

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 30 AUGUST 1962**

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**THURSDAY, 30 AUGUST, 1962**

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

**QUESTIONS****APPLICATIONS FOR STATE RENTAL HOMES**

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, 1962, and of these how many have been allocated rental accommodation in (a) houses and (b) flats, with the relevant figures for acceptance and rejection?”

“(3) Is it not a fact that numerous applicants who return to enquire about their applications are told they have lapsed for want of enquiry, although they have not enquired because they grew weary of repeatedly being told there was nothing offering?”

“(4) Is it not a fact that great numbers of prospective applicants leave the Commission without lodging an application because they are told the Government does not recognise them as other than bottom priority with no prospect of an offer of accommodation being forthcoming?”

**Hon. A. W. MUNRO** (Toowong—Minister for Justice), for **Hon. T. A. HILEY** (Chatsworth), replied—

“(1 to 4) The Housing Commission does not set out to provide rental houses other than on a basis of urgent housing need. Any attempt to meet all rental applications including those from people who are reasonably housed would absorb so much money as to compel the cessation of many and an embarrassing drain on most other forms of public activity. When Labour was in power there was an acute

lag of 100 points priority cases. Today such high priority cases are satisfied and we are able to meet many cases of much lower priority, something that never happened in Labour's regime. Answers to the detailed questions are—

"(1) (a) At July 31, 1962, 1,124 which have points priorities and 1,162 of nil priority. (b) At June 30, 1962, 530 which have points priorities and 825 of nil priority."

"(2) (a and b)—

APPLICATIONS FOR STATE RENTAL HOUSES RECEIVED DURING PERIOD, JULY 1, 1961, TO JUNE 30, 1962

Points Priority		Metropolitan Area	Country Centres	Total
100	Families facing ejection, living in tents, huts, or similar unsuitable premises	146	158	304
80	Families living in premises condemned by Local or State Authorities	5	17	22
60	Families separated owing to lack of accommodation	91	94	185
40	Families living under over-crowded conditions and families sharing homes with other people	442	209	651
		684	478	1,162

In addition during 1961-1962 1,335 applications of nil priority—845 metropolitan and 490 country centres—were received. In respect of the metropolitan applications lodged during 1961-1962 offers of 491 houses and 30 flats were made during the year of which offers 402 houses and 24 flats were accepted and 95 declined. During that year a further 812 houses and 36 flats were occupied."

"(3) Applicants are not so told. In respect of applications about which enquiries have not been made for eighteen months or two years, it is the practice to file them separately as 'in abeyance'. When the applicant subsequently makes an enquiry he is required to complete a further application, if his circumstances have materially altered, and his old application is attached to the newly completed form and filed with the live applications, but, if his circumstances have not altered, his application is revived. Applications in respect of which enquiries have not been made for five years are destroyed."

"(4) Many enquirers who have not a real housing need would, after they have explained their circumstances, be informed that their cases would be assessed at a low priority. They are not informed that the Government does not recognise them as other than bottom priority but are usually offered application forms. Many take the forms away but do not complete and return them to the Commission."

#### FISH MARKETING BOARD PREMISES, MARGATE AND SCARBOROUGH

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

"(1) Did the Fish Marketing Board purchase premises known as the Redcliffe Ice Works situated at MacDonnell Road, Margate?"

"(2) If so, what was the purchase price and from whom were the Ice Works purchased?"

"(3) Is it the intention of the Board to use the Ice Works for the processing of prawns?"

"(4) Was permission of the Redcliffe City Council obtained to process prawns before the purchase was decided upon?"

"(5) Does the Board own new and modern premises at the Scarborough jetty?"

**Hon. A. W. MUNRO** (Toowong—Minister for Justice), for **Hon. T. A. HILEY** (Chatsworth), replied—

"(1) Yes."

"(2) £19,000. Gomersall Bros."

"(3) It was."

"(4) Yes, and it was confirmed by the Redcliffe City Council's letter of July 27, 1962. Under date August 22, 1962, the Council has withdrawn its prior approval."

"(5) Yes, but they are inadequate and unsuitable for processing sea foods."

#### REPORT ON CHILD WELFARE

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

"(1) Has the Report of the Committee formed to enquire into Child Welfare in this State been finalised and, if not, when does he anticipate this Report will be in his hands?"

"(2) Will copies of this Report be furnished to Members of the House for their information?"

"(3) Does he think that the information gathered constitutes a sufficiently wide cross-section of professional opinion?"

"(4) Did any professional bodies, whose views were sought by the Committee, refuse to co-operate by furnishing their recommendations and, if so, what were the names of these bodies and the reason for their refusal?"

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

"(1) It has not yet been completed. The Committee under the chairmanship of the Honourable Member for Wavell have worked extremely hard. A tremendous amount of material has had to be examined and evaluated. I had hoped to have been able to bring down legislation based on this report in this session—but as I do not anticipate that the report will be ready in time this will have to wait until next year."

"(2) Yes. I do not wish this report to be regarded as a party political move. The subject is far too important and I think that Honourable Members opposite will agree with this. I am certain it will be a most valuable document."

"(3) Yes. I have no knowledge of any body refusing to give information. Among other submissions were those from all churches, the University, the Australian Medical Association and various sections of the medical profession such as the Royal Psychological Society, from social workers and others interested in social welfare and the Law Society."

"(4) No."

#### PAYMENT OF RATES BY RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

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

"In view of the fact that land held and/or owned by the Railway Department is not rateable by a local authority, what legal or moral justification exists for the Railway Department's insistence that railway employees who rent houses and huts on railway land should pay general rates, which are levied on the land only, in addition to other charges for water, sanitation, cleansing, &c., to the relevant Council?"

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

"The Local Government Acts provide that in the case of land leased to any person by the Commissioner for Railways, such lessee is for the purposes of the Acts defined as the 'owner'. The Acts further provide that land leased by the Commissioner shall be deemed rateable land and that every rate shall be levied by service of a rate notice on the owner. Tenants occupying departmental residences at rental to the Commissioner are 'lessees' and 'owners' within the meaning of the Local Government Acts and therefore are liable to the Local Authorities for the payment of general rates. The payment of such

general rates is a matter between the tenant and the Local Authority concerned. Payment of charges such as water, sanitary, cleansing is for services rendered by the Local Authority."

#### SICK LEAVE IN POLICE FORCE

**Mr. SHERRINGTON** (Salisbury) asked the Minister for Education and Migration—

"(1) What is the procedure adopted for calculating the period of sick pay to which members of the police force are entitled following sickness or injury occurring during duty?"

"(2) How many members of the force have received sick pay for injury during the past five years?"

"(3) What has been the period of payment in individual cases during that time?"

**Hon. J. C. A. PIZZHEY** (Isis) replied—

"(1) Clause 25 of the Police Award—State, sets out the sick leave entitlement of members of the Police Force. Section 2 of this Clause states that every employee who is, in the opinion of the Government Medical Officer, or some other duly qualified Medical Practitioner approved by the Commissioner, unfit for duty as a result of injuries received, or otherwise incapacitated in the execution of his duty, shall be paid salary and allowances in full while so absent for a period not exceeding six months. In cases where a member injured on duty requires sick leave in excess of six months as provided by the Award, it is the practice to obtain the approval of the Ministerial head of the Department to pay full salary and allowances for a reasonable time in excess of six months, depending upon the medical reports of the progress of the member, to enable him to resume full Police duties."

"(2) Three hundred and four (304)."

"(3) The periods of payment in individual cases have ranged from short periods of a few days to some cases in excess of six months. The number of cases in excess of six months during this period was seven (7)."

#### GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, METROPOLITAN AREA

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

"(1) How many Government buildings are at present being built and renovated in the city proper?"

"(2) What are the names of the buildings?"

"(3) What is the amount being expended on each building?"

"(4) How many (a) have been let to contractors and (b) are being done by day labour?"



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

"(1) One (1) Government building is at present being built and extensive building work is at present being carried out at four (4) other Government buildings in the city proper. The work being carried out at the four buildings includes repairs, internal painting, rearrangement of partitions, erection of new partitions, electrical and telephone installations, and provision of new furniture, furnishings and equipment."

"(2) The buildings are—Health and Welfare Building, Administration Building, Morcom House, building occupied by Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, Mineral House."

"(3) £706,558, £135,873, £70,868, £29,531 and £64,392 respectively."

"(4) (a) One (1). (b) Four (4)."

#### MANUAL TRAINING CLASSROOMS, BALMORAL HIGH SCHOOL

**Mr. HOUSTON** (Bulimba) asked the Minister for Education and Migration—

"As there are now not sufficient manual training practical classrooms at the Balmoral High School, proven by the fact that classes have to be held outside normal school hours to fit the limited accommodation, and as an estimate of next year's intake indicates a further large increase in the number of pupils who will take manual training subjects, will he take immediate action to have at least one extra drawing room, woodworking workshop and metal working workshop available for the start of the 1963 school year?"

**Hon. J. C. A. PIZZHEY** (Isis) replied—

"The Inspector of Manual Training reported on the need for this additional accommodation at Balmoral High School. The Department of Public Works has the matter in hand."

#### NAVY BEAN AND SOYBEAN EXPERIMENTATION, ATHERTON TABLELAND

**Mr. ARMSTRONG** (Mulgrave), for **Mr. GILMORE** (Tablelands), asked the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry—

"(1) In an effort to assist the maize growers on the Atherton Tableland, who have suffered varying degrees of loss due to rust damage to their maize crops, will he have seeds of navy bean and soya bean distributed to farmers who desire them for small plot experimentation as I understand both these crops have ready local markets and could provide valuable income, if successful?"

"(2) Could he outline the extent of these markets and the anticipated return per acre for a successful crop?"

**Hon. O. O. MADSEN** (Warwick) replied—

"(1 and 2) The unfavourable weather conditions which are always likely to occur in the main maize growing areas of

the Atherton Tableland will make growing of navy bean and soybean just as uncertain, and risky a proposition as maize in most seasons. Prolonged periods of wet weather especially at harvesting time would prove disastrous to these crops. They require expensive specialised harvesting equipment such as All-crop headers which would add considerably to farmers' capital costs. There is a fairly substantial domestic market in Australia for navy beans and current production is not fully meeting this demand. Total Australian requirements are estimated at about 3,000 tons whilst this year's Queensland crop is expected to provide only 1,300 tons. At present 200 to 300 tons are produced in other States. The price to the grower for cleaned seed is expected to be about 47s. per bushel delivered in store Brisbane. All navy beans grown in Queensland are required to be delivered to The Navy Bean Marketing Board whose address is Whinstanes, Brisbane. There has been a small market in Australia for soybeans for the soyflour and condiment trade for some years. Prices paid for some years were around 45s. to 47s. 6d. per bushel. This market now appears to be oversupplied. The main outlet for further production would be for oil milling and stock feed meal. Prices paid for this trade are currently around 21s. 6d. per bushel ungraded on rails growers' siding stations in Southern Queensland. The development of this aspect of the trade is just getting under way. There are wide variations in yields per acre and in the absence of any reliable guide to likely yields on the Atherton Tableland it is not possible to make an accurate forecast of possible returns per acre in that area. Encouraging yields have been obtained with soybean under irrigation at Walkamin Research Station where conditions are drier. It is important to note that the only varieties which yielded well were introduced, and were bred to be grown where length of day is similar to that existing in North Queensland. Varieties bred for South Queensland have proved quite unsuitable under North Queensland conditions at Walkamin. Very small quantities of seed of the better varieties would be available for use by interested farmers from Walkamin Research Station through the Senior Adviser in Agriculture at Atherton, and should there be an expanding demand the quantity available will be increased."

#### SHIPMENT OF WHITE SANDS FROM WHITSUNDAY ISLAND TO JAPAN

**Mr. GRAHAM** (Mackay) asked the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation—

"Can he inform the House of the circumstances of the agreement that was signed recently between the Bowen Mineral Coy. and Japanese interests in connection with the shipment of white sands from Whitsunday Island to Japan?"

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

"I have no knowledge of the agreement referred to by the Honourable Member. My inquiries reveal that an application has been made by the Bowen Mineral Company Pty. Ltd. to the Mines Department for a mining lease on Whitsunday Island. I will bring the enquiry to the attention of my Cabinet colleague, the Honourable, the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity, with the suggestion that he advise the Honourable Member direct of the current position with respect to this application."

#### WARDS TRUST FUND FOR ABORIGINALS

**Mr. BROMLEY** (Norman) asked the Minister for Health and Home Affairs—

"(1) Does a Wards Trust Fund exist in Queensland for the benefit of aboriginal wards on reserves?"

"(2) If so, do companies which are on, or propose operating, mineral leases in areas where aboriginal reserves are situated and which because of the operations of such leases necessitate the removal of the aborigines to new areas, pay any royalties into this fund from their activities, or are other financial arrangements made to compensate for such removal?"

"(3) If no such fund is in existence, will he have one set up so that royalties and benefits from mining, &c., on such reserves will be deposited in that fund for improvements to conditions for our native Australians?"

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

"(1 to 3) There has been no case where, because of the operation of mineral leases on aboriginal reserves, aborigines have been removed to new reserves. At Weipa the native people have agreed with the Company and the Church that approximately 100 aboriginals should move from the present location of their dwellings to a spot on the Reserve not more than two miles from the present location of the buildings. The Company has agreed to provide improved accommodation, estimated to cost £150,000, and also to give selected personnel employment with the Company. The Honourable Member can be assured that the interests of the aboriginals in the Peninsula and elsewhere will be protected in any future development as has been the case with the Weipa people."

#### ABORIGINAL CAMPING AREA, REDLYNCH

**Mr. ADAIR** (Cook) asked the Minister for Health and Home Affairs—

"Owing to the very primitive conditions under which a group of aboriginals are living at their camping area at Redlynch, will he have this camping area inspected by an officer of the Department of Native

Affairs as early as possible with a view to having suitable housing provided for these aboriginals?"

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

"I am not aware of any aboriginals living in the Redlynch area who are subject to the Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Acts. Possibly there are some coloured people not so subject living there, but I can assure the Honourable Member that investigations into the matter will proceed."

#### DEATH OF MR. G. KEYATTA

##### MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier) (11.28 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late George Keyatta, Esquire, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland.

"2. That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the widow of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland in the loss she has sustained."

I am sure that hon. members who had the privilege of enjoying the friendship of the late Mr. George Keyatta—and there are many in this Chamber—will agree with the sentiments contained in this motion. The late gentleman had long and honourable service in this House. He was returned to the Queensland Parliament at a by-election on 27 May, 1939, and served the State faithfully and well for exactly 21 years, retiring from parliamentary life on medical advice on 27 May, 1960.

During the time in which he was a member of this House, he was noted for the manner in which he carried out his parliamentary duties. He was at all times assiduous in his attendance here and in his service to his constituency and to North Queensland, which he loved so well. He was a friend to all. He was particularly generous and warm-hearted and, as a result, was very highly respected by all of us who had the pleasure of knowing him.

He was also a very public-spirited man, and prior to entering Parliament and during his term here he was closely associated with a great number of charitable and progressive public activities in the city of Townsville, where he was universally popular. He was an alderman of the Townsville City Council for a number of years; he was a leading figure in the Townsville Show Society; he was a member of the Townsville Hospital and Harbour Boards; he took a very keen interest in the surf life-saving movement. His association with sport included Rugby League football and hockey, and for a number of

years he was president of the North Queensland Rugby League and sat on the general executive for very many years. He was known to everybody in Townsville and was highly respected by the people of that area.

He gave a wonderful example of public service during his life-time, not only during his service in this House but also in the other capacities in which he served, and earned the admiration of many thousands of people. He was indeed a very worthy citizen, and the Parliament and the State are the poorer for his passing.

I join with all hon. members in extending our deepest sympathy to his widow and the members of his family.

**Mr. MANN** (Brisbane) (11.27 a.m.): On behalf of the Opposition, I join with the Premier in expressing deep regret at the passing of George Keyatta, and in extending to his wife, family, and numerous friends, our heartfelt sympathy in their loss.

As the Premier rightly said, George Keyatta was a man of the people. He had very high principles and was a loyal and true Labour man. After all, to be a member of a party and be classed by one's colleagues as a true and loyal supporter of that party is something worth while, and it demonstrates that one is a man of high principles. To prove that, I might refer to the occasion in 1957 when, as everyone in this Assembly knows, there was a schism within the Parliamentary Labour Party. George Keyatta was away on a holiday and left his proxy vote with a friend to support the Australian Labour Party. The vote was used in support of another party, and the very next day George Keyatta terminated his holiday and flew back to Brisbane to make sure that he would be at the next meeting to cast his vote in support of the party to which he gave loyal, true, and honest support. I think that demonstrates clearly that he was a man of high principles.

He was regarded with affection and respect by all who were privileged to know him. He had a genial disposition, as the Premier pointed out, and one could say that he was a notable and well-loved figure in the city of Townsville. George Keyatta will be mourned by members of the Labour movement, and I join with the Premier in saying that he served his people faithfully and well.

**Mr. TUCKER** (Townsville North) (11.29 a.m.): I endorse the remarks of the hon. member for Brisbane and join with other members of the Opposition in paying tribute to the late George Keyatta, especially on behalf of the people of Townsville. It certainly came as a great shock to us to hear on Saturday that he had passed away. As the hon. member for Brisbane said, he was probably one of the best-known figures in the Townsville district because he had served the people there faithfully and well in this Parliament for 21 years. Whenever anyone

met him in the street or anywhere else, he always had a kindly word and thought for him. That was certainly true so far as the people of Townsville were concerned. There was nothing he would not do for the most lowly of them. He was very well known in sporting circles in Townsville. In his early life he was a well-known bike-rider in the area and took a great interest in sport generally. To his wife and his many relatives in Townsville, who are all very well known, we extend our deepest sympathy.

**Mr. DIPLOCK** (Aubigny) (11.31 a.m.): In the absence of the hon. member for Carnarvon I should like to associate the Queensland Labour Party with the motion before the House. I support the remarks of the Premier and other speakers. I did not know Mr. Keyatta particularly well, but my association with him during the term I was a Minister justifies my confirming the Premier's statement that he was a man who gave great attention to his duties and who had before him, I should say for the whole of his career, the welfare of his electorate and the wants of all sections of the community which he served. The warm hospitality extended to me by Mr. and Mrs. Keyatta when I visited Townsville will always be a pleasant memory. Members of the Q.L.P. wholeheartedly join in the sentiments expressed and in mourning the loss of the late Mr. George Keyatta.

**Mr. BAXTER** (Hawthorne) (11.33 a.m.): I should like to associate myself with the remarks of other speakers. I was associated with the late George Keyatta for many years in Townsville, first in about the year 1940. He was then air-raid warden in the section in which I resided and it was in that capacity that he first demonstrated to me his kindly disposition and his acceptability to the people with whom he associated.

My next association with the late George Keyatta was in 1953 in this Parliament when I had much for which to thank him in the way of guidance, particularly in my duties as a parliamentarian. He was a very assiduous worker and very loyal to his party and constituents. He was a fearless debater in this House and was not, at any time, frightened to express his views, particularly in relation to the industries that he claimed should be established in that part of North Queensland that he represented. I regard it as a privilege to have been associated in this House with a man of his calibre, and I should very much like to join in the sentiments expressed by other speakers.

**Mr. AIKENS** (Townsville South) (11.34 a.m.): As one who probably had a longer and perhaps closer association with the late George Keyatta than anyone here, I should like to join with the Premier, the Acting Leader of the Opposition, and other hon. members who expressed their sympathy to Mrs. Keyatta and to the relatives of the late hon. member.

I moved from Cloncurry to Townsville in 1930. Although I had known George Keyatta personally before that I got to know him very well after I went to Townsville, because I was then a member of the Australian Labour Party and George Keyatta was an alderman of the Townsville City Council under that party's banner. He was associated very prominently with many public matters in Townsville, particularly the Mt. Spec water scheme and other matters that were in the interests of the city, and I became very closely associated with him as a friend in the political sense. In 1936 he ran for the position of Mayor of Townsville and was very narrowly defeated, losing by only a handful of votes. At that election he worked very hard and used his personal influence to have me returned as an alderman of the Townsville City Council, and I think it was that step that led to my election as a member of this House in 1944.

I was able, only three years later, to repay George Keyatta for the work he had done for me in 1936, because, on the death of the late "Mossie" Hynes, a Labour plebiscite was held and, because of the terrific vote I had received only a month or two previously in the city council elections, when I topped the poll for the A.L.P. candidates, and in fact almost topped the poll for the election, it was considered by many that I had a very good chance of winning the plebiscite and becoming the member for Townsville. But the Q.C.E. of the day knew, of course, that I would beat their particular "pea" and I was refused endorsement. They gave no reason, except those reasons, of course, that we heard on the grapevine. The A.L.P. headquarters in those days always had "Welcome" on the mat for any pimp, informer, or scandalmonger. But they did endorse the late George Keyatta. I was able to repay my little debt of gratitude to him by throwing all the influence of which I was capable behind him in the plebiscite in order that the Q.C.E. "pea" might be toppled, as indeed he was. George won the plebiscite and I unhesitatingly took my place with him on the public platform at that by-election to assist in securing his election to this Parliament. It was perhaps the most scurrilous and contemptible election in which I have ever participated and that is saying something!

At that by-election the late Mr. Keyatta was opposed by three barristers. One barrister, Mr. Paterson, represented the Communist Party, another barrister, Mr. Webb, represented the Protestant Labour Party, and another barrister, Mr. Skerman, who is now the Northern District Supreme Court Judge, represented the Country Party. An anonymous pamphlet was issued with regard to the merits of those three barristers. For filth and scurrility that document was unsurpassed, before or since.

It is, I think, to the everlasting credit of the electors of Townsville in 1939 that they very emphatically rejected the three barristers in favour of ex-wharfie George Keyatta. At least they showed their common sense and good judgment. When George Keyatta came to this House he was perhaps the most popular man that we have ever known in Townsville. He was deservedly popular, not only for the public work he did, but also for the many acts of kindness that he showed to so many people. There are many people in Townsville even today who can remember with gratitude that at Christmas and other times they received a parcel of groceries from George Keyatta. It was his regular practice to go to the suburban storekeepers and others and give them an open order to send parcels of groceries to people who were in need. He will never be forgotten for that.

I was not forgotten, or forgiven either, by the Q.C.E. for the work that I did to get George Keyatta into this Parliament. I was not the only one; I did not do all the work. However, that was the beginning of the end of my membership of the A.L.P.

When George was elected to Parliament—I think I can tell the story—he opened an office on the ground floor of what is now the T. & G. Building. All roads led to George Keyatta's office. People in all walks of life came to him for help, advice, and assistance. Many went there to bite him because he was a soft touch for any sob-story. He was the softest touch people ever had in Townsville. To exemplify the confidence and esteem in which the late George Keyatta was held, I think I can tell the following story. I have been assured that it is true, but even if it is not, the late George Keyatta was held in such high esteem that it could be.

A woman came to him one day at his office. She was nursing a baby. The baby was suckling at the breast. She said, "Mr. Keyatta, I have been told that I should wean my little darling and take him off the breast. I told my friends and neighbours that I would not do anything about it until I asked Mr. Keyatta, and so I have come to ask you, Mr. Keyatta, if you think I should wean my little darling and take him off the breast." George looked at the mother and the baby for quite some time with that benign and paternal expression we all knew so well. Finally he said, "Yes, I do not think it will do any harm if you wean him and take him off the breast." The woman said, "Well, I will take your advice, Mr. Keyatta. I will wean my little baby. I will take him off the breast." Then, as an afterthought, she added, "I will always vote for you, Mr. Keyatta." And the kiddy said, "That goes for me, too, George."

Motion (Mr. Nicklin) agreed to, hon. members standing in silence.

## ADDRESS IN REPLY

## RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

Debate resumed from 28 August (see p. 128) on Mr. Lonergan'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—

(a) due in great measure to your present advisers having failed to take practical and efficacious steps to remedy the disproportionately high percentage rate of unemployment in this State;

(b) the tragedy of thousands of young Queenslanders whose future has been jeopardised by the denial of the right to work, to the detriment of their moral and physical well-being;

(c) the adverse effects to the well-being of the State if the Ford, Bacon and Davis Report is implemented;

(d) the increasing tendency to abrogate the functions of Government to private and semi-private bodies;

(e) the failure of the Government to promote large-scale secondary industries, as promised in their election policy speeches;

(f) the inability of the Government to effectively deal with the increased cost of living;

and, accordingly, we desire to inform Your Excellency that for these, and other reasons, this Government does not possess the confidence of the House'."

**Mr. MANN** (Brisbane) (11.41 a.m.): I rise to support the amendment moved by my Leader and so ably seconded by my colleague, the hon. member for Baroona. In case the amendment is not clear in the minds of some hon. members opposite, I propose to repeat it. This is what it says—

"Add to the question the following words—

'However, it is the opinion of this Legislature that—

(a) due in great measure to your present advisers having failed to take practical and efficacious steps to remedy the disproportionately high percentage rate of unemployment in this State;

(b) the tragedy of thousands of young Queenslanders whose future has been jeopardised by the denial of the right to work, to the detriment of their moral and physical well-being;

(c) the adverse effects to the well-being of the State if the Ford, Bacon and Davis Report is implemented;

(d) the increasing tendency to abrogate the functions of Government to private and semi-private bodies;

(e) the failure of the Government to promote large-scale secondary industries, as promised in their election policy speeches;

(f) the inability of the Government to effectively deal with the increased cost of living;

and, accordingly, we desire to inform Your Excellency that for these, and other reasons, this Government does not possess the confidence of the House'."

The amendment could not be more aptly stated, nor could it have been moved at a more appropriate time. I know, of course, that members of the Government parties will gather to oppose it when it is placed before the House.

It is perfectly obvious that the Government have no plan for the future to provide work for the unemployed. Members of the Cabinet—and in fact all members of the Government parties—like Micawber, are simply waiting for something to turn up. No reference of any kind to plans for the future appears in the Governor's speech. There is nothing in it about the Government's election pledges. Every hon. member on this side of the Chamber, and everyone in Queensland, knows of the statements by the Leaders of the Government parties when they were on the hustings that there would be more jobs than men to fill them.

The prosperity that this State could be expected to enjoy as a result of the Government's policy is not mentioned in the speech. I do not believe that it stirred the breast of any hon. member who listened to it, nor did it in any way stir the imagination of any of the visitors who were privileged to be in the gallery listening to His Excellency deliver his address. The reason is obvious: a large section of the people has been disillusioned as a result of this Government's handling of public affairs. As my colleague the hon. member for Baroona pointed out, the only mention in the speech read by the Governor, prepared for him and presented to him by his advisers, is this passage—

"This season I pray that the patience, courage, and hard work of the men of the land will receive reward in full measure.

"I trust that the revival in our greatest of all industries, the produce of the land, will stimulate secondary and tertiary industries so that our aim of full employment may be attained."

The Government are praying that something may be obtained. That reminds me of the old saying that was current years ago when there were thousands of unemployed—

"Work and pray,  
Live on hay,  
And you will get pie in the sky  
When you die."

That seems to be the policy of the Government and it epitomises their attitude to the unemployed.

**Mr. Ramsden:** Who wrote that?

**Mr. MANN:** The hon. member for Merthyr would not know. He knows nothing whatever about the unemployed. He has no idea of the problem of unemployment and his Government have no proposals for its alleviation.

The Premier in his policy speech talked about a renewal of confidence in Queensland and spoke of capital flowing into the State, and made many other promises that have not been fulfilled. I say advisedly that his Government achieved their victory through proposing a policy during the election campaign that in effect was going to shower blessings upon the people like manna from heaven. They made all sorts of specious promises, not one of which has been honoured. Everyone in the State knows that they have failed dismally to keep them. Unemployment in Queensland has reached an unprecedented level. The figures for the State are the highest for very many years.

I am very sorry to learn that the Minister for Labour and Industry has broken down in health, but I am not surprised that he is ill because he at least tried to put some drive into his Government. He at least attempted to do something to restore the State to an even keel. However, he could not be expected to carry the whole load and, because of the apathy of his Cabinet colleagues, the effort has naturally taken a heavy toll of his health. I regret his illness but unfortunately, as a leading figure in his party, he has to take some of the responsibility that rests on the shoulders of the Government.

**Mr. Sullivan:** Why don't you take your tongue out of your cheek?

**Mr. MANN:** The hon. member for Condamine should be the last to say that. He should be ashamed of himself for sitting behind a Government whose members are so apathetic and who do nothing to help relieve unemployment.

In the "Telegraph" of 10 April appeared an article headed "Young People Need Jobs". No doubt every hon. member on the Government side read it and then turned a blind eye to it. This is what the article had to say—

"One of the most tragic aspects of the economic disruption caused by the credit squeeze is the lack of employment opportunities for young people who have just left school.

"Nearly three months after the beginning of the school year in Queensland thousands of them are still looking unsuccessfully for jobs. Thousands more have gone back to school to continue their education because they have been unable to find a place in industry.

"The financial hardship that is caused by this situation is only one aspect of the problem; boys and girls of this age are rarely the family breadwinners. Most important is the demoralising and frustrating experience of being unwanted when they are eager to become part of the working community."

The Secretary of the Queensland Employers' Federation suggested that the rates of pay for juniors are too high. I suppose he would get the approbation of most hon. members opposite for saying that. The report of his statement goes on to say—

"Employers understandingly prefer the experienced senior when there is not a great deal of difference in the award wage.

"But that is only one part of the picture. If Australia's economic potential were running at full capacity there would be no question of a shortage of jobs for any section. There would be work for every man and woman, every boy and girl who wanted it.

"This is part of the recovery programme that the Commonwealth Government must watch very closely. There has been a fall in the total number of unemployed registered in Queensland since the beginning of the year."

I expected hon. members opposite to say, "Hear, hear!" There has been a fall and we give the Government credit for that, but we say that the position will be again accentuated when the sugar and meat seasons close at the end of the year.

**Mr. Ewan:** Do you hope that that will not happen?

**Mr. MANN:** We do not hope for anything. We ask the Government to do something about it. If they lay down a plan that will provide work for the unemployed, they will have the wholehearted support of the Opposition.

The "Telegraph" article continues—

"It is intolerable that many bright teenagers, willing and anxious to work and with creditable academic qualifications, are receiving their first pay packets in the form of unemployment relief."

**Mr. Row:** What plan did you have?

**Mr. MANN:** The hon. member is really upset. Why does he not get up and defend his Government if he has anything to say? I am saying that the Government have no policy, no plan, and no vision.

This is what "The Courier-Mail" had to say on 10 April, 1962—

"Many teenagers are the losers in Queensland's job dilemma."

Can hon. members opposite deny that? It goes on—

"Thousands of Queensland teenagers are trapped in the State's unemployment dilemma.

"Brisbane employers said yesterday that every advertised vacancy for a junior position brought a flood of replies from young boys and girls out of work."

**Mr. Tooth:** What is the date of that?

**Mr. MANN:** It is 10 April, 1962. I am glad that the Minister for Education and Migration is here. He is going to build schools and build up the education system and standards of study, but, when young people leave school, they cannot find positions.

The newspaper report goes on—

"A spokesman for one of Brisbane's largest firms said yesterday: 'It is pitiful to see the overwhelming response to almost every advertisement we insert for junior labour. When it is a clerical job the number increases many times.'"

"The Queensland Employers' Federation Secretary (Mr. J. R. James) said he had known one case of 200 applicants for the job of junior typist."

That was said by Mr. James, and he is no friend of ours.

**Mr. Sullivan:** How many of those applicants were employed?

**Mr. MANN:** None.

Mr. James went on to say—

"It seemed inevitable that some of the children who left school at the end of last year would be still jobless at the end of the 1962 school year."

I am telling hon. members opposite what Mr. James said; if they do not want to listen, I invite them to go outside. It is no good appealing to their ears because they have no positive plan to do anything. The Minister for Education and Migration does not interject because he knows that what I say is true, and that Mr. James is a man of character who would not give statements to the Press unless they were true. He is not like the hon. member opposite, who wants to sack all the railway men and then deny it.

"The Courier-Mail" goes on—

"A Courier-Mail check at random yesterday of firms advertising for juniors produced this picture:

'Corrie and Co., sharebrokers, advertised on Saturday for a junior male clerk 18-20 Senior pass preferable, written application only—30 applications received by yesterday.

'Acme Rubber Co., Mayne advertised yesterday for a 'strong lad' for factory work—10 lads were waiting for interview at 8 a.m.

'E. J. Dwyer, booksellers, of Queen Street, advertised for a junior female assistant, written application . . . 50 replies, mostly with Junior passes.

'Hicks, Smith and Sons Pty. Ltd., publishers' representatives, Elizabeth Street, advertised for a 'young man' 15-16 years . . . 36 replies, 'mostly good little lads with good education.'

'Herbert Small (Qld.) Pty. Ltd., photographic suppliers, Elizabeth Street, advertised for 'smart youth' to work in their store . . . 25 replies, only two did not have a Junior pass.'

**Mr. Ewan:** Had some of these applied for more than one job?

**Mr. MANN:** The Government are not game to shoulder their responsibility. They have not the courage or the decency to take the word of members of the business community of this State, people who support them politically.

**Mr. Ewan:** I only asked you a polite question.

**Mr. MANN:** The report continues—

"Employers said applicants were a pitiful mixture of boys and girls with good Senior passes, and boys and girls with a bare Scholarship pass.

"But today, all had left school too soon.

"E. J. Dwyer manager (Mr. T. J. Curtin) said: 'We have quite a procession of young people calling into the shop looking for jobs, whether we have advertised a vacancy or not.

"The Courier-Mail' classified advertisements tell the same story."

The hon. member for Maryborough is in the Chamber, and he knows that the report concluded by saying—

"The Maryborough City Council meeting was told last night there were 44 applicants for the position of junior stenographer in the Finance and Town Clerk's departments."

I ask you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as a man of understanding who knows the position thoroughly, has a blacker picture than that ever been drawn? Surely it will cause alarm among all honest people in the community. Under this Government, Queensland has become a graveyard for its youth. Having in mind the facts that I have presented from both the "Telegraph" and "The Courier-Mail," who can view the future with anything but horror? Not only are masses of school-leavers unable to find work, but hundreds more will join them at the end of the year and will also be unable to find work. There will be a hopeless army of young unemployed. The Minister for Education and Migration has now left the Chamber because he has no answer to the question.

Quite recently the Government appointed a committee to investigate juvenile delinquency and child welfare. I believe that the members of the committee did a good job. I give them full marks for it. They went round Queensland and took evidence, trying to find, in their own way, the causes of delinquency and a remedy for it. They submitted a report to the Government. What have the Government done about it?

**Mr. Davies:** Nothing.

**Mr MANN:** Nothing—that is true. I ask the Minister for Education and Migration what he proposes doing for all the young people who will leave school at the end of this year. Has he any plan? The Government have no policy. I was asked a little while ago whether I could suggest something. I believe I can, and I want to make it clear that I have not discussed the matter with the trade-union movement; it is my own idea. If I were a Minister on the Government front benches, I am certain I would stir the Government of which I was a member to do something about this position. I say that the Government ought to establish a junior instruction service where young people who are out of work could be trained for two, three, or four days a week in arts and crafts and domestic duties and so on, and could be paid for this work at award rates and work under award conditions. If the Government were game to set up a youth-training centre, not only in Brisbane but also in other places such as Toowoomba, Rockhampton, and Townsville, where many young people are out of work, it would give them something to do. If they were able to go to a technical college it would at least give them some morale. The hon. member for Wavell, who was a member of the committee that inquired into juvenile delinquency and child welfare, is in the Chamber. He did a good job—I do not want to take that away from him—but I ask him to read the report of the Commissioner of Police for last year. He spoke about the young people who engaged in crime. Why were they engaging in crime and misdemeanours? Because they could find nothing else to do. They had no work to do. Hon. members know the saying that Satan finds mischief for idle hands. If they had somewhere to go where they could be gainfully employed, receiving their wages at the end of the week, they would not be getting into trouble. Labour believes that everyone has the right to work, with fair remuneration. I must confess that the people are disappointed that nothing has been forthcoming to show that the Government have made any attempt to solve the problems of this State. As my Leader remarked in moving the amendment, they are endeavouring to raise smokescreens in order to cover up their failures.

**Mr. Sullivan:** If your party were returned to office, would you be opposed, as you were previously, to secondary education in this State?

**Mr. MANN:** The Labour Party has never been opposed to secondary education. We support it to the full and we will go further than this Government have done in that direction. That is the answer to the hon. member's question. I consider the amendment moved by my Leader to be most timely. The Minister for Labour and Industry, who was the Leader of the Liberal

Party, said in his policy speech, "Give us the opportunity and we will do the job." Yet, what a holy mess has been made of it!

The Country Party-Liberal leaders pledged themselves to maintain full employment in Queensland, and here we find the greatest act of repudiation by the Government. In his 1957 policy speech, the Liberal Leader, Mr. Morris, said—

"We will create a climate for investment in the future of Queensland. We shall attract capital . . . It won't be a matter of finding jobs for men but finding all the men for all the jobs."

**Mr. Ramsden:** That is tedious repetition.

**Mr. MANN:** He said he would not have enough men to fill the jobs, yet today there is more unemployment than ever before in the history of this State.

**Mr. Ramsden:** That is not right.

**Mr. MANN:** I should like to refer to the sneering reference to the striking meatworkers at Queerah by the Minister for Education and Migration in the Assembly the other day, when my colleague the hon. member for Baroona was speaking.

**Mr. Sullivan:** Are you sure he is your colleague?

**Mr. MANN:** My word! They are all my colleagues on this side.

The Minister for Education and Migration made sneering reference to the strikers at Queerah meatworks. Much has been said lately about usage and custom and practice in this Assembly. Let me tell the Minister that there are usages, practices, and customs in the meat industry and one of the main usages, practices, and customs for over 50 years is that the union representative is first on and last off. I am sorry the Minister is not here to hear me but I throw his remarks back in his teeth because I feel that the manager of the Queerah meatworks is endeavouring to break down the customs in the trade-union movement. All those graziers who have been recruited into the meatworks at Queerah are potential scabs. I say that advisedly; those who control the meatworks want scabs to go in. They are defying not only the union but also the Industrial Commissioner. They are getting the support of the Government, and of the Minister for Education and Migration. When they talk about strikes I am reminded of what happened in the past. I like to delve into history and read what was said by the men of the old days—men of integrity and honour. Last night I found this statement by the famous American President, Abraham Lincoln—

"I know the trials and woes of the working man, and I have always felt that in almost every case of strikes the men have just cause to complain."

That is from a man whose eminence I do not think any one of us will attain.



**Mr. Armstrong:** That wasn't yesterday.

**Mr. MANN:** He was a great statesman, which the hon. member will never be. Compare that statement with the sneerings of the Minister for Education and Migration. Let me go further and refer to a great Australian, Mr. Justice Higgins, who said in 1915—

"What is to be done to protect men in the exercise of their rights as free men to combine for their mutual benefit, seeing that the employing class has the tremendous power of giving or withholding work."

How true that statement is. The employers of labour can withhold work. The worker has only his labour to sell. If the employers do not want to buy his labour they will not.

**Mr. Hart:** That is silly.

**Mr. MANN:** That is what is happening at Queerah. The employer is exercising to the full his right to hire and fire, despite what the union is trying to do.

I did not intend to spend so much time on the Minister for Education about the Queerah dispute as it is a Federal matter, but I felt that I could not let the occasion pass without saying something in defence of the members of the Meat Industry Employees' Union, of which, incidentally, I am a member. I have been a member since 1919 and I am proud to be associated with it.

I wish to refer to the new Leader of the Liberal Party, Mr. Munro. I was rather surprised at his election, but, as a member of the Australian Labour Party I am elated. As far as I am concerned they could not have elected a better man. I do not know anyone who is more cold-blooded or calculating when it comes to having sympathy for the poor than the newly-elected Leader of the Liberal Party.

**Mr. Tooth:** The old tactics!

**Mr. MANN:** I will be on the old tactics in a few moments.

In the process of correcting what the Minister said was an injustice to a section of landlords, in his amending of the Landlord and Tenant Act the hon. gentleman paved the way for a much greater injustice in the exploitation of the house and flat tenants in the community.

**Mr. Tooth:** We are beginning to see vacant houses and vacant flats now.

**Government Members** interjected.

**Mr. MANN:** All these stupid, inane interjections will not deter me one bit. I represent in this Chamber more poor, down-and-out people than there are in all the other electorates combined. Under this Government house rents have increased enormously. Only this morning I went out to a house at Herston for which a woman is paying £10 10s. a week rent. For another place,

in 23 Kyabra Street, Valley, a woman whose husband is dying in hospital, and who has four children to care for, is paying £6 6s. a week. Cheaper houses are just not available. The hon. members opposite say this is all nonsense, but I have facts to prove what I say. I get around and meet these people, and I do my very best to help them in their distress and trouble. Rents have increased by 50 per cent. since this Government have been in power and the Minister for Justice abolished rent control. He did the same thing with price-fixing. He almost eliminated it. Hon. members opposite who are wealthy will say that commodity prices have not risen, but the Government Statistician has proved otherwise. Since this Government have been in office the basic wage has risen by over 30s. a week, yet families are unable to maintain the standard of living that they enjoyed under Labour; and the standard is getting progressively worse.

In his speech, my Leader said that under Labour we could boast of having the shortest working week, the lowest cost of living, and the highest basic wage. No-one has denied that. I support that statement, but I am afraid we can say that no longer. Rents have increased, prices of everyday commodities have increased, and the Minister has altered the method of the control of meat prices. The hon. member for Fassifern had something to say about that, and in this morning's Press appeared a statement by one of the wholesalers. The handling of meat is now virtually in the hands of the wholesale trade. The hon. member for Wavell is a family man and he knows that today a person has to pay £3 10s. for a weekly meat order that he could buy for £2 under Labour administration.

During the regime of the present Minister for Labour and Industry this State's industrial legislation was amended. He introduced legislation for court-controlled ballots for the election of union officials. What a mockery and a sham that legislation is! Everyone knows how fraudulent was the proposition on which that legislation was based and how abortive has been the result of the Act, because only a few unions and unionists come under its jurisdiction. The hon. member for Ashgrove knows, because he takes a keen interest in it. That legislation was introduced as a smoke-screen for what the Government were allegedly doing for unions. Everyone knows the attitude of the Minister for Labour and Industry towards trade unions. I am not attacking him personally. I am attacking him as a member of the Government putting forward Government policy. We all know how provocative he was towards the trade unions and we know that he has no understanding of the conditions of workers employed in industry, nor does he understand their outlook. His action on the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act with respect to the lead bonus at Mt. Isa is positive proof of his attitude.

**Mr. Tooth:** Do you agree with the hon. member for Belmont on bonuses?

**Mr. MANN:** I have not heard the hon. member for Belmont expound his views on bonuses, but he has been a trade-union official and knows much more about the trade-union movement and propositions put forward in the Industrial Court by the unions for a bonus than the hon. member for Ashgrove.

I point out that mechanisation and standardisation have multiplied the output of wealth to an extent undreamed of in the past, yet, in a world definitely richer than ever before, the living standards of many of the workers have fallen. The struggle for existence today is just as hard and intense as it ever was, and it is getting worse and worse under this Government.

**Mr. Ewan:** You have a very poor memory if you say that. Do you remember the conditions that prevailed 20 years ago?

**Mr. MANN:** The hon. gentleman is a man of affluence, a man of money and of property, and he does not understand the trials and the tribulations of the unemployed worker.

**Mr. Ewan:** Do you?

**Mr. MANN:** My word I do! I may not have been in his area but I have travelled over almost all the State. I have not lived only in Spring Hill. I have worked in the Gulf, in the North, and all over the place. In my younger days I travelled over nearly every stock route in the country and in 1929, when it was impossible to find work, I was one of the army of unemployed. I had a wife and seven children and I had to go to the police station at Roma Street every week to collect my rations. I make no bones about it. I am not ashamed of it. I was forced into it by the Government of the day—a Government of the same colour as this Government.

**Mr. Dewar:** Didn't you do it under a Labour Government?

**Mr. MANN:** No, I did not.

**Mr. Dewar:** Yes, you did. You carried your swag. You did it under a Labour Government and you know it.

**Mr. MANN:** The hon. member asks me if I know about the trials and the tribulations of the working man.

**Mr. Ewan:** You claim they are worse off now than they were then?

**Mr. MANN:** There are thousands of them as badly off today as there were then.

**Mr. Ewan:** Nonsense!

**Mr. MANN:** It is all very well for the hon. member to say "Nonsense!" What are the Government going to do for an unemployed worker with a wife and four children? Their interjections only go to

show that hon. members opposite do not want to know. They do not understand and they will not be told.

**Mr. Ewan:** You remember when you were cowboying out there.

**Mr. MANN:** I notice that I have only five minutes to go and I have many other subjects to deal with. In moving the amendment, my Leader made reference to the Ford, Bacon and Davis Report on the Queensland railways. "The Courier-Mail" on 17 October, 1961, reported protests when the closure of railway workshops was first mooted, and, under the heading, "Angry over Threat to Rail Workshops", it said—

"Possible closure of railway workshops at Cairns, Maryborough, and Warwick has caused angry protests from local organisations."

I think the Government intend to close down the workshops and to discontinue a number of passenger services, and also to increase by 6d. or more rail fares between Central Station and all suburban stations, and I think all the other recommendations in the report will be carried out. That will mean less employment for the men of the Railway Department. Already the Government have made an unholy mess of transport. There are more than 2,000 fewer employed in the railways today than when they took office. The record of the department is that, apart from the reconstruction of the Mt. Isa line, no undertaking of any importance has been commenced by this Government.

It is reported on the grapevine that if the Government are successful at the next election they will implement to the full the proposals contained in the Ford, Bacon and Davis Report. Let them deny that.

It is also rumoured that there will be wholesale retrenchments and that the Legislative Council will be restored. They could not resist the temptation to use the Council Chamber for the opening of this session of Parliament to see what it looked like.

It is rumoured that if they are returned the term of Parliament will be extended to five years and that there will be the complete destruction of arbitration. Moreover, they will put into operation Mr. Morris's threat of greater punitive powers to deal with the trade-union movement.

Before I conclude, I want to refer to the establishment by this Government of a committee to go into the system of voting that might be adopted at the next election. They have appointed Mr. Knox, Mr. Munro, Mr. Richter, and Mr. Camm.

**Mr. Ramsden:** You are wrong again, of course.

**Mr. MANN:** I am not wrong.

**Mr. Ramsden:** That is the trouble with you; you do not get your facts right.

**Mr. MANN:** Frankly, I believe that though the Government have appointed Mr. Munro, it will be the voice of Munro but the hand of Hiley.

There will be a hidden hand in it; the hon. member for Chatsworth will be sitting behind the throne and directing it. He will be the king. The voice will be that of the hon. member for Toowong, but it will be the hand of the hon. member for Chatsworth. I am sorry that he did not co-opt Mr. V. C. Gair to the committee to give advice and direction. He has made quite a mouthful of it and of what he would do. He believes that he has something to sell to the Liberals, and therefore they are prepared to bargain. They have already done that by giving him a job at £50 a week. Now he thinks that he can bargain on his political future.

**Mr. Sullivan:** What is your belief on preferential voting?

**Mr. MANN:** I feel that preferential voting gives two bites of the cherry to the minority.

**Mr. Sullivan:** You do not agree with it?

**Mr. MANN:** I am not concerned what the Government do, nor am I worried about it. The hon. member asked me a question and I answered. The minority are able to vote for a man who may be defeated, and then for another one. I do not care what the Government do, but the workers of Queensland must be warned about the tactics of Mr. Gair and the Santamaria group. I know that the Country Party will not have anything to do with them, but I feel sure that members of the Liberal Party want Mr. Gair and the Santamaria group to assist them to retain office. The workers of Queensland must be warned of the plot that will be organised by Santamaria and Gair in an effort to influence the Liberal Party to bring in preferential voting.

Finally, this Government have resorted to every possible political trick to stay in power.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. RAMSDEN** (Merthyr) (12.22 p.m.): After listening to the speech by the hon. member for Brisbane, I shall try to bring the Chamber back to a more constructive line of thinking.

As is customary in the Address in Reply, I desire to associate myself with the hon. members for Flinders and Wavell, who moved and seconded the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Opening Speech. May I say at this stage that I express the gratitude and the happiness of the people of Merthyr in the knowledge that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is to visit us again in February and March of next year.

There has been some criticism of the fact that Brisbane has again been chosen as the only place in Queensland to be visited by

Her Majesty. That, of course, has been well and truly taken up as a catch-cry by the A.L.P. aldermen in Toowoomba. Those with a sense of responsibility realise that, as Her Majesty will have only a short time here, many of the provincial centres will be disappointed. If we as citizens are to have the privilege of more frequent royal tours, we will have to readjust our thinking on the methods of conducting them. Those who have tried to cover this vast State in a limited time will appreciate the tremendous burden and strain that a full royal tour imposes upon Her Majesty. Perhaps the best thing would be to take the provincial cities in turn, and on any subsequent royal tours visits to cities other than the capital might be an acceptable compromise. The important thing is that once again the Queen of Australia is to visit her Commonwealth.

I also want to place on record the deep appreciation of the people of Merthyr for Her Majesty's graciousness in extending the period of service of Sir Henry Abel Smith as Governor of Queensland for a further three years at the conclusion of his present five years of office. My people are more than happy to know that His Excellency is to continue to give to this State his Vice-regal services. It must indeed be gratifying to both His Excellency and Lady May to know the high esteem and affection which they have earned for themselves by hard work and diligent application to the burdens of their high office.

Having said that, may I now say publicly to the Minister for Labour and Industry, because of the words that have been used by various members of the Opposition during the debate, how sorry I am personally that his health has deteriorated, forcing him to relinquish the leadership of the Parliamentary Liberal Party after many years of hard work and strain. I know that I am expressing the wishes of the great majority of fair-minded people, which may or may not include some hon. members opposite, when I say that I hope the Minister will shortly be restored to his former health and strength.

**Mr. Mann:** I can assure you that we all support you in that.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** To the Minister for Justice, who has taken over the reins of leadership, I publicly extend my good wishes and the hope that he will be given strength to serve for many years as the Leader of the Liberal Party in office.

**Mr. Bennett:** What have you to say about unemployment?

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** I am coming to that in a moment. If I may say so, the hon. member who interjected would know more about what goes on here if he spent more time in the Chamber.

Technically, of course, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am speaking to the amendment of the Leader of the Opposition, which seeks to advise His Excellency that Parliament and the people no longer have confidence in the Government and His Excellency's advisers. This, of course, is an annual attempt made by the Leader of the Opposition at this time, as is his move when a budget is presented to reduce the salary of the Aide-de-Camp by £1, although he well knows that he has no earthly chance of convincing Parliament that the Government have not the confidence of the House. Let us be honest. If Parliament had no confidence in the Country Party-Liberal Government—I hope hon. members will listen to this—then indeed a state of political chaos would exist in Queensland, because there is not any other party sitting in this Assembly that Parliament could support to supply an alternative Government. A party that sits in Opposition, still struggling with factions within itself and led by a Leader as irresponsible as the hon. member for Toowoomba West, would be a poor alternative to the present Government. The people of Queensland well know that, like most Labour propaganda, there is not one scintilla of truth in the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition and supported by hon. members opposite.

Having said that, I turn now to the main purpose of my speech today. Speaking on Supply on 12 October last year, I advocated the construction of under-water tubeways under the Brisbane River. If hon. members turn to "Hansard", volume 230, page 692, they will find that on that occasion I said—

"I believe plans must be prepared to extend Sugarmill Road at Eagle Farm, or a road in that vicinity to another tubeway to take the heavy industrial traffic from the Whinstanes, Pinkenba, Meeandah areas whose destination is the south side, and which could then completely bypass Breakfast Creek, the Valley, and the Story Bridge. I point out that when looking at Sugarmill Road we find it is close to Bulwer Island and behind that, the whole of lower Nudgee will eventually become a great industrial area full of heavy industry. Sugarmill Road is not in a built-up area. It is an excellent position for a north-south freeway for a very small cost of resumption."

**An Opposition Member:** Why don't you stick to your own electorate.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** That interjection shows the petty smallness of hon. members opposite. They want me to operate the parish pump. They do not want me to deal with anything that may be of general benefit to the community.

**Mr. Aikens:** You spoke about Magnetic Island last year and we did not object. You had a pair of pink pants on and we did not object.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** It is interesting to note that the Town Plan which was published for public study and objections a few weeks after I made that speech, provided for four new bridges and one traffic under-water tunnel or tubeway, and it is more interesting to note that the tubeway in the Town Plan is in the general area about which I spoke.

Following that speech my proposals were considered by a number of companies and organisations strategically placed and situated in the area that would be serviced by one of the tubeways I had suggested.

**Mr. Houston:** What companies were on the Bulimba side?

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** If the hon. member will contain himself, and be quiet and listen, he might learn something, if he is capable of assimilating it.

**Mr. Walsh:** Why don't you hand your speech to "Hansard"? You would save all this time.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** If I did that I would deny the Opposition the opportunity of coming in. For the record, some of the organisations and companies that became interested in this matter of tubeways are: The Council of Progress Associations of Brisbane plus a number of individual progress associations, such as Stone's Corner and District, Hamilton-Ascot, Manly District, to quote a few; The Brisbane Chamber of Commerce Incorporated; The Brisbane Development Association; Sandgate and District Chamber of Commerce; oil companies such as Neptune Oil Co. Ltd., B.P. Aust. Ltd., Ampol Petroleum (Qld) Ltd., Amoco Aust. Pty. Limited; The Petroleum Information Bureau (Aust.); and Southern Electric Authority of Queensland.

Each of those organisations evinced real interest in the proposals I had put forward for a traffic under-water tubeway in the Hamilton-Eagle Farm vicinity and, indeed, most of them were favourably impressed by what I had said. Lest it be thought that what I am saying has no real basis in fact, let me record some of the expressed reactions to my proposals for under-water traffic tubeways, particularly that one proposed for the vicinity of the Sugarmill Road area, Eagle Farm.

In a letter received from the Council of Progress Associations of Brisbane, dated 5 December, 1961, the secretary wrote—

"At our last meeting your speech on the proposed tubeway crossings across the Brisbane River was discussed. All speakers were in favour of your idea and delegates have asked me to write to you and thank you for all you have done and are doing in this matter."

The Stone's Corner and Districts Progress Association, on 2 March this year, wrote regarding my speech on this subject saying, "We appreciate your efforts."

The Hamilton-Ascot Progress Association on 8 January, 1962, wrote—

"We hope you will continue to urge a tunnel for the traffic as our members have for many years considered that this is the only way to speed up the traffic proceeding through the city."

On 12 February, 1962, the Manly District Progress Association wrote more fully on their opinion of tubeways as opposed to bridges, and the sites I mentioned. I should like to read that letter in full. It comes from the Manly District Progress Association, dated 12 February, 1962, and says—

"Dear Mr. Ramsden,

"The above association has instructed me to write and advise you that your suggestion of 'tube' crossings raised keen interest, and the result of our deliberations are as follows—

(1) That success of tube crossings entirely rests on the practicability of the trench method of construction;

(2) That tubes are preferable to bridges where possible to construct.

"Brunswick Street Tube

"This tube would undoubtedly reduce congestion at the approaches to the Story Bridge.

"It would cater for traffic going to the Valley and all northern suburbs, not only from the areas you mention, but also from the Cleveland, Redland Bay districts, and a percentage from the Eight Mile Plains-Logan Road area would travel via tube.

"The Redland Bay-Capalaba traffic could travel via Tingalpa-Balmoral and tube.

"The Logan Road traffic could branch off at either Creek Road or Stones Corner and travel via Old Cleveland Road (in the case of the Stones Corner route) and travel via Bennetts Road and tube.

"We also feel sure it would relieve the holiday pressure on the Pacific Highway.

"Here we suggest that traffic from the 'coast' to the northern suburbs would leave the highway at either the Mount Cotton or Creek Road turn-offs, thus avoiding contact with the tramlines, which undoubtedly would considerably ease the present congestion when contact with trams are made.

"Easement to a lesser extent must also affect the Bruce Highway.

"Sugarmill Road Tube

"The town plan suggests that a vehicular ferry should ply from Links Avenue supports your claim that a tube from Sugarmill Road would be suitably placed. But a ferry must be looked upon as a temporary substitute.

"In brief we support both the tubes and the sites selected and we would prefer to see the Brunswick Street chosen in preference to the bridge from Kangaroo Point to the 'Gardens'.

"Sincerely hoping that you meet with success in your advocacy for the tubes,

"(Sgd.) H. R. Lenihan,

Hon. Secretary."

Further support came from the Sandgate and District Chamber of Commerce in a letter dated 6 February, 1962, in which the secretary wrote—

"I was instructed to inform you that we are earnestly in favour of any scheme for cross-river traffic which would relieve the present heavy strain on the Victoria, Story and Grey Street Bridges. We certainly consider that further provision for relieving the growing traffic confusion is very vital and urgent, particularly as this applies to the cross-river flow of traffic south-east of the Story Bridge. We trust that your efforts in Parliament will ultimately meet with success."

Mr. Davies interjected.

Mr. RAMSDEN: Hon. members opposite really put their foot in it if you listen to their silly interjections. The hon. member for Maryborough has been trying to say all day that they are going to be the next Government. Now he says that after the next elections they will not get it. How silly does he think the people are?

Similar encouraging comments and letters flowed in from oil companies in support of my advocacy of under-water tubeways. For example, Neptune Oil Pty. Ltd. wrote on 14 December, 1961, as follows:—

"Your suggestion to give access across the river by submarine crossings is logical and it appears that this would only be incapable of fulfilment due to engineering problems or cost, should the latter exceed the cost of providing normal overhead crossings. It is apparent that provision must be made to cross the river below the Story Bridge and any such crossing should, we consider, be planned now. In your address to Parliament you appear to have covered the matter fully and we cannot add anything further to your statement. We agree however, that this move should be made at an early date for the good of Brisbane and the Commonwealth."

B.P. Australia Limited, on 7 December, 1961, wrote as follows:—

"My company is interested in any scheme which will improve the traffic flow of our city, and consequently, the economics of our distribution and I commend you for your constructive thoughts on this matter."

Similarly, the Queensland Branch Manager for Amoco (Australia) Pty. Ltd., wrote as follows on 5 December, 1961:—

"The diverting of heavy industrial traffic originating from the Whinstanes, Pinkenba and Meeandah areas, from Breakfast

Creek, the Valley and the Story Bridge, in the writer's opinion, was an idea well demonstrated and worth considerable merit."

Summing up the views of most of the major industries in the area under review, the deputy director of the Petroleum Information Bureau (Australia) wrote to me on 22 December, 1961, in the following terms:—

"May I commend you on your diligence in examining the traffic problems of our State so carefully. It is obvious that in Brisbane, as in other major cities, advanced planning is essential if the traffic problems of our growing community are to be solved efficiently. I will watch with interest developments which may follow your proposition on river tubeways."

I wish to be fair about this and because of that I want to read from a letter received from Ampol Petroleum (Q'ld) Pty. Ltd., which does not agree with my views in their entirety. Ampol wrote on 6 December, 1961, to this effect—

"We fully appreciate the need for extending the existing means of crossing the Brisbane River from north to south either by bridge, tubeway or ferry, and depending on its position, we confirm that considerable savings could be effected on distribution and vehicle costs apart from the important factor of time. With specific regard to the tubeway proposal, we query whether petrol tank wagons would be permitted to use a tunnel, although we are aware that in some cases it is permissible overseas. Finally it is our opinion that a bridge presents the more economical proposal and the most likely to succeed under the present conditions."

I quoted that letter because I want to tell the truth about the reactions in industry to my speech on tubeways. I will leave comment on the views expressed in that letter till a little later, when I deal with the economics of my proposals. Ampol expresses two doubts; first, the economics as between a bridge and a tubeway; and, second, as to whether or not petrol-tankers would be permitted to use a tubeway.

I have taken some trouble to quote the expressions of opinion of the oil companies in this area as their transports, in particular, have no little influence upon the increasing amount of heavy traffic from the Hamilton district and points further east through the residential Hamilton area, Breakfast Creek Bridge, the already over-burdened Ann Street-Valley area, and the Story Bridge, on the way to the south side. No doubt, with the establishment and operation of the Bulwer Island refinery in the not too distant future, this type of traffic will increase proportionately.

However, in addition to benefiting these companies the provision of a tubeway in the vicinity of the Sugarmill Road area would be of benefit to the Southern Electric Authority of Queensland if it were granted an easement through one of the ventilating shafts to take

power lines from Gibson Island power station across the river instead of having to follow the southern side of the river to the Story Bridge, over that bridge, and thence back on the northern bank to a point directly opposite Gibson Island power house.

No doubt a tubeway would be similarly welcomed by gas authorities, who also would be able to have an easement to take their mains from one side of the river to the other.

What I have said so far will indicate that the proposals I made in the Chamber last October have met with the approval and support of a large body of responsible people and organisations concerned with the alleviation of traffic congestion in the near future. I repeat that an underwater tubeway at Hamilton-Eagle Farm would undoubtedly relieve the pressure on Breakfast Creek, the Valley and Story Bridge and consequently Woolloongabba by diverting a large proportion of the present traffic flow from those areas through the more direct tubeway with its saving of anything from seven to 15 miles' travelling time and cost on each and every trip, both going and returning.

I was present at a meeting of the Hamilton-Ascot Progress Association, which met a day or two after 11 August when the following news item appeared in "The Courier-Mail"—

"World Quest for a Brisbane Car Ferry

"The Brisbane City Council was conducting a world-wide investigation for a vehicular ferry, which it proposed to operate between Bulimba and Hamilton, the works committee chairman (Alderman Doyle) said yesterday.

"Alderman Doyle said the type of ferry being sought would be like a landing barge. The new cross-river connection was being planned because of increasing traffic from the growing industrial areas at Hamilton, Eagle Farm, and Pinkenba.

"Aim was to relieve the Breakfast Creek Bridge, Kingsford Smith Drive, and near inner city streets like Wickham Street and Ann Street.

"It appears difficult to obtain in Australia the type of ferry we want', Alderman Doyle said.

"A bridge could not be built there because it would interfere with shipping.

"A tunnel under the river would be the answer to the problem—the road plan of the Town Plan made provision for one—but it would cost millions of pounds."

Let me say that Alderman Doyle's statement that it appears difficult to obtain such a craft in Australia is nonsense. I have every confidence that Evans Deakin in Brisbane could build it. No doubt the hon. member for Maryborough, who is always decrying the fact that Walkers' shipyards do not get orders, will hasten to tell Alderman Doyle that the locally-built craft can be obtained.

**Mr. Davies:** Don't you decry it, too? Why do you ridicule my actions when you know the facts?

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** I am trying to help get employment for the workers of Maryborough, and I hope the people of Maryborough will take notice of the hon. member's interjection that he does not want Walkers Ltd. to be considered.

To say a bridge could not be built there is right, but to say that, though a tunnel is the obvious answer, it would run into millions when in all probability a tunnel could possibly cost less than a bridge to build, is to accept a defeatist attitude.

Vigorous discussion took place at that Hamilton-Ascot meeting about this world-wide search for a vehicular ferry and it was unanimously decided to oppose this proposed return to the horse-and-buggy days by our civic fathers and the association asked me to register its protest in this place on the grounds that—

(1) The setting up of a vehicular ferry was a reversion to the thinking of the horse-and-buggy era and would itself create further traffic bottlenecks with long lines of vehicles waiting to board the ferry;

(2) Consideration of a vehicular ferry crossing in that part of the Brisbane River was an immature approach to the growing problem of Brisbane's traffic and it would be outmoded and insufficient almost from the time it was effected;

(3) Because of this latter fact, any expenditure on a vehicular ferry would be a wasted expenditure which, in the public interest, should be more properly invested in a permanent solution of the problem, and a tubeway was that solution;

(4) Maintenance and running costs would be incurred on a vehicle which, by its very nature, would become obsolete in a few short years.

Only a day or two ago I had a letter from the Hamilton-Ascot Progress Association dated 27 August, 1962. It reads—

"Dear Mr. Ramsden,

"With reference to a recent article which appeared in 'The Courier-Mail', 11 August, 1962, regarding a world search for a vehicular ferry which the Brisbane City Council proposes to operate between Bulimba and Hamilton.

"As an association which is interested in the continual development of this area and knowing you have always been interested in the building of a tunnel to disburse the traffic efficiently to avoid congestion, we feel rather disturbed at this repeated suggestion of a vehicular ferry.

"It is true a tunnel must cost some millions but is it not possible that 25-30 year franchise could be granted to a company? It is a foregone conclusion that it would pay for itself easily, the cost of

using it would be offset by the saving in time and petrol; it would definitely reduce bottlenecks in the Valley and reduce the traffic on the Story Bridge and we feel would obviate the necessity for another bridge up river.

"A ferry must cost about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a million pounds, in flood time it would more than likely have to close down and would be a liability.

"May we hope you will keep these aspects of the proposal before the State Government and save a public waste of money and an inefficient handling of a serious problem.

"Yours sincerely,

"Mrs. L. W. Vines,

"Hon. Secretary."

On behalf of that association I now register my protest against the scheme of the Brisbane City Council for a vehicular ferry at Hamilton. Since the publication of that news item, I have done considerable research into this particular problem in that area. The estimate of costs of the association is fairly accurate. Since that meeting, I have ascertained from my investigations that a ferry of the type necessary and capable of carrying up to 40 vehicles would cost something in the vicinity of £200,000 to £250,000, whilst the cost of each approach on either side of the river would be approximately £100,000, making a total of almost £500,000 to install an outmoded form of transport that would create additional traffic congestion and, indeed, would be obsolete within a few years.

Let me remind hon. members that vehicular traffic is increasing in the Greater Brisbane area by more than 10,000 vehicles a year. If that figure is doubted, I ask hon. members to look at "Brief Survey of Queensland's Economy," Bulletin No. 16, of August, 1962. These are the figures for new motor-vehicle registrations, excluding motorcycles, in Queensland from August, 1961, to the latest figure available—

August, 1961	..	..	2,628
September, 1961	..	..	2,540
October, 1961	..	..	2,580
November, 1961	..	..	2,734
December, 1961	..	..	2,691
January, 1962	..	..	2,376
February, 1962	..	..	2,571
March, 1962	..	..	2,784
April, 1962	..	..	2,822
May, 1962	..	..	3,474
June, 1962	..	..	3,636
July, 1962	..	..	3,783

A total of 34,619 over the last year, a third of which would apply to the Greater Brisbane area.

There is a reply to the hon. member for Brisbane, who tried to tell the House that this country was going the short way to a depression.

**Mr. Mann:** So it is.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** Unless we act now as a matter of urgency in facing up to this tremendous upsurge in traffic, the traffic of Brisbane 10 years from now will slowly grind to a halt because there will be no breathing room for traffic movement.

This matter of a tubeway in the Eagle Farm-Hamilton area is fast becoming a matter of vital urgency. In my talks with engineers on this subject, some have said that a bridge in the area would be cheaper, but they have qualified their remarks by saying that unless Eagle Farm airport was transferred to another site, a bridge high enough to let shipping through would constitute a hazard to aircraft. It must be agreed that, even if the Commonwealth decided to move the airport, the total cost involved would probably make the cost of a tubeway not only economic but, as an alternative, sound like a bargain.

At this point I wish to quote from a news item that appeared in "The Courier-Mail" of Tuesday, 21 August, 1962.

**Mr. Hughes:** Whose responsibility is it—the Council's or the Government's?

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** I ask the hon. member to listen. The report says—

"The Brisbane Town Plan provides for a near-£10 million outlay on four new bridges over the Brisbane River and a traffic tunnel beneath it for an estimated population of one million in the next 19 years.

"Two of the bridges, costing at least £3 million each, would join the central city with South Brisbane.

"The Lord Mayor (Alderman Clem Jones) said last night that planners were definite that urgent thought must be given to construction of one of these."

I suggest to the Government and the Traffic Commission that they appoint a specialist committee of engineers to look into this important question of the crossing of the Brisbane River in the Eagle Farm area to see whether or not a tunnel would be practicable there and to ascertain the economic cost of it. I further suggest to the Government and the Traffic Engineer—this has a vital bearing upon unemployment—that if such a tunnel was built, 200 men could be employed on the project for a considerable time.

I have heard interjections from both sides of the House asking who is going to pay for the tunnel. Let me say that this scheme need not cost the Government or the Brisbane City Council one penny. It could be built in exactly the same way as the Hornibrook Highway and the Indooroopilly toll bridge were built. Hon. members are objecting to action which in the past has led to some alleviation of unemployment. We should call world tenders to build an under-river tunnel in the Hamilton-Eagle Farm area and give the successful tenderer a franchise for toll for 30 to 50 years, according to the cost involved. It will not

cost the State anything, it will not cost the Council anything, and it will give employment to up to 200 people who are now unemployed and about whom hon. members opposite are so worried. If they are sincere, they will rise and applaud this suggestion and ask the Government to appoint such a commission.

When the question of cost arose in connection with the Liverpool-Birkenhead tunnel, engineers estimated the cost of a bridge across the Mersey at £10,500,000. The cost of a tunnel under the Mersey was £6,500,000. So let us not talk any more about these economic costs.

I earnestly call upon the Government, first of all, to have my proposals investigated by a specialist committee of engineers and, if they are found to be sound, to call world-wide tenders from firms with experience in this type of engineering work to go ahead and construct a tubeway on the basis that the constructing body should meet all costs and in return receive a franchise to collect tolls for a period that will make its construction an economic and attractive proposition.

**Mr. AIKENS** (Townsville South) (2.16 p.m.): I regret very much indeed that this is the last session of Parliament that will be honoured by the presence of the hon. member for Clayfield, the present Chairman of Committees. In the years that he has been here I have formed a very high opinion of him and have become his very close friend. I remember when he entered the House in 1947. It was mentioned in the Press at the time that he had had a very distinguished career as an artillery officer and that he had won the Distinguished Service Order in the march on Kandahar with Lord Roberts.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! If the hon. member intends taking up the time of the House with facetious stories, I shall object very strongly. My patience has been exhausted by the hon. member's attitude, particularly the wasting of time in telling little jokes. If he persists in making a butt of the Chairman of Committees I shall ask him to resume his seat.

**Mr. AIKENS:** I regret that your idea of good humour, Mr. Speaker, does not coincide with mine.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member is continually making a butt of the Chairman of Committees and I will not tolerate any more of it.

**Mr. AIKENS:** Very well. If that is your ruling, Mr. Speaker, I will of course abide by it, irrespective of my personal view of you and your ruling. However, I wish to say that my speech today will be in constructive criticism of the Education Department.

**Mr. Duggan** interjected.



**Mr. AIKENS:** If the Leader of the Opposition wants me to recount a disgusting incident I could have told this morning, I shall be very happy. I remember very well that under the Labour Party the Education Department was the pariah dog of all Government departments. It was starved for funds, and consequently the education record of previous Labour Governments was nothing for anyone to be proud of.

When the present Minister for Education was elevated to that position I waited to see how he would react to the shabby treatment that he had received from the Labour Party's Education Department, because I very clearly remember the present Minister for Education coming to Townsville as the first Director of Adult Education. The Labour Party sent him there to establish the adult education classes in Townsville. They refused to give him one brass penny for advertising purposes. They refused to give him any transport, with the result that he had to have roneoed hundreds of copies of what the Adult Education Branch proposed to give the people, and then, in the middle of a steaming North Queensland summer, get on his own bicycle and ride round from door to door in Townsville, putting these roneoed articles in the letter boxes of the people. That was a shocking indictment of the Labour Party's education policy. I suppose the Minister resents the way in which he and other teachers were treated by the Labour Party and that is why he is, without doubt in my opinion, the best Minister for Education this State has ever seen.

If any of the city-slicker members of Parliament doubt that that statement is based on fact and truth I invite them to go to Townsville, or perhaps any other provincial city, to see the work that has been done in the education field under the present Minister for Education. As I said, I intend to engage in some constructive criticism, not of the Education Department itself but of the way in which our boys and girls are educated, particularly in the secondary schools.

I shall lead my remarks in by telling the House of a case presented to me some time ago by a man who had borrowed the sum of £2,606 from Custom Credit Corporation Ltd. to buy a home for himself and his wife. He brought his young wife along with him when he came to see me. He had to make 31 payments of £27 10s. a month, which would amount to £330 a year. Over a period of 15 years, which was the term of the loan, he would have repaid £4,950 to Custom Credit. Taking away from that the £2,606 of the original debt, Custom Credit would have raked off £2,344 profit on that one small loan alone over a period of 15 years. Of course, while the man was paying off the £330 a year they would have continued lending that sum again to other unfortunate people who were compelled to borrow money from them. What their profit would have been, not only from the repayment of the original loan but also from the repayment

of the amounts paid in by this man which would be re-loaned by Custom Credit, no-one would ever be able to work out exactly. After he had paid this £27 10s. a month into Custom Credit for something over two years, he was fortunate enough to have a bank take over his liability at Custom Credit. So he went back to Custom Credit in Townsville and asked them what he owed them. He knew he had already paid them £852, but to his astonishment he was told that, of that £852, he had paid only £88 off the loan, the other £764 being the rake-off up to that time for Custom Credit. He asked for and received a statement from Custom Credit.

I do not know whether any hon. member is aware of the racket and the rort—if I may use that term without offending you, Mr. Speaker—that is embodied or embraced in this flat rate of interest. He was told that he borrowed this money at 6 per cent. flat rate. When he asked Custom Credit for a statement of account so that he could take it to the bank that was taking over his indebtedness, they gave him a big sheet of paper on which were several figures. If you held it at arm's length without your glasses—if you are unfortunate enough to wear glasses, as you and I do, Mr. Speaker—this graph, if I might call it such, appeared to be an hour-glass tilted at an angle. It transpired that the 6 per cent. flat rate charged by Custom Credit on this loan worked out at 11.8 per cent. ordinary interest. So the man came to me. He asked me what I could do about it. I told him that I would make some inquiries. Incidentally, he asked me if I thought the Government knew that this racket was going on. I wrote to the Minister for Justice. I will make this man's name and address available to any hon. member who wants it, or to the Press if they want it, but I am somewhat reluctant to have it incorporated forever in the pages of "Hansard".

In my letter to the Minister for Justice, written on 3 May, 1962, I said, among other things—

"Mr. and Mrs. So-and-so asked me if the Government knew that this sort of thing was going on. I told them the Government rarely took me into their confidence as to the extent of their knowledge of these, and several other matters that are causing deep concern among the people of Queensland, and I promised that I would write you and give you the information supplied me by them, and ask for your comments."

I pause here to tell hon. members that, in addition, this man had to pay £12 a year for a life insurance policy taken out with a life insurance company, a subsidiary of Custom Credit. Besides paying them £27 10s. a month interest and redemption on the loan he had to pay £1 a month for a life insurance policy with the subsidiary company, he had to pay £15 a year for storm and tempest insurance, he had to pay £65 a year for council rates, and, I suppose, being a sensible man, he put aside at least £1

a week for painting and repairs. That would amount to £330 a year for repayments—interest and redemption, £12 for life insurance, £15 for fire, storm and tempest insurance, £65 for council rates, and £52 a year put aside for painting and repairs, making a total of £474 a year, or £9 2s. a week. In addition, he would have to meet the cost of electricity and gas, which would work out at approximately £1 10s. a week. So, before he paid for food, clothes, and recreation, or provided for any other aspect of life for himself or his wife, he would be paying out £10 12s. a week.

**Mr. Houston:** Yet you support this Government?

**Mr. AIKENS:** You chided me, Mr. Speaker, possibly with some justification, for my inanities and facetious remarks. Could you, Mr. Speaker, imagine anything more puerile, anything more stupid, anything more inane, anything more facetious, and anything more plain rat-baggy than the interjection of the hon. member for Bulimba? I will tell the hon. member something that the present Government have done about this matter that his Government would not have the guts to do.

**Mr. Bennett** interjected.

**Mr. AIKENS:** I am getting an interjection from the hon. member for South Brisbane, who, so far as I know, is in the Chamber for the first time this session. There cannot be any cases in court. He, although he claims to be a Labour man, earns £6,000 a year at the bar, £3,000 a year as member of Parliament—taking the bread and butter out of other men's mouths—and until recently was also a well-paid alderman of the Brisbane City Council.

Let me continue in the interests of the people of Queensland and not in the interests of those peculiar people who sit on my right.

**Mr. Dewar:** One man, one job!

**Mr. AIKENS:** Don't talk to any Labour member about that. If we speak about one man to three jobs we talk to them in language they understand.

This is another bad aspect of the hire-purchase companies that I know the hon. member for South Brisbane, being, shall we say,——

**Mr. Bennett:** I am not like you.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. AIKENS:** The hon. member for South Brisbane, being, shall we say, a back-bencher of the legal profession, knows what I am leading up to and he is trying to steer me off. He likes to protect the legal profession in all the rackets and rorts they indulge in, and in which he himself probably indulges.

This man about whom I have been speaking was forced to go to Custom Credit's solicitor in Townsville, Mr. George Roberts Junr., for all the conveyancing and legal work on the transfer of the home and the arrangements for a loan from Custom Credit for him. Of course the solicitor, being the solicitor for Custom Credit Corporation Ltd., did not tell the unfortunate buyer of the ramifications of the 6 per cent. flat interest rate; but if these people had the right to go to their own solicitors or their own legal advisers it is quite possible that they would learn something. So you see the tangle unfortunate people get into when they are forced by economic circumstances to borrow money from these hire-purchase vultures.

After the bank took over the loan I put the matter in the hands of the Minister for Justice. I wrote to him on 3 May, 1962. As an example of my good faith I will make the letter available to the hon. member for South Brisbane or any other member who wants to read it. It is quite long and I do not want to waste any of my 40 minutes reading it. I have already read the penultimate paragraph. I put the whole of the circumstances to the Minister for Justice and, as a result of his swinging into action on the matter, already Custom Credit have refunded to this man more than £100 which they filched from him, and they have written to him claiming that the sum was extracted through a series of clerical errors. It is remarkable how these hire-purchase sharks and others can find these clerical errors in the interests of their clients the moment the Minister for Justice or some other responsible person begins to breathe down the back of their neck.

Only the other day I had a case in Townsville of a man who came to me with his income-tax return, which had been compiled by an allegedly reputable firm of income-tax agents in Townsville. He showed it to me and I said, "You should not be paying that amount of income tax. You should be exempt from all income tax under the age provisions, so take it back to your income-tax agents, point that out to them and ask them what they intend to do about it." He came back to me and said, "It's all right, Tom. They are going to fix it up. It was a clerical error." "But," I said to him, "it was a clerical error that was going to cost you £27 4s." just as the clerical error made by Custom Credit in this particular case, had the Minister for Justice not started hot and heavy on their trail, would have cost this unfortunate man over £100, which he has already been refunded.

This is the point I make—and I may not take up the whole 40 minutes of my time.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. AIKENS:** I can understand the constant chattering of hon. members opposite because, while they profess to be on the side of the little people who are compelled to go to

these financial vultures in order to borrow money for their homes and their washing machines and their radios and the various other things they need to make life pleasant—while they profess interest and concern for their welfare—the exact opposite is the case; they are really on the side of the financial vultures and on the side of those who bleed the people white. Otherwise, why are they so venomously and viciously interjecting, keeping up this running fire of interruption, while I am trying to expose Custom Credit, one of these financial vultures, for the way they robbed a man and a woman in my electorate? Why are they coming out on the side of the vultures and against the worker?

This is the suggestion that I make. I led up to it by quoting the actual case that has prompted it. It has been going round in my mind for some time. If anything is going round in the mind of the hon. member for South Brisbane it is going round in a vacuum, and if anything went through his mind it would not have a very long journey. But for some time I have been convinced that our secondary school curriculum, particularly with regard to mathematics, is still part of the fabric of social snobbery that we inherited from the last century, and perhaps from the Edwardian era. Boys and girls are taught today, particularly in secondary schools, things that will be of no earthly use to them when they leave school, and that have no relation whatever to present-day living standards. I suggest that the Minister for Education should give some consideration to my suggestion to reorganise the teaching in secondary schools to fit pupils to face the problems that will confront them when they go out to earn their livings, marry, and rear families.

Here is an algebraic problem that I ran into in one of the examination papers for last year—

$$(x^2y^2z^2) (z^3+y^3+x^3)$$

What on earth does that mean? At least I waded through it for over two years at high school, and I received very high passes. I was not drummed out of any school in my life for being a dope or an imbecile. At least I had a very high scholastic record in the schools that I attended. I was one of the youngest ever to pass the Scholarship; I passed at 11 years of age. I went back to the Charters Towers High School the other day for its 50th Jubilee, where I had an honoured place as the first pupil ever to enrol there. I learnt all this gibberish when I was at high school, but what use is it to me now? What use is it to 9,999 boys and girls out of every 10,000 who complete their secondary education, one month after they leave school? The hon. member for Maryborough was a school teacher—and, in view of your ruling, Mr. Speaker, I am not going to direct any facetious remarks to him—but I guarantee that he would not know the first thing about it now. If he could go to a piano and strike A

natural or B flat or C sharp, that would be of some use, but this  $X^3$  and  $Y^3$  and  $Z^3$  is all more or less bunk, and everyone knows it. Of what use in the teaching of boys and girls today, even though they have to wade through it, is geometry? I remember I was discussing only the other day with the hon. member for Burdekin the theorem of Pythagoras.

**Mr. Bennett:** That is not the way to pronounce it.

**Mr. AIKENS:** Hon. members opposite can pronounce it how they like. How do they know how the old Greeks pronounced it? Were they living at the time? We know that the theorem is simply that the square on the hypotenuse of a right-angle triangle is equal to the sum of the squares on the perpendicular and the base, but what earthly use is that to me, or to you, or anybody else? I doubt if anyone except a science student would even remember it or have any occasion to use it.

We drag through the study of Latin for two or three years. As a matter of fact, I am still pretty glib in it. When all is said and done, who uses it after he leaves school? Even members of the medical profession do not use what we were taught at school; they use a sort of dog Latin of their own.

**Mr. Bennett:** The legal profession use it.

**Mr. AIKENS:** Then translate this for me—

“Cactoblastis glorioso floribunda pericardium cerebellum gorgonzola ponderosa hocus-pocus habeas corpus rigor mortis.”

What does that mean? The hon. member has not a clue, yet it is one of the most famous Latin quotations in history.

**Mr. Bennett:** It means that “Tory Tom” is a dope.

**Mr. AIKENS:** It might mean Colin Bennett is a dill but he just does not know what it means.

Students learn, of course, the principle of Archimedes—that if a body be immersed in water the loss of weight sustained by that object is equal to the weight of water displaced, and they are told that from that the specific gravity of any substance can be worked out. Who wants to work out the specific gravity of a substance when he can go to any one of 50 reference books and find the specific gravity of any substance under the sun? That is the sort of thing that our high-school students are being taught today. They are given trick questions in the Scholarship mathematics paper, and trick questions in the Junior and perhaps the Senior mathematics papers. I remember the hon. member for South Brisbane coming to me with a problem that a person in his electorate had met in the Scholarship. I can understand his confusion, because I was just as confused as he was when he showed it to me. It was this: if a hen and a half takes a week to walk a fortnight, how many

apples are there in a bunch of grapes, and should unmarried crabs have nippers? That is the sort of question the children get in Scholarship papers. It is absolutely useless to them when they leave school.

Why are they not taught something that will be useful to them? Let us get down to serious considerations for a moment. If girls and boys are to be taught mathematics at the secondary schools, why is not the mathematics curriculum based on problems that they will meet when they go out into life and start to work and begin to rear a family? Why are they not set mathematics problems based on the racketeering flat rate of interest? Why are they not taught how the greedy, grasping, predatory hire-purchase companies can load them with debt when they build their home or buy a washing machine or a car? Why are they not set mathematics problems so that they will learn what they will have to pay out if they buy a car, not only for interest and redemption, but also for insurance of all forms—comprehensive insurance, third-party insurance, and so on? Why are they not taught the staggering impact of depreciation on the value of motor-cars and everything they have to buy? When they leave secondary school they have heard of Bartholomew Diaz, and Magellan; they have heard about Pocahontas; they have heard about Vasco da Gama; they have heard about David Livingstone. But they have no idea of the business scoundrels who are sitting in palatial offices waiting to fleece them once they leave school and start to earn their own living. If we are to continue teaching them mathematics—I hope we are—let us have mathematics based on the facts of life. Let us educate our children so that they will know something of the problems they will have to grapple with.

Many men and women who came to see me were people who, like myself, had gone through secondary school. When this man showed me the graph that he had received from Custom Credit Corporation Ltd., he could not understand it. I will be honest enough to say that I did not have a clue as to what it meant, and when he took it down to the officer at the bank that took over his indebtedness from Custom Credit, he did not have a clue, either.

**Mr Houston** interjected.

**Mr. AIKENS:** No wonder they call the hon. member "bauxite deposit". He is the biggest weeper in the House. If something does not suit him he starts to grizzle and growl like a bull-seal on heat. If hon. members opposite have a constructive suggestion to make or a constructive interjection to make, I will try to answer it. When I stand up in this Chamber I believe in telling the truth.

Neither the man nor I nor the bank officer could work out the graph prepared by Custom Credit. It was not until I sent the case to the Minister for Justice and he got his comptroller of money lenders, Mr. Kehoe, on the job and Mr. Kehoe began

to swing the big stick around the head of Custom Credit Corporation Ltd. that they admitted that their own graph was a muck-up and that they owed the man over £100, which they have since reimbursed to him.

While we are on the subject, it might be a good idea if secondary school pupils were taught, too, about some of the legal rorts and rackets that go on. Let them have a look at the graphs dealing with damages, which show that £16 out of every £100 awarded by the Supreme Court goes into the pockets of the barristers and solicitors. Let our secondary-school pupils be taught about that shocking rake-off by the legal profession. Out of every £100 awarded in damages by the Supreme Court, £16 goes into the pockets of barristers or solicitors. Let them be taught the difference, for instance, between statute law and judges' law, something that very few people know anything about unless they care to make a study of it, as I have done.

My plea is to turn children out from secondary schools with some knowledge that will assist them in life. We know very many of them go through to Senior or to the University. Most of them go to Junior and then leave school, get a job and battle their way through life as we have battled our way through life. For goodness sake do not let us turn them out like babes in arms, for some of these business men, who, like sucker-fish on the bellies of sharks, are waiting in their palatial offices to bleed them white. Let us tell them of the problems they will have to face. Let us tell them honestly about the scoundrels in the business world who are waiting to fleece them. Let us give them some idea of how a balance sheet is made up. Let us give them some idea of how share issues are juggled. Let us give them some idea of bonus shares, of how profits and dividends are arrived at. Let us tell them how they compute interest in the business world today, instead of being done as we would do it at school and as pupils today are probably still doing it at school, that is, that if you buy something for £50 and sell it for £75 you make 50 per cent. profit. Today the business people say that if you buy something for £50 and sell it for £75 you have made only 33½ per cent. profit because they base the £25 profit as being related to the selling price of £75 and not the buying price of £50.

Those are things our children should be taught in school so that if they take up a balance sheet when they are asked to subscribe to a share issue, or if they go to borrow money, or if they go to do any of the ordinary things a young man or woman has to do through life, they will know what they are up against.

What is the use of them going to a hire-purchase company or even to a bank or a share-broker's office, or even into a barrister's chambers, and saying, "Look, this fellow is not going to put anything over me, because when all is said and done I know how many

wives the old salacious King Henry VIII. had. I had a first-class pass in ancient history and I could do all the algebraic questions and the geometric problems put to me when I was at secondary school." In fact, however, he knows virtually nothing when he has finished his mathematical education at our State secondary schools.

It has been said that education is designed to teach a pupil to think. Perhaps that is fairly sound in one way or another but, while we teach them to think, can we not teach them to think about the things that will confront them as they go through life?

That is my plea to the Minister for Education. I am particularly pleased to see him in the House. I am particularly pleased to have been able to pay him this personal compliment.

**An Opposition Member** interjected.

**Mr. AIKENS:** If I wanted to tell the hon. member something about education I could tell him about the University College and the Pimlico High School in Townsville, about both of which I did something. I am not going to claim full credit for the establishment of either or both, but I will say that when the Labour Government were in office it was very fortunate for the people of Townsville that I was a member of this Assembly, because that 35 acres of land in Pimlico that was reserved for educational purposes was considered as redundant by Labour Government after Labour Government. They could not see any hope or future for the educational development of Townsville, and on one occasion a scheme was almost drawn up ready for signature to hand that land over to an estate agent in Townsville for subdivision into building allotments.

**Mr. Wallace:** Nonsense.

**Mr. AIKENS:** We go down to Surfers Paradise and those places and see trained seals that make funny animal noises that sound to me like "Nonsense". That is the sort of thing we get from the Opposition. Every time one makes a statement that is of interest to people that they know is true and cannot contradict they sit over there like trained seals and make animal noises. The hon. member for Cairns would look rather well with a ball perched on the tip of his nose while he made animal noises.

Had it not been for my action at the time there would have been no 35 acres of land left in Townsville on which the University College and the Pimlico High School are erected today. I have told the complete story from the public platform without the protection afforded me in Parliament. But as far as hon. members opposite were concerned, they could see no educational future in Townsville. They could see no development in Townsville. According to them it was not going to grow very much. When I first entered Parliament the late James Larcombe was Minister, or Acting Minister, for Education. I do not want to

say anything against a man who is dead, but I had to plead with him to buy the allotments on which the stumps had already been delivered to build private houses, for extensions to the Hermit Park State School. He said, "Tom, you are talking about Townsville going ahead. There is plenty of room there." Luckily, I convinced them and they bought those allotments. In fact they bought one from the son of a man named Gregory, who was the manager of McKimmins. Anyone who goes today to Hermit Park, where there is one of the biggest schools in the city, can see three private houses that have been erected in what should have been the school grounds. I could not stop those three houses from being erected because they were already half up, but I prevailed upon the late Mr. Larcombe to stop anyone else building houses on what today are the Hermit Park School grounds. When the present Minister for Education came up to Townsville I met him when he came off the plane. I asked him about two allotments on the other side of the street. He built for me, and for the infants of Hermit Park, one of the finest infant schools in the State on two allotments of land—just 64 perches. But the Labour Government could not see any future in the development of Townsville. Let Labour members go up to Hermit Park and see the three private residences that they allowed to be built on the school grounds, small as they are.

**Mr. Dewar:** You would never have had the University at Townsville if Labour had been the Government.

**Mr. AIKENS:** We would not have had the University because the Government would not have had the land. The Labour Government were going to sell the land. I told the story here in the presence of the Minister for Public Lands at the time. They were also going to take the School of Arts from the Townsville City Council and give it to the Townsville Regional Electricity Board. When the Brisbane city slickers opposite start to grumble about what the Government have done—sometimes they are joined by some of their colleagues from the North who do go back to their electorates now and again, although nobody ever seems to be able to find them when they are there—let me say that I take my hat off to the present Minister for Education. I am not very happy about the administrative and other actions of some of the other Ministers of the Crown, but if hon. members opposite can go through the history of the Queensland Parliament and find a man who has done more for education in the country than Jack Pizzey has done, I should be very pleased to hear of it.

In conclusion, I repeat my offer to Labour members: if they want to know what has been done in one provincial city alone by this Minister for Education, let them come up to Townsville—if they happen to know where Townsville is. If they do not, let them go to the platform at Roma Street and ask one of the porters which train will

take them to Townsville. If they send me a telegram I shall be waiting on the platform at Townsville to say, "This is Townsville, a town that you probably have never seen or heard of before." I will take them round and show them what has been done. In the term of this Government I have had three new schools erected in my electorate. In this 12 months alone, £70,000 is being spent on additions to three other schools in my electorate. If I did not pay tribute to the man who has done all that, not for me but for the children of Townsville, I should be churlish and an ingrate. Hon members opposite can be what they like.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. Pizzey:** What about the £100,000 that has been spent in the electorate of the hon. member for Salisbury?

**Mr. AIKENS:** They would not be grateful for that.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! If hon. members on my left continually interject, I will have to deal with some of them.

**Mr. AIKENS:** I do not know whether or not this is done; it may be a breach of confidence or unethical. I invite the Minister for Education and Migration to go through the files in his department and read all the representations that were made by A.L.P. branches in Townsville to prevent the erection of the Kurrajong School. There is the test. They wrote the then Minister for Education and Migration and said, "Do not give Aikens a school at Kurrajong. He is getting enough political propaganda already. If you build him a school at Kurrajong we will never hold him; we will never defeat him. So do not build the Kurrajong school." They were prepared to sacrifice the children of Kurrajong for their dirty, cheap political-propaganda stunt. It is there on the records and if the Minister cares to look it up and produce it to the House, I will stand or fall by what is in the records in the Minister's department. Labour members were prepared to let the children of Kurrajong go without a school rather than build one that might give me some political propaganda or might build me up in the opinion of the people. The people of Kurrajong know all about this; you can't fool the people on the spot. That is why, on the last occasion I contested the election in that area, I received 800 votes to 200 votes polled by the A.L.P. candidate.

**Mr. Sherrington:** They are all Tories there.

**Mr. AIKENS:** If they are all Tories there, why did the hon. member for Townsville North get a majority there at the last election? It is not bad, getting the hon. member for Salisbury to admit that the Tories voted for the hon. member for Townsville North. I do not mind if they did, but the hon. member is stupidly trying to say they are Tories. The electors voted

for me because they recognised the good job I did and they knew the dirty miserable tactics adopted by the A.L.P. about their school.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. WINDSOR** (Ithaca) (2.57 p.m.): There is no doubt that my speech will be rather tame after the one we have listened to from the greatest dramatic orator I have ever heard. I join with other hon. members in the expressions of loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty and affirm my loyalty, together with that of the people of my electorate. I wish also to congratulate Sir Henry Abel Smith on his opening Speech, and also the mover and the seconder of the Address in Reply, the hon. member for Flinders and the hon. member for Wavell, respectively.

I am sure that the many schemes and plans enumerated in the Governor's speech touch only the fringe of the great development that the State and its people may expect from our progressive, go-ahead Government. It is indeed a tremendous task to build up a run-down business that has been on the down-grade for 38 years under respective socialist governments. Thank God, those days have ended and the people again are feeling freer and have greater confidence in the future. Their support, and financial investment, will certainly help to make the waste land of the brigalow scrub blossom like the rose. In other words, what have been waste lands for many decades will pay the people of Queensland dividends in the form of production for overseas markets, increase their export earnings, and so help to keep the high standard of living we enjoy in this wonderful State.

There is a matter I should like to bring before the House. Many people glibly and quickly condemn the Commonwealth Government for what they should have done. Here are a few good things they have done.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! Hon. members on my left continue to heckle. It is not permitted under the Standing Orders. I have already warned them once, and if it continues I will have to deal with them.

**Mr. WINDSOR:** Among the contributions the Commonwealth Government have made to help industry, particularly to bring plant up to date, is the 20 per cent. investment allowance together with 7½ per cent., which is the normal depreciation for the engineering industry. That means that for the first year with new plant and machinery we are entitled to claim 27½ per cent., which gives people a good incentive to invest in new plant and machinery. It has certainly proved to be a great incentive to the engineering and other basic industries of the State, and that has already become evident by the confirmation of many orders we have received for plant and machinery.

**Mr. Ewan:** Providing employment all the time.

**Mr. WINDSOR:** That is so. The whole time I have been a member of this Assembly I have advocated this allowance because I realise that if we are to have a chance to compete successfully against overseas manufacturers and keep our own men in employment, we must have the most up-to-date machinery available. There is no doubt that we have the men capable of doing the work, and we should encourage them by doing all we can to keep our plant moving. In addition, we are thereby enabled to earn overseas credits.

Another forward step was taken by the Commonwealth Government early in July last year when they brought in legislation for export sales promotion, encouraging people to export goods, and encouraging manufacturers to send representatives on trips overseas. The Commonwealth allowance of £4 for every £1 spent has proved a great incentive to industry. A firm would be very foolish indeed not to take advantage of such an opportunity to learn more about local methods and requirements. I am conscious of the great need to keep up to date on world standards. My son has been round the world and has come back with a wealth of information and orders for export. This is of tremendous help to us and I am sure our future sales will quickly increase.

We were a little disappointed that there was no relief from pay-roll tax but again we can earn that deduction or discount by export sales. For every 1 per cent. of our turnover that we can export, we get 12½ per cent. allowance on our pay-roll tax. Consequently if we can export 8 per cent. of our turnover, which does not seem an impossible task in Queensland, we get a total abolition of our pay-roll tax. That means in other words that our small firm alone could employ all the year round another three engineers for what we could save in that field.

**Mr. Aikens:** How many men do you employ all told?

**Mr. WINDSOR:** Mind your own business.

I have been a little disgusted during the last few days listening to the different types of Socialism that have been introduced into this Chamber. We have had the A.L.P. type, the Democratic Socialism type, and the Communistic type. It does not matter what title they use; they all aspire to the same end. I shall give these gentlemen a little inside information on some of the things that go on in other countries. We have working for us two New Australians from satellite countries who have informed us that after they had finished their day's work—and they work longer hours there than here—a lorry would come along and pick them up, with no "ifs" or "buts", and take them away to do four hours' work at night-time twice a week for the great Soviet State, and for nothing. If they complained in any way, they were given short shrift.

We read in the Press only two weeks ago that in a certain village, after complaints about the high prices of commodities, 500 people were taken out, lined up, and shot.

**Mr. Houston:** Where?

**Mr. WINDSOR:** The hon. member knows all about it; he read about it in the Press. That is how people in that particular country are treated. I cannot understand people in this House, and outside it, advocating Socialism after hearing of atrocities like that.

Here now is one of the bright happenings. A young lady who was adopted by this country many years ago—she came from overseas with her parents—has given Australia one of the greatest advertisements that any country could have. We have had the joy of seeing and hearing Miss Tania Verstak, who has brought honour and prestige to Australia through her wonderful conduct and behaviour, and the wonderful words that she has spoken about Australia. I should say that she has done more good for Queensland and Australia among the 50 nations of the world than has any other single person. What a joy it was to read of and see her achievements, how modest she was, and the great credit that she gave to the land of her adoption. How different it was from the attitude of hon. members opposite who have done nothing but cut our country to pieces and bite the hand that feeds them!

I suggest that industry in Queensland, and particularly in Brisbane, would be greatly assisted if we had roads capable of carrying our products to different points, such as ports or railheads, without any unnecessary loss or cost added to them. I have brought this matter before the House before, but down Pinkenba way, in the area about which the hon. member for Merthyr was speaking today, development is proceeding that I would say is making it one of the greatest industrial areas of the Commonwealth. The way in which buildings are being erected there is quite fantastic. At least two a week seem to be going up; and they are not small buildings, but some hundreds of feet long. What is going to happen if we do not have access roads to take our goods out?

**Mr. Houston:** What do you think of the tube under the river?

**Mr. WINDSOR:** Very good. I have been through the Mersey Tunnel and I know all about it. It would be the cheapest method in the long run. It costs industry a great deal of money when delays occur because roads cannot be used in wet weather. Good roads would reduce that cost. If the Government and the Brisbane City Council will only get together and give us roads capable of taking the tremendous loads that will surely be running on them within a very short time, they will have done a great service to the State of Queensland.

I am very concerned about the way in which a certain minority section in our community has been allowed to disrupt basic industries, thereby tending to reduce the high standard of living that we enjoy. I can give a few instances of this. After World War II, men would not load ships. They had the world at their feet in those days because sea transport was the cheapest form of transport and shipping freights were low, but they cut their own throats by continuously delaying ships and disrupting commerce. In another instance an industry in New South Wales that employed 700 men was destroyed by the men themselves through their own pinpricking and sabotaging action.

**An Opposition Member:** Which firm was that?

**Mr. WINDSOR:** If the hon. member wants to know the name of the firm, it was Mort's Dock. When it was too late, the men squealed to high heaven for the Arbitration Court to save them, but they had killed the goose that laid the golden egg and the Court could not do anything to help them. No doubt it is tragic for those 700 men, but do the Democratic Socialists, the A.L.P. Socialists, or the Communist Socialists care? Not on your life! There is always a shout of joy in Moscow when a basic industry in Australia is smashed.

It is to be hoped that the Opposition will very shortly see the light and help industry instead of knocking it at every opportunity. They were a sad body of men when the Premier introduced a £28,000,000 scheme for the Mt. Isa railway, and when the Minister for Labour and Industry introduced a Bill providing for the establishment of the Amoco refinery I have never seen so many white faces. I suggest that each of us should at least be loyal to his own State and do what he can to retain our high standard of living. This is a wonderful country, and to be a free man is to be a strong man.

I congratulate the Minister for Justice on his appointment as Deputy Premier, and I promise him the same loyal and conscientious support as we gave to the former leader, Mr. Morris, a man who worked tremendously hard without any thought of appreciation or reward. He did his job faithfully and well and played the game, and all I ask of all hon. members is that they should play the game for Queensland.

**Mr. HART** (Mt. Gravatt) (3.14 p.m.): On Tuesday afternoon, I think it was, when I was not present in the Chamber—I was at the Synod of the Church of England—a challenge was issued to me by the hon. member for Baroona. I know that he would have done it whether I was here or not, and he was probably sorry that I was not here. He had sought to ask of me a question that contained virtually what he

said when issuing his challenge. According to the proof of his speech, he said—

“I realise that there is some difficulty when a member of Parliament holds an outside position, and that the views stated on behalf of the association are not necessarily his own views, but I challenge the hon. member to tell us whether he endorses the call by the Bar Association for an open inquiry. If he does he is very much offside with his own Government, and should get up and say so if he accepts his responsibility as a member of Parliament. If not, he is very much offside with his own Bar Association.”

I have said on many occasions that when I speak in this House I do not in any way speak as president of the Bar Association. When I have the honour to do that I speak on behalf of at least one hon. member opposite, but when I speak here I speak as the member for Mt. Gravatt. I understand that I have been asked whether my views as member for Mt. Gravatt coincide in this matter with the views of the Bar Association, and I am going to say that they do. I am not running away from anything I said as president of that very honourable association. At the same time, I disagree with the premise of the hon. member for Baroona that, by saying that I agree with those views, I put myself offside—to use his expression—with my colleagues in this Parliament, because all my colleagues believe in free speech and in the right of the individual to express himself.

**Mr. Hanlon:** Would you have got up and expressed yourself in this way as a member of Parliament if I had not forced you to?

**Mr. HART:** The answer to that is that I did express myself and that was that. I expressed my views. I never run away from them. However, there are two principles involved in this matter and I have taken some trouble to think them out. The first is that if there is any suggestion from a judicial quarter that justice has not been properly administered, there should be an open and public inquiry into the matter. That, I believe, is a principle that should be observed in this country. But another principle is involved. If there is any question of the prosecution of any person for an offence, that person should not be first cross-examined publicly with respect to the matter, and that irrelevant and prejudicial matter should not be given publicity before the trial. I think that is also a principle that should be observed in this country.

Now let us see what the judges did say in the Plomp case. They said—

“These circumstances wear a sinister look but they may be capable of an innocent explanation and no doubt a proper official inquiry will be made into them.”

The judges did not say there should be a public inquiry. They did not say there should be an open inquiry.



The Bar Association expressed the view that there should be a public and open inquiry. I may say that that view was expressed and conveyed to the Government before they made their decision on what sort of inquiry to hold. The Government did hold an inquiry by a person who was completely independent. They appointed Mr. Arnold Bennett, Q.C., who is not a person in the Government service; he is outside that service altogether. But they did not appoint an open inquiry. The Court did not ask them to do so. There is a great deal to be said for what was done. Much has been said about the way in which people may be prejudiced by publicity before their trial. In fact, the judges in the Plomp case said this—

**Mr. Hanlon:** Don't cloud the issue.

**Mr. HART:** I am not clouding the issue. They said—

"At the time of the trial there was great prejudice against the appellant who as every jurymen must have known had recently been convicted of murdering his wife.

"The Judge strongly directed the jury as to their duty of impartiality, but the prejudice was so unprecedented that no-one could be fully confident that the Judge's words dispelled the prejudice."

In answering the question directed to him the other day, the Minister for Justice said—

"The great prejudice to which the Reasons for Judgment refer was no doubt created by the great publicity which was given to the preliminary proceedings against Plomp in the Lower Court."

In the Plomp case much prejudicial material was given. One statement was made that he said that the best way to get rid of a wife was to drown her. Thereafter the judge ruled that that statement was not admissible in evidence against him. But that fact would have been known to every jurymen. The point is that if you create a great deal of public prejudice against a man before his trial it is almost impossible for him to get a fair trial. A judge can give all the warnings he likes but he may as well give the warnings to members of Parliament. Once you get a prejudice in a person's mind nothing can eradicate it. It is in his subconscious mind and cannot be taken away.

It will be remembered that for many years there were murmurings that all was not well in the Department of Public Lands under the administration of the Labour Government. There were murmurings that graft was going on. Finally, Senator Wood made accusations in the Federal House about graft in the Queensland Department of Public Lands. Thereupon there was an open inquiry. At one stage it became apparent that a charge might lie against the Minister for Public Lands. Immediately that became apparent, Mr. Justice Townley—no greater judge ever sat on the Queensland Supreme Court Bench—adjourned the inquiry so that a trial

could take place. After the trial, Mr. Justice Townley resumed the inquiry. The reason he adjourned the inquiry was that he was of the opinion that had he gone on with it at that stage Mr. Foley would have been prejudiced in his trial by the opinion in the public mind.

**Mr. Aikens:** And they appointed Hickey to hear the case. That was the farce.

**Mr. HART:** I am not making any remarks about Mr. Hickey in that particular case. Under the Act, Mr. Foley could have been tried before a jury. It was a matter for the Government. I am not criticising them for what they did. It was a matter for them whether they brought Mr. Foley before a jury or a magistrate; they chose to bring him before a magistrate. The point I wish to make is that Mr. Justice Townley adjourned the proceedings immediately he saw that there was a person to be tried. Although there may be room for a difference of opinion, in deciding whether you should proceed in public or in private the question in every case is this: has a case been made out against any particular person, or is it likely that a charge will be brought against any particular person? In the Plomp case it was narrowed down to a small number of people who were guilty, if anyone was guilty at all. Often it is a matter in which either view could be taken. But I make it quite clear that I think the administration of justice is so important that if any query at all as to whether justice had been properly administered has entered into the public mind there should in general be a public hearing. That is my view. In certain cases there should not be a public hearing, and by this I mean that it is not desirable that if there is to be a trial there should be a public hearing in the first place which may prejudice it. That happened recently in Sydney over the murder of Dr. Yeates. One individual had his character completely blackened but there was not sufficient evidence to put him on trial. If there had been any evidence at all it would have been God help him! In cases where evidence is heard publicly, in committal proceedings, there is published evidence that may have the effect of prejudicing the trial, but those cases can be separated from the present one because in committal proceedings in the lower court a definite charge is involved, or, at any rate, the evidence is directed to a particular point and the accused is not obliged to go into the witness box. In certain cases, the publication of evidence may also have a beneficial effect for the accused because when published further evidence that would not otherwise have been available may come forward. I have seen that happen, and I have seen justice done as a result. I said that, despite the fact that my view, and the view of the Bar Association, was that it should have been an open hearing, there is the other view that this hearing should not have been open. It

all depends into which category one thinks these matters fall. My view is that I think the Plomp affair had not reached the stage that the Foley affair had when Mr. Justice Townley adjourned it.

I am afraid that I cannot suppose that the hon. member for Baroona asked me this question in the interests of justice. I do not believe that he can deny that he asked it to try to embarrass me; he tried to embarrass me and score off the Government by putting me off-side, but it will not work. I am not off-side with my party. I go for pre-selection tonight. Tomorrow will give the best proof of whether I am off-side with my party.

**Honourable Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! A challenge has been issued in this House, and I think it only fair that hon. members on both sides of the House should give the hon. member a chance to state his case.

**Mr. HART:** I say that no hon. gentleman opposite—and I challenge them all—would rise in this Assembly and speak as I have spoken. If one of them did he would most certainly have his head chopped off. We remember that in 1956 and 1957 people were expelled from the Labour Party for expressing their opinions. We remember that the hon. member who leads the Opposition admitted that he would do what the Q.C.E. told him. Irrespective of whether it is right or wrong, he will do what he is told. It is an authoritarian party and its members are not free to express their own opinions. If they get off-side, they are out. In the last five years while I have been here I have not heard a member of that party express a view of his own that has not been in accord with the party line. I shall call the attention of the people of Queensland to the fact that at last in us they have a free party. Next year they will have to decide whether to return us or them, and one of the questions involved will be whether the members of the party are free or not. We are a free party and we are a free people in a free country. Hon. members opposite are not. They are full of craven fear when it comes to expressing their own opinions. The very way in which the hon. member for Baroona put his question implies that because I express my own views I am off-side with my party.

**Mr. Hanlon:** You must be. You don't agree with them. I am not suggesting that you are off-side with them other than that you do not agree with them.

**Mr. HART:** Over the years, the Labour Party has held the State back because it has killed free enterprise. Before the Federal Government instituted uniform taxation, Labour had in Queensland a system of taxation that was deliberately designed to drive industry out of the State. And it very largely succeeded, as the hon. member for Ithaca will confirm.

**Mr. Hanlon:** They will have to select you tonight after this speech. You should thank me.

**Mr. HART:** I challenge the hon. member for Baroona to say that any Australian Labour Party member sitting in this House would feel that in similar circumstances, on pre-selection day, he could make a statement such as the one I have made in reply to his challenge.

**Mr. Hanlon:** Of course he could!

**Mr. HART:** Let me add that if he did he would be expelled by the Q.C.E. from that authoritarian party.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. BURROWS** (Port Curtis) (3.34 p.m.): Unlike the hon. member who has just resumed his seat, I do not have to face any selection committee tonight, so he cannot very well accuse me of being intimidated or afraid, or of being so prompted to rise to speak. I understand that the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt is a Q.C. He should have been able to give us a dissertation on the morals of the subject he selected, but I am afraid that if he had had to convince a jury on that he would have been no more successful than the unfortunate Mr. Plomp. I will concede, however, that even if he does not do much he at least does his best.

The immediate question before the House is an amendment challenging the confidence of the people in the present Government, and I think it is a matter worthy of the serious consideration of hon. members.

I was somewhat amused to hear the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt say that hon. members on this side are not allowed to express their own opinions, that they are subject to party influences, and all that tommy-rot. Not only the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt but also every other hon. member on that side knows that his future political career would be very much in jeopardy if he voted against the Government on any question that came before the House. It is futile for hon. members opposite to beat about the bush and pretend that they are a lot gamier than they really are and that they are heroes. We know what big heroes hon. members opposite are; a Cabinet Minister has only to have a cold and they start coughing for him. We know what they are and how outspoken they are.

The question being debated here is whether the Government have the confidence of the people, and, in view of the way that they have carried on the Government of this State for the last five years, I suggest that they have not. Points that I have noted of failures of the Government, but which do not necessarily cover all of them, are—

Employment: No Government over the past 25 years, Labour or anti-Labour, has such a bad record;

**Finance:** No Government has had so much money at its disposal, or been so dissolute in its expenditure;

**Taxation:** No Government has so viciously imposed taxation;

**Development:** Not since the end of World War II has any Queensland Government had so few men employed on development. No Government ever had a better opportunity to encourage the establishment of new industries, and no Government could have done less towards such a worthy objective;

**Railways:** Government policy has delayed or stopped more trains and made a bigger contribution to reducing our railway system to a shambles than has any other cause.

I shall not weary the House with statistics on unemployment, but even the Premier quoted the exceptionally large number of unemployed in Queensland, and made no secret of it. What he said at the Loan Council meeting was published in every newspaper in Australia.

Since the abolition of State employment agencies, the unemployed have been calculated by this Government and the Federal Government by the number in receipt of unemployment benefits. Consequently, men and women who are unemployed but not eligible for unemployment benefits are not regarded for statistical purposes as being unemployed. That is a big anomaly, as the figure does not include quite a number of people who are genuinely unemployed, who are anxious to be employed, and who offer themselves for employment, but who, because of some impediment to their qualifications to receive the dole, as it might be called, are not taken into account for statistical purposes and are not regarded as being unemployed.

Under the old system of registering at the State Labour Bureau, it was possible to get much more accurate figures than are available now. Because of the abolition of the State Labour Bureau, when loan money is made available the person who has been unemployed for the longest period is not given any points when being considered for a job. If I am unemployed and a local authority wants labour, I have to go and see some of the councillors about a job. If I can canvass enough of those councillors, I am pretty sure of getting a job. We have gone back to the law of the jungle. There is no fairness in filling jobs today. If the Railway Department wants a man, to use the vernacular of the hon. member for Townsville South, I have to try to make my alley good with the particular inspector.

**Mr. Pizzey:** Would you like to be forced to employ a man on your property whether you liked him or not? Do you think it is right that you should have to take him because he has been unemployed longest?

**Mr. BURROWS:** Yes, and I would be very happy to take him. I would even give the Minister a job.

**Mr. Pizzey:** You would be better off than anyone else then.

**Mr. BURROWS:** I do not think there could be a better example of my Christian charity than my saying that I would be prepared to give the Minister a job if I had enough money to do so. The Minister, like all hon. members opposite, subscribes to the theory that the working man is an inferior being. Hon. members opposite believe that only they are the superior persons in our society. I am not ashamed of being sympathetic towards these people, and no member of the Australian Labour Party would be ashamed of it. I give the hon. member for Townsville South, with all his faults, credit for being sympathetic and having what we call a working-class outlook and a working-class feeling towards these people.

According to the standards of the Minister for Education and Migration—and is it not remarkable that he should be Minister for Education and propound such a theory?—you should be given priority for a job if you are 14 inches across the forehead and 18 stone in weight. It is really amazing when one considers that the taxpayers are meeting the cost. I would say that if the weakest unemployed person in the country did the work that the Minister does and received the salary of the Minister, and the Minister received the basic wage, the Government and the taxpayer would be getting better value than the poor unfortunate slave. I make no apology for saying that.

**Mr. Pizzey:** That goes for all Ministers, past and present.

**Mr. BURROWS:** The theory that the hon. gentleman propounds shows a really Fascist outlook, and I shall deal with that later.

Let us now examine the terms of eligibility for unemployment benefits. First, an applicant has to be out of work for one full week before becoming eligible. He has to have a full week during which he receives no benefit, a full week in which he is regarded as a nonentity. It can be assumed that every man shown in the statistics as unemployed has been out of work for a week. He has to serve a week, in effect, before he qualifies as unemployed.

**Mr. Aikens:** A week without any income at all.

**Mr. BURROWS:** Yes. If a man or woman fails to register or misses registration for a day—I will give instances later showing how that is possible—or does not make out a weekly return of wages earned and lodge it at the Labour Bureau or the C.P.S. Office, he or she does not qualify for the benefit. In Central Queensland every C.P.S. Office is an agency for the Labour Bureau. The Central Employment Agency is in Rockhampton, and people living in the country must have their remittances sent out from Rockhampton. I do not know what happens in the Brisbane area, but that is the experience in Central Queensland. If an unemployed person fails to supply evidence of

genuine efforts to secure work, he is denied assistance. The onus of proving that he approached various employers, every week if necessary, is on the applicant.

Hon. members opposite, if they come from Central Queensland anyhow, will know the position. I presume it would not be any different down here. Many unemployed men have come to me and said, "My social services payment has been stopped." I have rung the office in Rockhampton and they have replied, "Yes, we did not send him any money because we have not any evidence that he is trying to get a job." They sometimes suggest that the man is a no-hoper. Many of these men even get the employers whom they approach to sign a book as evidence that they made a genuine effort to secure employment.

If his spouse is in receipt of income exceeding £2 a week, he loses the benefit of assistance to the extent of any excess. That means that if a married man's wife was getting anything over £2 a week, the amount would be deducted from the £7 2s. 6d. until it was eliminated.

**Mr. Hanlon:** And if he gets a few days' casual work he has to start off all over again and make fresh application.

**Mr. BURROWS:** That is so. If he gets casual work that brings him in over a set amount he has to forfeit another week. Whoever framed that idea must have believed that these men are like those Indians who can fast for 40 days. I am quoting these instances to show how difficult it is to qualify for unemployment benefit, and to remind hon. members that if a man does not register he is not included in the count of the number of unemployed.

**Mr. Aikens:** Will you deal with the shocking provision that if a man's wife is working he cannot get unemployment benefit and must live on the earnings of his wife?

**Mr. BURROWS:** I have a note of that here. I suppose what happens in Gladstone happens in other towns. A wife will take a casual job, cleaning or something like that. When the prawns are in at seaside towns some wives get jobs working on them. If they earn a few pounds their husbands cannot get the unemployment benefit.

Anybody who is not genuinely sorry for unemployed people is not worthy of a place on this good earth. Unemployment is the most horrible thing that can be inflicted on man or woman. If a man refuses work, irrespective of how uncongenial it is or where it is, it will result in his being refused assistance.

**Mr. Hughes:** That is a Federal matter, not a State matter.

**Mr. BURROWS:** It is all linked up with the fact that this Government have created no opportunities for unemployed people to

get work. The Government are indifferent and apathetic towards the matter.

If there was any humanity in Government members, instead of getting up and pretending they are heroes as the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt just did, they would be attacking the Government as hon. members on this side are. If I belonged to a Government who were as apathetic towards unemployment as the present Government are, I should hang my head for the rest of my life.

**Mr. Hughes:** Do you agree with employment for married women if it means two incomes in the one family?

**Mr. BURROWS:** I am quite prepared to debate that with the hon. member. I honestly believe that the day will come under Labour Governments when it will be necessary to have only one breadwinner in each family.

If an unemployed person lives any distance from the C.P.S. Office he has to journey to that office as best he can. No provision is made for him to get his train fare. He may have to hitch-hike or walk. In some parts of my electorate it would be 30 or 40 miles to the nearest C.P.S. office. No doubt it would be further in some other electorates. He has to go to the C.P.S. office to register and offer himself for employment. He has to satisfy the department that he has made genuine efforts to get work. I can cite pitiful instances of single girls who have been unfortunate enough to have a child. If these single girls can obtain work in the towns they have lived in, probably their mothers can look after the children while they are at work but unfortunately they cannot always get employment in their home towns. I have in mind two cases in Gladstone. I could name the persons concerned but no hon. member would ask me to do that. The girls were offered jobs in hotels in Blackall, but because of their strongly-developed maternal instinct they refused the jobs; they would not leave their children. Because of their refusal to accept the employment offered they were denied further social service benefits. I drew these matters to the attention of Mr. George Pearce, the ex-Liberal member for Capricornia, but he was not able to help.

I have referred to the difficulties attaching to lodging claims for assistance and travelling in search of work. Most of us have picked up travellers on the road. I do not think any hon. member would go past them. I regularly go from Gladstone to Mt. Morgan by car. In the last 12 months in particular I have picked up many men on the road. When I ask them, "Are you drawing sustenance?" they say, "There is too much red tape attached to drawing it. You have to wait behind to get it. You do a damn sight better cadging." All these difficulties help to keep down the statistics on the number of unemployed.

No Government have been luckier with finance than this one. No other Government ever came in better provided for. They cannot say that they were left a legacy of bad

debts. At least they had a credit balance when they came in. They were left substantial reserves running into millions of pounds. Those reserves have since been dissipated. No other Government have been so reckless in spending public funds. They raided every reserve fund and deliberately and unashamedly set themselves out to become a mendicant State. We can remember when the Treasurer said, "We cannot expect to be treated as well as South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania unless we get rid of these reserve funds." That was his excuse for spending them. One of the funds, the Suspense Account Stamp Duties Fund, yielded no less than £1,500,000. Like everything else, it was dissipated and the Government have nothing to show for it. We have had a record of successive deficits, notwithstanding record receipts. The claim that this Government, because of their political affinity with the Commonwealth Government, would receive much better treatment than Labour Governments, has been completely debunked by results. We can all remember that we were told by the then Opposition, "When we get into power we will be treated more sympathetically because of our political affinity with the Menzies-Fadden Government." What happened when they got into power? No Labour man has ever said as many nasty things about the Federal Government as the Treasurer and the Premier on their return from their vain trips to Canberra.

Wherever possible the Government have sold every article of public property they could lay their hands on. I have instanced in the House where they have virtually given away public property and, by means of a question, the hon. member for Fassifern drew attention to how the Government had given away some saleyards on the Darling Downs. I raised the case of a goods-shed which was bought by a speculator from the Railway Department for £50 and was sold for £150 within a few hours. The speculator did not touch it. I drew the Minister's attention to it by way of a question in the House. The Government have disposed of every penny they could possibly get by pursuing a policy of spending on non-essentials and ignoring essentials. Rather than curtailing extravagance, they practised economy only in quarters where it meant a curtailment of services to the public.

Country police stations are not like those in the city. A police station in the country is an institution, and so is the country policeman. He is a great deal more than just a guardian of the law; he is acting stock inspector, acting registrar of the unemployed, and acting C.P.S.—he is everything. If a policeman from a one-man station in the country goes on holidays, the Government must expect everybody else in the locality to go on holidays, because they close the police station down. Labour Governments used to send out relieving policemen. If a country policeman is sick, everybody else in the community is expected to be sick. The

pubs are expected to close down at 10 o'clock at night whether the policeman is there or not. When the country policeman goes away, unemployed persons in the centre are greatly inconvenienced. They have to journey to the next police station, or the next town, to register. Much has been said in the Press about cattle stealing. I do not know whether there are as many cattle-duffers as the papers claim, but any astute cattle-duffer would only have to wait till the policeman went on his holidays and it would be an open season for him.

This Government's financial record could not be worse, yet no Government have had a better opportunity. After they dissipated the funds left to them by the Labour Government they were determined not to curtail their extravagance and they had to look round for further funds. Menzies treated them in the way the publican treated the shearer after he had spent his cheque in the bar. He told the State Treasurer that if he sang all the summer he could whistle all the winter, and he gave him no money. So the State Government had to concentrate on exacting more taxation from the people of the State, and as a tax-gatherer the Treasurer has proved himself a champion. No-one could have made a more thorough or exhaustive survey of avenues of increasing taxation, as well as additional avenues. Increases of 50 per cent. were common. Although they had pledged themselves to abolish land tax, over £300,000 more was received in land tax last year than was ever received by a Labour Government.

**Mr. Smith:** A lot of exemptions have been made from land tax, and you must admit it.

**Mr. BURROWS:** If ever there was a man who could pursue dishonest logic better than the hon. member for Windsor, I should like to meet him. He knows that this Government were responsible for increasing valuations.

**Mr. Smith** interjected.

**Mr. BURROWS:** The hon. member considers himself to be a smart Alec. He says I have a grazing property and that I am a grazier. The only thing I should hate more to be called than a grazier is a Liberal, and I resent his suggestion that I am a grazier. Members of the graziers' union went into the Queerah meatworks and scabbed. I never want to be associated with anybody who would do that.

**Mr. Smith:** I will call you a Labour grazier; I don't mind.

**Mr. BURROWS:** The hon. member can call me what he likes as long as he does not call me a Liberal. I will settle for that.

Under this Government, succession and probate duties rose by over £1,000,000. Traffic fees have doubled. Land rent rose by approximately £500,000. This is the Government who claim to be friendly towards the primary producer. £500,000 more in rentals!

And the hon. member for Roma represents many of the men who contributed towards that sum. Is he prepared to say they are getting more for their produce today than they got under Labour? He certainly cannot deny that this Government demanded and received over half a million pounds more in land rents from the primary producers.

Revenue from stamp duty has risen by £2,000,000. That is a subject the hon. member for Windsor should know something about. Betting taxes, without taking into consideration the recent increases, yielded £126,000 or more.

The Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity will be happy to know that his department contributed to the Treasury £265,000 more in the year 1960-1961 than did the same department in the last year of the administration of the Labour Government. Receipts of the Department of Public Lands rose by over £1,000,000. That shows how friendly disposed are the present Government to the primary producers. Railway receipts show little variation; they are virtually the same as when the Labour Government were in office. Railway freights are much higher than under the Labour Government. This Government closed many lines and reduced staff, so naturally the earnings of the Railway Department did not rise, although the freight rates, fares, and other charges were substantially increased.

The figures for the year just ended are not available, but they will show a more startling picture, as the savage increase in taxation on betting and booze will be reflected in them. The betting tax increases, of course, will apply to only a short period of the year. The effect of most taxation invariably falls on the people least able to carry it, and this applies particularly to primary producers, who have been hardest hit of all by the present Government.

**Mr. Smith:** Are they your own words?

**Mr. BURROWS:** They are figures from financial returns submitted to the Auditor-General.

In the case of the steep rise in liquor taxation, representing 50 per cent., the Government have compensated the breweries by increasing the trading hours of hotels. There is not the slightest doubt that the Government allowed hotels to open on Sundays and gave them extended trading hours to stop the protests and pressure from the breweries against the increases in taxation.

The removal of price control is another instance of how the Government were willing to allow the consumers to be exploited, provided they had a share in the spoils. However, like the consumer, the primary producers cannot pass on these added imposts and, as a consequence, their living standards must suffer. They are paying for it in reduced living standards. The community is paying for the extravagant and dissolute manner in which this Government

have handled public finance. No Government ever received more from the people, but did less for them, than the present one.

So far as development is concerned, not since the end of World War II has any Queensland Government had so few men employed on development. I think I said that before. An attempt has been made to build up a legend of development by this Government and, although thousands of pounds have been spent publicising developmental work in Queensland, the truth of the matter is that no really large-scale works have been initiated by them.

It is true that the Tinaroo Falls Dam was nearly finished when they came into office. It is true that it has been a boon and has stimulated tobacco production in the Tablelands district of North Queensland. The same applies to bulk-sugar installations; they were commenced, and some were completed, by the Labour Government.

**Mr. Evans:** Tell the truth.

**Mr. BURROWS:** I know it is difficult for the Minister to tell the truth, and it is very difficult for him to believe that someone else can do what he cannot do. I am telling the truth.

The Government are taking credit for the coal-loading facilities at Gladstone. When I came into the House as a young man, the Minister for Mines will remember how we were agitating for the development of the Callide coalfield. He also knows that the Moura coalfield was explored many years ago. If anybody should be given credit for its discovery, it is "Big Jim" Julin. If he had had the capital he would have taken up the lease.

**Mr. Evans:** There was no lease of Kianga and Moura until we came into office.

**Mr. BURROWS:** No. Julin did not have the money to take up the lease.

**Mr. Evans:** You don't know what you are talking about.

**Mr. BURROWS:** I know what I am taking about when I speak of coal. If anybody should be given credit for the discovery of Moura, it is Jim Julin. Personally, I think he is a very poor type of man, but I give the devil his due.

The Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity claims that the Government have developed Weipa. If he looks at Clem Lack's book he will see that the company was registered in 1956.

**Mr. Evans:** You were not game to take it up.

**Mr. BURROWS:** Wait till the Minister's estimates come up for discussion. I will take him on for not developing it.

**Mr. Evans:** You will have to do a better job than you are doing now.

**Mr. BURROWS:** I will take it up.  
(Time expired.)

**Mr. ADAIR** (Cook) (4.13 p.m.): I wish to associate myself with the expressions of loyalty given by other hon. members to Her Majesty the Queen, and to offer my congratulations to His Excellency Sir Henry Abel Smith on his appointment as Governor of Queensland for a further three years. I also congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. Very few members get the opportunity of moving the Address in Reply, and I congratulate the hon. member for Flinders on his contribution to the debate. The hon. member for Wavell is an old stager, and we expected that his contribution would be a good one.

In the short time available to me I intend to push, and push hard, the parish pump. Because of the length and breadth of my electorate, I have many problems that other hon. members, especially those representing metropolitan seats, do not meet.

I shall deal first with the tobacco-growing industry in the Mareeba-Dimbulah area. Rapid expansion is taking place there, and I do not know of any other towns in Queensland, or probably in Australia, that are progressing and developing as fast as Mareeba and Dimbulah. Anyone travelling in the area a few years ago could well have thought, "What possibilities has this country?" and it is difficult to believe that such rapid expansion could take place in it. With the introduction of the Tinaroo scheme and the water channels, the Mareeba-Dimbulah area last year produced tobacco to the value of nearly £6,000,000. With the channels going into the Aerodrome area in a very short time and then on to the Paddy's Green area, hundreds of acres are being cleared and ploughed and put under cultivation. The settlers are starting their crops now. The young tobacco plants are being planted and next year there will be a record crop in the area.

**Mr. Evans:** What would be the value of tobacco production last year, £6,000,000?

**Mr. ADAIR:** Just under £6,000,000, but next year it will be well over £6,000,000 and probably around the £7,000,000 mark. It is a pity the Government have not the money available for further extension of these channels. There are hundreds of acres of good tobacco land in the Paddy's Green and Mary River areas that could be put under cultivation but, owing to shortage of money, it will be at least two or three years before they come under full cultivation.

I have here the latest figures on last year's crop. The total acreage last year in that area was 9,982, for a weight in leaf of 9,180,368 lb. The total value of the crop was £5,632,757, for an average price of 147.3d. a lb. The average production was 920 lb. of leaf an acre and the overall return was £564 an acre. The proportion of unsold leaf amounted to only 1.7 per cent. I think that is a record of which the farmers of the area can be proud. I do not

think there is any other tobacco-growing area in the Commonwealth that could put up such a record.

In the Mary River area the tobacco grown, on an acreage basis, is a record for the Commonwealth. Last year that area had the best production figure per acre and also the best return per acre. The average price was 150d. a lb. whilst the weight per acre was 1,067 lb., returning £669.

**Mr. Evans:** And they sold virtually all their leaf.

**Mr. ADAIR:** I do not think they have any of their leaf left at all. In the Mary River area at present plenty of water is flowing but in the latter part of the year—around November or December—the farmers will be rostered and allowed to use the water for only about two or three hours a day. That is a pity because a large area there could be put under tobacco. I should like the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation, and responsible officers of the Department of Irrigation and Water Supply, to find some way of storing water in the Mary River. The river should be dammed so that all this area could be put under production. I feel that if we do not move ahead with the development of the Paddy's Green and Mary River areas as smartly as we should the time will come when other States will benefit by our not doing so. It will be like the sugar industry. There will have to be restrictions. In the sugar industry you have to have a permit to grow cane; you get your assignment. I think that will come in the tobacco industry within a very short time. If we push ahead quickly all this land can be put into production.

I cannot see why ballots for the tobacco land in the Mareeba area have to be held in Brisbane. It is valuable land. Any man drawing a block gets a piece of land that is worth from £20,000 to £30,000. I regard the present method of qualification as stupid. The Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation should devise some other scheme to decide eligibility for participation in the ballots.

**Mr. Evans:** Do you say that the land would be worth £20,000 or £30,000 in its unimproved condition?

**Mr. ADAIR:** In its unimproved condition.

**Mr. Camm:** How big would those blocks be?

**Mr. ADAIR:** About 70 to 80 acres. I know some Albanians who have been in this country six to eight years, and are share-farming on tobacco land. They now have assets worth from £25,000 to £45,000.

**Mr. Camm:** Would they be prepared to pay that value to make it freehold?

**Mr. ADAIR:** Yes. Land is being bought there now for from £40,000 to £50,000. It is no trouble for a share-farmer to make £4,000 or £5,000 out of a crop.

Balloting for these blocks is very important. When the last tobacco-block ballot was held, one man who drew a block had been in this country only two years and had farmed for only one year. I have previously queried this matter with the Minister. He had been allowed to enter the ballot even though to qualify or be eligible to enter the ballot a person must have had three years' experience in irrigated tobacco-farming. How many can so qualify? A person has to provide a guarantee of about £3,500 or £3,600, in addition to having three years' experience in irrigated tobacco-farming. The only people with these qualifications are share-farmers. They are the only ones who would be entitled to enter the ballot.

**Mr. Hughes:** Are there many more applicants than blocks available?

**Mr. ADAIR:** Yes. Last year there were seven blocks for returned servicemen but only three returned servicemen could qualify. Probably that was because others had no experience in irrigated tobacco-farming. That would be the deterrent with most people who want to enter the ballots. For the life of me I cannot see why returned servicemen should have to qualify financially. If they could draw blocks the Agricultural Bank would advance the necessary finance. Many returned servicemen have not been able to qualify for ballots. The Minister should investigate the matter of qualifications for these ballots.

I still believe that growers are not getting a fair price for their tobacco. I have attended several of the sales. I have seen four or five buyers—there are generally four—inspect each bale separately. The head buyer for Rothmans, who was previously an appraiser for the Tobacco Marketing Board in Mareeba, together with the other buyers, walks round the saleroom inspecting the bales. He pulls a sheaf out of a bale of tobacco, smells it and squeezes it, and either nods or shakes his head. That is the end of it. If he shakes his head none of the buyers will buy the bale, and it is left. Even though the appraiser for the Board has put a certain price on it, at times between 130d. and 140d. a pound, the buyers reject it completely. After it has been rejected, and after everything has gone through, they will then come back and negotiate a private sale. I repeat that the growers are not getting full value.

**Mr. Evans:** They are doing pretty well.

**Mr. ADAIR:** Yes, but I believe they could do even better in that area. The year before last, before we squealed in the House and elsewhere, they were not getting a good price. Much of the tobacco was bought at a very low price and many of the tobacco-farmers got a very raw deal. When it was brought to the notice of the House, the buyers were forced to give a better price.

There are two families in the Laura district who wish to take up tobacco-growing. I should like to see this area given a chance because, as hon. members know, Laura is one of the outposts of the Cape York Peninsula and, with the closure and removal of the railway line, there is little left there. On behalf of one of the families that wanted to commence farming in the area, I approached the Agricultural Bank for a loan of £1,500 for irrigation purposes but, as usual with the Agricultural Bank, the request was knocked back. In my opinion the Agricultural Bank is one of the toughest banks in the State to get money from, even compared with private banks. From what I have seen one has to be pretty well set up with security before it will lend money.

**Mr. Evans:** Did they try the Development Bank?

**Mr. ADAIR:** No. For £1,500 this family has everything to offer, yet there is no way in the world that the Agricultural Bank will help.

I wish the Minister was present to hear what I have to say about the schools in my area. For over three years the parents and citizens' committee at Mareeba has made representations to the Minister through me for a new domestic-science block. At the present time students are forced to walk a mile each way, through heavy traffic, across the railway line and across the country, to the primary school at Mareeba for domestic-science lessons. In Brisbane when a high school is built, almost immediately a domestic-science block is there for the students, but not so in the North, even though we have a school with a large attendance.

**Mr. Houston:** That is different from the treatment given the hon. member for Townsville South, a Tory supporter.

**Mr. ADAIR:** The hon. member for Townsville South represents a city electorate and that sort of treatment is extended to all cities, including Cairns and Townsville. They seem to have no trouble getting all the amenities.

The Mt. Molloy State School was taken over by the Government in 1897 as a provisional school. It was built on a rise with little or no playground. I visited it only recently. There are 74 children crowded into a small room and the forms and desks have 2-inch cleats under the legs to make them level with the building. The people in Mt. Molloy want a new school—for four years they have been promised one and the land is there ready—but I received a letter from the Minister for Public Works the other day informing me that the old school is to be renovated. That means that the new school will not be built for another five or six years, or even 10 years.

**Mr. Pizzey:** It takes time to clean up the mess Labour left us.



**Mr. ADAIR:** I do not care what they did previously. I am pushing the parish pump all I can to get what the area deserves. I thought the Minister might give us sympathetic treatment in this matter because Mowbray School has closed down and so has the Port Douglas School.

**Mr. Pizzey:** At the request of the parents.

**Mr. ADAIR:** I grant that. At least the Minister should be able to build a new school at Mt. Molloy. A new school has been promised at Bloomfield for years, but it does not look as though it will eventuate. If any school in Queensland is to get first priority, I urge that it be Mt. Molloy. It would be the oldest school in the State. It was taken over in 1897.

**Mr. Pizzey:** There are older ones than that.

**Mr. ADAIR:** Then it must run a very close second. I ask the Minister to see if something can be done about building a new school there.

**Mr. Thackeray:** Join the Country Party now and you will get a school there.

**Mr. ADAIR:** At least I was not responsible for putting the Country Party where they are.

**Mr. Thackeray:** Of course you were.

**Mr. ADAIR:** You were, not me. Whilst the Minister is in the House, I ask him to honour the promise that a teacher's residence would be built at Caravonica. At present, the two teachers at that school have to travel out from Cairns by car.

**Mr. Pizzey:** There is not much land there.

**Mr. ADAIR:** There is plenty for a house.

I think it is about time that the Government considered the establishment of an agricultural college in the North. Why should children from the Far North have to come right down to Brisbane to attend an agricultural college? There is in Mareeba a flourishing tobacco industry that will expand and keep on expanding. Mareeba at present produces £6,000,000 worth of tobacco yearly. In close proximity is the Atherton Tableland with its maize, peanuts, and timber. We have the sugar industry, general farming, and mining right in the area. If ever an area warranted an agricultural college, it is this one; it has everything that such a college needs.

On the subject of main roads, my electorate probably has more right to roads than any other in the State. The Minister has left the Chamber, but no doubt he will say that he has spent more money in my electorate than in any other in the State. I give him due credit for spending a lot of money there, but more money has to be spent on

the Mulligan Highway to make it an all-weather road. This is a Press cutting from "The Cairns Post"—

"Convoy wins through

"Nightmare Trip to Cooktown

"A five vehicle convoy which travelled from Cairns to Cooktown during the week proved it is possible to make the trip in the wet season—provided you have a winch, mobile crane, powerful trucks and lots of willing man-power.

"The convoy—three trucks and two mobile cranes—carried equipment for the dismantling of the Cooktown-Laura railway line. The vehicles are owned by the Cairns firm, Koppen and Sons, who have the contract to dismantle the rail line.

"Principal of the firm, Mr. P. Koppen, flew back to Cairns on Saturday and told of a nightmare trip over the 200 miles of washed-out roads and flooded creeks.

"He said he and six other men had made the trip in two days, leaving Cairns on Tuesday morning and reaching Cooktown on Thursday afternoon. Wednesday had been the worst day, when they had managed to cover only 20 miles in more than 10 hours.

"He said the trip could never have been made without the use of the winch—mounted on a six-wheel drive vehicle. It had been used to pull the other vehicles through creeks and across stretches of oozing bog.

"At times he and the other men had to dig for hours to get the winch vehicle across first, even though it had a six-wheel drive and would go 'practically anywhere'.

"Mr. Koppen said he had been told it was utterly impossible to get through. Even Main Roads Department engineers had been willing to lay the odds that the convoy would never get through in less than a week."

Although thousands of pounds have been spent on the Mulligan Highway, I can tell the Minister that much more will have to be spent on it to make it trafficable during the wet season.

Hon. members may have read in the Press that the Army is spending thousands of pounds on an operation—I do not know what it is called—up at Iron Range. They have at least 140 or 150 Army personnel there. A new post office has been erected at Iron Range, and they are going to explode many tons of T.N.T. to see what effect it will have on the semi-scrub country round there. I can tell them now what will happen. Blind Freddie would know what will happen. This 50 tons or 100 tons of T.N.T. will kill many birds, a few scrub turkeys, and probably a couple of pigs. If the money that it will cost was spent on the construction of roads in the area it would be put to much better use. They had to use four-wheel-drive vehicles to get the officers and

men there. If roads are needed anywhere in Queensland, they are needed in this area. It is not possible to get through from Cooktown to Coen and the tip of the Peninsula with an ordinary car; you have to have a four-wheel-drive vehicle. Yet we find the Army spending thousands of pounds on this operation that will do nothing for the country, and it will be another nine months before they put a light to this cracker and set it off.

For nine years I have been advocating the construction of the missing road link from Daintree to China Camp. Again, Blind Freddie can see that this road is the only road that will be of any assistance to Cooktown. The Mulligan Highway bypasses Cooktown at a distance of 50 miles and will do nothing to open up the area round Cooktown. It has not opened up one acre of land from Mt. Carbine to Laura, and the construction of a road from Daintree River to China Camp would open up rich agricultural country and mining country. Broken Hill Pty. are at present building a road from Daintree to Roaring Meg. They are mining in that area at the present time.

I turn now to the pearling industry on Thursday Island. It is the main industry on the Island, and supplies much work for Torres Strait Islanders. In fact, Torres Strait Islanders, with the help of the Department of Native Affairs, have a fleet of their own operating the Darnley waters and other waters. However, the cultured-pearl industry has now been introduced to the area and is being carried on by some four companies. Last year over £60,000 was spent in the purchase of baby pearl-shell. That shell, acquired from Darnley waters and other waters, is used for the culture of pearls.

As I say, the four companies involved last year purchased over £60,000 worth of baby shell. Each one of the firms employs several men in the preparation of the shells by the various means they use. The shell is placed in wire baskets hung from barges. They are hung off the reefs and left there for a certain time, when the nucleus is inserted into the oyster. I am told that even now they are collecting pearls from some of the oysters treated a little over two years ago, so it appears that this industry will be a major one in the Torres Strait and round Thursday Island, and it could employ many of the Islanders who depend on the area for employment.

My electorate extends almost to the border of New Guinea, and includes such islands as Darnley Island, Saibai Island, Murray Island, and Moa Island, which are very close to the border of New Guinea. With the handing over of Western New Guinea to the Indonesians, I hope the Federal Government has considered the protection of our pearling industry. I have not been able to ascertain from anyone what protection our pearling industry has from the Indonesians, and I

believe it is up to the Federal Government to see that this industry, which is so important to Torres Strait Islanders, is protected.

Several years ago a parliamentary committee went to Thursday Island investigating the social security of Torres Strait Islanders, but nothing has come of that inquiry. I have asked the Minister on several occasions what has been done about the recommendations of the committee, but nothing further has been heard. I think it is high time that the Government granted Torres Strait Islanders the same franchise privileges as has been granted to them by the Federal Government. Many of them were given a vote at the last Federal election and I think it is time they were given the same right in State elections. Most of them fought for us in the last war. They are just as entitled to vote in State elections as in Federal elections.

The Minister should give all Islanders in the Torres Strait the right to drink in hotels. At the present time this right is given to some of them but not to others. When they come down in their luggers after trochus they can go to any hotel in Mackay, Townsville, or Cairns and drink. Yet they are denied a drink on Thursday Island. The St. Paul's boys drink in hotels at Thursday Island and have proved that they can carry their liquor equally as well as the white man. Other boys from islands such as Darnley, Murray, Badu and Saibai would be able to conduct themselves properly if given the right to drink. For the life of me I cannot see why all the Islanders are not given the same right to drink liquor.

Under the Act as it presently stands a Torres Strait Islander can never be freed from its provisions. Although the aboriginal is not in the same class as the Torres Strait Islander, I have no trouble at all in getting him freed if he has a good record. I have recently had several freed from the provisions of the Act. The Torres Strait Islander can never be freed under the Act. I cannot even approach the Minister or the Director of Native Affairs for the freedom of the Torres Strait Islander. I think that is wrong.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. HOUSTON** (Bulimba) (4.54 p.m.): At the outset I reaffirm not only my own loyalty but also that of the people I have the privilege to represent, the electors of Bulimba, to Her Majesty the Queen. We are pleased to hear that she has seen fit to give some of her valuable time to visit us once again. We look forward to that visit. I take the opportunity of congratulating His Excellency the Governor on his decision to stay with us a further term. It shows his interest in Queensland and that he thinks highly of the people of this State that he wants to stay for another period. We trust that the State will develop as he has indicated in his Opening Speech. Of course, we can be assured of that development by the good fortunes of the forthcoming elections if the people of Queensland take the opportunity to

return an Australian Labour Party Government to the Treasury benches. If the electors do that, as I am confident they will, the Government's prediction of a march forward in the development of the State will be fulfilled.

**Mr. Davies:** It will open a new vista.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** That is quite true. Before proceeding with my main theme I must refer to the speeches of the hon. member for Townsville South. Normally I should not bother to reply to his speeches in the House. However, on this occasion, three things affect me greatly. Firstly I am concerned at the way he delivered his speech of condolence for the late George Keyatta. With all due deference to you, Mr. Speaker, I feel sure you would have taken action if action could have been taken under the Standing Orders, but the gentleman concerned is shrewd enough not to get off-side. In the circumstances, I believe that his speech will go down in history as one of the worst in this Chamber. To top it off, there were school children in the gallery and I am concerned particularly because children were present from two schools in my electorate. In my opinion it is shocking for the children to return to their schools and homes with the impression of Parliament created by the hon. member. It is disgusting! I object to that type of behaviour by any member of Parliament. It does not become Parliament and and it is certainly ill-becoming for any hon. member. If the hon. member believes he can score in the eyes of the children and teachers, I assure him he is wrong.

The other matter concerns his alleged influence on the education system of the State. I have not been behind the door in suggesting improvements that can be made, and I was proud to be a member of the A.L.P. Committee that was formed to make submissions to the Secondary Education Committee that was established by the Government. The fact that the A.L.P. has seen fit to make submissions to that committee shows how keenly we shoulder our responsibilities towards education in this State.

**Mr. Davies:** We have always accepted our responsibilities.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** That is so.

The hon. member for Townsville South could only come here and ridicule the application of something about which he did not have the first clue. He spoke of algebra as if it was simply a jumble of letters. He did not know how to solve a very simple equation and could not pronounce some of the words used in the syllabus of the course. I do not intend to go any further into the remarks of the hon. member concerned, but I do wish to register a very strong protest on behalf of the school-children in my electorate.

The hon. member for Merthyr is in an altogether different category. He tried to show a knowledge of electorates far removed from his own. If he wishes to talk of development of electorates he would be better sticking to his own. His remarks concerned the electorate represented by one of my colleagues, and he tried to tell us how to put a tube or tunnel under the river.

**Mr. Houghton:** You have even got the hon. member for Sandgate worrying about Redcliffe.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** The hon. member can look after himself. I am concerned only when someone interferes with my electorate. I am not trying to defend the hon. member for Nudgee, but I am concerned because the hon. member for Merthyr is trying to interfere with my electorate. I do not wish my people to be coming across the river in a tube and finishing in the blood-drain from the abattoirs, because that is what the hon. member for Merthyr is proposing. If they do not finish in the blood-drain from the abattoirs, they will finish in the blood-drain from Borthwicks next door. Whether the hon. member wants a Government enterprise or a private enterprise there, the result is the same. I agree that it is necessary to develop cities like Brisbane and to make arrangements now for further communication across the river, but one of the most urgent matters at this moment is the replacement of Victoria Bridge. I trust that the Government will see their way clear to assist the Brisbane City Council in that project.

**Mr. Houghton:** Do you recommend a toll for that?

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I will come to that in a moment.

**Mr. Smith:** Don't you think the hon. member for South Brisbane will castigate you for talking about his electorate instead of confining your attention to your own electorate?

**Mr. HOUSTON:** The hon. member had better not start talking about his electorate or I will start on a few things about Windsor. The least said about that the better.

I believe that Victoria Bridge, and any other bridge in Brisbane for that matter, should be the responsibility of the State Government rather than of the local authority. Although Brisbane is a city it is still the capital city of the State and as such it is the centre of communications. The people of the city of Brisbane are not the only ones who use the bridges or tunnels, or whatever we have. They are used also for all commerce coming into or out of the city or going to any part of the State. I suggest to the hon. member for Merthyr that if he really wants to contribute something to the debate he should advocate, first of all, that the State Government tackle the problem of Victoria Bridge and, secondly, consider other cross-river communications. But please keep them away from areas such as the ones he

suggested. If he looks at the Greater Brisbane Town Plan he will find in it a proposal to cross the river from the Colmslie side of Bulimba to a point approximately at Links Avenue on the other side. Not being thoroughly familiar with the area on the other side of the river, I do not intend to debate the pros and cons of that at this stage.

The hon. member mentioned charging a toll and I think the hon. member for Redcliffe is interested in that too. I am completely opposed to any toll on a project of this type. There are some projects on which tolls could be charged with some justification, but to charge a toll on a main communications link between two suburbs or two districts for the development of the city and of the State is completely wrong. By charging a toll we ask the people who use the bridge to pay more for the development of their own city. It is in other words another charge on the motorists and on the pedestrians, and in this case those who would be hit most would be the pedestrians in the Bulimba and Hamilton areas. I do not think it is in the interests of the State to impose a toll on development of this type. After all, the people who would be asked to pay the toll would also be paying the ordinary taxation that goes to create the pool of money for building the project in the first place. For the benefit of the hon. member for Redcliffe, who is in the Chamber, I say quite openly and distinctly that I do not believe it is in the best interests of the people.

The subject of industrial development brings me to another problem associated with the development of Brisbane, and I use the development of Brisbane as an example, not forgetting the need for development of the country. I know some hon. members have as their catch-cry, "The Brisbane Line," "City this and city that. What about the country?" What they forget is that the country depends on the city and the city depends on the country; they are inter-dependent. Let us consider Queensland as a whole. If we have people in Brisbane in full employment, they are buying to the full the commodities available. If they have the money to buy food, naturally they buy our primary products. As I said the other day when speaking on the Appropriation Bill, the greatest market we can have is our own home market. Therefore let us develop our cities, develop our towns, and work in together with the country areas. After all, if you have a prosperous city you have a prosperous country. If you have a prosperous country centre it will in turn eventually develop into a city.

In the development of the city of Brisbane I believe the Government have made a grave error. The main development seems to be in two areas. One is the Darra area, and the other, as mentioned earlier by the hon. member for Merthyr, is the area round Nudgee. This means that people have to travel right across the city from residential suburbs to those industrial areas. I believe that to develop Brisbane correctly, we should

have development on four sides of the city. If one looks at the geography of Brisbane, and the twistings and turnings of the Brisbane River and the hills and swamps, and brings all of those geographical features together, it will be seen that it is necessary to have not one industrial centre, but four.

I recommended that the Government give serious consideration to setting up an industrial area in the Bulimba electorate. I suggest that, not because it is Bulimba, but because it is an area that covers the district of Murarrie and Tingalpa and round what we know ordinarily as Doboy Creek. That will overcome many of the problems associated with that area, and also create work for the people who have established their homes there. As hon. members are aware, Wynnum, Bulimba, Carina, Norman Park, Murarrie, Cannon Hill, and Morningside, are now well-established residential suburbs, but industrial development is lacking. We have the abattoir and Borthwick's plant, and the dry docks are now starting to go ahead, as well as some other smaller industries, but we lack consolidation of industry to give a modern scheme of development.

**Mr. Hughes:** You are not suggesting that the Government build estates to encourage industry to go down there?

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I do not intend to go into that at this stage. That was not the idea that I was developing, but it is something worth a lot of thought. The Government should make available the necessary land, for a start. After all, it all has to start with land. Round the Doboy Creek area there is a considerable amount of Crown land that at present is absolutely useless because of the creek, which is getting progressively worse. When estates are opened up in other parts of the city, subdividers are compelled, by legislation and council ordinances, to drain their subdivisions. The result is that there are subdivisions of 400 and 500 houses draining water into fixed points which, in turn, drain into Doboy Creek in great volume. Nothing has been done to ensure that the creek can be cleaned out, and consequently water banks up to such an extent that land sold recently for £300 is not worth two bob today.

The solution is to straighten the creek and allow this volume of water to flow away. I hope the Minister at present in charge of the House will mention this matter to the Treasurer and the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity. Straightening of the creek would remedy the flooding that takes place at present, and it will also create the necessary sites for development. After all, the area does not require much filling. All that is required is the straightening of the creek so that it has not all the existing bends and twists; it has more of those than has the Brisbane River, which itself has plenty.

**Mr. Windsor:** It will do away with the stench, too.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I am glad that the hon. member for Ithaca has mentioned that. I agree with him, and I am pleased that he lends weight to my argument. I will deal with it at this stage. The problem relates not only to the stink of the creek but also to the industries that have been allowed to grow up along the banks of the creek. They have been there for many years, and they are quite progressive industries. I believe that an hon. member on the Government benches is a director of one of the companies, and I am sure he will agree that what I say is factual and can be substantiated by current records. For many years the companies have drained their waste into Doboy Creek and it has gradually closed up because of lack of attention. When the new Southern Electrical Authority powerhouse was built on the Brisbane River at Doboy, a stone bridge was built that blocked a secondary outlet of the creek and, consequently, there is no flow there at all. The sediment has now created a hazard.

I have asked a Government department to take tests for me—I do not give them many marks for the attitude they have adopted—but they have told me that it cannot be done, so I will let it pass. The local residents have spent at least £40 of their own money in an endeavour to bring evidence before me that I can put before the Government to show that they are not just whingeing about nothing. I have here a report dated 19 July, 1962, from United Chemicals Pty. Ltd., of Montague Road, South Brisbane. I will not weary the House with all the details of the percentages, but I will read part of the conclusions. Local residents went down one night when the stench was considered to be virtually non-existent other than round the water, and took two tests. In other words, it was a good night after there had been a thorough cleaning out by rainwater. This was designed to bring to the notice of the powers-that-be a test taken under the best possible conditions. Two tests were taken, one at the bridge near Wynnum Road—

**Mr. Houghton:** Are these B.O.D. tests?

**Mr. HOUSTON:** Something like that. One was taken near the bridge on Wynnum Road, the other near Provincial Traders Pty. Ltd. The samples showed solids in solution, chlorides (as NaCl, salt), sulphur, oxygen consumed, and nitrogen as free ammonia, albuminoid ammonia, and nitrates.

**Mr. Houghton:** That would be the same type of test as we do in Hayes Inlet on sewerage.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** Yes, and I think it would be a fairly accurate report. It goes on to say—

“Both waters have a strong obnoxious odour due mainly to hydrogen sulphide. The gas evolved is likely to cause discolouration of paintwork and exposed copper, brass and silver articles and slightly accelerate corrosion of iron and steel.

“The nitrogen present as free and albuminoid ammonia, and as nitrate, indicates contamination from animal or human sources and from vegetation.

“The turbidity is caused by the presence of fragments of plant algae, and microscopic living organisms.

“The waters are both quite unsuitable for any domestic purposes, for irrigation or stock use.

“As regards the effect of the water on health, although it has an unpleasant odour it is unlikely to cause trouble except in the improbable event of its being taken internally.”

This is the important part—

“It should be noted that recent research has indicated that gases containing sulphur compounds may over a long period be responsible for certain lung disabilities. However, that is by no means certain, so it cannot definitely be stated that the gases arising from these waters are likely to have any effect on people living nearby.”

That is an authentic report. I have read it in full so that no-one can say I left anything out to suit the occasion. It is a fact that various residents in the area have complained about newly-painted houses retaining their paint for only six months, and that is with any type of paint at all. I have been down there myself and have seen silver teaspoons shined in the morning and becoming tarnished after being used in only one cup of tea. The stench there is shocking.

The main reason I accepted the opportunity the hon. member gave me to raise this matter was that I believe the Government intend to bring down legislation on air pollution. Pollution from the gas in this creek is certainly air pollution and should be dealt with in any legislation that is brought down.

I take the opportunity of bringing that matter to the notice of the House and I trust that the people concerned will be assisted to retain their homes. If things are allowed to continue as they are at present and if something is not done urgently, these people will be forced to leave their homes, which in many cases represent their entire assets.

My main purpose in speaking today is to support the Leader of the Opposition in his amendment and the various matters it brings before the Chamber. I should like to refer particularly to unemployment. I stated previously that we must have development to engender employment and that the main sources of employment in this State, or any country, must be the private sector of the community, whilst it is left to the Government to give the stimulus when employment starts to lag. I believe that when we have full employment private enterprise can successfully look after the problems that arise but immediately circumstances outside Queensland, or outside Australia—as is so in most cases—create situations in which the

private sector must dispense with the services of employees, the Government should come in immediately with national or State projects to boost employment.

I hope to show later on how this has actually happened, to a mild degree, with certain developments that have already taken place, but first of all I should like to answer a statement in this morning's Press which was attributed to Mr. Holt in the Federal Parliament yesterday. It is headed, "Nation needs a labour pool." I do not believe the nation needs a labour pool at all. In fact, I strongly believe that all the evidence available shows that a country is most prosperous and develops most when there is complete and full employment. "Complete and full employment" does not necessarily mean that every employee must stay in one job for his life-time, and that is where Mr. Holt made his fatal error. That is how the Liberal Party as a political movement apparently tends to think. When he said that the nation needed a labour pool he said it was particularly so because of our seasonal employment.

I believe that the Federal Government and this Government should try to do two things, the first being to make some of our seasonal employment full-time employment. The beef industry is a typical example of how we can get away from the seasonal aspect and turn it into a full-time occupation. In industries such as tobacco and sugar the work is certainly seasonal. But it is up to Governments to operate a system of having part-time work available in the areas of seasonal employment. Surely there must be developmental projects that could be fostered in those centres and on which it would not be necessary to work all the year round. It might be necessary to work on those projects only six or eight months of the year. They could be arranged to absorb workers when they were not required in the seasonal industry.

**Mr. Pizzey:** Most of the cane-cutters will have earned £1,000 by Christmas-time.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** The Minister must remember that they have worked for it, too.

**Mr. Pizzey:** No-one suggests they do not.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I do not say that any man has to work. The Labour Party believes that those who desire work, are willing to work, and are capable of working, should be given employment.

**Mr. Harrison:** There is an opening at Beaudesert for 80 men in pulling leaves off corkwood trees. A new company is starting there but it cannot get labour.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** Knowing the hon. member as I do, I realise that when he makes a statement he makes it sincerely. Therefore

I do not doubt his statement. Perhaps the terms offering may not be acceptable to the men.

**Mr. Harrison:** They can make very good money on this work.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I notice that there is only one Pressman in the gallery. I do not usually get Press publicity, but I suggest that perhaps the Press might advertise that this work is available so that the company can get the employees it requires and that work might be obtained by some of the unemployed.

When a man leaves his home to take employment elsewhere he has two homes to keep. As his family grows up and starts to attend secondary school he likes to be with them. It is all very well to say that a man should take a few weeks' employment elsewhere, but if it means tearing up his roots and living under conditions that are unacceptable to him, it is a different matter. I only hope that things will turn out all right, both for the company and the men concerned.

**Mr. Windsor:** Do you suggest that you allow the men to work in the seasonal industry, holding up the developmental work while they are fully employed, and commencing it again only when the seasonal work has finished?

**Mr. HOUSTON:** There are certain types of work in which that can be done. I suggest that it can be done. At this stage it is something that only the Government can do. The private sector could not be expected to do that.

The point I mentioned earlier about consumer goods was proved during the credit squeeze. As men were paid off in one industry, other industries started to pay their employees off because they could not sell their commodities. People everywhere started to button-up. They were not buying the goods they normally would, consequently others were put out of work. Once we stopped the rot and started to put men back in employment the pattern changed. That was not done altogether by Governments. Certainly money was loaned to local authorities, and the Government made some employment available. As spending money became available the private sector built up, so that employment figures are getting better every month. All I hope is that the improvement continues. If it does not the reverse process will apply. Once the seasonal employment finishes at the end of the year we will see just how good the Government are. If they are able to hold our employment figures and do not put into effect Mr. Holt's idea, I will be the first to say they have been successful. If they do not hold the employment figures I will be the first to say they are unsuccessful and to challenge their efforts. As has been indicated today by some hon. members, we see many Press reports about young people applying for jobs, and the hon. member for

Brisbane gave several examples of how many were out of work. I believe we all realise that young people must be kept busy, otherwise, as the hon. member for Brisbane said, idle hands get into mischief.

**Mr. Pizzey:** Actually, many in jobs are looking for something better.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** That is quite true, but not to the extent that hon. members opposite imply. I have checked some of these cases and I intend to use them in my speech, but I do not wish to repeat what was handled so well by the hon. member for Brisbane. Many lads today with Senior passes—and I know of one case in particular—are doing work that requires only a Scholarship pass, or something less. That is a tragedy. It is not only the tragedy of having young people out of work, but the tragedy of having young people with capabilities and training in jobs that do not require their capabilities.

**Mr. Pizzey:** There would not be so many of those.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I can assure the Minister that there are many. That is a problem for the Minister for Education and Migration or more particularly for the Minister for Labour and Industry. Many young people who sought jobs at the end of last year found they could not get them to their liking, and their parents sent them back to school to get their Senior passes. At the end of next year they will be on the labour market. If we keep postponing the problem of those children who cannot get jobs when they should normally get them with their educational qualifications, we will eventually have a large pool of seniors unemployed.

I can remember when I was looking for work, which is quite a few years ago—

**Mr. Camm:** You have not worked since.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** In reply to the hon. member, may I say that I have not since received the remuneration I deserved for my work. I have certainly done plenty of work since then. In my age group, when we were looking for work, the average apprentice required a Scholarship pass, and I think the hon. member will agree with me that tradesmen today are truly skilled and competent. I do not believe that he or anyone else will deny that. Some of our young Liberal friends should remember that they were educated under a Labour administration, and by a Labour educational system. A lad with a Scholarship pass today has the same qualifications as a lad with a Scholarship pass in our day, as the syllabus is the same except for some minor alterations. However, the employer nowadays is asking for a Junior Pass; a Scholarship pass is not sufficient. I placed a lad with a Senior pass in a trade and he was very pleased to get it. Fortunately, I was able to convince him to take a diploma course and I hope that he will make a name for himself in that calling.

**Mr. Windsor:** The important thing is that the boy should have a liking for the job, not whether he has a Junior pass or a Senior pass.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** That is quite true. I believe that every one of the 40 youngsters who applied for a certain job was satisfied it was the job for him.

**Mr. Pizzey:** Everyone cannot get the job he likes; there are not sufficient jobs.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** That is quite true, but many more should be given jobs more in keeping with their education. I do not want to deal with education matters in detail now because, if my information is correct, the Estimates for the Department of Education are to come before us this session and we will have the opportunity to debate them then.

The problems of employment are tied up with education. As the Minister knows, there has been a fantastic increase in the number of students requiring secondary education. The number of boys taking the manual-training subjects and girls doing domestic science are out of all proportion with what we normally expect on the academic side. It is because the parents honestly and sincerely believe that their children must get a Junior pass in order to have a chance to get a job. If they thought they could get a job from Scholarship, many would not be sent on to the Junior standard, because, after all, it costs money to send children along to the next stage.

I will conclude on that note and, as the Minister for Public Works and Local Government is in the Chamber, I ask him to pass to his colleagues the matters that I have raised.

**Mr. SULLIVAN** (Condamine) (5.32 p.m.): I hasten to reaffirm my loyalty, and that of the people of Condamine, to Her Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In doing so I express my appreciation, and that of the people of my electorate in particular and of the people of the State generally, for what she has done for Queensland and its people in having His Excellency Sir Henry Abel Smith and his good lady appointed for a further term of three years as our Governor and First Lady in Queensland. I am sure that all members of this Assembly will agree that we are very fortunate to have had Sir Henry as Governor for the years he has been with us. I do not wish to cast any aspersions on any of his predecessors, but I do not think any previous Governor has got to know Queensland and Queenslanders as Sir Henry has. He has taken an intense interest in all phases of our livelihood. Unlike many people, he has acquired a phenomenal knowledge of the State and its people and their many and varied problems. That was pointed out very emphatically at the recent Royal National Show. He did not let the wet-weather conditions deter him. I think he visited the Exhibition and poked about among the exhibits almost every day,

and that is what the people like to see in a Governor—somebody who is really interested in what we have to show.

At this juncture I should like to place on record in "Hansard" my congratulations to the Hon. A. W. Munro on his elevation to the position of Leader of the Liberal Party and Deputy Premier. Of course, there is a sad note, too, in that Mr. Morris, owing to ill-health, has found it necessary to retire from the leadership of the Liberal Party and the Deputy Premiership of the State. Whilst the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha has come in for a lot of criticism from hon. members opposite on occasions, I know that he is a man who gives himself wholeheartedly to his job and I feel that, as a result, his many arduous duties may perhaps have taken toll of his health. I am sorry to see it affected.

I have, however, high respect for the hon. member for Toowong. He is a man whom I, in the short time that I have been in this assembly, have learnt to respect as a man. I have learnt to respect his judgment. I have never known him to go off half-cocked, as it were. He is a man who gives great consideration to any statement he makes, and his judgment is very sound.

We have before the House an amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition and seconded by the hon. member for Baroona; it is a vote of no-confidence in this Government. I am a very junior member of the Government, but any attack on the Premier of Queensland, or on any Minister, I consider to be a personal attack on me.

**Mr. Bromley** interjected.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** The hon. member for Norman made so many silly statements in his speech the other night that I suggest he not make any now that might be taken up, as they will only be very foolish.

During the recent tour of the Leader of the Opposition through the North-west and down through the Central-west, we read many of his statements in various towns, and we listened to him here the other day. As one who had a long association with him during the war years, I come in contact with others who had that same association, and recently the comment of virtually 100 per cent. of them was, "If the Labour Party, quite irrespective of wanting to win the next election, want to retain the seats that they have, why on earth did they let Jack Duggan go on that tour?" That came from many good Labour supporters.

The motion of no-confidence was based on unemployment. I do not want to touch on that because I consider that the hon. member for Nundah, in his reply to the Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for Baroona, and some back-bench members, answered efficiently every charge and left nothing for me to say. I should like to say, however, that this morning the hon. member for Brisbane, with the gallery full

of young children, endeavoured in his customary way to charge the Government with not having jobs for young people and to create a feeling of distrust in the minds of those children. That is something that we on this side of the Chamber consider very, very poor indeed from a man with the political experience of the hon. member. He gave lots of figures, which were pretty boring, but I do recall, as a parallel, that in February of last year there was a call for applicants for a job in the Toowoomba Town Hall and 52 juniors applied. When a search was made, it was found that all 52 of those juniors were in employment and were merely seeking a better job. I should say that the same thing would apply in a large percentage of the cases referred to by the hon. member for Brisbane.

Following the moving of the amendment by the Leader of the Opposition and its seconding by the hon. member for Baroona, we had a speech from the Acting Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for Brisbane. It is very strange, I think, that with a motion of no-confidence before the House the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, instead of attending to his parliamentary duties and those of his constituents, and after three or four months of recess, is out electioneering. I believe that the people of Queensland should know that, and it will be interesting to see what happens to him at the next election.

The Leader of the Opposition was very critical of the time spent by the Premier in what he termed vulnerable electorates. He referred particularly to the electorate of Flinders, which is represented by Mr. Lonergan. Incidentally, I congratulate the hon. member for Flinders on the manner in which he moved the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I believe that last year I spent more time in the Flinders electorate than the Leader of the Opposition did during his recent visit. After loitering along over long distances and talking to people in the electorate, I can see no reason why the Premier, in his recent assessment, should consider it one of the vulnerable electorates. The hon. member for Flinders has the respect not only of Country Party voters but also of many of the railway workers who over the years have voted Labour.

Talk of vulnerable electorates and the charge against the Premier of spending a great deal of time in them brings us back to electorates such as Balonne, Roma, and Condamine. The Premier spent just as much time there as he did in Flinders, but surely the Leader of the Opposition cannot, even in his wildest dreams, think of any of them as vulnerable electorates. I understand that the Leader of the Opposition held a street meeting in Roma which was attended by fewer than 20 people. In Balonne the A.L.P. cannot get anybody to oppose the sitting member. They are sending out some refugee from Brisbane, and I have not heard who my opponent is likely to be in Condamine.



The Leader of the Opposition said that there is an outcry from people who are dissatisfied with the Government. There may be a few complaints from people who are a bit sore because they cannot buy a new lease, but over the last five years the people of Queensland generally have learnt quite a lot about government because the Premier and his Ministers have travelled round Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition criticised the Premier and his Ministers for taking Cabinet to Quilpie. I wonder what the people of Quilpie think of that? After all, Quilpie, to our minds, is a pretty important spot in this State of Queensland.

I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that if the Labour Party want to retain the seats they hold, do not let them criticise Frank Nicklin. The Premier and his Ministers—every one of them—are held in very high esteem by the people of Queensland.

Members of the Opposition know that when Labour were the Government children in the schools did not know who their Premier was; they had never heard of him.

**Mr. Hanlon** interjected.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** Is he not to be commended for going out and meeting the people and getting to know them? I am sure that any sane person—father or mother—would regard that as what their children want.

By way of interjection, I asked the hon. member for Baroona the other day whether it was a fact that if the Labour Government were returned they would oppose taking secondary education to the country. The hon. member for Barcoo told us what would be done by the Labour Government. Crow's Nest and Jandowae are two typical cases in my own electorate of places to which no attempt was made to take secondary education until Mr. Pizzey became Minister for Education. It is well known to hon. members that the number of children receiving secondary education has increased from 13,000 to close on 64,000 in a matter of five years. That is something of which we, as a Government, are justly proud.

The name of the Minister for Education, I should say, is known to, and on the lips of, every child in Queensland today. When I was a child at school I do not think I was any dumber than the rest of the kids, but I did not know who our Minister for Education was. We had never seen him or heard of him.

Not only have educational facilities been made better today, but the architecture and painting of schools have been vastly improved as well. The old drab appearance has gone and we now see beautiful schools with magnificent colouring. The "Richter red" and "Pizzey pink," as the hon. member for Townsville South names them, are something to be proud of.

We have heard from the Opposition benches, "Why don't you do this and why don't you do that?" As the member for Condamine I am very grateful for what has been done in my electorate in the short time I have represented it. Perhaps I am foolish in making this statement in front of the Minister, but I do say that there is not a great deal left to be done. There are still the police stations at Jandowae and Chinchilla, but I have sufficient confidence in the Minister for Public Works and Local Government to know that they will be attended to.

Those are the things I see in travelling round making representations for the people in my electorate. Over the years under Labour administration it was accepted that kiddies should be crowded into schools with even two or three classes being taught under a pepperina tree. But we have changed all that. Representations were made, small schools were closed and two amalgamated, everybody being given plenty of room. Those are the things that have been done and I am very pleased to see the Minister for Education and Migration and the Minister for Public Works and Local Government on the front bench so that I can thank them publicly in this Chamber for what they have done, but for the children of the electorate of Condamine, not for me.

I do not say this in a derogatory way, but the other day the hon. member for Salisbury, with his lack of knowledge, asked the Treasurer if it was a fact that the present beef prices at Cannon Hill were at an all-time low.

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** I rise to a point of order. The hon. member should get his facts right. I did not ask the Treasurer that question at all.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** If the hon. member for Salisbury reads "Hansard" he will find that that is what he said. When, by way of interjection, I asked him, "Why don't you go down to Cannon Hill and have a look at these things for yourself?" he very rudely told me to pull my head in. Two or three weeks ago, on the day before the opening of the Brisbane Exhibition, the Royal National Association put on at the Exhibition Grounds what was termed a Beef Symposium. The day I spent there was one of the most interesting I have ever spent. We have heard a great deal during the course of the debate about the price of beef to the consumer. The Beef Symposium presented a golden opportunity for hon. members in the metropolitan area, who possibly do not very often get an opportunity to learn anything about beef, to listen to the points of view of the grower, the retailer, the wholesaler, and the consumer. As I walked through the corridors of Parliament House that morning I saw many Opposition members but not one of them attended the Beef Symposium. The Minister for Agriculture and Forestry and the then Deputy Premier, Mr. Morris—a sick man—spent the whole day there.

**Mr. Graham:** They invited him.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** I was not invited but I was sufficiently interested to attend. If hon. members opposite criticise the price of beef paid to the producer or the price charged to the consumer, do they not think that they should have taken the opportunity to go out to the Beef Symposium to learn some of the facts?

**An Opposition Member:** From whom?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** A voice from the wilderness! There were representatives of the whole of the beef industry—the grower, the retailer, and the consumer. What more would the hon. member want? During the Exhibition, on the hour every hour, there was a display in the Meat Hall of the cutting up of a carcass of beef.

**Mr. Donald:** That is not a new feature.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** I did not say that it was a new feature, but how many hon. members opposite watched the demonstration to see what wastage there was in a carcass of beef?

Following a speech by the hon. member for Fassifern in the House, "The Courier-Mail" quoted him as having said that the butchers here are paying the producer £5 10s. a 100-lb. for their beef. I have taken the trouble to have a yarn with one of the leading Brisbane retailers. He told me that he has been in touch with master butchers at Ipswich and Dinmore, and at Borthwicks. If anybody is sufficiently interested to look at the quotations in "Country Life" that I have here he will see that in the past three months the price for third-quality meat has ranged from 145s. to 150s. a 100-lb. We hear much criticism of the cost of beef to the consumer. I do not know if the hon. member for Fassifern is in the Chamber, but Mr. Land said that he cannot be credited with having a great deal of common sense to make a statement like that. All he has to do is to ring up and he can sell his third-quality beef for that figure at the works.

I wish to point out the position to Opposition members, metropolitan members, and some of our country members who may not be acquainted with what is happening. The type of beast required today for the local market is a two-year-old steer—not more than two years old—weighing about 470 to 540 lb. dressed.

**Mr. Graham:** Who sells them?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** The local trade.

**Mr. Graham:** Old scrubbers.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** That is what the hon. member does not understand. I am trying to explain that a crop-fattened beast between 20 months and two years old will weigh between 480 and 540 lb. dressed. Some

people talk about over-fat beasts, but I believe it is absolutely impossible to produce first-quality meat unless you have a fair selvage of fat. Mr. Land informed me that the salable meat from that type of beast is about 63 per cent. when the bone is taken out and the housewife has had the fat cut off. That was demonstrated at the cutting-up and breaking-down process in the Meat Hall at the Exhibition.

**Mr. Sherrington:** You did not get those figures from your brother who is a butcher?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** He is a very good one, too, I believe. The people at Toowong tell me he is the best in Brisbane and they come to him from many suburbs.

This afternoon I spent a couple of hours with the Minister for Agriculture and Stock and the Minister for Transport, together with a deputation from the Prime Lamb Committee from the Darling Downs, in an attempt to put lamb into North Queensland. I am a member of that committee and I was in the North recently in an attempt to increase sales up there. I investigated the possibilities of sending lamb to the North. The hon. members for Tablelands, Whitsunday, Hinchinbrook, and Mulgrave asked me about the possibility of introducing lamb to the North. When I went to the North and talked to people in various places, they were very grateful to those hon. members for bringing this matter to my attention. They said they did not know what lamb was. Apparently, over the years no-one has tried to get lamb into those areas.

Because I represent some very intensively farmed areas where some of the best lamb is produced, I believe I have a responsibility to assist the farmers to sell lamb. In doing so, we are helping the people in the North, who do not get the good beef that we have down here.

I recommend to hon. members opposite, and for that matter Government members too, particularly those in the metropolitan area, that they watch the week-end Press for a statement by Mr. Jack Land, of William Land (Pty.) Ltd., meat retailers and exporters of Brisbane, in which he will answer some of the criticisms levelled at the meat processors yesterday by the hon. member for Fassifern. I can assure them that his article will be well worth reading. Having listened to Mr. Land at the Beef Symposium, I think he will put the case for the retailer and exporter rather well.

To conclude my remarks on the beef industry I should like to read, and have recorded in "Hansard", a statement from "Country Life" about a grand old grazier, Mr. Bill Cameron, who is president of the Warwick Show Society. I do not, of course, expect the "Hansard" staff to include in the record the caricature that accompanies

the article, drawn by Captain W. G. Machin, D.S.O., international caricaturist. The article reads—

"While being sketched at the recent R.N.A. Beef Symposium, he had this to say:

"To my mind, the main issue was overlooked by speakers and questioners alike. It is this: How does the present percentage of the average family man's wages set aside for the purchase of meat compare with the percentage allowed for this purpose say 30 years ago?

"Today there are so many new ways of spending money, wireless, television, air travel, seaside resorts, washing machines, refrigerators, just to mention a few. Added to this is the change in fashions. Where 30 years ago clothes were bought with an emphasis on their lasting qualities, today (and this applies particularly to women's clothes) they are bought for the occasion and not desired to last. Then there are cosmetics and accessories. As a friend of mine said: "The dress is only the starting price. It's the accessories that really set a man back."

"On the man's side the change from pipe to cigarette smoking and our present drinking habits and the weekly hair cut probably account for his main increase in personal expenditure.

"If a man has an income of A plus B plus C plus D plus E plus F pounds and £As are earmarked for clothes, £Bs to meet the weekly instalments on household gadgets, £Cs for amusement, £Ds for drinking and tobacco, there is only £Es and F left to cover food and unforeseen expenses. So we find there is not only the perennial clamor for cheaper food, but our menu instead of being healthy and nourishing is chiefly composed of cheap stomach-filling messes.

"When I was young Mrs. Beeton's cookery book could be found in most kitchens. Today it is just about a museum piece—not because it is not an excellent book but because nine out of 10 people could not afford the ingredients used nor the quantities she advocated.

"By comparison meat, butter, milk, and eggs are not dear today. I can never remember when meat cost less than 6d. lb. average, but I can remember when a haircut cost 6d. and a reel of cotton 1d.

"And fatless meat! It would be akin to milk without butterfat or a banana without a skin. Why not go the whole hog and ask us to grow boneless beef?"

I have quoted that to have it included in "Hansard" so that metropolitan members, who possibly do not read "Country Life", will be able to peruse it. I think there is a great deal of common sense in it.

As I have not much time left in this debate, and as the debate on the amendment before the House has been used by the Opposition mainly for electioneering purposes, I want to refer, although he is not in the Chamber, to the recent trip to the Tableland of the hon. member for Norman. He referred to the Mr. Jonsson of great fame. I want to tell him that I, too, was recently on the Tableland. I was driven past the property of Mr. Alf Jonsson by his own nephew, and he indicated to me that the happiest time of his life was when his Uncle Alf was in gaol.

This is something that has nothing to do with transport. I had with me in the back of the car the Commissioner for Irrigation and Water Supply, and he knew the story. This young Mr. Jonsson—I am sure the hon. member for Tablelands will bear me out in this—farms downstream from his Uncle Alf. He grows potatoes, and the country lends itself very well to water-harvesting and the damming of gullies. Being upstream from his young nephew, his Uncle Alf put in all sorts of unregistered banks and cut off his nephew's water supply. When the hon. member for Norman tries to tell this Chamber how sympathetic the people on the Tableland are towards Mr. Alf Jonsson, that is just so much ballyhoo.

I mentioned earlier that this debate has been used for political campaigning. A very prominent member of the A.W.U., Mr. Egerton (Opposition laughter) said last year that he did not have faith in the A.L.P. because of the type of men that they were seeking for parliamentary representation. Whilst on the Tableland, I was told that a man who is held in the very highest regard in the district had been nominated for the plebiscite. He is a man who has given 21 years' service as chairman of the Herberton Shire Council, 10 or 12 years as chairman of the Cairns Harbour Board, and a man whom one would think the A.L.P. would be very keen to have in their ranks. He is a man with a great knowledge of the area. However, he says, "I am a fellow who might buck the machine." They do not want that to happen.

**Mr. Wallace:** Who said that?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** This gentleman up there. I have forgotten his name just for the moment—it is Holcroft. They had another candidate in the field, and the craft unions got behind him and he won the endorsement. That was a wonderful thing for us. The hon. member for Tablelands is laughing his head off. That bears out what Mr. Egerton had to say last year—that the Q.C.E. want endorsed only fellows who will put up their hands and vote as they are told to.

My time is running out, and my voice is, too. I am to be followed by the hon. member for Salisbury, and I know that he will, in his customary way, endeavour to chop my feet from under me. He is not a bad fellow, really, and I plead with him to make some sensible contribution. I ran into one

of his constituents who was doing a little complaining the other day and I said, "Don't be too hard on him. He is not too bad, really. As a matter of fact, he never does any harm." He said, "No. As a matter of fact, he never does any good, either." I pass on the suggestion to the hon. member that he should try to do something for his constituents instead of attacking me.

During the debate, the hon. member for Barcoo and the Leader of the Opposition mentioned certain aspects of the development of the brigalow country in the Fitzroy Basin. I do not propose to deal with that at this late hour. No doubt there will be other opportunities during the session to speak about the development of the brigalow country in the Fitzroy Basin and other parts of Queensland, so I shall leave any further remarks on that subject until then.

**Mr. SHERRINGTON** (Salisbury) (7.26 p.m.): In rising to support the amendment moved so ably by the Leader of the Opposition, I should like to say first that the attitude of levity adopted by hon. members opposite to a serious amendment—an amendment that reflects the feelings of people outside Parliament—shows how much the Government and their members have drifted away from public opinion and the thoughts being voiced by the man in the street.

Before speaking to the amendment, I associate myself with other members of the Opposition in expressing loyalty to Her Majesty. I also offer the congratulation of the electors of Salisbury to His Excellency the Governor on the extension of his term of office.

I assure the hon. member for Condamine that I do not intend to waste my time on such small fry as he is. Having listened to the fairy tale that he has just told the House about what one of his friends—I venture to say that if he has any friends that person would be the only one—had to say to him about my representation of the electorate of Salisbury, I put this to him: apparently his friends in the Liberal Party do not think the same way about my representation, because they cannot find a candidate to stand against me. It was convenient for them to announce in the Press that they had deferred selection of the candidate for Salisbury, but the real truth is that no-one is keen to stand against me. If the hon. member for Condamine has a friend in Salisbury who has that opinion of me, of the 12,000 votes cast in Salisbury he will be the only one to vote for the Liberal candidate, if there is one.

When the hon. member talks of loyalty to parties, I am tempted to remind him of the time when he opposed the endorsed Country Party candidate and came looking for support amongst A.L.P. voters in his endeavour to lop the head off that gentleman. I do not intend to waste any further time on the hon. member for Condamine, but he has at least paid me the compliment of

making it clear that my contributions in the House have him and other members of the Government parties rattled.

Let us analyse the attitude of members of the Government when a motion of no-confidence has been proposed against them. They choose to treat it as a joke; they choose to adopt the attitude, just as the Menzies and the Holts did before the Federal election, that the people in the street are being misled and think that this Government are efficient. If they choose to believe that, if they choose to be lulled into the sense of false security that they were lulled into in the Federal sphere, I draw their attention to the very close shave that Menzies and his confreres suffered at the election on 9 December. I am willing to forecast now that in May next year—and I am forecasting the date of the election—we will see the same sort of trend, because the people of Queensland will not be fooled any longer by the claims and propaganda that, on the eve of an election, this Government are pouring forth in an endeavour to draw the electors' minds away from the real issues at stake.

Very few speakers on the Government side so far have risen to refute this motion of no-confidence and the subject matter contained in the amendment. An analysis of the speeches that have been made shows that they are making determined efforts to cover up their utter failure to manage efficiently the affairs of this State. I thought it was rather significant that the seconder of the motion of loyalty went to no end of trouble to inform this House and the voting public that the Government were on the offensive.

**Mr. Dewar:** Too right! We are still there!

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** I am very pleased to hear that the seconder of the motion is in the House, because anybody who knows anything about tactics knows that the best means of defence is offence. The Opposition accepts that the Government are on the offensive. I go further and say that they are very offensive to every decent-thinking Queenslander.

Let us carry the matter a little further. After witnessing the political claptrap of professional journalists, employed by the Liberal Party, on hoardings throughout the State to the effect that the issue at stake is Socialism versus free society, and after listening to the notice of motion couched in those same terms of Socialism versus free society, and proposed by the Dorothy Dix of Ashgrove, it becomes painfully obvious that in their desire to cover up their mishandling of the State's resources they are endeavouring to cloud the real issues at stake. Incidentally, I should say that that notice of motion was composed by the self-same journalist.

Even the Treasurer, during his speech on the Appropriation Bill, was stirred from his usual placidity to say, "On the eve of the election, let us get our facts straight and let us be fair and above-board." What, I ask,

makes the Treasurer think that the Government will be judged on anything but their record?

**Mr. Sullivan:** That is what we want to be judged on.

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** All right. Does he or any other member of the Government hope that the voters will forget the actions of the Government on many features of public interest in the life of this Parliament? Does the Treasurer think that the tenants of Housing Commission homes, most of whom had fallen into arrears because of unemployment and sickness, will forget his cheap sneer when he said that if they preferred to spend their money on booze and betting, out they would go?

**Mr. Tooth:** Most of the tenants in Housing Commission homes are in arrears? Is that your assertion?

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** You would not know. You are so busy looking for a bear under every bush that you would not understand.

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

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but I was tempted to digress from what I think is a discussion of interest to the people of the State.

Does the Treasurer think that the 3,500 applicants for State rental homes will forget that he has not been able to provide homes for them? Will the trade unionists forget the emasculation of the arbitration laws by the Minister for Labour and Industry? Will the workers at Mt. Isa forget the bonus issue? The unwarranted handing over of portion of our national parks to private interests by the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry will not be forgotten by the members of the National Parks Association. The people will not forget the actions of the Minister for Transport in curtailing essential train services, or his wasteful expenditure of £120,000 on the compilation of the report for the improvement of the railways, most of which even he will not have the temerity to implement. Will the railwaymen forget that the Minister has failed to replace 3,000 of their numbers, and has instilled in every railway employee a feeling of insecurity in his position? Will the transport operators and the people living in remote country areas served by road transport forget the vicious taxes imposed by the amendment to the Road Transport Act? Will they forget the bungling efforts of the Minister for Health and Home Affairs over the Westbrook inquiry? Will they forget the actions of the Minister for Justice in his defence of the blunder in the siting of the Inala Hotel? Will the people of Sarina forget the farce of the opening of their hospital?

Among other things, will the people forget the inability of the Government to cope with the crisis in unemployment, the taxing of

beer-drinkers under the guise of liberalisation of the liquor laws, the attack on bookmakers by the introduction of the turnover tax, the failure of the Minister for Justice to take any action to curb the spiralling cost of living following his relaxation of price-control?

There are many more features of public life in which, one way or another, the Government have antagonised the people so much that it is not necessary for hon. members on this side to foster any kind of resentment towards the Government. That resentment exists wherever one travels among the trade unionists, the business leaders, and the Government's own supporters. These are all things that the voters will not forget. They are what they will remember when election-time comes round. It is completely futile for any member of the Government to hope that anything he might say between now and the time when the voter will have his opportunity to express his opinion of the Government, will correct their misdemeanours and enable them to escape the castigation at the hands of people who are completely dissatisfied with their performance during their term of office. After all, there is always one issue only at stake and that is social security for every man, woman, and child who is resident within the boundaries of this State. People have a right to expect, and to demand, adequate housing, security of employment, opportunity for advancement, adequate health and educational facilities, and, above all, complete freedom of expression. Those are the things that are the issues at stake; those are the things that people expect Governments to achieve.

**Mr. Sullivan:** Tell us about housing for school-teachers.

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** I will come to the school problem in a moment.

It is those things that the voters of Queensland will weigh to assess how they will cast their vote. No matter how much hon. members opposite may seek to cloud these issues, and no matter what extraneous matter they may try to introduce, it becomes crystal clear that the result of the last Federal election proved beyond a shadow of doubt that any Government who cannot provide the basic needs of the population, who cannot provide full employment, housing, educational, and health services, will not survive the fate meted out at the ballot box by peddling the moth-eaten shibboleth of Socialism versus free society.

If this Government believe it is necessary to prop up their case by a scurrilous campaign against the integrity of members of the Australian Labour Party, if they believe that this type of cheap smear will alter the determination of the voters to elect a Government that will work to achieve economic security and social justice for people in all walks of life, it would seem that the Government offer complete proof that there are none so blind as those who will not see.

At this stage of the Parliament it would be logical to assume that a Government who had achieved their desired programme, had maintained employment, provided housing and health services, and managed the affairs of this State in a capable manner, would have no need to go on the offensive. They would have been secure in the knowledge that they had nothing whatever to fear at the hands of the voters. Because of this so-called offensive by the Government, it would seem that their members are badly rattled by the opinion voiced by the man in the street. The Government have claimed to have brought industry to this State. They have claimed that since their election to Parliament they have created a climate for investment, and that, because of their legislative programme in removing so-called restrictions, industries are now prepared to come to Queensland in unparalleled numbers. Indeed, they have gone to great lengths to publish the number of new factories established in Queensland each year. The Premier recently blamed the failure of the Government to maintain employment on what he termed the Socialistic policy of previous Labour Governments keeping industry out of this State, yet a study of the factory statistics shows that between 1953 and 1957 there was an increase of 465 factories compared with an increase of 344 between 1957 and 1961, the period under this Government. The remarkable feature of these statistics is that in those periods employment increased by 9,988 under Labour, as compared with an increase of 993 under the present Government. Let us accept the advice of the Treasurer and get things straight and view them in their right perspective. Let the Premier and his Cabinet colleagues accept the responsibility for their failure to attract worth-while industry to the State with the resultant lack of opportunity for the young people to obtain employment in a trade, instead of this spurious rot Government members pour forth about what will happen under a Socialist Australian Labour Party Government. This State never had, nor will it ever have, anything to fear from returning an Australian Labour Party Government. Indeed it has everything to gain, particularly as far as industry is concerned, as the figures I have just quoted prove so conclusively.

The Government have gone to great pains to highlight their work in the field of education in the construction of schools. I do not deny that more schools have been built, but the Government were forced to build them through the pressure exerted on existing facilities by the increase in the child population. Do not let us build up the Minister for Education as one who has done something great. Any Government who occupied the Treasury benches would have been forced to build more schools.

**Government Members** interjected.

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** Hon. members opposite do not like being told these things; but what has the construction of these schools

meant to the young people? They have been built at the expense of every other department run by the Government. What did the former Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation say? The Irrigation Vote had been cut to £1,000,000 when we should have spent £5,000,000 on irrigation and water conservation. These schools have been built while the vote for every other department has been pruned. I do not deny that the building of schools is necessary but I do say that the Government have handled badly the funds at their command, because they have concentrated on pouring money into the building of schools and neglected those departments that would have provided employment for the young people on completing their education. This Government, who claim to have done so much to educate the young people, cannot find jobs to absorb them. If they do not try to stimulate industry to provide employment as a necessary adjunct to education, we will have the best-educated dole queues in the Commonwealth.

**Mr. Dewar:** Don't you believe in education?

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** The hon. member for Wavell inanely interjects that we do not believe in education. What is the good of education if young people cannot get employment?

**Mr. Dewar:** Don't you agree with education?

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** I do not agree with anything the hon. member for Wavell says, because most of it is rot. If one could believe half of the claims of this Government about what they have done in getting new industries to this State, one could be pardoned for believing that we were living in a modern Utopia. I say that in these things, as in many others, the Government have been politically dishonest in their claims of what they have done to bring industries to this State.

Whilst it indulged in a fanfare of self-recommendation for consumption by the voters, couched in terms of vistas of unparalleled development unfolding, what did the Premier say at the recent Loan Council meeting when trying to gain additional aid for this State? This is what he said—

"I submit a special plea for Queensland on the basis that this State has progressively lagged in development behind other States and I submit that some special stimulus, on a continuing basis, is essential if Queensland is to hold its own in the broad pattern of national development."

He went on to say—

"Natural population increase was higher than the average for the six States, but Queensland was lagging badly in net migration.

"The fact that Queensland was not able to attract its share of migration indicated a lack of employment opportunities which, in turn, were caused by a lower level of development expenditure, both public and private."

He further went on to say—

"The lack of development has been reflected in, and associated with, a higher level of unemployment in Queensland during recent years than in any other State. This position is often dismissed on the basis that Queensland's unemployment is essentially a seasonal problem.

"Let me state quite categorically that over the last three years the Queensland percentage of the work force unemployed has been below the Australian average in only one month."

He went on to say further—

"Queensland factories had not even developed by the same percentages as the six States as a whole.

"Whether you look at the number of factories, factory employment, value of production, or the value of land, buildings, plant, and machinery—the position is the same.

"As an example, the Australian average percentage increase in factory employment between 1955-1956 and 1960-1961 was 7.9 per cent. Queensland increased by 1.9 per cent."

**Mr. Mann:** Who said that?

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** This is what the Premier had to say, and this was after all the propaganda that has gone out about the number of factories that have been established in this State since this Government assumed office. What is more, this is the same Premier who has often said in this Chamber that the Opposition speak with two voices.

The amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition charges the Government with inability to deal effectively with increases in the cost of living. If proof is needed of the ineptitude of this Government, one has to look no further than their feeble efforts to halt the rise in the cost of living in this State. Even a cursory glance at the record of their policy of the decontrol of prices reveals a shocking state of affairs which, in spite of the apparent complacency of the Minister for Justice, borders on a scandal.

In addition to being responsible for great numbers of people being unemployed, the Government have further added to their mental stress by allowing a Roman holiday to develop in the prices of essential commodities, while at the same time the Minister for Justice could not care less. Not only is he prepared to toss aside an efficient organisation of price control for a system of healthy competition to control prices; he is also prepared to abandon completely any supervision of what is taking place under the

guise of healthy competition. "Truth" newspaper headlined definite charges on the meat scandal, and the subject matter of that article was the basis of questions that I directed to the Minister. What was the Minister's reply? Summed up, his only answer was the excellence of his opinion in this regard in several speeches that he had made in the House. In reply to a question by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition on the subject of prices, he answered that he had no evidence to prove that there was any room for an inquiry into the price structure in Queensland. He also stated that the Government had succeeded in bringing back to Queensland healthy competitive trading conditions without any undue increase in the cost of living. I suggest that the Minister will have a hard job selling that to the housewives of Queensland, particularly having in mind present meat prices.

In May last year Mr. Peter Bell, of the United Graziers' Association, drew attention to the discrepancy between prices being charged to housewives and those being paid to producers, and in today's Press there is a report showing that the chairman of the South-eastern District Graziers' Association is also of the opinion that there is a wide discrepancy between prices paid by consumers and those received by producers. As a matter of fact, in May last year the Minister in charge of prices promised to conduct an inquiry into this very same matter. In addition, the hon. member for Fassfern was quite blunt in his remarks about what was happening on the wholesale side of the meat industry. His opinion was that there was definite exploitation of the housewife, and he confirmed the view that, at the same time, producers were receiving less and less for beef supplied for killing.

As I said, a report in today's Press shows that the chairman of the South-eastern District Graziers' Association claimed that the wholesale price of meat had fallen by as much as 30 per cent., yet men of the calibre of the grazier from the Gold Coast, the hon. member for Roma, try to make a joke of this matter in the House. I suggest that he have a talk to some of the housewives in his electorate the next time he visits it. If, as the hon. member for Condamine claims—I regret very much that I have to quote the hon. member as an authority—Mr. Land is going to explain this position satisfactorily and show that the wholesalers are not doing this, and the graziers claim that they are receiving less for their meat, I suggest that, because of public opinion, it would be in the interests of the Government to appoint a royal commission to investigate what is going on in the meat industry. There has been plenty of evidence from other quarters—from housewives and people who are trying to rear young children—yet the Minister has the colossal audacity to say, in reply to that question, that he sees no evidence to support the taking of any action on price control. The local newspaper which tabbed the Minister with the name of "Maverick" following his

escapade at Quilpie must have realised how apt the nickname "Maverick" is in relation to his attitude on price control. Reference to the dictionary reveals that "Maverick" refers to one who is straying and casual. This could-not-care-less attitude of the Minister's completely fits that description.

I want to deal also with the aftermath of the de-control of rent in Queensland, and with some of the problems that have been created as a result. Low-wage earners, because of their priority rating, are often not entitled to a Housing Commission home and, to get a roof over their heads, are forced to pay the exorbitant rents that landlords have been charging legally since this Government saw fit to relax price control on rents. It has been found that some low-wage earners with families of two or three children cannot meet their commitments in these high rentals and they are evicted for non-payment of rent arrears. These unfortunate people are then disqualified forever from obtaining a Housing Commission home because they have been evicted for non-payment of rent. That is not a figment of my imagination, because several representations in this regard have been made to me.

I pass now to the Prices Advisory Board. This Government have completely abandoned the system of price control, but with a typical token effort they set up a Prices Advisory Board. Because that board expressed its opposition to the de-control of prices the Government have now chosen to ignore completely any recommendations it has made. In answer to a question on rent recently, the Minister admitted that the board has not met since 14 December, 1959. I think it is a shocking admission that, having established this board to advise them, the Government choose now to ignore completely its advice and to proceed willy-nilly in their own narrow parochial outlook.

I should like also to refer briefly to what the Minister said in reply to one of my queries on what action is taken when there is obvious evidence of overcharging. The Minister said that it was found that each case was dealt with on its merits. It was found also that advice from the inspector and a stern warning letter from the Commissioner of Prices usually had the desired effect. What rot! What utter piffle! I have dug deeply into my imagination to see if I can really believe that it would be possible that a stern word from the inspector and a warning letter from the Commissioner would instil in the hearts of unscrupulous traders a fear of the consequences if they continued to exploit the public. But the Minister for Justice, who controls the Commissioner for Prices, might just as well ask us to believe that you can stop a grizzly bear with a pea-shooter. He claimed that black-marketing was rampant when price-control was operating and when prices were policed by an efficient staff of inspectors. He said that even then black-marketing and key-money rackets were going

on. Now he has the temerity to say that with a reduction in the staff of inspectors from 16 to four, a stern warning from the Commissioner will scare these unscrupulous traders into doing the right thing.

For the reasons given by me and other hon. members on this side today, time will prove that the motion of no-confidence in the Government will not be decided by a vote in this Chamber but on election day next year.

**Mr. ROW** (Hinchinbrook) (8.6 p.m.): I rise to support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply so ably moved by the hon. member for Flinders who, unfortunately, like most of us tonight, is suffering from the "Brisbane wog". The motion was ably seconded by the hon. member for Wavell. I rise also to oppose the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition.

I join with other hon. members in affirming allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen and, through His Excellency the Governor, to convey expressions of loyalty from the citizens of Hinchinbrook.

As hon. members are aware, the citizens of Hinchinbrook are made up of many people who came originally from Europe. Since the beginning of the century much of North Queensland has been peopled by migrants from Italy, Finland, Spain, and other parts of Europe, who have played a very important part in doing a mighty job for North Queensland. They have proved themselves to be wonderful settlers. Their assimilation, particularly in the town of Ingham and in the Herbert River area, is a wonderful example of what can be done by people from other parts of the world. We are indeed proud of our community. We are very fortunate to have project clubs such as the Lions, Rotary, Apex, Junior Farmers, and Junior Chambers of Commerce, all consisting of citizens from many walks of life. They all play a very important part in community effort.

We are indeed very grateful to know that Her Majesty the Queen will be visiting Queensland, although we are very sorry that limited time will prevent her from coming to the North, the greatest part of Queensland. I am quite sure that many people from the North will take the opportunity to come to Brisbane to see her, because it is eight years since she was up there. I regret that she cannot go to the North to see what a change has been effected in those eight years.

During the Parliamentary recess we were very fortunate to have visits from many Ministers of the Crown. It is a feature of this Government's administration that from time to time Ministers visit all parts of the State so that they can acquaint themselves with what is needed in all portions of Queensland's large area. That rarely



happened with the previous Government. During the last recess the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity spent four days in the Ingham district. He saw many features associated with requests that I had presented to him from time to time. We had a visit, too, from the Minister for Transport, who made a personal inspection of the railway, met deputations, and looked into many other matters that were brought to his attention. The Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation visited us for a short period, and so did the Minister for Health and Home Affairs. We were indeed pleased to have a visit from the Leader of the Opposition and, in keeping with his position, we gave him a civic reception. I congratulate him on his very fine speech, which was entirely divorced from politics. He spoke about the very fine buildings in Ingham and the amazing development that had taken place in the town since his last visit. I remind him that many of the things he saw have been effected in only the last five years. For example, he saw our new railway platform, which is a beautiful high-level, raised platform with fluorescent lighting, built at a cost of over £20,000. For very many years, under the regime of the Labour Party, representations for a raised platform were made to the responsible authorities. We had the spectacle of old people trying to climb up on to the trains and we were not given a set of steps to assist them. We are very proud of our fine raised platform and are very grateful to the Government.

The Leader of the Opposition also saw the fine nurses' quarters that have been built during the last 12 months. I remind hon. members that the new nurses' quarters for Ingham were mooted in 1937 but they were not commenced until last year. Over that period we had much wrangling and resultant suffocation of our attempts to get a decent centre to house the wonderful nurses and sisters at the Ingham hospital. I was honoured to have the opportunity to lay the foundation stone for that building, and also, in conjunction with Dr. Morrissey, to have the privilege of opening the nurses' quarters. I might mention that Dr. Morrissey was honoured in the Queen's Birthday list in June. After 37 years as the medical superintendent at Ingham, he was made an O.B.E. We in Ingham were very pleased and proud that this man with such a fine civic record should have such an honour bestowed on him.

At our hospital we have also a modern laundry which cost about £5,000 or £6,000. When I came to Parliament the laundry facilities at the hospital were a positive disgrace. Hon. members may believe it or not, but some of the laundry at the hospital was being washed in 44-gallon drums with the tops taken off.

We now have a swimming pool in Ingham. Under the Labour Government we were denied this facility. From time to time approaches were made to the then Treasurer,

Mr. Walsh, for a swimming pool. I believe one was built in Bundaberg, but we were denied one. We were told that we were not very far from the coast or the river. We had to swim in the river or at the beaches. I remind hon. members that some of the beaches are 10 to 15 miles distant from the town and those who were not fortunate enough to have a motor-car could not get there. There are also the dangers from sea wasps and other marine life encountered in the sea, from which people have died from time to time.

The Herbert River was so dirty from the filth and scum from the Tablelands Tin Dredging Company that people drowned in it. It was not until this Government came to office that that pollution was stopped. For 15 or 16 long years we had the river murky with sludge, full of this colloidal matter that would not settle, but the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity, to whom we are indebted, took certain steps with the mining people. They were forced to farm all this sludge over 1,000 acres of land in what they call dams. We could not do anything about it before. For years we will still get sludge in the river in the wet season through the accumulation of years of neglect because those people were allowed to put all the sludge into the creeks that run into the Herbert River, but at least for nine months of the year we will have clear water, something we did not have before.

Another thing we could not get before and began to think we would never have is a new civic centre. I have been a member of the shire council for many years. From time to time we applied to the then Treasurer, the hon. member for Bundaberg, for a new civic centre, but he refused it. Once he offered us £45,000 to give the old centre a face-lift but we did not accept it because it was not worth doing anything about. After I was elected to this Parliament I approached the Hon. James Heading, who was then Minister for Public Works and Local Government, and, with his assistance and that of the Treasurer, Mr. Sewell, and Sir James Holt, we were able to go ahead with a new civic centre. It is now well on the way to completion. It should be ready for occupation early in October, at the same time as the swimming pool will be completed.

It is very pleasing indeed to see that the members of this Government are cognisant of the needs of their public servants. When I became a member of this Assembly public servants in my area had few or no amenities. Homes were scarce. I am very pleased to see that the Minister for Public Works and Local Government has provided three or four homes already for public servants in my electorate, and more are on the list.

I was very pleased indeed to hear tributes paid to the Minister for Education, particularly by Opposition members. We realise that today education is an absolute

necessity. The age of mechanisation, which is fast approaching and which we have almost reached, means that the day of the ordinary labourer is disappearing and men will have to be trained in technical skills and trades. In our schools many improvements have been made. Since I have been in Parliament I have had the privilege of opening three new schools in my area, all of which supplanted broken-down old buildings known as provisional schools. A new school is being built at Foleyvale. It will accommodate the children and provide a resident teacher.

Faith in Queensland is exemplified by the new buildings in the district. In the last two years two new hotels second to none in Queensland for modern improvements have been built, and two new motels have been put up this year, all indicative of the faith of the community in this Government.

As most hon. members know, I am essentially a sugar man and I propose to devote some of my time in the debate tonight to the sugar industry. The Herbert River is in the main a primary area and its main product is sugar. This year, I am pleased to say, we will have one record crop and one crop a near record. Victoria Mill, the double-train mill, is this year estimated to yield a crop of 750,000 tons, while Macknade, which takes the Ingham Line cane, is estimated to yield 430,000 tons.

There is also the added feature of mechanical harvesting, and we have more of that in our district now than we had last year. Machines such as the Massey Ferguson, J. & L. and Brighton are all doing a certain amount of work up there, but I cannot yet see mechanical harvesting taking very great steps in replacing manual workers. I know that bad weather conditions play a part in that, but much work remains to be done before machines become genuinely accepted throughout the district. In the first place, the main machine, the J. & L., is a bit expensive for most farmers.

**Mr. Sullivan:** What is its price?

**Mr. ROW:** About £7,000. We have there a young farmer, a Mr. L. Mizzi, who is something of a mechanical genius, and who last year made a prototype and this year made a machine that I believe is going to have a tremendous influence on the harvesting of cane.

We know, of course, that the sugar industry is greatly concerned with the effect of the European Common Market. We know that the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement could be in jeopardy. We know that the open market is in a parlous condition due to low prices. It is very pleasing to know that markets have already been found for this year's big crop, in Japan in particular, and, to a lesser extent, the United States of America. Japan is taking this year 310,000 tons of our sugar at world market price, and

I believe that this country will become one of the greatest consumers of our sugar. Japan is taking our sugar because it is a first-quality product, and I really believe that she could eventually be our largest buyer. I hope that there will be a negotiated price, perhaps on some terms of reciprocal arrangement. I believe that this market is going to play a tremendous part in overcoming the difficulties that may arise over the sale of sugar as a result of Britain's joining the Common Market.

The sugar industry is well known for its efficiency and its general standards. We are very fortunate indeed to have organisations like the Australian Sugar Producers' Association, the Queensland Cane Growers' Association—which of course, comes under the Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act—and certain gentlemen in the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. Ltd. I mention particularly Mr. Percy Wheen and Mr. Jackson, who look for markets for sugar outside Australia. On behalf of sugar-growers, I pay tribute to them for their magnificent work in finding markets apart from the English market or those that we had through Europe.

It is with deep regret that I have to refer to the death of Mr. Ben Foley. It was my sad duty two years ago, when I moved the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, to refer to the death of Mr. Ron Muir, the former general secretary of the Queensland Cane Growers' Council. Unfortunately, this year we lost our respected and beloved chairman, Mr. Ben Foley. Not only was he chairman of the Queensland Cane Growers' Council, but he was also vice-chairman of the Council of Agriculture. Ben Foley was a remarkable Queenslander and a remarkable man, and his services to the industry will be sadly missed. I therefore place on record tonight our appreciation of all that he did for the sugar industry, for Queensland, and for Australia.

The general efficiency of the sugar industry is well known, and few industries are so highly mechanised. In the ordinary cultivation of cane, of course, modern methods have had to be introduced to cut costs of production, and I am always amazed by the number of young farmers who play a part in inventing ways and means of cutting costs. Their fathers could not do much about it because they worked with horses and ploughs, but these young men have remarkable brains for dealing with things mechanical. Going from farm to farm, it surprises me to see how many young men have invented appliances of all sorts to make work easier and to improve methods of cutting cane.

Of course, we are very fortunate in having the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations and the C.S.I.R.O., both of which play a very important part in producing cane varieties that are easier to grow, have good ratooning qualities, and, what is most important, have a

good commercial cane sugar content. As time goes on, one sees that the industry is progressing as a result of the work of organisations such as these, which play an important part in cutting costs.

Control of pests and the correct use of fertilizers are important factors. By taking an analysis of soils, the correct fertilizer can be applied to the ground and money is not wasted, as it was in the old days, in buying fertilizer that is not necessary for the cultivation and growth of cane.

However, there is one factor in the sugar industry to which I think I should refer—the giant sensitive plant. As you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the giant sensitive plant was brought in from Java in a legume known as *centrosima*. It was found originally in the Innisfail district, and it causes a great deal of worry and distress to those people on whose property it occurs. Unfortunately, in the Herbert River district we discovered two outbreaks some years ago. With the co-operation of the shire council, the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations, and the representatives of the Department of Agriculture and Stock, those two areas were brought under control. The unfortunate thing about the giant sensitive plant is that the seed can lie dormant in the ground for almost seven years. This year we found two more outbreaks in the district where *centrosima* had been planted five, six, or seven years ago.

For the benefit of those who do not know it, I might say that the giant sensitive plant is a most formidable thing to look at. I have seen one with a butt six inches in diameter. It will grow and cover a house, so hon. members can imagine the damage it can cause if it gets away in the cane fields.

I understand that up till a couple of years ago *centrosima* seed was brought in through Sydney and Brisbane from Java. The Sydney quarantine regulations were not very definite and the seed filtered through to Queensland, and I believe that in Queensland different quarantine methods are used. But obviously, whenever a bag of that seed comes in from Java, there is always the risk of infestation with giant sensitive plant and a spread of it. I ask the Minister to take steps to ban what could be a very big pest to the industry, a pest that could bring about the destruction of thousands of acres of valuable cane-growing land. I know that *centrosima* is a very important legume for the growth of artificial grasses in improved pastures, but it has been grown so extensively in Queensland over the past few years that there should be enough local seed to meet requirements. I make that suggestion in an endeavour to protect the sugar industry, and perhaps other areas of agriculture, from what could be a major pest that may destroy valuable property.

As hon. members know, tobacco is grown in the Herbert River district. It is not as important an industry there as it is in the Mareeba-Dimbulah area, but it has tremendous potential. This year at Ingham the

sales brought £117,000. The leaf was sold at Brandon. A total of only 204,000 lb. of leaf was sold but the average price was 137.5d. a lb., which is not very far below the average of about 144d. to 145d. at Mareeba. There was a 93 per cent. clearance, which was much better than last year's. The average yield was 800 lb. an acre, something under the average yield at Mareeba, but unfortunately in our area the growth of tobacco is restricted by the availability of water.

I understand from experts that there is plenty of valuable soil—good tobacco soil—there, where the industry could spread greatly, and I ask the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation to investigate a scheme by which small weirs could be built in the area to provide water for these farms. As hon. members know, the area is situated close to the coast, and I believe that small and not very costly weirs could be built to provide a water supply for tobacco-growing.

One must have water for the growing of tobacco, as the figures I have here indicate. Those who had an adequate water supply to irrigate their ground had good results; those who had an on-and-off water supply had only meagre results, while those who engaged in dry farming showed poor results. To give hon. members some idea by way of comparison, one man had an average yield of 1,668 lb. an acre, as against an average yield of 800 lb. an acre. He made £1,000 an acre out of his crop as against an average return of £475 an acre. So the necessity for water in increasing tobacco production in the district can be readily seen. There is plenty of soil and many men are anxious to grow tobacco, and I believe that this would be an important secondary crop to sugarcane and one that could provide employment when the sugar season ends.

It is interesting to note that Mareeba supplies 46 per cent. of the Australian leaf. Growers in the Herbert district would like to know—and I raised this with the Minister for Agriculture and Stock—if they could be allowed to return to Mareeba to sell their leaf. There were tobacco sales at Stuart. I understand the Stuart system was then removed to Brandon, but the farmers in my area claim that they are being jeopardised by the fact that they have to go to Brandon instead of to Mareeba to sell their tobacco. I ask the Minister for Agriculture and Stock and the Tobacco Marketing Board to give consideration to allowing our growers to sell their tobacco at Mareeba.

In the remaining time at my disposal I wish to say something about local government. A pleasant feature of the State's progress over the last decade has been the considerable progress of local government generally, notwithstanding the severe handicaps under which it labours in its lack of finance. This Government, I know, recognise the splendid achievement of local government in the various cities, towns, and shires

through the unrewarded efforts of members of local authorities and the efficient administration of their officers.

The Local Government Act gives very wide scope to local authorities for the improvement of their areas and for the betterment of the conditions under which people live. It provides that the local authority "shall be charged with the good rule and government of the whole or any part of its area and shall have the control of the working and business of such good rule and government."

Local government, of course, could scarcely hope for a wider scope. I know that the Minister for Public Works and Local Government, who has had considerable experience in local government, desires to allow local authorities to function to the full extent of the charter given by the Act. Although he has power to interfere in certain circumstances, there is no likelihood of his exercising powers in this regard while local authorities continue to administer their areas in a fair and progressive manner.

The Department of Local Government, and other departments concerned, have co-operated with local authorities in completing the large and numerous projects that have been undertaken, such as the construction of roads and bridges, the installation of sewerage and water supply, and the construction of aerodromes, playgrounds, parks, gardens, and cultural facilities such as libraries and halls, and many other amenities.

I would remind hon. members that the cost of these amenities is now getting beyond the scope of any local authority to bear. As an instance, in my own local authority the cost of amenities such as libraries, of which we have two, parks, gardens and recreation areas is almost as much as 2d. in the £1. This, of course, is an added burden on the ratepayer.

I realise that the greatest problems of local government today are the lack of adequate finance and the inequitable basis of taxation for local-government purposes.

**Mr. Davies:** Don't you think it is a shame that this Government cut down the subsidies?

**Mr. ROW:** As a matter of fact, the Government are paying more in actual cash subsidies than the previous Government ever paid. Because of the confidence that the money-lending authorities have in the Government, the local authorities have been able to fill all their loan raisings and spend the money. The result, of course, was that the subsidies had to be decreased. But this Government in actual fact are spending more money now in subsidies than the previous Government ever spent. For the present financial year large amounts have been approved for loan raising. Most local authorities will be kept fully occupied in raising loans to complete their loan programmes. I know that it has been suggested

that a central authority, such as the Treasury, should arrange sufficient loans with financial institutions for all local-government purposes. I do not subscribe to that view. I believe that local authorities should be encouraged to be as self-reliant as possible. I have no doubt that most local authorities will be able to raise all their financial requirements without departmental assistance in sufficient time to enable them to complete their programmes of works during the current financial year or early in the following year.

A pleasing feature of this year's loan raisings is the apparent readiness of some private savings banks, other than the local authority's bankers, to assist with loans in the areas in which their branches are established, as a gesture of co-operation in the work of the local authority and the development of the district. Certainly local-authority work is one of the avenues to which savings banks are required to apply their surplus funds, but there has been a tendency in the past to make such funds available only to the local authority in the district that does its banking business with the bank concerned. This changed attitude is very gratifying.

It is worthy of mention that there appears to be a tendency this year for lenders to favour long-term loans, which prompts one to feel that, in view of the recent reduction of the bank rate in England, financial institutions probably consider that the upward trend in interest rates is coming to an end. While the progress that has been made by local government generally, to which I referred earlier, must be viewed with some satisfaction, it is necessary always for local authorities, and the Local Government Department and other departments, to keep abreast of development.

**An Opposition Member** interjected.

**Mr. ROW:** All our Ministers are fitted for their jobs because of their experience. That is why they have done such a good job.

I should like to mention one or two other matters in the short time at my disposal. One matter that merits consideration is common to towns in cane-growing areas. I refer to the tramlines that pass through busy towns, sometimes through the main street, which at the same time, is the highway. In the main, I am referring to the town of Ingham, but I know that this occurs in other towns. What happens in other towns, of course, is the responsibility of the local authority affected, but the tramway passing through the main street of Ingham causes us grave concern. Most of these tramways were built in the days of the horse-drawn vehicles and presented no problems at that time. However, with the increasing volume, weight, and speed of modern transport, the problem has become acute. I have figures here which show the back-up of traffic on our main highway.

The tramline crosses 11 streets in the town of Ingham. I realise, of course, that the tramways are the arteries of the community in a cane-growing area, and that the mill-owners may be put to heavy expense in re-locating the lines. However, mill-owners must realise the seriousness of the problem. I do not suggest what might be done, but I should like discussions to take place between the local authorities, the tramway-owners, and the Minister to consider possible ways and means of overcoming the difficulty in the areas affected. If amending legislation is necessary to deal with the problem I should prefer to see it deferred until the problem is fully discussed with the tramway-owners in the hope that they will provide a solution. I should like to see the mill-owners in my district provide some scheme to re-locate the line outside Ingham. I know it will be costly but if they make it a 10-year programme it will have a very beneficial effect on the community. I know that the cane-cutter is a purely itinerant worker. I cut cane myself, and I know that a cane-cutter can make from £1,000 to £1,200 a year if he works hard. I do not begrudge him that. The person about whom I am most gravely concerned is the mill employee who is a resident of the district and who is sometimes unemployed in the slack season. If it took 10 years to re-locate the tramline outside Ingham, at least some of the men who are out of work in the slack season could be given jobs. As I have said, the re-location of the line would overcome the dislocation that occurs on the busy highway.

I have a great deal more to talk about but I am afraid the time at my disposal is running out. I should like to refer to main roads and to some of the nonsense from hon. members opposite about what the Government have done. I am very proud to be associated with this Government and to see the tremendous improvement that has been effected throughout the State in the past five years.

**Mr. Houston:** You must have been asleep.

**Mr. ROW:** I have not been asleep. I have been all over the State. I know what is happening—things that never happened before. In the days of the Queen-street Government we never saw the Ministers. Half the time we did not see some of the local members. At least in my Government we have members who are conscious of their responsibilities and able to carry them out. I feel sure there is no way in the world the people of Queensland will not return the present Country Party-Liberal Government at the next election.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Herbert, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 8.47 p.m.