerce, Chambers of Manufactures and in some cases trade unions. Those committees are then asked to accept responsibility for finding employment for hundreds of unemployed persons in those coastal towns. Those who are out of work want action, not fine words. The Deputy Premier has formed a committee to consider the employment of the 25,000 young people who are leaving school. Of that number 818 have not been able to find work simply because work is not available for them. The Government will have to take direct action so that those people can be provided with jobs. The Government adopt the attitude that funds are limited. The situation is so serious that the Opposition have moved regularly to bring the matter to notice, and the Government should accept their full responsibility; if they have not sufficient money, they must find methods whereby they can get it. If necessary they should appeal to the Commonwealth Government for direct assistance on the ground of difficulties peculiar to Queensland.

In two or three months sugar mills will be closing, the cane-cutting season will have finished, and meatworks will close. A further 10,000 employees or more could be thrown out of employment. No alternative employment has been planned in those areas. The population in many of the sugar towns in Queensland has fallen alarmingly and the trend will continue unless new industries are established there or developmental work is undertaken. Many projects started by the Government have been in Southern Queensland. It is all very well for them to speak about Weipa, Mt. Isa railway reconstruction and so on, but an examination of the works programme reveals that dam construction and other projects such as the Bribie Island bridge are centred within 100 miles of Brisbane, in electorates held by the majority of Country Party members.

Mr. Duggan: They said there would be 2,000 employees on the Mt. Isa project and there are 200.

Mr. LLOYD: That is an unfortunate feature of a great deal of the work. It has been given to contractors and they bring their employees from other parts of the State. No attempt has been made to stabilise the employment level in the area

where the work is being carried out. Contracts in some instances have been made with southern companies, in others with Brisbane companies. Those companies get their employees from the areas where they operate. The employees are not permanent residents of the area in which the work is being carried out, and the money paid to them finds its way back to their home centres. A great deal of work could be done by day labour, a system that has proved successful in Queensland. By undertaking work on the day-labour system the Government could provide permanent settlement in the areas of work and so raise and maintain the prosperity of those areas.

In the last 12 months the increase in number of bankruptcies has been alarming. It is 70 over the previous year, a level even higher than during the depression years. In addition we find that companies have closed. During the last 12 months companies with a capital of £4,500,000 have closed in Queensland. Although those matters are of extreme importance they do not seem to give concern to the Deputy Premier or other Government members. It is essential that something should be done to stop the trend. We cannot follow the arguments of Government members at present. The attitude that has been adopted in relation to many matters of public administration is of serious concern not only to members of this Chamber, but also to the public at large. If we were looking for examples of maladministration by the Government we could find them in their hundreds. I will refer to a few of them. There was the Westbrook inquiry which was a case of muddling and bad thinking by the Government. Then, there is the hospital "hoax"; the only thing that has been left to the public of Queensland of free hospitalisation is the misnomer, "free." An inquiry was requested at the Country Party conference in North Queensland, and as a result, in panic, the Premier flew back up there and managed to have that decision reversed. He thought it might be dictation to this Government by a political party. Unfortunately, he was not so successful concerning the transport tangle. There we have an example of maladministration which, I believe, the Government should take immediate steps to disentangle. Because of the unholy mess with transport in South-western Queensland, operators are forming transport firms over the border in N.S.W., or interstate trading companies. Whereas previously the whole of the business was undertaken by the Queensland Railways, or Queensland operators, it is now going across the border to New South Wales operators. Consequently, many industries in some parts of Queensland have had to close. Instead of attempting to disentangle the mess, the Government are saying continually that nothing is wrong. Surely to goodness because of all this maladministration there is little wonder that there is insufficient finance in this State to enable

us to maintain our level of employment. If we are losing industries, we are losing employment. If the Government railways are losing revenue because of some law that has been introduced, and if a large number of employees has been dismissed by transport operators, then the law needs revision. Something must be done, otherwise the whole of the business of South-west Queensland will be transferred over to the Northern Rivers of New South Wales and the railway system of Queensland will lose heavily.

I turn now to the Collinsville blunder. Statements have been made from time to time by the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity that there has been industrial trouble at Collinsville. Certainly six days have been lost in four years during the time of the present Government, and 16 days were lost because of a dispute this year. That dispute could have been settled easily by conciliation. The fault lay on both sides, but mostly with the Government's management. In view of the circumstances, what necessity was there to close the mine? If the Government intended to sell it, why should they not have sold it as a going concern and thus maintained employment in that town for 1,000 people until the mine was sold? We do not say that the Government did not have the right to sell the mine once they decided to, but we do say that if they had kept it open it would have provided continuity of employment for 1,000 people, and, in all probability, it would have been a much better proposition for sale for the Government, as a going concern.

The Leader of the Opposition has moved an amendment of no confidence in the Government and I believe that the public of Queensland is concerned with all these matters that have cropped up. Although in themselves some may have been minor matters, they have been made major matters by bad administration and bad thinking by the Government. I do not refer only to the four matters I have mentioned, but to the whole of the business of running this State and administering its affairs.

The example of a Prime Minister saying that the Queensland Government have made no protest about lack of assistance from the Commonwealth must be taken as an indictment on the State Government. It indicates the need for the Opposition to impress upon the Government the necessity to take action on a matter of grave importance to Queensland and to Australia. We cannot sit back and say it is only a Queensland industry. It is of great importance to the national economy. If we have a continuance of this timid approach to the Federal Government we will really become the under-populated and under-developed State of the Commonwealth.

We realise Queensland's tremendous potential for development. A plan was brought into operation by previous Labour Governments to develop under-developed areas but within the past few days the Treasurer has attacked many of the projects that were

undertaken and labelled them a useless waste of expenditure. He cited the Burdekin River authority as one of many on his list. It is hard to conceive that a Government could so completely disregard the future welfare of the people. It is all very well for them to say that we need projects that will give an immediate return. They are not justified in assuming that the future development will come within a period of three years simply because they are in for only three years themselves. Many huge projects involving tremendous cost are essential and plans should be prepared for them. To some they might on the surface seem wasted expenditure but more careful study would indicate their potential for future development. It is all very well to say that the construction of the Burdekin dam at present would be of no importance, but the benefits that will flow from the saving of soil and water and by flood-prevention work make the project one of extreme importance. The very saving of water and soil will provide a living for many more people and a basis upon which to build the State of the future. It is all very well for this Government to say, "We will build a small dam here and another small dam there." But what is the likely future of those small dams? Many small projects are subjected to siltation and in 20 or 30 years' time the money will be seen to have been completely wasted on them. The previous Commissioner of Irrigation and Water Supply, Mr. Lang, said that every river system in the country should be planned as a basis for future expansion of water reticulation throughout the area. That cannot be done by the piecemeal construction of small works. It must be done on a large scale. But this Government are throwing overboard much of the work projected by previous Labour Governments and they are concentrating on the Brisbane Line.

Mr. Hughes: If we embarked on expenditure for large-scale schemes we should be criticised for going into the red.

Mr. LLOYD: The hon. member for Kurilpa is a member of the Liberal Party and we understand that it is because of the attitude of the Liberal Party to their so-called colleagues of the Country Party that the Government are having so much trouble at the present time. It is very obvious that the Liberal Party is the dominating factor, that the Country Party representatives have not been able to receive any measure of satisfaction on many matters of policy, and that they have been cast aside by their Liberal colleagues. Indications from the simmerings of the so-called independent Country Party are that soon there will be an explosion. I do not think many of my friends in the Country Party will accept this dictation by the Liberal Party for very long. They will take it perhaps for a little longer but in the end there will be an explosion. The Country Party representatives will then be able to say that at last they are representing the primary producers, because in their four years as members of

the Government they have failed to represent those people, the people who voted them into Parliament. The whole policy of the present Government has been directed against primary producers, and they will not continue to accept a form of Government dominated by the Liberal Party.

I point out to the House that the continuance of the high level of unemployment in Queensland is serious enough to warrant some direct action by the Government. Perhaps the Minister for Labour and Industry may be able to tell us a little more tomorrow morning about the creative thinking that is now going on in the police force. He may also be able to tell us how, by creative thinking, he intends to encourage the growth of secondary industry in Queensland, because he has failed completely in that aim during the past four years. Unfortunately, he made many promises during the 1957 election campaign about a wonderful era of development and the fact that there would be more jobs than men, and in the past four years there has been a continuous fall in the level of employment.

I think all hon. members should give this amendment their urgent consideration. Many hon. members on the Government benches are very much concerned about the policy mistakes that are being made by the Government. Members of the Country Party, particularly, are concerned about the interests of primary producers, people who are members of their own party. We realise that the primary producers are the backbone of our economy, and unless members of the Country Party represent those people correctly in Parliament, they will lose the confidence of supporters in their electorates. If we receive an honest vote on this amendment, I believe that every member of the Country Party in the House will vote for it. In the South West of the State some members of the Country Party resigned recently because of the Government's attitude, and I believe that members of the Country Party who represent electorates in that area will cross the Chamber and vote with the Opposition for this resolution expressing no confidence in a Government which is so obviously dominated by the Liberal Party in this House.

Hon. K. J. MORRIS (Mt. Coot-tha—Minister for Labour and Industry) (12.40 p.m.): At the outset I should like to associate myself, as I like to do on each occasion, with the expressions of loyalty that we have heard in the House. We are indeed fortunate in the wonderful services that His Excellency the Governor has rendered, which have contributed so much towards a better knowledge of and understanding between our two countries. He has made a tremendous contribution and I am delighted to be associated with the recognition of it. It is becoming more important for us to express in all the Parliaments of Australia, including the Commonwealth Parliament, our loyalty to the Crown. Because of the very unhappy

world conditions at the moment it has to be more than merely an expression, it has to be evident in all that is done. We are facing very grave times which are causing a great deal of worry to many of us.

I congratulate most sincerely the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I am quite sure that no person in the House would be other than extremely pleased to listen to those two contributions to the debate. It will be generally agreed that the mover of the motion carried out his task with the apparent experience of a person much accustomed to so doing. I am confident that he will be a great asset to the Chamber. The material advanced by the seconder of the motion is of outstanding importance to the State. As I proceed, I hope to be able to deal with at least some of the matters mentioned in those two speeches.

We have before us now what I am afraid has come to be recognised as more or less the conventional approach at the beginning of a session. Faced, as he was, with the necessity to adhere again to convention, and to move the conventional censure motion, the Leader of the Opposition quite obviously was in a complete dilemma. I listened to a part of his speech, but I could not listen to it all. However, I later heard one of my colleagues comment that it was one of the worst speeches ever made by a senior member of the Labour Party, and that it revealed a harassed background of hopelessness. I think that is a fair description of the hon. gentleman's contribution. I gave myself the dreary task of reading it so that I would be aware of all that was said. Having read it I can say only that the comment by my colleague was indeed flattering to the hon. gentleman.

I devoted some little time to considering why his speech was so dreary and why it was so unusual for such an occasion. I cannot think that the hon. gentleman at his early age is degenerating. I therefore have tried to find the reason why he apparently could not get any facts that were at all damning. I believe that the reason for it was that there was a background of a most unhappy conference taking place within his own party in the Federal sphere. Not only was he overwhelmed with the importance of that conference but I think that on this occasion it completely demoralised him.

However, because he is the leader of his party—and I may say that outside of Parliament he is quite a pleasant gentleman—I propose to answer some of the things he said. First of all I should like to comment on at least one thing said by his Deputy in seconding the amendment.

The hon. member for Kedron referred to the Mt. Isa negotiations, and irrespective of any statements made or any conclusions by anybody at all, the Queensland Government, through the Premier and Treasurer

have made many representations on the matter. They have not at any stage been lacking in any of the things needed in this type of work. Hon. members can be sure that, in the fullness of time—and not before long—there will be issued in this chamber a complete statement on these negotiations by the Premier himself. At present we are in the latter stages of the negotiations and I can only tell hon. members that, in the course of a very short time, and at the appropriate time, when negotiations are not in a critical stage, they can be sure that no-one will be left in any doubt at all as to the work that has been done by the Premier and the Treasurer in this field.

No doubt the Leader of the Opposition, outside this Chamber, is a very pleasant person, but I propose to reply to all that he has said. Before I do so I desire to convey to him on behalf of the Government our utmost and deepest sympathy. I hope that in the fullness of his time—and I believe there will be plenty of it at his disposal—he will learn to live with the unhappy situations that exist within his own group and with the momentous troubles that are on his shoulders. After all, he is the leader of the party, although I must confess that many people not long ago, seemed to think that his Deputy was carrying that mantle. It is quite understandable for them to think so, because nobody knew where he was. At the time he was somewhere in the East trying to replace me as the peregrinating member to use one of his happy phrases. He is making an effort to displace me. I notice that he is now using a new term—"cavorting." I can only say that at his age it is much more likely that in some of these exotic climes, he was prancing and cavorting like a peacock in front of his mate more than I should be able to do at my age. Let me analyse his speech. I shall not refer to the irrelevancies. It could be summarized as follows: first, a slight, passing reference to the administration of our Land laws; second, an intention to refer in some subsequent debate to Queensland's transport problems; third, a reference to deficits; fourth, the general subject of migration; fifth, the industrial economy.

He charged us with having failed to promote industry, and said that employment in factories had gone down steadily but gradually. He charged me with some fault by reason of the smallness of what he chose to call my report, although it is one of many from my department. He was referring to the report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Shops. He charged the Government with having allowed unemployment to sort itself out, and said that the Government were doing nothing about it. He frequently used the word "deteriorate," and occasionally the word "disintegrate."

Let us review these matters. I shall leave land laws to other Government members, as they can deal with them probably much more adequately than I could.

The Leader of the Opposition and his Deputy referred to transport. The Leader of the Opposition said that he proposed to take another opportunity in the near future to discuss the matter. If he does so, he can be quite sure that Government members will be as ready as he is to discuss the problem, and in doing so, to correct some of the erroneous comments made by him from time to time.

I move to his next point, deficits. All the points he made about the deficits that have occurred over the past four years were very adequately answered in my opinion by the Treasurer on the Appropriation Bill last Thursday, but I should like to add one or two of my own observations. It is extremely difficult to reconcile the fact that the Leader of the Opposition chided us very seriously on the four deficits that have occurred and the fact that his Leader in the Commonwealth Parliament almost at the same hour spoke of the desirability of a deficit, a deficit of such magnitude that I am sure even his own followers were fearful of the position that might arise if their Leader ever had control of the Federal House. In Queensland the Government acknowledge that there have been certain very moderate deficits, but on the other hand the Federal A.L.P. Leader spoke of creating spending power of more than £100,000,000, and a deficit not of £100,000,000 but of several hundred million pounds, because in addition to his theory of greater spending, there was also the suggestion that if by some evil chance he was in control of the Commonwealth Government he would cut taxation to such an extent that there would be a deficit of approximately £500,000,000. The Leader of the Opposition cannot have it both ways. If the creation of a deficit is as bad as the hon. gentleman opposite suggests it is all I can say is that the action of his Federal Leader gives him the lie direct.

Now, let us make a different approach to the question. What would the hon. member expect us to do, or require us to do? Does he want us to use this money to develop the State of Queensland, or emulate the example set by his Party when in power and tuck away a million here and a million there, and finish up with a great deal of money without any development in the State because of a paucity of spending? I reiterate that I make no secret of the fact that if I were given the choice between budgeting for a moderate deficit and cutting down on essential works, I would take the deficit every time. Give me the deficit every time! We can see a good illustration of this when we find that although we have held the Treasury benches for only four years there are now secondary schools throughout the length and breadth of the State. The city of Brisbane is an outstanding example of the development that has taken place in secondary education facilities. If hon. members had gone into country areas, as I have done, they would have seen, some two or three years ago,

police stations in such a shocking state of repair, that in some of them, if a man was not careful he would have fallen through the floor, the holes were so big. If a man walked on some of the floors he would have been precipitated onto the ground beneath. It should be remembered that in the last financial year we spent 10 times as much money on police buildings as our predecessors did. I must repeat that if I am given the choice between stacking away a few million pounds here and there, and budgeting for a moderate deficit to get development, then the decision is very easy for me and I believe that it should be very easy for anyone else.

I now propose to deal in some detail with one or two points made by the Leader of the Opposition. However, before I do, I wish to introduce my argument by saying that it is natural to expect that if the Leader of the Opposition and his Deputy Leader advance a case then it should be a sound one. As I proceed, I will show that two or three of the major points made by the Leader of the Opposition, and his deputy, have completely misled hon. members in this House, by the figures that have been given. I do not know whether that has been done willingly or unwillingly. I will produce the facts, and I ask hon. members to remember that if any two of the major approaches that they have made to the censure motion are wrong, and if I can prove that any two of their major points are completely wrong, then I say that proves, without doubt, that they are talking without knowing what they are talking about.

I propose to prove that the Leader of the Opposition and his Deputy were incorrect and that, though some of their figures were correct, their application of them and the inference they drew from them were absolutely wrong. They both said that the factory production per head of population in Queensland was very much lower than in other States and that *ipso facto*, we the Government, are responsible for an industrial decline. I frankly admit that the figures they used were right. It is true that Queensland's factory production per head of population is £104.2 while the figure for Victoria is £211.5, for N.S.W. £206.5, and for South Australia £149.2. However, the reason for it is not a decline in industrial development but the fact that Queensland is known to all of us to be more of a primary-producing State than is any other. I am sure hon. members will be interested to learn that Queensland has only about 7 per cent. of its population employed in factories while New South Wales has 12½ per cent. Let us look a little further, because this matter must be thoroughly examined. Against last year's figure of £104.2 the factory production per head of population in Queensland in 1957 was £90; in 1956 again it was £90, but in 1950-51, at the height of the Labour regime, it was only £60. There we have the abundant proof that, while the figures quoted by the hon.

gentlemen were correct, the inference they drew was not merely misleading but completely untrue. I contend that no person holding the office of Leader of the Opposition or Deputy Leader of the Opposition is justified in using correct figures in such a way when thorough examination gives the lie to the inference they seek to draw from them. I think I have given abundant proof that the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition have either deliberately or ignorantly misled the House. Whichever is the truth, everything else they say is suspect.

Let me now have a look at the increase or decrease in population. It is exactly the same story, because there again correct figures were quoted while the inference drawn from them gives the lie to the statement made. The Leader of the Opposition said that, according to the Commonwealth Statistician, in the year 1960, 11,596 persons arrived in Queensland from overseas and 11,781 persons left the State. From those figures the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition drew the inference that our migration policy is a failure. Let me give the facts.

A record is kept of all people from overseas travelling by air or ship whose known primary destination is Queensland. There is also a record of people, not necessarily from overseas or going overseas, who enter Queensland by rail, by air, or by sea. But there is no record of people either entering or leaving Queensland by road transport, whether by car or motor bus, and we know that hundreds of people enter and leave by those means. In fact, the figure of 11,000-odd in each case that was quoted by these gentlemen merely refers to the movement of population—people going on holidays, people returning, and so on—and has no relation to the figures relating to migrants or our migrant problem.

I should like to take the matter a little further. Very exact records are kept of New Australians in the British assisted-passage category, and they have been kept for years. Those are the only figures that we can use to see whether or not our migration programme in relation to the intake of New Australians is good or bad. Let us have a look at the truth, and it is here for all to see. In the very record from which the Leader of the Opposition quoted, the Commonwealth Statistician goes on to say—

"For dates subsequent to the census of 30 June, 1954, the estimated population in each State represents the population ascertained at the census, plus natural increase and recorded net migration into the State since the census. As complete records of interstate migration are not available, the estimated State populations so derived are approximate, and are subject to revision at the next census."

After the 1954 census, it was necessary to make specific revisions in regard to Queensland on two occasions. But that is not the

end of the story. I repeat that here we have the only record in existence of the result of the migration programme. I am referring to the record of the assisted-passage British migrants. Under the Labour Government the figures for the years 1953 to 1956 were as follows—

1953	..	..	1,854
1954	..	..	1,895
1955	..	..	2,812
1956	..	..	2,258

or a total of 8,819 in four years. I will delete 1957 because both Governments were in office in that year. Here are the figures for the next four years—

1958	..	..	3,866
1959	..	..	3,000
1960	..	..	2,329
1961	..	..	1,741

(first six months)

Comparing four years of Labour government with 3½ years of our Government we are over 2,000 migrants ahead of their figures, yet we are told that our migration policy is failing. I have dealt with two of the major items brought up by our opponents. I have shown, whether it was done deliberately or not I do not know, how they have grossly misled the House. Having proved that their figures are not true I now intend to record my very great unhappiness and displeasure at certain attitudes adopted by the Leader of the Opposition.

I do not know whether the heat of debate can be blamed, but the Leader of the Opposition used certain phrases about members of the Government which I, as a senior member of that Government, very deeply resent, not on my own behalf but on behalf of those to whom he referred. Anybody who refers to the Oxford dictionary will see that the word "myth" means "fictitious." Nobody can argue about that. They will see also that the word "fictitious" means "counterfeit" or "not genuine." Twice during his speech last Wednesday the Leader of the Opposition spoke of "the political myth of honest Frank." If you add those words together you can arrive only at a basis of recognition that here in an effort to disguise temporarily what he really means, the Leader of the Opposition is making an attack, which I resent, against the Premier of the State. It is no good his trying to use smooth words. I would suggest that he is trying in a "Smart Alick" way to damn the character of the Premier. That is not all he did. He moved on from there to refer to another of my Cabinet colleagues, the Minister for Public Works and Local Government, as a "city slicker," following which he said that he had the greatest respect for him. Let us pass that too. I refer to a threat that was used in this Chamber and to which again I take very

strong exception. The Leader of the Opposition, when the hon. member for Merthyr interjected, made this comment—

"The hon. member for Merthyr should not interject, because I have something on him."

Mr. DUGGAN: I rise to a point of order. The Minister, unfortunately, is allowing his imagination to run away with him. I corrected the "Hansard" pull referred to. If the Minister refers to the corrected copy he will find that the word used was "about" not "on" and the hon. member involved was the hon. member for Bowen, not the hon. member for Merthyr. I invite the Minister, indeed I challenge him, —

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Aikens: If the hon. member for Merthyr had anything on it was more than he had on at Palm Island.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I draw the hon. member's attention to the Standing Orders in regard to interjections. I ask the Minister to accept the explanation of the hon. member for Toowoomba West.

Mr. MORRIS: I will accept the explanation and inform him that I have in my hand a copy of the pull of "Hansard" on which these words appear:

"Mr. Ramsden interjected.

Mr. DUGGAN: The hon. member for Merthyr should not interject because I have something on him."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask the Minister to accept the explanation of the Leader of the Opposition. It is obvious that the Leader of the Opposition corrected that proof and that is the explanation I ask the Minister to accept.

Mr. MORRIS: I will accept it wholeheartedly, because I am glad that, in his cooler moments, he has recognised the wretchedness of that statement. Now, I quote him again from "Hansard," from a passage that reads—

"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."

Then he goes on—

"I do not want to treat the hon. member for Bowen unfairly . . . and says he is not a bad fellow, and then he says—

"He will be given a very hot reception because of the things he has attempted to begin."

If that is not a political threat, I do not know what a threat is.

Mr. Duggan: It is not a political threat.

Mr. MORRIS: For the hon. member for Bowen, let me say that he has done things for the electorate about which he and everybody else has reason to be proud. I have here a list—

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Tucker interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I will have to deal with the hon. member if he continues to interject while I am on my feet. I draw hon. members' attention to Standing Order 114 which says that hon. members speaking shall not be interrupted. Consequently, if this interruption continues—particularly remarks across the Chamber not directed to the hon. member,—the Standing Orders will have to be applied.

Mr. MORRIS: I should like to quote some figures. The hon. member for Bowen has done some magnificent work in his electorate. These are figures, up to June of this year, showing the number of people who are unemployed in Bowen compared with the number unemployed in the preceding year. This is a very fine record. Take December last year. The figure was reduced from 47 to 29. The figures for March, 1960, and 1961 are 44 and 19 respectively. In April, 1960, the figure was 24, whereas in April, 1961, it was only 11. I will tell the House later how these fine results were achieved. Hon. members opposite are disturbed somewhat by my reminder of their careless use of words.

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

Mr. MORRIS: I thank hon. members for the extension. I hope I can use it to advantage; I think I will.

The Leader of the Opposition and his Deputy do not like to be chided on their misuse of words, but they never spare me. They remind me frequently of words I used, when after all they were words used in normal discussion, words in the ordinary vernacular of the A.I.F. in the Middle East. They have chided me for using these words, and I now take the opportunity of chiding them on their use of words.

I am sorry to say that the Leader of the Opposition referred only slightly to the problem of unemployment. Hon. members on this side of the Chamber recognise it as a problem, just as do hon. members opposite. They have chided us with failing to promote industry and with the fact that employment in factories has fallen. They mentioned several other factors. If the Leader of the Opposition had read the report I tabled and which he sneeringly said revealed that the Government were afraid to tell the true story, he would have found that the number of factories at 31 January this year was greater by over 200 than the number at the same

time last year, also that factory employment has increased by 1,800 in the same period. I do not want to be misunderstood. I am not satisfied with the increase, as this is a very difficult year, but at least the information in the report shows that the figures used by hon. members opposite are literally not true.

Let me go further. I have a list of new factories. I had hoped to be able to read it in full, but I cannot do so in the time available to me. It is a list of 34 new factories that have been established in the last 12 months, some of them worth £250,000, some more and others less. There are a few about which I feel extremely proud. One is the Willeys jeep factory. It is one example of many I could give. This organisation has moved into Queensland and has picked Brisbane as against southern capitals. It is now carrying on business completely in Queensland. If that is not something to be proud of, I do not understand the mental approach of some people. Here again I have another lengthy list of expansions in industries. There are various organisations—and all of them very large—that have extended their operations in Queensland during the last 12 months. One of them is the glassworks where they are putting in plant worth many hundreds of thousands of pounds. Included in the list are Australian Consolidated Industries which, in the last 12 months, have spent nearly £1,000,000. There is a long list of them but the Opposition will not recognise it and they do not want to recognise it.

Let us look at it from a different angle. On one occasion in particular I remember bringing legislation to this House to provide for an oil refinery in Queensland. I remind hon. members that throughout the entire passage of that legislation, the Opposition fought it on every possible occasion and with every ounce of their strength. Had they been able to stop it, that refinery would never have been in Queensland.

I have here "The Maryborough Chronicle" for 21 and 22 August. In the issue of 21 August there is a great deal said about Ampol developing a terminal at Urangan. When the legislation for the refinery was before this House I said that we believed in grasping the opportunity while it was there. We knew we could get a refinery but our opponents did nothing to help us. Indeed, they did a great deal to hinder us. Since that debate about the oil refinery, quite a number of overseas industrialists have said to me, "Well, you painted an attractive picture of Queensland, but why should we come? Here, above all things you need an oil refinery, yet when you attempted to bring one here, the Opposition in your Parliament fought it tooth and nail." I am happy to say that in every case I have been able to break down the mental attitude of these people and made them realise that it will be many years—indeed, far beyond my time and yours, Mr. Acting Speaker—before they are a political force in power in this State.

I should now like to refer to unemployment; there are many factors relevant to this problem. It ill becomes any member of Parliament to quote figures that are not accurate or not relevant and in doing so to disregard all the factors that are causing unemployment. Any thinking person will know there are many factors. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition spoke about advertisements from Victoria for skilled tradesmen appearing in our newspaper. So what! There are advertisements regularly in our newspapers for skilled tradesmen for Queensland industries.

While on the one hand there are unemployed, on the other hand some industries are crying out for the right type of employee. One of them is a factory I visited only last week—Penn Elastic Co. in South Brisbane. They have advertised regularly throughout the year for seniors leaving school to become tradesmen, advanced tradesmen, in their organisation. The opportunities are immense. They are unable to get the employees they want. Why all the fuss about southern organisations advertising in our newspapers? Of course they do! Our own do the same. I should like hon. members to know that I discussed the problem with the Minister for Education to see whether it was possible for us to initiate a course for the type of young people required in Queensland. As he always does, he said he would look into it thoroughly and I know that he will. That is just one of a number of similar cases.

There are many other factors contributing to the unemployment problem, including—

The seasonal impact on some primary industries, principally beef, sugar and tobacco.

The effect of automation on the wharves.

Four years of drought, with 1961 the worst of them all. Our opponents will not recognise that but unfortunately the people on the land are forced to.

A very marked change in the materials used for building.

An overall change in the Australian economy in converting from control by import licensing to control by tariffs.

Finally, the ever-present, I am sorry to say, problem of industrial unrest.

Let us look at each of those matters, just very briefly I am afraid. Ever since we have been a State the seasonal industries have been responsible for much unemployment. We are not just looking at that and saying what a dreadful problem it is; we can do nothing about it. We are doing something about it. This Government are doing a great deal to try to bring all-year-round killing in our meatworks. We know that today if there were a further 250,000 head of cattle available to our meatworks in North Queensland there would be all-year-round killing in all those works. Therefore we are making very vigorous efforts in

various directions to supplement the number of cattle available. As is generally known, we are making strong efforts to get assistance for sea transport to convey cattle to those meatworks and I believe that within a few weeks we will have an announcement to the effect that that will be operating next year. Moreover, the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation has recently caused a survey of the area to be made to discover lands that can be used for cattle fattening so that we can get all-year-round killing. It is not something anybody can achieve in a day or a week or even a year, but already we have done more in this matter than our opponents did in 20 years.

Let us look at one or two more of these factors. Let us look at one I believe is extraordinarily serious—and that is industrial unrest. I agree with the comment that was once made—"I don't care how a bird looks. If it looks like a crow and it flies like a crow, it is entitled to be shot like a crow."

I now come back to the question of industrial unrest. I do not think it is very relevant whether the people who are causing the unrest are in fact Communists or whether they are fellow travellers. If they cause grave unrest, they are damaging our economy.

Everybody will recognise, I am sure, that pre-war we had a coastal shipping service in Queensland that was of great value to the North. After the war great changes took place. Instead of the ships spending two-thirds of their time at sea and one-third in port, because of industrial trouble they spent one-third of their time at sea and two-thirds in port. If industrial unrest causes that sort of thing, it is impossible to build an economic industry.

Let us now look at the shipbuilding industry, which is equally important. I mentioned this point briefly the other day. In this industry we have been in grave danger of losing the support of the Commonwealth Shipping Board because our shipyards have not been able to turn out the ships in the time originally scheduled for their construction. Because of the failure of unions to work overtime and because of the failure of a union to work shift work, we were in danger of losing that industry. It all boils down to this: if Queensland has this constant industrial unrest, it is inevitable that industry will be frightened away from the State.

In the teeth of all that, we have brought to the State every year a great number of new businesses. In the last year alone, I repeat, there were 200 more factories in Queensland than there were 12 months earlier. If that is not something to be proud of, I do not know what is.

Getting back to unemployment, we hear members of the Opposition talking about unemployment being as serious as ever it was in the days of the depression.

Mr. Houston: Well, isn't it?

Mr. MORRIS: No, it is not. I am glad that interjection was made, because I shall quote some figures in reply. Our unemployment figures have never been more than 4 per cent., and they have usually been about 2 per cent.—between 2 per cent. and 2.3 per cent. Let us look now at the days of the depression. The figures that I am about to quote relate to 30 September, 1928, and they were taken out by the then Minister for Labour and Industry, Hon. D. A. Gledson. They are—

Totally unemployed ..	46,000
Partially unemployed ..	70,000 (approx.)
<hr/>	
Total	116,000

When one calculates the number of bread-winners at that time, it shows that unemployment then was 29.5 per cent., either total or partial. These are not my figures. They were produced by the then Minister for Labour and Industry, and when they were made public there was an almighty row within the Labour Party and a heresy hunt to discover from whom the figures came. I refer to them because I am speaking about the industrial situation in general. I would remind hon. members that there is an article in the September issue of the "Reader's Digest" that it would pay them all to read. It states—

"No Communist effort could have undermined the American missile and space effort as effectively as opportunistic labor unions have done at the launching pads and ICBM bases."

There is the record of a true story. Unfortunately so much of it is applicable to Queensland.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I should like to remind hon. members on my left that if they do not know the Standing Orders they should. In moving and seconding the amendment, the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader were given an uninterrupted hearing, which is their just due under the Standing Orders. I would ask hon. members on my left to allow the Minister to continue his speech without further interruption.

Mr. Graham interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. member for Mackay interjects once more, under Standing Order 123 I will ask him to leave the Chamber.

Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Labour and Industry.

Mr. MORRIS: I am deeply worried about the situation. As I said at the beginning of my speech I have no doubt that the Leader of the Opposition is in great mental distress

also. I refer hon. members to the "Daily Telegraph" of 24 August wherein it is reported that at the Federal Meeting of the A.L.P. the Unity ticket question was discussed. It is classed as a disaster warning to the A.L.P. There was a very even division on a question vital to the industrial peace of Australia today—whether or not Labour and Communist candidates should run together on unity tickets. I have heard hon. members opposite disclaiming any association with the Communist Party so often that I believed that if such an issue ever came before their party they would declare very forthrightly where they stood. But what was the result? There has been no action taken within the Labour Party to make sure that Communists do not get control of Australian unions. Had I time to quote all this article I would do so. It states—

"Three of Labor's four leaders in the Federal Parliament warned today that the Australian Labor Party was being wrecked."

Senator McKenna, Senator Kennelly, and Mr. Whitlam had quite a lot to say. The article states—

"Mr. Whitlam said he had satisfied himself that there was a unity ticket in the Victorian Australian Railways Union ballot which gave control of the Victorian railways to top Communists."

Do you remember, Mr. Speaker, that word "disintegrate" that the Leader of the Opposition used? Here is one of their own leaders saying that the Labour Party is disintegrating. There is much in this article that would be of a great deal of value to all people to learn and to use as their own warning. I quote from the article again—

"The public had reached the stage of having no faith in the Victorian A.L.P. as a possible alternative government."

Senator Kennelly said, 'Unity tickets would cost Labor the next election and were contributing to a disintegrating process within the party.'

Senator Kennelly told the Victorians bluntly 'You lost the Victorian elections because the people did not trust the Victorian Labor Party. How can they trust it? Unity tickets are going on there. Let's try and kid others but don't let's kid ourselves.'

Then it goes on—

"The way Labour is going it could be out of office for years because—"

and mark the words—

"it is disintegrating."

Why is that relevant here? Had it not been for the Queensland representatives of the Australian Labour Party in Victoria last week the Labour Party would have banned unity tickets between Communists and Australian Labour Party candidates. It is on the heads of these hon. members who seem to be very disturbed at the things I am saying. Right at their door lies the responsibility, firstly for

unity tickets between Communists and the Labour Party, and secondly, that Communists are in control of so many unions today. Until they are eradicated we will never have industrial peace in this State and until we get industrial peace, irrespective of the work that we may do as a Government or of the progress that we make, the State's progress will be white-anted and prevented and curtailed by this thinking that permits, particularly with the world situation as it is today, Communists to bring industrial turmoil to the State.

Mr. ADAIR (Cook) (3.2 p.m.): As the representative of the remotest electorate in the State I have perhaps more problems than any other hon. member in this Chamber. I hope to point out to the Government where they have failed in their election promises in not implementing many of the things they claimed they would do if they gained office.

I should like to point out to the Leader of the Opposition and other members of the A.L.P. that their moving a vote of no confidence in the Government loses its effect by the fact that they can blame themselves for this Government's being in power. It is not very long ago that 21 of them walked across the floor of the Chamber and voted a Country-Liberal Party Government into power. If those 21 hon. members had walked out of the Chamber we would still have had the numbers to enable us to remain the Government of the day. We had 25 members.

A.L.P. Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. ADAIR: They cannot blame it on anybody else. Labour supporters in Queensland blame us for walking across the floor of the Chamber and voting the Labour Government out.

Mr. Bennett: Are you trying to crawl into the Country Party now that you cannot get into the Liberal Party?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I warn the hon. member for South Brisbane. I have already had occasion to warn hon. members on my left, and, I would say, hon. members on my right. I now ask hon. members to please allow the hon. member to continue his speech without interruption.

Mr. ADAIR: I have made my point. The Government have failed so far as employment in Queensland is concerned, especially in my electorate of Cook. There is more unemployment around Cairns and in the Cook electorate than for a number of years, probably since the days of the depression. On my journeys throughout the electorate I pick up men who are carrying their swags looking for work. With the end of the crushing season thousands more will be out of work. The Government have no major project under way in the Far North. The only project of any size is the Barron Falls hydro-electric

extension and the contractor, Transfield (Queensland) Pty. Ltd., has imported labour. The company has brought in foreigners not because they are better workers than the local men but because they can be exploited by the company. There are dozens of miners in the area who are quite capable of performing the work on the Barron Falls scheme, but the company would not employ them. It brought men from the Snowy River scheme and thus deprived local residents of the work. Contractors who seek work in the Far North should be told that they have to employ local labour. The Premier recently answered a question asked by me. He said it was left to the contractor to employ the labour that would give him the best results. The workers employed on this scheme have committed breaches of union rules on several occasions and breaches of other regulations covering the job.

Mr. Aikens: How many foreigners are on the job all told?

Mr. ADAIR: 90 per cent. are foreigners. I am not against the foreigners. They are entitled to work, but Australians up there are out of work and are unable to get it. Much of the unemployment is due to the credit squeeze of the Menzies Government. Many men now out of work formerly were employed in businesses which were closed down as a result of the credit squeeze. With the closing of the sugar mills thousands of other men will be thrown out of work and no developmental project has been planned by the Government to provide work for those men. We have not the secondary industries in North Queensland to absorb them. A great deal of road-building could be undertaken. For instance the road from the Daintree to Cooktown would absorb many of them. The Tinaroo irrigation scheme comes to mind. It is the mightiest scheme ever undertaken in this country, thanks to a Labour Government. If the present Government had had their way, it would never have eventuated. Production in the tobacco industry last year in the Mareeba-Dimbulah area was worth £4,750,000. At the present time very little money is available for further extension of the water channels to tobacco land. Although the channel is now only 4½ miles away from the Aerodrome tobacco-growing area, where there are 33 growers, we now find that they will not be able to get this water by channel for another six or seven years. The growers in the area have offered £80,000 to finance a scheme to get this water. I believe it is the duty of the Government to do everything in their power to try to give water to these farmers, when they are willing to help themselves. I can assure hon. members I will be pressing for the extension of this channel into that area. At the present rate of development of the Tinaroo irrigation scheme it will be years before the Paddy's Green area, the Aerodrome area and other areas are irrigated.

It is a shame that the Government are not able to go ahead with this irrigation because it means so much to the area. If it were developed it would mean that all that land that is now lying idle would come under cultivation, and the revenue that would be earned would be colossal.

Mr. Wallace: Do you think they want to produce tobacco?

Mr. ADAIR: Of course they want to produce it.

As I have pointed out, the channel is only 4½ miles away from the Aerodrome area where there are 33 farmers who are crying out for the water, yet the Government tell them it will be at least five or six years before they are able to get it. The farmers know they will not be able to get the water before then so they have offered this £80,000 for the extension of the channels. I do not think that anywhere else in Australia a group of 33 farmers has ever made such an offer to a government.

Mr. Walsh: Did the Government intend to go on with it when it was in the electorate of the hon. member for Tablelands?

Mr. ADAIR: This area would have been serviced and would have had water by now, but for the redistribution of boundaries and the hon. member for Tablelands' representing the Emerald Creek area. The water is going in that direction now instead of to the farmers at Aerodrome. The Aerodrome area has been growing tobacco for over 30 years, equal in value to leaf per acre in any other area. In the past five years, all farmers in the Atherton Road and Aerodrome area have produced crops averaging more than 1,500 lb. per acre for an average value of 11s. a lb., that is, over £800 an acre. If any area warrants the channelling of water today, this area certainly does. I believe firmly that the Tinaroo scheme should have been completed before any other scheme in Queensland was taken on. There are men in the Irrigation Department who will have to be transferred to other areas because of the lack of development in the Irrigation Department. Later on, when the scheme develops, they will have to be brought back to Mareeba to carry out the developmental work there. I am told that the cost of channelling and bringing water to Paddy's Green area will be £1,750,000. For an outlay of £1,750,000 this area will produce £1,000,000 worth of tobacco yearly. What other industry could give a return like that for the outlay? I do not think any other industry in the country would give such a good return for money invested. The Government's investment of £1,750,000 will return £1,000,000 yearly. Compare the wealth of the tobacco industry of the Mareeba-Dimbulah area with others in Australia and you will realise the importance of the industry. The value of its production in 1959-1960 equalled the value of Australia's rice crop; it was 2½ times the

value of Australia's peanut crop for the same year and half the value of Queensland's wheat crop. So that is one of the wealthiest areas in the State. Its production was £4,500,000 and goodness knows what it could produce if it were allowed to expand.

From attending the tobacco sales I believe the tobacco buyers are fleecing the growers. It is daylight robbery. The growers are at the mercy of the buyers. The companies are buying the leaf cheaply but getting the full price for the manufactured article. Farmers who have been growing tobacco for 20 to 30 years are at a loss to know what type of leaf is required by the buyer.

I have some samples of leaf here to give hon. members an indication of what goes on at the sales. For years the tobacco growers in these areas have tried to produce a leaf similar in quality to the first one I have here—it is a light and fine leaf—yet its reserve price, that is, the price put on it before the sale, was 138d. and it was sold for 50d. This leaf will be bought by Rothmans or Wills or one of the other tobacco companies, and it will go into the manufacture of tobacco and cigarettes, which will be sold at 3s. 3d. a packet just the same as the other tobacco that is bought at a high price.

Mr. Hilton: How much did that bring?

Mr. ADAIR: Fifty pence. Hon. members will see that it has all the good qualities.

Mr. Houghton: Is the tobacco appraised before the sale?

Mr. ADAIR: Yes. Here is another leaf, which brought a high price. As against the 50d. for the first leaf, this one was sold for 143d. It is very interesting to know how the so-called experts arrive at their figure. The farmers who have been growing tobacco for 20 or 30 years cannot understand why they are getting such low prices for good-quality leaf. The appraisal price, or the reserve price, for this second leaf was 120d. and it was sold for 143d. Hon. members will observe that it is all spotted and broken, yet it was sold at a higher price than leaf that appears to be of better quality. The leaf that I have in my hand now is the fine grade leaf that farmers have been trying for years to grow. The reserve price on appraisal was 140d. a lb. On open bidding 40d. was offered, and the price at which a sale was finally negotiated privately was 80d. a lb.

I have more leaf here, but the point I make is that the grower is not told before he puts in his plants what type of tobacco leaf he is required to grow and he is at the mercy of the buyers.

Mr. Walsh: The manufacturers more than the buyers.

Mr. ADAIR: Yes. All this leaf goes into the manufacture of cigarettes, and although the manufacturers, with excise and so on, do not get the full 3s. 3d. a packet,

they do get the advantage of buying the leaf at low prices. I think the Government should make a full investigation into the methods adopted by buyers when purchasing tobacco leaf.

I should like to speak briefly about the Government's decision to close the Cooktown-Laura railway line. I know that I have been fortunate in having the line kept open till December, but I do not know why the Government are determined to close it. It is the key tourist attraction at Cooktown, and it is very important that it should be kept open. I appeal to the Minister to keep it open until a suitable road is built from Cooktown to Laura. It would be ridiculous to close it when for five months of the year road transport has no chance of getting through from Cooktown to Laura. With the onset of the wet season, the nature of the country and flooding will make it impossible for road transport to get through. The line has doubled its revenue in the last five or six months, and the revenue will keep on improving if it is kept open. I again appeal to the Government to keep the Cooktown-Laura line open. When metropolitan railway lines are showing a loss of hundreds of thousands of pounds, it is hard on the people of that remote area that a line on which they are dependent should be closed.

Turning to the pineapple industry, I know that Government members will say that over-production and so on has caused its collapse. The fact is that growers in the Far North have been hamstrung by the Government ever since they took office. They have done everything in their power to see that the far northern pineapple industry did not function. They have put all the obstacles they could in the way of these people to ensure that the industry did not flourish. They have given protection to the growers in and around the Brisbane area. A few growers in the Far North are still carrying on but they are sending their pineapples to the southern market where they are getting reasonable prices. The cannery in Brisbane is of no use to them. The C.O.D. has forced the far northern growers out even though there is no doubt that they can grow far superior pineapples in that area. I do not know why the Government have adopted this attitude.

Timber is the most important industry in the Far North. The cutter goes in to cut the timber, roads are built, the timber is hauled out and transported to the mills, the timber is processed at the mills in various ways, veneer, ply and everything that goes with home building, so that in all the timber industry would be one of the biggest employers of labour in Queensland. Yet what do we see? Throughout the whole of the Far North ply mills are closing down one after the other. Even Patterson's mill at Bloomfield closed down the other day. At the Mareeba mill Dawson has put off over 100 men. It has all been caused by the importation of ply from New Guinea. The Commonwealth Government own 51 per

cent. of the shares of the company, the Bulolo Mining Company the other 49 per cent. Coloured labour is used and they are paid only £3 a month. Over £1,000,000 worth of timber came into Australia during 1959-1960. The State Government should have a thorough investigation into the plywood industry, and they should take the matter up with the Federal Government who are supplying timber processed by cheap coloured labour in New Guinea. Very little is paid in royalties, yet they can take their pick of the timber. In the Far North they have to take the timber at the face, including secondary timbers like milky pine, candle nut and quondong. In the stands in New Guinea they pick the eyes out of the timber. Timber merchants in Queensland have no chance of competing with timber produced by cheap coloured labour in New Guinea where they take the pick of the timber available in the stands. As I have said, hundreds of men have been put out of work in the ply-milling industry in the Far North and I cannot see any way of rectifying the position unless a stand is taken with the Federal Government on the bringing of timber into the country from New Guinea, where it is worked by coloured labour.

There is a sawmill at Cooktown owned by Raymond Bros. They purchased it from Bunning Bros. two years ago. A road has been built into a stand of timber at Mount Poverty where, I am told, there are millions of feet of timber. But no effort has yet been made to work it. If it were in full working order it would employ 26 men. In Cooktown at present very little roadwork is going on and most of the workers in the area are unemployed. Unless something is done there soon, with roadworks or something else, I do not know what will happen to Cooktown. It is essential that some work be started very soon.

If these people who have the timber rights for this mill do not work it, let somebody who might do something with it have a go.

The John Burke Shipping Co. trades from Brisbane to Gulf ports and Thursday Island and received £34,000 subsidy each year from the Government for running this shipping service to those remote areas, but there are other shipping companies carrying out equally important work, if not more important, than the John Burke Company. There is Holland's Shipping Line with the "Katoora" and the "Maluka." John Burke's line runs a monthly service whilst the "Katoora" and "Maluka" do fortnightly trips and carry as much cargo as Burke's boat. I also believe that they are going to more remote places than those serviced by John Burke's line. They service Portland Roads, Thursday Island, Weipa, Normanton, Burketown, Mornington Island and Karumba. They are also servicing places like Marina Plains and Cooktown when they have the loading.

As I say, the Government are paying John Burke £34,000 to carry out these services,

and they are being paid that sum whilst in competition with Keith Holland's Shipping Line. Holland informs me that he will in the near future, if he gets the graziers in the Peninsula area to come in, convert the "Katoora" for cattle-carrying. He will be able to take 130 head of cattle on the "Katoora." He will load the cattle on his return fortnightly journey from the Gulf and Thursday Island; he will bring back a load of cattle.

When talking to the graziers at Coen I was informed that they would rather have his service than Clausen's. Clausen's boat will take up to 600 head. I do not know what the draft of the boat is. I am told that there is an agreement between the State and Federal Government for the signing of contracts by both Governments and Clausen's company to take cattle from the Gulf and Peninsula area to the meatworks in Cairns. The Minister in answer to a question by me recently claimed that the Government have not signed the agreement, but I have been informed that the Clausen shipping line is going to be subsidised for three years to the extent of £150,000, that is, £50,000 a year. When Rex Johnston pioneered the sea transport of cattle with the "Wewak" he received a subsidy from the previous Government of £10,000 the first year, £8,500 in the second year and £8,000 in the third year. The present Government gave him virtually nothing, yet they are now going to subsidise a big shipping company to the extent of £150,000 over three years. I am told the ship being built will cost £750,000, but I do not think it will be able to give the service required by the Peninsula people. It will not be able to get into Port Stewart and I doubt whether it will be able to get into Marina Plains. Keith Holland's ship will carry up to 130 head, and I think the service he will be able to give will be more satisfactory to the graziers. He is not seeking a subsidy from the Government, although of course, he will receive the £1 a head subsidy that operates for the cartage of cattle anywhere.

I repeat that Rex Johnston pioneered the sea transport of cattle. He built the yards at Marina Plains, Starkey River, Cooktown and right along the Peninsula coast. The graziers thank him for the service he gave. They regret he has not been able to carry on his good work.

The Minister for Development, Mines Main Roads and Electricity is in the Chamber. I have battled over the years for the construction of the missing link from the Daintree River to Cooktown. This road is essential for the survival of Cooktown. It is a "must." I appeal to the Minister to give favourable consideration to my plea, even if only 3 or 4 miles are constructed each year.

Mr. Evans: We have done the Mulligan Highway that you would not touch.

Mr. ADAIR: We did touch it.

Mr. Evans: £3,000 in 10 years.

Mr. ADAIR: It was started in 1949. I am grateful for what the Government have done. If the Minister travelled over the road with me from Daintree to Cooktown I could point how essential it is to the existence and development of that town. It would cut off 70 miles and tourists would use it. No-one can tell me that the Mulligan Highway would attract one tourist.

Mr. Evans: It would cost £375,000 on your engineer's estimates.

Mr. ADAIR: I have quoted the estimate of Jack Brennan who was working on the Mulligan Highway. He would construct this road and at a considerably lower price. The Mulligan Highway will now go straight on to Laura and to Weipa, and Cooktown will be by-passed. When the road is fully constructed the traffic will come straight down beside Laura and down to Cairns instead of going to Cooktown. It would be one of the best tourist roads and would open up thousands of acres of rich agricultural soil and mining country. It would be the lifeblood of Cooktown, and give Cooktown the pep it needs to continue. I appeal to the Minister to carry out the construction of this road. If the Minister were to go to Cooktown or any other local authority in the North he would be told it is most essential for this road to be built. We have heard a great deal about a bridge over the Daintree River. I should like to inform the House that at the present time loggers in that area have put a bridge over the Daintree River and are carting logs over it. That will show to the Minister that the bridge over the Daintree is no obstacle at all. I repeat that it will open up thousands of acres of rich cattle-fattening country and that it will be the nicest tourist drive in the State.

(Time expired.)

Mr. RAE (Gregory) (3.42 p.m.): As I represent the electorate of Gregory, which is approximately one-fifth the size of Queensland, I am very proud to convey my appreciation of the maiden speech made in this House by the hon. member for Whitsunday, Mr. Camm. There is no doubt that he has indicated in a most able way that he is a man who will do a great deal of good and will help the Government politically to carry on the good work that has been started and also that he will have the interests of the people at heart and the welfare of the State generally. The people of Gregory also agree with the expressions of loyalty by the hon. member for Whitsunday. I feel sure that they also believe that in the Governor and his wife we have people who have done a great deal for the State, far beyond the average citizen, and far beyond what is expected of people in their position. The Governor is an outstanding person. His Excellency and Lady May have given generously to cement the essential bond of loyalty between the Crown and the people of the State of Queensland. We find

evidence of this when we read that once again he is going on another tour to meet the people of the State. We, as members of the Government, and I am sure this Assembly, should be proud of him and his good lady.

When speaking on this motion, I am in complete reverse to the words used by the Leader of the Opposition, when he condemned our Cabinet and our Leader and played upon the alphabet and went off with a lot of "d's" for damnation and many other things, I think the letter "b" could be applied to the members of the Labour Party, for they have betrayed the people of Queensland; they have bewildered them and baffled them. There was much they could have done in the 20 years that they held office but they did absolutely naught. If ever a compliment was due to the Leader of the Government and to the Cabinet of Queensland, this is the opportune time. We should take stock of what has been achieved and what will be achieved if we can carry on in the pattern that we have set.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to the Premier as "Honest Frank." I can imagine nothing more heart-warming to the people of Queensland than the very mention of the word "honest" because, by heavens, over the previous years that has not been a very familiar word to the people who have trodden the streets of Brisbane or worked the acres of the West or Central West concerning politicians. In the Premier we have a man described as honest and I only hope we are blessed with his good leadership for many years to come. Backed by his Cabinet he has done a magnificent job for Queensland.

I believe I am at liberty to cover a good deal of ground in this debate and I propose to deal with the various portfolios to demonstrate not only to the Assembly but also to the people outside that we have a very positive and a very down-to-earth group of Ministers who are getting on with the job.

An excellent start can be made with the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity, Mr. Evans. Some time ago hon. members were told that we were planning to do something about roads—beef roads, access roads and other roads essential to the development of the State, both for defence and for general progress. The Minister has without doubt taken his task very seriously and with his colleagues has mapped out a very fair and practical scheme, one that I would say is as effective and as rewarding to the people of the far-flung areas of the State, who pay very big taxes, as it is to those who enjoy the amenities of metropolitan or city life. Already from Winton to Boulia a road scheme has been commenced which will permit the cartage of livestock. The bitumen road from Quilpie to Windorah is almost completed and it will go on to Currawilla. Many of our arterial roads are bitumenised, and I would ask that the Longreach to Rockhampton road become a reality.

I am all in favour of roads. I have read the report in this morning's "Courier-Mail" of the Prime Minister's statement that the Commonwealth intends to subsidise a second northern beef road project in Queensland this financial year. According to that report, the Prime Minister said—

"We are willing to come to the financial assistance of Queensland with a second scheme, as we have with the initial Julia-Creek-Normanton road."

Such a proposal, if accepted, would actually place the Department of Main Roads in the position whereby any further moneys expended on beef roads this financial year, particularly because of the shortage of loan funds, would result in a loss under the formula for grants for main roads construction. It would mean that, for every additional £1 spent on beef roads, £1 would be lost from the matching grant under the formula.

I have discussed the matter with the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity, who suggests that Queensland is entitled to consideration as favourable as that received by Western Australia.

In the Federal Budget this year, provision is made for a special grant of £1,800,000, and in the latest scheme a matching grant of up to £650,000. I am of the opinion, and the Minister for Main Roads concurs, that a grant to Queensland should be on a similar basis to that made to Western Australia, because the geographical positions of both States are alike. It is considered, further, that the moneys to be expended as a matching grant should be made available by the Commonwealth Government and repayable by the Department of Main Roads under the same conditions as finance is being provided for the building of railways in South Australia and Western Australia.

If conditions similar to these are not agreed to, the Queensland Department of Main Roads will not be able to find the finance for further beef-road projects this financial year.

It is not necessary for me to tell the House how urgent is the need for the construction of beef roads in the northern part of Queensland, and when I speak of the northern parts of Queensland, I think I should bring to the notice of hon. members that, under this road development scheme of ours, the cattle from the North automatically are treated and shipped from the Eastern Seaboard. I should like to see an expansion of road building to the West and South-west and to areas that today are in a position to by-pass the seaboard as a market and slaughtering place for their stock. This would encourage marketing at home as opposed to Southern or South Australian interests.

I know the question whether transport should be by road or by rail is on the tip of everyone's tongue today, but in my

opinion there is ample room for both. There should be co-ordination between road and rail services in the transport of stock, food-stuffs, or commodities of any sort, and admittedly full consideration should be given to the big drain on the financial resources of the State that our railway system is making. I think some understanding can be reached on this co-ordination. We hear all sorts of publicity from self-seekers, people who are prepared to do anything to bring into being something that suits them, but I believe that the Government are tackling a difficult situation, one which was never tackled by previous Governments. We possess the necessary intestinal fortitude and we are tackling it, and I believe that we shall reach a solution that will be of great advantage to Queensland. I have no doubt that our transport problems will be solved in a way that will be just and of such a pattern as to reduce the cost of living and production in the West.

I have mentioned to the Minister for Transport two things in connection with this rather tricky subject. I have told him that I feel that the restrictions smack somewhat of a police state, and that if we can remove a few of the rules and regulations indicating this rather frightening aspect, and get down to a practical assessment of the problem, it will be to the advantage of the State that we retain both the railways and road transport which is here to stay and should be encouraged by fair legislation.

One matter of great interest to me concerns a responsibility that falls upon the shoulders of the newly-elected member of the Cabinet, Mr. Harold Richter. Through the years that hon. gentleman has been a very good Country Party stalwart. I think he will be even more outstanding as a Cabinet Minister. He is a man of down-to-earth qualities and sound logic; a calm man, not one to be easily swayed either to the pro or con of an argument. He is essentially a successful businessman and a capable person. With that in mind I bring before his notice a point that I consider has considerable merit. I refer to houses that are available in various parts of Queensland for public servants. The school teacher will occupy one house, the stock inspector another, and the police constable yet another. Instead of these houses coming under the control of the various departments I suggest that as they are all for public servants they should all come under the control of one Minister. I think it would provide a more effective scheme for the housing of public servants in country areas. At the moment if I go to Winton I might see a very fine home on one corner but it may have been empty for months because it belongs to the Department of Agriculture and Stock, or perhaps the Education Department. At the same time another public servant, an officer of another department, may not be able to get a home in Winton because his department has not been able to build him a house in the town. I bring this suggestion to the

notice of the Minister in the hope that he will give consideration to the possibility of houses for public servants being made available by one authority rather than have the various departments allotting their own houses to their own staff. In that way transfers could be effected more quickly and with a comforting thought to the officer that he has a home to go to.

The Public Lands portfolio is essential to the people of the State just as it is essential to the Government. In the past we have heard nothing but condemnation of land administration; indeed many and disturbing stories, quite alarming really—areas too small, too much of this and too much of that, but after a very full inquiry and considerable research I find that matters are very much the reverse. Indeed, were it not for publications such as "Queensland Country Life," all this backbiting and nonsense going on in Queensland today in respect to our land laws possibly would never have reached this completely unwarranted stage had full consideration and thought been given by the various writers.

I recall that, immediately on our election to office there was a great kick from certain members of the U.G.A., the idea being, "We will now have what we have been seeking for years." What a selfish and unjustifiable outlook? For them and for them alone and not in accordance with the welfare, the interest and the development of Queensland on a fair, sound and reasonable basis.

I am happy to have the privilege of saying here that I condemn most soundly and as roundly as I can the press announcements of the onesided views of "Country Life" that bring to the eyes of country people a completely fictitious picture of our land laws. I think we have a record of which we can be very proud indeed.

Instancing some of the blocks about which they have been talking, in the first place, there is my own. I was fortunate enough to win it, and without a doubt it is an excellent block of country.

Taking the Nive Dows subdivision, there was a story circulated from the U.G.A. executive that it was too small, that it was ridiculous and would not do any good for Queensland but I found that all the neighbours spoke highly of them and commended the Government on their wise subdivision.

The Currawilla blocks which, in the past under Labour administration were on a rather close limit so far as the potential and possibilities of getting ahead were concerned, can safely carry 7,000 to 8,000 sheep and have been subdivided in a manner that to me reflects great credit on this particular Lands Minister of ours and on Mr. Muir and other officers in the department, all most capable, unbiassed and completely fair.

I called upon many of my electors who have said that they were being handicapped

or harassed in some way and I said, "If you feel you have any specific problem, bring it to me." I have always found that any such problem has been ironed out in a manner that indicates a very positive understanding on the part of these officers. If we were to consider what has been done by previous land administrations, I think the least said the better.

Mr. Burrows: Do you know who the previous Minister was?

Mr. RAE: In many instances in which five blocks were made from a subdivision we have turned it into three; where they were making three we have turned it into one. Whichever way our administration is looked at we have done a good job. I say that because I know it to be true.

I have heard from many people that it is high time that we, as a Country Party, developed a land settlement scheme that will do much good for Queensland and that if we do not do it, there will be something wrong with our administration. All I can say to that is that I hope we never enter into any scheme that has the same damning result as the Opposition was responsible for when they were in office. The Theodore land settlement scheme without a doubt is the greatest "shocker" and most cruel thing this State has ever had thrust upon it. I have been on the land all my life, and I think that when we throw open land we must bear in mind three very important points. The first is that the land should be attractive enough to invite interest from a banker or broker. If it is not of sufficient size or magnitude, only peasant-block settlement will be the result. We have only to think of the Theodore scheme to realise the truth of that statement. Let us not be mean or tough enough to expect that men who take up land will be worth in 30 or 40 years only the value of the land. Let us make sure that they will be rewarded for what they do. We must be big enough to subdivide the land in such a way that assistance will be provided by a banker, a finance house or broker, and thus allow employment in the area. We must try to ensure that blocks, immediately after being thrown open for competition, will provide work for carpenters, well borers, yard builders, fencers and others. Employment in the area is one of the essential points to be borne in mind in land subdivision. It was overlooked in former years, but today it is one of the strongest features of Government policy, and I commend them for their soundness in this regard.

I now turn my attention to the Co-ordinating Board. On previous occasions I have spoken heatedly about the Co-ordinating Board, but, on the material I have at my command, I see no reason why the Co-ordinating Board should not have appointed to it a new set of officers or be placed under the control of some other recog-

nised authority. I do not like to name people, although I must give two names to bring the full import of my words to notice. In Winton recently I was approached by the Shire Council members who wanted something done about the barrier fence. They told me it was in a deplorable state, that it was falling down. I said I would be very happy to inquire into the matter. I asked, "What is the score?" Councillors Bryce and Green took me aside and gave me the information I shall now disclose. I have to name Mr. Brebner, as he is the senior member of the Board, but in doing so I am not acting under parliamentary privilege. I would say in the street what I am about to say here. This man has always chosen to indicate through the Press or per medium of advertisement and in other ways that the barrier fence is his baby, but I should say the sooner he gives that baby to somebody who can rear it and put it on the right footing, the better it will be for everyone. Obviously this man is not fit to care for any sort of a "baby," let alone the barrier fence, which is a major undertaking of the State, costing a great deal of money and today can show little for the argument supporting it.

In Winton, on one side, we have many men battling with sheep and doing their damndest to control the dog menace. On the other side, we have the dividend-earning show, and they are mainly in cattle. Most of them also are not concerned about the sheep fellow and the tremendous hardships wrought by the dingo. We should remember what they are doing to the grazier with this fence, or rather the lack of interest in it. When it was reported by Mr. Goldsworthy as being in good condition, it was not so at all. There are over 50 miles of that fence in my area where dogs can roam through at will. It is dreadful that we in this State should be asked to fall for this nonsense about the dingo fence.

Mr. Walsh: Does the Minister want to get rid of Mr. Brebner? He has been there a long while and he is a very capable officer.

Mr. RAE: The hon. member may say he is capable. I am not one to say he is, or he is not. I want the House to know about this co-ordinating board and their knowledge of our western conditions and that a senior man like Mr. Brebner can openly say, in front of the Council, to a responsible officer, Mr. Goldsworthy, "Is that fence in order?" And Goldsworthy says, "Yes," and he says to the Council, "I have no further argument with you. I believe this man." My Heavens, what a state of affairs? Responsible Councillors Bryce and Green have given me a full coverage of this fence and I intend to give it to Mr. Brebner. I believe that we should get on with the fence and have less of this throwing out of baits from aeroplanes. The figure of £8 a mile should be increased where the job is difficult, such as

in mountainous country and in flooded areas, and possibly reduce it in the open plains or hardwood country where it does not require the same maintenance. In my opinion, the co-ordinating board is one of the weakest boards that this Government has anything to do with concerning Western Queensland. The board's knowledge of our essentials such as watering of stock routes, and the whole tie-up with the pattern of work is weak and completely out of touch with reality. I believe it is high time that this board came under the control of responsible officers who are prepared to link their activities with the local authorities which surely must have a very good knowledge of conditions. This knowledge is essential if the work is to be carried out in the right manner and if progress is to be achieved.

In the West, we have a problem: we have long been denied certain privileges, and certain conditions. However, we have been able to enjoy these privileges as a concession. I am talking now of our betting and drinking laws as applied to the West.

Mr. Walsh: Be careful now.

Mr. RAE: I am speaking now. The hon. member can make his speech later. I feel that the Minister for Labour and Industry, Mr. Morris, is enthusiastic in his desire to serve the State, and he is doing an excellent job despite the fact that he has Brisbane looking like a Christmas tree. He is to be commended and congratulated fully because he has indicated and proven to all of us and to overseas visitors that here in Queensland we have something very good. He is responsible for no end of interest being shown by industries, manufacturing concerns and other organisations, but the aspect of his work to which I wish to refer is that of attracting and keeping tourists here. There is no way in the world we can hope to hold them if we entice them on the one hand and knock them back on the other, and I think we are knocking them by the archaic and churchwarden-like views held by responsible officers on the drinking requirements of the people. It is high time that we took a step in accordance with the wishes of the people and caused tourists to think more kindly of the State. We have the best to offer and we know it. Let us not turn the tourist traffic aside. Let us stay with it. Let us make the most of our potential. We should be able to take a definite line on drinking requirements. Leading restaurants and eating places should be accorded the privilege. Let us get away from the set, stereotype pattern of the past, which is not good, and go on with progress in a modern manner.

Out in my area in the far out-back there are times when we are permitted a few drinks outside of normal trading hours, and an odd bet. People will always bet in Queensland and they will always bet in Australia. I should like to see legalised starting-price betting. That is the answer.

I am speaking just as an individual. The sooner we recognise that we must have a legalised form of S.P. betting the better; it will be to the advantage of everybody. This sneaking behind doors or in some quiet lane or on the telephone is not good enough. It leads to all forms of corruption and strife and unnecessary hardship. Make it open and get into step on the road of common sense progress. Keep it as it should be, before the people, and let us by the same token be rewarded because the avenue and the opportunity are there. I strongly say that we should accept it as a "must" as soon as possible.

Mr. Low: They are doing it now.

Mr. RAE: I do not know who is doing it now but perhaps the hon. member will tell us that later on. However, it can be successful and that is one thing that should be entered into, and I am certain an undertaking that will ease a lot of minds.

Time is catching up with me and I suppose, rather than prolong the speech, as so many people tell me one is rather apt to, I shall resume my seat; but before doing so I should like to repeat that if Queensland was ever fortunate and ever blessed thrice, it is in having a Government and Cabinet under the leadership of Mr. Nicklin, as we see it here today.

Mr. DUFFICY (Warrego) (4.19 p.m.): I rise to support the amendment so eloquently moved by my leader and seconded by the deputy leader.

Before I forget, let me say that I was absolutely amazed at the speech delivered by the hon. member for Gregory. He has been publicised in the Press as one of the rebels, one of the people who have some regard for the welfare of Western Queensland. Instead of being a rebel, he turned out to be a complete sycophant, supporting the Government and various members of the Government. Surely his attitude must have changed, because he gave his proxy vote to the Minister for Education, who used it to elect the present Minister for Public Works and Local Government. People in the West realise now that he supported metropolitan control of the Country Party, because the Minister who was elected with his proxy vote represents an electorate in the suburbs of Brisbane.

The hon. member made a speech today that was very different from the speeches I have heard him make in the House previously. I think he must be controlled by the metropolitan branch of the Country Party. I am not saying that as a joke, because there is a metropolitan branch of that party, even though it is a contradiction in terms if ever there was one. If one looks at the Press reports of recent Country Party conferences, one realises, as I say, that the metropolitan branch of the party plays a most important part in their deliberations. The hon. member

for Gregory has shown in the past that he was a person with a western approach, but he has now become a convert to the metropolitan branch of the Country Party and speaks as that branch instructs him to speak.

Mr. Richter: Haven't you a metropolitan member for Warrego?

Mr. DUFFICY: I will deal with the hon. gentleman later. I have something to say about him, and I suggest that he should not interject at this stage.

I am not suggesting that the winning of a block has made any great difference to the attitude of the hon. member for Gregory, other than that at least it has given him financial security. When he was speaking he mentioned the Nive Downs ballot, and he glossed it over expertly. He said there was not very much wrong with it. He complimented the Minister on having intestinal fortitude. I think I mentioned that word here previously in regard to the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation but in a different way. The hon. member for Gregory did not say, however, that had the same conditions applied to the Nive Downs ballot as applied to the particular ballot in which he was successful in winning a block, he would not even have been admitted to the ballot. He did not say that. At this stage I am not going into land matters but I shall deal with them more fully later on. I want to emphasise a point that is important—had the hon. member who has just resumed his seat been an applicant for the Nive Downs ballot, instead of the ballot in which he was successful, the conditions that apply to Nive Downs would have eliminated him, and he would not have gone to the barrier.

Mr. Ewan: What qualifications—

Mr. DUFFICY: All right, I shall deal with that later. Let me deal with this matter and endeavour to support the amendment moved by my leader.

We are meeting in the Chamber under remarkable circumstances. We find that in this, the second session of the Thirty-sixth Parliament, the Government of the day are not only subject to the severest criticism from the Opposition and from those people who normally vote Labour, but also they have been criticised most severely by those people who in the past have supported them. I say "in the past" advisedly.

We witnessed the spectacle in Roma of the Leader of the Country Party—the Premier of the State—and a number of his senior Ministers being severely criticised by members of the Country Party. It must be remembered that only members of the Country Party were allowed at that meeting. Only members of the Country Party were admitted, and there were 600 of them there.

Mr. Ewan: That is not right.

Mr. DUFFICY: The report of that meeting published so extensively in the Press has never

been contradicted because it could not be truthfully contradicted. Not only was the Premier censured on that occasion but also senior Ministers of his Government were censured, not by his political opponents, but by the past supporters of his own party. Again I am speaking advisedly when I say "past supporters."

Government Members interjected.

Mr. DUFFICY: Seeing that there are so many interjections from certain hon. members opposite, let me say that although I have no intention of speaking about transport at the moment I shall be looking forward with considerable interest to the speeches I expect will be made by the hon. member for Condamine, the hon. member for Balonne and other hon. members opposite who were so vocal at that meeting when they expressed condemnation of the actions of their own Government. I am not forgetting the hon. member for Barambah, who was one of the leaders on that occasion. If I can believe the Press—and they do not support us in the main, but hon. members opposite and their Government—he also attended a meeting in his own electorate and the condemnation of the Government was more severe from his own party and members of it who sit behind the Premier than any condemnation that has come out of this Chamber up to the present time. The reason for that is that the hon. members of this Chamber who spoke on that occasion had certain inside information that our leader or deputy leader could not possibly have had.

It is because of that that this session of this Thirty-sixth Parliament is meeting in very extraordinary circumstances. It certainly has never previously happened in the political history of this State, and I think I am entitled to say that when we do move on the matter of transport, as was indicated by our leader, we are going to get the support of hon. members opposite who were so vocal at meetings throughout the State. I feel that, in the main, we may think as they think and as they have expressed themselves at those meetings. However, we shall wait and see. But, after the exhibition of the hon. member who has just resumed his seat, and who was also mentioned in a Press report as being one of the rebels, it appears to me that the whip has been cracked. In other words, instructions have been given, and do not tell me that instructions are not carried out!

Mr. Ewan: You ought to know.

Mr. DUFFICY: The hon. member should know, too, because his leader said on T.V. that because the Country Party Conference instructed him not to introduce preferential voting, he would not introduce it. He was instructed not to do it, and, of course, he is not going to do it.

Mr. Ewan: You might have misinterpreted him.

Mr. DUFFICY: I saw him, I listened to him, and that is exactly what he said.

So much for transport, and so much for the hon. members opposite who were so vocal. Let us hope that they are as vocal when the debate that will be initiated by our leader takes place. I hope they are as vocal then as they were at the meetings when they were pandering to the electors in their own electorates.

Mr. Richter: Keep on hoping.

Mr. DUFFICY: I know they will not be, because they have not the intestinal fortitude to do it. I completely agree with the Minister. I know very well that the whip has been cracked and that a committee has been appointed.

Mr. Richter: You should know very well.

Mr. DUFFICY: The hon. gentleman will know more about it than I do, but I know very well that a committee has been appointed. Somebody quite relevantly said, "If you cannot control a private, put him upstairs and make him an officer." The hon. members who could not be controlled when they were privates in the ranks were kicked upstairs and made officers. They were appointed to a committee to investigate transport. The Government cracked the whip, to make sure those hon. members would not be as vocal in the House as they were when they were pandering to their own electors.

Let me move now to what can be called a little bit of sabotage, and in doing so I will refer to the ridiculous remarks of the hon. member for Gregory. I am not reflecting on him personally. I have a high regard for him, although it was higher before he spoke. He has gone down to some extent in my estimation. He referred to the building of roads to increase beef production, but he did not tell the full story, although he may have known it. The fact is that £650,000 is to be spent on a road from the Gulf to Julia Creek. I do not say that the construction of that road is unwise, but I do say that in the interests of the State it should not be given No. 1 priority.

Mr. Muller: I agree with you.

Mr. DUFFICY: The former Minister for Public Lands who investigated the matter over a number of years agrees completely. Hon. members who have read the Press recently would have learned that Sir Thomas Playford, who is a very astute politician—

Mr. Duggan: He gerrymandered the electorates up here.

Mr. DUFFICY: I was coming to that. He is Premier of South Australia and a very astute politician, and no-one would know that better than hon. members on this side of the Chamber. After successfully gerrymandering the electorates in South Australia

he was invited by the Queensland Government to advise them on how their electorates could be successfully gerrymandered. After the excellent job of gerrymandering that was done in the recent redistribution, there can be no doubt as to the astuteness of Sir Thomas Playford. Press reports have revealed that he sent his officers through South-western Queensland and as far north as Winton. I know the reports are correct. They were sent to those areas to investigate the pastoral industry and the possibilities of trade with those districts. If the Government do not know about this following their investigation, I am going to tell them. The South Australian Government propose to build a road to the Queensland border in the north of South Australia.

Mr. Ewan interjected.

Mr. DUFFICY: The hon. member would not know. Possibly he may have read about it, but he does not know much about that area.

The fact remains that the scheme of roads in South Australia will be built to tap the whole of the trade of South-western Queensland in the—

Mr. Muller: The Channel Country.

Mr. DUFFICY: Yes. The former Minister for Lands knows. He knows I am speaking the truth.

It will tap the whole of the trade, not only the beef trade, but the wool trade and commerce generally, from South-western Queensland, and will take it to Adelaide. When I said that the proposed road to be built from the Gulf Country to Julia Creek, at a cost of £650,000, with some subsidy from the Commonwealth Government, may be justified, I believed that it should not receive No. 1 priority.

Mr. Ewan: What should be No. 1 priority?

Mr. DUFFICY: No. 1 priority should be exactly as I said. It should be the road scheme that will link the South-west with the rail heads at Quilpie, Cunnamulla and Dajarra.

Mr. Ewan: Yaraka.

Mr. DUFFICY: Yaraka, or Dajarra; wherever the hon. member likes.

Mr. Ewan: Both of them.

Mr. DUFFICY: Yes. We are going to link the roads in the South-west of Queensland with the existing rail heads so that we will retain in Queensland the wealth that is being produced in the south-western portion of this State.

Mr. Walsh: And the cattle will be treated at Queensland meatworks.

Mr. DUFFICY: Exactly. That is my point.

Mr. Ewan interjected.

Mr. DUFFICY: The hon. member will have an opportunity to speak later on.

I am not condemning the road that is suggested and I am not saying that it is unjustified. I am not saying that the expense of £650,000 is not justified, but I am saying that it should not receive No. 1 priority, because if the South Australian Government move as they are moving at present—and if the Government do not know, I am telling them now—it will be far too late to start on the road schemes there after these people look to Adelaide as their capital, rather than to Brisbane.

I have not very much more time and there are a few other matters that I wish to discuss. However, I will have another opportunity to talk about them at a later stage. In the limited time at my disposal now I wish to mention a few matters concerning land because I believe that the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation would be disappointed if I did not give him some sadly-needed advice on land matters. Not only do I believe he sadly needs advice on land; so do the members of his own party, and that was made quite obvious when in May last at the Country Party Conference in Cairns they appointed a committee to “assist”—and that was the nice way of saying it; otherwise “instruct,” I should think—the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation on how he should administer his own department.

It might be interesting to have a look at the committee that was appointed. The Premier was one member. I have a high regard for him personally but, with respect, I suggest that his knowledge of land is extremely limited. When I speak about land I am not speaking of the coastal strip or the pineapple farms or banana farms, or even the sugar farms in the North, because most of the land problems in the coastal strip were solved years ago. The only real land problems exist in the West—that is where large leaseholds are accruing to the Crown—and I suggest that the Premier would not know very much about that problem.

Also appointed to the committee was the Minister for Education and Migration. As a land authority he may be a fairly good school teacher, and when you have said that you have said the lot.

Mr. Windsor: I would not under-estimate him, either.

Mr. DUFFICY: It would be hard to under-estimate the hon. member for Windsor. I would be on very safe ground with him.

Then we have the Minister for Public Works and Local Government. I do not wish to say very much about him. He is quite a nice chap. He would be the first to admit that he knows little or nothing about land matters.

Then we have two complete outsiders on the committee—Mr. Don Parkinson—

Mr. Ewan: He is not a bad bloke.

Mr. DUFFICY: I did not say he was. I am just saying we have Mr. Don Parkinson and Mr. McCormack, a past president of the Country Party. Those two gentlemen may have a little knowledge, or perhaps quite a bit of knowledge, of land matters but I am one of those who believe that people without ministerial or parliamentary responsibility are not entitled to influence the land policy of the State. I do not care who the person is, if he is a grazier without any ministerial or parliamentary responsibility, his opinions on land matters will be influenced by his personal position or personal experience, which is bad.

This is the first time in the history of Queensland that the administration of the Department of Public Lands and Irrigation has been taken out of the hands of the Minister entrusted with it. That lends weight to the remark of the former Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation—he is sitting on the Government benches—when he said, “The Country Party executive rolled down to Parliament House”—those are his words—“and endeavoured to put pressure on me, but I wouldn’t accept it.” Because he would not accept it he is now sitting on the back benches and is no longer Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation in Queensland. I suggest that his successor is prepared to accept that pressure, that dictation, and that is why he now occupies that portfolio. I do not believe that pressure should be applied on land matters. I do not believe that committees should be appointed, and I object particularly to outsiders, people without any responsibility to the State generally, influencing land policy.

In the short time that I have left, I want to deal with the Nive Downs ballot, which I mentioned earlier and which the hon. member for Gregory also mentioned very briefly. I firmly believe that in the whole history of land administration in Queensland there was never such an unholy mess as the Nive Downs ballot. That is not only my opinion but the opinion of hundreds and hundreds of people throughout Western Queensland. It is a fact that when the notices of that ballot were first sent out by the Department of Public Lands it was stated that the only people who were eligible as applicants in the ballot were those who had £8,000—in one case £8,500—and a minimum of £6,000 in hard cash or readily convertible assets. How many people are walking round Queensland with £6,000 or £8,000 in hard cash to enable them to be applicants in a ballot? I ask the hon. member for Gregory, “If those were the conditions when you entered the ballot, would you have been eligible to enter?”

Mr. Rae: No, I certainly would not. I can tell you that I was in debt when I drew the block. I am honest about it. I will be out of debt very soon, I hope.

Mr. DUFFICY: The hon. member was accepted as an applicant.

Mr. Rae: I am not against your story at all. There is a lot of merit in your contribution.

Mr. DUFFICY: Let me put it on record that I am not singling out the hon. member for Gregory or suggesting that there was anything irregular in the fact that he was accepted and was fortunate enough to draw a block.

Mr. Rae: It was an open ballot.

Mr. DUFFICY: Yes, it was an open ballot. But the hon. member could not have entered for the Nive Downs ballot, nor could anybody else, unless he had £6,000 to £8,000 in hard cash. After I wrote to the Minister objecting to the conditions I did not receive even the courtesy of a reply, but I was advised through the columns of "Country Life" that there had been an alteration in the conditions. I would read the article if I had the time. The alteration to the conditions was to the effect that a guarantee would be accepted from a near relative. The definition of "near relative" was either the father or the mother. Again after objections from myself and a number of others the conditions were changed.

Mr. Ewan: There were a number of others.

Mr. DUFFICY: I am not telling lies. This matter is too important. I do not consider that land matters should be made a football for party politics. Although it has been done on that side of the Chamber it has never been done from this side. I have been fair. The fact remains that the conditions were again altered so that certain guarantees would be accepted. Hundreds of people in south western Queensland and through the whole of the West were not allowed into that ballot, although they should have been accepted.

I want to put on record that when I objected in the first place to the screening that was taking place in connection with that ballot I was told that it was designed to keep out New South Wales applicants who were not entitled to ballot in Queensland. I attended the drawing of the Nive Downs ballot in the Executive Building. After having been told that, to my amazement the first person who drew a block on Nive Downs came from New South Wales. That is true, and the hon. member for Gregory will agree.

Mr. Rae: I agree.

Mr. DUFFICY: Of course the hon. member agrees, and everybody must agree, apart from the Minister for Public Lands and the committee that was appointed allegedly to assist or advise him. I have authority to mention in the Chamber the name of a certain person, but I do not intend to do so. It is not that I think he will be victimised, but I object to mentioning names in the Chamber. I am not like the hon. member for Gregory who attacked Mr. Brebner in the Chamber, where

he has no opportunity to reply. I could mention the name of a man who has managed some of the largest properties in South Western Queensland.

(Time expired.)

Mr. BROMLEY (Norman) (4.59 p.m.): In moving and seconding the censure motion, the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition ably criticised the Government in the way that they deserved.

The Minister for Labour and Industry spoke a great deal about figures that have been quoted. I am not going to develop an argument along those lines, but I would point out that in reply to a question this morning he told the hon. member for Mackay that no houses had been built in Mackay in the last two years. In the last bulletin issued by the Bureau of Census and Statistics, No. 35 of 1961, it is disclosed that 443 fewer houses and flats were built in the June quarter of this year than in the corresponding quarter of 1960; 255 fewer houses were built during that quarter than during the corresponding quarter of last year. Those figures indicate that the Government are not doing a good job in relation to home building.

I feel justified here in quoting an opinion expressed in the "Telegraph" of 25 May, 1961, that public issues need airing. This Government are not likely to take any criticism kindly as the "Telegraph" states. It says—

"It is time the State Government now well in its second term of office after long years in the political wilderness took stock of its attitude toward important public questions."

I ask hon. members, has the Government taken any stock of their attitude on important political questions that have been put before them and the people of Queensland by the Labour Party? They have consistently ignored us. Quoting further from the "Telegraph" it says—

"Its sensitive reaction to the slightest breath of criticism is not in the best interests of Queensland. It tends to breed a situation in which the proper public discussion of important matters becomes a sort of live-or-die battle between the Government and its critics."

The Government cannot take the criticism that is aimed at them. I feel that they have no answers to the justifiable criticism that has been levelled by hon. members on this side in debating the amendment moved by our Leader.

Much discussion has emanated from hon. members of the Government parties in support of the Government's actions but I and other hon. members on this side of the Chamber feel that disappointment must be expressed at the Government's apparent lack of interest or concern at the declining state of prosperity in Queensland. That is what the amendment is aimed at—the consistent

ignoring by the Government of the people's desire that something of a positive nature should be done in this regard. We on this side have asked them on several occasions to do something about creating full employment. That has been done in questions asked since the Parliament reassembled. Many of those questions have asked what the Government are going to do or have attempted to do to restore full employment in the State and, of course, what they are going to do in regard to providing what we consider to be the greatest need—security, not only in home life but in employment and other walks of life.

The Opposition approached the Government in relation to the long recess. I feel, as do other members on this side, that the extra long recess was not necessary. We think that if Parliament had reassembled earlier much discussion of benefit to Queensland could have taken place. Perhaps the length of the recess may not have mattered so much if the touring Cabinet—and that is all we can call them—had endeavoured to do something productive towards creating stability and increasing the confidence of the people, and for that matter, of the Press, in their actions. I have already quoted the "Telegraph" article, but there were many other headlines during the recess criticising the Government.

Mr. Windsor: They solved the Collinsville issue for you.

Mr. BROMLEY: There is plenty of time to discuss that matter, and Government members will get their desserts very soon.

The Press and the public realise that the Government are muddling along in the same way as their Federal colleagues, from whom, of course, they are getting no assistance. They are relying on private enterprise, without encouraging private enterprise, and they are not attempting to work out anything for the good of Queensland. Business people with whom I discussed the matter during the recess told me that they think they should get assistance in times of crisis such as we are experiencing today. They have received none and therefore cannot be expected to carry the full burden. Private enterprise, the Press and the public have lost faith in the Government, and I think that loss of faith in the Government, and particularly some members of the Cabinet, is shared by a number of Government members.

I shall now refer to country protest meetings. They are relevant to the present motion of censure, in that they were meetings called by the people to protest against Government policy. Meetings were held in Roma, Dalby and other places. With other members of Parliament I was invited to the Dalby meeting. I was one of seven A.L.P. members who attended, but only two Country Party members had the courage to go along. The Minister for Transport was invited. He did not attend, but he sent his best friend, the tape recorder, and, having

that tape recording, he has publicly threatened the hon. member for Kedron about what he is alleged to have said. The Minister, as usual, is wrong in this matter, as the hon. member for Kedron did not say the things that the Minister alleged he said. I was at the meeting and I know exactly what went on. The Minister for Transport could have done himself and his Government a deal of good by going to the meeting, but apparently he did not have the courage or was advised by the Premier not to do so.

Mr. Hughes interjected.

Mr. BROMLEY: The hon. member by way of interjection said the meeting was stacked. How could it be stacked. It was attended by 1,250 people, most of whom were supporters of the Government. It was certainly stacked in the sense that it was stacked by supporters of the Government, but those people went along to protest against the actions of the Government, particularly in relation to transport during the last 12 months.

Mr. Hanlon: The Government tried to stack the one at Roma, but could not even stack it with their own crowd.

Mr. BROMLEY: I think they should be stacked in a heap and that we should then perhaps put a match to them.

I shall tell briefly what happened at the meeting. When we arrived at Dalby we were met by a deputation that included prominent business men, farmers, and transport operators. Apart from one or two or them, those persons told us that they were at one time supporters of the Queensland coalition Government. It is a coalition of two parties. From what these people say I am just wondering how long it will be a coalition of two parties or whether it will be a coalition of two, three, four, or more. It has been said at various times that the hon. member for Gregory is one of the rebels, but after listening to what he said today, I do not think he is a rebel at all. I believe his reputation will go down greatly in the West when people find out about his speech in the House today.

The meeting was attended by 1,250 people. If hon. members of the Government do not believe me they can ask someone who was there, and counted them, because there were members of the Country Party going round counting the people.

Mr. Muller: Somebody said there were 1,306.

Mr. BROMLEY: The official figure was 1,250 and they came from all the various adjacent country areas. I should like to point out the seriousness of this. I believe that the Government should earnestly consider that the meeting started at 7.30 p.m. and went through till 12.20 a.m.

Mr. Gaven: Were there any refreshments?

Mr. BROMLEY: There were refreshments at the end of the evening. The meeting was held in the R.S.L. Hall. There would be approximately 700 people seated at the meeting, about 150 standing in the hall, and about 350 standing outside—on a cold night—listening to the various speeches of the people assembled on the stage there. When there are 1,250 people at a meeting from 7.30 p.m. till 12.20 a.m., with 500 standing from 7.30 p.m. to 12.20 a.m. listening to indictments of the Government, that proves how serious it is, and what their thoughts are.

Mr. Richter: You could get the same number at any meeting.

Mr. BROMLEY: Especially in protest against this Government. You are lucky you are not the Minister for Transport. You are a very fortunate person you are not the Minister for Transport.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member will address the Chair.

Mr. BROMLEY: Through you, Mr. Speaker, I should like to tell the hon. member for Somerset that he is not the elected member for that district, and therefore he is very fortunate.

Mr. Hanlon: What did the hon. member for Condamine say at that meeting?

Mr. BROMLEY: I am coming to that because I took it all down in my own form of legible shorthand and I have a dossier on that, just like other people in this House have a dossier on this and that. The Minister for Labour and Industry has said, "I have a dossier on this, and I have something from the secret security police on that." I have here the original. Of all the people at that meeting there would not have been more than six who left it from 7.30 p.m. till 12.20 a.m. Surely that is a real indication of the feeling of antipathy of these people to this Transport Act.

Dr. Delamothe: Was it a very cold night?

Mr. BROMLEY: No, it was not a very cold night, but at the same time it was a winter's night.

One of the Cobb & Company men who is greatly interested in the Transport Act moved 40 families from the township of Talwood. The Minister for Labour & Industry said this morning that people are not leaving Queensland, but these 40 families were transferred from Talwood to the southern states in search of employment because of the misconduct of this Government in the running of the State's affairs. Forty families, mind you, were moved by only one firm.

I will now give some further indication of the people's feelings by quoting some of the statements made by various people at the meeting.

Mr. Gard said that the Transport Commissioner could be a dictator under the Act. I think the Minister for Transport will find

that on the tape recorder, too. He added that it gave the Commissioner's representative the right to enter private homes at any time, that the Act was worse than a perpetual crisis. We have had perpetual crises from time to time since the coalition Government took over the Treasury benches in Queensland.

Opposition Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. BROMLEY: Those last few words are my own but they are greeted with "Hear, hears!" not only by our own members but also by the people of Queensland today.

Mr. J. Alexander said the people were terrified of the Act, that we should demand that the Government abide by the principles of democracy. I do not think they know the meaning of the word "democracy." He said also that the carriers and farmers were told the Act would break up monopolies but this Act was designed to create monopolies.

Mr. V. Carra, a farmer and grain-grower, stated that the people had been hoodwinked by bureaucracy and that under the Transport Act it was costing the growers an extra £3 a ton at least by their being forced to use the railways and that the Government were forcing the growers to borderhop. That is a definite fact. I do not think anyone can argue about it. Come in, Mr. Chalk, and listen to this because I think you will find it interesting.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BROMLEY: Mr. Rolf said that the farmers and transport proprietors were frightened and that transport companies could give service under the old Act—that is, the Act that was introduced by the Labour Government—and that they were told the Government would look after carriers. He said they gave the new Act a fair trial and approached the acting Minister, Mr. Chalk of course having shot through overseas at the time. I do not know why he did but possibly we all have some idea in our heads why he went away at that time. Mr. Rolf said they gave the new Act a fair trial, that they presented the Acting Minister at the time with proof of losses of £1,000 a month and that everything the company asked for was refused. He went on to say that the Minister allegedly said he would run all road transport out of the State and that he did not care how much the railways lost as long as they eventually got all the business. Is not that a lovely statement for a responsible Minister to make? Furthermore, Mr. Rolf said that the 1946 Act was a good Act. I will repeat that. He said that the 1946 Act, introduced by the Labour Government, was a good Act. Mr. Rolf is a Country Party supporter. He went on to say that the present one gives no right of appeal and will bring chaos into transport, which we know it has already done. He went on to say that the Labour Transport Minister eight years ago could foresee expansion. I remember reading something about

that. He said at the time that he could foresee expansion in the transport industry. And Mr. Rolf said that under this present Government the people were victims of a confidence trick. I think that is quite true of the Transport Act in particular and of other Acts.

Mr. Sullivan: You were there and heard all this. What about telling us what you think should be done?

Mr. BROMLEY: We have been trying to tell them what to do for a long time. Their own supporters have been telling them.

Mr. Sullivan: What have you told us? Not one word!

Mr. BROMLEY: I will come to the hon. member for Condamine in a minute and tell the House what he said. The Government's own supporters have been trying to tell them what to do and they have been ignoring them just as they are ignoring the wishes of the people in Queensland today.

Mr. Bolton said that the business man's liberty was at stake, yet this is supposed to be a business man's Government. He said that their freedom was gone with the iniquitous tax under the Act, and he continued in that strain.

Mr. Cyril Anderson, the manager of three groups—Western Transport—and the illustrious brother of an hon. member of this Chamber, said it was the Minister's intention to wipe out road transport and that there was no freedom under this Government.

What I have said should give the Government some food for thought, and I believe it will. It should give the rebels more food for thought, too—that is, if there are any rebels left, if the iron hand of the Premier has not gone rusty in the meantime.

The two Country Party members present at the meeting both said that the road tax was too much; nevertheless, at this meeting they supported the Act. To me, it is a classic example of having two bob each way.

Mr. Sullivan: We are free to say what we think in this Chamber. We are not like you people over there.

Mr. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, I draw your attention to the fact that we have an hon. member in the House with his hat on.

Mr. Aikens: I am just keeping the custom alive.

Mr. BROMLEY: I am going to place on record in "Hansard" what they said. We know that the motion moved at that particular meeting, "That the 1960 Transport Act be repealed in its entirety" was carried with only three dissentients. With two Country Party members present and 1,250 people in the hall, there were only three dissentients.

Mr. Aikens: How did you fellows ever get tangled up—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! For the benefit of the hon. member who is speaking, he has mentioned the fact that a member has his hat on in the Chamber. A member is quite entitled to have his hat on in the Chamber, but he is not allowed to speak with his hat on.

Mr. Aikens: I will take it off. I would rather have my hat off than be silent.

Mr. BROMLEY: I take it that he was, as usual, speaking through his hat.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BROMLEY: I think that some of the remarks I have made further prove the Government's arrogant and stand-over attitude which is leading it farther into the morass of unpopularity with people on the land. Further proof is contained in a supplement to "Queensland Country Life," of which the hon. member for Gregory spoke in somewhat derogatory terms. I was quite surprised that he should say anything nasty about "Queensland Country Life." A perusal of that supplement of 16 March, 1961, shows that the Government are being criticised by their own supporters, and other criticisms have appeared in the daily Press and in the Press in country centres. I have dozens of them here, but because of the limited time available to me I shall be able to go through only some of the criticisms in the "Queensland Country Life," criticisms by the Government's own supporters. The supplement reads—

"The fate of every Crown tenant and of his land lies at the mercy, the whims, and the obsessions of the Minister for Public Lands and his officers.

"There is no question that they mean well and are doing what they think is best. But the fact remains that there is no right of appeal from their administrative decisions to any judicial authority, no matter how unreasonable or ruinous they may be.

"Rights of appeal are restricted to an appeal on rental charges only. The administration itself tends to be swathed in red tape and guided by rigid rules. Economic data is not sufficiently considered. Small wonder that Queensland is crying out for land development!"

Further on, the article continues—

"Before Mr. A. G. Muller left office as Lands Minister, confidence throughout the country was returning and it appeared that Queensland was in for an era of active and progressive land administration.

"Mr. Muller, who was responsible for the enactment of the 1959 Act, was relieved of office in June, 1960. Sir William Payne, the author of the report, shortly afterwards retired. A new and untried Lands Administration Commission

and a new Lands Minister, Mr. A. R. Fletcher, came in. What has happened since has not increased public confidence in the Government's land administration."

Mr. Ramsden: Who wrote that for you?

Mr. BROMLEY: The hon. member has just come into the Chamber. For his benefit I mention that this is a report in "Queensland Country Life." Being a Liberal, of course, the hon. member would not be interested in the country people, nor would he be interested in the Country Party other than to crucify them until the time when the Liberal Party become the major power in the coalition.

The article in "Queensland Country Life" continues—

"A Judicial Arbitrator would help remedy matters.

"If Crown tenants were granted a right of appeal to a competent authority against departmental decisions affecting the statutory rights of existing lessees, such action would go a long way towards remedying matters.

"The appointment of a 'Judicial Arbitrator' to hear such appeals was a key recommendation in the Payne report."

I hear constant interjections while I am quoting this article but for the benefit of people generally it is desirable that it should be included in "Hansard." I am not like some hon. members opposite who try to make contributions through interjections only. I am trying to put forward something constructive for the benefit of members of the Country Party and for the good of Queensland and Australia as a whole. The article continues—

"The former Lands Minister (Mr. Muller) made known his intention of asking Sir William Payne to accept the post, not only because he fathered the land reforms and has vast experience, but also because he possesses the rare quality of originality.

"Such an appointment would have given general satisfaction and won confidence. Since Mr. Muller left office, other counsels seem to have prevailed. This has caused astonishment throughout the country.

"As Mr. H. M. Hungerford, chairman of Waggamba Shire Council so pointedly put it to Mr. Fletcher at a Goondiwindi meeting last November: 'The Government had no difficulty in reinstating Mr. Creighton and creating a job for Mr. Gair, yet it could not retain the services of Sir William Payne, who is the greatest authority Queensland has ever had on land development'."

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The normal time for the Address in Reply has expired but I propose to allow the hon. member to finish speaking.

Mr. BROMLEY: I appreciate that very much; it is a great pleasure to be on-side

with Mr. Speaker. I am going on with this report in spite of the interjections and the ignorant talking in the Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BROMLEY: I will give hon. members opposite something by way of interjection later if I get the chance. The report continues—

"Accelerated land development would surely follow the appointment of a competent and experienced Judicial Arbitrator.

Increased development and increased production are the foremost considerations. Closer settlement and a larger population on the land must inevitably follow. There is a widespread feeling throughout the country in favour of greater land use and closer settlement.

What is objected to is unfair, uneconomic and ruinous closer settlement at the expense of existing Crown tenants who are striving to develop their lands."

It goes on to speak about the Muller reforms—

"When the present Government took office in May, 1957, it had no land policy worthy of the name and land administration seemed to have no definite objectives. This was largely remedied by the report and recommendations of Mr. W. L. Payne (later Sir William) in February, 1959. Sir William was then president of the Land Court, a judicial office independent of the Government.

After much debate in Country Party Caucus and in Parliament, nearly all his suggested reforms were adopted by the Government and incorporated in the Land Act of 1959."

It can be seen that the State lost a very competent Minister in Mr. Muller. The "Queensland Country Life" statement goes on to say—

"Old rigid methods will not do.

"An adviser, with neither statutory office nor authority of any kind, would not be able to help sufficiently in bringing about what is required," he said, but the 'judicial unravelling of administration difficulties, as envisaged by the 1959 Land Act, would be a job of public service well worthwhile.'"

The next section is under the heading, "Mr. Fletcher's 1959 stand," and reads—

"It is recalled that Mr. Fletcher never showed enthusiasm for fully implementing the Payne Report which was the basis of the 1959 Land Act, and which was accepted by the Government and landholders throughout the State as the blueprint for land development and progressive land administration. Mr. Fletcher was, of course, not identified in any way with the framing of the report nor of the Act.

At the Country Party State Conference at Bundaberg on 15 April, 1959, Mr. Fletcher, in opposing the motion for the full implementation of the Payne Report—

Take notice that he opposed that motion—

“—said that ‘it was unthinkable that the Government should resign its powers to work out land policy on a report made by one man . . .’”

While people in all walks of life in the State think that not only did Mr. Muller do a good job but that Sir William Payne was the man for the job, the present Minister for Lands and Irrigation objects to that particular appointment. The report continues—

“Just prior to the appointment of a Land Adviser, the Premier (Mr. Nicklin) gave the grazing industry an assurance that there was no need for concern over the implementation of the 1959 Land Act. He said, ‘the Government’s intention was to implement in its entirety the 1959 Land Act in the true spirit of the Act.’ Why has this not been done? The honouring of the Premier’s assurance is still awaited.”

As with many other assurances of the Coalition Government I think we will be waiting a long time for that to be implemented. The report continues—

“Now that the Government, after a long delay, has chosen its Land Adviser, it remains for him to be clothed with the judicial powers of an arbitrator, or, alternatively, for some judicially trained person to be appointed arbitrator. It would seem that the Premier’s promise cannot be honoured in any other way.”

A further paragraph reads—

“Mistakes in land administration have been multitudinous. Are such mistakes to be allowed to continue ad infinitum? By this reluctance to appoint a Judicial Arbitrator to hear matters in dispute, Mr. Fletcher’s attitude is incomprehensible.”

A further extract has the heading, “Stagnation threatened.” That has been said by A.L.P. members, and by Government members in their campaign speeches. The paragraph reads—

“The whole outlook of the administration of brigalow lands is unimaginative and unrealistic. Recently at Goondiwindi, addressing a meeting of graziers, Mr. Fletcher said that ‘The undeveloped brigalow land is held by lessees’ and that ‘there is no Crown land available immediately for settlement’.

“A fair inference from these remarks is that because the land is held under lease the State will have to wait a whole generation for the lease to expire before real development can start and closer settlement be effected. Could any land policy be more unimaginative? We cannot afford to allow our lands to remain undeveloped when tens of millions of tightly packed people are living nearby.”

That is the warning we of the Australian Labour Party have been giving the Queensland Government and the Commonwealth Government for many years.

The article continues—

“Beef cattle are in short supply.”

That is correct. The graziers were slaughtering every marketable beast and sending the beef to America. They were dollar hungry. Unemployment is rife in the meat industry at the moment. That view is supported by the article I am quoting from this Country Party paper.

This is a further extract—

“There are many ways available to help lessees to help themselves in developing and subdividing their lands to the immense advantage of Queensland.

“One means available for facilitating development would be to permit unprogressive lessees to sell their holdings to persons willing to develop the land, and to condition the transfer with heavy developmental conditions, a new, secure lease being granted to the developers. Another would be to allow subdivisions after development, and thus anticipate closer settlement by a generation.

“But nothing will be done until inertia is banished.

“In its first annual report, the newly appointed Land Administration Commission, consisting of three members, reported proudly to Parliament that ‘the commission has adopted a practice of meeting at least twice weekly’.”

(Time expired.)

The House adjourned at 5.40 p.m.