

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 1962**

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## EMPLOYEES, DEPARTMENT OF MAIN ROADS

**Mr. DUGGAN** (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity—

“How many men were employed in each of the South-eastern, South-western, Central and Northern Divisions of the Department of Main Roads during the financial year ended June 30, 1962?”

**Hon. E. EVANS** (Mirani) replied—

“The average number of wages employees directly engaged on job construction and maintenance during 1961-1962 in each of the Main Roads engineering divisions was—South-eastern Division, 1,620; South-western Division, 981; Central Division, 980; Northern Division, 936; total, 4,517. At June 20, 1962 (which is the closing date for recording purposes), the comparable figures were—South-eastern Division, 2,052; South-western Division, 1,063; Central Division, 1,159; Northern Division, 988; total, 5,262.”

**THURSDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER, 1962**

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

## QUESTIONS

## GIFT TO TANIA VERSTAK (MISS AUSTRALIA)

**Mr. DEAN** (Sandgate) asked the Minister for Labour and Industry—

“Will he consider making a recommendation to Cabinet on behalf of the people of Queensland for a gift made from selected Queensland timbers or a Queensland gem to be presented to Miss Tania Verstak (Miss Australia and Miss International) on her future visit to this State in recognition of her spontaneous and magnificent gesture in publicising the State of Queensland in all countries on her recent overseas tours and at the same time consider presenting her with an illuminated address of gratitude on behalf of the people of Queensland as a token of their appreciation for the great boost she has given to Queensland's tourist industry?”

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier), for **Hon. K. J. MORRIS** (Mt. Coot-tha), replied—

“I am quite sure that all action considered appropriate will be taken by the Honourable the Premier who initiates such action.”

## USE OF TELEVISION IN ATTRACTING INDUSTRY TO QUEENSLAND

**Mr. DUGGAN** (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) asked the Minister for Labour and Industry—

“In view of the extreme urgency of attracting more industry to Queensland to alleviate the high rate of unemployment in this State, has he made any representations to the Federal authorities responsible for selecting enterprises for presentation on the A.B.C. Television series, ‘Export Action,’ for inclusion of a Queensland industry and, if not, will he do so in order to publicise the great industrial potential that exists in Queensland?”

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier), for **Hon. K. J. MORRIS** (Mt. Coot-tha), replied—

“The list of films for the series in question is approved by the Export Development Council and the Manufacturers Industrial Advisory Council on which Queensland is represented. Up to the present, although they have not been all shown, 48 five-minute features have been arranged and 14 half-hour features. Out of the five-minute films, four will be on Queensland companies and of the half-hour features, three are on Queensland companies. Consequently, on a time basis, Queensland's presentation must be regarded as reasonable. However, the question of other publicity has been taken up with the Department of Trade and arrangements have been made for photographers and journalists to visit Queensland for special projects.”

USE OF STATE FACILITIES BY HIGH COURT  
JUDGES

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

“(1) How many Judges of the High Court are at present engaged in Federal cases in Brisbane and how long will they remain so engaged?”

“(2) Are these Federal Judges occupying any courts and/or chambers normally used by State Supreme Court Judges and, if so, what are the names of such State Judges, and how will each one be employed on State work while his chambers and/or court are occupied by a Federal Judge?”

“(3) Does the State Government make any charge on the Federal Government for the use of State facilities and the consequent disruption of and delay to State cases?”

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

“(1) Five Judges of the High Court are at present engaged in Federal cases in Brisbane and it is anticipated that they will remain so engaged for two weeks.”

“(2) These Judges are occupying two courts and five chambers normally occupied by State Supreme Court Judges. The names of the chambers of such State Judges are The Honourable The Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Mack, Mr. Justice Hanger, Mr. Justice Gibbs and Mr. Justice Skerman. During the presence of the High Court Judges in Brisbane, two Judges are on circuit, one in Toowoomba and another in Roma. One Judge is engaged in Criminal Sittings, one Judge is engaged doing chamber work, and one Judge is engaged on Arbitration Court work. The other Judges are occupied writing reserved Judgments.”

“(3) No charge is made to the Commonwealth Government for the use of State Courts and Judges' Chambers by the High Court. However, State officers who perform High Court duties are paid an allowance by the Commonwealth Government.”

ADDITIONS TO BALMORAL HIGH SCHOOL

**Mr. HOUSTON** (Bulimba) asked the Minister for Public Works and Local Government—

“(1) On what dates did the Education Department request that the following additional rooms be provided at the Balmoral State High School, viz., two general purpose classrooms, one science laboratory, one science demonstration room, one science storeroom, one drawing room, one woodworking workshop and one metal-working workshop?”

“(2) On what date is it expected the work of construction of these rooms will commence?”

“(3) What is the estimated date of completion of these rooms?”

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

“(1) By letter dated May 3, 1962, the Department of Education asked that additional general purpose accommodation comprising two classrooms, one laboratory, one demonstration room and one store-room be provided at the Balmoral State High School. The Department of Education advised by letter dated August 30, 1962, that one woodwork room, one metal-work room and one drawing room are required at the School for Manual Training accommodation.”

“(2) Subject to the Executive Council approving of the expenditure involved the erection of the general purpose accommodation could be commenced in approximately one month's time and the erection of the Manual Training accommodation in approximately two months' time.”

“(3) If funds for the completion of the works can be provided for expenditure in this financial year it is considered that the buildings would be available for occupancy in the first term of the 1963 school year.”

GRANT TO ALCOHOLIC COUNSELLING  
CENTRE, AYR

**Mr. COBURN** (Burdekin) asked the Minister for Education and Migration—

“Will he give consideration to making a grant from money allocated to his Department from the Liquor Acts Trust Fund to the Ayr Alcoholics Counselling Centre, which is carrying out a laudable educational campaign to discourage intemperance and to prevent and cure alcoholism?”

**Hon. H. RICHTER** (Somerset—Minister for Public Works and Local Government), for **Hon. J. C. A. PIZZHEY** (Isis), replied—

“The Department is engaged at present in collecting films and other materials now being used throughout the world in campaigns against alcoholism. These will be made available to local bodies. The further extension of the scheme is receiving consideration.”

PRE-STRESSED CONCRETE BRIDGES, MOUNT  
ISA RAILWAY LINE

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

“In view of the failure of a bridge in Melbourne, due to the fact that a practice in welding, discontinued elsewhere, had not been made known, is he aware that in France special fittings have been incorporated in pre-stressed concrete bridges to keep the tendons in constant stress, because it had been found that with continuous rail traffic the bond between the concrete and the stressing tendons has been broken in some instances? If so, is similar action being taken to safeguard the pre-stressed railway bridges on the Mount Isa Line.”

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

"I am informed that it is common practice to use special fittings in post-tensioned pre-stressed concrete structures to keep the tendons in constant stress. Such fittings are not used for pre-tensioned pre-stressed concrete structures as they are not necessary because it is not likely that the bond between the pre-tensioned strands and the concrete can be destroyed. The bridges on the Mount Isa Project are pre-tensioned structures, and no special fittings have been incorporated in the concrete as the design of these structures follows universally accepted practice."

#### ILLEGAL SALE OF EXPORT MEAT IN TOWNSVILLE

**Mr. TUCKER** (Townsville North) asked the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry—

"(1) Have officers of his Department in Townsville lately confiscated cartons of export meat being retailed in Townsville?"

"(2) If the confiscation took place because of a breach of the Act by a firm supplying the meat, does his Department intend to take legal action to stamp out such illegal practices and safeguard the Townsville Abattoirs?"

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

"(1) Three cartons of meat from an export works were detected recently within the Townsville district abattoir area for consumption at a local institution. Owing to exceptional circumstances the meat was not confiscated. The Manager for the supplier who is new to the district was contacted and pleaded ignorance of the requirements of the Abattoirs Acts. He gave an assurance that he would not direct further supplies of export meats for consumption within the abattoir area and under the circumstances this assurance was accepted."

"(2) Suspected breaches of the Abattoirs Acts detected by officers of my department are referred to the Abattoir Board for the area concerned, which is the appropriate authority to undertake legal or other action."

#### CONTROL OF CROCODILE-SHOOTING

**Mr. ADAIR** (Cook) asked the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation—

"(1) Is he aware that over £80,000 was paid for fresh and salt water crocodile skin last year by buyers in the far north?"

"(2) As responsible, experienced shooters are concerned at the possible collapse of this industry owing to the influx of inexperienced shooters causing grave concern to graziers due to the reckless shooting of livestock and the pollution of waterholes and creeks, will he give

consideration to introducing legislation with a view to giving protection to this industry by controlling the indiscriminate shooting of crocodiles?"

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier), for **Hon. A. R. FLETCHER** (Cunningham), replied—

"(1) I am aware that a fairly lucrative industry in the form of crocodile shooting does exist in the far north."

"(2) I will have enquiries made with respect to the suggestion that the industry is likely to be jeopardised by the activities of inexperienced shooters. Any proposals that the Honourable Member could put forward which would assist in assessing the desirability of introducing legislation to give protection to the industry and the general public interest will be given due consideration."

#### USE OF DRUGS CONTAINING THALIDOMIDE

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

"(1) Has the drug, which bears the trade name 'Distaval' or any similar drug containing Thalidomide, been on issue to any Queensland Government hospitals? If so, which hospitals and for how long?"

"(2) Can he ascertain if any mothers in those hospitals who have given birth to babies with deformities had been prescribed drugs containing Thalidomide during their pregnancy?"

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

"(1 and 2) Neither 'Distaval' nor any similar drug containing Thalidomide has been issued to any Queensland Government hospital."

#### CLOSURE OF SIGNAL STATIONS AT PILE LIGHT AND BISHOP ISLAND

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

"(1) Does the Government propose to close down the signal stations at the Pile Light and Bishop Island? If so, will this mean the dismissal of four families employed at lighthouses?"

"(2) Are any shipping companies opposing the scheme to close down signal stations and, if so, who are they?"

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

"(1) Once again, the Honourable Gentleman's question shows that his source of information is succeeding in making him look foolish. There is no signal station at the Pile Light. The Government does not propose to close down the signal station at Bishop Island."

"(2) See answer to Question (1)."

## PAPERS

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

First Annual Report of the President of the Industrial Court of Queensland for the period May 2, 1961, to June 30, 1962.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Order in Council under the Inspection of Machinery Acts, 1951 to 1960.

Orders in Council under the State Electricity Commission Acts, 1937 to 1962.

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

Orders in Council under the Forestry Act of 1959.

Regulations under the Health Acts, 1937 to 1960.

Orders in Council under the Medical Acts, 1939 to 1958.

Orders in Council under the Health Acts, 1937 to 1960.

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

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

**Mr. HOOPER** (Greenslopes) (11.21 a.m.), by leave: I sought permission of the House to make a personal statement as, under the Standing Orders, I shall have no opportunity of speaking again during the Address-in-Reply debate. In the Brisbane "Telegraph" of 5 September the editorial claims that the onus is on me to back up my accusations with proper evidence or make a public apology. In this regard might I say that I am at a loss to understand what is meant by "proper evidence", in view of the fact that I have recorded in "Hansard" evidence from the Registrar of Firms and the Real Property Office which in fact has been admitted to by the Lord Mayor.

My challenge was not based on the amount of real estate or shares held by the Lord Mayor but on the fact that he was guilty of a grave misdemeanour in that he allowed Mr. Molloy to attend a meeting of the Brisbane Town Planning Committee, knowing that Mr. Molloy was as that time the Queensland manager-elect of an oil firm and that he had business interests in Queensland, which in fact the Lord Mayor denied, and that the presence of Mr. Molloy gave him an unfair advantage over his competitor firms and other land-holders. In view of the Lord Mayor's admission, as stated in "The Courier-Mail" of this day, that he did allow Mr. Molloy to attend a meeting of the Brisbane Town Planning Committee, I feel that I have carried out my duty as a public man in exposing the action of the Lord Mayor and forcing him to admit his indiscretion. Consequently I do not feel that it is incumbent on me to withdraw any statement I have made or offer any apology.

ACTS INTERPRETATION ACTS  
AMENDMENT BILL

## THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Munro, read a third time.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMERCIAL  
LAWS BILL

## THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Munro, read a third time.

## ADDRESS IN REPLY

## RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

Debate resumed from 4 September (see p. 261) 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. GILMORE** (Tablelands) (11.27 a.m.): I rise to oppose the amendment. I congratulate the mover and seconder of the original motion and express the loyalty of the people of Tablelands to Her Majesty, and congratulate her representative, our Governor, on his speech which outlined so many of the great achievements of this Government and the projects that are about to be undertaken. I am gratified to know that Her Majesty will be visiting Queensland next year and we all look forward to her visit.

To return to the amendment to the motion for adoption of the Address in Reply, it is customary, of course, for the Labour Party to try to instil fear in the hearts of the people of Australia, so that they may gain power. This has been tried throughout the last 12 years in the Federal sphere and apparently it has been introduced into State politics. Unemployment has been the catchcry in the Federal House, to my knowledge, since 1949. However, it has been rejected on every occasion by the people. No party can hope to gain the Treasury benches by a process of fear. It must be by achievement. On every occasion that the A.L.P. have faced the electors of Australia in the last 12 years they have been rejected by a majority of the people. There is fear in the hearts of the people that the Communist Party will again come to the front of the A.L.P. They know that many trade unions are dominated by the Communist Party and that the Q.C.E., too, is dominated by the selfsame unions. That is the fear that is in the hearts of the people of Queensland and that is the fear that they will have when they go to the polls next year.

Until this Government took office the people of Queensland had never known what progress and prosperity could be. I do not remember the unemployment figures for the depression years but in 1932, when Scullin was Prime Minister and Labour was in power in the Commonwealth, we had record unemployment in Australia. I do not remember everything about Scullin but I can remember when the pensions were reduced, and it was a Labour Government who reduced them by 6d. a week. That is something I can remember about the Labour Party.

**Mr. Tucker:** Who reduced the public servants' wages?

**Mr. GILMORE:** The Public Service co-operated. Scullin reduced them, too.

In this House in the last couple of days the hon. member for Norman attributed the world depression of 1932 to the Liberals. He is a great student of politics; ask him and he will tell you so.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I rise to a point of order. The hon. member for Tablelands is sadly astray when he assumes that I attributed the world depression to an Australian Liberal Government. I did not say that at all. I said that the record unemployment in 1932 was typical of the Liberal Government of that day, and this present Government's policy.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. GILMORE:** This Government have instilled a very high degree of confidence in the investing public. Since they have been in office the number of factories in production in Queensland has risen from 5,454, under Labour, to 5,809, and the

number of employees has increased from 99,880 to 102,847. So we have a record of employment, too, which is something very greatly to the credit of this Government.

On this same subject of employment I point out that, over the last 12 months, to cushion the economic conditions this Government have increased employment in the Public Service by 2,552.

The Commonwealth Government have greatly assisted Queensland by special grants to relieve unemployment.

**Mr. Graham:** When?

**Mr. GILMORE:** In the last 12 months. The effect of that special assistance is already being felt. In 1961-1962 the Commonwealth Government granted Queensland £3,340,000 for the relief of unemployment, and for 1962-1963 the figure is £3,640,000. Both of those are special non-repayable grants.

The Commonwealth Government, and this State Government in particular, are very conscious of the need to maintain as high an employment rate as possible. Consequently the Commonwealth have granted Queensland £7,000,000 for that purpose in the last 12 months. Full credit must be given to the Federal Government for supplying the funds and to this Government for applying them to the advantage of the people.

From time to time we hear a great deal of the need to develop the North. We have done much to encourage its development. Perhaps I am one of the most outspoken members on the subject; the North is an area very dear to me. I was born there and I am proud to represent a northern electorate. I am delighted to know that beef roads are being provided in the Gulf and the Peninsula, thanks to a grant of £5,000,000 from the Federal Government. This is an excellent way of providing the means of transport to get cattle out of that area.

To enlighten the House on the position in which the graziers and settlers in that area have been and to help clear the atmosphere, I shall recount a little history. There was in North Queensland, at a place called Bibbohra, a very good and very prosperous meatworks that catered for all the Peninsula area and the base of the Gulf. That was where the cattle were treated in those days. Then the I.W.W., as they then were—they are now the Communist Party and, through that party, into the Labour Party—decided that they would not work, and that establishment closed down.

**Mr. Wallace:** Do you know Ralph Leinster?

**Mr. GILMORE:** I know him, and I know the hon. member, too.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! Hon. members on my left are maintaining a constant barrage of interjections. I remind them that under Standing Orders an hon. member must be heard without interruption.

**Mr. GILMORE:** This was a good meatworks, and it served the people and the industry in that area. It was closed, and the graziers in the Peninsula area had no outlet for their stock. They were completely dependent on walking them from the stations to the railheads at Mungana and Mareeba for transport to Townsville, which was the nearest works where they could be treated.

**Mr. Armstrong:** Do you remember the one in the North?

**Mr. GILMORE:** I do remember one at Karumba. There was no economic outlet for the cattle in that area. Stock from the Gulf and the base of the Peninsula, from Normanton and the Delta country, had to be taken to Julia Creek and railed a total distance of some 800 to 900 miles. Stock prices were such that it was not economically possible for them to operate under those conditions. Stations became run down, owners became broken-hearted and lost their spirit, and the area languished.

During those disastrous years Queensland was under a Labour Government. Everywhere there was decay and degeneration. We must get this picture clearly in our minds.

The Federal Government introduced a 15-year meat agreement, which gave great heart to graziers. The Queerah meatworks was established. That is as yet a relatively small concern, but it is servicing the area. It is obviating the need to transport cattle from the Gulf country to Townsville.

**Mr. Adair:** It is a great help to the Peninsula graziers.

**Mr. GILMORE:** Yes, it is.

**Mr. Sullivan:** The road from Normanton to Julia Creek is a great help.

**Mr. GILMORE:** It is definitely helping. That is the natural outlet for that area, and it is doing an excellent job. Delighted as I am to know that those roads are going in, I think that the project should be taken further. We will not get greater production from the land simply because we have roads on which to carry the commodities that are produced there. We must assist graziers, particularly those with small holdings, by providing supplies of water. Those of us who know the country well know that in the wet season cattle can feed on very good pastures where water is always available. But as the wet season draws to a close and the dry season approaches, cattle congregate on the river frontages, which are quickly eaten out. Losses then occur because the cattle cannot walk very far for feed. Although there is an abundance of feed back from the river frontages, it is too far away to be useful to the cattle. I suggest that the Government should apply for a special grant of £2,000,000 from the Commonwealth Government—I put the

figure at £2,000,000 on a revolving basis—to be loaned to graziers in that area for a long term and at a low interest rate for the provision of water facilities. Representatives of the Department of Irrigation and Water Supply could advise graziers where to put their dams, bores, and windmills, thus enabling them to use the feed away from the river frontages. As I said, we will not get many more cattle from the area by road unless we make provision for more water, and it is imperative that a plan for this should be brought into operation very soon. We will certainly get the cattle off quicker, in better condition, and with less damage.

**Mr. Evans:** We will not lose so many.

**Mr. GILMORE:** We will not lose them, but we want to produce two, three and four head of cattle where one is being produced now.

**Mr. Tucker:** You were the ones who knocked the Tinaroo Falls Dam.

**Mr. GILMORE:** I should like to say to the hon. member for Townsville North that we did not knock the Tinaroo Falls Dam. On every occasion on which I have spoken in the House about the Tinaroo Falls Dam I have given full credit to those who initiated the scheme. I am prepared now to give full credit to the Labour Party for beginning the Tinaroo Falls Dam. It is a wonderful scheme and an important cog in the wheel of development in North Queensland. I do not think I can be fairer than that.

To get back to the development of the cattle industry in North Queensland, in my opinion, the two basic factors in producing more cattle are food and water. Other factors come into it, admittedly, but those are the basic ones and it is important that something be done about them at an early date. We would be doing a very good job for the development of North Queensland if we acted along those lines.

**Mr. Armstrong:** Isn't the Queensland Farm Water Supplies Assistance Act good enough for them?

**Mr. GILMORE:** It is not big enough. This is a colossal task.

**Mr. Armstrong:** I realise that.

**Mr. GILMORE:** I should say that it would require at least £2,000,000, made available on a revolving basis, to make it possible.

I also give my whole-hearted support to the Herbert River scheme. Apart from the mineral-bearing ranges and mineral-producing flats, from which probably most of Queensland's and Australia's tin is produced by Tableland Tin Dredging N.L. and Raven-shoe Tin Dredging Ltd., there is some beautiful fertile country that needs only a supply of water to make it flourish. The

Department of Irrigation and Water Supply has gone to no end of trouble to produce a factual report that shows that it would be of great benefit, and would produce much more than the Tinaroo scheme. Any scheme that is as good as that is a mighty one, and, as money becomes available, I hope that the Government will see their way clear to introduce and implement it.

**Mr. Davies:** You seem to be the only member on the Government side who is willing to give credit to the Labour Government for implementing the Tinaroo Falls Dam scheme.

**Mr. GILMORE:** The Atherton Tableland is generally regarded as one of the most fertile tracts of country in Queensland. It is somewhere between 2,000 and 3,500 ft. above sea level. It comprises red volcanic soil and it has been producing crops—maize, peanuts and dairy products—for some 75 years. Of late, however, for some reason or another, the maize crops have been attacked by a tropical rust which, it has been established, is being borne here from other parts of the world.

**Mr. Tucker:** The same rust is prevalent all over Queensland at the moment.

**Mr. GILMORE:** I would not know that, but it is a very serious problem for the maize-growers of the Atherton Tableland. I give full credit to the Department of Agriculture and Stock, whose plant pathologists have been working on the problem in an endeavour to find a solution.

**Mr. Sullivan:** Is this the first time they have had it?

**Mr. GILMORE:** No, it has happened on three occasions. It has occurred for the last three years and it has become a very serious economic factor. Until scientists are able to provide the maize-growers of the Tableland with a solution of this major problem, I should like to see the Department of Agriculture and Stock provide them with the seed of navy bean or soybean, or any other type of crop that they consider would take the place of maize until the position is clarified and assistance is rendered. To me it is a case of keeping off until the grass grows. A supplementary crop could be provided to assist these people, and it is absolutely imperative that something be done very quickly. With part of their maize crop dead and unusable they are economically disadvantaged, to put it as mildly as possible. Some of them have faced disastrous results and if they do not put all their eggs in one basket and grow navy bean or soybean as a supplementary crop they will be in serious straits.

Supplementary feeding of stock is now well under way. It is realised that stock cannot be fattened on straight grasses and that they must have supplementary proteins, which soybean would be an important factor in

producing. I appeal to the Department of Agriculture and Stock to take up the suggestion seriously. After all, it is its job and I hope it is able to assist these Tableland growers.

**Mr. Sullivan:** I think they are trying to breed a rust-resistant maize at present.

**Mr. GILMORE:** Yes, that is well on the way but it could take five to seven years, and seven years is a long time in the economic life of a farmer.

There is another matter on which I appeal to the Department of Agriculture and Stock. Over the years the Kairi experimental station has done a magnificent job in the area but one matter is worrying the farmers there. It takes an experimenter a long time to get used to that type of work. It is usually from four to five years before experimenters become fully proficient and get the utmost yield from their endeavours. However, immediately they reach that stage they become due for promotion and transfer. That means that that five years' experience and knowledge is virtually lost because probably it is not applicable to other areas. It is really disastrous. The man in charge, Mr. G. Kyneur, has done an excellent job on maize-breeding and maize-stabilisation. However, he is due for promotion. No-one wants to deny him promotion—indeed we commend him for his endeavours—but can we promote him and keep him there? That is what we want to do. You cannot get men like that every day. His transfer would be a decided loss to the Tableland. I do not know whether his present knowledge would be entirely applicable to other areas, but it is not in the best interests of agriculture on the Tableland to take such men away when they can be doing their best work in the area they know so well.

I wish to bring to the attention of the Minister for Transport the serious position facing the vegetable-growers on the Tableland. The Townsville market is the natural outlet for their produce. The capacity of the farms is such that growers have been able to increase their production, but the Railway Department is incapable of delivering their produce in a fresh condition. The journey is long and the temperatures in the tropics are high. By the time the railways can deliver the farm produce it has lost its freshness and much damage is done.

Under the State Transport Act the growers must pay transport fees. With a haulage of 240 miles the distance is far too great to convey their goods in 4-ton trucks. They must use larger vehicles, even semi-trailers. The tax is so heavy that it is economically impossible for them to compete with producers close to the market. I appeal to the Minister to give every possible consideration to helping these people who are developing the area, working to produce food for the cities on the coast, and providing employment on the Tableland.

I noticed in "Hansard" that the Leader of the Opposition referred to a speech in which I accused him of being the author of the 1947 Transport Act. In the last session we divided when the hon. member for Bundaberg moved that we revert to the 1947 Act. As hon. members are aware, the 1947 Act did not make it easy for farmers to get permits to convey their goods. I am reminded that there was a 15-mile limit. The Leader of the Opposition accused me of making a statement at a Country Women's Association meeting. I was a little surprised that he should have misread the Press report about a meeting of the women's section of the Country Party at which the statement was made. In the interests of the Country Women's Association in Queensland I want to correct that.

I was alarmed when the hon. members for Townsville North and Salisbury made a derogatory crack at me, belittling the Country Women's Association.

**Mr. TUCKER:** I rise to a point of order. I most certainly did not belittle the Country Women's Association. I ask the hon. member to withdraw that remark because it is offensive to me.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the hon. member to accept the explanation of the hon. member for Townsville North.

**Mr. GILMORE:** I accept his explanation.

**Mr. TUCKER:** I ask that it be withdrawn. It is offensive to me.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Chair decides if a remark is offensive. I do not think the hon. member reflected on the integrity of the hon. member for Townsville North. The remark was apparently incorrect and it has been accepted as incorrect.

**Mr. GILMORE:** That is just how I heard it. It is very hard to get things accurately in the House.

I commend the Minister for Transport for his efforts in preserving and increasing the efficiency of the railway line in the Forsyth area. When we took office that line was in very bad repair and it was difficult to get even one truck load of cattle out. In the short time the Minister has been in office he has provided two additional diesel engines and has spent almost £500,000 repairing the line. The confidence of the people in the area is gaining momentum, whereas previously they had none.

**Mr. Evans:** Like the schools, it was absolutely neglected.

**Mr. GILMORE:** Yes. It may be claimed by the Labour Party, just as with the schools, that we had to do it, that we had no alternative because it was in such a bad state when we took over.

**Mr. Evans:** The hon. member for Salisbury admitted that.

**Mr. GILMORE:** Yes, I remember that distinctly. He quite openly confessed that the schools were in bad order and that the railway was in bad order.

Today, these medium-sized diesels can be taken to Wirra in fast times and the cattle trains are coming out much quicker than they were in 1957. We will have Queerah operating to a fuller capacity.

I deplore the attitude of the Communists and the Labour Party in not allowing the meatworks to operate at their greatest capacity.

**Mr. Mann:** Do you want all the scab graziers to work there?

**Mr. GILMORE:** There were no scab graziers. They were honourable men preserving their rights, just as the sugar-growers, the maize-growers, and the timber men went to Cairns to load the ships in 1927.

**Mr. Mann:** They were all scabs!

**Mr. GILMORE:** I resent that! The Communist Party is represented here by the hon. member for Cairns.

**Mr. WALLACE:** I rise to a point of order. I refute any statement that I represent any party other than the Australian Labour Party, which I am proud to represent. I ask the hon. member to withdraw the statement.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member made a statement that the Communist Party is represented in this House by the hon. member for Cairns. Obviously that is an offensive remark to the hon. member for Cairns and I ask the hon. member for Tablelands to withdraw it.

**Mr. GILMORE:** I withdraw it, but the way the hon. member acts makes me think he must be.

The graziers were compelled to ensure that their products were processed, just as the sugar men, the timber men and the maize-growers in 1927 had to go to Cairns to load the ships. The wharf-lumpers "bludged" themselves out of a job. There is not a passenger liner on the coast today, whereas 30 to 40 years ago we had a wonderful shipping service to North Queensland. Today, because the wharf-lumpers "bludged" and would not unload the ships, we have not a ship on the coast. The meat-workers did the same at Bibbohra, and the Cairns meat-workers tried it the other day at Queerah. And did we hear anything from the hon. member for Cairns? Not one word! He has supported Houlihan and the rest of the Communists.

**Mr. Wallace:** I am a member of the meat-workers' union and very proud of it, too.

**Mr. GILMORE:** A minute ago the hon. member for Cairns denied that he was representing Communists and now by interjection he confesses that he supports them.

**Mr. WALLACE:** I rise to a point of order.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is no necessity for the hon. member to rise and take a point of order. The Chair will deal with the situation. The hon. member for Tablelands withdrew his statement that the hon. member for Cairns was representing the Communist Party in this House. Any further reference in similar terms would be quite irregular, so I ask the hon. member to refrain from making any further reference to an association of the hon. member for Cairns with the Communist Party.

**Mr. WALLACE:** I rise again to a point of order. I said that I was a member of the meat-workers' union and proud to be one. The Australian Meat Industry Employees' Union is an accredited and registered union in both the Commonwealth and the State and no reflection should be cast on the whole of the membership of that union through the actions of a few Communists when the vast majority of its members, many hundreds of thousands of them, are non-Communists.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member has made his point. The hon. member for Tablelands.

**Mr. GILMORE:** I understood the hon. member for Cairns to say by way of interjection that the graziers were scabs.

**Mr. Wallace:** Yes, I did, and I repeat that they are scabs. They went in and scabbed on the meat-workers.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. GILMORE:** That interjection is offensive to me and to this House. I know that I cannot ask for an interjection to be withdrawn, but—

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member cannot raise objection to remarks made about other than hon. members of this Assembly.

**Mr. GILMORE:** As I have very little time left in the debate, I will pass on to a subject that I am very anxious to bring to the notice of hon. members. We are living today in one of the most exciting periods of Queensland's development.

**Government Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. GILMORE:** The bauxite deposits at Weipa are immediately ready to meet the world's markets. Great development is taking place there. Already bauxite is being exported and the rate of activity is gaining momentum. The plans laid by this Government in its short period of office are already beginning to bear fruit.

**Mr. Evans:** The foundations have been laid.

**Mr. GILMORE:** Yes, the foundations for tremendous development have been laid. I want to make an appeal to the House and also to the Commonwealth Government. In my view it is wrong for Queensland to send its bauxite overseas, in particular to New Zealand, for treatment. I have no complaint about New Zealand but their Government are prepared to subsidise the power resources so that the bauxite can be treated and the aluminium produced. I am sure I do not need to draw the attention of hon. members to the fact that we have in Queensland one of the greatest coal deposits in the world. Only yesterday there was a £13,000,000 contract to sell some of that coal to Japan, and that would represent only a small fraction. They are going to spend £8,000,000 on an electric railway. Let us see this bauxite field in its true perspective as a Queensland industry. That is the vital point at issue. We should process it by using Queensland coal under subsidy. Our bauxite deposits are the State's heritage and it is the birthright of Queenslanders to process it and to produce aluminium by our own efforts and with our own resources. We cannot do it without a subsidy from the Federal Government, and we must apply for that to keep our own industry and our own people employed. At Constance Range, not far from the bauxite deposits, are huge deposits of iron, which likewise could be used for the establishment of steel works.

I should like to commend the Minister on his efforts in all these projects, but particularly for what he has done towards the Tara oil discovery. If it had not been for this Government, that would not have been made. I should like to say that as long as members of the Country Party reign as the Government of this country, there will be no nationalisation of our oil, bauxite, steel mills, banks, or insurance companies. The Labour Party in the Federal House, and also here, have done their utmost to frighten capital from this country by threats of nationalisation, Socialism, and Communism.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. MELLOY (Nudgee)** (12.7 p.m.): The speech made by the hon. member who has just resumed his seat has a familiar ring about it. It brings to mind the one that he made prior to his defeat in the Federal election, and I think it presages the same event in the State election next year.

The hon. member referred to our bauxite deposits and the exporting of what is taken from them. The blame lies with his own Government because there are not the refineries and smelters in this State to treat that bauxite and alumina. Because of the dilly-dallying of this Government, we lost that industry to New Zealand. The necessary foresight and a little leniency would have ensured the provision of the necessary power for the establishment of a refinery in this State at an economic rate, but this Government missed the bus. Whilst they were

fiddling round and boasting of the factories that were being established here, which were merely one- or two-man garages, they let the big one get away to New Zealand. If they are going to boast about the development of this State, they should pay a little attention to the things that really matter.

I wish to pay my respects to the Governor of this State and to pledge my continued loyalty and that of the electors of Nudgee, the electorate that I represent and no doubt will continue to represent for some time. The Governor's Opening Speech, as presented to this House, is a reflection of the Government of the day. There was nothing in it to indicate that the Government are aware of their responsibilities and nothing to indicate that they have any plans for the development of the State. Indeed, it indicated that, so far as planning is concerned, they were scraping the bottom of the barrel. It is no wonder that the Leader of the Opposition moved an amendment to the Address-in-Reply motion. Members of the Opposition believe that the Government have nothing to offer the people of Queensland. They had nothing to offer them in 1957, and they have proved since then that they are the greatest amateurs ever to have directed the affairs of any State in Australia. Everything they have done has shown the touch of the amateur, and I believe that the people of Queensland are fully aware of this. Government members have roused themselves to a fury during the session, calling on every figment of their imagination in an endeavour to discredit the Australian Labour Party and to whip up some enthusiasm in the people of Queensland for their parties and their Government.

Much has been said about the development that has taken place in the field of education, and Government members have told us of increased enrolments in high schools and the number of high schools that have been constructed during their term of office. The raising of the standard of education is certainly desirable, but we have a greater responsibility than that when dealing with the education of our young people. In my opinion, increased enrolments in high schools are due in a large measure to the fact that employment is not available for children when they leave primary school. By the middle of this year, approximately 1,500 children had been unable to find employment. In many cases economic conditions in the home made it desirable that the children should go to work, but no employment was available for them. Rather than have children who had passed the Scholarship examination idle, parents sent them on to high school even though in some cases their standard of living was reduced as a result. Although the Government are providing additional facilities in high schools, they are making no provision for the employment of the children when they finish their training. This will add to the large number of children who were unable to find employment after leaving primary school.

Last year I prepared a register of persons in my electorate who were unemployed. A large majority of those who got in touch with me were young children who had recently left high school. Children with Junior passes, and some with Senior passes, were unable to find employment. Many awards today provide for educational qualifications to 8th grade or a Scholarship pass but many employers are asking for Junior passes in selecting their labour. I suppose it is natural that they should because many children with Junior passes are applying for jobs that normally would be sought and filled by children with only an 8th grade or Scholarship pass. Naturally, the employers are passing over those who have only a Scholarship pass and are giving preference to children who have a Junior pass.

Many children have seen me about obtaining employment. I have asked them if they have applied for jobs and they have informed me that they had but that children with Junior passes were applying and getting the jobs and that they had no chance of securing a job while those circumstances existed.

In seeking employment for these children I consulted the Commonwealth Director of Employment, who informed me that children with good Scholarship and good Junior passes would have to lower their sights so far as employment is concerned and accept more menial types of employment. I have had experience of lads with Junior passes who could have held much better types of jobs, but who have been forced to accept positions on repetition lines in factories. At the same time, they were keeping out children with lower educational qualifications who would normally have accepted that employment. That is a problem that this Government have to overcome. It is of little use educating children to Junior standard if you do not provide employment for them. That is why I say that our employment position today is, to a large degree, responsible for the increased enrolment in high schools.

**Mr. Sullivan:** In other words, you are opposing the extension of secondary education?

**Mr. MELLOY:** Not at all. I am all in favour of secondary education, but if we are going to educate our children to that degree, we must find employment for them and not penalise those who cannot reach that standard of education.

**Mr. Sullivan:** You would be better off not educating them? There would not be so much unemployment?

**Mr. MELLOY:** If there was sufficient overall employment there would be employment for those who had only a Scholarship pass and also for those who had a Junior pass. At the present time children with Junior passes are competing for the lower types of employment.

I propose now to address myself to the Ford, Bacon and Davis Report. The whole tenor of the recommendations of Ford, Bacon and Davis is purely statistical or on an economic basis. No concern whatever has been given to the services to be provided for the people of Queensland. Apparently this Government are prepared, to a large degree, to accept the recommendations of Ford, Bacon and Davis on the closing down of branch lines. Apparently their view is that as Shanks's pony was good enough for Burke and Wills, it is good enough for the people of Queensland today. The object of calling in Ford, Bacon and Davis was apparently to try to balance the books of the Queensland railways. Ford, Bacon and Davis have certainly put forward a method by which we can do that. They say that we should close down the lines. If we have no expenditure and no income, our books are balanced! That apparently is the policy of Ford, Bacon and Davis.

**Mr. Evans:** Are you forgetting about the debt on the railways?

**Mr. MELLOY:** No. With £2,000,000 a year in interest payments falling due, who could forget it? The position can be retrieved only by improving the financial position of the railways, which in turn can be done only by garnering patronage for the railways. We will not do that if we cut down the service to the public. Ford, Bacon and Davis have not put forward any plan to improve the services; they have not put forward any plan by which business can be increased; there is no plan to engage in an advertising campaign which would bring in extra business. The only provision they have made is for a reduction in the services of the Railway Department.

Had the Government wanted that information there was no need for them to import Ford, Bacon and Davis at a cost of £130,000. All the information contained in their report and all their recommendations could have been obtained from and made by officers presently in the Railway service. There is nothing that Ford, Bacon and Davis found that was not available to the Government through their own officers in the Railway Department. Given the opportunity those officers would have provided the Government with all the information that Ford, Bacon and Davis provided. They could and would have made similar recommendations had they thought that such recommendations would bring about an improvement in the State's railway services.

Much has been said of the Brisbane suburban services. It has been pointed out that they are responsible for about 80 per cent. of the deficit. The only answer that Ford, Bacon and Davis could give was that the Brisbane suburban services should be reduced. That is a ridiculous suggestion. If we are to obtain greater patronage we must improve the suburban rail services.

It has been suggested by Ford, Bacon and Davis that there should be an improvement in ticket collection. They think that a large amount of money is being lost by the failure of many passengers to pay the correct fares. If we are to follow their suggestion and dispense with station staff, the position will become worse. It is no use putting the responsibility on the guard or the driver of a rail-motor to collect passengers' fares on the suburban lines. At the present time at most of the suburban stations the staff finishes at about 6.30 or 7 p.m. It is an imposition to leave it to the guards on the trains. Some months ago an incident occurred at Zillmere when the guard on a train attempted to collect a fare from three young fellows who travelled to Zillmere. He was knocked down and injured by them. When the driver came to his assistance he, too, was assaulted by these hooligans and as a result was off duty for three weeks. If that is a result of the reduction of station staff it is time the Government gave a second thought to the methods of improving railway services.

When Ford, Bacon and Davis suggested a curtailment of our suburban services they said, "Loud objections from affected passengers are to be expected." They could not have spoken truer words. From my experience of the Zillmere and Pinkenba lines, I know that the residents of those areas are loud in their condemnation of the curtailment of rail services.

Ford, Bacon and Davis say that there appear to be three principal sources of increased suburban revenue, namely—

1. Increased patronage and new traffic;
2. A better method of ticket sale and fare collection; and
3. Higher fares.

All those methods have proved inadequate. How in the name of heaven can we obtain increased patronage for our suburban services if we cut down the services? I draw the attention of the House to what happened on the Zillmere line following the reduction of the number of services on that line. I have here the returns of sales of ordinary tickets from Virginia, Geebung, and Zillmere. Prior to the reduction of services, in January, 1962, the single tickets sold at Virginia totalled 2,088.

**Mr. Chalk:** For a particular month?

**Mr. MELLOY:** Yes, for a particular month.

**Mr. Chalk:** Will you name the month?

**Mr. MELLOY:** January, 1962, prior to the reduction in the number of services. In March, following the introduction of the cut in services, ticket sales had fallen to 1,827, and in July of this year they had fallen still further, to 1,062.

**Mr. Chalk:** Your comparison is of months, but not relevant months in each year.

**Mr. MELLOY:** No, but they refer to the period immediately preceding the reduction in services.

**Mr. Chalk:** They refer to returns for each month. To make a comparison you must compare the months in this year with the same months in the preceding year.

**Mr. MELLOY:** I will do that. The ticket sales from Virginia in May, 1961, were 2,315 and in May, 1962, 2,054 were sold, a reduction of approximately 260.

For Geebung, in January, 1962, immediately prior to the introduction of the cuts, the ordinary ticket sales were 2,199 and in March they were down to 1,942. In case the Minister again interjects I will compare May, 1961, with May, 1962. In May, 1961, the sales were 2,159 and in May, 1962, they were 2,260, an increase of about 70. But in July of this year the figure was down to 2,113.

At Zillmere, in January, immediately preceding the reduction of services, the ordinary ticket sales were 5,359 and in March they were down to 4,468, a decrease of nearly 1,000. The figure for May, 1961, was 5,379 as compared with 5,013 in May, 1962.

In their recommendations for the improvement of railway services Messrs. Ford, Bacon and Davis gave increased patronage as one of the potential sources of increased revenue. However, we will not increase patronage by reducing the service to the public.

I do not think we can do much in the matter of fare collection while station staffs are reduced. Ford, Bacon and Davis indicated they are of the opinion that the station-master should be responsible to a certain degree for the collection of tickets. I suggest that his prime responsibility is to clear the train from the station and I very much doubt that, while attending to that duty, he would have the time to concern himself with the collection of tickets or indeed that it would be in the interests of the railway service for him to do so.

Let us look at some of the views expressed by the Minister on the general recommendations of Ford, Bacon and Davis for improving the economics of the Queensland railways. I wish to refer to passages contained in the Minister's Press statement following the publication of the Consultants' report. The whole tenor of their report is that we should close down non-paying lines irrespective of the service they provide for the people of the State. The Press statement has this to say—

“Referring to the Consultants' submission on curtailment of services and, in some instances, the closure of Branch Lines, the Minister had this to say:

Fassifern Branch: Already the Department has recommended the closure of this Line but it has been agreed to await the finalisation of figures for the

1961-1962 financial year. Mr. Chalk said these figures would shortly be available, but every endeavour will be made to retain the Branch unless increased losses occur.”

On that point he is not in agreement with Ford, Bacon and Davis. I am not criticising him for that because I realise he must make some endeavour to provide the service and he cannot be bound by every recommendation of the consultants. However, his comments indicate that he is at distinct variance with the recommendations of Ford, Bacon and Davis. Of the Brisbane Valley line the Press statement said—

“The Minister still had high hopes that the Brisbane Valley Line could become worthwhile and he stated that every effort would be made to retain it.”

The Ford, Bacon and Davis Report recommended the closing of the Dirranbandi line, purely on economic grounds. The Minister's comment on that line in his Press statement is—

“... the Government could not envisage the closure of this line. Wool traffic in the area appeared to be returning and, provided the District gave the line the support that should be forthcoming, there was little for the area to fear.”

The situation with Killarney is similar. The Minister stated that, despite the recommendation of Ford, Bacon and Davis, the Killarney branch line would continue.

Concerning the Charleville-Quilpie line, the Press statement reads—

“Mr. Chalk stated that already steps were being taken to improve this line for greater engine power and with the constant run-off of stock there was little chance of its closure.”

Of the Injune line, he said that there was also little prospect of its being closed. In the case of the Cooyar line, he said that no action would be taken until the 1961-1962 results were disclosed.

Of the Roma-Charleville and Emerald-Winton lines, the Press statement reads—

“The Minister said that his personal view was that the Department would continue its policy of providing the Far West with the benefit of air-conditioned train travel and, therefore, he assured residents of the areas concerned that they had little to fear in relation to the Consultants' recommendation.”

The Premier also commented on the line beyond Roma. In “The Courier-Mail” of 20 July this appeared—

“The Premier (Mr. Nicklin) yesterday made it clear that the Government had no intention of discontinuing the Westlander at Roma or the Midlander at Emerald.”

I do not think that the Government have much faith in the Ford, Bacon and Davis Report. As one hon. member has said, it was a waste of money. Perhaps that was not

realised when the Government asked for it, and perhaps they felt that they had to obtain some advice on the running of the railways, but I think that they shelved their responsibility to the people of Queensland by bringing in Ford, Bacon and Davis to make these recommendations.

Not only did they shelve their responsibility; they also imposed a charge on the people of Queensland that was quite unnecessary. Everything in the Ford, Bacon and Davis Report could have been obtained from officers of the Railway Department in Queensland. I think that the Minister himself realises that. He wanted more from Ford, Bacon and Davis than recommendations to close down lines. What he wanted—and, I think, looked for—was some line of action that would restore economic functioning of the railways. He has not received it. I feel that very few of the recommendations in the report will be implemented by this Government.

I should now like to make some reference to the economy of this State, particularly in relation to factories, unemployment, and the cost of living. Great play has been made by several hon. members opposite on the revitalisation of Queensland industry since they became the Government.

**Mr. Smith:** The hon. member must be the most versatile on that side, as he speaks on every subject.

**Mr. MELLOY:** I may not speak with authority on everything, but at least, unlike the hon. member opposite, I speak with authority on some matters. I am sure that the hon. member has spoken with very little authority on any subject that he has introduced into a debate.

Hon. members opposite have told us that the cost of living has improved in Queensland since the Government abolished price-control. We were told that if they removed the control on prices, good, healthy competition would ensure that reasonable prices for our goods were maintained. Let us have a look at the Consumer Price Index figures shown in the Monthly Review of Business Statistics for June, 1962.

**Mr. Ewan:** It is a very interesting document.

**Mr. MELLOY:** It is very interesting, and the figures given in it are also very interesting. The Consumer Price Index indicates that, using 1952-1953 as a base of 100, the figure in Brisbane increased from 112 in 1957 to 127 in 1962, or an increase of 15.3 points. The increases in other capital cities were—

Sydney	..	..	..	10
Melbourne	..	..	..	12
Adelaide	..	..	..	11.4
Perth	..	..	..	9
Hobart	..	..	..	12

**Mr. Windsor:** Give us the increase for the period 1952 to 1957.

**Mr. Dufficy:** There was not any.

**Mr. MELLOY:** From 1953 to 1957 the increase was from 100 to 112—12 points, as against 15.3 during the term of office of this Government.

**Mr. Camm:** What was the movement in the basic wage?

**Mr. MELLOY:** That does not make any difference.

**Mr. Camm:** It does not make a difference to the cost of living?

**Mr. MELLOY:** No. It rises in proportion to the general cost of output, and the hon. member knows it. A very interesting item in the report deals with wage and salary-earners employed in factories in Australia. Hon. members opposite have made a great play of words about the increase in factory activity in this State and the effect it has had on the economy and on employment in Queensland. The number of persons employed in factories in June, 1957—this is in factories only—was 99,900. In June, 1962 it had risen to 100,500. In other words, the number of wage and salary-earners employed in factories in Queensland increased by 600 in that period. That is about 100 a year. Now, let us take the increases in the other States for the same period, namely 1957 to 1962, keeping in mind that the increase in Queensland was 600. In New South Wales the increase was 31,000, from 422,500 to 450,400; in Victoria it was 30,000; in South Australia 9,000; in Western Australia 3,000, and in Tasmania 3,000. If any hon. member wishes to query those figures they are to be found on page 9 of the Monthly Review of Business Statistics.

I think that is a fair indication of the extent of industrial development in this State. The Minister for Labour and Industry has been fond of quoting the extent of the increase in factory employment and production in this State but, when it is remembered that those figures are included—

(Time expired.)

**Mr. EWAN (Roma) (12.47 p.m.):** On behalf of myself and my electors, I desire to express our firm allegiance and loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I am delighted to learn that His Royal Highness Prince Philip will visit Perth this year, and that Her Majesty and Prince Philip will visit Australia in 1963. My only regret is that the contemplated visit will be of such short duration that it will be impossible for many inland residents to participate in the whole-hearted welcome that will assuredly be extended to them.

I should also like to place on record my own and my electors' sincere thanks and appreciation of the splendid services rendered to this State by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Abel Smith, ably assisted by his charming wife, Lady May. On behalf of

my constituents I join with those who have already expressed their appreciation of His Excellency's stated intention of accepting a further term of office as Governor of Queensland.

I feel that I should, at this juncture, extend my congratulations to the mover of the Address-in-Reply motion, which I strongly support. I am firmly opposed to the amendment.

The motion was moved by the hon. member for Flinders, my good friend and colleague, who ably understands and explains the problems of this State, and who has been so helpful in this Assembly in dealing with the problems of inland electorates. I hope that, in recognition of his sterling worth, the people of the electorate of Flinders will ensure that he remains their representative for many years.

I also commend the seconder of the motion, the hon. member for Wavell, whose capability and vigour are well known and have frequently been amply demonstrated in this Chamber, in his own electorate, and throughout the State.

I desire also to extend my heartiest congratulations to Mr. Justice Russell Skerman on his elevation to the Supreme Court Bench. Many years ago when we were boys together during our school days Russell Skerman was well known to me, both scholastically and on the sports field. My memories of him are such that I am extremely confident that he will prove a very valuable acquisition to, and will worthily uphold the traditional functions of, the judiciary.

I believe every hon. member will join with me in expressing a wish for the speedy recovery to their usual good health of the Minister for Labour and Industry, Hon. K. J. Morris, and the Minister for Education and Migration, Hon. J. C. A. Pizzey. I think it will be agreed by all hon. members that because of their unselfish service, through their tremendous loyalty to their positions and responsibilities, those two men overworked themselves to such an extent that their usual good health has been impaired.

**Opposition Members interjected.**

**Mr. EWAN:** I am grateful for those interjections because they indicate some of the reasons for the illness of those hon. gentlemen. Since they assumed office they have had to correct the results of 30 years' maladministration under Labour's misrule.

It is my intention to touch briefly on the outstanding and remarkable development and progress enjoyed by the State during the present Government's term of office. The record of the present Government adds up to a wonderful feat which has been marked by progress in every branch of human endeavour. It is our duty as parliamentarians to do everything in our power to ensure that this development continues unhindered.

Indeed, it is the duty of every responsible citizen in Queensland. That will be reflected at the next elections. In fact everyone who knows Queensland, and who has travelled about it extensively over the years, is tremendously impressed with what has been achieved during the last five years.

We would be indeed churlish, whether we were in Opposition or in Government, if we did not pay tribute to the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity for the wonderful work he has carried out during the last five years. Hundreds of miles of bitumen roads have been laid and many miles of bridges built in that period. Let us consider the through road, now almost completed, from Coolangatta to Mossman.

**Mr. Newton:** Have you been through on it?

**Mr. EWAN:** Many times.

**Mr. Newton:** In dry weather?

**Mr. EWAN:** The hon. member would not know the conditions of the inland roads during 30 years of Labour maladministration. He asks whether I drove through on that road in dry weather. I have driven through in dry weather and I have driven through in wet weather. I will tell the hon. member more about that at a later stage.

Let us consider the completion of the Condamine Highway, the provision of a bitumen road from Brisbane to Mitchell, and its continuation into the electorate of the hon. member for Warrego. It is being continued through to Charleville, across to Augathella, right up to Longreach. I am referring to the section of the Condamine Highway in my own electorate, and I remember how I fought for it when I entered Parliament in 1950. At that time I was ridiculed by hon. members opposite. I have travelled over that road since 1920. I have been bogged and have had to stay out on it many nights. No doubt the hon. member for Warrego would have shared those privileges and pleasures that we enjoyed under those years of Labour rule when many times we had to stay out all night in all types of weather. Now we have an all-weather road from Brisbane to Mitchell, and it is being continued to Charleville. In many instances the bridges built by the Labour Government have had to be replaced because they were low-level bridges. They were always under water after a few points of rain. That was characteristic of Labour's maladministration.

It has always been my pleasure to advocate the completion of the unfinished sections of the highway from Mungindi to St. George. Of course there is a bitumen road from Thallon to St. George, and from Surat to Roma. Certain sections of the Injune highway are completed, but I have always advocated, and always will, that because of the national importance of the road, unsurfaced sections should be sealed, right through to

Rolleston to junction with the Northern Highway via Charters Towers. The meatworks at Roma are working efficiently now and many cattle are coming to Roma from as far away as Rolleston and Springsure. The completion of this road would give a good inland route from the southern capital cities—Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide—via Roma, right through to Northern Queensland towns. It would also provide a junction road to Darwin. Apart altogether from developmental purposes, it is essential for the defence of the nation.

The Government are to be congratulated for undertaking work that successive Labour Governments continually refused to carry out. They are providing bitumen roads for people in the inland areas along existing railway lines. It was the policy of successive Labour Governments to deny those people bitumen roads. It gives me a great pleasure to say that in a very short period we will have a bitumen road extending from Roma to Wallumbilla. A great deal of work is being carried out on the road from Roma to Wallumbilla and Jackson and on to Miles. The bitumen-surfacing will shortly be completed between Taroom and Wandoan and Miles and Chinchilla, thus providing an all-weather road to Brisbane. The beef roads in the North and the Channel Country, which are so essential, are under way. They were denied us by previous Labour Governments although a Federal Government of the day made money available to them to carry out the work. They could not even "lie straight in bed" and carry out the terms of the contract. As a result, the provision of money was discontinued, but our Government in their sincerity have again interested the Commonwealth Government and we will provide all-weather beef roads so that large numbers of cattle may be brought from the Northern Territory and the Barkly Tableland into the Channel Country, in forward store condition, to be fattened and topped off and then brought to coastal or inland meatworks with the least possible delay. This will be a tremendous advantage and will cause greatly increased development in those regions. We looked forward to it for many years. I approached successive Labour Governments about these roads from time to time when I was president of the Maranoa Graziers Association, and I was on innumerable deputations to those Governments, but we were told it could not be done. I well remember a Labour Minister telling me in Parliament that a bitumen road could not be built over the black-soil country between Roma and Mitchell, but this Government have achieved what Labour claimed was impossible.

We have heard what I can describe only as "all this clap-trap" about the educational system under the present Minister and under this Government. Goodness gracious me! Wherever we go in the State we see new, modern schools, brightly painted, with modern facilities and furnishings, and septic tanks. This work is so conspicuous that

it draws comment from every intelligent traveller. Throughout the length and breadth of the country there are either new schools with modern facilities or older buildings under repair.

Let us consider next the greater number of teachers today. Under Labour there were classes of 60, 70, and 80 students, but that is not so today. I come now to the advantages for teachers; their salaries, superannuation, and working conditions have been immeasurably improved. At a school in my electorate there was a teacher who was a Labour stalwart of the "old school."

Before the luncheon adjournment I had been dealing with our policy on education, which has been so fallaciously and impudently criticised by hon. members opposite. They know full well in their hearts that Queensland has never previously enjoyed such educational facilities as have been provided during the last five years.

Let us consider the conditions under which the teachers work. For many years under Labour there was a shortage of teachers because their rates of pay, superannuation, pensions, and conditions were so poor that the department was unable to attract sufficient recruits to the teaching profession. Today the position has been vastly altered for the better, which has attracted so many recruits to the profession as to enable the standard of entry to the Teachers' Training College to become far higher than anyone would have imagined before in the entire history of education in the State.

When this Government took office many teachers and even head-teachers had no residences provided for them. Now residences are available for them at schools all over the State. In my area I have had several residences erected. Previously the principal of the Roma State High School did not have a residence but one has now been provided for him.

Let us consider the superannuation and pensions of teachers. Earlier I began to tell the story of an old Labour stalwart, a head-teacher at one of the State schools in the West. I admired his principles because he belonged to the "old school," for which I had a great admiration; he was a genuine and sincere Labour man, an Andrew Fisher-Davey Bowman type of Labour man, the God fearing, just type of those days, so different from the members of today's Australian Labour Party with no ideals to work for. This old gentleman told me that he was within two years of retirement when this Government took office. He said to me, "Look here. I want to tell you something. I voted Labour for 40 years and I realise what a fool I have been because, under the Labour Party, I would have gone out on a pension of £12 a week whereas after two years of your Government's administration I go out with a pension of £17 a week."

Let us compare the conditions under which pupils are taught under this Government with conditions of teaching under the Labour Government. All over the State, school transports have been provided for children in the rural areas. In my own area, of the 360 children who attend the Wandoan school, 270 are transported to and from their homes free of cost. What a new state of affairs that is! It brings a new era of education to the rural areas of the State. Believe me, many of those bush children are endowed with such qualities as would fit them, given a suitable education, to occupy the highest positions in the State or Commonwealth.

Under this Government, Taroom has a new school. Wandoan has one of the most magnificent schools in the State, one that we are all proud of and that we take visitors to see. The same applies to schools everywhere in my area and throughout the State.

So we can justifiably claim—and we are proud to claim—that the Hon. J. C. A. Pizzey, will go down in the history of Queensland as perhaps the greatest Minister for Education this State has ever known.

Let me deal now with hospitalisation and begin by congratulating the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Dr. Noble. We have new and improved hospitals all over the State, better nursing quarters, and so on. We tried for years to get a hospital at Injune. My friend the late John Taylor worked sincerely and honestly for 14 years, using every means at his disposal, to secure one. The Labour Government even kidded him to lay a foundation stone on a piece of vacant land at Injune 14 years ago. But was it ever built? No. I took the Minister for Health and Home Affairs to Injune, where 250 people attended a meeting. He said, "These people are sincere. Go and find a piece of land and we will build a hospital." Today, it is built, opened, and staffed. The same thing has happened at Taroom; we are modernising the hospital there.

To give hon. members an idea of the way in which people react, I shall mention what was a new experience for me and one that not many members of this Assembly have had. At the end of the financial year the Miles Hospitals Board, which controls the hospitals at Miles and Taroom, were so pleased with the way in which they had been treated by the Government that they extended an invitation to my wife and me to attend an afternoon tea. At that function the chairman, the secretary, and every member of the Board eulogised the present Minister for the magnificent work that he has done in hospital administration. The chairman and the secretary said that it was the first time in the history of the Miles Hospital that it had been brought up to the desired standard, and they asked me to convey to the Minister their sincere thanks.

Now let us consider the situation at Roma. The base hospital was in a state of shocking disrepair when this Government came to office. That state of affairs has been corrected. Repairs have been made and it is now functioning efficiently. The same applies to hospitals in other parts of the State.

Let us now consider Government buildings such as police stations. I shall mention one in the electorate of the hon. member for Gregory. Whilst there, I went to the office of the C.P.S. to obtain a permit for a street meeting and, whilst standing at the counter, I fell through the floor. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition was with me and he can verify that. As a result of representations by the hon. member for Gregory, that danger has been removed and a new building has been erected.

I made representations that necessary work be done at police stations and police residences in the Roma electorate. All that work has now been done, and the position today is one of which I personally am proud. All through the State we have erected residences for permanent police officers; this work had been neglected during the 30 years of Labour administration.

Let us now consider housing. We know the state that was in 1957. In Roma, there has been something of a revolution. The Leader of the Opposition knows it because when he came there he gave me a backhanded compliment for the development that had been carried out. At the present time there is block after block of new houses. There are 30 new Housing Commission homes, 15 in the course of construction and another 15 for which tenders have been called. The housing shortage is rapidly being overcome by the sound and progressive administration of this Government.

Roma is growing at a remarkable rate. In five years its population has increased by no fewer than 700, which is an indication of progress and development. Now let us see what is taking place under local-authority administration, supported and financed to a large extent by this Government. Roma has a sewerage scheme costing £600,000, and we are about to connect up sewerage in the town of Injune. Preliminary planning for sewerage is being carried out in Miles.

Let us consider also the improvement in the standard of buildings that is evident all over the State. It was my very great privilege and honour to officially open the Miles Civic Centre, 50 per cent. of the cost of which was provided by the Government. It is a magnificent building; in my opinion, one of the outstanding civic centres in Queensland. It cost £90,000. How the Council had it built for that sum is beyond my understanding, because I believe that it should have cost about £150,000.

Let us consider, too, the streets, roads, kerbing and channelling and water reticulation, not forgetting electricity reticulation. Many rural towns in my electorate—for example, Wallumbilla, Injune, Taroom, Miles, Yuleba, and Dulacca—have electricity, and I have had the pleasure of turning on the supply in several of them. I hope it will not be long before Jackson and Condamine have electricity. All these things have taken place under the administration of the present Government.

Now let us consider what private enterprise has achieved in Queensland, much of it in the last five years. As we travel round the State, we see progress and development; we see hundreds of thousands of acres on which timber has been pulled and the country grassed; we see watering facilities and attractive homesteads. This is the sort of thing we have wanted and searched for and pleaded for during the last 40 years. Under Labour's administration people did not have the confidence to spend as much as they wanted to on the development of the State.

Let us consider the overall development—Mt. Isa, Weipa, the discovery of oil—

**An Opposition Member:** Gas.

**Mr. EWAN:** And gas at Roma. The only gas that the hon. member would know anything about is the gas generated in sewers.

This great development is taking place thanks to the return of the confidence of the investing public as a result of the sound administration of the present Government.

Now let us consider transport, both rail and road. Let me deal with the rail-transport system first. For the first time in 40 years the people in the West have received justice. I will speak particularly of Roma because I know it so well, but this applies also to other towns in the south-west of the State. The freight rate on second-class goods—groceries, and so on—to Roma was previously £24 17s. a ton. Under our administration it has been reduced to £9 15s. a ton. Now take the road-transport system. Labour Governments would give franchises only to the large companies. Today we have freed the channels of transport, and every registered carrier who has a license can carry a load, provided he pays the tax. In the electorate of the hon. member for Aubigny, a man told me that he had been waiting for 15 years for this.

**Mr. Diplock:** What for?

**Mr. EWAN:** For the right to run a service from Dalby to Brisbane. I am speaking of Mr. Hawkes.

As I say, we have freed the channels of transport. We have given private enterprise the right to engage in road transport, a right that had been denied to it under the

State Transport Act and Regulations framed by successive Labour Governments.

I think I have dealt adequately with the wonderful record of the present Government in comparison with the maladministration and inefficiency of Labour Governments over the years. Every member of Parliament, whether in government or in opposition, is elected to administer the affairs of the State on behalf of the people. He has the responsibility, among other things, of creating an economic climate favourable to the establishment of confidence, which in turn will ensure a continuance of the full employment, progress, and development that have been established by this Government.

It has been our unfortunate experience during the progress of this debate to witness members of the Opposition failing to assume their basic responsibilities. Speaker after speaker, from the Leader of the Opposition down through the ranks, has risen in his place and endeavoured by every means at his disposal to make cheap political capital at the expense of those unfortunate people who at present are unemployed. If their propaganda was designed to assist people to get work I should applaud their efforts wholeheartedly, but as yet not one constructive proposal has been advanced by the Opposition.

Surely it cannot be their desire to foster unemployment. I condemn the Opposition's tactics because of the established, elementary factor that if, wittingly or unwittingly, a lack of confidence is created in the minds of the investing public, it has a strong effect on the availability of employment. Providing full employment is not the sole responsibility of Governments; it is also the responsibility of manufacturers, distributors, and producers, if their businesses are to become prosperous, because, after all, consumers must have the wherewithal to purchase their goods. Yet the dismal prophets of gloom on the Opposition benches are creating a fear complex designed for their purely selfish political purpose of slowing down investment, development, and employment.

In this connection let me quote the following article—

"In Australia during the last 18 months savings bank deposits have increased by £178,000,000 and in the same period trading bank deposits have also increased by £113,000,000, or a total of £291,000,000.

"Of these total increased deposits money placed on fixed deposit increased by £178,000,000. On the other hand, trading bank advances have decreased over the same period by £32,000,000."

A study of these figures makes it obvious how necessary it is to generate confidence in the future and so provide encouragement to private industry to expand and develop, which in turn will provide increased employment.

The whole of this Country Party-Liberal Government's policy is designed to bring about a state of full employment,

development, progress, and prosperity, which surely in its implementation is deserving of the fullest assistance from all sections of the community. The Country Party-Liberal Government are rapidly restoring confidence in industry after nearly 30 years of maladministration by Labour Governments. There has been a great influx of capital into the State during the last five years. An amount of £20,000,000 has been invested in beef roads to provide year-round killing and to assist the cattle industry; £70,000,000 has been invested in the development of Mt. Isa, Mary Kathleen, the Townsville copper refinery, the Kianga-Moura coalfield, and Bulwer Island, and in oil exploration. Surely that is a remarkable achievement in any man's language.

What of the future? With the assistance and confidence of the great majority of the people, who will return this Government to office next year, arrangements have been made for the expenditure in the next five years of approximately £80,000,000 in the Mt. Isa expansion programme, the Weipa aluminium project, and an oil pipe-line from Moonie to Brisbane. Hon. members will have seen the statement in the Press this morning that this pipe-line will cost about £8,000,000 and, in the latest edition of the "Telegraph," a spokesman has announced that work on it will commence within the next three months. The future of this State is indeed bright and the people of Queensland will not be misled by the stupid propaganda generated from the Opposition benches.

Now let us look at the unemployment problem, which the hypocritical adherents of Labour seek to perpetuate and extend rather than remedy. I hope the hon. member for Warrego is in the Chamber. At 28 June, 1957, the end of Labour's regime, 8,957 persons were registered as unemployed, and of that number 2,851 were receiving unemployment benefits. In July, 1962, under the present Government, 14,195 were registered as unemployed. Of that number 6,605 were receiving unemployment benefits, but during the intervening period the work-force increased by about 30,000. It will be noted that the unemployment benefit amounts to £7 a week for a married man with a wife and one child to support. He may earn another £2 a week.

I view this matter very seriously. I have discussed it with responsible business leaders and organisations and, yes, with several unionist friends, too, as I have many good friends in unions. If we are to get a clear picture of the unemployment position in its true perspective, and so enable us to take tangible action to combat it, I believe that it is absolutely essential that the Commonwealth Department of Social Services should undertake a State-by-State review of the whole matter. I believe there should be a

break-down of the figures of those receiving benefits into the following categories:—

1. Seasonal employees.
2. Those drawing benefits over a considerable period.
3. Physically handicapped.
4. Unemployables.

Let us consider the seasonal employees in the shearing and sugar industries in Queensland, remembering that they are entitled to register as unemployed if, in fact, they are unemployed. I am reliably informed that approximately 1,300 shearers and 1,300 shed-hands are employed annually in Queensland, being an overall work force of about 2,600 seasonal workers. Their rates of pay are determined by the Industrial Commission on the assumption that the shearing season is of 20 weeks' or five months' duration. Basically the Commission is influenced in its determinations by a desire to provide a wage that will sustain the average family-man over the yearly period of unemployment, but it does not hold the view that shearing employees should be denied other employment in the slack season.

The peak employment periods are as follows: February and March, followed by a steep decline until early July, then another peak period in July, August and September, followed by a further steep decline from October to the end of January.

I will quote the average earnings of 115 shearers employed by seven shearing contractors in various parts of the State. I have all the details here in a folder, and I will make them available to any responsible member of the Opposition. The figures show averages that have been calculated by reference to the earnings records of 115 shearers employed by seven large shearing contractors from various parts of the State. However, it must be remembered that in the shearing industry it is the practice for shearers to divide their working time between two or more employers, or alternatively to carry out privately small contracts to shear or crutch in the periods between sheds that they work for their employer. Therefore, as will be appreciated from a close study of the details of individual earnings, the figures available upon which the averages have been calculated do not necessarily, or even probably, represent the total earnings of the average shearer. The figures are all here. For the benefit of hon. members opposite, whom I am sure do not know, I point out that the Federal award provides £8 6s. 6d. per 100 sheep and the State award £8 6s. 3d. per 100 sheep. These 115 shearers shored an average of 589.2 sheep for the 31 weeks in which they were employed. Their average earnings for shearing in the 31 weeks under review were £1,496 15s. 8d., for which I congratulate them.

Mr. Wallace interjected.

Mr. EWAN: I have no intention of approaching the Court and I have every

intention of congratulating the shearer on his earnings, because he has to work hard for them. My dear friend from Cairns has forgotten that I have done quite a bit of shearing. I have given the earnings of the shearers over a 31-week period. The employers have the same right as the unions to go to the Industrial Court, and I would not have it otherwise, because I believe in arbitration despite the way the hon. members opposite and their Communist-dominated unions try to sabotage the Court. I have always believed in it and I always will. I have always abided by the Court's decisions and I expect employees to do likewise.

Having dealt with the shearing industry, let me turn to the sugar industry. I am informed that approximately 8,000 cane-cutters and 2,500 mill employees are employed annually on a seasonal basis. Wages are determined on the earnings from June to December. The cane-cutter's season has been determined by the Court as a 25-week season and the average cane-cutter earns, on a conservative estimate, about £40 a week, or approximately £1,000 in the 25 weeks' season.

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

**Mr. EWAN:** I thank the hon. member for Balonne, and the House, for granting me an extension of time. I know hon. members are greatly interested in what I am saying.

In the two industries I have referred to 12,000 seasonal workers are employed. I ask hon. members opposite not to forget that several thousand seasonal workers are employed in other industries. It is very difficult to get a true assessment of the number of people employed in seasonal occupations, but it is not impossible.

**Mr. Wallace** interjected.

**Mr. EWAN:** The problem is not insoluble. If the hon. member for Cairns will bear with me he will agree with me, because outside this Chamber we agree wholeheartedly. I know that in the North he is a solid bloke, and I forgive him for what he says down here sometimes.

As I have indicated, 12,000 seasonal workers are engaged in the shearing and sugar industries. I think it would be reasonable to assume that possibly 25,000 people in Queensland derive their livelihood from seasonal occupations. That is one of the reasons for my wanting the Commonwealth Government to break down their statistics so as to give a factual statement about the number of people in these categories.

**Mr. Tucker:** Why are you so worried about all this?

**Mr. EWAN:** If my good friend from Townsville North has patience I will explain it to him and he will benefit from it.

**Mr. Tucker:** Are you worried about the figures?

**Mr. EWAN:** If I can have a little silence I shall proceed.

Rightly or wrongly it is suggested that many seasonal workers in off periods register as unemployed and are entitled to unemployment benefits.

**Mr. Wallace:** They are entitled to them.

**Mr. EWAN:** They are entitled to them and they receive them. They register, and I can prove it.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! There is a running fire of interjections and interruptions from members of the Opposition and they are quite unintelligible to the Chair. If hon. members wish to make intelligible interjections, I suggest that they arrange among themselves to take it in turn so that they will not drown each other out.

**Mr. EWAN:** The interjections are not only unintelligible, Mr. Deputy Speaker; they are not based on fact. In fact, hon. members opposite do not know what they are saying. If you asked them to repeat it a few minutes later they would not remember what they had said.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Will the hon. member please proceed with his speech.

**Mr. EWAN:** It is therefore responsibly suggested that the Commonwealth department should undertake a survey on the lines indicated with the object of providing benefits where most needed and at the same time providing a truer picture of the ramifications of seasonal unemployment.

It is in no way suggested that any attack be launched against the wage structure granted by the Industrial Commission to seasonal workers but merely to provide assistance where and when it is most needed by giving preference in employment to those not so fortunately situated.

It ill becomes the Leader of the Opposition and his calamity-howlers to criticise the present Government for the unemployment that exists in Queensland. It is because of this Government's positive, strenuous and successful efforts, with the full support of the Federal Liberal-Country Party Government, that unemployment has been progressively and substantially reduced so that today only 2.8 per cent. of the total work force in Queensland is unemployed. We are confident that, following the efforts of this Government, the figure will continue to be reduced in the near future.

**Mr. O'Donnell:** Who said so?

**Mr. EWAN:** Not the hon. member for Barcoo. He would not influence any employment because he has never employed a man in his life. And I hope he never will.

Such reduction in unemployment will be materially assisted by the full and close co-operation of private business men. After all, it is as much their responsibility as the Government's because they should realise that, if their industries and their businesses are to prosper, there must be full employment to enable consumers to afford to buy the goods produced. So any sensible business man in private enterprise, and any Government, must realise that there cannot be development and prosperity without full employment.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. EWAN:** Hon. members opposite, with their squeals and howls, remind me of the mobs of dingoes that I have destroyed many a time in the West.

Despite what the "misguided gentlemen" occupying the Labour-Socialist benches in this Parliament may say, I should like to quote a well-known Labour leader's views on unemployment. I find them most delightful in the light of the misguided statements by hon. members opposite, seeing that the Labour leader I am about to quote occupied a very important post. Even though their actions are guided by the dictates of the hierarchy of the Q.C.E., they cannot in all conscience take umbrage at, or dispute, the facts enunciated by this Labour leader in expressing his views on unemployment and it gives me tremendous pleasure to quote him. It highlights the hypocrisy generated in the minds of these people on my right with the sole desire not to correct unemployment, not to assist the unfortunates who are unemployed, but to try to gain cheap political advantage. But the people of Queensland are not so misguided as to take the bait. Let me read what this gentleman had to say.

**Mr. Graham:** What is his name?

**Mr. EWAN:** Mr. A. Monk. I do not know where he sprang from or anything like that, but he is president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions. Speaking at the Australian Citizenship Convention on 24 January, 1961, he said—

"In America today there are about five million unemployed or about 6 per cent. of the total work force.

"In Canada the present unemployment figure is 8 per cent. and will go up to 10 per cent. by the end of March.

"We have been very fortunate.

"When I tell people overseas that our unemployment is less than 2 per cent. they say, 'That is not a problem at all.'

"They are used to having economic problems with rates of unemployment to work force of about 4 to 5 per cent.

"In 1939 when the war broke out we had about 10 per cent. unemployment in this country and we were used to dealing with it on a 10 per cent. basis.

"But the ordinary person in Australia now gets awfully frightened if we get up to 2 per cent. unemployment whereas, in fact, because of our seasonal occupations in Australia, it is necessary to have about 1.5 per cent. floating population to deal with the seasonal work.

"So we do not want to get panicky over a minor percentage of unemployment in this country."

Those are the words of the President of the A.C.T.U., who is a highly-respected leader of the Labour movement. He said, "We were used to dealing with 10 per cent. of unemployment."

Following the successful efforts of this Government, we have in Queensland today 2.8 per cent. of unemployment. That, however, is not what we want. All our policies are designed to provide full employment. In the last five years we have provided the necessary confidence for the investing public, whether Australian or overseas, to come along and invest their money, and over £70,000,000 of investment has been attracted to Queensland in the last five years. Prior to the assumption of office by this Government, nothing like that ever happened because investors were afraid. Every person, be he investor, partner in industry, employer, or employee, has the right to work for the best possible return and under the best possible conditions in industry. That is his inalienable right, and that is the motivating force behind what he does.

In order to provide the necessary confidence for the establishment of industries, example and precept must be given by the Government, and that is what was lacking in the 30 years of maladministration under the Labour Government. In the last five years this Government have substantially restored the confidence of investors, from within and outside Australia, and induced them to take part in the development of this great country. By example and precept, this Government have encouraged the investment of £70,000,000 in the various industries that I have mentioned. A new era in any man's language has been created. The people of Queensland have seen what can be done. The future is bright and confidence has been created. During the administration of this Government no less than £80,000,000 of investment has been attracted here for future expenditure.

**Mr. Donald:** You said £70,000,000 before.

**Mr. EWAN:** Over £72,000,000 of foreign capital has been attracted into Australia for oil exploration, and the greater part of that has come to Queensland. No-one is happier than I am that oil has been discovered in the electorate of my good friend and colleague Eddy Beardmore, the hon. member for Balonne. He works hard and travels widely in his electorate. When he realised that oil in commercial quantities had probably been

discovered in his electorate, he travelled overseas at his own expense to make himself familiar with the oil industry and help to attract further capital into Australia. It was a very happy day for him when oil was discovered there, and I know that I share the pleasure of Eddy Beardmore in reading Press reports that construction of an £8,000,000 pipe-line will be started in three months. That will provide employment in Queensland.

In my own electorate of Roma, we have worked for about 40 years to find oil. The search has cost hundreds of thousands of pounds, but we now have a commercial gas supply and our power station at Roma is run on natural gas. We have paid Australian Associated Oilfields enough for the gas that they have supplied to enable them to recoup the cost of their pipe-line to the power house.

I heard one hon. member on this side of the House say that he was very concerned about the production of aluminium, and he advanced a suggestion for consideration. I also advance a suggestion. Australian Associated Oilfields, in association with Mines Administration Pty. Ltd., are putting down more wells, and we are getting gas, gas, and more gas. There is now a productive capacity of approximately 30,000,000 cubic feet in those wells. I suggest—mention was made of this in the Press this morning—that a pipe-line could be put through to Brisbane to supply gas to the people here. We have great hopes of finding oil in No. 3 well at Westgrove, and if discoveries of petroliferous gases continue at the present rate, it is not beyond the realms of possibility that we will be able to provide a gas pipe-line from these apparently unlimited resources of natural gas to Weipa.

**Opposition Members interjected.**

**Mr. EWAN:** My ignorant friends on the Opposition benches do not realise that in the United States of America—the hon. member for Balonne will tell them this and the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity will bear him out—they have pipe-lines—

**Mr. Evans:** Two thousand miles long.

**Mr. EWAN:** Yes, 2,000 miles long. If the gas resources in the Roma electorate can provide the fuel needed for the furnaces at Weipa, our efforts will be rewarded.

I believe that, for the first time in 40 years, the people of Queensland have experienced sound, sensible, sane, progressive legislation and a rejection of all forms of victimisation and Socialisation. Taking first things first, and accepting their responsibility as good citizens of the State, they will reject the inane, stupid, and ridiculous suggestions of hon. members opposite uttered as fables during the debate. When they are asked to exercise their franchise at the next poll, they will ensure a continuance for a further three years of the development that I have indicated.

**Mr. DIPLOCK (Aubigny) (3 p.m.):** In common with other hon. members I am very happy that Queensland is to be favoured early next year with a second visit from Her Majesty the Queen. I agree that such visits are of great value in cementing the ties which bind the countries belonging to the British Commonwealth.

I realise that time does not permit of Her Majesty's visiting country areas on her next visit, but I suggest that on future occasions, when Queensland is being visited by prominent national personalities, those parts of the State which have never had the opportunity of entertaining such people be considered when itineraries are being planned. After all, Brisbane and one or two other cities do not constitute the whole of Queensland, nor do they present a true picture of this State's potential.

Many of the circle of people who are included in the list of invitations to functions arranged for visitors have no entitlement to such invitations, except their friendship with this or that member of Parliament. They often have the opportunity of being in the distinguished company more than once. I know of one lady who boasted that she shook the Queen's hand on eight occasions during her last visit. Her Majesty must have been very thrilled! These people are not a true cross-section of the men and women who make a real contribution to the progress and welfare of this State.

I am delighted that the term of our present Governor is to be extended for another three years. From the time he assumed office His Excellency has not spared himself in an effort to maintain and develop the respect, love, and esteem which Queenslanders have for the Throne and all it stands for. He has succeeded, perhaps, more than any of his predecessors, because he has shown a sincere interest in the welfare of all sections of the community and in all parts of the State.

Previously, I have for a number of reasons refrained from commenting on or criticising the recent legislation that legalises off-course betting. This legislation was considered a political hot potato and I felt that it was only fair to withhold criticism until I had an opportunity of observing its effect. The Government claimed that they were making a sincere effort to control gambling.

Prior to the passing of the legislation I had met many church leaders, both clergy and laymen, who had approached responsible members of the Government and had been convinced that the main reason for the legislation was a sincere desire to control gambling within the State; so, I looked forward to a big improvement. I knew too that S.P. betting was being carried on in all parts of the State and I was—and I still am—of the opinion that legislation to give people living in the country, where they cannot attend race meetings, the right to do legally what they were doing illegally, was desirable.

From that I do not wish it to be inferred that I consider it wise or moral to legislate to cover up the wrong-doings of any section of the community. But betting is not considered to be an offence by the State as long as it is carried out in defined places. My contention is that the country should be included in those places. I also consider that such legislation should have a moderating effect on the confirmed bettor because it would give the S.P. bookmaker the right to claim debts through a court. Consequently this would influence the bettor to bet within his means. What has happened since the legislation was passed must have caused those interested in the control of gambling to wonder whether the Government handled this hot potato with a desire to improve the social life of the people, or merely used this desired result as a means of covering up another form of extracting funds from the people. I know that more than one Minister of the Crown had sold his Government to welfare workers as a strong Government, prepared to risk the consequences of handling this hot potato solely in the interests of the moral welfare of the people. What has happened since must find these welfare leaders as disillusioned as most of us are, and wondering whether the Government have sold them a pup. All will admit that there has been an improvement—an improvement only in the facilities available for the people to gamble. People may now wager at agencies which leave little to be desired in the way of convenience and service, right here in the city where weekly race-meetings are conducted. The agency presents a respectable businesslike front. The wagering is done in a respectable businesslike manner. Betting off-course already is becoming part of the respectable life of the rising generation. According to the legislation you cannot loiter at these agencies but, in the main, they are situated conveniently close to hotels where you can either celebrate because of your good fortune or drown your sorrows because of your bad luck. There is an age limit, of course, but my observations at two agencies have convinced me that this is no great hurdle to jump. Here I offer no criticism at all of the employees at the agencies concerned, because it is almost impossible for them to assess the ages of people desiring to do business.

On Saturday last I could not help hearing the discussion of a small group of tennis players congregated outside an agency in a Brisbane suburb. Evidently their funds had been pooled and a selection was being made for each of the races on the Doomben programme. The selections having been made, one young man did the business and the group made tracks for their tennis court. From the discussion, which was carried on quite openly, I think that I would be safe in assuming that not one of these young people would have been interested in betting if he or she had to go to the course to place the bets. I am not making this criticism because I am averse to any man or woman

following horse-racing, if such is the sport that he or she favours. At the present time I am a member of three race clubs. I attend race-meetings quite often and I enjoy, as much as anyone, having a modest bet. I am of the opinion, however, that a serious step in the wrong direction has been taken in making facilities for betting so easily accessible in the cities, where people have the opportunity of visiting the courses, and enjoying all aspects of this form of sport. I doubt, too, that the Government expected any result from the legislation other than increased revenue. Further, I am of the opinion that bookmakers should be registered where regular racing is not carried on, in order that those who desire to bet may do so legally and the Government will receive a tax comparable with that received from those who attend race-meetings. I conclude my criticism on this matter by saying that I feel sure the old form of illegal S.P. betting did not encourage young people to bet nearly as much as the new form of off-course betting will do.

I should now like to bring under the notice of hon. members the effect on rate-payers in Dalby of the Local Government (Rateable Value Adjustment) Act of 1962. There can be little doubt in the minds of hon. members that this legislation was introduced because of pressure on this Government in the interests of those land-holders in the Gold Coast areas who objected to the big increases in their valuations in 1960. It would appear that the Government introduced the legislation to alleviate distress among those "poor" people who paid such high prices for land on the Gold Coast on which to build their holiday homes that officers of the Valuer-General's Department had no alternative but to value the land as highly as they did.

In Dalby there were instances of steep valuation increases, but in most cases they were expected because of the amenities that had been provided in the areas concerned. On the other hand, there were areas classed as flood-prone and the valuations in those areas were lowered slightly. Speaking generally, the people were satisfied with the Valuer-General's rating. Under Section 4 (i) of the Act, those whose unimproved value did not exceed the former unimproved value were rated on the amount of the new unimproved value. Under Section 4 (ii), those whose new unimproved value exceeded the former unimproved value were rated on the aggregate of the amounts respectively of the former unimproved value and of 50 per cent. of the excess. The Council had to strike a general rate that would result in the collection of approximately the same revenue from general rates as was received last year, to enable it to proceed with its programme of work. The rate struck was 1s. 5d. in the £1 against 1s. in the £1 last year. This had the effect of lifting the rates paid by those living in the old section of the town by 5d. in the £1,

whilst those living in the newly-developed areas pay about the same total general rate as they did last year. Unfortunately, in the older section of the town there live many aged persons. Dalby is an old town reaching its centenary next year and many of these aged people are on very limited incomes. Quite a few exist on the age pension. In the old section there are many widows who live on a very limited income or exist on the widow's pension. The increase in rates consequent upon the passing of this legislation is causing great hardship to a section of the community that is least able to bear it. I have instanced the case of Dalby so that hon. members will be aware what may happen in their own constituencies unless this Act is repealed.

I was amazed to read headlined on the front page of "The Courier-Mail" of 30 August in large letters, "Graziers Likely to Move on Meat Price Rule". For many years under Labour Governments the price of meat was controlled. Because of this, meat was within the capacity of the worker to buy and consequently formed a substantial part of the meal in the ordinary household. During that period, despite price-control, I cannot remember reading of any case where a grazier had been declared bankrupt, or of a selection or station for sale cheaply, or of a grazier dying a poor man; yet we heard a constant clamour for the abolition of price-control and there was great rejoicing when, in May, 1958, the present Government lifted the control on meat prices and introduced a system of weekly relating retail prices to the prices paid for livestock in the previous week. Those interested in the meat industry know that the prices paid for cattle rose to a level which caused retail prices of meat to soar, and in many homes meat became a luxury rather than an every-day part of the family meal. Housewives had to turn to substitute food and, during that period, the butcher found it difficult to make his business function at a profit because he could not charge over a certain level of prices through the inability of the ordinary wage-earner, his main consumer, to pay more. The butcher then had cause to regret that price-control had been lifted. After a period of peak prices for cattle, prices paid in the yards gradually decreased to the present price range of approximately £8 6s. 8d. per 100 lb. for bullock beef to £7 5s. 10d. for cow beef. Butchers gradually decreased retail prices of beef to their present level, but, according to the graziers, they are making too much profit. This may or may not be the case. The point I want to make is that, while the graziers were receiving peak prices—£60 a head for their bullocks—they were quite happy and they were not concerned with what the consumer had to pay for beef. Everything in the garden was lovely as long as they were reaping the harvest. Now they are of the opinion that

the butcher is doing the harvesting and everything in the garden is far from lovely as far as they are concerned. What the worker had to pay for his dinner seemed to be of no importance as long as they were on the receiving end of the big profit harvest. If the butchers are making excessive profits, then the Government should concern themselves in the matter in the interests of consumers and of the beef industry generally; but I wish to register my protest against the dog-in-the-manger attitude of the graziers concerned. The present position is that people have accustomed themselves to eating more mutton, lamb, and other substitute foods, and the reintroduction of price-control might ultimately be the only answer to the problem that the beef industry now faces.

During the debate there have been so many glowing descriptions from Government members of what this Government have done, and so many mournful pictures painted by members of the Opposition of the results of the Government's mismanagement, that John Citizen must really be aware that an election is just around the corner. I am of the opinion that the Government have done a lot for which they can take credit, but have been responsible for much that has caused hardship and worry to a large number of citizens in this State. During the debate—and on other occasions, too—I have heard Government members repeatedly claim excuse for this condition or for that lack of amenity, because they were legacies handed on from the previous Labour Government. If it is fair to try to meet the present position with what past Labour Governments have done, it is also fair to give them some of the credit that is being taken by Government members. Yesterday we had the spectacle of the hon. member for Albert eulogising the Government and giving credit to the Minister for Education for the beautiful high school at Southport. That was put there by a Labour Government in the time of the Hon. George Devries. Today the hon. member for Roma advised the House of all the things that had been done since the return of this Government. The hon. member for Warrego will know that the Condamine Highway was sealed almost all the way to Roma before this Government assumed office. Is that not so?

**Mr. Dufficy:** That is true.

**Mr. DIPLOCK:** He will know, too, that miles of road in the West had been sealed. Nothing like that was mentioned by the hon. member for Roma. With the exception of two, I claim that every project mentioned by the hon. member for Roma was under way before this Government took office, and the two things with which I do not associate myself or the previous Labour Government are the hospital at Injune and the increase of 700 in the population of Roma. I cannot take any credit for that.

My main criticisms of the Government are—

1. They have done little or nothing to encourage decentralisation, which was such a large plank in their platform when addressing country people prior to the election.

2. Much of their legislation has been sectional in that it has been biased in favour of the big business man and big landholder as against the mass of small landholders, farmers, dairymen, and workers generally.

Unless Government members do not wish to hear it, they must be well aware of the discontent among selectors and other relatively small landholders. This has been caused, in the main, by what is considered to be unfair administration of the Land Acts. For instance, all in a district may consider that the living area decided upon is not large enough. They all have a common grudge which they can chew over on their farms, or over a glass of beer at the local hotel. However, when it is found out that one of their number, because of representations to the Minister, has been granted some concession, the trouble really starts. Others get to work—and why shouldn't they?—to gain similar concessions.

I feel sure that officials of the Department of Public Lands must have a real headache in endeavouring to do the right thing by all and, at the same time, trying to please the powers that be. I know that there is a great deal of discontent in part of my old electorate that is now represented by the hon member for Balonne, because I have received so many letters relating to certain land matters and grievances of the writers. I go further and say that, although I have never interfered in another hon. member's electorate without his consent, investigations have convinced me that many of the writers have just cause for concern.

The hon. member for Townsville South attempted to interject a short time ago. I say to him that I am making what I think is fair and honest comment, neither seeking favours nor fearing anybody.

**Mr. Aikens:** I believe you are right.

**Mr. DIPLOCK:** The State Transport Act is another piece of legislation that has been responsible for widespread discontent in my electorate. In my opinion, this has been caused not so much because of the provisions of the Act but because it has been modified on so many occasions in the interests of certain sections of transport users and particular localities. Obviously, if the demands of one section or locality are satisfied, other sections and localities will look for similar treatment with respect to the provisions which they consider are not in their best interests. I realise that the Minister cannot be held personally responsible

for all of these modifications and that he has had to allow them to be made because pressure has been exerted on him.

I mentioned earlier that I considered that the Government had made no worth-while effort to attract people from the city to country areas and so bring about decentralisation of industry. Obviously, secondary industries are the means of employing the greatest labour forces. Speaking of my own area, at Dalby we have a concern that used to employ over 300 workers who had migrated from Brisbane and other cities and were prepared to make Dalby their permanent home. There may have been some justification for the curtailment of railway work in the interests of the workers at Redbank—I have nothing to complain about in that—but I believe that there was no justification for the treatment the firm received in connection with the contract about which I spoke last year. This treatment, coupled with the fact that the firm has not since received any work from the Government, has been responsible for many of these families selling their homes, often at a big loss, and returning to the city because the bread-winners could find no further employment in Dalby. Consequently, the economic stability of the town has received a hard blow.

The continued existence of Acland, a small mining town in my electorate, depends solely on the coal mines in the area remaining in production. Government tests show that there is a plentiful supply of coal for many years to come, and I make a strong appeal to the Minister to give consideration to increasing, rather than decreasing, as was reported in the Press a few weeks ago, orders for the mines concerned. It may be argued that the miners can find employment elsewhere if the mines at Acland close, but it is not as easy as that.

**Mr. Evans:** There is not an unemployed coalminer in Queensland, and you know it.

**Mr. DIPLOCK:** I did not say that there was. All I ask is that the Minister responsible for ordering coal should give consideration to increasing the orders for these mines.

**Mr. Evans:** The Coal Board makes that decision.

**Mr. DIPLOCK:** On orders for the railways?

**Mr. Evans:** Yes.

**Mr. DIPLOCK:** Well, there is something wrong with the Coal Board if it decreases the orders. It means much more than that to the miners concerned. The miners at Acland have spent their life's savings in providing homes for their wives and families, and a decrease in orders will mean leaving these homes and they will fall into a state of disrepair and ruin. There is little or

no chance of the men finding other employment in the area and absolutely no chance of their disposing of their homes. The cheese and butter factories in the area are providing employment for quite a number of men—cheese and butter makers, factory hands, and wood carters—and enable the farmers of the area to have their milk and cream delivered at the factories in first-class order because of their proximity to the sources of supply.

Farmers, carriers, etc., are carrying on at a big disadvantage because of the condition of some of the main roads. Here I am levelling absolutely no criticism at the Minister because he has done quite a bit since I became member for Aubigny. But these roads are the cause of much expense to the users of all types of motor-vehicles because of very heavy deterioration, and repairs and replacements. I appeal to the Minister to be as sympathetic as possible to the area when deciding upon the allocation of funds for main roads purposes.

I agree that the beef and tourist industries are both very important and deserve favourable consideration when main roads allocations are being considered, but the fact that there is such a short length of sealed main road in one of the oldest-settled areas in Queensland, an area which has played its part in developing the economy of the State, is certainly no credit to this or previous Governments.

The Government are claiming much credit for their education programme and I wholeheartedly agree that their overall record is a very creditable one. I point out, however, that previous Governments recognised that there would be a huge increase in enrolment of secondary-school pupils and realised that they would have to meet the situation; and the Governments of the day certainly overcame the accommodation problems that existed in their time.

**Mr. Low:** There was a shortage of accommodation when you were Minister.

**Mr. DIPLOCK:** I know of no case where children did not have accommodation. It is true that the Government have established a number of high tops. In some cases it would appear that the tops were established to meet the political appetites of the members concerned, and I know definitely that there are cases where it appears certain that children in adjacent areas will be penalised by having to travel long distances to justify the establishment of a high top in an area that did not have the potential to support one.

Whether the provision of secondary education for all is a wise move remains to be proved. Can every child absorb a secondary education? Theoretically it is desirable, but past experience has shown that there has been a considerable leakage between the Scholarship and the Junior standard and that a considerable percentage of Scholarship

winners have fallen by the wayside. Certainly, for the scheme to succeed, and if all are to benefit by secondary education, there will have to be a wide variety of courses, and here I wish to say most emphatically that I do not agree with the cry of many educationists who are stamping the country at present claiming that a Senior pass is necessary for one to succeed in life. This could develop a complex amongst the not-so-bright, many of whom, because of their native ability, have in the past become leaders in all walks of life.

Unfortunately, it appears that at the present time primary-school requirements are being neglected in this race in the interests of secondary education. I claim that a child's primary education is just as important as his secondary, because, if a child is properly educated, it is in the primary school that he is taught to think. School accommodation requirements are being neglected, at least temporarily, and to my knowledge such amenities as library accommodation have been delayed for as long as three years. In my opinion, the most unfair treatment of all is meted out to those country schools that desire the installation of septic systems in the interests of the health of their children. In many cases the committees have been called upon to find the money to provide the water required for the scheme. In some cases this has been costly. Now they have been advised that they will have to wait indefinitely because priority is being given to class (I), (II), and (III) schools, most of which are situated in areas where water is available at no cost or effort to the committee.

I wish to conclude by making a suggestion to the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity. Before doing so I wish to voice my sincere appreciation of the value of the work done in an honorary capacity by men who play their part in community service by offering their services as aldermen or councillors. Almost without exception these men are sincere and conscientious. They work tirelessly to discharge the trust placed in them by the electors, and are deserving of great credit. Unfortunately, however, there is the odd one who offers his services for selfish reasons. I have come across a couple of cases recently which lead me to offer the suggestion that I intend to make to the Minister. The first case deals with priorities for roads, which mean much to the progress of a certain small town. In the past these have been unfair because of the fact that certain roads would affect adversely the property of an ex-councillor. The second case is well known to the Minister. I thank him very sincerely on behalf of all people interested in the area, and in the progress of Dalby, for his sympathetic and—I say with good reason—fearless attention in this matter. It is a case where a council has had to be advised by the Minister's officers to get on with the construction of a main road leading to a district's

natural business centre, Dalby. Unfortunately, over the past few years, a neighbouring council has pushed on with its progressive policy of linking its hinterland with a central town, but now, because of the perversity and obstinacy of the first council, it appears that the business that should come to Dalby will be channelled into Toowoomba.

Cases such as I have quoted mean much to the economic stability and progress of small towns in the country. Business men play their part by selling at competitive prices—you can buy as well at Dalby as you can at any other town—yet they are losing business that is rightly theirs because the areas of which they are the centre are being linked to larger towns. In other words, we have decentralisation in reverse. There must be other cases such as I have mentioned throughout Queensland, and in the interests of Dalby and other country towns I suggest that priorities decided upon by councils be closely scrutinised by the department. Where it appears that priorities are not in the best interests of the whole district and its centre the reasons should be investigated. I realise fully that it is not desirable to interfere with priorities that are decided upon by councils. I go further and say that because of the calibre of the men who offer themselves for local authority work seldom would it be necessary, but there is the odd case where irreparable damage has been caused. If my suggestion is adopted, this will be prevented.

**Mr. DUFFICY** (Warrego) (3.39 p.m.): I rise to support the amendment so ably moved by my Leader. I am not going to dwell to any great extent on the subject of unemployment, as that matter already has been adequately covered by speakers on this side. However, there are other matters contained in the amendment about which I should like to say a few words. At this stage let me comment unfavourably—I am not pleased to do it—on the speeches from the opposite side of the House by western members. In the first place, the hon. member for Flinders moved the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. He was followed by the hon. members for Gregory and Roma. It appeared to me that those hon. gentlemen protested too much. They reminded me of the little boy who was whistling in the dark to keep up his courage.

The hon. member for Gregory should know something about the West—and I think he does—but he spent most of his time congratulating Ministers of the Government and telling them what jolly good fellows they were. He said little or nothing about the real problems of the people in the West that are causing them concern at present and for which they are condemning the Government. Of course, I can understand his position because only recently Cabinet, in its wisdom or otherwise, decided to hold a meeting in Quilpie. It is significant that Quilpie is in the hon. member's electorate, and it is also significant that just prior to the 1960 elections, in its wisdom or

otherwise, Cabinet decided to hold a meeting at Winton. I do not believe that it is altogether a coincidence that both these centres are in the Gregory electorate. I suppose that if Cabinet sees fit to organise at the taxpayers' expense in the interests of the hon. member for Gregory, he has some responsibility to rise in this House and tell members of Cabinet what jolly good fellows they are. However, people in the West, and in my electorate especially, are very intelligent and I would say that there are a number of intelligent people in the Gregory electorate. There certainly are in Quilpie, a centre that I know so well. The people of Quilpie are thinking today whether they were honoured with a Cabinet meeting in the real interests of the residents of South-western Queensland, or in the interests of a parliamentary colleague of Cabinet members who has a shaky hold on his seat. Cabinet took similar action prior to the previous elections and went to the town of Winton. I think the consensus of opinion is that the reason for that Cabinet meeting was not an effort to try to understand the difficulties of Far-western Queensland but to try to save a seat which is undoubtedly shaky. Despite the efforts of Cabinet that seat will certainly be a gain for Labour. There is no doubt about that. Cabinet members would have to spend considerably more of the taxpayers' money to save their political colleague.

Let me leave that subject for a moment and come to what the hon. member for Roma said in his speech. I do not think any person could accuse him of being temperate in any way; he makes some of the most exaggerated statements that are made in the House. He spoke about the mileage of roads built in South-western Queensland and the mileage of bitumen. He said that at the present time they have bitumen to Roma and past it, and he claimed credit for his Government for that. I want to tell the House quite factually that the first time I drove a car to South-western Queensland the bitumen ended at the line in Dalby. When you went across the line you passed the end of the bitumen. But long before the present Government came into office there was bitumen as far as Roma and quite a considerable mileage of bitumen west of it.

The hon. member made the ridiculous statement that a Labour Government said they could not lay down bitumen on the black soil between Roma and Mitchell, when, years before that, in the heaviest black soil in South-western Queensland, which is between Augathella and Tambo, a bitumen road had been constructed. I do not want to waste my time in refuting the stupid and exaggerated arguments advanced by the hon. member for Roma. I mention that only to demonstrate how far from the truth he can wander.

As apart from western representatives on the other side of the House, I should like to mention some of the matters that are

exercising the minds of people in the West at present, and I sincerely hope that, when the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation was in Quilpie attending the Cabinet meeting, he took the opportunity to discuss with people in the West who may be in a position to advise him the question of land ballots, because I want to tell the Government, if they do not already know it, that, despite all the statements made by hon. members opposite who allegedly represent western seats, what concerns western people at the present time is the question of land ballots. I am going to speak about that perhaps at some length.

I am sorry that the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation is not in the Chamber to hear my remarks. It is true that the present policy of the Government on land ballots requires an applicant to have, in some cases, not less than £12,000 in cash or readily convertible assets before he can enter a ballot. In some cases the financial requirement is great. Let me say that there are very few people in Queensland or anywhere else at the present time who have £12,000 or more in ready cash. That is required under the policy of this Government at the present time. Applied to a number of ballots in my own electorate, that requirement had the effect of keeping out very many practical men who had spent a life-time in the pastoral industry. There was in my electorate a comparatively young man who was managing a large station that was subdivided into five or six living areas. Despite the fact that Primary Producers were prepared to guarantee him financially, he was denied the right to enter that ballot because he did not have £12,000, as it was in that case, in ready cash or readily convertible assets.

Let me go back a little in the history of ballots in this State. I hope that the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation, although he is not present, will do me the courtesy of reading what I have to say about this. Under Labour Governments it was not necessary for an applicant for a ballot to have that amount of ready cash or readily convertible assets. All that was necessary was a financial guarantee, which was usually given by firms like Dalgetys, Winchcombe Carson, Primary Producers, banks, and other financial institutions. Provided he had that guarantee, he was eligible to enter the ballot.

There are many hundreds of graziers in Western Queensland at present, men who are doing an excellent job for the industry and for the State, who would never have had the opportunity of entering ballots and drawing pieces of land if the conditions operating today had operated then. As an instance, the son of a gentleman whom I know well, whose father was a member of this House representing portion of the electorate that I now represent, died recently in the Charleville district. In this morning's paper it is reported that the estate left by him was

valued at £136,555. I do not like mentioning names in this House and I shall not mention his, but it can be seen by anybody in today's paper. I knew that gentleman before he drew his block. He was an employee, with little or no money, of a local authority. Because of the then policy of the Labour Government of accepting guarantees from recognised wool-broking firms and other financial institutions, he was able to enter a ballot. He was fortunate enough to draw a block, and I think the question of whether he was a suitable Crown tenant is answered by the value of his estate. He was an asset to the pastoral industry and to the State, but under the policy of the present Government he would not have been allowed to enter the ballot.

I go a little farther and bring it closer to home. For a short while after taking office this Government continued the policy that was in existence for a considerable period under Labour Governments. However, for a reason that I shall mention later, the policy was changed. As a matter of fact, the hon. member for Gregory, who is sitting just outside the Chamber, will not disagree with me and will not be embarrassed in any way if I say that if the condition of having £12,000, £13,000 or £15,000—it varies for different blocks—had been laid down for the ballot in which he was successful, he would not have been a starter. To put it in racing terms, he would have been withdrawn by order of the stewards. Fortunately for him, the ballot was conducted early in the term of office of the present Government, when they were continuing the policy adopted by former Labour Governments. Because of that policy, the hon. member for Gregory is now the lessee of a pastoral holding worth about £50,000 or £60,000. I am not complaining about that. He was guaranteed by a wool-broking company, he entered the ballot, the ballot was completely fair, and he became the fortunate lessee of a very valuable piece of country. But I am suggesting that that policy should have been continued by this Government. It has not been, and I have lithographs in my office showing that a condition now is that the applicant must have a certain sum of money—it varies for different blocks, but in most cases it is from £12,000 to £15,000—in ready cash or readily-convertible assets. What is the position now? In Western Queensland, the only people who can enter ballots are those who are personally wealthy or are fortunate enough to have wealthy parents. Do not tell me that this is not a burning question in the West. Of course it is. Following some ballots, I have had hundreds and hundreds of telegrams complaining about this particular condition.

The hon. member for Roma, the hon. member for Flinders, and the hon. member for Gregory, all Government members, took up the time of the House in telling their Ministers what jolly good fellows they were. They did not mention the problems of

Western Queensland at all. I think that some of the ballot provisions of this Government are completely and absolutely absurd. If the Minister was in the House I would remind him that the Crown resumed a portion of Angellala Downs. Bonus Downs, which is something less than 100 miles distant, was resumed by the Crown only a few months later. People who entered and were accepted for ballots in the block resumed from Angellala Downs were rejected in the ballot for Bonus Downs. I want to know why. Nobody has been able to tell me why. I had any number of telegrams and letters—because both blocks are in my electorate—seeking to know why such a position existed, but nobody has been able to tell me. I hope that during this debate or at some other time during this session some responsible spokesman for the Government will tell us just why these things happen.

**Mr. Houghton:** Were they similar in area?

**Mr. DUFFICY:** Similar in area and of a similar type of land, because they were situated less than 100 miles from one another. I could give names to the Minister. I am not going to tell him now but I could give him the names of people who were accepted in one ballot but rejected in the other.

That is not my main complaint. Even to that extent the policy of the Government is ridiculous, but my main complaint is that the practical man in Western Queensland today, whether he be a station manager, overseer, stockman, shearer, drover, or a man who has spent a life-time in the industry, and could receive ample financial backing—because of his good character and because of the fact that he is completely conversant with the industry—is rejected because he himself has not the required amount in cash or stock or in readily-convertible assets. That is so even though he may be backed by firms like Dalgetys, Primaries, or Winchcombe Carson to the extent of the financial requirement set down in the conditions of the ballot.

As I said previously, there are hundreds of men in addition to the man I have mentioned and who is recently deceased—ex-shearers, stockmen, drovers and other pastoral workers—who, if that condition had existed during our regime would never have had an opportunity of drawing a block of land.

So much for this Government's policy in land matters! It makes me realise fully the pressure to which the former Minister for Public Lands was subjected. It makes me very sympathetic to the former Minister for Public Lands who did try to resist the pressure that was placed on him, as he said in this House, by the Executive of the Country Party when they rolled down here

for that purpose. He resisted the pressure that was applied to him to make the land that is becoming available to the Crown in Western Queensland today the close preserve of those people who are comparatively wealthy or who have wealthy parents.

I regret very much that the western members on the opposite side of the House who have already spoken did not have the intestinal fortitude to tell the Government what the position was. I am suggesting they knew the true position but all they did was say, "The Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity is a lovely fellow. He is doing a beautiful job. Unfortunately the Minister for Education is ill"—I regret that too—"but he is doing a marvellous job. Everything in the garden in the West is lovely. We will win the next election hands down." I am telling them now that they will not win too many seats in Western Queensland. Their policy on land and other matters does not justify their winning one single seat. There are not too many people in Western Queensland, or anywhere else, walking round with £12,000 or £15,000 in their pockets to enable them to draw a block of land, but there are thousands of people who want the opportunity to get onto a block of land in Western Queensland but are debarred by the Government's policy. They cannot tell me that there will not be a political reaction for that reason alone.

I want to make perfectly clear that any remarks I am about to make on the brigalow scheme are entirely my own and not necessarily the opinion of the Opposition. I go further and say that some of the questions I shall pose during my brief reference to that scheme may not even be based on my own ideas. As the House well knows, I represent a purely pastoral rural area. The number of people employed in secondary industries in my electorate is virtually nil. When there is the proposed expenditure of £1,750,000 of loan money—I understand it is a loan—the interest rate on which has yet to be decided at a subsequent meeting in Canberra, I consider it is the responsibility of the Government to take the House into their confidence. It is regrettable that we see headlines such as those in the newspaper I am holding up. I am unable to answer questions that I would naturally receive from an electorate such as mine. I have to go to the daily Press to find out anything about it.

**Mr. Walsh:** What paper is that?

**Mr. DUFFICY:** This is a photostat of the Rockhampton "Morning Bulletin". It deals with a meeting between a high-ranking officer of the Department of Public Lands and the hon. member for Mackenzie. I do not know why the hon. member for Mackenzie should have privileges not enjoyed by other hon. members, but it seems to me that he has. With a high-ranking officer of the Department of Public Lands, he addressed meetings in the Fitzroy Basin and

the brigalow belt. When I was questioned by my electors who were interested I could only refer them to the Press article and tell them that evidently the hon. member for Mackenzie knew all about the scheme and that the Government had briefed a high-ranking officer of the Department of Public Lands to tell people the whole ramifications of the scheme. However, nobody had the common courtesy to advise Parliament what was going on.

I wish to put a few questions to the Government and I hope that the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation or some other responsible spokesman for the Government will give me some answers. It appears that £1,750,000 has been granted to the State, but we do not yet know under what conditions. According to Mr. Muir they will be worked out later. That is what he said at a meeting. He said a meeting would be held in Canberra on 11 September at which the rate of interest and the term of the loan would be ironed out.

**Mr. Walsh:** Is that Mr. Muir, the Chief Commissioner of Lands?

**Mr. DUFFICY:** Yes.

When public money to the value of £1,750,000 is involved, any ramifications in connection with it should be ironed out here. If not, we should be given the courtesy of some explanation or statement about it rather than read about it in the Press. I represent people who are interested in this matter and I believe that I am entitled to some courtesy and am entitled to know as soon as any officers of the Department of Public Lands, for whom incidentally, I have a very high regard. There is a considerable difference of opinion among various sections of the community as to whether or not this £1,750,000 is to be spent in the best interests of the State. I have been told, "The Government intend to spend £1,750,000 to stimulate primary production." Where are we to get a market for our increased primary production? What primary product can be produced economically at the present time?

Let me comment on this briefly in the short time at my disposal. Firstly, the number of dairy-farmers in Queensland has decreased in recent years and the consensus of opinion is that the drop will continue. There does not seem to be much room for expansion in that field. I am informed that there is likely to be a record wheat crop this year and that a considerable portion of last year's crop has not yet been sold. We know that we are feverishly looking all over the world for a market for our surplus wheat.

The people engaged in the production of beef are concerned about the reduction in consumption per head of population. Everybody has read recently that the consumption of beef per head of population in Queensland has been decreasing over recent years and is still decreasing. So, if we are to stimulate beef production, we must look for overseas markets. With the possibility of

Britain's entering the European Common Market our scramble for other markets for our primary products might become great. These factors must be taken into consideration in connection with the £1,750,000.

It has been suggested in the Press, not by any responsible member of the Government, that the development of the brigalow belt is designed to increase beef production. If that is the case it must mean that beef will be produced by grain-feeding on small properties, which will entail a considerable capital expenditure. I would suggest that the beef that is produced in the brigalow belt will certainly not be produced more cheaply than that being produced under natural conditions in other parts of the State. I should be surprised if it were otherwise.

Today beef is being priced off the table of the average working man. Poultry is almost as cheap. I have a lot of figures here on the cost of bringing a brigalow farm into beef production. I will not have the opportunity of reading them in this speech but I may be able to do so later. To develop a brigalow block of 5,500 acres will cost somewhere about £31,000. Producing beef with that capital expenditure will not mean a decrease in the present prices. I want to know if the Government can justify the expenditure and I think there is some responsibility on them to tell us. I am happy that we have the £1,750,000 from the Commonwealth Government, but I want to know how it can be economically spent at the present time in the development of the brigalow country.

(Time expired.)

**Hon. K. J. MORRIS** (Mt. Coot-tha—Minister for Labour and Industry) (4.19 p.m.) I wanted to take this opportunity of coming to the House and making my personal apology for my very bad attendance in the last few weeks and, I am afraid, a possible bad attendance in the next few weeks. As I think most people know, I have not been at all well. I am not worried about the long-term aspect of it, and I felt I should like to present these apologies personally rather than leave the matter as a mere Press statement.

I also want to thank the hon. member for Ashgrove for stepping down this afternoon and giving me the time that was allocated to him so that I could make a few announcements, which I think are of interest not only to members of the Government but also to all other hon. members.

I should like also to thank the hon. member for Nundah for the comments that he made in the House about me a few days ago and that I have had the opportunity of reading.

I have certain statements to make—or "public announcements" may be the better way to describe them—which, I think, will be of interest. Before doing that, however,

I should like to refer to some parts of the debate. I wish to refer to the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition and, in particular, his comments on the problem of unemployment.

The Leader of the Opposition quoted me as saying that the unemployment figure could be down to 1 per cent. by August of this year. Let me admit quite frankly that I did say that, and I shall proceed to show him how in fact what I said is quite correct. I have spoken on this subject in the House on many occasions, and I have been completely consistent in what I have said. I have explained that there are several yardsticks by which one measures employment and unemployment, and one is a fairly static and universal yardstick. We all know that we have the number of people registered for the drawing of unemployment relief benefits. There is another figure which is usually approximately, and sometimes even more than, double the figure of those recorded as drawing unemployment benefits. I have always said, and I shall continue to say, that the correct yardstick is the number who are drawing unemployment benefits, and I shall tell hon. members why.

The figure for those registered for employment contains quite a large number who are in fact working. That can be proved by recognising that there is a great deal of checking on those people who receive unemployment benefits. The Federal department concerned—and this is entirely a Federal matter—must check very carefully before paying these benefits. They do in fact check, and these figures are very reliable.

I acknowledge that, but in those registered for employment are quite a number not unemployed at all, and I shall inform the House who they are. First of all, there are quite a number of people doing certain jobs not to their liking and not the sort of jobs that they want. They therefore register for employment. They may be doing labouring work and want to do semi-skilled or skilled work, and so they register for employment. This, of course, is what they should do. Any person who is a tradesman is quite entitled to use the channels available to him to try to get back into his own sphere instead of remaining in one that is strange to him.

There is another category. Many married women in Australia, and in Queensland, are working and seeking employment. Even if their husbands are in jobs, they register for employment, but that does not mean that they are unemployed in the strictly-correct sense of the word. Their husbands are earning, but they themselves desire to take up employment and register for it. The figures of those registered for employment are thus unnaturally increased. There is yet another category that I think is very often overlooked. I am trying to approach this whole matter objectively; I have studied it and I know what I am talking about.

University students also register for employment during their vacations. I am not saying that they are not entitled to a job, but I am saying that they swell the numbers when in fact they should not strictly be regarded as unemployed. A certain number of persons registered for employment manage to obtain employment in the interim but do not cancel their registration, and this also swells the number. There are also migrating seasonal workers. I could go on and give many other categories in which people are registered for employment but are actually in employment.

Authorities who approach this subject in a fair and impartial way acknowledge quite freely that if one is to study employment properly—and it is being studied in all parts of the world—one must work on a correct basis. They say that the true basis in Australia is the number of persons receiving unemployment benefits. I have always used those figures, and I will continue to do so.

I wish to refer now to a statement that I made some time ago which the Leader of the Opposition quoted. If we are to make a study of this problem and debate it, it is no use referring to figures for 12 or 18 months ago. The figures that I am using show the number of people drawing unemployment benefits in Queensland as at 28 July, 1962, and the total number drawing unemployment benefits was .8 per cent. of the working population. I said some months ago—I was quoted as having said it—that it would be down to 1 per cent. in August. In fact, it is even better than I said it would be. But there is another factor that I think should be regarded very closely. Within the categories of people who work are men and women, and in most instances the men are the breadwinners of the community. Let us look, then, at the males who are drawing unemployment benefits. The actual unemployment is .6 per cent. This is a realistic approach, and I think we must be realists if we are to make any progress in studying this problem.

Reverting to the historical side of the question, I remind hon. members—these figures are available to any hon. member—that in each of the three years preceding 1961, and in each month in those three years, the employment figures improved as compared with the same month of the previous year. That continued until early 1961, when we, in common with others, began to feel a change in economic conditions throughout Australia. I should be quite happy to debate that matter, too, but time will not allow me to digress too far. As I said, up till March 1961, in each of the preceding 36 months the employment figures showed a considerable improvement on those for the same month in the previous year. We did strike those changed economic conditions and the point I wish to make now is that no

Government in Australia responded more dramatically to the challenge of those figures than did the Queensland Government. To see if that is correct, we must refer to up-to-date figures—figures of today—not those of two or three years ago. That is what I intend to do.

During the period from January to July, 1962—that is this year and taking the whole six months—throughout Australia the recipients of unemployment benefits fell by 19.9 per cent. Now let us see how other States fared in comparison. As I say, I am referring to those who received unemployment benefits. In New South Wales the figure fell by 11.5 per cent.; in Victoria it increased by 2.5 per cent.; in South Australia it fell by 17.6 per cent.; in Western Australia by 11.5 per cent.; in Tasmania it rose by 50.7 per cent. In Queensland the number who were drawing unemployment benefits over that period fell by 57.8 per cent. That is a marvellous achievement, far and away above that of any other State in Australia. I venture to say that there are very few periods in the history of this State when such a dramatic improvement has been made within a period of six months.

Lest anyone demands to see the same principle applied to the numbers registered as unemployed, I point to exactly the same type of comparison. The Australian figure on a percentage basis fell 31.4 per cent.; New South Wales fell 26 per cent.; Victoria 10.9 per cent.; South Australia 34.4 per cent.; Western Australia 26.3 per cent.; Tasmania 29.6 per cent.; and Queensland, a mile above every other State, 53.3 per cent. Is that not a dramatic improvement? How in the name of fortune, in the light of that dramatic improvement, can anybody say other than that an outstanding job was done in Queensland to overcome this problem?

The same situation exists on the other side of the calculations, that is, those people who are in employment. On a percentage basis the number of people in employment throughout the whole of Australia improved by 1.6 per cent.; in New South Wales by 1.39 per cent.; in Victoria by .91 per cent.; in South Australia by 1.34 per cent.; in Western Australia by 1.84 per cent.; and in Tasmania by .96 per cent. The only State that went beyond 2 per cent. was Queensland, where there was a 4.1 per cent. improvement in employment. There again is dramatic proof of the tremendous improvement that has been made. Those are perhaps not the only figures. There are many others that could be quoted.

I refer now to the number of building approvals in the same period. If hon. members refer to them they will find that the percentage of approvals in Queensland has improved by 32 per cent., whereas the overall Australian figure is minus 7 per cent. There are only two other States in Australia in which the approvals improved at all. One is New South Wales and the other Tasmania, 8 per cent. and 16 per cent. respectively, whilst in Queensland, as I say, building approvals improved by 32 per cent.

Now, if hon. members wish it, let us move to another gauge, namely, the total of the value of buildings approved. Exactly the same position exists there. Queensland improved by 14.69 per cent., whilst the Australian average was 7.56 per cent. There, again, there is dramatic proof!

Let me give one more example. Many more could be given but time does not permit. I refer to the purchase of motor-cars and the registration of motor vehicles. The following are the percentage increases for the period January to June, 1962:—

	Per cent.
Australia	53
New South Wales	48
Victoria	50
South Australia	52
Western Australia	76
Tasmania	36
Queensland	66

In that field Queensland is the second best. Whatever field you examine, you find exactly the same picture. The improvement in Queensland in the last six months has been staggering. I am mighty proud to be able to say these things. Because I wanted to say them is one of the reasons I came down here this afternoon. I could say a great deal more on that subject but unfortunately time will not permit me. I have graphs here which show the improvement in various fields. Anybody who can see can understand them. From these graphs it is obvious that the improvement in Queensland in every one of those fields is dramatically good, and we have every right to be proud.

I realise that there has been a great deal of talk about unemployment. I have studied figures from all over the world. I have here a record of the percentage of unemployment in every country of the world. I make it available to everyone as I have not the time to read it. The Australian figures are better than in almost every other place in the world. When it is remembered that Queensland's improvement in the last six months was the best in Australia, is that not something to be proud of?

#### Opposition Members interjected.

**Mr. MORRIS:** I am finding it very difficult to make my voice loud enough to be heard. I cannot hear interjections. Normally I would enjoy them but this afternoon I want to say these things without being side-tracked.

These dramatic improvements of which I speak concern matters of great importance to the State of Queensland. They are the type of thing that can build confidence in Queensland. They are the things we should talk about instead of trying to knock the State all the time. Either the Leader of the Opposition or the hon. member for South Brisbane said that no building was going on in Brisbane or Queensland, that we were slipping behind every other State.

The figures I have quoted disprove that. They are available to everybody. Only today I read in the Press that a Sydney-based insurance company is to build a £1,000,000 10-storey building in Queen Street. The manager said—

“The building will be the biggest we have in Australia. We do not think Queensland is a branch office State, and to prove this we are making our biggest capital investment in any Australian State here in Queensland.”

They are the sort of people we want—people with confidence and the guts to back it. If we can get over the problem of having knockers we will see development accelerate even more.

I read both in “Hansard” and the Press that certain attacks have been made on an employee of my department. It has been a practice of mine—and always will be—to be loyal to those people with whom I am associated. I consider that it is my responsibility to speak in the House against what I think to be unfair charges against officers of my department. I make this statement categorically about the charges levelled by the hon. member for South Brisbane against Mr. Gair. Every single one of them was false. Not one true statement was made. So far as this party and this side of the House are concerned, there has never been a statement prepared by Mr. Gair and sent down to Parliament. I know that for a fact. It is most unfair for these incorrect statements to be made.

It was also stated that Mr. Gair used official time and official expenses on his own affairs. That, too, is completely false. That would be a very grave matter and I completely and absolutely deny it. I cannot help asking myself if those charges were made specifically against Mr. Gair. There are two other former Labour members of Parliament in my department and they all make a worth-while contribution in the work they do.

I sometimes ask myself why these attacks should be made against one individual. I do not like to hear them made about anyone and I state categorically that they are unfair and untrue.

I hate doing this, but I must refer to another statement that was made about the physical disability of one of my colleagues. It was possibly one of the meanest comments anybody could make about any member of the House. Here we have a man who was in the Australian Forces who, as a prisoner of war, was gravely injured by those who kept him a prisoner. To gloat over—

**Mr. BAXTER:** I rise to a point of order. Nobody on the A.L.P. side in this Parliament made any reference along the lines mentioned by the hon. gentleman.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I do not know how the hon. member has any authority to make that statement as he was not in the Chamber at the time.

**Mr. MORRIS:** I am very resentful about my disability—I refer to my deafness—which was caused by war conditions, but the suggestions made about that are mild compared with the insinuation against my colleague who, as I say, unlike those who were not so unfortunately disadvantaged, suffered in a prisoner-of-war camp. It was definitely unfair to make such a cowardly attack upon him.

Having said that, I return to some of the matters referred to by the Leader of the Opposition. Frankly, I was amazed at the statement made by him, reported on page 79 of the pamphlet copy of “Hansard”. He said he had not found evidence of one single large-scale industry as a result of the efforts of the Overseas Delegation in 1958. I can only say that his powers of search and even his powers of examination must be puny indeed, because I can remember only a reasonably short time ago in this House he, and his people with him, fought violently under his leadership against the development of an oil refinery in Queensland. They were violently against it and if they could have succeeded on some of the points they tried to win we would not have an oil refinery in the process of erection at the present time. That is a large-scale industry; no-one can say it will not be of value to Queensland, and it is a direct result of that mission.

A couple of years ago I was asked to give details of certain of these industries that had been introduced to Queensland. I have a copy of the “Hansard” here; all the small print on this page gives the details I outlined to the House. Yet the Leader of the Opposition tells us that he made a careful examination and could not find one instance of an industry that came to Queensland from that work. I do not think there is any excuse for anybody to make statements that are so obviously unfair. It may be a certain type of political campaigning but it is not the type you or I or the people of Queensland want. They want the truth and there they are getting it. To say there is no evidence of industry coming here is too stupid for words. I cannot believe that anybody would be misled by it but, just in case somebody is misled into believing it, I am now giving the facts.

We are getting industries not only from overseas but also as branch offices of industries operating in the South. Very frequently, to ensure that the move to try to get a branch in Queensland proceeds correctly, it is necessary to make contact with the principals of these companies who are overseas. That also has given us dozens of developmental projects in the last three or four years. Again I refer to “Hansard”, where the names of the industries, the capital,

the number of employees, and so on, are given. There is the proof for anybody to read or examine. Over the last two or three years members of the Opposition could have examined the list but quite obviously they did not or they would not have made such stupid statements.

Let me give one example of industrial development that has come to Queensland from the other States. I have spoken of most of these in the House from time to time. Let me give another. There was in Australia an organisation manufacturing Willys jeeps. It had a small factory in Queensland and, I think, three in the South. As a result of the work done by the Queensland Government—not one member of the Government or one officer, but a whole group of people—the Willys jeep organisation decided to close its factories in the southern States and it is now operating wholly and solely from a Queensland base, employing Queenslanders and using Queensland materials. It is magnificent to see the beginning of a motor industry in this State. That is one organisation which, having transferred to Queensland, has made extremely rapid growth here. What are its members going to think when they read in the paper or in “Hansard” that the Leader of the Opposition says that no new industry has come to Queensland? They will say to themselves, “Obviously this man has no interest in us and no interest in what has been happening.” When talking to their associates they are bound to say, “These people in the Opposition are not friendly disposed towards the type of proposition we have developed.” They would be more hesitant about taking action than they would otherwise be.

I deplore this constant knocking of the possibilities of the State and what is happening in the State. For people who are supposed to be responsible to stand up in the Chamber and make these charges when they are not true is a damned disgrace. It was so that I could say these things and so that I could make my contribution towards helping to break down the disadvantages that naturally come from those incorrect statements that I came today.

There is one announcement that I think will please almost everybody except members of the Opposition; certainly it will please every hon. member on this side of the House. I have spoken of the great advantage of industrial estates. It may be remembered that when I returned from overseas in 1958 I said quite a lot about the way in which industrial estates have been developing in America, Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, and other countries. Whenever I saw them, I became increasingly interested, and I studied them in great detail.

It will be remembered that some time ago I made an announcement that an industrial estate would be developed in Queensland, in the Wacol area. I have been working to

that end ever since that announcement was made. Certainly there have been some heartbreaks, but I have had help from my colleagues and from various departments. As a result of that, we moved closer and closer towards achieving this very wonderful ideal. There is nothing in Australia of this nature at the present time. There are types of industrial estates but none of the quality and type I spoke of when referring to those in England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada and various other places.

After lunch this afternoon, just before I came here, I was in conference with certain gentlemen from America and from the South, and also the Lord Mayor and the Town Clerk. We spent some considerable time on further discussions on this subject and I am delighted to be able to say that, prior to leaving to come here, we finalised the whole business. It is now subject only to some references to other departments on details, none of which is controversial.

I cannot today give the names of the people who are joining in the building of the industrial estate. The reason is simply that they had to have these discussions with me, the Lord Mayor, and the Town Clerk, today and they now have to go to their boards and report the favourable outcome of our talk. Immediately that is done, the names of the organisations will be announced. They are names known throughout the world for the wonderful work that they have done in industrial estates. I am mighty proud to be able to say that we are now ready to go ahead with the development of a large industrial estate in Queensland. It will be the first of its kind in Australia, and probably one of the greatest contributions to industrial development, particularly of smaller industries, that I have ever been able to make.

There is one other point to which I wish to refer. I feel that I cannot avoid making some comment on what I read in the “Telegraph” of 4 September. It is headed, “State Bungling over Crossings”, and it reads—

“Too many Departments, says M.L.A.

“The State Government had bungled over the introduction of pedestrian crossings at schools, Mr. Newton (A.L.P., Belmont) said in Parliament today.”

Well, well, well! Bungling over school crossings and bungling over pedestrian crossings! I wonder how many hon. members opposite will remember—because very few have long memories—that for the whole 20 years prior to 1957, when we became the Government, not one traffic light was installed in Queensland. Let me go a bit further. When we took over in Queensland, there were 17 zebra crossings. Although I and many other people pleaded with the Government of the day to do something about it, they did nothing. Yet the hon. member for Belmont talks about the bungling of this Government!

If nothing was done in that 20 years, what has been done in the four years subsequent to that? In 1958 the Office of the Traffic Engineer was established, and instead of 17 zebra crossings there are now 475 marked crossings in Brisbane and a number in country areas. I cannot give hon. members the exact figures for country areas because they were not available in time. Of the 475 in Brisbane, 323 are zebra crossings.

Dealing with traffic lights, while the Governments that preceded us did not put in any lights in 20 years, we have installed 44, seven are under construction, and six more are approved. If we have bungled the job, what in the name of fortune did former Governments do? I have no objection to criticism, but I do like it to be truthful. The criticism by the hon. member for Belmont is absolutely incorrect.

It is imperative that we should have a standard gauge by which the authorities know whether or not a crossing is justified. There must be a certain number of pedestrians using it or a certain number of cars passing over it. For two years a very thorough examination has been made of this problem as it relates to schools. You will remember, Mr. Speaker, that 12 months ago I introduced an amendment to the Traffic Acts in which provision was made for a new procedure in relation to school crossings. I did that because, although the matter was under very careful consideration, we were not satisfied that either zebra crossings or lined crossings were in the best interests of the children. There is always the problem of policing them. Sometimes school patrols are available, but in big schools their job is very difficult. I asked my colleagues in Cabinet to consider the problem, and I am delighted to be able to announce that Cabinet this week, after listening to the proposal that I put before them that a certain gauge should be used to determine the priority of school crossings, have authorised the expenditure of the money necessary to provide about 25 pedestrian-actuated lights at school crossings where they are most urgently needed for the safety of the children.

(Time, on motion of Dr. Noble, extended.)

**Mr. MORRIS:** I thank my colleague for moving that my time be extended, and I thank hon. members for agreeing to an extension of my time.

Using as a gauge the number of vehicles crossing them and the number of children using them, we are putting in about 25 pedestrian-actuated lights at crossings to ensure the safety of the children. Notwithstanding that many of the schools offered to assist financially, they will not be required to meet any of the cost. We believe that is fair. We think it is our responsibility to do it without individual school committees contributing as many have offered to do.

We are selecting 25 of the most dangerous crossings and the lights will be installed as soon as they can be obtained.

The lights to which I am referring at the moment are for installation in Brisbane and the only way in which we can do it is by using income from parkatareas. I might point out that we have not received the income yet but Cabinet believe that this is so important that they have advanced, by means of a loan to the Parkatarea Trust Fund, sufficient money to enable this job to be done. So, while the parkatareas are earning money they will also be saving lives.

I know that many people hate these units but many people are very glad to have them; make no mistake about that. Although parkatareas have been operating only for approximately a calendar year, the necessary work on the Story Bridge underpass, which will save motorists hundreds of thousands of pounds, has been commenced. The No. 1 project, Story Bridge, and the No. 2 project, school crossings, will both have been completed by the end of this financial year. In the light of the safety that will be provided for children and motorists, all I can say is that I am mighty glad to have been one of the instruments responsible for bringing this about.

Finally, I remind hon. members that some two years ago I announced I had appointed a committee consisting of Inspector Palethorpe as chairman, Mr. Len King, general manager of the R.A.C.Q., Mr. Goldsmid of Morris, Fletcher & Cross, Mr. Leitch, Traffic Engineer, and Inspector Risch, Superintendent of Traffic, to modernise our Traffic Regulations, which have been referred to, quite correctly, as being something like a pak-a-poo ticket, and to bring them absolutely up to date. If hon. members consider the personnel of that committee they will agree that it is a very sound one. Inspector Palethorpe has had extraordinary experience on the legal side of Police Force work; Mr. Len King, general manager of the R.A.C.Q., can make a great contribution towards the matter because of his knowledge of traffic needs. With the addition of Mr. Goldsmid, a solicitor from Messrs. Morris, Fletcher & Cross, Mr. Leitch, the Traffic Engineer, and Inspector Risch, I think hon. members will agree that it is an excellent committee.

These men have been working for a couple of years and they have completed their modernisation of the Traffic Regulations, which have been considered by the Traffic Commission and by Cabinet. They have now prepared the consolidation of which I spoke. It is now available for distribution and it is one of the finest modernising jobs that has been done in this sphere for many years. I know it will receive the approval of everybody.

There are several other matters to which I should have liked to refer. I am appreciative of the opportunity of speaking on these matters. I conclude by apologising for my

somewhat erratic attendance, which unfortunately might continue for some time. There has not been a day—and I hope there will not be one—that I have not looked after my own departmental administration, even though I have not been able to attend the House as regularly as I should have liked. I thank hon. members for such a sympathetic and quiet hearing, because it has been difficult for me to speak loudly.

**Mr. HOUGHTON** (Redcliffe) (5.6 p.m.); I rise to speak against the vote of no-confidence moved by the Leader of the Opposition. Before doing so I should like to congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. It was so ably moved and seconded that I think it has left an indelible impression on the minds of the Opposition. On behalf of the citizens of Redcliffe, whom I have the privilege of representing, I express loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II., and say how pleased we are that Sir Henry Abel Smith is to continue in office for a further term with his gracious lady, Lady May. I am sure that it will be to the advantage of this great State of ours.

Having listened to most of the debate, I have come to the conclusion that the Opposition have taken unemployment as their theme. Their argument is completely unfounded. This year the Tangalooma Whaling Station has been short of whales. They ought to come to this Assembly because they are all on the other side of the House. There are three varieties—humpbacks, sperm, and killers. They are here in large numbers. They have endeavoured to instil doubt into the minds of the people about the sincerity of purpose of the Government and the potential of the State. Their ideologies are far from those of the average true Australian. I would say that they have no truck with the average Australian, irrespective of the party he supports. The sooner they get together, patch up their differences, and preach the gospel that should be preached in this State, the better off Queensland will be. The hon. member for Nundah has already stated categorically that Queensland is far better off in employment than some of the other States. Hon. members opposite have no confidence in themselves or their State. All they can do is sing their hymns of hate. In New South Wales, where there is a Labour Government, there are 25,000 more unemployed than there are in Queensland.

**Mr. Thackeray:** Why don't you tell the truth for once in your life?

**Mr. HOUGHTON:** It is the truth, and it hurts hon. members opposite. Even Mr. Monk of the A.C.T.U. has said that 1½ per cent. unemployment is nothing to be worried about; that it is essential to meet the seasonal needs. Hon. members opposite disagree with him. They even disagree among themselves. They cannot even agree on that point.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. HOUGHTON:** I advise hon. members opposite who are interesting to keep quiet so that they may learn something.

We must all realise, irrespective of party politics, that if hon. members keep harping about false values, then, like the old rotten apple in the barrel, the rottenness will spread. They are trying to instil fear in the minds of the people and the workers. They are supposed to represent the workers here, but they are crucifying them by instilling fear in their minds that unemployment is rife in the community. To see the truth we need only look at statements made by Opposition members and then look at the astronomical figures—they are still spiralling—showing the savings of the people in the banks today. There is more money available in this State, and more money in the hands of the workers, than ever before. We heard one hon. member for a western area say that there is no unemployment in the West. We also heard the hon. member for Bowen say that he will find a job in Bowen for anyone who is seeking a job. The old true proverb is, "Seek and ye shall find". There is plenty to be had in this country of ours. All we have to do is get away from the knockers. Hon. members opposite should pull up their socks and get into harness and instil in the minds of the people that this country has everything to offer; that God has endowed it with His richest blessings and that all that is needed is a bit of guts.

The sooner hon. members opposite realise that there must be co-operation between employer and employee for the benefit, welfare, and development of the State, the better off we will all be. They still have in their minds the idea of getting people to come to the city instead of allowing them to go to the country for the development of this State. They foster in the minds of the people the belief that if they go out into the country they create destruction and turmoil in the development of the State. For proof of that statement, I refer to the part they played in the Mt. Isa dispute, I give full marks to the management of Mount Isa Mines Ltd. for what is being done for the workers and I believe that everyone on the Opposition benches must readily agree that the working conditions provided by that company are equal to any throughout the world. The sooner hon. members opposite get on side, and get right behind the people developing this State, the better off everyone will be.

I wish to refer now to the hymns of hate that have been sung throughout Queensland about unemployment. The figures for unemployment in our locality are included in the figures for Brisbane. The Redcliffe City Council was disturbed when the knockers in our area said that unemployment was rife throughout the State. We inserted an advertisement in the local newspaper. The knockers told us there were

500 or 600 unemployed. After much advertising and a great deal of action by the council to ascertain the true position we found that there were 111 people unemployed. I should say that most of them have since been employed in the district, many of them by the local authority.

Opposition members are constantly singing their hymns of hate and trying to disturb the people with distortions of the truth. The sooner they get on side and do something constructive, the better they will serve the people they represent. Unemployment has been discussed at length and the Minister for Labour and Industry in particular dealt ably with it.

I want to outline some of the achievements of this Government. In 25 years under a Labour Government the city of Redcliffe had no high school. It was the Labour Government who used to get out the bulldozer a month or so before an election and rush about knocking a couple of trees down, but it was the present Government who built the high school there. You, Mr. Speaker, were the representative for the area. That high school now has an enrolment of over 700 students. Even Labour members, who criticise the Government so idly, must agree, unless they speak with tongue in cheek, that the present Minister for Education has done a mighty job, and he is only one. Unfortunately he is not in the Chamber today. On behalf of all the citizens of Redcliffe I wish him a speedy recovery because he has done an excellent job in providing educational facilities on the Redcliffe Peninsula. This Government have spent £250,000 on educational facilities in the city of Redcliffe. They have given us what we screamed for over many years. Furthermore, provision has been made for a second high school in the area. Nobody can say that this Government have not faced up to their responsibilities soundly, and we must give the Department of Education full marks for taking up the challenge. This year more and more high schools will be established throughout the State. Apparently members of the Opposition are opposed to raising the standard of educational facilities. That is a shocking state of affairs. Do they not think it is our responsibility, and theirs, to raise the standard?

**Mr. Davies:** You are talking through your hat now. Why don't you talk sense as you usually do?

**Mr. HOUGHTON:** If the hon. member for Maryborough were sincere he would not speak with his tongue in his cheek, as he has done in the past and will continue to do because he is being led up the garden path and must subscribe to the current A.L.P. doctrine: right or wrong, wise or unwise.

The other day the Leader of the Opposition by interjection intimated that he was not 100 per cent. in agreement with the establishment of the University College in Townsville, a milestone in the development of

educational facilities in this State. Even the hon. member for Townsville South said the other morning that Labour had neglected the North's educational requirements and that they had been left entirely to this Government. When it is realised that the Government started 25 years behind scratch, a remarkable job has been done in five years.

To come back to my own locality of Redcliffe, it has already been stated by the Minister that an Opportunity School is to be established there, possibly in this financial year.

Those are some of the things that have been carried to fruition by this Government. Looking at the newspaper yesterday we saw that the Public Service Commissioner, Mr. Fraser, said that Public Service salaries for this financial year have increased £2,000,000. Have this Government faltered and failed in their duty to members of the Public Service?

**Mr. Tucker:** What increases did you give to railwaymen?

**Mr. HOUGHTON:** I shall tell you all about the railwaymen shortly. Even they have been granted concessions.

**Mr. Baxter:** Such as?

**Mr. HOUGHTON:** Under the Labour Government, a railwayman, with his wife and children, travelling on a pass, which is part of his wages, was considered legally to be lower than an animal. If a dog was injured, a claim for damages could be made against the Commissioner, but no claim could be made for any damages sustained by the railwayman's wife and family. This Government remedied that, not the Labour Government. The extra long-service leave was granted by this Government, not by hon. members opposite. Do not forget the station-to-station passes, instead of point-to-point, for retired railwaymen, granted by this Government. Do not forget refrigerators for railwaymen. What did the Labour Government do? They would not give them even water bags. Under the Labour Government, a person could claim only £2,000 damages for death or injury due to negligence of the Commissioner for Railways. This Government have made that an unlimited amount.

Do not forget that what has been done for railwaymen has been done for others, too. Half rail fares have been granted to pensioners. What did the Labour Government do? That concession was repeatedly refused by them. Those are only some of the things that this Government have done.

**Mr. Baxter:** Give us a bit of truth now.

**Mr. HOUGHTON:** It is the truth that hurts, and that is why hon. members opposite are bucking.

My belief is that the Minister for Transport has the most difficult Cabinet portfolio. I wish Mr. Lee, the new Commissioner, well, and hope that he has a very successful term

of office. He must be very capable to get that position, and I am certain we will see decided improvements in the railway system and the facilities that it offers in this great State of ours. Even the hon. member for Townsville South agrees that the railwaymen must pull up their socks to meet the competition from other forms of transport. I think they have come to that conclusion already, because the service they are giving is improving all the time. I commend them for that. They realise that if they are to keep their jobs in the Railway Department they must give service that will compare favourably with road transport, water transport, or any other form of transport. The Government have not sacked railwaymen—

**Mr. Baxter** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member for Hawthorne has been interjecting persistently during this speech. I refer him to the Standing Order which says that a member must be heard without interruption, and I ask him to discontinue his interjections. The hon. member for Redcliffe should not be distracted by hon. members on my left.

**Mr. HOUGHTON:** Transport in the Redcliffe area requires careful consideration, and the Minister for Transport will have to display a great deal of wisdom if he is to make the correct decision. Redcliffe is served by a co-ordinated bus service from Sandgate, and the people of Redcliffe supply the revenue without which the Sandgate railway line would not pay. I believe that the time is not far distant when the Minister will have to give serious consideration to extending rail services to the city of Redcliffe. It has a population of 23,500, excluding the influx of people at week-ends and on holidays, and by looking at a map one can see that the distance between Zillmere station and the Redcliffe area across Hayes Inlet is not great. The line could then circle back through the Pine River and Kallangur areas. If we are to have decentralisation—I think all hon. members agree with that policy—people living in areas farthest from the G.P.O. should be given cheaper fares. For example, a person living at Scarborough should have a cheaper fare than one living at Sandgate. That would encourage people to move out and would facilitate the development of areas such as Redcliffe.

Hon. members opposite are all in favour of tearing up the agreement with the Hornibrook Highway Company. Had it not been for that company, Redcliffe would not have reached its present stage of development. I believe that the company is entitled to its franchise. Of course, we have knockers in our area who support the Opposition and who are prepared to tear up the agreement when it is convenient for them to do so, but I am definitely opposed to such a step.

If the company was prepared to build another bridge farther upstream, I would be prepared to support it, and I think everyone would agree that the company should be encouraged in its endeavour to provide transport that will be of assistance to the workers residing in the city of Redcliffe. The congestion on the roads between Brisbane and Redcliffe is evident, and I think we must be realistic in our approach if we are to find a solution to the problem of transport.

Anyone who drives on the Sandgate Road at present must realise that, with the rapid development now taking place in this State, it will soon be impossible to drive in safety. Development in this State has been spectacular and, now that oil has been discovered and with the improvements being made to the Mt. Isa railway and the other projects that are well under way, will become even more so. In fact, development may become so rapid that, with the funds available, the Government may find it difficult to keep abreast of it. However, I have every confidence in the Government and feel that they will give a good account of themselves in that sphere and overcome any obstacles with which they are faced.

Moreton Bay at present is not used to its best advantage as a waterway. The Minister for Transport and the Government should give some consideration to the acquisition of a hydrofoil as an experimental means of transport between Brisbane and Redcliffe and to ascertain if such a means of transport between the two cities can be economically used. These machines are being used in other parts of the world and a golden opportunity exists to experiment with them between Brisbane and Redcliffe.

I have mentioned some of the matters with which the Minister for Transport may have to deal. It was this Government that reduced the co-ordinated fares between Scarborough and Brisbane, thus allowing workers residing at Scarborough to travel to Brisbane much more cheaply than they could previously.

Hon. members will know that Redcliffe was for many years without a hospital. Repeated approaches to the Opposition when they were in office were of no avail and it was left for the present Government to provide this very necessary facility to the city of Redcliffe. They have done this in addition to improving and modernising out-patient facilities at the Brisbane General Hospital. I congratulate the Minister for Health and Home Affairs on the excellent job he has done in providing improved and additional hospital facilities throughout the State.

Hon. members opposite will have noticed that the Brisbane General Hospital has recently been painted. The difference that it has made underlines the condition of disrepair into which many Government buildings were allowed to drift under Labour's regime.

**Mr. Windsor:** The same thing can be said of this Chamber.

**Mr. HOUGHTON:** As the hon. member who interjected said, the same thing applies to our own Chamber. It has been allowed to deteriorate sadly. As I say, the Brisbane General Hospital has received a very necessary and long overdue face-lift. I congratulate the Hospitals Board and the Minister on having this work done.

One constantly hears the old bogey that this Government want to eliminate free hospitalisation in this State. Far from doing that, the hospital facilities they have provided are equal to, or better than, anything that was provided by previous Governments. Last year the Government constructed a large modern hospital at Southport to meet the needs of that district. The hospital to be constructed at Redcliffe will be similar to the one at Southport and will meet the needs of the city of Redcliffe and the surrounding districts of Caboolture and Petrie for a long time to come.

The other day the Treasurer spoke of the Government's housing programme. In this field the present Government take second place to none. Until they assumed office the Queensland Housing Commission had not built one house in Redcliffe. What a shocking indictment of the previous Government! The imposition of building restrictions that crippled the South Coast and the city of Redcliffe was part of their unsavoury record.

**Mr. Duggan:** You did not say that until you got endorsement.

**Mr. HOUGHTON:** I have said it all along, and I still say it. They were responsible for retarding the development of the city of Redcliffe, so ridiculous were their building restrictions. The Government can be proud of the quality and design of the homes they are providing through the Queensland Housing Commission. The fact that in the last three years houses have been completed in Redcliffe at the rate of one a day is an indication of the demand that still exists for houses throughout the State.

The discovery of oil in Queensland will open up a new era of prosperity. A recent announcement makes it very evident that Moonie will be a commercial field. The discovery of oil could well mean a big saving to the Government. Dredging costs will be saved as there will be no necessity for large tankers with a draft of 34 feet to be brought into Moreton Bay. Oil exploration cannot be undertaken by a Government alone. But private enterprise, with the help of a Government subsidy, can carry out the search for oil, which subsequently will be of great benefit in the development of this State. We have heard a great deal from the Opposition about there being no necessity to bring foreign capital into the country.

With co-operation from, and liaison with, the Government, and with the assistance of foreign capital, the oil industry, and any other industry that is worthy of support and consideration, will develop and bring great prosperity to the country.

I have not had an opportunity to visit Weipa, but I am firmly convinced from what I have been told by hon. members who have that the development of the area is being carried out by co-operation between the Government and private enterprise. The development of Weipa will provide increased wealth and more avenues of employment in the North. I repeat that the State is on the crest of a wave of development because we have oil, bauxite, Mt. Isa, which is coming into greater production, and many other industries.

I congratulate the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity because, as hon. members opposite should know, a State-wide survey has been made and the resultant classification of roads will be of considerable future benefit to all local authorities. I commend the Minister and the Commissioner on their foresight and wisdom. I believe that all hon. members will agree that roads will play as important a part in the future development of the State as the railways have done in the past. The construction of the beef roads will result in increased development and bring added wealth to the North and the West.

I bring to the notice of the Minister the matter of the co-ordination of main roads as between local authorities. If a start is made on co-ordination it will eliminate many of the difficulties experienced by cities such as Brisbane and Redcliffe. The Brisbane City Council is fully committed to a programme just as is the Redcliffe City Council. Co-ordination would allow the roads to be developed as four-lane or six-lane highways and give relief to the congestion that is so evident on the North Coast Highway. All hon. members will agree that the Department of Main Roads has done an excellent job on the Ipswich Highway and the Pacific Highway. I sincerely trust that the time is not far distant when the Minister will give serious consideration to the needs of the North Coast.

I wish to mention briefly one of our main industries, namely the fishing industry. I compliment this Government on being the only one to do anything for the development of the fishing industry in our area, or, to my knowledge, any other part of the State. Money has been given to local authorities for the development of the industry. It has also been spent for the benefit of the boating fraternity in the construction of ramps, jetties, beacons, and in other directions all of which have assisted the industry greatly.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. WALSH** (Bundaberg) (5.45 p.m.): Speeches in this debate usually begin with stereotyped congratulation of the mover and seconder of the motion, and expressions of loyalty, and so on. We have heard them so many times in the Chamber that I do not suppose there is any need for me to go over the ground. I can appreciate that newer hon. members like to indulge in such things but, after a member has been here any length of time, I should not think any doubt about his loyalty would arise. What matters is not what one says in the Chamber but what one does outside.

Skipping over that part of my speech, I should like to join with other hon. members in placing on record my serious appreciation of the efforts of His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Abel Smith, and my delight at his re-appointment for a further term. I am sure there is no doubt in the mind of any hon. member that a Gallup Poll on his re-appointment would not disclose any of the perplexities with polls on elections and many other questions, but would disclose that the people of Queensland were 100 per cent. in favour of it. I think it is good that His Excellency should know that he is held in such high esteem by the people of the State, because I do not think there is anybody in public life here who does more to meet the people—industrial representatives and those engaged in commerce and the various other phases of life in Queensland. When His Excellency came to Queensland he made it perfectly clear that he desired to meet as many subjects of the Queen as he could so that he could become personally known to them.

Some of my remarks may not be in keeping with what has already been said about the Government's record, unemployment, and so on. Very many words can be wasted on such matters, and the Government do not appear to be taking much notice, anyhow.

I want to deal first with the altered procedure for the opening of Parliament. The Standing Orders are perfectly clear that the Standing Orders Committee is the body to determine the procedure required for the prorogation and the opening of Parliament. It could be said that there is a difference between the opening of a new Parliament and the opening of a session, but I think it is generally accepted that you read the Standing Order as it is. If the intention is to use the Legislative Council Chamber or the Domain, or any other place, for the opening of Parliament to fit in with the social side of life, I am not greatly concerned and I make no complaint about it. But I do not want a serious business like the opening of Parliament to be treated lightly and not given the consideration that is given it by other Parliaments throughout the British Commonwealth of Nations. I take some exception to having to go into another place and then to come in here for the adjournment of the Parliament that has been

opened. The Commonwealth Parliament, the New Zealand Parliament and the Parliaments of other States, where there is an Upper House, make it quite clear that there should be some meeting within the Parliament before that opening takes place on what you might call the social basis.

**Mr. Aikens:** The opening takes place in the Upper House of each of those Parliaments.

**Mr. WALSH:** But there is always a meeting in the House of Representatives before they go into the Senate Chamber. I do not know whether the Government have in mind reconstructing the Legislative Council. Maybe they have.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I think it might be advisable if I read the relevant part of the Constitution Act in order to put the mind of the hon. member for Bundaberg and the minds of other hon. members in this Chamber at rest. There seems to be some doubt about whether it is constitutionally correct, so I shall read Section 12, which relates to the convening of Parliament—

"It shall be lawful for the Governor to fix such place or places within any part of the Colony and such times for holding every session of the Legislative Assembly of the said Colony as he may think fit such times and places to be afterwards changed or varied as the Governor may judge advisable and most consistent with general convenience and the public welfare giving sufficient notice thereof and also to prorogue the same Legislative Assembly from time to time and to dissolve the said Assembly by proclamation or otherwise whenever he shall deem it expedient."

**Mr. WALSH:** I know that you will be tolerant enough, Mr. Speaker, to give me an extra couple of minutes for that breaking in. The fact remains that I am not referring to the Constitution but to the Standing Orders of this House, which are the law so far as we are concerned. Call it what you like; Standing Order No. 22 is explicit on the matter. What I want to retain is the right of the elected representatives of the people to meet in their own place, before being called upon to go to another place and then return here to adjourn the House. What is wrong with following the procedure adopted here when there was a Legislative Council? Hon. members met here beforehand, then went into the other Chamber.

These things might appear trivial to some people, but to me they are important to the democratic institution of Parliament. I am not concerned with whether there are garden parties or entertainments, or anything else in the social line; that does not come into the question. I have referred to the Standing Order, and any hon. member can look it up if he desires.

**Mr. Hiley:** What right have ladies and strangers, who are entitled to sit in the Legislative Council Chamber for the opening of Parliament, to sit in the Legislative Assembly Chamber whilst that House is conducting its business?

**Mr. WALSH:** I am not saying anything about ladies sitting in the Legislative Assembly. The Treasurer is not going to side-track me. Let him refer to the procedure in every other House of Legislation in the British Commonwealth of Nations. I am not going to be side-tracked that way.

**Mr. Hiley:** Standing Orders forbid the presence of women and visitors in the Assembly.

**Mr. WALSH:** The Treasurer can take up his objection if he likes.

**Mr. Hiley:** You are blind to the important things.

**Mr. WALSH:** If the Treasurer wants to find fault with the ladies' coming in here, that is his business, not mine.

Speaking of Standing Orders, I remind the hon. member that another topical subject well before the public at the moment is the Standing Order providing for the filling by this House of the Senate vacancy. When the Minister for Labour and Industry arrived, I thought that he was going to make his last speech and resign to become one of the persons whose names will be submitted to fill the vacancy. Against that, I have heard the other side of the rumours that are quite common about the city here, that is, that there is a unity pact between the A.L.P. and the Government, or vice versa; that Mr. Arnell is no longer wanted in the picture, and that the Q.C.E. has been asked to submit a panel of names from which the Government will select one. It is an extraordinary position.

**Mr. Hiley:** Only an extraordinary man would suggest it.

**Mr. WALSH:** That may be, but I am only relating it to the Treasurer. I have even heard it said that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Lloyd, has been mentioned. Mr. Frank Forde, too, has been mentioned. It is clear to me, of course, that if any member of the House is to be a candidate, he must resign 14 days before the election.

Then we have another invitation to the Government to act on precedent. If they acted on precedent, what would be the position? If they acted on the precedent established by other Governments in the appointments that they have made, the Government would appoint an anti-Labour representative.

**Mr. Hiley:** You would not suggest that we go back to the bad old days, would you?

**Mr. WALSH:** All I am suggesting is that the Government should have some regard to the capacity and competency of the person who is appointed to represent this State in the Senate.

**Mr. Hughes:** Are you suggesting Condon Byrne?

**Mr. WALSH:** I would not have any hesitation in nominating Condon Byrne, if he was willing to be nominated. The Federal Parliament is the poorer for his absence. In this case, where the invitation has been made from various A.L.P. sources, it is interesting to note that in the history of the filling of vacancies in Queensland since Federation only three Senate vacancies have been filled in a manner similar to this, and, strangely enough, all three have occurred since the Legislative Council was abolished. If we look through the history, we find that in two cases where a Nationalist Senator died and his seat thus became vacant, the Government of the day appointed a Labour man in his stead. If the A.L.P. wants the Government to follow precedent, this is the precedent: in only one case out of three did the Labour Government appoint a Labour representative because the deceased person, Senator MacDonald, was a Labour man.

I just mention that in passing because it is so interesting and because of the names that have been mentioned in regard to who may or may not be the appointee. I suppose the Government will keep us guessing; they are entitled to do that.

The amendment moved by the Opposition is similar to motions moved not only in this House but in other Houses of Parliament when it is desired to indicate that there is no confidence in the Government. One picks out certain headings so that one may pinpoint particular features of Government administration or Government policy, and I think it would be right to say that the amendment now before us comes within that category. The Opposition here wishes to pinpoint the failures—

**Mr. Dewar:** Alleged failures.

**Mr. WALSH:** No, failures, and only some of them, of the Government. Nobody could argue seriously that the Government have a good record. The Treasurer gets up here full of optimism every time he introduces his Budget—he did it when bringing down the first Appropriation Bill this session—and says that everything in the garden is lovely. The Minister for Labour and Industry, who resumed his seat only a short while ago, tells us of all the industries the Government have brought to the State and of the prosperity in Queensland, yet unemployment figures have been increasing year by year. Irrespective of all the rot that was read out by the Minister for Labour and Industry this afternoon, the plain fact remains that there are thousands of people within the State without a job.

**Mr. Dewar:** Nonsense!

**Mr. WALSH:** Well, I say that, and any person who takes his job seriously must admit it. It is no good the hon. member for Wavell trying to tell me that there are no unemployed. There were 1,300 persons in Bundaberg without jobs.

I have mentioned certain matters to which I wish to draw attention and I should like to revert to the question of the Senate vacancy, in order to put it on the record and to point out that any selection or any appointment that is made by this House might ultimately be questioned in the High Court. The interesting situation, as I see it, is that while the Commonwealth Constitution provides for such a vacancy to be filled by both Houses of Parliament sitting and voting together, in this State we have only one House of Parliament. No doubt, State Parliament can proceed to make the appointment in accordance with its own Standing Orders. Whoever gets the appointment, if somebody desires to challenge the validity of it, I should imagine it would be one of the most interesting constitutional points that has ever been raised in the history of Federation.

Getting back to the other phase that I have already mentioned, that is, that nobody can seriously argue that the Government have had a good record since they assumed office, a State that has 30,000 unemployed at any period of the year cannot be given credit for having carried out a policy that is in the interests of the welfare of the community generally. If so many people are out of work every other section of the community must suffer.

**Mr. Windsor:** The Minister's figures showed the percentage as .6.

**Mr. WALSH:** The Minister for Labour and Industry has quoted so many figures in this House over the years that I am sure he himself must become somewhat confused with them. The stark fact remains, whether the Minister produces figures or whether anybody else in this House does so, however they see fit to present them, that the Commonwealth Statistician, who is supposed to be the independent authority, has pointed out that there were upwards of 130,000 unemployed in Australia and 30,000 of them in Queensland.

**Mr. Windsor:** How long ago was that?

**Mr. WALSH:** It does not matter how long ago it was. If the Government are taking credit at the moment for the employment in the sugar industry, the meat industry and so on, that is a normal phase of private employment that will continue irrespective of what Government are in power.

I come now to the criticism from the A.L.P. side of the House. I might say that I agree with that criticism; my only complaint is that at times it appears to me that there is a bit too much shadow-sparring over A.L.P. leadership. There is ample scope for

the Government to be torn apart as the hon. member for Baroona did the other day. No matter what somebody else in the Opposition may say about his speech, at least he was on the attack against the Government all the time and got his points home very well. If one is talking about oneself, one cannot be talking about, or attacking, the Government.

And so I ask myself, as so many electors have been asking themselves, who is to blame for this situation? The Government are to blame primarily in this case because they are the occupants of the Treasury benches. They could not have been there but for the tragic events of 1957. They cannot claim that they are there with the majority vote of the people. After all, when they went to the country in 1957 they got 44 per cent. of the total vote; in 1960 they got approximately 1 per cent. less than they got in 1957. Instead of the Government's going up in the esteem of the people they went down. But the Government are there because of the rift that exists within the political Labour movement. I am not taking any responsibility for that. I will exercise my prerogative here to attack the Government. It does not matter how long the split may exist, as long as I am here my job will be to attack the enemies of Labour. Consequently I say that if the Government are not here by the majority vote of the electors, they cannot claim to represent—

**Mr. Campbell:** What about Bundaberg?

**Mr. WALSH:** The fact remains about Bundaberg that I am here. I am entitled now, with no political affiliations—

**Mr. Hiley:** No political convictions.

**Mr. WALSH:** If I were as pliable and as flexible as the Treasurer is, and has been over his period of office, I should hate to have to admit it. He shifted from step to step quite a few times. At least I can stand here and claim that I was standing and sitting in Opposition because I stuck by a principle. If the Treasurer wanted to line himself up with a section of the A.L.P. to destroy the Government of the day, he has that to answer to the people. All they are concerned about is power, not principles.

**Mr. Hiley:** What about the time when your colleague Mr. Foley was charged with corruption?

**Mr. WALSH:** If the hon. gentleman wants to parade the stinking carcasses out, he had better be careful. They are not all on one side, believe me! If he wants to bring out the stinking carcasses—Clem Jones or anything else—and if he wants to go into past history, he had better be careful where his steps lead him. Those who gave the opportunity to the Government to govern have to take some responsibility for the state of affairs that exists in Queensland today. If there is any doubt about who is responsible let the Treasurer, and anybody else who cares to, take a look at the

division list of 12 June, 1957. They will not find my name linked with the Liberal Party and the Country Party in destroying the Government of the day. In the divisions on subsequent motions moved by the present Treasurer they will find the same thing. However, I am not going to follow the usual pattern and merely say that the Government themselves are entirely to blame for these things. If hon. members have any doubt about it let them look at the division lists, and perhaps later on somebody might care to read Clem Lack's version of "Three Decades of Queensland Political History."

There are a few other matters I want to deal with. Some of them may not be palatable, but I cannot help that. I do not parade myself in this House any differently from what I would have done in a Caucus meeting, a Cabinet meeting, or a Q.C.E. meeting. I am free to express my opinions on administration or any other phase of political life in this State. I have put out the fear of being thrown out into the wilderness. The only ones who can do that are the electors.

I wish to refer tonight to the administration of the Police Force. Over recent years some people have been quite fearful of drawing attention to many happenings in this State in connection with the Police. I do not think anybody on either side of the House would disagree with me when I say that in recent years there has been much unfavourable criticism of the administration of the Police Force in this State. It is useless blaming the subordinate ranks, and it is no good picking out individual policemen who may have been charged with bashing, or some other offence. These incidents can be encouraged only by weak supervision somewhere at the top—the lead must come from the top. It does not matter whether it comes from the Commissioner's office or the chief of the C.I. Branch. That applies also to any district office with an inspector in charge of personnel. He must give the lead to his subordinates.

Public complaints have been numerous in recent years and there has been much talk as to what will be done. I remember the Ipswich case in which a couple of policemen were accused of bashing a citizen, or manhandling him, in a car. There was a promise that the case would be investigated, and probably it was. The civilian in that case may have been so involved that he wished to run for cover back to another State. However, that does not obviate the necessity for proceeding with the investigation. If an offence was committed by the two policemen, they should have been dealt with accordingly.

A Federal member of Parliament complained about the way his son was dealt with on Spring Hill. Again there was

publicity and the Commissioner made statements about reports and investigations, but there was nothing further.

A robbery occurred at Mt. Isa and a great deal of investigation was undertaken by the top personnel from Brisbane, but suddenly the investigating officer was recalled from Mt. Isa and we heard nothing more about it, although £600 or more was missing. All these matters lead to the suspicion that there is a cover-up. I think I am correct when I say that in recent years there have been more appeals against promotions than ever before in the history of the Police Force. There must be a reason for it. In too many cases an adjustment has been made in the position of the individual appealed against to discourage the appellant from taking the appeal further. Discipline is not strict enough. When it is applied there should not be any discrimination in its application.

**Mr. Houghton:** Do you think the standard has been lowered?

**Mr. WALSH:** I am convinced that the standards have been lowered. After all, if there are so many appeals against appointments, does that not indicate in the first place that there is dissatisfaction?

**Mr. Houghton:** Who is advising them?

**Mr. WALSH:** They have the right of appeal. I do not know whether the hon. member hopes to take it away from them. They are acting on legal advice. Whether it be to the credit of the hon. member for South Brisbane or not, I am not going to push his barrow, and he knows I am not, but he is winning too many appeals.

**Mr. Windsor:** He did not win one today.

**Mr. WALSH:** Even though he wins some of them, to my way of thinking they are not a credit to the Force. For the first time in the history of the Police Force the Commissioner went into the witness box to give evidence. Probably that case was a legacy from the administration of bygone times.

There is another thing that I do not think it out of place for me to mention. For some reason or other these matters are not raised in the House. When it gets to the stage that the chief of the C.I. Branch has to be publicly reprimanded by the President of the Bar Association in the State, there is something wrong. If there is any complaint about any attack that has been made on any member of the Police Force, there is ample opportunity for the Minister in charge of the police portfolio to say what has to be said in defence of his officers. I never hesitated to do it while I was a Minister, irrespective of where the attack came from. More recently it has come to my knowledge, again from the same person, that when a legal man got in touch with him he was insulted over the phone. That does not help to establish good relations

with the public. If I might make the observation, while I remember it—not that the Treasurer became a party to it but it was always a mystery here who undertook the campaign. If any of these things happened when we were the Government they were kicked about like rotten potatoes all over the Chamber, but today you do not seem to hear anything about them.

**Mr. Ramsden:** A weak Opposition today.

**Mr. WALSH:** I do not know—the hon. member can have his own ideas about the Opposition—but these matters are becoming more and more public and they should be dealt with in the House.

I come to the recent inquiry on the missing documents in the Plomp case following the Full Court's reference to them.

**Mr. Bennett:** They are not the only documents that have been missing in recent times.

**Mr. WALSH:** I am quite aware of that. If the hon. member for South Brisbane has not mentioned them in his speech, that is just too bad. I propose to mention at least another one, only because it is public property—not something that comes into my possession in a private way. I do not do those things. These matters are being canvassed in the Press.

The Government decide then to have an inquiry and they have to find a scapegoat and they find him in the person of one Glen Hallahan; but, in the process, they put the arresting detective at the time, Dale, who has since gone out of the Force, to a lot of expense in briefing senior counsel and so on to look after these things. Now, is that fair? If there is any blame in this case, it is not with Hallahan; it is with the top structure of the C.I.B. authorities. Is it meant to be conveyed that, when the liberty or the life of any subject who has been charged before a court is at stake, the details of the case for submission by the Crown Prosecutor, whether in the magistrates court or the Supreme Court, have been prepared by the subordinates down the line? The thing is too silly. Why are the top conferences in the C.I. Branch held to go through all this evidence? I am not speaking without some knowledge of the procedure, knowledge gained over 12 years of ministerial administration. It is just too bad if the Government had to resort to this subterfuge, to appoint a committee of investigation in a very honourable gentleman, Mr. Arnold Bennett, Q.C., but nevertheless a white-washing inquiry. As I say, these things are very serious. The liberty of the subject is at stake.

There is not only one document. Here is another case that I think the hon. member for South Brisbane appeared in. He might have been a bit lucky in having such good cases. But again the case was adjourned when it was suggested there was

a certain sheet called the "kill" sheet, I think it was, and they gave Inspector Cronau time off to go and find the document. When he came back, the document was missing. That is a serious position. If one document can be missing from a file, any document incriminating any person can also be missing. These things should not go unnoticed in this House. The fairer and proper way to deal with this matter would have been to appoint a select committee from both sides of the House to investigate all these things that occurred in the Plomp case, as well as in others. Missing documents can have a very serious effect on the liberty of the subject and his future place in life.

It is a pity that I now have only five minutes left because I wanted to deal with the decision of the Court of Criminal Appeal. I want to say, however, that the administration of the Police Force cannot be expected to improve whilst it has a Commissioner who goes round glamourising, and opening agricultural shows and public functions. In my day as a Minister I always understood that the administration of the Police Force demanded the complete attention of the man sitting in the Commissioner's chair.

**Mr. Bennett:** He reckons he is going to be the next Governor.

**Mr. WALSH:** I am not concerned with the observations of the hon. member for South Brisbane on these matters. I am stating my point of view. If it does not please him or anybody else, I cannot help it. I am stating what I see to be the factual position. Having made those brief observations, I hope that they sink home.

In the few minutes that I have left I want to refer to this silly idea of a policeman's having to make 25 arrests to prove his efficiency. What about those police officers—and there are a great many of them—who devote a lot of time to preventing crime? They are not so much interested in making arrests as in preventing crime. Apparently they are not to be considered. In the last batch of appointments that has not been taken into consideration. Believe me, the validity and morality of a few appointments could be questioned.

I have not much time left, but I did intend to go more fully into the report of the decision of the Court of Criminal Appeal in the Plomp case that appeared in "The Courier-Mail". Far be it from me to make any references to judges, because I know that I am not allowed to.

**Mr. Smith:** Can you tell me whether you agree or disagree with it?

**Mr. WALSH:** I can tell you that. I know that it is competent for any member of this House to criticise decisions of the court, and this decision, as published in "The Courier-Mail," sounded more like submissions by counsel for the defence. Everything was in Plomp's favour. The beast, as I know him,

is in his right place. When we speak of juries being prejudiced, I wonder what prejudice surrounded the conviction in the Kenniff case, or of those people in the 1891 strike? I wonder how much prejudice there was in the Pressler case? Of course there is prejudice, damaging though it may be. All that I can say is that I doubt the wisdom of the statements made in the decision, which in effect help to undermine the jury system as it operates in this State. I could not find a line anywhere in the judgment in defence of the poor unfortunate woman; everything enumerated tended to make excuses for Plomp.

In any case, if the position was as pointed out in the decision, why was not a new trial granted, and why were not Asinari and Kerr called to enable the jury to hear their evidence and hear them cross-examined? That is the proper approach, to my way of thinking, and I want to put on record that I think the charge of rape is being treated too leniently by some people in Queensland. In one instance, a girl went down to New Farm Park with three or four louts. Having given her wine, they ravished her. They were admonished by the judge, then spoken to by the Police Commissioner and presented with drip-dry shirts. Now we find this case following that one. How can we expect the women of Queensland to look up to and respect the courts if cases of this type are handled in that way? These comments may be out of line, but I am speaking my mind.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. CAMM (Whitsunday)** (7.41 p.m.): At the outset, I wish to say that, as usual, we have heard a discourse from the hon. member for Bundaberg in which he has endeavoured to find a nigger in the woodpile, in the hope that the nigger will come out and he will be able to shoot him. Since I have been here, the niggers in the woodpile have been non-existent.

With other members on the Government benches, I support the motion so ably moved by the hon. member for Flinders and seconded by the hon. member for Wavell. It gives me great pleasure to reaffirm my loyalty and the loyalty of the electors of Whitsunday, whom I have the honour to represent, to Her Majesty the Queen. I also wish to express the pleasure that I am sure my constituents will feel on learning that His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Abel Smith, has been appointed as the Queen's representative in Queensland for a further three years. Sir Henry and his wife have endeared themselves in the hearts and minds of the people of this great State by the interest they have displayed in its progress and their consideration for the welfare of its people.

In supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, I very emphatically refute the submissions advanced by hon. members opposite. After a little over 12

months as a member of this Assembly, I am proud to be a member of the team that has been responsible for the legislation introduced in this House for the development of Queensland and for the benefit of its people. Once again I thank the electors of Whitsunday for the confidence they displayed in me by electing me to this Chamber.

**Mr. Davies:** Fifty-six per cent. of the people of the State do not agree with that.

**Mr. CAMM:** We will see about that. They have afforded me an opportunity of assisting to implement the policy of the Country Party-Liberal Government.

To my mind, there is no doubt that Queensland faces an era of unprecedented development and prosperity because of the policy of the present Government and the measures they have adopted to encourage the investment of capital here by private enterprise. The encouragement given to investors for the development of industries such as the oil industry, the bauxite industry at Weipa, the coal industry at Kianga, the tourist industry, and many other industries in the State, must have a marked effect on its economic future. Above all that, the feeling of confidence that the people have in the future of Queensland is something of which each and every member of this Chamber must be proud.

**Mr. Davies:** I have been waiting to see some evidence of that confidence.

**Mr. CAMM:** It is in direct contrast to the propaganda emanating from the ranks of the Labour Party who would have the people of Queensland believe that the economic future of the country is insecure.

History has proved over and over again that the quickest way to start a depression or to create a fear in people's minds is to go out and preach it. All we have heard from hon. members opposite is the forecast that this State is heading for a state of depression, that there will be unemployment and no work for anybody. That sort of talk only creates fear in people's minds and results in less and less money being available for investment and for public loans, and a decreased demand for the goods produced in the country. Unemployment results and a vicious circle starts. With the type of criticism and talk emanating from hon. members opposite, ambition and initiative fail. So much for the defeatist outlook of the Opposition. They should go down in history as the greatest knockers of all time.

We have recently witnessed an election tour by the Leader of the Opposition and members of his party in which a message of despondency and ruin was delivered to the people of Queensland. It is an outlook that, in the face of undoubted prosperity existing in Queensland at present, is very hard to substantiate or to even understand.

There is record trading in retail stores, record registration of motor vehicles, record deposits in savings banks,—

**Mr. Baxter:** And nearly 17,000 unemployed.

**Mr. CAMM:** I shall deal with unemployment in a minute.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I once again remind hon. members on both sides of the House that, under the Standing Orders, every member is entitled to be heard without interruption. I think hon. members on my right could well pay their colleague some courtesy and remain quiet while he is speaking.

**Mr. CAMM:** I feel that it is the duty of representatives in this Chamber, whether they be Government or Opposition members, to try and build confidence in the minds of the people, confidence in the future of Queensland, and confidence in the great possibilities of the State, instead of knocking it at every opportunity. If for political reasons they must belittle the accomplishments of the Government, if they must criticise them, let them in all fairness say that the Government have done so much but they hope to do better. Do not let them travel the country saying that it is heading for ruin. It does not assist employment for members to foster in the people a feeling of insecurity.

At this stage I desire to place on record my thanks to the various Government departments for the consideration they have given to me in all my submissions during my short term as member for Whitsunday.

Reverting once more to unemployment, I ask hon. members opposite whether any one of them has ever done anything to create employment in his own electorate. Instead of coming here saying that the Government should do this, or the Government should do that, let them move out into their own electorates and create employment for the workers in them.

The hon. member for Bowen said that there was no unemployment in Bowen. I could say the same for my electorate. A contractor up there advertised unsuccessfully for a carpenter. There is not one carpenter within 100 miles of Proserpine who will apply for the job. As a matter of fact he cannot get a labourer. I think we have more or less stifled any criticism about adult unemployment.

Speaking now of children just leaving school, I point out that recently we advertised in Proserpine for a junior typist. It was a good job that I should have imagined would attract many applicants, but there were only two. In reply to the interjections, I point out that the pay was £2 a week over the basic wage. In addition the organisation pays a 10 per cent. bonus each year. I am the chairman of that organisation, and that is how I know all about it. That is the way we create employment. We do not say, "The Government have to do this and that," and merely sit back and criticise.

**Mr. Baxter:** On this side, of course, we say, "One man, one job."

**Mr. CAMM:** What about the hon. member for South Brisbane? Most of the time he is in the Supreme Court.

It was mentioned that Cabinet was composed of very big men. I agree. They are big men, both in stature and outlook.

In itself the work carried out by the departments under the control of the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity should be sufficient to ensure the continuance of the present Government for many years to come. I do not want to repeat what has been said already about the efforts of that Minister. We all know what a tremendous difference it will make to the economic welfare of the State and the general employment position in Queensland when all the projects he is fostering get under way. I refer to the bauxite deposits at Weipa, the production of coal at Kiangra for shipment through Gladstone to Japan, and the completion of the railway to Gladstone. Only this morning we read of the laying of the pipe-line from the oilfield at Moonie to Brisbane. What a feeling of frustration it must bring to hon. members opposite when they have to reply to such a record as that of the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity.

I know that the Minister is big enough and capable enough to reply to any criticism from hon. members opposite, but what a shocking state of affairs it was over the last few days to hear criticism from them merely because he holds shares in an oil company. I have known the Minister for over 30 years. I know of the tremendous amount of work he has done to foster development in my district. For many years he was chairman of the sugar mill. When he took over it was a very small concern, but when he left it was one of the biggest in the State. If he wishes to buy shares in an oil company why should he be criticised by members of the Opposition? For many years he personally did some prospecting. He formed a private company in our district and spent thousands of pounds in oil exploration. His convictions were so strong and he was so confident there was oil in Queensland that he was prepared to back it with his own money. He bought the oil shares when they were at rock bottom and the hon. member for Norman, who has interjected, could have done the same.

**Mr. Bennett:** We cannot all be Ministers for Mines.

**Mr. CAMM:** The hon. member could not be Minister for anything.

When a man is a Minister in charge of a department, trying to encourage people to invest in an undertaking, and has the courage to invest in a project, he sets a great example to the people of the State. It illustrates to investors that he is prepared

to back his own judgment and has confidence in the ultimate outcome. It is very strange that this criticism is levelled at the Minister when the Leader of the Opposition was reputed to have as many shares as the Minister in the same company.

I do not wish to dwell on my electorate, but I must quote some figures to show what the Minister has done, and what was not done under Labour administration. Country districts during the Labour Government's regime were neglected. In the Whitsunday electorate, for the four years between 1952 and 1957, under Labour administration, £579,000 was spent on permanent works. This Government have spent £1,100,000. On maintenance, Labour spent £299,000, and this Government spent £491,000. In all, £878,000 was spent by the Labour administration and £1,600,000 was spent by this Government, yet Opposition members come to my electorate and say the Government are not doing a good job. Under Labour administration we received £96,000 from Commonwealth aid allocations and £175,500 from this Government. Under the Roads (Contribution to Maintenance) Scheme we did not get a penny in 1952, but we have received £13,725 from this Government. I ask hon. members opposite who come to my electorate to refute those figures.

The Minister for Labour and Industry has been severely criticised in this House.

**Mr. Bennett:** And rightly so.

**Mr. CAMM:** Yes. I am criticising him, too, but mine is constructive criticism. We criticise him in our electorate, but the hon. member comes to the House without any constructive criticism. The hon. member can only belittle the work of anyone who tries to look after the welfare of the people in the State.

The Minister appointed advisory committees throughout the electorate; they were composed of men with business interests, primary-industry interests, and manufacturing interests. Through the offices of the Minister concerned, we are visited regularly by Mr. Bedwell and we submit proposals to him that we believe are of benefit. We offer criticism as well. We make our submissions to the Government and they are very carefully listened to and attended to by the Government.

**Mr. Bennett:** Do you get any results?

**Mr. CAMM:** I will say so.

Our area is mainly a sugar-growing area and the sugar interests are investigating the possibilities of slack-season employment for men employed in the mills. They are investigating the possibilities of megass, the waste product from sugar-cane. Through the offices of Mr. Morris samples were sent to Germany to be manufactured into cardboard, and an American company is trying to manufacture megass into paper. Now it is going into a pulp. We realise that, being a predominantly sugar-growing electorate and having sugar mills there with this great

product available, we would find it the best source of raw material for any manufacturing concern likely to be established in the district.

**Mr. Baxter:** Why did you send it to Germany when we did that in Australia in 1953?

**Mr. CAMM:** Did what?

**Mr. Baxter:** Converted the megass into paper and cardboard.

**Mr. CAMM:** The hon. member for Hawthorne thinks there is only one concern that can convert megass into paper. We sent it over on an experimental basis to try out the different processes in different countries of the world.

**Mr. Baxter:** You have no faith in Australian technicians.

**Mr. CAMM:** They have a different process in Germany and a different process in America. The hon. member's Government tried it out in Australia and could not make a success of it. It was uneconomic.

**Mr. Baxter:** It was successful; it was on the market.

**Mr. CAMM:** That is another form of knocking. Why attack an organisation that was prepared to seek technical advice from other parts of the world?

I heard of another small industry. A question was asked about it in the House. As with all other industries suggested by this side that have a prospect of materialising, straight away someone from the other side knocks it before it is even on its way. I refer to the export of sand from White Haven Beach on Whitsunday Island. We heard by way of interjection today that we must look after our product; we should not export it. There are millions of tons of this sand, and a small firm wants to sell some of it to Japan. The firm comprises men like ourselves, not wealthy people; it includes cane-farmers and two labourers. They are spending over £900 of their own money on investigating the possibility of exporting the sand to Japan to be made into glass.

**Mr. Bennett:** We will be buying butter from New Zealand at the rate we are going.

**Mr. CAMM:** At the rate hon. members opposite were going we would never get it from anywhere.

Samples of the sand have been sent to Japan and excellent reports have been received. As a matter of fact, it is 99.9 per cent. pure silica, an ideal product for the manufacture of glass. There is a beach of over 4½ miles of this sand. In parts inlets extend roughly a mile into the Whitsunday Island. Realising the futility of applying for a mineral lease on a national park when we have people in this country willing to object so strenuously to exploiting

such products, the company have taken out a dredging lease, if that will ease the hon. member's mind. They are prepared to go out off the beach into the sea and dredge for this sand in an attempt to make an industry out of its export to Japan. As for saying it is a national asset and a heritage of Queensland, goodness me, we grow sugar and export it; we grow wheat and export it; we do not keep it here. The export of this sand could go on for thousands of years. If we insist on keeping everything here for ourselves we will never get anywhere.

Another industry that comes under the control of the Minister for Labour and Industry is tourism. In my electorate the income from the tourist industry will approximate the income from sugar. I say that in all seriousness. A few years ago we had a few islands with some small cabins and rather primitive conditions. Now in the space of a few years, we have first-class accommodation with first-class amenities for the tourists, including hot and cold running water in the cabins. A few years ago the employment in those islands could be counted on the fingers of one hand. Today we have employed in the tourist industry in my electorate alone more than are employed in two sugar mills.

**Mr. Baxter:** You say there are more employed in the tourist trade in your electorate now than in the actual sugar-growing industry?

**Mr. CAMM:** I did not say the sugar-growing industry. I said "sugar mills". There are more people employed in the tourist industry. It might not be realised, but sugar mills employ only 250 men in the peak season, and fewer for the rest of the year. They employ the greater number for only about 20 weeks.

**Mr. Baxter:** You are speaking of overall employment?

**Mr. CAMM:** Yes, employment over the 12 months. People are employed in the tourist industry not only on the islands. Six large launches, each taking 25 passengers, run five-day cruises round the Whitsunday islands.

Whilst I am speaking on the tourist industry, I might say that it is becoming important that this Government, when funds are available, provide landing jetties on these tourist islands. I know that they were started as private concerns, and they are still private concerns to some extent, but when we get an industry on an island employing over 100 people, we must have these facilities. We have jetties on the mainland, and the people from the Proserpine and Mackay districts can go there at week-ends. I think the time has come when we must consider providing some means of putting them on the island instead of letting them go over in dinghies and paddle ashore. That still happens at a few of the islands. Admittedly

there is a beautiful jetty, built by this Government with Commonwealth Aid Funds, at no cost to us, at Shute Harbour, and from there tourists go to the islands in the Whitsunday area. The southernmost island, Brampton, is closer to Mackay, and there are week-end cruises from that city to the island. It is getting to the stage where it cannot remain purely a private business concern. It is a large island, and hundreds of people go there each week-end from Mackay.

**Mr. Bennett:** Are you saying that we should socialise the industry?

**Mr. CAMM:** Who is talking about Socialism? Nothing is further from my thoughts. I thought for a moment that the hon. member for South Brisbane was listening attentively, and that the idea of Socialism might have been out of his head.

I stress on the Minister administering tourism and the Treasurer the need, when the time is opportune and money is available, to give serious consideration to the establishment of landing jetties on all the islands in the Whitsunday area. There are two now—South Molle and Hayman—that have their own jetties. Why should they have to spend all that money for the sake of the boating public? From 10 to 20 boats tie up at South Molle every week-end.

**Mr. Bennett:** You say that the tourist trade attracts a lot of money. Why should not some of that be put back into jetties?

**Mr. CAMM:** Yes, why not? I am pleased that we agree on something.

We did have some criticism the other day, admittedly not much, of the Department of Education. I should say that this department is somewhat similar to the Department of Main Roads. If ever a department has done a good job for the people of the State, it is the Department of Education under the Minister for Education and Migration. I am very sorry that he has been taken ill and I know that hon. members on this side of the House—and I am sure hon. members on the other side, too—join with me in wishing him a speedy recovery.

I do not know whether one hon. member became carried away, but he said that we spend too much money on education. I do not think that that is possible. In this scientific age, with education playing such a vital role in the progress and welfare of the people, I do not think that we can spend too much money on it. We must educate our children. A few years ago the Scholarship standard was one of the requirements for a job; today Junior standard is the normal requirement for any worth-while position. I give full marks to the Minister for Education and Migration for the way in which he has fostered education in Queensland.

**Mr. Dewar:** He has shown the Labour Party up.

**Mr. CAMM:** That would not be hard. I have some figures here relating to expenditure by the Department of Education. Just to put it on record, in my electorate between 1953 and 1957, under a Labour Government, £55,548 was spent on schools.

**Mr. Bennett:** That would be worth £150,000 today.

**Mr. CAMM:** Yes. That is exactly the figure we have spent—£146,038. The hon. member must have got the same figures as I did. That does not take into account a new high school at Mackay to cost about £250,000 that will be attended by pupils from the Whitsunday electorate.

I also compliment the Minister for Public Works and Local Government on the good job that he has done. As we travel over the length and breadth of the State, we see the vast improvement that has been made in the design and lay-out of public buildings. I do not know whether a new architect has been appointed or what the reason is, but the design of buildings and the colour schemes used in painting have certainly improved in the last few years. The story is very similar in this department. The expenditure on public buildings in my electorate under a Labour administration was only £6,000. It has been more than doubled under this Government.

**Mr. Sherrington:** Do you believe in day labour?

**Mr. CAMM:** Yes, of course I do. I believe in day labour as long as the men work. I employ day labour and contract labour, and I get good work out of both of them.

The introduction of school buses has played an important part in the education of country children. With school bus services and the building of new high schools in my area, no child will be denied a secondary education within 12 or 18 months.

**Mr. Bennett:** Do you think that the Government should subsidise those bus fares?

**Mr. CAMM:** They do.

**Mr. Bennett:** They do not down here.

**Mr. CAMM:** Not if the child lives within three miles of the school. I walked four miles to school at one time. Any child who lives more than three miles from a school is given free transport to the school in the country. High-school pupils are subsidised, but they do not get free fares.

**Mr. Bennett:** What about University students? They travel more than three miles.

**Mr. CAMM:** If I had enough money to send my children to the University, I think I would be paying their fares.

Sending these children to secondary schools will pay dividends in the standard of their citizenship later. In my opinion there is more to educating a child than simply teaching him to read and write. Children who

go to high schools and the larger schools learn to associate with other pupils, and they develop a team spirit and a community outlook which makes them better fitted to go into the world and live a full and useful life.

Another Minister to whom I wish to pay tribute—

**Mr. Bennett:** Are you riding to instructions?

**Mr. CAMM:** I am riding to instructions, and I am a bit late. I will pull the whip out in a minute. I must pay tribute to the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, who has done a great deal for the people of my electorate.

**Opposition Members interjected.**

**Mr. CAMM:** Hon. members opposite may laugh and scoff, but there has been an expenditure of over £200,000 on some hospitals, and extensions valued at £55,000 have been made at others. In 1961-1962 alone, the department is spending £203,000 in Mackay.

**Mr. Sherrington:** Tell us about the three-storey hospital they cancelled in Mackay.

**Mr. CAMM:** I have plenty of time to make a few comments on a visit recently paid to Mackay by an A.L.P. committee. I do not know if they called it the Health Committee. It was appointed by the A.L.P. under the chairmanship of the hon. member for Nudgee. They called it a fact-finding committee, but, from what I heard and read, they were really a fault-finding committee. They went to the Mackay hospital and spent exactly one hour there.

**Mr. Melloy:** That is not true. We were three hours at the Mackay hospital.

**Mr. CAMM:** The hon. member says they were there for three hours. Of course, they had to partake of the hospitality of the district and they spent half an hour having afternoon tea. That is all right, but I was surprised at their powers of observation. The members of this committee, in the short period they were there, were able to observe and assess all the neglect that the Mackay hospital had suffered under Labour administration. They went around saying, "This should have been done years ago; that building should have been repaired years ago," but for political reasons known only to themselves they could not see the new ward in Mackay.

**Mr. Sherrington:** Tell us about the three-storey hospital that was cancelled.

**Mr. CAMM:** I will tell the hon. member that in 1957, when the Government came to office, I was a member of a hospital board and I know that plans were prepared and submitted to the Government for

approval in 1956, in which year £1,000 was spent. However, in 1958 £11,000 was spent; in 1959-1960, £76,000; in Mackay last year £40,000 was spent and this year £26,000 is being spent.

Before I entered Parliament I had the honour to be a member of the Proserpine Hospitals Board, and I know that two years ago £7,600 was spent on that hospital; in 1959-1960, £9,000 was spent, and this year the building will be completed at a cost of £55,650. If that is not good work for any Minister for Health and Home Affairs, hon. members can tell me what is.

I hoped to spend half an hour of my time on the sugar industry. Unfortunately, I will not now be able to do that. Suffice it to say that this industry is very dear to my heart. It is one with which I have been very actively associated and which has a very important bearing on the prosperity and welfare of the people in my electorate. This year we have in prospect the harvesting of a record crop in Queensland. The sugar industry this year will develop into a 1,000,000-tons export industry, and 1,000,000 tons is a lot of sugar. Unfortunately, the Leader of the Opposition is not here. If he were I do not know if he would confirm what I say, but I believe that in the Press and in his talks in the North, in his condemnation of the Government he said, "You fellows in the sugar industry cannot thank the Government; you can thank Fidel Castro for the prosperity in the sugar industry." What a ridiculous statement to make!

Mr. Wallace interjected.

Mr. CAMM: He did say that, because it was published in the newspapers. He completely forgot all the growers in this State—growers who are prepared to run a risk in growing a crop that is so valuable to the country today. He also forgot all the mill-workers and the men who build the mills and maintain them and those who are prepared to manufacture the sugar. He forgot about the leaders in the industry who have gone overseas and arranged markets so that we can sell this year's crop of sugar.

(Time expired.)

Mr. WALLACE (Cairns) (8.20 p.m.): I rise to support the amendment so ably moved by my Leader. I agree entirely with the statements contained in it.

First of all, I wish to show how little reliance can be placed on statements from the Government side. Quite recently the hon. member for Condamine made a statement about the chairman of the Herberton Shire Council. He said that he had made a statement that he had not been endorsed, or had not won the plebiscite, because the Q.C.E. or the party were afraid that he would buck the machine. I asked the hon. member who had said it and he said

"Holdcroft." I got in touch with Holdcroft as a result of which I received the following telegram:—

"Statement by Sullivan in House totally denied stop Appears Parliamentary privilege being abused stop Result of plebiscite totally accepted by me Holdcroft."

Shortly before that a statement was made by the hon. member for Mulgrave about the same gentleman. It would appear that the people who are making these statements are trying to kill some of the members of the Australian Labour Party. The hon. member for Mulgrave said that he had spoken to the chairman of the Herberton Shire Council, Mr. Holdcroft, about the employment of men and that Holdcroft had told him that he was not able to get any men. When I advised Holdcroft of that he wired me the same thing, but he also had this letter published in "The Cairns Post" on 25 October, 1961—

"Sir,

"I refer to a news item headed 'Threat to Cairns Economy,' appearing in page one of your issue of October 18, wherein the Member for Mulgrave stated in the House that I had told him that this shire could not get men.

"Apparently some misunderstanding has occurred, as I have not, at any time, discussed the matter of employment in this shire with Mr. Armstrong.

"During the past 12 months, the council's works programme has been such that there has been no occasion to call for additional labour and I would have no purpose in making a statement such as the one attributed to me. In fact, during the last month, I have received inquiries from men seeking employment, but the shire was unable to engage their services.

"C. Holdcroft,

"Chairman,

"Herberton Shire Council."

That goes to show how little reliance can be placed on statements from the Government benches, be it the back benches or the front benches.

I desire to associate myself and the people of the electorate of Cairns with the motion of loyalty. The people of Far North Queensland take second place to none in their loyalty. That has been amply demonstrated on many occasions. However, we of the Far North feel very strongly that our loyalty, although no doubt fully appreciated by Her Majesty, has not been appreciated by her Ministers in either this Government or the Federal Government.

In supporting the amendment I aim to direct the spotlight of public opinion onto the glaring and deliberate neglect of this very important section of the Commonwealth. I propose to debunk much of the very loose talk that has emanated from the Government side about their honesty as a Government. Having perused the Governor's Opening Speech, I can say in all truth

that it was indeed the poorest effort I have heard since I have been a member of the House. It fully confirmed the opinion I formed when listening to the reading that the Governor was sorely embarrassed at the lack of substance in the advice tendered to him by his Ministers. It tended to show in no uncertain terms the lack of desire on the part of his advisers to take any positive steps for the development of Queensland, particularly in the far northern part of the State, of which the Cairns electorate is a very important section. Nowhere in his speech is to be found any indication of any intention on the part of the Government to move for the preservation and retention of the population of Far Northern Queensland.

It is to be regretted that, having accepted the responsibility of government, Governments both State and Federal have failed dismally to live up to the extravagant promises made on the hustings. This proves, without any shadow of doubt that this Government have, up to date, depended solely on the suggested much publicised capacity and political honesty of the Premier. It has often been suggested that the Premier is too honest to be in politics but in actual fact the real position is that the Premier is the most politically-dishonest Leader of the most politically-dishonest Government in the history of Queensland. In his campaign of political dishonesty he has been ably supported by his henchmen in Cabinet and on the back benches, notwithstanding the fact that in 1957 he and his colleagues made many promises with the thought uppermost in their minds that their chances of coming to the Government benches were nil.

Again, in 1960, when the great party to which I have the honour to belong had not yet recovered from the treacherous body-blow it had received, and the chances of the Country-Liberal Party again being the Government looked an odds-on proposition, the Premier and his henchmen gave further demonstrations of their political dishonesty by again solemnly promising the people of Queensland that, having completed an apprenticeship of three years, they were fully prepared and committed to give effect to their promises of 1957, as well as their additional promises for the social and economic uplift of the State and its people.

But what is the true picture? What of the new era of more jobs than men? Instead of a new era and more jobs, we have deteriorated. For a long period we have had the greatest upsurge of unemployment in the Commonwealth since the depression days of the late 1920's and the early 1930's.

**Mr. Houghton:** Who wrote that for you? Egerton?

**Mr. WALLACE:** I would not suggest that because the hon. member cannot write anything. Despite the pleadings of the hon. members opposite for this politically-dishonest Premier and his henchmen—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I have allowed the hon. member to get away with the dishonesty part once or twice, hoping that, when I looked at him, his own discretion would lead him to realise that it was unparliamentary to accuse anyone in this House of being dishonest, or politically dishonest. If the hon. member refers to it again, or uses the term again, I will ask him to discontinue his speech.

**Mr. HOUGHTON:** I rise to a point of order. The hon. member is reading his speech.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The hon. member has referred to a speech being read. I do not think that is the prerogative only of the hon. member. I know most hon. members quote from copious notes and I can only surmise that the hon. member for Cairns is doing that.

**Mr. WALLACE:** Anything I read, I write. I accept your direction, Mr. Speaker, but I have been rather angry at times at some of the spurious allegations that have been made.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I think the hon. member made the accusations of dishonesty in a very calm and calculated manner, and seeing that he has commented upon the matter I ask him to withdraw such remarks.

**Mr. WALLACE:** Very well, Mr. Speaker, at your direction, I will withdraw them.

Although the Premier and the Government tell the people of Queensland that there are only 13,000 or 14,000 people unemployed in the State, in my own electorate in the Far North there are now up to 1,000 registered unemployed. That is at a time when the sugar and meat seasons are at their peak, so it is futile for hon. members opposite to say that the serious unemployment means nothing. Despite the impression they attempt to convey, it is a glaring indictment of the administration of this Government.

In view of this state of affairs, I and the great majority of people who read the Governor's Opening Speech have been amazed at the failure of his advisers to provide one bright spot in it by way of a positive suggestion for the future development of this great State, which, despite this Government, is managing at least to keep functioning, if only just. True, they mentioned the building of schools, the bauxite field at Weipa, the oil industry, beef roads and the Tinaroo irrigation project, and made some slight reference to the railways, and while mentioning them they have the temerity to claim that they have been and are responsible for each of the projects that have been instituted here.

Is it completely true to say that the expansion of the educational system and the great increase in secondary-school enrolments were not due to any outstanding effort by

the Premier or his Minister for Education or, for that matter, any other member of his Government? Indeed, it is well known that they were due entirely to the post-war increase in the birth rate.

It is also completely true that this was well and truly known to the Australian Labour Party and, despite the misleading and irresponsible mouthings of Government members, it would have been and must have been recognised by any Government that the necessary accommodation would have to be provided. The job of assessing the needs of the future in education, as in any other section of governmental activity, is one for experts, as the Australian Labour Party has always recognised. It was because they recognised that, irrespective of who is the Minister in charge of a department, you must have experts and you must be advised by them, that they were able to govern so wisely and well down through the years in the best interests of the State and its people.

I turn now to this Government's fantastic claim about the discovery and the development of the Weipa bauxite field. I am glad that the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity is in the Chamber. Let me reiterate what I have said in the House on numerous occasions. The existence of bauxite in this State has been known, if not since Queensland was first known by that name, then from very shortly afterwards. The need for developing the deposits, or the wish to develop them, is of very recent origin, but most certainly it dates from before the advent of this Government. Discussions at Government and company level for the purpose of reaching agreement in the best interests of Queensland had been going on for some considerable time before this Government assumed office. Unlike the Premier and his Minister, the Australian Labour Party Government were not prepared to sign away the heritage of the State to any old company under any old sort of agreement. The Labour Government, unlike the present Government, were not going to be pushed into allowing the wealth of the soil of Queensland to be exploited by anyone. I have said these things many times in the House and I do not mind repeating them.

My contentions that any development of the Weipa bauxite field would be of little or no value to the economy of Queensland, and particularly Far Northern Queensland, appear to have been well founded. I made that statement on a number of occasions. Despite what hon. members on the Government side might say, there is ample evidence that any development of Weipa will be completely on an export basis.

**Mr. Hiley:** Don't be too sure of that.

**Mr. WALLACE:** The stark truth is that this Government, by their ineptitude and bungling attitude towards this and most other projects, have missed the bus. Australia has almost

reached the stage where it could be self-sufficient in the production of aluminium. There are indications that bauxite is to be processed in other parts of Australia, and the people of Queensland are to be left lamenting their gullibility in electing the present Tory Government.

When listening to the hon. member for Burdekin the other night, it was apparent that he was the "front" for the Government and the company. His speech indicated glaringly that he was the mouthpiece or the "front" for the Government and the company, for the purpose of cushioning the people of Queensland against the terrific body-blow that they will receive when the company, through the Government mouthpiece, advises that, because of unforeseen circumstances, it is unable to proceed with the full terms of the lease. From the statements made by the hon. member for Burdekin, I have no doubt that these things will eventuate.

When he returned from his trip overseas, the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity, in speaking on his Estimates, indicated these things very strongly to this House when he said that there were, in Canada and the United States of America, at least a couple of alumina smelters quite ready to turn their wheels but which had not up to that time operated. He also said that there were at least some companies operating in the smelting of bauxite to alumina that were working only two or three days a week.

**Mr. EVANS:** I rise to a point of order. I object to the hon. member's telling untruths. The statement that I made—and it is offensive to me that he says I made others—was that the smelter at Corpus Christi was working half-time. I did not mention any other smelter, and I did not say that any smelters were working two or three days a week. I said that they were working half-time because there was a corner in the market for aluminium, but I did say that there was a market in Australia for the aluminium that we could produce. I ask the hon. member to accept my statement as true.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member will please accept the statement of the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity.

**Mr. WALLACE:** I am unable to accept the Minister's statement.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member will accept the statement of the Minister or discontinue his speech.

**Mr. WALLACE:** Then I am forced to discontinue my speech.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Thackeray, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 8.40 p.m.