

Queensland



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[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 11 OCTOBER 1962

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

QUESTIONS

CHECK OF STATE ELECTORAL ROLLS

Mr. LLOYD (Kedron), for **Mr. DUGGAN** (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition), asked the Minister for Justice—

“(1) Will he affirm or deny that an extraordinary number of notices of removal from the State Electoral Rolls, unless an objection is received, are being prepared for despatch?”

“(2) If this report is true, was this the real purpose behind the early police-check of electoral rolls?”

“(3) Is it intended that a further check be made towards the end of 1962 in anticipation of the 1963 State Elections?”

Hon. A. W. MUNRO (Toowong) replied—

“(1 to 3) The primary purpose of a police canvass of the electoral rolls is to ensure that all persons entitled to be enrolled will be correctly enrolled and that names not entitled to be on the rolls will be removed therefrom. The purpose of making the check earlier

than has been the practice on previous occasions was to ensure that the information obtained as a result of the canvass could be acted upon prior to the compilation of the annual rolls as at December 31 next. Under the Elections Acts the removal of names of electors pursuant to a police check cannot be effected until the expiration of five months after the information has been received by the Electoral Registrar. This broadly covers the three months residential qualifying period and an additional period to allow time for the elector to obtain enrolment in his new place of residence. It follows from this that a police check will be most effective if it is completed more than five months before the date of closing of the rolls. The earlier time of the year is a more convenient and effective period for a police check than the December-January period when many people are away from their homes on holidays. On the basis of information presently available it is not intended that a further check be made in anticipation of the 1963 State Elections. There is nothing in relation to the preparation of the electoral rolls that is not publicly done and all official rolls are open to public inspection."

PROMOTIONS IN POLICE FORCE

Mr. LLOYD (Kedron), for **Mr. DUGGAN** (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition), asked the Minister for Education and Migration—

"(1) Referring to the Press statement made by the Minister for Public Works, appearing in 'The Courier-Mail' of October 6, 1962, regarding the statement made by two senior police officers that the numbers of arrests by individual detectives were regarded as a criterion when gauging the suitability of officers for promotion, will he state whether there is a maximum number of arrests beyond which it is considered an investigation of the integrity and character of the arresting officer becomes advisable?"

"(2) Does he consider that a declaration by a senior police officer that he would like to see his detectives make twenty-five arrests a quarter would create a psychological inducement to an officer to achieve that quota regardless of fair play and justice?"

"(3) Does he not consider that the knowledge that the Chief of the South Coast Police District expected twenty-five arrests per month per officer and the fact that the Chief of the C.I.B. kept a quarterly list of arrests by officers imply that, in practice, Rule 27 of the Police Acts is being disregarded and the best tangible evidence of personal zeal is taken to be a higher record of arrests?"

"(4) In view of the fact that such an experienced and outstanding jurist as Mr. Justice Sir Roslyn Philp has drawn public attention to the danger of a police promotion system which may encourage evidence-fabrication to enhance promotion prospects, will he give an assurance that there will be no possibility of citizens' liberty being put in jeopardy by such methods?"

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

"(1 to 3) There is no record of statements alleged to have been made by two senior police officers that the number of arrests by individual detectives was regarded as a criterion when gauging the suitability of officers for promotion."

"(4) All promotions in the Police Force are based on the conditions outlined in Rule 27 of the Police Acts."

TOWNSVILLE DISTRICT ABATTOIR

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) asked the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry—

"(1) When the Townsville Abattoir is unable or unwilling to supply certain cuts and types of meat in sufficient quantity to meet public demand, can butchers procure these cuts from the meatworks or other sources and, if so, what procedure must be adopted?"

"(2) If butchers cannot secure the amount of types of meat that the public requires, does not this indicate that the public must be satisfied with anything that it pleases the abattoir to supply and is thus inconsistent with the Government's expressed policy of free trade and competition?"

"(3) Is it a fact that meatworks can supply cooked corned beef to butchers for sale to the public, but meatworks cannot supply their city-based small-goods branch with raw corned beef so that it can be cooked there and supplied to butchers for sale to the public?"

Hon. E. EVANS (Mirani—Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity), for **Hon. O. O. MADSEN** (Warwick), replied—

"(1 and 2) The Townsville District Abattoir does not control the supply of meat to butchers or to the public. The abattoir is a service facility for local operators who supply the stock for the Board to treat on their behalf. The abattoir only slaughters, dresses and chills stock supplied by local operators, who may be butchers or wholesalers."

"(3) Access to and sale within abattoir areas of manufactured meat is not restricted. Cooked corned beef is considered to be manufactured meat. The provisions of the Abattoirs Acts apply to all raw meats."

PROSECUTION AGAINST MAN NAMED
MALCOLM MCCOLM

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) asked the Premier—

“(1) Was a man named Malcolm McCollm taken into custody by the police in Brisbane on or about September 25, 1962, for allegedly being in charge of a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor?”

“(2) Is this man the same Malcolm McCollm who (a) was until recently a Member of the Federal Parliament, (b) recently publicly announced his resignation from the Liberal Party, claiming that he did so because he disagreed with the transport policy of the Government, and (c) is an executive officer of the big road transport group known as Cobb & Co.?”

“(3) Has any charge been laid against McCollm and, if so, (a) what is the nature of the charge and (b) when has the case been set down for hearing?”

“(4) Were any representations made to the police or any Member of the Government with the object of having the charge against McCollm withdrawn or ‘watered down’ and, if so, by whom were the representations made, and with what result?”

“(5) In view of the ever mounting tragic toll of the road, can he give the House his assurance that the law with respect to drunken-driving and all other serious traffic offences will be enforced without fear or favour and irrespective of the social or political connections of those who break the law?”

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

“(1 to 4) As a prosecution against a man named Malcolm McCollm has been instituted and is proceeding in the Brisbane Court of Petty Sessions in respect of matters referred to in Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 of this Question, the Honourable Member will appreciate that it is not proper to discuss these matters in this House by way of Question and Answer or otherwise.”

“(5) The Honourable Member can be assured that the law, with respect to drunken-driving and all other serious traffic offences has been and will be enforced by my Government without fear or favour.”

TAKE-OVER OF NAPIER BROS. LTD., DALBY

Mr. DIPLOCK (Aubigny) asked the Minister for Justice—

“(1) Has he read several Press items during the past week regarding a take-over proposal made by Industrial Enterprises Ltd. in respect to the firm of Napier Bros. Ltd. of Dalby?”

“(2) Is he aware of the fact that before any written proposal in accord with the provisions of the new Companies Act was

received by Napier Bros. Ltd. a majority of the directors of this firm gave full power of attorney for management to Industrial Enterprises Ltd.?”

“(3) Is he aware of the fact that Industrial Enterprises Ltd. are already acting under this power of attorney and initiating steps to close down a section of the works of Napier Bros. Ltd.?”

“(4) As this extraordinary procedure has already substantially reduced the value of Napier Bros.’ shares and as I have reliable evidence to support the claim made by aggrieved shareholders in this firm that the trading difficulties of recent years have now been overcome, will he arrange for the Registrar of Companies to inquire into the recent happenings mentioned with a view to ascertaining whether (a) the provisions of the new Companies Act in respect to take-over procedures are being observed and (b) is it legal for an offeror company to insist on receiving full power of attorney for management over the offeree company as a condition of the take-over offer?”

Hon. A. W. MUNRO (Toowong) replied—

“(1 to 3) There is available to me through the office of the Registrar of Companies certain limited information with reference to the affairs of Napier Bros. Ltd. Similar information is available to the Honourable Member or to any member of the public who may be interested in perusing the various documents and statements lodged at that office from time to time. Additional information may be available to directors and shareholders of the company which is not available to me.”

“(4) At the present time there is no information or application before me to justify me in initiating any proceedings with reference to this matter. I must also point out that it is not within my functions as a Minister of the Crown to give legal advice to a Parliamentary Member through a Parliamentary question and answer. However, for the information generally of the Honourable Member I may mention that the procedure in relation to take-over offers is outlined in Section 184 of the Companies Act of 1961 and in the Tenth Schedule. The provisions in relation to take-over offers were included in this Act for the express purpose of ensuring that, where a take-over offer is made to shareholders of a corporation there will be available to them such information regarding the corporation on whose behalf the offer is made and regarding the corporation of which they are shareholders, as will assist them in arriving at an informed decision as to whether their best interests lie in the acceptance or rejection of the offer. The basic purpose of the provisions is not to prohibit take-overs but to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that each offeree will have

relevant information at his disposal before he is called upon to make a final decision. These new provisions may be regarded as being parallel to the requirements of the Act with respect to the issue of a prospectus when shares are offered to the public for purchase or subscription. As a further general comment I may say that under the laws relating to companies there are various other remedies available to any shareholders who may feel that they have cause to be dissatisfied with the conduct of the affairs of their company."

FISHERIES BASE IN GULF OF CARPENTARIA

Mr. DAVIES (Maryborough), for **Mr. TUCKER** (Townsville North), asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

"(1) Has he seen the statement by the Minister for Primary Industry, Mr. Adermann, as recorded in the Parliamentary Debates of the House of Representatives of Tuesday, October 2, 1962, that he would be prepared to examine sympathetically any proposals which would assist the development of our fisheries in the areas of North Queensland?"

"(2) In view of this assurance and the fact that the Treasurer has previously stated to me that the scheme would be too big for Fish Board finances, would he be prepared to submit a proposal to the Minister for the establishment of a base by the Queensland Fish Board in the Gulf of Carpentaria?"

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

"(1) Yes."

"(2) There have been discussions towards a survey of the prawn and fish resources of the Gulf of Carpentaria. My officers are engaged in preparing a detailed submission to the Commonwealth Government towards this end. Until the result of the survey is known it would be foolish to consider setting up a base."

HARBOUR MASTER, WEIPA

Mr. DAVIES (Maryborough), for **Mr. TUCKER** (Townsville North), asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

"(1) Has a Harbour Master yet been appointed to the port of Weipa?"

"(2) If so, was he appointed publicly by the Government or privately by the company or companies presently exploiting and exporting the bauxite deposits there?"

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

"(1) The Governor in Council appointed Captain Robert Gordon Sharp as Harbour Master, Shipping Inspector and Shipwright Surveyor at the Port of Weipa

from April 14, 1962. On his resignation Captain Derek Morice Norton was appointed from August 28, 1962."

"(2) The appointments were made under the Queensland Marine Acts and not the Public Service Acts. Salaries and all other expenses arising from the appointments are the direct responsibility of Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty. Limited. No cost falls on the Government."

APPRENTICES AT RAILWAY WORKSHOPS, TOWNSVILLE

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

"How many apprentices have been or are to be indentured to the various trades in the Railway Workshops, Townsville, in this financial year?"

Hon. H. W. NOBLE (Yeronga—Minister for Health and Home Affairs), for **Hon. G. W. W. CHALK** (Lockyer), replied—

"One blacksmith; three electrical fitters."

CIRCUIT COURT AT MT. ISA

Mr. DAVIES (Maryborough), for **Mr. INCH** (Burke), asked the Minister for Justice—

"As I understand that the dates and venues of Circuit and Supreme Court Sittings for 1963 will be allocated in the near future and as early advice of the Government's intentions would be appreciated by interested parties, can he now inform me of the results of an investigation that was to be instituted relative to the establishment of a Circuit Court at Mount Isa?"

Hon. A. W. MUNRO (Toowong) replied—

"The question of the establishment of a Circuit Court at Mount Isa was last considered in October, 1960, when it was decided, after reference to the then Northern Judge, that the establishment of a District Court at Mount Isa would meet the position. A District Court was established at Mount Isa and became operative from January 1, 1961. The claims of Mount Isa to be a Circuit Court centre are presently under consideration. The newly appointed Northern Judge has only recently taken up his appointment at Townsville and when he has had the opportunity of visiting the present Circuit Court centres I will seek his views so that a decision may be made in this matter."

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING AT BLOOMFIELD RIVER

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

“(1) Although it is understood that the building adjacent to the sawmill at Bloomfield is being used as a school only temporarily, is he aware that the existing building is rapidly deteriorating and actually disintegrating?”

“(2) Is he aware that in the past weeks six children have been hurt because of going through the floor or falling through the broken steps?”

“(3) Will he take steps to have the building inspected immediately for the purpose of carrying out such urgent repairs as are necessary to render the building safe for use by the children?”

“(4) Will he give the building of the promised new school a high priority?”

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

“(1) The Department appreciates the need for a new building to replace the Provisional School at Bloomfield River.”

“(2) The District Inspector of Schools recently inspected the school and furnished a report on the condition of the local building which is being used for school purposes.”

“(3) As the Provisional School building is not the property of the Department, public funds cannot be expended in maintaining it.”

“(4) The preparation of plans for the new school building will be expedited. When an estimate of cost is available, the project will receive consideration in relation to funds available for works of this nature.”

STAFF STRENGTH, CAIRNS RAILWAY WORKSHOPS

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

“(1) Is he aware that statements have been made in the Press and over the radio in recent times that the Railway Workshops in Cairns are under-staffed?”

“(2) Are these statements correct and if so, will he take steps to bring the working strength at the workshops up to normal standards?”

Hon. H. W. NOBLE (Yeronga—Minister for Health and Home Affairs), for **Hon. G. W. W. CHALK** (Lockyer), replied—

“(1 and 2) I am not aware of the statements referred to. As I publicly stated in Cairns recently, the Railway Department has no option but to acknowledge the effect of changing trends on certain

of its activities. As in the instance of workshops generally throughout the State the progressive introduction of dieselised services must have a bearing on the activities of the Cairns Workshops. It was necessary during 1961, for the purpose of keeping employees fully occupied, to transfer a number of steam locomotives from the Townsville Division to Cairns for repairs, but as more diesel-electric locomotives have become available, the number of steam units in the Townsville Division has been gradually reduced, and the transfer of locomotives to Cairns cannot, therefore, be continued indefinitely. Under the re-arrangement contemplated, Cairns would be continued as—A depot for medium and light repairs of wagons; A servicing and running centre for the maintenance of rail motors; A service centre for diesel-electric locomotives and the ‘Sunlander’ air-conditioned train; A repairing centre of mechanical equipment for the Maintenance Branch and gang cars; and the maintenance of workshop plant and equipment. Any changes will be effected on a gradual basis and the aim of the Government will be to have the transition negotiated with a minimum of disturbance.”

SALE OF CROWN LAND AT BRIBIE ISLAND

Mr. MELLOY (Nudgee) asked the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation—

“Have any recent sales of Crown land at Bribie Island been made? If so, what sales were made and to whom?”

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

“There have been no sales of Crown land on Bribie Island since July, 1960. The only dealing with Crown land in recent times involved the issue of a special grant of about five perches on the west coast of the island to Henry W. T. Hart, Donald I. Iverach and Thelma E. J. Iverach for a boatshed and workshops.”

REVENUE FROM TRAFFIC FINES FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Mr. DEAN (Sandgate) asked the Premier—

“In view of the Press statement made by the Brisbane Ambulance Superintendent, Mr. T. Beech, in ‘The Courier-Mail’ of October 10 that Queensland roads could be a factor contributing to the State’s mounting fatal road toll and the Press statement that traffic fines in Brisbane are being imposed at the rate of £500,000 a year, will he give consideration to allocating all traffic fines collected from the Greater Brisbane Area to the Brisbane City Council for the purpose of adequate road construction?”

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

"Traffic fines in Brisbane represent only a fraction of the figure quoted by the Honourable Member. Reference to the estimates of probable ways and means for the year 1962-1963 already presented to the House will show that the total anticipated receipts to Consolidated Revenue are expected to be £350,000. This figure includes fines and forfeitures for many offences other than those related to traffic. Collections under this budget heading for the first three months of the current financial year, total £67,429."

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Regulation under the Hospitals Acts, 1936 to 1962.

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

MONEY LENDERS ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

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

"That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of the desirableness of introducing a Bill to amend the Money Lenders Acts, 1916 to 1959, in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS NAMES BILL

INITIATION

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

"That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of the desirableness of introducing a Bill to make provision with respect to the registration and use of business names, and for other purposes."

Motion agreed to.

SUPPLY

COMMITTEE—FINANCIAL STATEMENT— RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

(The Chairman of Committees, Mr. Taylor, Clayfield, in the chair.)

Debate resumed from 9 October (see p. 669) on Mr. Hiley's motion—

"That there be granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1962-1963, a sum not exceeding £1,594 to defray the salary of Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Governor."

The CHAIRMAN: On Tuesday last the hon. member for Bulimba expressed a desire to refer to a particular item in the Estimates of the Premier and Chief Secretary's Department, and I ruled that a discussion on the Estimates could not continue during the debate on the Financial Statement. That ruling was based on a precedent in October, 1944, when the then Chairman of Committees quoted as his authority page 526 of the Thirteenth Edition of "May's Parliamentary Practice". However, the Treasurer sought my indulgence to allow the fullest possible discussion on financial matters. I now point out that in the continuation of this debate the fullest possible discussion may continue. However, I ask hon. members not to refer to any particular item of a department's Estimates.

Mr. LLOYD: I rise to a point of order. I should say that in 1944 the Committee of Supply could take it for granted that all Estimates would come up for discussion. (Government laughter.)

The point I am making is that at that time the Chairman of Committees would have no knowledge of the actual Estimates that were coming up for discussion. In these days, of course, we know what Estimates will not be discussed. Therefore, would it be possible to crave your indulgence on those that will not be discussed?

The CHAIRMAN: I regret that that will not be possible.

Hon. A. W. MUNRO (Toowong—Minister for Justice) (11.24 a.m.): On 27 September we had the privilege of hearing the Treasurer introduce his Budget for the year 1962-1963, and on Tuesday last we heard the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in reply. In making my contribution to the debate I propose to do three things. In the first place, I will examine some of the views put forward by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition so as to determine whether or not his criticisms are justified. Secondly, I will make some comparison between our Queensland Budget and that of our neighbouring State of New South Wales.

Mr. Aikens: Do you intend to make some comparison on unemployment, too?

Mr. MUNRO: Yes, I will do that.

Thirdly, I will devote some time to the affairs of my own department and, within that very limited sphere, tell something of the achievements of our Country Party-Liberal Government, and of our plans for the future.

In referring to the remarks of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I should like to make it clear that I do not propose to try to make a full reply at this stage. That, of course, will be primarily a matter for the Treasurer when he is replying at the close of the debate. However, I do propose to reply to some of the important views advanced by him because I think it is essential that they should be rebutted before any considerable time elapses.

The main theme of the opening remarks of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was that he thought we should call this Budget a "ballot-box Budget". He then said that he thought there were two reasons for that. In reply to his main theme, if by reference to a "ballot-box Budget" his intention is to convey that the Budget is an election-winner, I cordially agree with him. But I think we should ask ourselves why. My reason for regarding the Budget as an election-winner is primarily that it is a record of achievement. It shows that after five years in office the sound policies of this Government are beginning to show results and are beginning to pay dividends for Queensland and for the people of this State. I will make that clear as I continue. I am grateful to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for bringing to the notice of hon. members that this Budget may truly be regarded as an election-winner, although that is not its purpose. However, that may very well be the result.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition then gave two reasons for his statement. He said firstly that we had secured additional financial assistance from the Commonwealth Government. On behalf of the Queensland Government, I again plead guilty. We sat in Opposition for many years and watched the vain and unsuccessful attempts of preceding Labour Governments to obtain the necessary financial assistance for this State. We saw them fail year after year. We also saw the result of that failure, namely, the retarding of the development of this State. This Government has succeeded in obtaining substantial financial assistance from the Commonwealth Government, and is chided by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition gave as his second reason that we had conserved for expenditure this year a large portion of the sum of £3,340,000 that we had received last year. I propose to leave it to the Treasurer to reply on details of that figure, because I think he will be able to deal with them very much more effectively than I. I point out, however, that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition did not produce any figures to prove his case. Again, I am rather disappointed that he did not, because my view is that the financial problems of Government are very much like the financial problems of individuals, and if the Deputy Leader of the Opposition had succeeded in establishing that not only did we have these very satisfactory achievements to our credit but in addition we had some considerable sums tucked away in a savings bank account that we had not disclosed, I would be inclined to say that it would make us feel very happy that we had those additional resources to use for the future benefit of the State.

Dealing with the remarks generally—and I want to deal with the matter now from a

non-political angle—I think there were evidences of rather fallacious thinking on the part of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition when he would regard it as something in the nature of an offence or something that is wrong if we had put something away for a rainy day. Although, on the basis of the figure I have seen, I think his charge on this particular amount of approximately £3½ million is not sustained, I would say that in some respects we have made provision for the future. We do not conduct the financial affairs of the State on the basis of what would be the attitude of a drunken sailor. Of course we make provision for the future! Our financial policies are not limited to a consideration of the needs of any one financial year, and most particularly they are not based on a consideration of the immediately present part of a year.

Mr. Lloyd: I would not object to what you are saying if the whole of the special grant for the relief of unemployment had been used during the period for which it was intended.

Mr. MUNRO: The whole of that special grant was used during that particular period. Nevertheless, I suggest that, quite properly, this Government does not think of financial matters only in terms of month-to-month requirements. We think in terms of the requirements during the period of the year—that is, January, February, and March—that is a slack period for employment, and we think in terms of wise policy which will strengthen the economy of the State in the future. I would say that in that sense we think in terms of decades.

Mr. Hanlon: You think it is all right to leave somebody unemployed for six months now so that somebody else will not be unemployed in six months' time? Is that your logic?

Mr. MUNRO: I am very grateful, again, to the hon. member for Baroona for bringing under my notice this question of unemployment, because I think the Deputy Leader of the Opposition made some reference to it, too. As a matter of fact, he said that over the period of 12 months we had an alarming increase in unemployment.

Mr. Lloyd: That is correct—last financial year.

Mr. MUNRO: All right. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition confirms that; he says it is correct. I will give the Committee some figures.

Mr. Graham: Prepared by Mr. Morris?

Mr. MUNRO: No. I will quote them from a public document that is available in the Parliamentary Library to every hon. member. He should have read it. I am quoting from the Queensland Statistics Monthly Summary, Issue No. 21 of September, 1962, which is issued by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Queensland Office.

Turning to page 22, we find tabulated the number of persons receiving unemployment benefit in the State of Queensland. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition referred to an alarming increase in unemployment. To test that statement, let us take the monthly figures for the year 1962, as far as they are available in this latest publication. The amazing thing is that there have been consistently, for eight consecutive months, decreases in the unemployment figures. Starting with January, 1962, I shall quote the figures.

Mr. Lloyd: What about the previous year?

Mr. MUNRO: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition referred to the last 12 months. I shall start with 1962.

It starts at a peak, because I have mentioned that January, February, and March are normally periods of peak unemployment. These are the figures in 1962—

January	..	..	15,262
February	..	..	13,793
March	..	..	12,142
April	..	..	11,286
May	..	..	9,126
June	..	..	7,432
July	..	..	6,605
August	..	..	5,925

Those figures show a reasonably satisfactory improvement in the position.

Mr. Lloyd: Take the previous year, 1961.

Mr. MUNRO: Very well. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition does not like those figures and he asks me to take the figures for the preceding year and make comparisons. That is an eminently fair suggestion. Fortunately some of the figures for that year are included in this same publication, so that I have them in my hand. Having regard to the fact that the position varies at different times of the year, I shall be scrupulously fair and compare a few months with the corresponding months in the other year. On that basis, we find that the figure in June, 1961, was 9,632.

Mr. Lloyd: Go back to January, 1961.

Mr. MUNRO: This is the first figure in the publication. I am complying with the request of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. In June, 1961, the figure was 9,632, and in June, 1962, it was 7,432, showing an improvement in 1962. In July, 1961, the figure was 7,781, and in July, 1962, it was 6,605, again an improvement at the latter date. The figure in August, 1961, was 7,312, compared with 5,925 in August, 1962. If we continue the comparison month by month between 1962 and 1961, using the latest monthly figures available, we find precisely the same thing—an improvement in 1962. Yet we have the alarmist statement by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that over the period of 12 months there has been an alarming increase in unemployment!

Mr. Hanlon: What is your estimate of the figures for next January and February?

Mr. MUNRO: I will give an estimate. I will not give figures, but I will make a general prediction. I make general predictions only when I am fairly sure of my ground, and my general prediction is that unless something completely unexpected happens, such as a very severe drought or something of that kind, the month-by-month figures for 1963 will be better than those for 1962. That prediction will appear in "Hansard," so hon. members can check up 12 months hence and see how it works out.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition then proceeded to tell us a somewhat doleful story of the likely effects of the entry of Great Britain into the European Common Market.

Mr. Lloyd: I did not say it was doleful.

Mr. MUNRO: I think that was the substance of it. I point out to hon. members that two factors are causing uncertainty in the business outlook in Queensland. I think it is true to say that there is a certain lack of confidence in the business community, particularly in our primary industries, because of uncertainty about what the future may hold. However, there is one very much more important consideration that is causing a certain amount of apprehension in the minds of the business people of Queensland and which, in my view, is militating against the full measure of economic recovery that is so important to us. It is the fear that after the election of 1963 we may again have a left-wing Labour Government in Queensland. I will expand on that.

Mr. Lloyd: I point out that, in reading through my "Hansard" proof, I noticed that whereas I was referring to secondary industries the words "primary industries" appeared. I remind the Minister that I asked secondary industry to improve its own business management.

Mr. MUNRO: I agree with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that there is perhaps scope for improvement in management techniques and that secondary industry may be able to do more for the State than it is doing at present. Let us be clear about it. I know what is in the minds of the business men of Queensland. If there is one thing more than another that is retarding the return of full confidence to the people of Queensland it is the fear that after the election in 1963 we may have in power not only a Labour Government but a left-wing Labour Government that will return to the outmoded policies of rigid and artificial price-control and rigid and artificial rent-control, which will, as they have in the past, drive capital away from the State, discourage business enterprise, and discourage people who might be thinking of investing their capital in Queensland.

I do not want to take up too much time with the speech of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, but he summed up by saying that the overall picture showed an increase in most of the Trust and Special Funds. That is true enough. Again I agree with him completely. In a time of expanding prosperity, when we are getting past transient difficulties, of course there is an overall increase in our Trust and Special Funds. That is only one of the things that are an indication of the prosperity that is returning to our State. And is it not a good thing?

Mr. Hanlon: Slow handclaps from the unemployed!

Mr. MUNRO: I dealt with the question of unemployment.

If I were to give hon. members the story of this Government, very shortly, I would be quite frank, and I would concede that in our first four years of office we had deficits year by year. That was due to a combination of factors. Tremendous problems were bequeathed to us by the previous Government. In overcoming those problems we were harassed by constitutional problems relating to transport. We also suffered bad seasons for four years. The position now is different. Our long-term policies are beginning to have effect and the seasonal outlook at present is very much better than it has been.

Another matter is that for the first time in Queensland since the second world war the £1 is holding its value. We have achieved something very close to financial stability. Is that not good? Is that not a record achievement of which to be proud?

I do not wish to take up any further time referring to anything that has been said on the other side of the Chamber, but will proceed with what I indicated would be the second part of my speech and make some comparison with our neighbouring State of New South Wales. This year we were perhaps somewhat fortunate, from the point of view of that comparison, that the Budget of our neighbouring, Labour-controlled State of New South Wales was introduced just one day earlier than ours. To illustrate my remarks, I propose to use some of the New South Wales Budget proposals as a comparison.

In both New South Wales and Queensland the Treasurers have budgeted for a small surplus. I think I mentioned earlier that, in Queensland, the budgeting for a small surplus follows an actual surplus for the preceding year. In New South Wales, however, taxation increases will total more than £3,000,000 a year. Poker machines, which are permitted in New South Wales, are to be taxed on net turnover in addition to the present charges.

Mr. Hanlon: You do not agree with that?

Mr. MUNRO: I do not agree with having poker machines at all.

Mr. Hanlon: Then why are you talking about the increased tax on them?

Mr. MUNRO: If I were Minister for Justice in New South Wales I would be completely ashamed of the position that has been allowed to develop.

Driving licences in New South Wales are to cost £2 a year instead of £1. The New South Wales stamp duty on cheques is to rise from 3d. to 4d. In New South Wales there is to be an increase of 10s. in the cost of registering a new motor vehicle or transferring the registration of a used vehicle. New South Wales stamp duties on conveyances and leases are also to be increased.

Now let me make the comparison. In Queensland there are no new taxes and no increases in the existing rates of tax. It is true that some of the taxes might produce additional revenue, but there are no new taxes and no increases in existing tax rates. Careful management of the State's resources has made it possible not only to predict a record revenue from existing sources but also to give several important concessions and benefits.

In contradistinction to the New South Wales Budget, which highlights tax increases, the main revenue concessions of our Queensland Budget are—

Concessions in land tax;

A new principle of land-tax exemption for dwelling areas up to 48 perches;

Reduction in tax on most betting tickets;

Concessions in stamp and succession duties;

Improved workers' compensation benefits.

Even after allowing for these concessions and benefits we have balanced our Budget, and we are still able to provide for record expenditures both from Revenue and Loan Funds. This record expenditure covers many items which will make an outstanding contribution to the development of our State.

Surely, then, our Queensland Budget must be accepted as being a good one from any viewpoint, and one which should go a long way towards restoring full and complete confidence in the future of our State.

Apart from the financial aspects, the Treasurer's Budget speech is very largely in the nature of a record of achievement. In broad outline it covers the affairs of all Ministerial departments. To supplement the Treasurer's comments I feel that I cannot do better than take the affairs of my own department and mention some of the achievements that may be regarded as important, even though not in a financial sense.

As will be noted from page 32 of the Estimates of Expenditure of the Government of Queensland for the year ended 30 June, 1963, the Department of Justice is classified for financial purposes as a Chief

Office with ten separate sub-departments. In this connection it may be appropriate also for me to refer to my remarks when introducing the Department of Justice Bill on 24 September, 1957, when I pointed out that this particular Ministry contained more political "hot potatoes" than any other.

The ramifications of the department are very extensive and I feel that it will be appropriate on this occasion if I give a brief review of the main activities of each of the 11 sections during the term of office of the present Government.

Under the heading of "Chief Office," the main feature of the administration of the Department of Justice since the Government's assumption of office has been its extensive programme of legislation covering law reform over a wide and varied field. Many of these new enactments are of a legal and technical nature, not suitable for brief summarisation, but nevertheless of considerable value in the progressive modernisation of the laws of our State.

In the legislative field there has been an innovation in the establishment of machinery for regular conferences of Attorneys-General with a view to improvement in State laws generally and, in particular, the attaining of a greater measure of uniformity in those State laws which should have a reasonably consistent application throughout Australia.

Notable progress has already been made in the fields of hire purchase and company law, while other matters at present being examined include interstate enforcement of fines, service and execution of process, money-lenders, and maintenance.

The Attorneys-General of the Commonwealth and the States are also making an exhaustive examination of the problem of restrictive trade practices with a view to the introduction of complementary Commonwealth and State legislation to control any restrictive trade practices that are found to be contrary to the public interest.

Another important achievement in legal matters is that during 1962 legislative sanction has been given and arrangements made for a consolidation and reprint of the Queensland Statutes as at 2 July, 1962. The editorial work has been commenced and it is expected that the first volume of the Statutes will be published in the early part of 1963, with one volume every three months thereafter until completion.

Let us next consider the important section dealing with our courts of petty sessions. This represents a sub-department which carries out services that, although not at any time spectacular, are basic to the maintenance of law and order throughout the State. I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the devoted service given to the administration of justice by the magistrates, clerks of petty sessions, and staff in the various far-flung areas of the State.

On the subject of price control, the present Government since assuming office has actively pursued its policy of orderly and progressive relaxation of Government price control. Its action in relaxing the former rigid governmental price control, which was a legacy of war-time conditions, has had the effect of bringing the Queensland economy more into line with that of other Australian States and has had a beneficial effect on the expansion of business enterprise and the attraction of new industries to Queensland. I repeat that this has happened despite the handicap from the fear that some business people have in their minds of the harmful consequences which may follow if at any time in the near future a left-wing Labour Government is elected to power in this State. The Government has succeeded in bringing back to Queensland healthy competitive trading conditions without any undue increase in living costs. I might mention in passing that in some respects the Prices Office is not suitable for administration by the Department of Justice. Prices are an economic, rather than a legal, problem and any questions relating to prices must be closely associated with the types of problem that come within the administration of the Department of Labour and Industry.

As a matter of fact, the administration of price control was formerly associated with the Department of Labour and Industry. That is a natural association because if we are to get the best results from industry, and have prices that are fair and economic from every point of view, they must flow from positive steps which can be best taken by a department dealing with the whole problem of industry. It certainly cannot be achieved by a completely negative approach of artificial control imposed by a legal department. It follows from this, therefore, that the return to the Department of Labour and Industry of the administration of matters connected with commodity prices should be considered.

I might mention that I discussed this matter with the Premier some little time ago. The implementation of this transfer, and some other changes which might be made in our administrative arrangements, has been delayed mainly because, unfortunately, some of our Ministers are suffering from illness.

The move that I have outlined would conform with the general policies of our Government, which broadly are to the effect that free and healthy business competition is the best controller of prices and that the most effective way to bring about an abundance of goods at reasonable prices is to stimulate industry and encourage healthy business competition.

Dealing with the problem of our electoral laws, the present Government has, by legislative amendment, made extensive alterations to the Elections Act. Some of these amendments have been of considerable importance, whilst others have had the effect

of either clarifying the law or improving the administrative procedures in the conduct of elections. One of the more important alterations has been the removal of the provision requiring the numbering of ballot papers. The Government decided to introduce legislation to discontinue the numbering of ballot papers because the practice of noting the numbers against names of voters had, over the years, caused considerable apprehension in the minds of electors. With the discontinuance of the numbering of ballot papers, other safeguards have been introduced to ensure that all ballot papers are authenticated and accounted for in a proper way. It is considered that the amendments of the Elections Act have made a material improvement in the law and have provided important safeguards for the fair and proper conduct of elections.

On the subject of rents, the present Government by progressive legislative enactments has relaxed the harsh and unjust provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Act which were in operation when it first came into office. The reforms generally have been aimed at restoring a measure of justice to sections of the community that had been harshly treated through the continuation of the rigid controls that originally had been designed to meet a passing problem of wartime and immediate post-war conditions. The prolongation of these rigid controls had discouraged the building of flats and houses by private enterprise, and this in turn had contributed in no small degree to the acute shortage of housing that we were faced with when we took office in 1957. The relaxation of the controls has encouraged the building of houses and flats by private enterprise and has represented an important phase in the Government's plans for the solution of the housing and rental problem.

I turn now to liquor laws and the Licensing Commission. The matter of liquor reform, because of its politically controversial nature, was one of the matters that previous administrations for many years past had found it convenient to overlook. The present Government, feeling that there was a real need for a substantial measure of law reform and in the development of respect for law, faced up to the problem and undertook an extensive review of the Liquor Act.

In giving consideration to this difficult matter the Government was guided by five basic principles, which may be stated shortly as—

- (i) The basic principle of the establishment and maintenance of respect for law.
- (ii) The democratic principle of freedom of the responsible individual, commensurate with an adequate degree of responsibility of the individual to the community.
- (iii) The medical principle of the comparative advantage of the partaking of food with liquor.

(iv) The moral principle of the protection and the safeguarding of our young people; and

(v) The social principle of educational and health measures to discourage intemperance and to prevent and cure alcoholism.

The Government is confident that the new measures, combined with improved administration and more effective enforcement of the law, have achieved a fair balance between the principles of freedom of the responsible individual and responsibility of the individual to the community as a whole.

Dealing now with prisons, the Prisons Act of 1958, which was introduced by the present Government, repealed the previous

Mr. Thackeray: Have you done anything yet about the bird-cages at Boggo Road?

Mr. MUNRO: I pause because I am tempted to make a personal remark referring to the hon. member and his reference to bird-cages, but perhaps, on reflection, it would be wiser, or kinder, if I did not. However, I shall take his remark seriously. Does the hon. member not realise that persons sent to prison are sent there for punishment? Does he not realise that, whilst among them there are young men who perhaps are merely unfortunate and whom we are endeavouring to rehabilitate and turn into decent citizens, there are also scoundrels and criminals, men who are dangerous to not only the warders but the other prisoners, too?

Mr. Thackeray: You cannot tell me anything about that.

Mr. MUNRO: If that is so, does the hon. member object to our having special security arrangements to deal with the more dangerous types?

Mr. Thackeray: Do you still agree that they should be kept like animals in cages?

Mr. MUNRO: They are not kept like animals in cages. If the hon. member is so dull as to persist with this matter, I shall have a little more to say. If I am able to judge his knowledge of the subject from the type of interjection that he is making, I would say that he has no knowledge of the problems of prisons and the difficulties that arise for those who are responsible for the administration of justice and the custody of the criminal element of the community. If he had, he would not make such interjections.

When that unseemly interjection was made, I was about to say that the present Prisons Act repealed the previous outmoded prison legislation and introduced a more enlightened approach to prison administration and the rehabilitation of prisoners. Although prison administration and practice had changed in major respects since 1890, when the repealed legislation was first enacted, until 1958, there had been no corresponding modernisation of the Queensland law.

The Prisons Act of 1958 modernised the law and provided a legal basis for new procedures and changes in practice which were in course of development over the years.

Mr. Tooth: You said that there had been a considerable lag in attention to this problem.

Mr. MUNRO: Yes. There had regrettably been a very considerable lag in attention to this problem for a long time prior to this Government's coming into office. That lag applied not only to these particular matters but also to shortage of accommodation in prisons, which caused major problems for this Government from the first day of taking over in 1957. The Prisons Act of 1958 provided better facilities for the segregation and rehabilitation of prisoners, and emphasised the necessity of segregating youthful prisoners from hardened criminals. "Hard labour" is now defined in modern terms that are more acceptable to twentieth-century thought. In making these changes the Government's approach has been on a more modern and enlightened basis, recognising that every reasonable opportunity of rehabilitation should be afforded to the unfortunate people in our gaols.

The Government has pressed forward with plans to relieve the overcrowding of prisons—a heritage from its predecessors. The establishment of the medium-security section at Her Majesty's Prison, Wacol, has been proceeded with, and it is expected that the permanent structures to house 240 prisoners will be in use at an early date.

Whilst I am happy with the progress that has been made in prisons administration during the last five years, I still think that there is much more to be done. In the light of twentieth-century thinking, prisons must be regarded not so much as places for punishment but as places for reform and rehabilitation. I believe that at some appropriate time it may be found advisable to place prisons administration under the same general ministerial control as that of hospitals and psychiatric institutions.

I should like to mention now the office of the Public Curator. That office has been carried on most efficiently, and it may be mentioned in passing that the scope and extent of its work is not in any way reflected by the small item of £19,000 shown in the Estimates of the Department of Justice. This represents only the amount approved from the Consolidated Revenue Fund as a provision for fees for legal aid to poor accused and other persons. The office of the Public Curator shows a profit in each year, and the required expenditure, which for the year 1962-1963 will be just slightly less than £500,000, is provided from Trust and Special Funds.

The office of the Registrar-General is another office that does not lend itself to any spectacular achievement, but it is one where service to, and in the interests of,

the public is carried on accurately and efficiently. During the past year additional work has arisen from the new Commonwealth laws relating to marriage and divorce. Certain complementary State legislation arising from these new Commonwealth laws is at present under consideration.

Then we have very extensive activity in the Supreme and District Courts, and in the probation system. In recent years there have been world-wide increases in litigation, thus tending to cause congestion in the courts and in some cases delays in hearings. In Queensland, effective action has been taken to meet these new conditions by establishing a new system of District Courts, with additional judges and additional court-room accommodation. The new District Courts were established by the passing of the District Courts Act of 1958, which came into operation in April, 1959. Six District Court judges have been appointed and they are all doing very good work in the interests of the State.

The establishment of District Courts has facilitated the administration of justice in the localities where it is required, effectively, more expeditiously, and without any unnecessary cost. Their establishment has assisted in de-centralising litigation, and has helped materially in reducing the delays in court hearings. Delays, particularly in civil hearings, are now much less than they were a few years ago, and certainly much less than they were at the time when the present Government assumed office.

The Offenders' Probation and Parole Act of 1959, which was introduced by the present Government, provided the legal machinery for the establishment of a probation system in this State, and for a re-organisation of the Prisoners' Parole Board to bring its function more into conformity with the new probation system.

When the present Government came into office, Queensland lagged behind the other States of Australia in the matter of penal reform. However, recognising that persons who offend against society continue to be members of society and that every endeavour must be made to provide means of making them live useful and happy lives, this Government introduced the Offenders' Probation and Parole Act of 1959. This Act, in conjunction with the new Prisons Act, has placed penal legislation in this State on a much more satisfactory basis than previously. Parole offers an opportunity to an offender not covered by the probation provisions to demonstrate to society that he can conform to its rules of normal conduct. It is a limited form of freedom that is subject to the supervision of parole officers, and may be regarded as a stepping-stone to full rehabilitation in civilian life. I look forward to considerable community benefits from our new system of probation and parole as it is further developed.

The Titles Office, which carries out important services to the commercial and business community, has greatly improved in efficiency and performance during our term of office. Hon. members will, no doubt, remember the very great delays that occurred during the terms of our predecessors and in the early days of this Government in the registration of plans and transfers, etc., and in the issue of new certificates of title.

A close watch has been kept on this position and I am happy to be able to report that the remedies that were applied have been effective so that any delays which may occur at the present time are not extensive and are very much less than those which were completely commonplace at the time of this Government's taking office.

Dealing with the general question of Commonwealth financial assistance, I might say that, in expressing our pleasure at the introduction of the 1962-1963 Budget, which is without any doubt the most satisfactory one that the present Government has been able to introduce, we do not claim that every improvement shown in it is the result of action taken by our own Government. Our financial difficulties in earlier years were very largely due to adverse seasonal conditions and other matters that were outside our control. On the other hand, in the introduction of our 1962-1963 Budget we are fortunate in that the seasonal outlook this year is better than it recently has been, while the economic tide, which in some years flowed against us, has now commenced to flow our way.

Added to this, the Commonwealth Government has been most understanding in its consideration of the need for development of Northern Australia and, as a result, in the last two financial years we have been able to obtain much more financial assistance from the Commonwealth than on previous occasions. It is largely because of these factors that the Government has been able to determine its Budget against a somewhat easier background and to give concessions and benefits in certain directions, while at the same time increasing expenditure on developmental and other measures in the interests of the people of our State.

If I may conclude with a general note, it must be that, if the achievements of the Government generally can be even broadly in line with those of the Department of Justice, then we can view our governmental record with satisfaction. I believe that this is the case and I am sure that any one of our 11 Ministers could come into this Chamber and give to the Committee a similar very satisfactory story of the achievements of his particular department. Time, of course, will not permit of my commenting on the activities or plans for the future of the other ministerial departments.

Finally, I feel that hon. members generally will agree with me when I express to the Premier and the Treasurer our congratulations on the submission of this 1962-1963

Budget, which I feel we might all regard as an important milestone in the progress of the development of our State and the prosperity of our people.

Mr. HANLON (Baroona) (12.21 p.m.): Whatever might be said about the new Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party and Deputy Premier of this State, we could hardly term him the "Reluctant Debutante". Looking at him now that he has finished his speech we can recall that in the short time since he was elected Parliamentary Leader of the Liberal Party his party has made two attempts to launch him from the slips. The first occasion was on television recently. Of course, that turned out a bit of a "boo-boo" because, although the champagne bottle was broken across him, he did not get out into the water. Apparently he decided to have another try. I do not know whether he decided, or whether the party decided for him, but he rushed in this morning, pushed the Treasurer aside, saying, "Get out of it," and attempted again to launch himself.

We were very pleased when we heard that the Deputy Premier was to come into the debate because we thought he would have something worth while to say. I can only say that it was unfortunate that that did not turn out to be the case.

Looking over a Budget is akin to looking over a building. It is not just a matter of looking at the paint and the lustre on the outside; rather is it a matter of looking at what is underneath. How are the foundations? Is there any seepage? Are there any white-ants? If it is a new building we tend to say, "How are the craftsmen who constructed it? How is the architect? Have we any confidence in him?" To answer the last question first, I should say that certainly in this instance it has been made abundantly clear in recent weeks that the Liberal Party has no confidence in this architect, namely, the Treasurer. Indeed, we have it on the best of authority from the Liberal Party of the State, through its State President, Mr. A. S. Hulme, that this is a Budget introduced by a Treasurer who, firstly, during his period of office has proved himself a dismal failure. Secondly, according to Mr. Hulme again, his representations on behalf of the State at Loan Council have been inadequate. Thirdly, Mr. Hulme made a most insulting comment that no member of the Liberal Party, either inside or outside Parliament, has taken it upon himself to publicly refute. I for one refute the statement and throw back into the, no doubt, made-in-Melbourne teeth of Mr. Hulme that the Treasurer lacks decency. We do not agree with Mr. Hulme on the last point, even if no member of the Liberal Party, inside or outside, is prepared to dissociate himself from that most insulting remark. I for one do so, and I believe that all other members of the A.L.P. do. Has the Liberal Party dissociated itself from any of those statements? Has the Liberal Party State

Executive made any statement dissociating itself from the remarks of Mr. Hulme about the Treasurer of this State? No!

Has the Parliamentary Liberal Party made any public statement dissociating itself from Mr. Hulme's statement? No, not at all! Has Mr. Munro, as Leader of his Parliamentary party, made any statement dissociating himself from these remarks against his Deputy Leader, a member of his own Parliamentary party? He has made no attempt to defend his Deputy Leader against these most insulting remarks by Mr. Hulme, apart altogether from the remarks that Mr. Hulme made on the financial qualifications of the Treasurer. On the contrary, when the so-called Parliamentary Leader of the Liberal Party was appearing on a television programme, far from defending his Deputy, he could only say that it would have been better if Mr. Hiley and Mr. Hulme had said nothing. Of course it would have been better for the Liberal Party, but what about the Treasurer? Apparently, as far as Mr. Munro is concerned, it is to Hades with Hiley. Of course if they had both kept quiet it would have been much better, but we know they did not keep quiet. Mr. Munro tried to throw cold water on Mr. Hiley's expressed views by claiming that his remarks had been magnified by the Press. I was rather amazed that night when I was watching the television broadcast. The chairman of the panel was trying to do the right thing, for after all it was the launching of the new ship, the S.S. "Munro". The members of the panel did not want to do anything undignified in the first couple of minutes. When Mr. Wakefield, or someone else, tried to ask Mr. Munro one question, Mr. Leonard said, "Now, don't ask anything about that. Forget about it." He was leaning a little to Mr. Munro, at least until he got him into the water. However, when Mr. Munro said, "Perhaps the Press magnified Mr. Hiley's statement", there was a bit of a change. Mr. Leonard was not going to "cop" that, and very quickly the session started to get a little heated.

Mr. Munro: May I ask you one question? I would be interested to know when you are going to drop the personalities and tell us something about the Budget.

Mr. HANLON: The Minister might well ask that question of Mr. Hulme, and according to Mr. Hulme he might well ask Mr. Hiley. I am not in the Liberal Party, answerable to the Minister. Mr. Hulme said that the Treasurer was guilty of personalities when he attacked Sir Roland Wilson, and Mr. Hiley could well say Mr. Hulme was guilty of personalities in replying to him. Do not ask me, as a member of the A.L.P., questions like that. Go and ask Mr. Hiley, or Mr. Hulme, and then come back and ask me and I will give my answer as I go along.

On the television programme, Mr. Munro said that Mr. Hiley's remarks were magnified by the Press. However, apparently the Treasurer does not think so because "Hansard" of Wednesday, 19 September, shows that, in reply to a question by Mr. Lloyd, the Treasurer concluded by more or less repeating what he had said previously, namely—

"As for the very proper subject of public examination—the question of whether our overseas borrowing opportunity would be enlarged by widening the means of access to overseas money markets—I have seen growing evidence that there are untapped sources which could be harnessed."

The Treasurer continued—

"A flood of messages which have reached me over the past few days give powerful and wide-spread support for that contention."

Those are hardly the remarks of one who thinks that his statements to the Young Liberals on the matter of overseas borrowings had been magnified by the Press. He backed up his statements and rightly so, if he believes them. One would have thought that Mr. Munro would at least have defended Mr. Hiley against the insulting claim that he had shown a lack of decency. And where were the Herberts—the gallant man of Sherwood and his merry men from the Young Liberals, who rushed into this Chamber to hold the bridge with Mr. Hooper, the hon. member for Greenslopes?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I must ask the hon. member to refer to hon. members of this Assembly by their proper titles and not by name.

Mr. HANLON: Very well, Mr. Taylor. In view of some of their actions I do not blame them for not wanting to be referred to by name.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member is doing it at my request.

Mr. HANLON: Very good, Mr. Taylor. I am only too happy to comply with your requirements.

But where was the hon. member for Sherwood and where were the Young Liberals on this occasion? As I have pointed out, they rushed to help the hon. member for Greenslopes tip his contemptible little tin onto a Labour Lord Mayor. Those Young Liberals, who using Mr. Herberts' terms on that occasion, did not want to create the impression that the hon. member for Greenslopes was a lone voice in the wilderness, but rushed to paddle in the mud with the hon. member for Greenslopes when it was a case of attacking a Labour personality of this State, apparently had neither the courage nor the decency to wash down their own Deputy Leader when he had been splattered by their own State President.

Mr. SULLIVAN: I rise to a point of order. I have been listening to the hon. member for Baroona for the last 15 minutes and I maintain that nothing he has said has any relevance to the Budget.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The speech of the hon. member for Baroona is just as interesting to the Chairman as it is to the hon. member for Condamine. The hon. member has spoken for 10 minutes and has indulged in a great many personalities, and the Chairman will be as interested as the hon. member for Condamine to hear when he starts on the Financial Statement.

Mr. HANLON: Thank you, Mr. Taylor. We on this side of the Chamber were very interested when, in the Address-in-Reply debate, the hon. member for Sherwood rushed in to initiate some very personal remarks about the Labour Lord Mayor of this city. It is interesting how hon. members opposite apparently can dish it out but do not like to take it. I am surprised that a member of the Country Party should be one to try to protect people who, I know, did not have a great deal of support from the Country Party for the way in which they approached that matter.

I compare the attitude of the Liberal Party in this matter with that of the Australian Labour Party. I refer to the very prompt statement issued by the State Secretary of the party, Mr. Jim Keeffe, of confidence in the Lord Mayor on that occasion, and the ready defence of the Lord Mayor on the same occasion by Mr. Bennett, the hon. member for South Brisbane, in this Chamber. I am not going to be one-sided here. I recall a previous incident when some remarks were made that could be interpreted as reflecting on the Parliamentary Leader of the Labour Party and Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Duggan, and the members of the Parliamentary Labour Party here in general. The Queensland Central Executive did not dispute Mr. Egerton's right to make those remarks when he did. Remember, he was President of the Trades and Labour Council, not President of the Queensland Central Executive of the Labour Party as Mr. Hulme is President of the State Executive of the Liberal Party. But the Q.C.E. by resolution made it clear that Mr. Egerton's remarks on that occasion were his own, and not those of the Labour Party. We have waited a long time and we have not heard from any section of the Liberal Party, in Parliament or outside, any disassociation of the Liberal Party from those insulting remarks passed by Mr. Hulme of the Treasurer. Apparently this is the type of decency we can expect from the Liberal Party. We heard a lot about it in Mr. Nicklin's speech in 1957. Apparently this is the Liberal version of that. I want to say that I disassociate the Country Party here—perhaps I cannot disassociate the hon. member for Condamine in view of his remarks—but I do not think one of the others would have acted in a similar way to

their so-called Liberal colleagues in such circumstances, if such an attack had been levied on any of the Country Party members of this House.

Looking at the Budget, I agree that there is some substantial substance in Mr. Hulme's first two points. The Treasurer has, I believe, proved a dismal failure on more than one occasion. His representation of this State at meetings of the Loan Council has been quite inadequate.

The Treasurer is always telling us, as he has again this year, of record Budgets with concessions here and benefits there. The Deputy Premier, in the speech that he has just concluded, chided the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for having termed this Budget a "ballot-box" Budget. He said that that showed that the Opposition thinks it is a good Budget. The hon. gentleman has misinterpreted the intention of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. He appropriately called it a "ballot-box" Budget because, when a body passes on, the usual practice is to dispose of it, and the ballot-box will be the political coffin of the Government next year. I suggest that this Financial Statement will go down in the records as the death certificate of the present Government.

The Treasurer told us of all the concessions that he is making. The Deputy Premier said, "We are not living in a dreadful State with a Labour Government, like New South Wales, where they put additional taxes on poker machines." What hypocrisy! I asked him if he disagrees with the action of the New South Wales Government in increasing taxation on poker machines. "No, not at all," he said. Indeed, he said that he would not tolerate them here. He apparently prefers booze and betting to poker machines.

Having informed us that we can expect better things from the Liberal Party in this State than what happens in New South Wales where taxation has been increased, he told us about the concessions in the Budget. Let us look at a couple of them. He mentions concessions to race clubs from the T.A.B. To me, it is amusing to regard returning one's own money as a "benefit". This is supposed to benefit all race clubs and the T.A.B. What is the Government going to do? It is going to return something that it has taken out of the pockets of punters and bookmakers by turnover tax, and it calls that a concession. Who could not give concessions of that nature if he wanted to?

This reminds me of the analogy with the vending-machine companies. They inveigled a number of people into investing money by saying, "We guarantee you a 20-per cent. dividend." For a while they went very well, the 20 per cent. being paid out of the money invested, but later people woke up to the fact that they were going to collapse in a heap. The Treasurer's calling a "concession" the returning of something that he has taken by way of turnover tax is

analogous with the position of those companies. He is handing back to these people only what he has taken from them.

I suggest that the race clubs give some thought to what might happen after the next election if this Government is again returned. No mention of turnover tax on racing was made before the last State election. There was no mention of increased licensing fees, Sunday drinking, or off-course betting. We do not know what will happen on these matters if the people are so foolish as to return this Government next year.

Whilst referring to betting taxes and the off-course totalisator, I should like to know since when Mr. Sakzewski has become a member of the Government. Supposedly giving information to the people of the State, on page 20 of the Financial Statement the Treasurer states—

“ . . . provision will be made for the Crown to apply part of the percentage it derives from the Totalisator Administration Board towards meeting the capital cost of providing those facilities. . . ”

That was announced on television by Mr. Sakzewski a couple of months ago. I say that that announcement should properly have come from either the Premier or the Treasurer. The provision of Government funds for that purpose was announced by the chairman of the Totalisator Administration Board as if he was deciding what the Government was going to spend, I know the reason for it. I am not suggesting that Mr. Sakzewski is anything other than a most efficient man to conduct such an enterprise, if it is required by the Government of the day, but the Treasurer has thrown on to the shoulders of the chairman of the T.A.B. the responsibility for all these matters, many of which are the Treasurer's own responsibility, because he wants the Government to have no association with the T.A.B. for fear of offending people who are opposed to the establishment in the metropolitan area, and elsewhere, of a body such as that.

The Treasurer can also be very well compared in this Budget with Mr. Holt and his sorry record in the Federal Parliament, particularly in recent years, in his “on-again off-again” taxation. We all know what a fool everybody thought Mr. Holt was when he imposed an extra tax on motor vehicles and then took it off less than six months later. The Treasurer of Queensland is doing something similar here with the turnover tax. He said first, “We will put it on.” Now he is saying, “We will take it off.” When the Treasurer introduced the Racing and Betting Bill, the Leader of the Opposition and other hon. members on this side of the Chamber asked him, as a matter of logic and fairness, to make the tax on tickets in certain enclosures in the metropolitan area, and in all enclosures outside the metropolitan area, only 1d. However, the Treasurer said, “That is rubbish. It is not logical to do it.

We will not do it.” Now he has changed his mind. He is just as much a “stop-and-go” Treasurer as Mr. Holt ever was.

The cold, hard fact of the matter is that all the ballot-box “bull” in the world cannot disguise the fact that, in 1961, after four years of financial stewardship by the Treasurer, this State was absolutely flat on its back. The Treasurer will blame the credit squeeze; he will blame Sir Roland Wilson; he will blame anybody he thinks he can. But he cannot explain the consequences of his stewardship. In 1961 Queensland was in the most desperate situation it had known since the depression years of 1929 to 1932. It cannot be denied that the unemployment figures alone were higher than they had been in any year since the last war. Where are we today? The Deputy Premier tries to tell us that we are back on the road to success. The best that can be said of the present position is that we have risen only from the disastrous to the dismal. What sort of improvement is it, and to whom should the credit go for the improvement? Certainly not to Mr. Hiley or Mr. Nicklin, but to the common-sense electors of Queensland, who took the advice that we gave them time and time again, inside and outside this Chamber, to give a good, solid kick to the side of the Menzies Government that was turned towards Queensland. It is unnecessary to tell any Queenslander that the only side of the Menzies Government that has ever been turned towards Queensland is the back side. Thanks to the decisive action at the Federal poll last year, we have achieved some results. But what would have happened had we had the decisive leadership from Messrs. Nicklin, Hiley, and Munro that the people of Queensland were entitled to expect after they had taken, on their own initiative, the action suggested by the Australian Labour Party? We would have seen some real results. What did we get? This is the fighting leadership we get from our State leaders in the development of Queensland; this is how they match the fighting spirit of Queenslanders at the Federal poll in December last to get a fair deal for the State.

On page 3 of the Financial Statement, this appears—

“If it is gratifying to be able to report that the correct level of population is now recognised, it is a sobering thought that had the correct level of population been accorded during the intercensal period, this State would not have sustained any deficit during the past three years.”

I should say that there is a considerable amount of bunkum in that. The next sentence shows the great fighting spirit of Messrs. Nicklin, Hiley, and Munro, and this is the point that I want to make. It says—

“As other States, principally Victoria, have gained to the extent of Queensland's loss, there is no prospect of recovering these past losses.”

Imagine Sir Thomas Playford putting that drivell in his Budget if his State had been robbed of millions of pounds due to it from the Commonwealth Government! Imagine Sir Thomas Playford saying that it is a sobering thought but that nothing can be done about it! Of course we could do something about it, if the Premier, the Treasurer and the Government had the guts and drive to make the Menzies Government do something about it. But if we are to say "Thank you, Mr. Menzies. You are a good man, Mr. Menzies. You have done so much for us, Mr. Menzies", of course he will not do anything to get us our entitlement. He has never done anything for this State during the period of this Government because of the timorous attitude of our financial representatives. If we had real leadership in this State now, and had had it during the past five years, we would not have lost £855,000 from Sinking Fund contribution to the Mount Isa railway reconstruction project; we would not have lost the concession that was given to Western Australia in its arrangements for the railway line that is being built there, and in its Kwinana project.

Recently the Treasurer "rubbished" the hon. member for Bulimba because he said—and rightly so—that the Commonwealth Government had not dealt as fairly with Queensland in the Mount Isa agreement as it had with Western Australia in the Kwinana and Kalgoorlie projects. I ask the Treasurer now to compare the terms under which finance has been made available to Queensland for the Mount Isa railway project with those granted to Western Australia. It will be found that for the developmental portion of the Western Australian project 70 per cent. of the money provided by the Commonwealth will be repaid by the State from its Consolidated Revenue over a period of 20 years commencing from the completion of the project, with interest at the long-term bond rate ruling at the time the advances are made. On the other hand, under the financial agreement on the Mount Isa railway reconstruction project two loans are referred to, overseas loans being raised at the time—in 1962—at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum, which is the interest rate that the agreement provides will be charged to Queensland by the Commonwealth on advances under the agreement.

The Treasurer argues that we cannot object to the provision of a direct grant to Western Australia for railway work because of the standardisation factor involved there. We will not argue about that at the moment—it can be argued on another occasion—but we do argue that the loan to Western Australia is regarded by the Commonwealth purely and simply as being developmental and not limited to standardisation, and that there is no reason why the Western Australian agreement should provide that they will pay interest at the long-term bond rate while Queensland is committed to £5 10s. per cent. At that time the long-term bond rate was

5 per cent., and the tendency under present general economic conditions indicates that it will not show any significant increase. It is 5 per cent. now and we are already committed to pay £5 10s. per cent. on the money we received from the Commonwealth purely for developmental purposes.

Leaving aside altogether the standardisation grant to Western Australia, on the balance of their money they pay long-term bond rate. I ask the Treasurer if he has put that aspect to the Menzies Government. If he has, apparently he did not do it effectively. He did not tell the Parliament of Queensland about it so that we could get behind him and let the Menzies Government know where we stand. He did not do the decent thing by Queensland. For that reason I agree with Mr. Hulme's assertion that he was inadequate in his representations.

The 1959 tax formula was hailed by the Premier and the Treasurer as something wonderful. The Premier told of the fighting spirit that overcame all antagonism, yet we have this trait on the part of Messrs. Nicklin and Hiley, and the Government, of saying, "Thank you, Mr. Menzies, thank you, thank you, thank you!" Of course, when they come back for more he tells them to go to hell; I would do the same.

For easy reference let us have a look at Clem Lack's book, "Three Decades of Queensland Political History". I take the opportunity of congratulating Mr. Lack on the very fine work that he has done in this book, with the assistance of the Clerk of Parliament and the other people on the committee who helped in the preparation of the publication. This is the report of what the Premier had to say about that formula when he returned to Queensland after the Premiers' Conference and Loan Council meeting on that particular occasion—

"Broadly, the Queensland Premier (Mr. Nicklin) regarded the Commonwealth decision as a tremendous step and one which might go far to recapture the real spirit of Federation which he felt was fast withering before their eyes.

"The fixing of the scheme for six years was a very sound decision. Queensland had always contended that the States must have adequate revenues as of right and not be dependent upon the will of Commonwealth Governments from time to time as to the amount of money that would be made available. But, Mr. Nicklin said, he had conceded equally that should a broadly satisfactory basis be evolved, then all the States should stick to their bargain and not play the part of Oliver Twist in, say, two years' time."

Now let us have a look at what was received in past years. On page vi. of the Estimates we see that under the heading "Commonwealth Payments to the State", financial assistance in 1961-62 amounted to £43,730,193. Do not forget that under this marvellous formula the Premier considered

that the star of Federation was in the ascendancy. That is what he said at that time. He said that the States, having concluded a satisfactory basis of agreement, should stick to their bargains and not play the part of *Oliver Twist*. Having said that the State should not be dependent upon the will of Commonwealth Governments from time to time as to the amount of money made available, and having come back to Queensland and told us a lot of humbug about that being the position, we find that last year we received by way of Commonwealth financial assistance the sum of £43,730,193, and, as special assistance, £3,340,000. Had we not got that special assistance where would we have been? In any event, for a couple of years we were flat on our backs because of the inadequacy of the representations by this State to the Federal Government.

I am reminded by my Leader that we do not have to listen only to Labour speakers on this matter. Mr. Bolte objected very strongly to that special assistance.

He did not see why Victoria and other States that had managed their affairs wisely and well enough to keep unemployment down should be penalised because of what he termed "mismanagement" by the Queensland Nicklin Government. I was amused the other day to hear the comments of the hon. member for Burdekin. I am not attacking him in his absence because I would say the same if he were in the Chamber. I object to his pontificating on this matter. If we go to "Hansard", Volume 227, we find that on 20 October, 1960, the "Little Sir Echo" of the Government was telling us what a great thing this formula was.

This is what the hon. member for Burdekin had to say at that time—

"My reckoning is that now we have a better system, one that meets the situation, because we are not dependent upon any gratuitous act by the Commonwealth Government."

All I can say in reply to the hon. member is, "Not Pygmalion likely!" He now tells us of the need this year for something else, of the need for the recognition of expenditure by the State that produces a return to the Commonwealth Government. He talked about the Mareeba-Dimbulah scheme, and so on. He spoke as if this idea is something new. Certainly it is new to him. As I have already pointed out, he told us in 1960, just as the Premier and the Treasurer told us, that the new formula met the situation. He "rubbished" the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for saying at that time that we would still need supplementary grants if we were to survive. I might tell the hon. member that the State's right to claim in that way was raised a dozen or so years ago, to my knowledge, and no doubt regularly ever since, at least by Labour Treasurers and Leaders, if not by this Government. I do not mind the hon. member's supporting that claim because it is still as valid today as

ever, but I object to his having played the "Little Sir Echo" to the Government in 1960 and to his having said, "We do not want any extra money; this is enough to meet our needs without any further gratuitous payment from the Commonwealth Government." I object also to his now lecturing those who have been telling him and the Federal Government for 10 years that this is what is needed.

It is a pity that the hon. member did not listen to Labour Governments over the years. He betrayed his ignorance by telling us a lot of nonsense about how the States had voluntarily surrendered to the Commonwealth their rights to levy taxation. I refer him to page 794 of Mr. Clem Lack's book, "Three Decades of Queensland Political History." He will see from that that the Governments of South Australia, Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia challenged the validity of the Commonwealth legislation in the High Court, but that Court upheld the legislation. Later on, in 1957, a second attempt to challenge the legislation was made by Victoria and New South Wales. Yet the hon. member for Burdekin, who sets himself up as the financial adviser to the Parliament tells us that the States voluntarily surrendered their rights. The Labour Party in those days certainly did not give up those rights voluntarily. That is exemplified by the fact that, with other States, they challenged it in the courts of Australia.

A dozen years ago a case was put to the Commonwealth on the financial strain that was placed on the States through immigration compared with the cost to the Commonwealth, which immediately started to collect revenue from the migrants by way of income tax. The States supplied the migrants with hospitals and schooling for their children, and shouldered many other responsibilities in looking after their welfare, yet they did not have an income-earning potential through income tax.

On the first occasion that the Commonwealth used revenue funds for all its capital works, the Labour representatives of this State at Loan Council meetings and Premiers' Conferences claimed for the States the right to share this free money in proportion to their programmes, which would have been a tremendous factor. It will be recalled that at that time the Treasurer of the Commonwealth, Sir Arthur Fadden, thought that the States were so silly that they did not even know the Commonwealth was using revenue funds for all its capital works. As a matter of fact, he actually denied it on that occasion until it was pointed out by the representatives of this State that there was no mention whatever in the loan programme of any Commonwealth works. The Commonwealth was then blushing obliged to admit that on that occasion it was using revenue for all its capital works for the first time. A strong case was put to the Federal Treasurer for allocating that money proportionately between the Commonwealth Government, the State Governments, and the local authorities,

because that money is interest-free and debt-free to the people who use it for their own purposes.

A number of aspects of this Financial Statement do not bear out the glowing terms used by the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer. It is significant that, so far, only two spokesmen from the Government side, namely, the Treasurer and the Deputy Premier, have taken part in this debate. The Deputy Premier told us there was very little to answer in the case advanced so far from this side, but why is it necessary to bring the Deputy Premier into the debate before any other representative of the Country-Liberal Party has made a contribution to it, unless criticism that has been voiced by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and others, requires an answer at this stage at the highest level of the Government party? Despite the propaganda contained in the Treasurer's Financial Statement, this Government has quite a deal to answer for in its conduct of the finances of the State and the unfortunate position in which the State presently finds itself.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has pointed out that some explanation is required for the way the Government has gone about the use of funds provided by the Commonwealth in answer to a case presented that this State had the dishonour of being the one with the highest number of unemployed in Australia. Certainly, representatives of past Labour Governments were not able to use a similar argument to Loan Council meetings and Premiers' Conferences of the day. Whether this Government wishes to take as a tribute to itself the fact that it has been able to do something in that way that Labour Governments could not do, I do not know, but I do not think it is much to its credit.

Mr. Ewan: For years you had a higher rate of unemployment.

Mr. HANLON: That is the sort of silly thing that the hon. member for Roma said in 1953, and the electors of Roma threw him out. I think that is a forerunner of what they are going to do in 1963. I would advise him not to say silly things like that. It only makes the people of Roma realise that they made a second mistake when they returned him in 1957. I am sure they will quickly correct the position.

I challenge the hon. member to point to any year, at least in the post-war period, when a Labour Treasurer or Premier was in a position to go to Canberra and use in support of Queensland's case the fact that we had the worst unemployment position in Australia. We never had that. The fact that this Government was able to do that means very little credit to it, because its record has been so bad.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition referred to the expenditure of this money from the Commonwealth. It would seem that the idea of the Treasurer, in deciding to

allocate from Consolidated Revenue a portion of the subsidies for local bodies, was not to do capital works out of revenue. He brought the subsidy payment across and charged it against revenue and he used portion of the money that he would have been using in the Loan Fund but that would not have been available to him in the Loan Fund for capital works. He used this to spend on some additional capital works. That would seem to be the basis of it. That is all right; we cannot cavil at that. We complain about the Commonwealth Government using its revenue for capital works, so, we cannot complain if the Treasurer avoids doing that here. It will be interesting to see whether, as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has pointed out, the Treasurer can bring along some information and some expansion of the story as told at present. Perhaps he is able to derive from the Budget something that we have not the time or the staff to get from it. Do not forget that the Treasurer has almost limitless staff available to him in his own and other departments. They have been preparing the Budget for months, almost since the previous Budget, I suppose. Every Government does much the same thing. We do not apologise in any way for whatever argument we put forward. It is up to the Treasurer to point out the information if he hopes, as the Deputy Premier did, to try to throw cold water on arguments that have been advanced by the Opposition and to mislead the public further.

Mr. Lloyd: Actually the Treasurer accumulated within those three funds last year more than the amount of accumulated deficit coming out of them.

Mr. HANLON: That would certainly appear to be the case. I was puzzled by the statement of the Deputy Premier that he was going to expose the fallacy of the arguments put forward by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, as, in most cases, he agreed with what he had said. He acknowledged that the Government, at a time of disastrous unemployment, has been conserving funds. There is no argument about that. I do not know whether that was so last year, but certainly this year the Treasurer said openly that he was holding money back till the end of the year.

Mr. Hiley: Until the critical period of employment.

Mr. HANLON: That is right. The Deputy Premier repeated that this morning. He acknowledged the truth of the remark of the hon. member for Kedron about the special assistance last year of £3,300,000-odd. Some of that was held back, too.

I do not intend to go further into that matter. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, if the Treasurer can produce some explanation to our satisfaction, well and good. When he became Treasurer in 1957, he made great play of the fact that he was

going to make these Budget papers much easier to understand. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition pointed out that it is difficult to follow much of the expenditure when we have all this chopping and changing by the Treasurer, something that he always criticised when it was done to a limited extent before he assumed office. It is very difficult for anyone who follows the financial transactions of the State to understand the story here, let alone members of the public who look at it from outside.

I do not see why these figures should not be broken down, particularly those relating to the Mt. Isa railway project. For example, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has quite rightly raised questions on rolling stock and other matters. It is all very well for the Treasurer to tell us that so many millions of pounds have been spent on that project this year, and that about £9,000,000 of it will come from the Mt. Isa funds. Why does he not give more detailed information, particularly as we have not received the annual report of the Auditor-General? It may have happened under Labour Governments in the past, too, and there were always squeals about it from hon. members on the Opposition side, but it seems to me to be the silliest thing in the world to be considering the Financial Statement before seeing the annual report of the Auditor-General. That should be available to hon. members before the Budget is examined. Would anyone, as a shareholder in a company, want to examine figures presented by the directors without having seen the report of the auditors? It seems to me self-evident that we should have that report at least a week or so before we start to discuss the Budget.

I do not blame the Auditor-General. He has a very large amount of work to do and his staff is limited. I am not saying that he is slow. What I do say is that some consideration should be given to postponing discussion on the Budget for a couple of weeks, if necessary, and continuing with legislation, to permit the report of the Auditor-General to be received by Parliament before the Budget is examined. The present position seems ridiculous. The Auditor-General is our auditor; he is the servant of this Parliament, not of the Government. We depend on him quite a lot, and I should like to see provision made for debating the report itself. I think that it should be presented, and that we should examine it, as we do the Budget, and then deal with it in a debate specially devoted to it.

I point out that in previous years the Auditor-General referred to some matters as requiring validating legislation and so on, but this Parliament has taken no notice of that. The Treasurer has ignored him. It does not mean that there was any embezzlement or anything like that, but the Auditor-General was pointing out things that should have been done by the Government. The same thing is

found in his next report, and we do not even examine it. There should be a separate study of it. We know the value of the work of the Auditor-General and his staff and the trouble to which they go in presenting the report. It can be used practically as a Bible for anyone wishing to follow the workings of the State Government of the day and to get some understanding of how the various funds are composed, yet we do not do the Auditor-General the justice of examining it. I put forward the suggestion that we might consider doing that for Parliament, irrespective of which party might be in power. When we have not received the Auditor-General's annual report it is all the more important that expenditure on schemes such as the huge Mt. Isa project should be broken down to enable us to see clearly how the money has been spent. Large sums give little indication of that, and I suggest that we might effect that improvement.

Mr. Lloyd: The Western Australian Government has 53 years in which to repay the money, and the rate of interest is lower than it is on the loan for the Mt. Isa project.

Mr. HANLON: As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition points out, we are at a disadvantage. They are getting the money at a long-term rate of 5 per cent. at present, which is not likely to go up very much, and we are paying £5 10s. per cent. and we have to repay it in 20 years.

If we look at page 17 of the Financial Statement, we see reference to the sealing of beef roads, about which we have heard so much blurb and bubble from hon. members opposite. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition pointed out, here again we are at a disadvantage compared with our ordinary loan works expenditure. The hon. member for Roma, who should know, and various other hon. members have stressed the need to seal the beef roads, and the Treasurer said in the Financial Statement—

“Examination of the economics of bitumen sealing shows that savings on maintenance will cover the interest and redemption on the capital cost of sealing.”

That indicates the importance of sealing, and if the Commonwealth Government provides the money for the construction of the roads it should also provide the money needed to seal them. The Treasurer tried to justify the use of the Mt. Isa fund money, which was made available for a restricted period and on disadvantageous terms, by saying that savings on maintenance will cover the interest and redemption on the capital cost of sealing. I say that he should have presented a case to the Commonwealth Government for the money needed to seal the roads. Why should we agree to use money that was made available for the Mt. Isa project? The Treasurer will say, “Well, if we did not take it we would not get any.”

Whether or not that is so is a matter of dispute. I think we give in to the Commonwealth Government too easily. We wanted money to seal the beef roads, so we asked the Commonwealth Government to allow us to use this money that is not necessary for the Mt. Isa project, money on which we are paying £5 10s. per cent. interest over the repayment period of 20 years, instead of demanding that it give us the money mainly as a grant and also at a lower rate of interest, and with easier terms of repayment. As I said, the Treasurer tries to justify it on the ground that the saving in maintenance costs will cover the extra charge. That is all very well, but it is rather an Irish argument. It is like the fellow who goes to the races every week and loses consistently. When you say to him, "Why don't you give it up?" he says, "I can't. It's my living." That is virtually what the Treasurer is saying, that is, that he cannot give the money up because it is his living. It is somewhat analogous to the position of the old lady who hides her money down the back yard instead of putting it in the bank. When you say to her, "What about the interest?" she says, "Oh, I am keeping a little aside for that." The Treasurer is attempting to justify his action by saying that he is putting aside a little extra to pay for it. The money needed to seal the beef roads should have been made available by the Commonwealth on a basis comparable with that on which the money was advanced to build them.

When we come to the moneys for development of the brigalow land we get the same story. None of this money will be a grant. We get back to the same old position of the Commonwealth Government fobbing us off and still not making any direct grants for most of these projects. To a certain extent it is a grant in the case of the beef roads, but it is not granting anything at all under the Mt. Isa railway line agreement, and there is no grant in the £1,750,000 that is being provided by the Commonwealth this year for the brigalow-lands development.

If this brigalow-lands scheme is as good as we are told it is, and will mean so much in the production of beef and to our export income, all the Commonwealth Government has to do is to use the argument it used to make money available from its own revenue for the Snowy River scheme and other schemes in other States. If the argument is valid in the case of the brigalow lands, why should we not get money from the Commonwealth as a direct grant? We are getting back into the same old rut, receiving the same old treatment from the Commonwealth, with the Treasurer and the Premier saying, "Thank you, thank you." No wonder the Commonwealth is not very worried about giving them too much.

Mr. Hiley: Are you suggesting that the money for the Snowy River scheme is equivalent to a direct grant?

Mr. HANLON: I am suggesting that, until recently, the money advanced for the Snowy River scheme has been a charge on Commonwealth revenue. That has been done repeatedly over the years.

Mr. Hiley: That is not the question. Are you suggesting it is a grant?

Mr. HANLON: I am not going to answer any question that the Treasurer wants to frame.

Mr. Hiley: That is the analogy you are putting up.

Mr. HANLON: It is not an analogy. I will not use that word. I do not give a hoot whether the Treasurer calls it a direct grant or any other sort of grant. I do not care if it is sent by carrier pigeon, cheque, money order, or anything else, so long as it is spent in this State and we do not have to pay it back. I do not care what it is called. The Treasurer is not going to tell me that he will not have money spent by the Commonwealth under the same terms as that spent on the Snowy River scheme; he cannot tell me that he does not want the Commonwealth to do something about building a power house in Central Queensland or on the Burdekin irrigation scheme on the same terms as the Snowy River scheme. I say some such action is well overdue and if that is the Treasurer's outlook it is for him to get out of the Government and let the Labour Party get back into office. What is the use of these theoretical accounting terms and arguing about whether or not we call it a direct grant? If anybody advances me something and does not want it back, I do not care whether or not he calls it a direct grant.

Mr. Hiley: You had better read the interest and redemption conditions that Mr. Chifley laid down for the Snowy River scheme. You will then know something about it.

Mr. HANLON: I haven't got it here.

Mr. Hiley: Of course you haven't.

Mr. HANLON: I simply mention that I do not have it, but the Treasurer should remember that he has gone on record on some of these matters. I should like to have with me a booklet published by the Institute of Accountants recording a lecture on Government finance that he delivered a couple of years ago. I am saying now only what he said then. He complained bitterly about the Commonwealth Government spending these sums from revenue on Snowy Mountains work and about the benefits rendered to other States. It is quite true that there are provisions that will involve obligations by the States, but to nowhere near the extent that is involved in the Mt. Isa agreement.

I repeat that if the Treasurer wants to tell us that we do not desire the Commonwealth to spend money in this State as it did on the Snowy scheme and others, and on the same conditions, he can, but neither I nor

any other good Queenslander would say that we did not want a scheme similar to the Snowy, say, in the Burdekin, on the same terms as the Snowy River work has been done.

Mr. Windsor: This is the best Budget that has ever been introduced here.

Mr. HANLON: The only way the hon. member for Ithaca would know it is the best Budget would be by somebody on the Government side tapping him on the shoulder and saying, "Bob, it is the best Budget." I do not think he has even read it, yet he tells us it is the best Budget that has ever been introduced here.

We are suffering carnage on the roads because of the lack of an adequate number of traffic police and the condition of some of the roads. What does the Budget show in this direction? The Treasurer takes the opportunity to commend the departments for their savings. He mentioned that the Department of Education, including Police, effected a saving of £102,000. Yet the Acting Minister for Education says that things are so tough that it will be necessary to disband the mounted-police section and use the money thus saved to purchase motor vehicles. Why was that £102,000 not spent in putting more policemen on traffic duty? What is the use of the Minister's telling us that the horses of the mounted-police section should be sold when the Vote was underspent by £102,000?

When we look at page 98 of the Estimates, what do we find about the Department of Labour and Industry? For the provision of traffic facilities the appropriation for 1961-1962 was £105,000, of which only £87,375 was expended. These are the people who are trying to get out from under by telling us that they have not the money to do the necessary road work or put more police on the roads. A couple of years ago they were telling us that they were responsible for the reduction in the death and accident rate on the roads. We pointed out then that if they wanted to take the credit for any reduction in the death and accident rate that there may have been at that time, well and good, as long as they accepted the responsibility if the figures deteriorated. They cannot have it both ways. I suggest they keep that in mind when they refer to these matters.

(Time expired.)

Mr. BURROWS (Port Curtis) (2.37 p.m.): The Budget that we are debating could be described as the Budget of a desperate Government, a Government that is prepared to sacrifice all principles in order to gain some political advantage. It has been described as a "ballot-box Budget". Like cyclones, from time to time Budgets have been given various Christian names. We have heard of "Big Budget", "Little Budget", "Horror Budget", but I think this one could appropriately be described as the "Squalid

Budget". It is the most squalid Budget that has ever been submitted. I think I have had the opportunity of reading 16 Budgets since I have been in Parliament. If there is ever a worse one to read than this, I am glad that this is the last time I will be obliged to read one as a member of Parliament.

I am not going to say that I did it from choice, but when I was in my teens I was forced to go out west to seek employment. To a certain extent, I succeeded. In an endeavour to use my leisure time intelligently I tried to understand the people and the conditions out there. One thing that impressed me was the code of the Westerner. Later on when I visited the North I found that the Northerner had the same code. It was not written into any statute, but it had to be admired. Those people had their own interpretation of the Book of Life. Although they were prepared to break many of the commandments, they had their own unwritten laws. One of them was, "If your neighbour quotes the Bible, brand your calves early." That is not the one I had intended to refer to; it is not the saying I am thinking of. The one I am referring to is, "Never tolerate a man who rolls a drunk." The most despised person, or the one with the worst reputation, was the man who would steal from a drunk if he had the opportunity. The drunk in the West was respected. He was pitied, but he was respected. I always had a high regard for the Westerner in his respect for the weaknesses of the unfortunates who would earn a big cheque, come into town, or to the shanty, and spend their cheques quick and lively. They would work hard for it, and invariably they were good, efficient, and hard workers, but they had a weakness. While they were in town, if they wanted to give a person money and pushed it into his hand, it would be refused. I have seen it taken but when the drunk sobered up the person who took it would make sure it was given back.

Another man who was treated with contempt, perhaps not to the same degree—but he was never respected—was the man who kept the centre in the two-up school or the hazard school. Hazard was generally played in the night-time, and two-up was played in the day-time during leisure hours. The western people did not dislike a man who was risking his own money, or playing it up, but they despised the man who sponged on the gambler and collected his percentage without any effort or risk on his part.

When I read this Budget I think of these things. The Government has a vested interest in rolling drunks to get revenue to balance its budget.

Mr. Hughes: What about the poker machines in New South Wales? Let us be fair both ways.

Mr. BURROWS: I have no brief for poker machines. I have not many more votes to record as a politician, but I am glad to say that I have never recorded a vote for poker machines in Queensland. They have not poked their ugly heads into this State, and I sincerely hope they never will. If they do, I hope that every hon. member, on both sides of the Chamber, will oppose them.

Mr. Hiley: Hear, hear!

Mr. BURROWS: I am very pleased to hear the Treasurer say, "Hear, hear!" because those are precisely my sentiments.

Mr. Hiley: That would not stop you voting for it—wise or unwise, right or wrong?

Mr. BURROWS: I say to the Treasurer, wise or unwise, that I could turn back to his other pious statements. I could quote many of them. The Government is supposed to be opposed to Socialism, and its members say, "We will chop off the head of Socialism if it obtrudes into our society." According to Dr. Goebbels, the hon. member for Ashgrove, that is the opinion of the Government. His party socialised the betting industry in Queensland. With your permission, I will retract the word "industry"; Mr. Taylor, it is not an industry. The betting vice in Queensland has been socialised by this Government. And who is the ring-keeper? Who takes his rake-off without risking one penny of his money every Saturday and Wednesday? This Government!

Mr. Ewan: You ought to be happy, because every socialistic venture so far has failed and this one might.

Mr. BURROWS: If there is one venture that I hope will fail, whether Socialistic or proprietary, it is this vice ring of betting and booze. There would be no-one happier than I to pay 19s. in the £1 in tax if we could abolish these evils. When I go out of politics I can be sure of having the satisfaction of knowing that I have never in any way encouraged them. I am not like hon. members opposite who, in desperation, because they could not balance their Budget by any legitimate or honourable means, have balanced it by rolling the drunk or taking the rake-off from the unfortunate gambler. Betting and boozing are both diseases; they are both afflictions; and I am sorry for people who are so afflicted.

Mr. Ewan: Would you include the Golden Casket in that category, too?

Mr. BURROWS: As far as I am concerned, any form of gambling is a social evil. And worse than the Golden Casket is the Stock Exchange.

Mr. Camm: Would you close it too?

Mr. BURROWS: In my ideal—and I will admit that it is only an ideal—those things are anti-Christian in every shape and

form. In the limited time at my disposal I cannot develop that point. I pity the man who has not an ideal. We know it is not even faintly or remotely possible to attain those ideals, but every man should have an ideal. If he has not, he is missing a lot in this world. As a matter of fact, I would not like to live without an ideal.

In the first year that this Government was in office it received £300,000 from betting. Last year it took £604,959, and it is estimated that this year £1,300,000 will be received as the Government's rake-off. The man who takes the money from the gamblers in Monte Carlo, whatever he is called, is just the same as the ring-keeper in the two-up school. There is no difference, and the hon. member for Roma knows it as well as I do. It is the same in principle whether it is the smart Alec or the spinner who takes the money from the players around the ring. The Government is taking it from the housewife and the unfortunate man who cannot resist the temptation to have his ticket on the tote or his 5s. each way.

I said this was a squalid Budget and I think I have established the point. The Government has a vested interest in the degradation of an unfortunate section of the community. I will concede that it embraced this form of revenue-raising only because it was desperate and could not balance its Budget by any other means. Bankrupt of ideas, in desperation it took the line of least resistance. Budgets are usually filled with promise but I very much regret that this one is filled with shame.

Mr. Hiley: You are in a very un-Christian mood.

Mr. BURROWS: I can assure the Treasurer that my Christian charity has never before been stretched as far as it has been here today. Let us see what hon. members opposite did. Their approach to it—and nobody will dispute that it is the consumers who pay—was to impose an increase of 50 per cent. in the tax on beer.

Mr. Camm: How much is that on a glass of beer?

Mr. BURROWS: It does not matter if it amounts to only a halfpenny.

Mr. Hiley: Your argument is that we should encourage drinking and gambling by reducing taxation on them?

Mr. BURROWS: I welcome that interjection. What was the *modus operandi* for the introduction of those taxes? They were considered, and the Government said, "There will be a reaction from the breweries because the sale of beer will be reduced." As a sop, and a silencer to the opposition from the breweries, the Government extended the facilities and opportunities for the consumption of beer, and now we have the spectacle in country towns of drunks rolling about the streets on Sundays.

Mr. Thackeray: On the Gold Coast, too.

Mr. BURROWS: That is so.

The Treasurer asked if I thought that the tax should be reduced to encourage drinking. Let us consider the Minister for Justice. I remember when he entered Parliament, and I have a high respect for him. He is, in my opinion, a God-fearing man and lives a very righteous life. He went to the West not long ago and he was so ashamed of the Government that he described himself as a "tin-horn cowboy". He wore a big black hat and chaps. He at least had not lost his sense of shame over this matter, and I concede that he still has a semblance of political conscience.

Mr. Gaven: Onward, Christian soldiers!

Mr. BURROWS: It is all very well for the hon. member to say, "Onward, Christian soldiers!" I have not been to church for years, but I am not ashamed to call myself a Christian and I only wish that there were more Christians on his side of the Chamber. The hon. member for South Coast interjected, but how much did the Gold Coast area gain by the relaxing of the liquor laws? It gained nothing. I suggest that he consult the hon. member for Cooroora, a fellow-member of his party, not me.

I have not very much time left. In a previous debate on Commonwealth assistance to extend bulk-loading facilities at Gladstone, I pointed out that the Gladstone Harbour Board had a very substantial investment in these facilities which, up to date, had been of great benefit to the economy of not only Central Queensland but the State and the Commonwealth, too. Without that installation it would not have been economically possible to export millions of pounds' worth of products from Central Queensland. I do not think that the Treasurer, or any other hon. member, will disagree with me when I say that not one ton of coal would have been exported, very little grain would have been exported, and no sorghum would have been exported. Without the bulk-handling equipment it would not have been possible. When the present Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation was chairman of the Sorghum Board they were getting £8 a ton for sorghum at Belfast. Without the conveyor belt at Gladstone it would have been absolutely impossible to get anything for it at all. It would not have been worth exporting if it had been loaded with ships' gear.

As I pointed out previously, in round figures, the Gladstone Harbour Board has an equity of £400,000 in this installation. It has spent additional money from revenue, and it is now in the course of spending £100,000, plus other loan money. Taking into account the subsidies it received from former State Labour Governments, the harbour board has a total equity of about £700,000. All I ask is that the Government recognise the work and the enterprise of the Gladstone Harbour Board in building

this installation, which has been of great assistance not only in the export of grain, but also in the export of pyrites and manganese ore. Developments over the last six months have shown that there is a strong possibility that within six or seven years the belt will be discarded for coal-loading. Unless the harbour board is assured of retaining its grain exports, the installation will become a white elephant.

As I pointed out, the Government guaranteed the loan expenditure of the harbour board. Up to date the board has paid its way, and it is very proud of the fact that it has always paid 20s. in the £1 on its loan commitments. It realises that if its earning power is suddenly stripped from it, it will not be able to do that. Every citizen of Gladstone has an interest in, and an understanding of, the problem facing the board and is proud of the fact that the board does pay its way.

The Treasurer attacked me in a recent debate and said—I forget the exact phrase that he used—that I was painting a gloomy picture, and accused me of being an enemy of Gladstone. He said I should know that the Rockhampton Harbour Board had been told that it would not get a bulk installation at Port Alma. The Gladstone Harbour Board has saved the present Government a great deal of embarrassment in the storage of grain. At present quite large stores, capable of holding about 20,000 tons of grain, are in course of erection at Gladstone, and, in addition, there are other stores there that were used previously for sorghum. I do not want any concessions for the Gladstone Harbour Board, but it developed the oil trade in Central Queensland only to see it filched away and taken to another port about 30 miles north which is under the control of the Rockhampton Harbour Board. In order to avoid a repetition of that and to give the Gladstone port some security, I suggested that one of the features that has crippled Gladstone more than anything else is the discrimination that has been exercised against it. It goes right back to the day when Kidston was the member for Rockhampton. Anyone who goes through the history of this matter will find that freight rates were deliberately framed to discriminate against Gladstone. The long-haulage freight rates would not cease at the port; they ceased at Rockhampton and then started again. That has been very shrewdly engineered to make it more expensive to rail export produce to Gladstone than to Rockhampton.

We might be fearing these things needlessly, but we are entitled to some security. When the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity introduced his Bill dealing with the huge expenditure by a private company in the Central Division, he said, quite rightly, that as that company is prepared to spend this money it is entitled to some protection. And it was given protection by franchises over a very big area. No-one quibbles about that. That is what I

call fair and decent, and all I ask is that the freight rate from Emerald be fairly adjusted. On present indications, and in the opinion of many grain-growers, Emerald will become the Toowoomba of Central Queensland and the centre for grain production if that industry develops. I am very confident that it will.

Mr. Ewan: Do you think oil from Moonie should go there, or to Brisbane?

Mr. BURROWS: I would not be able to express an opinion but I am not ashamed to say that I hope it goes to Gladstone. Wherever it goes, I hope it goes to the place that merits it the most, and that political influence does not shift it to some place where it should not go.

In order to illustrate how grain-growing can develop, I have here an article from "Country Life" of 27/9/1962, wherein Mr. C. R. Perrin, chairman of the Central Highlands District Council of the Queensland Grain Growers' Association, said—

"The Australian Wheat Board has given Queensland wheat growers a chance to export wheat from Gladstone at a very opportune time when Central Queensland production has increased to an expected yield of 2,000,000 bushels. . . Without Gladstone to export from and with individual freights we could forget about wheat-growing in Central Queensland."

Hon. members can call me a hater or anything else, but there is a man who has expressed, if not what I have said, at least what I have meant to say. When I made inquiries I found that there is about 5s. or 6s. difference in the present freight on wheat between Emerald and Port Alma and between Emerald and Gladstone, and it is only because of the efficient handling at Gladstone through the conveyor belt, which represents an investment worth £700,000, that Gladstone can compete. The belt is not worth that at present, but when it is completed it will be a £700,000 investment by the board, and all I ask is that the board be given an assurance on that expenditure. The Government could say to the board, "We give you an assurance that there will be no discriminatory freight rates between these two places." If that is not reasonable and if I am impossible for suggesting it, I will have to plead guilty. As I said before, that is the point I want to make.

What did the Treasurer do? He said, "We have made it a stipulation." What happened? Two days later, the following appeared in the Rockhampton "Bulletin"—

"Bulk-Loading Long-Range Plan for Port Alma.

"Although it was a condition of assistance in development of Port Alma that bulk-loading facilities could not be installed

there without Government approval, the Rockhampton Harbour Board certainly would make application when it felt that such a move was warranted, said the chairman of the board (Mr. M. Hinchliff) yesterday."

The Treasurer said that they would not get bulk loading there. I admit that he "did me over" on that occasion. I am not going to beat about the bush. He gave me a good tongue-lashing because I dared suggest that it was possible. Yet four days later we read in the "Bulletin"—

"A senior officer of the Department of Harbours and Marine, Mr. B. Tyrell, will inspect the building of the 550 ft. breast wharf at Port Alma today and later meet Rockhampton Board members at a special meeting.

"Harbour Board members are hoping he will be able to give some information on a plan being drawn up by the department for future commercial and industrial developments at the port.

"The Harbour Board has supplied all available information on the area to the department and a survey has been made.

"It is understood that an area stretching from the breast wharf to the present railway shunt line will be kept intact for the building of bulk handling equipment . . ."

It must be remembered that the Department of Harbours and Marine is administered by the Treasurer. I suppose that I would not be wrong if I said that while the Treasurer was making his denials a senior officer of his department was packing his port to go to Rockhampton so that he could advise the Treasurer where to put the bulk-loading facilities.

Mr. Sullivan: Bulk loading for grain?

Mr. BURROWS: Yes.

Mr. Sullivan: Do you say that 2,000,000 bushels of grain are being grown in the Central Highlands?

Mr. BURROWS: That is only this year. That is only a start.

Mr. Hiley: It will be 5,000,000 bushels in five years.

Mr. BURROWS: I do not know what it will be. I have heard the ex-chairman of the Wheat Board say that it will not be many years before much more grain will be grown in Central Queensland than on the Darling Downs. However, time does not permit me to go into that matter.

A few years ago a committee was appointed to investigate the economics of the development of Port Alma. That committee submitted a report, but it was suppressed. A further committee was appointed under the

chairmanship of Sir Arthur Fadden, but its report also was suppressed. I am grateful to the Treasurer for giving me an opportunity to read those two reports. As he knows, the economics of the expenditure were considered in the first report. It was drawn up like a prospectus, showing how much trade was likely, how much expenditure, the probable amount of interest and redemption payments, and working costs. Of course, if the figures did not balance it would mean that the proposal was not economic. The Treasurer knows even better than I do that at one stage special provision was made for the export of very substantial quantities of grain. The revenue from that source was expected to help reimburse the Government for the huge annual expenditure on interest and redemption for this enterprise. That report was adopted by the Government and it has been implemented with the harbour board. An official of the Department of Harbours and Marine is being sent to show them how to do it. In the words of Mr. Perrin, it would have been impossible to export that 2,000,000 bushels of wheat if Gladstone had not had the enterprise and courage to build this plant.

Mr. Hiley: Tell me how much of that will go over the belt in the next year, or the next five years?

Mr. BURROWS: I do not know. I am not a wheat man.

Mr. Hiley: None of it. Ask the harbour board.

Mr. BURROWS: This is what is reported in "Country Life" of 27 September, 1962, as emanating from the chairman of the Central Highlands District Council of the Queensland Grain Growers' Association.

Mr. Hiley: That is right.

Mr. BURROWS: If I want information about wheat, would I not be entitled to believe that man in preference to any man here?

Mr. Hiley: Go back to Gladstone and ask them how it will be loaded. It will be screw-loaded, because no world customer will take wheat that is loaded over a coal belt. If you do not know that, you should keep quiet.

Mr. BURROWS: I can assure the Minister that he is very desperate—

Mr. Hiley: My authority for that statement is the Gladstone Harbour Board. I was told that only last week when I was there, and they told me to take no notice of you.

Mr. BURROWS: The Treasurer wishes to be personal. I have deliberately avoided personalities here, and I did so yesterday. It was reported correctly in today's Press. I did not mention anybody's name yesterday.

The Treasurer said that the Gladstone Harbour Board said certain things. I do not wish to be personal, but I challenge him.

Does he want me to read what the chairman of the Gladstone Harbour Board said about him?

Mr. Aikens: My word, we do.

Mr. BURROWS: I will not tell the hon. member. I will not read it because I would have to lower myself to do so. It is on my table downstairs in a pamphlet from which I was taking other information. It is far from complimentary. The chairman of the Gladstone Harbour Board is also chairman of the Liberal Party in Gladstone. However, I want to forget it. That is one part of my political life that I wish to forget.

Mr. Hiley: You would want to. You are right.

Mr. BURROWS: I want to forget all the nasty things here. I would sooner remember the Treasurer for some of the good things I know of him than the despicable part of this drink-sodden business.

Mr. Aikens: You would sooner think of the carnation than the baldy head?

Mr. BURROWS: When he was making those allegations I could see the carnation wilting. However, this is not a matter for hilarity and I am afraid I may have been carried away.

The Gladstone Harbour Board pioneered the oil trade, but it was poached from it. We read in the Press that the Treasurer said he would not allow harbour boards to cut one another's throats for the benefit of the oil companies. The Gladstone Harbour Board charges 8s. a ton, and the Brisbane Harbour Board charges 10s. a ton. Why does the Gladstone Harbour Board charge 8s. a ton? This goes back to 1952, when the Rockhampton Harbour Board had no exports or imports of petroleum products. In order to stop the Gladstone Harbour Board getting the same dues as Brisbane, they put on a mischievous charge, which was unnecessary, uncalled for, and absolutely uneconomic. It was only for the benefit of the oil companies. They put on the equivalent of 4s.

I drew the Treasurer's attention to the fact that the Rockhampton Harbour Board was not making a realistic charge. The company had started to import. A few days after, I saw where he made the statement that he would not stand for that. He went to Rockhampton and called the chairman of the Gladstone Harbour Board up, and what did he do? He did nothing.

Mr. Aikens: Who did nothing—the Treasurer or the chairman of the Harbour Board?

Mr. BURROWS: The Treasurer did nothing to alter the position. The Czar of Central Queensland, Mr. Hinchliff, was the man who contradicted the Treasurer. When the Treasurer said there would be no bulk loading there, Mr. Hinchliff said there would be. The Treasurer said he was going to adjust the fees of the harbour

board—and he has full power to do it; as Treasurer, he can revoke any resolution of the harbour board—but he did not do it. I might say it is not the consumer of petrol who is getting the benefit of the charge; it is only the oil company, because petrol is much dearer in Rockhampton today than it is in Gladstone or Brisbane.

Mr. Aikens: Despite the fact that their loading charge at the wharf is only half what it is in Brisbane, or less than half.

Mr. BURROWS: Yes, it is exactly half what it is in Gladstone and a little less than half what it is here. It is 4s., while Gladstone is 8s. and Brisbane 10s.

Mr. Aikens: What argument do they advance to justify that?

Mr. BURROWS: They cannot alter it because Mr. Walkley from Ampol comes into the picture, and the Treasurer knows it. These things might sound fantastic, but let the Premier or the Treasurer get up and read Mr. Walkley's telegram to the Premier a few days before the opening of the installation at Port Alma, a telegram that has been hawked by Ampol salesmen, saying how Mr. Walkley had dictated to the Premier on road transport! The Treasurer knows that that telegram came. Unless this happened, Mr. Walkley threatened to cancel Senator Spooner's visit to open the oil installation at Rockhampton in a week's time.

Mr. Aikens: It would have been a much more successful show if Spooner had not gone there.

Mr. BURROWS: It might have been. The hon. member for Rockhampton came in and said he was trying to help Gladstone. The hon. member for Rockhampton and Mr. Hinchliff, the chairman of the harbour board, are blackmailing people in Rockhampton. If they do not buy their petrol, they will not buy any goods from them but will blackball their product. The Treasurer knows this; it is common knowledge. They are forcing the people of Rockhampton, wherever they can put economic pressure or any other pressure on them, to buy Ampol petrol.

Mr. Sullivan: That is a serious statement you are making, and not a very nice thing to say about the hon. member for Rockhampton North.

Mr. BURROWS: I said the hon. member for Rockhampton South. The hon. member for Condamine does not know whether he is South, East or West. I do not know whether he is at the pole, but he is certainly up the pole.

I know that the Treasurer will get up and say that I am filled with hatred.

Mr. Hiley: I never state the obvious.

Mr. BURROWS: The Treasurer means that he is not going to repeat himself today, but he can repeat it as often as he likes and, as long as there is breath in me—

Mr. Aikens: There is not much left.

Mr. BURROWS: No, there might not be, but I think I could blow the hon. member over any time.

Whilst there is breath in my body, I shall protest against injustices, and, if ever any body has received injustice, it is the Gladstone Harbour Board. I have seen many public-spirited men in my time, of all shades of political colour, but I have never seen a harder-working and more public-spirited body than the Gladstone Harbour Board, and so much frustration and such little reward for the splendid effort of its members. They are entitled to much more than verbal assurances; they are entitled to a guarantee that there will be no interference or discriminatory freight rates on grain. The Treasurer and I agreed the other day that grain, rather than coal, may give Gladstone the brighter outlook.

I have not been requested by members of the board to ask—although I think I am sufficiently intelligent to appreciate their entitlement to it—for this, nevertheless I do request that they be given a guarantee for that trade for which they have worked so hard. They, more than any politician of the Labour, Liberal, or any other party, can take the credit for this development and, as some reward and satisfaction to them, they should be given a guarantee that there will be no mischievous interference by Governments, as there has been in the past.

Mr. RAE (Gregory) (3.22 p.m.): I regard the Financial Statement as truly an excellent report, and one for which we have waited. When one considers and assesses the various features, it will be found that there is very little with which anyone could find fault. Speaking on behalf of my own area, or the West generally, we have without doubt benefited considerably from the consideration and thought that has been given by the Treasurer and the Cabinet to the people of the West, and their welfare.

When I hear hon. members of the Opposition speaking as they have here today, I cannot help but feel that they would prefer to see 90 per cent. of the people of Queensland unemployed and in other avenues of unhappiness. All their speakers take the one line. Instead of recognising that we have done a good job, they love to hark back to unemployment, misery, poverty, and everything else. I believe that the only ones that they would like to see in office and enjoying large remuneration are waterside workers, members of the Q.C.E., and themselves. I am thoroughly fed up with their whole outlook, but I suppose that that is their line. After all, they do as the Q.C.E. directs.

There are other features of the record of the Government that I should bring to the notice of the Committee. Meetings of Cabinet have been held in country centres, and Ministers have made trips through various parts of the outback. The meeting of Cabinet at Quilpie was a highly successful meeting, if ever there was one. It created quite a stir in the ranks of the A.L.P., and a newspaper that sympathises very strongly with the Australian Labour Party, namely, "Sunday Truth", referred to Quilpie as a "whistle-stop town" and to the meeting there as something quite useless and needless, and giving no benefit to Queensland. What a shocking statement!

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. RAE: Hon. members opposite have backed up that statement, and I believe they have done that because they have been told to. It has always been the policy and practice of the A.L.P. to disregard the needs and the welfare of people in the west of Queensland. There is no denying that when they refer to Quilpie as a "whistle-stop town".

Mr. Houston: Who said that?

Mr. RAE: The hon. member knows quite well. It was written up, and the Leader of the Opposition had plenty to say about it, adding that no useful purpose comes from such visits to the West. The New South Wales Labour Government has taken a leaf out of this Government's book. Its members are now embarking upon a tour of the various country towns in that State to see what conditions are really like there. They will find how essential it is that these visits be made to western centres. The decision of Cabinet to meet in country towns was a very important step, bringing as it does the Government to the people to see and hear their problems at home.

Mr. Houston: What good does it do?

Mr. RAE: For 40 years we had nothing. Today we have a great deal in western areas, because Cabinet Ministers have seen things for themselves. For years we were saddled with men who thought little about anything beyond the confines of Brisbane, Bundaberg, and a few other towns along the coast.

Mr. Houston: That is ridiculous.

Mr. RAE: It is not ridiculous; it is true. This Government is concerned for the welfare of the people of this State, and I congratulate it on doing a good job. If Queensland is to develop, the State Government must proceed along the right lines of fairness to all and an assessment of the future.

The Financial Statement tabled by the Treasurer contains several headings that are of great interest to the people of the West. We see that there is to be a record expenditure on beef roads, coupled with a start on the sealing of those roads. We see that this

year the Department of Main Roads will begin the greatest road-building programme in the history of this State.

Mr. Evans: We treat the people out there as human beings.

Mr. RAE: That is quite true. They agree with me that congratulations are due to the Minister and his colleagues for a job well done. When one drives round the West, as I do, and meets people, it is easily seen that they recognise the contribution made by the Government and the positive steps it has taken to improve the lot of the people living there. Our road policy is outstanding and unmatched in Queensland's history.

Let us consider for a moment the great advantages that will flow to the State from the building of these roads. The smoothness of transport will be improved, and there will be great savings in stock. Cattle will arrive at market places in first-class condition. They are useful also for getting cattle and sheep away in times of drought. The railways have played their part by improving yard and loading facilities, and the all-round picture is fairly good. I have lived there for a long time and I know what we have put up with during that time. It is most rewarding to find today the emergence of this new outlook, and I know that the people out there appreciate it. As I said before, I meet them and talk to them, and the response is very encouraging.

Another important aspect of conditions today relates to local authorities, which are an important adjunct to efficient government and a sane and sensible way of running the State. I should say that the local authorities today have confidence in, and great regard for, the present Government, a confidence such as I feel they have never enjoyed before. They now have a positive line of thinking and can plan ahead. They can at least enter into constructive planning. This, coupled with the sympathy and encouragement that they now receive from this Government, is proving beneficial in a very big way.

Coming now to the brigalow-belt scheme, the legislation for which I understand is coming on, I should prefer that this matter be held over until the Land Bill has been dealt with.

Dr. Noble: What about the flying surgeon?

Mr. RAE: I plan to deal with that later.

Mr. Aikens: I will bet you would like to perform a bit of surgery on some of the fellows over there.

Mr. RAE: Quite right, with the hon. member as my anaesthetist.

There is one aspect of government in Queensland today that I feel has not been brought fully to the notice of the Assembly. I know that many residents in my electorate

are not fully conversant with it. I refer to the services that are today available to the man on the land, through the Department of Irrigation and Water Supply. I refer to the Farm Water Supplies Assistance Scheme. This is a particularly good scheme in that under it, realising the importance of adequate water supplies in minimising stock losses, the Government has made provision for technical and financial assistance to graziers and farmers to improve their water facilities. These provisions apply not only to individual irrigation projects but also to all forms of water supply including those for stock and domestic use.

I have had personal experience with this organisation; up to date, it would have involved some £4,000. The idea generally is that, if a grazier wishes to put a bore down, the department will make available an officer to help him locate a site. He can then call tenders for the boring of the well or whatever he requires. Assuming it comes to an amount of approximately £4,000, as it does in my case, he can pay £400 and the job is in hand. I will get possibly 16 years to pay off the balance at 6 per cent. interest. That is a very commendable and reasonable figure.

To give the Committee a little more detail on this matter, many graziers are already using this service. In 1961-1962, applications for financial assistance were approved to 50 graziers, involving advances totalling £70,000. In addition, technical assistance in terms of design of storage dams and sinking and equipping of bores was given to a greater number of graziers who were able to arrange their own finance. However, losses of 350,000 cattle and calves and 1,500,000 sheep and marked lambs in 1961-1962 is still a serious blow to the State's economy. There is much more that can be done. It is to be hoped that more graziers will take advantage of the services provided under this legislation to improve their stock water supplies.

Perhaps it would be better if we called the Act the Rural Water Supplies Assistance Act as it could be that many graziers are unaware that its provisions apply to any form of water supplies—stock, domestic, or irrigation—and, in addition, are not fully aware of the liberal financial terms of these advances.

The terms of advances are fixed under the conditions of the Agricultural Bank Act, but generally provide for an "interest-only" period of two years and redemption of the complete loan over the following ten years. I do believe in my particular case, as in the case of many others, that this period will be extended. The incentive is there that we make full use of this scheme, which is a very good one. In the case of expensive works, such as artesian bores, which also have a long life, even longer terms have been given in some instances. The deferring of redemption payments for two years gives

the landholder an opportunity to build up his productive capacity before he is required to meet the full amount of repayments.

Interest rates are the same as those applying to normal Agricultural Bank loans, which, at the present level of 5½ per cent., are significantly better than can be obtained from most other financial institutions.

Many landholders who have availed themselves of financial assistance in this way have commented favourably on the conditions of these loans, and the assistance they have been in further developing their properties. It is pleasing to see that advances under the Act for all purposes have increased from £77,000 in 1959-1960 to £245,000 in 1961-1962, and the provision for such advances has been increased to £280,000 for 1962-1963.

Attention is directed also to the prospects for individual irrigation facilities in Western Queensland to improve carrying capacities during dry periods, and to increase carrying capacities generally. It is abundantly clear from the previous work of the Bureau of Investigation and the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission that large-scale irrigation development in Western Queensland is unlikely owing to irregularity of stream flows and the tremendously high evaporation losses. However, we already have some excellent examples of individual irrigation projects which appear to be of great benefit. These include projects on the property of Mr. John Borthwick at "Whynot" near Quilpie, on "Dalgonally" near Julia Creek and "Terrick Terrick" at Blackall.

These projects would appear to indicate that the provision of supplementary fodder, during dry periods, can halt stock losses spectacularly and even increase carrying capacity.

Such projects, of course, require not only finance, but also adequate investigation of the engineering and agricultural aspects, all of which are available under the Farm Water Supplies Assistance Act.

Again, it is interesting to find that a number of graziers are taking advantage of the provisions for irrigation works. Total advances under the Act since inception now exceed £500,000. Of these, 44 per cent. or £220,000 have been advanced to graziers for works of all types, and obviously a substantial proportion has been for water conservation and irrigation projects. Nevertheless, much more could have been done in this field to bring about an increase in the number of stock carried on grazing properties and to minimise the ravages of drought.

The popularity of this measure can be gauged by the fact that, in spite of strenuous efforts by the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission in training and expanding the staff available for this work and provision for such activity from district offices in Western Queensland, there is still a backlog of over 300 applications awaiting inspection.

It is pleasing, too, to see that the Irrigation Commission is encouraging the interest of consulting engineers in western districts in this type of work, and some valuable assistance is being rendered to landholders by these professional men. It is most important that we continue to improve water facilities in the grazing areas, and it is hoped that it will be possible to expand further the staff of the Irrigation Commission available for this vital work and to continue the increase in finance. There is no denying the merit of this scheme. It is a remarkable scheme and should be more widely publicised, because there are a number of men in my area who would know nothing about its advantages. I believe that we should make it common knowledge to people who may be interested, because the whole State can benefit greatly from it.

There are many matters I should like to refer to, but one aspect of the Government's policy has earned the gratitude of all Queenslanders. I am referring to education. I will speak generally of the new deal initiated by this Government on behalf of country children, and in particular what it has meant to the people of Gregory. The revolutionary approach to, and acceptance of, education has required of this Government the evolution of a multi-pronged policy aimed at overcoming the acute problems associated with education administration in Queensland, namely, distance, environment, and a scattered rural population.

The broad basis was this: we had first to build the schools, then we had to get the children to them. We realised, too, that children too far from transport services should not be penalised, so we subsidised local-authority hostels as well as those established by the C.W.A. We realised further that young people from the country with ability and ambition should not be placed at a disadvantage, so we subsidised hostels for country students attending the Conservatorium of Music, the Teachers' College, and the university colleges.

Having attended to accommodation, transport, and school construction, policy-framing was directed towards providing for the special needs of country students, so we introduced the junior agricultural course and expanded technical training. Finally, we turned our attention to the more personal spheres of amenities, comforts, and extra curricula enjoyment. Where possible we installed septic systems, enlarged school grounds, encouraged Junior Farmer projects, expanded subsidies on playground facilities and school equipment, popularised camps for country children at Tallebudgera, and vastly expanded the distribution of free milk. All these facets, when integrated and applied, have transformed the picture of education in rural Queensland.

Let us now look at this picture in closer detail. A vast chain of high schools and high-tops has now brought secondary schooling within daily travelling distance to over

90 per cent. of the State's eligible student population, while, in the primary sphere, a policy of centralised schools has resulted in more amenities and better teaching for the children. The remarkable advance along both fronts has been made possible by creating a giant network of free-transport services. There were no free-transport services for secondary-school students when this Government took office. There are now 591 daily primary, 720 daily secondary, and 149 weekly vocational services. Forty primary and 90 secondary services have been initiated in the last 12 months alone. A large proportion of the 24,339 students now carried on these services would possibly have been deprived, through location, of easy access to better or higher education. It is not surprising, when Queensland's distances are taken into account, that the total annual cost to the State of free school-transport services is £616,581. In addition, over £40,000 is paid to parents of primary and secondary students who are conveyed to school by either licensed bus or private vehicle. Greater force is given to the figures when it is appreciated that, last financial year, the cost of taking children to school almost equalled the amount collected by the State in road tax.

It was obvious from the outset that if more country children were to be brought to a central point the school-building programme would have to be maintained. The result is that there are now 1,439 primary and special schools, 62 high schools, and 50 secondary departments. By 1964 there will be 81 high schools and 73 high-tops—a magnificent increase of 84 new high-school buildings in seven years.

Dr. Noble: The best record in Australia.

Mr. RAE: Quite so.

While still outlining what has been done to meet the needs of country students, I forecast a rapid expansion of demand for the Junior Agricultural Course. Children of today appreciate even more than their parents the absolute necessity for a scientific approach to farming, and I am particularly keen that the course should become widely known. The Junior Agricultural Course includes such subjects as farm and station engineering, the principles of agriculture, animal husbandry, and horticulture.

I look forward also to the continued establishment of hostels by local authorities and the C.W.A. Those already in use are performing a service of unparalleled value to children of the remote school areas. I believe there is a field, too, for greater community participation in the establishment of kindergartens, which, if approved, attract a substantial subsidy and lay a solid foundation for training and discipline in the important formative years of a child. I might add that the kindergarten that was built by voluntary labour in Longreach is an outstanding building of its type in both design

and function. It is manned by able staff supplied by the department. All in all, it is a fine centre.

Two more very important policy decisions have been the creation of the highly successful School of the Air, which is based in Cloncurry, and the increase of teacher strength at small schools. This obviously has resulted in more personal teaching for children, with its equally obvious rewards.

Finally, the rural policy of the Department of Education has been directed towards improving correspondence schooling and towards streamlining the administration and improving the lot of teachers. One way in which the lot of teachers in the West can be considerably improved is by providing for those people who do so much a housing arrangement, whether it be a hostel or some other form of housing. In Hughenden, I believe, and in other north-western towns, there are flats for the female members of the staff but I know of nothing that is available for the males, who are obliged to pay an average of £9 to £10 a week at most of the hotels, at any rate. That is a rather large sum of money and, even though they are well paid, I do not know whether their salaries can stand accommodation accounts of £40 or £45 at the end of each month. I do not see any great difficulty in providing housing facilities for teaching staff in western centres.

Mr. Walsh: Do you think you will win Gregory at the next election?

Mr. RAE: I am certain of it. This Government does things; it does not merely promise them.

One other subject, on which I like to speak whenever I can, is hostels generally. I should like to see hostels established in almost all western towns. Distances there are great and, if we are to retain managers, overseers, ringers, stockmen generally, roadworkers, and so on, we have to provide these hostels. People must leave these areas once their children reach school age unless there is some means of educating them. I think that we, as a Government, should seriously consider meeting two-thirds of the cost of hostels, leaving one-third to be contributed by local authorities. I am most anxious to have this undertaken by my Government, because I wish to see hostels in almost every western town, right through from Boulia to Winton, Quilpie, Longreach, Muttaborra, and everywhere else. The only way to hold a man who has been on a property for years is to enable him to have his children educated in the manner that he desires. That can be achieved by the provision by the Government of these hostels with trained personnel to manage them.

Let me now review what this education programme has meant to the people of Gregory. As everyone knows, my electorate is huge and sparsely-settled, yet expenditure on schools and educational services in

Gregory for the last five years has totalled £75,262, the largest for any similar period in the electorate's history. Major expenditure has been—

	£
Winton State School and Secondary Department	35,443
Longreach State School	17,361
Birdsville State School	14,315
Cheepie	8,160
Isisford	7,756
Boulia	7,124
Muttaborra	5,064
Jundah	4,524
Ilfracombe	4,423
Wintonrah	4,047

Two major projects of which I am tremendously proud have been completed. The first is the creation of a secondary department at Winton, which meant the doubling of higher education facilities in the electorate, and the second is the construction at Birdsville of the most modern one-teacher school in the State. In addition, provisional schools have been opened at Whitewoods and Bedourie, and a new school constructed at Cheepie. Also, transport services have been extended with the initiation of a run from Isisford Road to Ilfracombe. There is no escaping the merit of the operation of school buses. Today they travel literally hundreds of thousands of miles throughout the State picking up children from remote corners and enabling them to enjoy the privilege of schooling.

Mr. Dufficy: You are not suggesting that your Government initiated that?

Mr. RAE: The scheme was operating before, but we take full credit for expanding it. The previous Government had it for a few miles only.

Mr. Dufficy: You didn't initiate it.

Mr. RAE: No. Doesn't the hon. member hear too well?

Mr. Dufficy: Of course you didn't, so why take the credit?

Mr. RAE: Of course we take the credit, because we have done a very good job in the field of education. Queensland was never more ably catered for.

As I was saying, there is now a transport service from Isisford Road to Ilfracombe. It covers 84 miles daily and costs the Government £2,205 a year. The money is particularly well spent, because it gives some children an opportunity to benefit from centralised and better educational facilities.

Construction of the Winton High-top typifies the growth of secondary education in Queensland. It is just another instance of how not merely hundreds but thousands of parents throughout the State have been spared the expense of sending their children away to boarding schools or of having to teach them in their own homes by correspondence.

Finally, whilst I am on the interesting subject of education, I should like to pay a tribute to my predecessor in Gregory, the late Hon. George Devries. Although he was opposed to me politically, Mr. Devries never failed to impress me with his love for, and understanding of, the west. He was a conscientious man and has left his name indelibly printed in the history of a vast but wonderful area. He, more than most other people, would appreciate what is being done to eliminate the disabilities that country people have to endure in securing a sound education for their children. Whether it lies in centralised primary schools, high-school transport services, secondary-school playground policies, increased subsidies, assistance to kindergartens, regional libraries, variation of curricula, or experimentation with new courses, the fact remains that a youth can now seize his chance to make what he wishes of his life. There is no getting away from the truly great job that has been done by the Government in the field of education. It is something for which it merits a big pat on the back.

Mr. Dufficy: Where is the best hostel in the West?

Mr. RAE: The best hostel would be the one in Blackall.

Mr. Dufficy: The best hostel in the West is in Cunnamulla, and a Labour Government put it there, as you know.

Mr. RAE: The best hostel is in Blackall.

Mr. Dufficy: Who put it there?

Mr. RAE: The local authority, which does an excellent job.

In considering the pattern of progress that the Government has established in Queensland, I think we should look also at the outstanding part played by the Department of Health and Home Affairs in providing services for people in the West. I had the privilege of having the Minister for Health and Home Affairs with me recently when the new nurses' quarters were opened at Muttaborra. They are particularly good, and I hope that the Minister will be able to recommend the provision of similar quarters at Longreach.

One of the most noteworthy achievements of the Government in western areas is the introduction of the Flying Surgeon Service.

Dr. Noble: It is the only one in the world at present.

Mr. RAE: That is so. There is no doubt that that was a most significant step in bringing security of health to the people living in the sparsely-populated areas of Queensland. Recognising the difficulties experienced by these people and the financial hardship in which some of them were involved in obtaining the services of a specialist surgeon, the Government decided to take the surgeon to the people. It supported the Minister for Health and Home Affairs in his belief

that, although the cost would be considerable, the only satisfactory means of making the services of a skilled surgeon available at short notice to the people of the outback was to appoint a surgeon specially for this purpose and to make available to him and his staff an aircraft for their use as and when required. It was obvious, too, that apart from the advantage of speed, the provision of an aircraft would enable the surgeon specialist and his team to cover a wider area than would otherwise be the case. Dr. C. F. A. Cummins, a highly-qualified and experienced surgeon, was appointed.

Dr. Noble: A very wonderful man.

Mr. RAE: He is, indeed. An aircraft was chartered and the Flying Surgeon Service was born. In selecting the most suitable type of aircraft for the purpose, and in initiating negotiations with air-service operators, the advice and co-operation of the Royal Flying Doctor Service was sought and readily given.

There is no doubt that the Flying Surgeon Service has been responsible for saving many lives. The effect of the service is to make available to the people in remote areas of the State and some distance from base hospitals a high standard of surgical treatment, not only in those cases in which major surgery is required, but also in times of emergency such as confront medical superintendents at isolated hospitals from time to time.

Dr. Cummins has as his assistant a medical officer who, having had special training in the techniques involved, carries the necessary equipment to give modern anaesthetics. The Flying Surgeon not only answers emergency calls, but also makes routine visits to one-doctor towns for consultation and medical discussions with the doctors, many of whom have had limited experience since graduating. Until the establishment of the Flying Surgeon Service many such young doctors were obliged to undertake difficult emergency operations with the matron administering the anaesthetic. Now, thanks to the vision of the present Minister for Health and the interest of the Government in the people living in remote areas, the services of a skilled surgical team are available within a matter of two or three hours.

It is not uncommon for the doctor to leave at midnight, or at 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning by aircraft to save a life at places as far afield as Emerald, Roma, Surat, and way out, of course, to the places in the North-west, such as Urandangie. It is quite remarkable where this man has gone to save a life.

Originally a single-engined aircraft was chartered, but the scope of the Flying Surgeon Service has since been considerably enhanced by the provision of a twin-engined Cessna 310, and from his base at Longreach Dr. Cummins now visits many centres—Quilpie, Jundah, Boulia, Mount Isa, Richmond, Charters Towers, Emerald, and Surat, to quote a few at random.

The Flying Surgeon Service has proved a tremendous boon to the people of the West. Apart from the all-important aspect of saving life, the necessity of transferring patients from remote hospitals either to Brisbane or to one of the other base hospitals has been avoided, thus overcoming the important time factor, apart from the obvious advantage to the patient of having skilled surgical attention at his district hospital, instead of having to undertake a long journey to another centre. Furthermore, the visit of an experienced and highly-skilled surgeon to their hospital from time to time has been of immense benefit to medical superintendents, particularly in one-doctor towns, who previously had no opportunity of discussing a difficult case with a colleague, much less of being able to hand over to a more experienced man.

The establishment and expansion of the Flying Surgeon Service provides further evidence of the determination of the Country Party-Liberal Government to keep abreast of modern potentialities in its medical services and indeed, as in this instance, of its readiness to introduce in Queensland an innovation which is quite new to medical services either in Australia or, as far as is known, throughout the world.

The annual cost of the Flying Surgeon Service, all of which is borne by the Department of Health and Home Affairs, has been as follows:—1958-1959 (one month only), £1,164; 1959-1960, £27,622, including £8,047 for new residence erected for the Flying Surgeon at Longreach; 1960-1961, £27,894; 1961-1962, £34,835.

For the current financial year an amount of £33,104 has been provided in the department's Estimates.

So hon. members can see that the result is very favourable when we consider the good job that this man has done for the people in the West, and I, for one, would like to congratulate him. The full credit must go to the Minister for Health and Home Affairs. He did a great service to the West when he initiated the scheme, which was hatched in Longreach. It is a scheme without parallel anywhere else in the world. We are indeed fortunate to have such a gifted man as Dr. Cummins, as we are in having a Minister who backs him so loyally and ably and provides the necessary finance for him to carry out an excellent job.

In the West we have responsible men in the Police Force. They are good men but under present conditions I should say that they are considerably handicapped in that they are asked to carry out their work with vehicles that are not capable of doing the job. I am not being in any way derogatory, but when the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha was the Minister in charge I think a bad move was made in the purchase of Falcon vehicles. Possibly the Falcons are excellent vehicles down here, but they are not in the West. They have

no place in areas like Birdsville, Boulia, Winton, Eromanga, Quilpie, Adavale, Longreach, and Muttaburra. I should like to see this state of affairs remedied. I do not think it would be very a difficult problem to overcome. I know what happens when I go out to places like Adavale and Eromanga. They are only small centres, but that is how the West is made up. The only way an officer may have to travel round his district is by using his own car. He has to go through all the paraphernalia and "please explains" in the world with his department before they will pay him something like 9d. a mile, which is a very niggardly allowance. This is something that should be remedied. If suitable vehicles were provided it would help these men to do their jobs. They have to investigate possible stock thefts; occasionally they have to bring a body in. It is a little tough that they have to call on a local man who has a utility. I make an earnest plea that this handicap on the western policeman be removed. Four-wheel drive vehicles are a necessity; it is useless to consider any other form of vehicle. Other types just cannot do the job. I would suggest Land Rovers, or similar vehicles. As Japan is a very good customer for our chief western product, wool, I think we could well consider the Toyopet as a possible means of transport for helping policemen in the West to carry out their duties.

There seems to be a possibility that the mounted-police section of the Police Force will be disbanded. I would be very sorry to see that happen, but I have made inquiries and I have discovered that £60,000 a year is required to provide for the mounted police. I am certain that if I had to run it, there is no way in the world I would run it at that price. There are about 30 to 40 horses. I would suggest that three or four men could be employed to exercise them and generally look after them and keep them in condition for presentation on the odd gala day when they are required. I believe that could be done. Many men could be released and used as motor-cycle policemen to prevent deaths on the road. So far this year, 270 people have been killed in traffic accidents. If we could institute such a scheme we could put more policemen on motor-bikes and in patrol cars to control traffic and we would be doing a much better job than by retaining these horses at a cost of £60,000 a year, which is ridiculous and could be as effectively presented at one-third of the cost.

Mr. Walsh: What about the cycle squad?

Mr. RAE: They do a good job.

Mr. Walsh: They are only parading around.

Mr. RAE: I do not agree. I believe they are doing a good service. If we were to put an extra 100 men on motor-cycles, or in cars, patrolling the streets and roads, we would provide a most effective answer to the trouble that confronts us from people in the

younger age group. I came from Casino to Brisbane the other day and I saw only one patrol car and two policemen on motor-bikes. That was on a Sunday, the day on which we are told there is plenty of traffic control on South Coast roads. I saw cars whizzing along at great speeds. I might say that the moment you see a patrol car—and fortunately you can see it a mile off—you go very steadily and do the right thing. This reaction, I am sure, is harboured by us all.

Mr. Sullivan: What sort of car do you drive?

Mr. RAE: I drive a Falcon. My electorate is not like the half-square mile electorates represented by other hon. members, electorates that you could get around in a couple of hours without the aid of a water bag. I have 100,000 square miles to cover. It is a big job. It would help a great deal if we could put on another 100 patrol officers, either on motor-cycles or in cars.

The traffic lights in Brisbane are almost a laugh. People go through them just as though they were not there. Start with the trams; they are the first to do it. I have seen it time and time again. I have seen cars doing 50 miles an hour in Queen Street and Adelaide Street. Something is very wrong when that can go on. It indicates that there is need for a more effective means of enforcing the traffic regulations, and the answer lies in more motor-cycle and motor-car patrols.

I intended to speak in support of the remarks of previous speakers, but they have covered the ground very well. The contribution of the hon. member for Wavell the other day was very good. He suggested something along the lines of keeping a close watch on licences issued to young people until they reach the age of 21 years. I suppose that is a matter for a committee of more able people than I.

I prefer to deal with problems affecting my own area. Fortunately, thanks to this Government, we have not many at the moment. We have been well treated and I know that the appreciation of the people of the West for Cabinet's continued interest in their welfare will be shown at the election next year. Those people are capable of assessing, and they will assess, the value of a true Government.

Mr. DEWAR (Wavell) (4.17 p.m.): Firstly, I congratulate the Treasurer on the presentation of what I believe is the best Budget this State has seen for many a long day, for at least 30 years. It is highlighted by the contrast with the "depression" Budget of a Labour Government south of the border.

In the Financial Statement we find that concessions are being made on every hand, which reflects the confidence the Government has in the future of the State. It is a confidence that is born out of the experience of five years of proper promotion of the

State and its great capacity. The contrast between the efforts of this and the previous Government is most marked, even at Weipa. After nine months of shilly-shallying by the previous Government and getting nowhere with Comalco, this Government, in a matter of weeks, at the instigation of the Minister for Mines, had a contract lined up with Comalco, saw them on the site and had their signature on the paper. Labour's dithering with Weipa is characteristic of its performance over the years. Bit by bit Queensland's potential is being developed, in spite of the 30 or 40 years of Labour's mismanagement of the State. All that was required was a positive approach to get on with the job and tap the potential to make the resources productive in the interests of the people. So the Budget reflects the confidence that the Government has in Queensland, and in the years ahead we shall press on with the development of this State's natural assets.

I propose to deal with two subjects in the Financial Statement, namely, health and traffic. I want to add my word of congratulation to the Government on the adequate and wonderful development that we have seen in the field of health in this State. Under the inspiring leadership and guidance of the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, we have seen during the last five years new approaches to many aspects of medicine and the care of our people. In the field of mental health, he is about to bring down new legislation in a modern approach to this vexed problem. There is the great work that he has done in taking our older citizens out of mental institutions, where they were placed by the Labour Government, and giving them a decent way of living in their declining years.

There have also been great developments in the field of child welfare as a result of the policy of this Government. On that particular phase, I should like to deal with one section, and that is the treatment centre for handicapped children at Chermiside. It has been set up recently and it is functioning admirably. Whilst this Government made available quite substantial sums of money each year by way of subsidies and grants to the Queensland Sub-normal Children's Welfare Association, it became apparent to the Minister that the provision of treatment for sub-normal and handicapped children could not reasonably be left entirely to the Association, whose activities are concerned mainly with children between the ages of six and 18. The Minister saw the need for a special unit for the diagnosis and treatment of sub-normal and handicapped infants, and on 10 January last such a centre was opened at Chermiside.

For many generations sub-normal children were put into institutions and forgotten. It is a fact that up to the time that the present Government took office, nearly all our sub-normal children were housed at the Ipswich Mental Hospital, and very little was done

for them. As a matter of fact, my colleagues and I on the Youth Inquiry Committee some four or five years ago inspected the Ipswich Mental Hospital and, frankly, the conditions were abominable for any Christian society. The Minister is to be commended for the admirable steps that he has taken, in concert with his Government colleagues, in this particular field. The Government believes that something can be done for most sub-normal children, and the purpose of the centre at Chermiside is to determine what can be done in individual cases. The teaching and training aspects are provided for, and a modern kindergarten is included, under the supervision of a specially trained teacher.

It is intended that as the children grow older they will be sent to whatever facilities best suit their particular needs. The centre encourages parents to have as much contact as possible with their children at the centre and, where possible, parents are encouraged to take their children home. In short, the function of the treatment centre for handicapped children is to diagnose, assess, and treat individual cases. The children are, as it were, sorted out and a decision made as to the correct institution to which each child should go.

Needless to say, the department maintains close liaison with the Queensland Sub-normal Children's Welfare Association in this work, the effect of such liaison being that a co-ordinated service for mentally sub-normal babies and children has now been established, thanks to the interest of the Government in these unfortunate young people and the capacity of the present Minister for Health and Home Affairs—a medical man—to make his own assessment of their needs.

As the Committee knows, I am personally associated with the work of the Queensland Spastic Children's Welfare League. Indeed, it is a great pleasure to me, in my capacity with that organisation and as a member of the Government, to see that this organisation, which is coping with 400 or 500 children, continues to receive a subsidy of £50,000 a year. Excellent work is being done here, and it is to the credit of any Government—this particular subsidy was started by the previous one—that, once established by private individuals, this work can be carried out adequately. It is to the credit of any Government that recognition is continued of the contributions of private individuals to the many worth-while charities existing in Queensland.

This matter may have been mentioned before, but, if it has been, there still does not appear to be tangible evidence of any real progress in the field of mental health. There is ample evidence that the modern approach envisages the need for suitable therapy for quick rehabilitation. A study that was made in England showed that in that country they have gone a long way towards creating suitable pursuits and fields

of activity for the inmates of mental institutions which can become productive, or partly productive, and play an important role not only in raising finance for the institutions but also in the quicker rehabilitation of the inmates. I suggest that we in Queensland should investigate the possibility of doing on a much bigger scale many of the things that have already been done partly in particular institutions to make the people in them as productive as is humanly possible. This will greatly reduce the cost of running the institutions and will play a very important part in the rehabilitation of the inmates.

We have, in Queensland, about 5,000 or 5,500 people in our prisons, our mental institutions, our youth institutions, and so on. We know that in our prisons, particularly in the prison at Boggo Road—I am not aware of the extent to which this is carried out in other prisons—various trades are practised and a great deal of productivity is possible. At Boggo Road, saddles and harness are produced for the mounted police and for other fields of Government activity. The prisoners make their own bread in the bakery, and mattresses and pillows are made for various Government institutions. In dealing with prisoners, of course, we are dealing with people who are physically fit and have all their faculties, so it is not hard to train them to do a particular job. However, it is an entirely different matter in the field of mental health.

In England, what is known as the Industrial Therapy Organisation has been set up. It works as an independent organisation outside the mental institutions but sets up in the institutions different types of plant to produce certain things. Films that I saw recently showed cartons, party hats, and similar articles, being made. Most of the films showed only women doing the work, but both men and women who had been inmates of the institutions for many years, and who were destined to live the rest of their lives in that atmosphere because there was no hope of their ever taking their place in normal community life, were making these and many other articles that I cannot remember at the moment. The Industrial Therapy Organisation was taking out and distributing through the normal channels of the retail and wholesale trade of Great Britain the things that they were producing. Two ends were being achieved at the one time. Because the cost of labour was virtually nil, the inmates were helping to provide money to run the institution. In addition, people who prior to this would probably have spent their days simply moping round the institution, with the people looking after them just hoping that they would get well, were being trained to use dangerous machines, such as guillotines, and so on.

The films that I saw showed interviews with many of the people and told their stories. One section was running a car-washing plant. Eight inmates worked on the car; a man

drove it in and sat in it while the hoses were pin-pointed onto it. It was washed, dried, and polished in four minutes.

Mr. Davies: Where did the hon. member say this was?

Mr. DEWAR: That was in England. I have forgotten the name of the institution. I shall inform the hon. member when Dr. Noble returns.

Mr. Herbert: Bristol.

Mr. DEWAR: It was at Bristol. It is being run on highly developed lines over there. It is, indeed, capable of great success, and it is being successfully done in that country. We should investigate the possibility of doing something of that nature in Queensland. We have, as I said, about 3,000 to 4,000 inmates in our mental institutions, about 1,000 in our prisons, and 500 or 600 in our various youth institutions.

In discussing this with the people in charge of mental health I gained the impression that, counting the present prison personnel as being fully productive, we should be able to achieve a productivity of about 2,500 people. There are so many activities that can be indulged in! We could produce the farm-colony type of things. We are doing some of this now but the scale is not grand enough. We could be producing in our mental institutions eggs and farm produce. It could be built up so that we could supply some of our major hospital units with the whole of their requirements of these commodities. We could develop in our mental institutions the type of organisation we see in England—an independent organisation outside the Public Service, which is essential—an organised and co-ordinating unit producing in our institutions complete articles or parts for other manufactures. This could be done. I know that from many citizens who are experienced in this work.

We are doing it in a small way in our sheltered workshops, where spastic people are able to do many of these jobs and are paid small sums for their efforts. We are able to place the units they produce on a competitive market. There is a great possibility here, not only for making our institutions fairly self-reliant in these products but also for helping the inmates of many of them to resume useful civilian life. The whole basis of the scheme is therapy, and for every person we can salvage out of the mental institutions and make fit and able to go back into industry, we strike a blow for the State. We are removing the need to keep him in the institution and providing an opportunity for him to go back into the community and take his place as a normal citizen, and, in the case of a male, to provide for his family.

Mr. Davies interjected.

Mr. DEWAR: If ever hon. members opposite become the Government again he would have to be very lucky to get a job. As I said earlier, in the confidence that we see

in the Treasurer's Statement, in the confidence that this Government has in the future of Queensland, I feel sure that the estimate of very responsible people, that once we get Moonie oil flowing and have in Queensland not only the oil but the refinery and the industries that come as a natural corollary thereto, this State will undoubtedly take its rightful place as the leading State of Australia. If it has the advantage of a Government that realises Queensland's great potential and not one such as killed it over the years—

Mr. Davies: It will have such a Government next year—a Labour Government.

Mr. DEWAR: I have handled as much as I wish to deal with on health at this time. The Health Estimates will be before the Committee at a later date and, naturally, I shall have more to say on this subject then. But I do submit the suggestion that an investigation be made as soon as possible into whether or not it is practicable and possible to use our institutional staffs on the basis of helping to save the Government money on many of the things that could be done in these institutions and, at the same time, providing a wonderful method of giving therapy and providing real rehabilitation to the inmates.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. DEWAR: The way hon. members went on at Peak Downs, throwing money down the drain, they could not care less about saving money. Wasting money was part of their programme. We saw it at Peak Downs and all the madcap Socialist schemes of the twenties, when millions of pounds were thrown away. However, that was the attitude of the Socialists. I see in the gallery some New Zealand friends of mine to whom I was speaking last night. I well remember New Zealand's experience of Socialism. However, those days have gone. The people today are not interested in Socialism or the wastage that went on while the Labour Socialists were in power in Queensland.

Again, in traffic we see an activity in which the record of this Government is second to none in Australia. When we became the Government five years ago—when we promised to give Queensland good government, which we have done—we were faced with the spectacle of chaos. In the field of traffic, little or nothing was being done. I admit that most of us accepted the position. We knew that Queensland had a rotten Government and therefore accepted the fact that things could not be done because we had at the head of affairs men without imagination. It was not until a Government with imagination came into power and started to do the things we had got used to being without that we realised how badly off we had been before.

As time went by, it became apparent that the previous Governments of Queensland had not been remotely interested in the welfare

of Queenslanders, particularly from the point of view of safety. Today we see in the number of traffic lights that have been installed how much has been done to improve the flow of traffic in Brisbane in particular, and in other cities. We must remember that since we became the Government the registration of vehicles has increased by almost 30 per cent., so that whereas the problem five years ago was two, today it is three.

For every two problems they had, we have had three. In spite of that we have a record of fewer accidents per 10,000 miles travelled than there were under Labour, which bears great testimony to the policy of traffic safety that was embarked upon by this Government. When we became the Government there were only seven sets of traffic lights; today there are 40. In five years we have added 33 sets of traffic lights, which include eight pedestrian-actuated lights.

As an indication of Labour's thought to the safety of the people, there were only 17 zebra crossings in Brisbane when the previous Government went out of office. Now there are 336 zebra crossings under the control of the Traffic Commissioner. Those crossings have been supplemented by warning signs and "walking leg" signs. In addition, traffic lanes have been marked. From almost nothing, 75 miles of traffic lanes are now marked out in this city. At Kangaroo Point today we see the first pedestrian subway being built under a road. It is the first attempt by any Queensland Government to provide an adequate safety precaution in a highly-intensified danger area. Labour was just not interested in it.

The co-ordinated-light system was established in Queensland. This was the first State in Australia to institute it. Today our co-ordinated-light system had been copied in Sydney and Melbourne, and recently a representative of the Adelaide City Council was in Brisbane to study our system and take back a report on the implementation of a similar system in Adelaide. Queensland has shown the rest of Australia what can be done by a modern approach to this problem. That is in strong contrast with Labour's neglect.

In recent times we have seen a move by this enlightened Government to provide safety for children attending school. Since publicity was given to school crossings, no fewer than 100 applications have been received from schools for these pedestrian-actuated traffic lights, and 25 of them will be placed in operation early next year in the most densely trafficked areas of the city. This demonstrates the neglect and absolute ineptitude of Labour. Labour was not interested in the problems of the people. It is these little things that remove the fear in the minds of mothers and fathers, and this Government has been prepared to face up to the responsibility and has been able to do so because it has not wasted money in schemes similar to that at Peak Downs. It has utilised its money wisely and has

husbanded its finance for use in the interests of the people of the State. Scramble crossings have been introduced for the first time in this State. Twenty "Give Way" signs have been introduced. Previously there were none. Every day of my life I see one in operation at Kedron Park near the hotel and the high school. What a difference it has made to that corner. At all times, people coming from Woolloowin have the right of way. No-one can cut across their bows from Gympie Road, Kedron, or Windsor. We never see accidents on that corner now, yet previously barely a week went by without at least one. This is simply because the Government saw fit to set up a Traffic Commission to investigate these problems and make an enlightened approach to the traffic tangles in the city and the rest of the State. Progress is being made on every hand.

For the remainder of the time at my disposal I wish to discuss a matter that I have been raising for some time. I introduced it during the Address-in-Reply debate about four weeks or five weeks ago. It concerns teenage drivers and the carnage on our roads that is mainly due to them. Yesterday I asked the Minister a question to try to get some figures on this subject, but unfortunately they could not be compiled in the short time available. However, I have a number of cuttings taken from Brisbane newspapers in the last few weeks, and they depict a shocking story of death on our highways. The first one is from "The Courier-Mail" of 29 September. It concerns a 19-year-old youth, Terry Cox, who was killed. Another 19-year-old youth was in a car that ran into a tree. He was killed, but his name was not published. In the "Telegraph" of 29 September we read that a youth was killed in a car smash, and on 4 October we saw in the Press a photograph of a car that had wrapped itself round a tree on the Wynnum Road. Two youths and one young girl were killed in that accident.

At this stage may I demonstrate Labour's approach to this terrible carnage and show what many Labour men will use for political purposes. In "The Courier-Mail" of 9 October we see—

"Alderman Blames Finance 'Misers'.

'Miserliness' by the State Government in allocating road finance to Brisbane was contributing to the rise in the road death toll in the city, the City Council works committee chairman (Alderman Doyle) said yesterday."

Here is a man who will use the dead bodies of young Queenslanders to try to score a filthy political point. It does not matter that the road safety booklet gives the figures that 57 per cent. of those killed on the road are road suicides (those responsible for their own deaths), that 32 per cent. are road homicides (those killed by other people), and that 1 per cent. are from other personal causes, totalling 90 per cent. of all accidents as being

due to persons, and that only 4 per cent. of all road accidents are due to road conditions. Alderman Doyle is not interested in the truth. He is interested only in using a dirty, low, political lie to try to score politically. That is the type of thing you get from Labour's maladministration and ineptitude. Those people will use anything to score a political point. No matter what the facts are, if they can grasp a dead body or anything else to score a political point, they will do it.

The road toll goes on. In last week's "Sunday Mail" it was reported that Frederic Pearl, aged 20, was killed. The driver in that accident was Graham Nichols, aged 23. Two youths were killed at the Caloundra turn-off—Cyril Greig, aged 18, and William Tully, aged 16. Last week-end, nine people were killed on the roads, seven of them from that part of the community that we call the flower of our youth. Seven out of nine killed in one week-end were young people, and there were three the previous week. I would hazard the guess, from reading newspapers since I made my earlier submission a month ago, that the road deaths would be in the vicinity of 20, plus the injured. I would hazard the guess also, from the evidence I have read in the Press where the age is stated, that 75 per cent. of those would have been under 21 years of age.

I feel as many of my colleagues do about this. And I might say that many hon. members opposite came to me after I introduced the subject in the Chamber a month ago and congratulated me on the suggestion I made. Without egotism, I can say that I had more commendation for that speech than I have previously had in 12½ years of talking in Parliament, and I was very grateful for it. When you get such a reaction from both sides of the Chamber, it is a fair indication that the subject matter is accepted generally. I believe all hon. members are greatly concerned at the carnage on the roads and at the extent to which the young people are being embroiled in a situation that is causing their own destruction.

Mr. Houston: What are you doing about it?

Mr. Davies: Opening the hotels on Sundays.

Mr. DEWAR: It is only people like the hon. member who go into them, so opening them does not make any difference. He is still alive; I do not know how.

The Ambulance chief, Mr. Beech, was forced to say something at last because it is so apparent to these men just what is to blame for the carnage on the road. It is so evident to the men in the Department of Forensic Medicine who have to conduct the autopsies on the bodies that come from the roads. We read on every hand, whenever the Press deals with the subject in editorials and in articles, in police statements, sometimes in

statements from the road-safety authorities, the R.A.C.Q., and the like—always the one thing is blamed for the lot—that magic word, "speed".

Mr. Dean: Alcohol, too. Do not forget alcohol.

Mr. DEWAR: It is always speed that is blamed. That is claimed to be the main factor contributing to the road toll. I have been interested in this subject of the road toll and drink-driving for a long time. In all the reading that I have done over many years, I had never seen a factual statement regarding the incidence of drunken driving and the part that it plays in our road toll until I read "Accident Facts", 1960 Edition, from the United States, five weeks ago, prior to making my comments in the Address-in-Reply debate. The writer was quite outspoken about it. He said that 10,000 of the 32,000 fatal motor-vehicle accidents in 1959 included a drinking driver. That is just under one-third, or 30 per cent. That was the first time that I had seen a figure above 10 per cent. or 15 per cent. attributed to drinking drivers in road accidents.

Mr. Houston: What year was that?

Mr. DEWAR: I said it was 1959. The local Ambulance superintendent, Mr. Beech, has said in no uncertain terms that he blames speed, alcohol, and narrow roads. I cannot agree with him on narrow roads, because the figures show that road factors are responsible for only 4 per cent. of road accidents.

Mr. Houston: They wouldn't know.

Mr. DEWAR: If the hon. member does not think they would know, let him get up and condemn them. If he cannot do that, for heaven's sake let him keep quiet.

Mr. Beech says that the number of people that they pick off the roads with whom it is obvious that alcohol is associated goes much beyond official statistics. I cannot agree more that the American figures say straight out, without any pulling of punches, that 30 per cent. of the accidents in the United States in 1959 involved drinking drivers.

Mr. Aikens: It is much the same here.

Mr. DEWAR: Of course it is much the same here. I have checked with the Department of Forensic Medicine. Dr. Tonge had a letter in the Press about it. I also wrote a letter to the Press but they have a habit of not printing mine. Dr. Tonge said that the bodies of 40 per cent. of the road victims on whom autopsies are conducted in Brisbane have alcohol associated with them. In all the investigations that I have made on this subject, I have found that a figure of anything from 35 to 55 is accepted throughout the world as the percentage of road accidents to which alcohol is directly attributable.

What do the Australian figures show? They show that something like 10 per cent. or 15 per cent. of our accidents are nailed to the colours of alcohol. I go so far as to say that any man who is sober, who obeys all the traffic laws and drives at 60 miles an hour, can drive up and down, to and from the North Coast every day of his life and never have an accident.

Mr. Hanlon: What if he has a blow-out in a front tyre?

Mr. DEWAR: If he is a good driver, he will be able to cope with it. With tubeless tyres, you do not get blow-outs; they go down slowly.

Mr. Houston: Tyres roll off.

Mr. DEWAR: You can drive at 60 miles an hour on the North Coast road and bring your speed down to 35 miles an hour in built-up areas and, as long as you are sober and obey every traffic law, you will never have an accident. I know hundreds of people who have been doing that all their lives. The trouble is speed related to other factors such as alcohol, inattentive driving, dangerous driving, overtaking on hills, crossing dividing lines, and overtaking on curves. It is not speed that is the real factor, but speed accompanied by others. It is speed combined with other contributing factors. In the case of alcohol, I go so far as to say that virtually 50 per cent. of speeding offences on the roads are induced by alcohol.

Mr. Houston interjected.

Mr. DEWAR: Stop parroting. You are not interested in saving life.

Mr. Aikens: He is on the side of the drunken driver.

Mr. DEWAR: Of course he is. The hon. member for Bulimba would not get up and support me in this. All he wants to talk about is grog.

It is ridiculous to blame speed alone; but speed, when accompanied by other factors, can be blamed. Speed alone does not kill; speed with alcohol, inattentive driving, dangerous driving, or overtaking on hills or curves—yes. Attribute some of the blame to the other factors.

I sought the advice of the Department of Forensic Medicine on the question of alcohol. I was told—the figure has been static for months and years—that taking all the autopsies carried out on bodies brought in from our roads, from 38 to 42 per cent. have alcohol in them. It does not matter what the official figures show. These figures are attached to the reports that go to the coroner, but they never appear in the Press.

Mr. Aikens: There are big liquor advertisements in the Press.

Mr. DEWAR: Exactly. One sees liquor advertisements in the Press, but they do not print the facts about alcohol and driving.

I wish to deal now with teenage drivers in particular and the shocking carnage that has taken place over the last few months. I know that there are divergent views on this question, but let us go to the American figures that I quoted here a month ago. I do not care what people say about saturation and the number of times teenagers use the roads compared with men of 50, and so on. Those factors have been taken into consideration in the American figures in this publication. They show that the under-20-year group constitutes 7.2 per cent. of the drivers and the 20-to-24-year group constitutes 11.2 per cent. A total of 18.4 per cent. of the drivers in America are under the age of 24 years and they are in 28 per cent. of the accidents. In no other group does one find that percentage.

Mr. Hanlon: What percentage of the population does this group form?

Mr. DEWAR: That is not shown in these figures.

Mr. Hanlon: That would have some effect on it.

Mr. DEWAR: It is taken into consideration.

Mr. Houston interjected.

Mr. DEWAR: You keep out of this. The hon. member for Baroona is at least intelligent and I will answer his interjection.

In the 25-to-34-year group one finds 25 per cent. of the drivers, and they are in 25 per cent. of the accidents. As people get older they become better drivers. I know it can be said, and will be said, that teenagers are using their fathers' cars at night-time when Dad comes home and is too tired to go out or cannot afford to go out, and that therefore they are using cars more. I would be prepared to enter into an argument on that, but I will accept it. If a driver is 35 or 45, or 50 or 60, it is fairly safe to say that he was driving a car as a young man, and that is sufficient to indicate that he drove so well as a teenager that he is still alive. Is there any reason to believe that a man of 30, 40, or 50, who usually drives only 500 miles a month and who suddenly has to drive 750, 1,000, or 2,000 miles a month, will be any less careful because of that? That is not a sensible argument. If teenagers are now driving on the road twice as much as persons in another age group, it merely means that if they drive twice as much again, twice as many more of them will be involved in accidents, because the same pattern will be exhibited. The amount of driving does not mean a thing. If you are a bad driver and disobey the laws for five miles, you will be a bad driver and disobey the laws for 50 miles; but if you are a good driver and obey the laws for five miles, you will equally be a good driver for 100 miles. It is silly to bring arguments such as that into it. It all depends on the attitude of the person in charge of a car. The attitude that a person adopts in driving the vehicle and the attitude of mind—

Mr. Aikens: Why is there so much sympathy in the courts towards drunken and dangerous driving?

Mr. DEWAR: If the hon. member tells me that I, too, will know, but we have reached the sorry stage that no matter what the legislature may direct, no matter to what extent the Police Department may enforce the law, as soon as an offence takes a man before a jury and alcohol is involved, it will have an effect on the decision. The weakness lies with our courts. It is a safe bet, there being 75 per cent. of males in Australia who drink, that 75 per cent. of the jury are drinkers and they say to themselves, "There, but for the grace of God, go I. Not guilty." That is what is happening in our courts today. It is a sorry state of affairs, because irrespective of how the first two links in the chain of law operate, the final decision rests at the end of the line.

Mr. Houston: Are you against the jury system?

Mr. DEWAR: I am against a system that deals as it does with people who should be dealt with more forcefully.

I will develop what I was saying about the attitude towards driving. I do not care what attitude any hon. member here shows, there is not a man in the Chamber who could not get up and say, "Today, yesterday, last week, some incident occurred whilst I was driving." Last Sunday I was driving through Mayne Junction at exactly 35 miles an hour. I know it was 35 miles an hour because I was running-in a new car, and two young drivers passed me, crossing a double line.

Mr. Donald: They do not necessarily have to be young.

Mr. DEWAR: They do not have to be, but these were. There is not a man here today who could not tell such a story of irresponsibility on the part of teenage drivers. I am not condemning all teenage drivers. One cannot condemn all of anything in any field. No matter what walk of life one is in one will find exceptions to every rule. I should say that the average young person who obeys the law when driving a car would be analogous with the average young person who leads a normal social life without any anti-social tendencies.

I have had a chance to look into these matters. I investigated this subject some time ago with the acquiescence of the Minister involved, and the amount of recidivism that operates after usual case action is taken is amazingly low in comparison with where it is not taken, and the percentage of persons who have duplicate offences and other criminal records is over 30. That is the type of mind we are dealing with. That is the type of mind in the five cases I cited here in the Address-in-Reply debate. One youth who had his license issued at the age of

17 years and two weeks was dead at 18 years and one month, and committed 24 traffic offences in the 12 months. That is the type of people who are killing themselves, and numbers of innocent people as well, every week-end. We cannot afford this slaughter.

I put forward a suggestion a month ago that in this group we issue a provisional license—call it a license on probation to do the right thing. That license could be recalled from persons if they are embroiled in an accident for which they are entirely responsible or if they have more than one record of a bad offence. It could be withdrawn for six months and reissued after they have attended lectures during that period. If they transgress again they lose it until they are 21.

Another thought has been put to me. I think it would achieve the same result, but possibly it would be less harsh and it may be easier to implement. As you know, Mr. Taylor, in about 1952 or 1953 we legislated to give a 10-year licence to people up to 50 years of age. From 50 years onwards—the category I come into now—the licence was to be issued for five years, and at an older age, for a period of one year. Those who are issued with a licence at 17 are given one for 10 years, more or less to do as they like. The suggestion is that this age group—it could be extended to the 24-year-old group because the record there is not much better—be issued with licences on a yearly basis. Whether or not the licence is renewed in the subsequent year would depend upon the attitude of the holder during the previous year. That could be made perfectly clear before licences were issued. There is already provision in the Traffic Act for the police to take action against a person who has abused the privilege of driving a car on the road. That is what it amounts to. A person is issued with a licence for the privilege of driving a car. If he defaults, he abuses that privilege. In the case of a person who has a bad record of continuing traffic offences, the Police Department can issue a warning. I forget the number of the section that covers it, but if the warning is ignored and that person commits any further bad traffic offences the Police Department can issue a show-cause letter so that it becomes incumbent upon the driver to show cause why his licence should not be cancelled. That machinery exists. No further legislation is necessary. I know from personal experience, and from what has been said to me by one of the leading police surgeons in Australia and from our forensic medicine department, that what we have here in Brisbane in the accident-appreciation squad is the most up-to-date system in Australia. Dr. Birrell of the Victorian Police Department, who is the leading police surgeon in Australia, told me that what we have in Brisbane is the envy of every other State. We already have the machinery to take adequate action against those people who

are defying the traffic laws. They are committing seven, eight, even up to 24 traffic offences before they kill themselves or someone else, even though the machinery is there.

Mr. Aikens: Why isn't action taken?

Mr. DEWAR: There is the feeling all the time that they have not got the public with them. We have reached the stage where, if the public want to live, they have to be conditioned to an attitude of mind where they take an interest in public safety and public protection. It is getting that way that many people are afraid to drive their cars on Friday nights and Saturdays when there is plenty of money about because it is pay night and they are worried about all the activities that they expect will be embarked upon at that time of the week.

Mr. Hughes: I do not think enough is being done at schools to educate the children.

Mr. DEWAR: That is a point that could be developed. I am happy to have the support of the hon. member. We have to educate on road safety.

Under the system that I have suggested as an alternative, as well as issuing the licence for one year only to the 17-year-old or 18-year-old it should be incumbent upon the applicant before receiving it to attend police lectures and see films showing a car that has been wrapped round a tree. I was driving along the road and saw that car being taken to a junk-yard. Three young Queenslanders were killed in it. Let these young people see these things before they get a licence. Let them see what happens to drivers who are not prepared to observe the law. They should be issued with a licence for one year, but let it be known to them that getting a licence the following year depends entirely on their behaviour during the current year. The record for this age group is so shockingly bad, and the evidence of the carnage is so terrible, that we must turn our sights to the cause of the real problem. The young people must be made to realise that if they are not prepared to conform with society's demands they must be deprived of some of their privileges. On their record for the previous year they will be deprived of the right to drive a car for the next year or for such time as the Police Department may decide. They may be deprived of the privilege of driving a car for some months. It is only by depriving people of something they need that we can convince them of the seriousness of the matter.

I do not wish to chase our young people, but there is no way in the world that I, or any other decent person would wish to see further occurrences similar to the ones of the past two or three week-ends. We do not want to have 18 per cent. of our drivers embroiled in 28 per cent. of the accidents. The figures are there to prove that to anyone who is interested enough to study them.

In the interests of public safety I urge all concerned, and particularly the Government, to give this matter serious consideration in the interests of Queensland. I believe that there is not a mother or a father in this State who would not bless us for taking action. There is not a mother or a father who sees a son, or a daughter, go out in a car, who is not wondering all the time if they will get home safely. If they are late, the parents wonder whether they have met with an accident and wrapped the car round a post.

We must all do something about it. It does not matter a great deal how, so long as we can convince the young people that they have no right to break the law simply because a policeman does not see them. I do not believe that the appointment of hundreds of policemen will make any difference, because if we had 10,000 extra policemen there would still be 100,000 places where accidents could occur, or where someone could break the law. Accidents happen in many out-of-the-way places—on the Wynnum Road, or at the Caloundra turn-off. They do not all occur in the middle of a town. There could not possibly be enough policemen to cover the thousands of miles of roads in the State. There is only one way to overcome the problem and that is to change the attitude of those embroiled in this shocking carnage. I commend these suggestions to the Government and earnestly plead that consideration be given to them.

Mr. ADAIR (Cook) (5.15 p.m.): No doubt many Government members will be thrilled at what is proposed to be done in their electorates, but for my electorate this is one of the worst Budgets that have been presented in the ten years I have been in Parliament. I do not say that lightly. In the Financial Statement the Treasurer selects 38 main points. The first is the record expenditure on beef roads. He speaks of the commencement of sealing the beef roads and says—

“Apart from beef roads, the Main Roads Department this year will carry out the greatest road building programme in the history of the State.”

That is very nice; not in my electorate, of course.

Mr. Evans: What about the Weipa road?

Mr. ADAIR: That will be only a track. If any road in the State should have been sealed, it is the Mulligan highway. If a main road or a highway was to be built anywhere in the State, the Mulligan highway through to the Peninsula should have been given first preference. I give the Government credit for spending a lot of money on the Mulligan highway, but in that part of the State an unsealed road is not worth two bob. It costs the Government and the local authority more money to keep it in repair than the cost of its original construction. The Mulligan highway will cost over £50,000 a year to maintain. An

indication of the importance of the area to the cattle industry is that the Government is paying £50,000 subsidy to Clausens for the sea transport of cattle that cannot be brought out by road. That sum could help pay for the sealing of the road.

Of the rest of the 38 features of the Budget the only one I have ticked off is the bulk-sugar installation at Cairns. I know that had to come. The building of a bulk-sugar terminal at Cairns is absolutely necessary. The Japanese representatives who came out recently told us that Japan will build terminals and that our bagged sugar will not be wanted; they will want bulk sugar. They are big importers of our sugar, and, to keep their trade, it is necessary to build the terminal. However, it will be a calamity if, when it is built in Cairns, the cartage of the sugar in the area reverts to road transport.

Mr. Walsh: You are going to compel them to put it on the railway?

Mr. ADAIR: There are 700 waterside-workers in Cairns.

Mr. Evans: It will go on the railway. Don't worry about that.

Mr. Hiley: It was answered yesterday. The Minister gave that information.

Mr. ADAIR: I was afraid that that was not going to happen. There are 700 waterside-workers in Cairns, and, as soon as the bulk-loading terminal is operating, there will be 400 fewer. It will be a calamity if this sugar is not transported by rail because we know that with dieselisation, the closing down of certain lines, and everything else, dozens and dozens of railway men will be put out of work.

Mr. Evans: It will be carried by rail.

Mr. ADAIR: So far as I can see, there are to be no major works in my area in the next 12 months. Last year when the sugar season ended we had numbers of unemployed in Cairns and my electorate. The sugar and tobacco seasons end at almost the same time. I can see that again this year we will have numbers of unemployed, and there are no major jobs to be carried out. There are small jobs, but I cannot for the life of me see how the problem of unemployment is to be solved in my area.

The tobacco industry is important in the Far North. I do not think that any Government in this State has ever had a better investment than the one in the Mareeba tobacco-growing area. For an investment of £1,750,000, the Paddy's Green area will produce in 12 months over £1,000,000. Nowhere else in Australia could any Government receive that return on such an outlay. We see that a little over £500,000 is to be spent this year in the channelling of water into these areas. In the Paddy's Green area there are hundreds of blocks to be opened up, and it has been proved that this is the

richest tobacco-growing land in the Commonwealth. This year, the value of the product from the area will be just under £7,000,000. I think that the sensible idea would be to put into the Mareeba scheme, where production has been proved, the amount of money that is to be spent in the brigalow country. However, that is the decision of the Government and there is nothing that I can do about it. In the Mareeba, Mary River, Dimbulah, and Paddy's Green areas are hundreds of blocks waiting to be taken up. Hundreds of farmers or intending farmers are hungry for land and want to go onto properties and develop them. If the Government put up 200 blocks tomorrow, I guarantee that every one would be balloted for. Why wouldn't they be, when their values today are up to £20,000? There are hundreds of takers for these blocks. I am disappointed that more money is not being spent on irrigation in that area, because I know of no part of the State offering more opportunities for development.

Mr. Sullivan: What is the area of these blocks that are worth £20,000 in their natural state?

Mr. ADAIR: In the Paddy's Green section of the Mareeba-Dimbulah area there are 70-acre or 80-acre blocks of land that have barns and all the other amenities on them, and I will bet the hon. member that he will have difficulty in purchasing one of them for under £40,000. As I said during the debate on the Address-in-Reply motion, I know men—I will not mention their nationality—who have been in the country only six years working as share-farmers and who have assets worth from £25,000 to £30,000.

Mr. Houghton: They work, don't they?

Mr. ADAIR: Yes, they are good workers.

Mr. Sullivan: The blocks would not be worth £20,000 in their raw state?

Mr. ADAIR: They would be in a raw state when the share-farmers went on to them. It is nothing for them to make £6,000 or £7,000 a year from share-farming. I know one farmer who grew 10 acres of tobacco. He received an average price of 14s. lb. and a return of £11,500 from the 10 acres. That shows just what there is in the tobacco industry in the Far North. Sugar-farming is not in the same class. It is the more stable of the two industries, but for a quick profit on a small acreage I know of no crop grown in Queensland that will give a better result than tobacco.

Mr. Sullivan: It is better than wheat-growing.

Mr. ADAIR: My word it is.

There are many Italians in my electorate. They are excellent settlers and are doing very good work in the tobacco industry. Not only the man goes out and works in the field, but also his wife and family. At present

they are planting tobacco, and there is a great deal of work in making the seed beds. They have to get the antbed, burn it, then prepare the soil and plant the seed. When it has germinated, they plant out the young plants. The new settlers are doing a wonderful job in this area. They are hard-working and industrious, and are good citizens.

Mr. Sullivan: That area has been developed on a family basis, as have many of the dairying areas in Queensland. I have a great deal of admiration for those people.

Mr. ADAIR: That is correct. As a matter of interest, in the Aerodrome area there are 12 Albanians share-farming. They came out here under the threat of being shot if they were caught. They came through Yugoslavia to Greece, then out to Australia, and are now share-farming on Murat's farm. Their wives and families are in Albania, and the people have asked me to assist in getting them to Queensland. But there is no way in the world that I can do anything. We have no consul and I cannot assist them to get their families out.

Mr. Aikens: If he was a prominent Nazi or Fascist, you would get them out.

Mr. ADAIR: I agree.

I turn now to irrigated pastures for cattle-fattening. In Mareeba, and tobacco areas generally, it will be found that the soil is poor. Apparently poor soil is better for tobacco-growing, and this is very poor soil. They are going into irrigated pasture improvement there, and at the present cost I doubt whether it can succeed. I think the Government will have to reduce the cost of water to these people for this purpose. I know that the cost of water for cattle-fattening purposes is very high on the coast and in that area where the country is so poor it will certainly be too high. I cannot see how these people can succeed unless the Government reduces the cost of water to them.

Whilst the Minister is here I should like to mention the recently-introduced Racing and Betting Act and the possibility of the establishment of a totalisator in the Cairns area. If a totalisator is introduced to Cairns I do not think there is a chance that the racing clubs in the area will survive. They are at present flat out continuing to operate and the introduction of the totalisator would spell the doom of horse-racing and trotting in the area.

I suggest that the Minister should limit the operation of totalisators to south of Townsville, where there is a greater population and where they may be of some use. So far as Cairns is concerned, Innisfail to the south and Mareeba and Mossman to the north are open towns with legalised off-course betting. This leaves Cairns an isolated area and, for the life of me, I cannot see that the clubs can survive if the tote is introduced. At present the number of bookmakers operating is falling off. At the last meeting, the annual Amateur Race

Club meeting, there was a good attendance, but I am informed that one cannot take any notice of that. Bookmakers are not allowed to come in from areas like Mareeba, Mossman, or Innisfail, and it will not be long before only Cairns bookmakers are operating at the track. The clubs have to get their prize money from the bookmakers. As a matter of fact, the bookmakers finance prize money, the secretary's fees, and all the other costs of horse-racing in those areas.

The totalisator on the track does very little business, and I am sure that if one was installed in Cairns it would, as I say, sound the deathknell of horse-racing in the area. I ask the Minister to consider this matter and to limit the totalisator to Townsville and south thereof.

Mr. Aikens: Why pick on Townsville? Make it Rockhampton.

Mr. ADAIR: That might be better, but it will kill racing if it operates in Cairns.

The following extracts from a letter written to me by the race club should be of interest to the Treasurer—

"I take this opportunity to write you to see if you can secure any relief of the turnover tax as it affects the bookmakers and the race clubs.

"Things are starting to get desperate up here. Our Annual is two months away and as yet we are not game to draw up a programme as between bookmakers dropping out due to finance, registered off-course shops and heavy burden of the turnover tax, things will have to be drastically changed in the near future for us to carry on.

"Last Saturday there were five fielders on the local events and eleven on the Southern events, and as there is no likelihood of any improvement our only chance is an amendment to the Act allowing registered off-course licensees to field at times and leave their clerks in charge of the shop.

"There is no closed ring in North Queensland. Brisbane has closed rings and a waiting list miles long to field, so tough and all as the tax is, there is always someone waiting to take the places of the 'fallen'. In this country when they go broke there is no one to take their place and in the long run the Cannon Park Racecourse will revert to a 'cow paddock'."

Mr. Hiley: What is the date of that letter?

Mr. ADAIR: 20 August.

Mr. Hiley: You would know that since then they have had an all-time record amateur meeting.

Mr. ADAIR: I can explain that. An amateur meeting will always do well in Cairns. It is a social occasion. Horses are brought from all over the State for that meeting, even from Brisbane. There would not be an attendance anything like that at

an ordinary meeting. It is something out of the ordinary. It is like the Doomben Cup in Brisbane—only the one day of the year.

The letter continues—

“Our only chance of survival is getting out of the restricted area, no-one here wants a Tote. We put three buses on each Saturday at no expense to the public, keep the admission down to 6s. With a Tote in town it would keep a team away from travelling four miles to the racecourse. Of course, the ‘scalpers’ on the Tote tickets would get plenty as no-one is going to miss work on Monday to collect, especially in the canefields areas. The local business men are going to be affected as Saturday afternoon is his main trading day.”

I know that that is the position. I know that they will be struggling to keep racing going in the north. If Cairns horse-racing and trotting falls down, that will be the end of horse-racing in the areas further north and west. I ask the Treasurer to examine this matter. Cairns is circled by open areas, including Innisfail, which is an open town, on the southern side. There is only a small population in the Cairns area—

Mr. Walsh: The Treasurer knows that he has a little goldmine up there in the T.A.B.

Mr. ADAIR: No, I think he realises the position in Cairns. I hope he is not influenced by the attendance at the recent amateur meeting, because it was something out of the ordinary. The Governor was there and his attendance would be an attraction in itself. With horses coming all the way from Brisbane people probably would come down from the Atherton Tableland. For an ordinary meeting, however, people would not come from the Atherton Tableland or Innisfail.

Mr. Hewitt: About how much prize money would be distributed yearly?

Mr. ADAIR: In Cairns last year the book-makers gave £10,251. This was split up into prize money £8,763 10s. 10d., and salaries and wages £3,009. In other words, the book-makers paid the prize money, the grounds-men's wages, and most of the secretary's wages.

Mr. Hewitt: How many meetings are held there a year?

Mr. ADAIR: They have to share their meetings with the trotting club.

I wish now to refer to the transport of cattle from Cape York Peninsula by the motor vessel “Cora”. To supply a full load for the ship the graziers in the area have to provide 400 head of cattle, and they have to pay about £1,600 or £1,700 for the trip. If they supply a full load the cost per head is about £4. I believe the cost was £3 15s. a head for the last load of cattle that the “Cora” brought to Cairns.

Mr. Walsh: Is that from Cooktown?

Mr. ADAIR: No, right from Marina Plains.

Mr. Walsh: Where is that?

Mr. ADAIR: It is right up near Coen—not far from Coen.

I believe that £3 15s. is a reasonable cost to transport cattle that distance. Road transport could not possibly carry them for twice that price. It costs £5 a head to carry cattle from Cooktown to Cairns, and Cooktown is 200 miles this side of Marina Plains.

The graziers in the area tell me that after they pay the transport costs and other costs they are still able to make a small profit. They receive only about £18 a head for their cattle. As we know, cattle in the Cape York Peninsula area are different from those in the southern parts of the State. The northern cattle are mostly boners or stags, and the price received is indeed low, but with the reasonable cost of transport the graziers do get a percentage of profit. However, when the new boat is put on the run very shortly, things may be different. It will carry over 800 head of cattle. If it is necessary for the graziers in the area to provide a full load for the new boat, I am doubtful if they will be able to supply enough cattle unless they bring them from the Gulf country and ship some from Marina Plains. In my opinion, it will be very difficult for them to supply full loads for the new boat. I believe that the average grazier in the Peninsula is quite happy with the “Cora”.

We have heard about the trouble at the Queerah meatworks. I have not raised this subject before, but I intend to speak on it this evening.

A Government Member interjected.

Mr. ADAIR: I was a butcher for 22 years.

I do not know of any other place in the State, in the Commonwealth, or in the world, where graziers live under worse conditions than those on the Cape York Peninsula. Generally, when someone talks about a grazier we think about a person who is wealthy, or who has quite a sum of money, but that does not apply to graziers on the Cape York Peninsula. I know a lady who has lived virtually all her life in and around Marina Plains. When they were recently given a good price for their cracker beef because of the export market to America, she made a little money from her cattle. It was the first time in her life that she had had the opportunity, and the money, to travel south of Townsville.

There are many graziers in the area— young men like Artie Wallace and Bill Wallace—with young wives, living on remote properties. For five months of the year they are really isolated. I have seen flour in sacks full of weevils, with maggots a quarter of an inch to half an inch long. If you were strong enough you could pull it out in strings. They have to sift it before using it. They have no such things as washing-machines. You have only to see

the homes they live in to realise their difficulties. It is not that they do not want to spend money; they just have not got it. They have been financed on the properties by Dalgetys, or New Zealand Loan, or the meatworks in Cairns. They live under very tough conditions. Weeks before the birth of a child the women have to call for the aerial ambulance to take them out or they will be stranded.

Mr. Aikens: Can anything be done to help them?

Mr. ADAIR: We are trying to help them. Since I was elected in 1953 aerodromes have been built on almost all the properties; they have boat transport; they have postal deliveries, and so on. But even now, north of Laura, the only way they can move around on land is with four-wheel-drive trucks. That is why I say the area should be given preference in the sealing of roads and in the construction of beef roads.

Most of the graziers have shares in the Queerah meatworks. I blame the management for most of the trouble at Queerah. I am not taking anyone's part in it. I have attended two or three meetings there and have seen for myself what goes on. You will not see the same trouble occurring at the bacon factory at Mareeba. Meatworkers work at that bacon factory but I have never heard of any trouble there.

Mr. Aikens: Do they kill cattle at the bacon factory?

Mr. ADAIR: Yes, cattle and pigs. Recently this trouble arose at the Queerah meatworks, much of it brought on by the management themselves. That trouble has been going on all the time with pinpricking from the management, not by the men. I know Houlihan. He has a bad name; he is called everything. Probably some of the blame can be put on him because he is the union rep. at the works. Naturally, if any trouble occurs at the works it is his job to try to stop it. I have seen some of the men at the meatworks, men who, I know, are not politically biased. I have approached five or six of them who, I would say, would be Country Party supporters. They have all told me that Houlihan is "not a bad joker." For a long time the management at Queerah have caused a lot of the trouble by their pinpricking. I think that as soon as they get to the stage of meeting the men and forming better relations with them, there will be industrial peace at that meatworks.

Mr. Houghton: Has he worked at any other meatworks up there?

Mr. ADAIR: No. He was on the wharf at Cairns.

Mr. Houghton: Did he have any trouble there?

Mr. ADAIR: I do not know about that. I know him personally and, so far as I know, he has been branded as a Communist. That is a big thing to say. I have cut cane

and mined and been among workers all my life, but I have seen in all that time only one Communist ticket. I saw that in Cooktown. I was a cane-cutter for 12 years and I worked in mines and with a lot of men, but I saw only that one ticket. This fellow came to me—his name was Tommo Thompson—and said, "I suppose it's no good coming to you? You wouldn't get me a job because I'm a Com." He could not get work at the hospital in Cooktown. I said, "Try me out and see." Apparently they were sending a man from Cairns, a unionist, to do the work at the hospital at Cooktown. He said, "They are sending this fellow to take the living out of my mouth. If I had the job, I would be able to keep my family." He was a man with six children. I took up the matter with the hospital board, he got the job, and I think I got his vote, too.

Mr. Aikens: You couldn't have had an A.L.P. opponent or you wouldn't have got it.

Mr. ADAIR: I did get his vote—or I think so. I say emphatically that most of the trouble at the Queerah meatworks is caused by the management.

Mr. Walsh: The management, or the manager?

Mr. ADAIR: The management, which is the manager down through the staff. Apparently the management of Queerah believe in conciliation and arbitration but, when the Commissioner gave his direction, they would not comply with it. When Federal Conciliation Commissioner Findlay directed that Houlihan be re-employed, they took no notice of him. The management are just as much to blame as the men.

I have heard it said that the graziers were scabs. I do not think that they were. I know most of them and, if they did come down to see that their cattle were boned and their interests protected, I think it was because they were frightened that they would lose their stock. I think that was the reason for what they did.

Some time ago I asked the Treasurer how much of the special grant from the Commonwealth Government had been allocated to Thursday Island. The Treasurer told me that the Island would get nothing. I do not know whether he has ever been to Thursday Island, but only one-third of the land is ratable. Out of the Island's small area, two-thirds of the land is unratable because it is owned by the Federal and State Governments, and religious bodies own the other portions.

Mr. Hiley: You know, of course, that we subsidise the transport to Thursday Island, which costs us about £50,000. The Island could not live without that service. You also know that the only local authorities in Queensland that are subsidised by the Treasury and not by the ratepayers are Cooktown and Thursday Island, areas that you represent.

Mr. ADAIR: Are you talking about the subsidy to John Burke Ltd.?

Mr. Hiley: On the steamer service, yes.

Mr. ADAIR: Not the airways?

Mr. Hiley: No.

Mr. ADAIR: The Government is paying a subsidy of £30,000 a year to John Burke Ltd., yet Keith Holland is providing a better service. He has two vessels, the "Muluka" and another vessel, which give a fortnightly service, whereas John Burke gives only a monthly service.

Mr. Armstrong: He is doing a good job.

Mr. ADAIR: He is doing an excellent job. Although he is not receiving a subsidy, he is running a service in competition with John Burke Ltd., which is receiving a subsidy of £30,000. I know that John Burke has reduced the freight rate on certain items.

Mr. Armstrong: Only from Cairns on.

Mr. ADAIR: That is correct, only from Cairns on. Keith Holland is doing a wonderful job, and if the Minister intends to continue paying a subsidy I think Holland should receive some of it. As I said, he is providing a fortnightly service to the Gulf and the Peninsula.

Mr. Hiley: We have given him a special co-ordinated rail freight to Cairns. He has not asked for any subsidy from Cairns on. We have a contract with John Burke Ltd. We cannot take anything away from that company till the contract expires. The contract was made when you were in government.

Mr. ADAIR: Yes, I know. The Government of the day gave the contract to John Burke Ltd. because nobody else would take it on. The Government was frightened that if John Burke pulled out the people of Thursday Island would be left stranded.

Mr. Hiley: That contract must be honoured. It expires in 1965.

Mr. Walsh: That would not stop the Government from subsidising Holland.

Mr. Hiley: He does not want it.

Mr. ADAIR: There is no way in which the Government can get revenue on Thursday Island. The pearl beds are out in the sea and rates cannot be charged on them. The roads are dilapidated and need thousands of pounds spent on them. A car cannot go over some of the roads on the Island.

Mr. Aikens: We have them in Townsville, too.

Mr. ADAIR: There are none as bad as that in Townsville.

One of the most important developments in my electorate is the Weipa bauxite field which, as hon. members know, is right up on the west coast of Cape York Peninsula.

The area is unpopulated. It is actually a vast area of waste land. There are graziers in the area, I suppose, right from Laura through to the top of the Peninsula at Bamaga Mission, but there would be a white population of no more than 200 people. Of course, there are several aboriginal missions there.

I am fearful as to whether the alumina plant that I believed would be constructed at Weipa—I did not think there was any possibility of its going anywhere else in Queensland—will be built there. Over two years ago I visited the field. At that time they were testing the deposit. As hon. members probably know, on this field there is up to two feet of topsoil. That is why they did not find the field in the first place. They went through the topsoil down to the deposit, but they did not get the true sample they should have got. Had they taken off the two feet of overburden they would have obtained a truer test. The bauxite itself goes down in places to a depth of 18 feet, and one can imagine what would happen if the alumina plant is not put on the field there. The proportion of bauxite used in processing alumina is 2 to 1.

One can fly over that country for miles and pick the bauxite country, first of all, because of the red ant-beds on the plain. It is found only in the low country. There is none of it in the hills but, if you see a portion of low ground that looks swampy, that is not bauxite country.

I often go up with the pilots when flying from Thursday Island to Weipa and Coen and farther up. They fly over this country to give the passengers in the plane a look at crocodiles in the rivers and creeks. Very rarely does the D.C.3 plane make this trip without one seeing at least two or three crocodiles. When they are doing this one can see the bauxite deposits quite plainly along the coast and up the rivers. The deposits vary in depth from 14 to 16 feet.

I am fearful that the company may decide to build the alumina plant elsewhere than on the field at Weipa. They may choose to build it in Central Queensland. I know it will take years. Hundreds of years' work is available in this deposit. I have seen the assays. I was there when they were drilled. At every hole they drilled they noted down what the assay of the hole was. They drilled here and there to make sure a correct assay was obtained.

Mr. Ewan: Did they use rotary drills?

Mr. ADAIR: Yes. The assay showed 50 per cent.

If the Government or the company decides to build the alumina plant anywhere but at Weipa it will mean that the field will be only a bulk-handling depot that will export raw bauxite to Japan or to the alumina plant in Central Queensland, or wherever they put it. It will mean that that country will be left useless. All that will be there will be two feet of over-burden with trees growing on it. I have spoken to men who know

their job and they have told me that on the west coast of the Peninsula, where the bauxite is, would be the best grazing country on the Cape York Peninsula. Of course, that would not be saying much compared with the land down here. Nevertheless, it is good cattle-grazing country. I trust that the Minister will press the company to construct the alumina plant on the site of the bauxite deposit. I was there when they were testing the ground to see if it would take the heavy weights that would be necessary. I forget how many tons of pressure they were applying to make sure that the ground would take it, but I was there for two hours and there was not a movement. I am sure that that country would carry the heavy equipment needed in an alumina plant. If the plant is not built at Weipa it will mean that instead of 4,000 or 5,000 people living in that area there will be no more than 500. As I say, it will be turned into merely a bulk-loading depot. Bulldozers will load the bauxite onto belts for conveyance to the ships. As long as I am here I will press for the establishment of the alumina plant at Weipa. I do not care where the aluminium plant is, but I want the alumina plant built at Weipa.

Mr. Windsor: Do you mean you are going somewhere?

Mr. ADAIR: No, I mean while I am here. I will not be crying if I am not here.

The Minister for Health and Home Affairs is not in the Chamber, but I should like to bring before his notice the fact that in Mareeba, a town with a population of more than 10,000, the hospital has one medical attendant. Dr. Flecker has been a doctor in Government hospitals for over 17 years. He has given excellent service in Queensland hospitals. The hon. member for Gregory claimed that there has been no trouble in getting doctors for the hospitals in his electorate. Mareeba is a prosperous town with a population of more than 10,000. Indeed, I would say that it would be the most prosperous growing town in Queensland, yet there is only one doctor in the hospital. He does not even get the opportunity to go to the pictures or to take his children to a football game. If he does not get relief he will have to resign. I am sure there is nothing to prevent a doctor from the General Hospital—which I claim is over-staffed compared with hospitals up there—being sent to relieve Dr. Flecker. That would make two doctors in the area, but there should be three. This man has been working for hospitals boards in Queensland for many years and he should be given some recognition. He does not get any overtime, although he is working two doctors short. He gets the same salary as if there was a full staff of three doctors. I appeal to the Government to do whatever is possible to grant him relief, otherwise he will have to resign because his health is failing. With a population of 10,000 people in Mareeba and district, he has been carrying out all

the duties. He is an excellent doctor and anyone in the Mareeba district will vouch for him. I appeal to the Minister to do whatever he can.

While the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity is in the Chamber I again appeal to him for a road from the Daintree River to China Camp. I know the Minister thinks I have a complex about this, but I do not agree with him.

Mr. Evans: You should talk to Mr. Businski. It is not a gazetted road.

Mr. ADAIR: He is the chairman of the Douglas Shire Council and he told me he wrote to the Minister or the department asking for the same treatment as was given by the Gair Government. All they want is £31,000.

Mr. Evans: He was pulling your leg. He was in my room last night.

Mr. ADAIR: If the Minister says he is pulling my leg, that will suit me, because the business people of Mossman have told me they are willing to finance the payment of bulldozer-drivers to put that road through if the Government will supply the dozer. The Government cannot get a better offer than that. I will put whatever little money I have into the proposition.

Mr. Evans: Well, put it in. It is not a gazetted road.

Mr. ADAIR: If the Government will lend us a T.D.24, that will suit us.

If the Minister guarantees that Mr. Businski made the statement that he does not want it, and I go back and tell the people in the Douglas shire and Cooktown about it, I am sure he will be roasted.

Mr. Evans: You told us tonight you want the Mulligan Highway paved, and now you want this other road running parallel with it. What do you want?

Mr. ADAIR: The Mulligan Highway has not done one scrap of good for Cooktown. It is 50 miles off the "Y" to Laura. The road I want constructed is only 17 miles. Jack Brennan, who is an expert bulldozer operator, and has been in the timber industry and the road-building industry for years, claims that he can do it for £31,000.

Mr. Evans: What did Guthrie, Hastings, and Davies say? They said it would cost £351,000.

Mr. ADAIR: That was for a first-class road. We only want a road that an ordinary car can go over. The Government have given a road to the Herberton shire to what is called Longman's Gap, and it has built a road over the Herberton Range, which is 14 miles in length.

Mr. Evans: It is a main road.

Mr. ADAIR: Yes, but they have two roads into their area like a big "Y." Cooktown is a dying town and it needs something like this. It would cut 80 miles off the trip to Cairns. Even now, in the Roaring

Meg and China Camp areas there are two mining companies that have spent over £30,000 in the last six months. They built a road for four-wheel-drive vehicles and yet the Government will not give that to them. It is a mining access road.

(Time expired.)

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (7.30 p.m.): Tonight I am going to deal with a document that has caused me considerable concern. When it came into my possession I asked myself, first of all, "Could I possibly use it?" and then, "Could I use it in Parliament?", because, although it contains no word or phrase that is unparliamentary, it is perhaps one of the foulest documents that have ever been penned. Consequently, my first reaction to it was one of absolute disgust and I said, "I will have nothing to do with it." Then I received information and I checked up on it. As you will see, it is a photostat copy of a newspaper called, "The Freethinker", which circulates very freely at the Queensland University. Every young boy and every young girl, who are students, and in fact every old girl and every old man who happens to be on the staff there, got a copy of it. That did not affect me very much because, when all is said and done, with the new conception of university education, I suppose some of us older hands have become a little case-hardened to the fact that things of this sort circulate in the university; but the fact that finally swung the balance in favour of bringing it here was that "Hansard" is never read by any adolescent or any child. Consequently, there will be no danger of corrupting the mind of any adolescent or child by my reading it and having it published in "Hansard".

Mr. Houston: That shows how little you know of what is going on in the schools. "Hansard" is read in the schools.

Mr. AIKENS: If "Hansard" is read in the schools, it is time hon. members opposite did something about this matter, and I will tell the Committee why. That was a very unfortunate interjection for the hon. member for Bulimba to make.

Mr. Houston: It is true, and that is all there is to it.

Mr. AIKENS: This was published by two men who today are prominent members of the A.L.P. I will name them and I will give their connection with the A.L.P. This is perfectly factual.

This document affects three organisations in Queensland. Two of them we as a Parliament can do nothing about. We cannot do anything about the Australian Labour Party; that is a matter between themselves and their members and their conscience. We cannot do anything about the Australian Broadcasting Commission, because that is a commission set up by the Federal Government and it does not directly concern this

Parliament. But we can do something about the Queensland University.

Mr. Walsh: Not much.

Mr. AIKENS: Let us hope we can do something about it. I understand that the Treasurer at any rate exercises some tenuous form of control over the university finances. I know that when the hon. member for Bundaberg was Treasurer in the Gair Government they did something about the university. They brought down a Bill dealing with promotions in the university, which I was very happy to support. Unfortunately, it was repealed as soon as this Government got into power. We cannot do anything about the A.L.P. and we cannot do anything about the A.B.C., but it is to be hoped that we can do something with the university.

I am going to read this document. It is, as I said, perhaps the filthiest thing ever written. It was written by a man named McQueen, who was the A.L.P. campaign director in the last Federal election for Mrs. Guyatt, who contested the Federal seat of Ryan. It was written in collaboration with a man named MacFarlane.

Mr. Evans: That is the boy who lectures the kiddies. He is the chap who was at Nambour.

Mr. AIKENS: Yes, he was with a group at Nambour the other day. He is a man who recently was expelled by the Communist Party and was immediately taken in with open arms by the A.L.P. That is something that they will have to settle for themselves. So many odd-bods have joined the A.L.P. since 1957 that it has become something like the Augean stables. I do not know what they are going to do to clean it up, but that is their problem, not mine.

The article is about talks that were given by Dr. Kenny who, amazingly enough, is Director of Research for the Australian Broadcasting Commission. I am no more surprised that a man like that can obtain and hold a well-paid position in the Australian Broadcasting Commission than I am that men who write this sort of stuff can become members of the A.L.P. I have long publicly expressed the opinion that the Australian Broadcasting Commission is a tyrannical monstrosity. It is a home for men who hold jobs that can be described only as sinecures, and, if I may use the vernacular, the sooner the cleaner is put through it, the better it will be for the people of Australia.

After considerable hesitation, I want to have this included in "Hansard" to show the type of men that are employed, and paid high salaries, at the University of Queensland to educate, we are told, the young men and women of this State in the realms of higher education. We know, of course, that the University of Queensland, with all other universities, is supposed to be a haven of liberty and free speech but there is, in my

book, a world of difference between free speech and filth, and also between liberty and license.

This is Volume I, No. 6, dated Tuesday, 16 July, 1962, of "The Freethinker". The editor is H. McQueen, Paynes Road, The Gap, Brisbane. It reads—

"On May 1st, the Chancellor of the University of Sydney, Sir Charles Bickerton Blackburn, called a meeting of the Students' Representative Council to discuss the conduct of the Council's Orientation Week. At the meeting, Sir Charles discussed talks given by Dr. Peter Kenny in a symposium 'Are Morals Outdated?' And also the present length of Orientation Week. Dr. Kenny, who has recently received a Doctorate in Philosophy from the Sydney University Psychology Department, had taken part in a discussion with Dr. Kinsella and during this debate had suggested five changes in our present moral code. He suggested first of all people have the right to fornicate or not to fornicate as they so desired; secondly he said that every house should be equipped with a centrally placed room, which he described as a 'masturbatorium', for the convenience of the inmates. Dr. Kenny then spoke for some length about the possible dangers of masturbation, which, he said, ostentatiously stroking his large beard, we all knew was responsible for the growth of hair on the palm of the hand, and elsewhere; but he could assure the waverer that the whitish discharge which appeared at the end of the penis would not result in the loss of any brain tissue. Further, Dr. Kenny said, there was no moral law, and that homosexuals should be granted the same rights to marriage as heterosexuals."

In plain words, he suggested that man should be allowed to marry man, just as today man is allowed to marry woman. It goes on—

"These remarks by Dr. Kenny then prompted Dr. Kinsella to make submissions to the Youth Morals Advisory Committee under Judge Curlew. At a meeting of the Students' Representative Council the Treasurer, Miss Rickard, criticised Dr. Kenny, claiming that his views were designed only to shock his audience; she tabled a motion before Council that Dr. Kenny be banned from future Orientation Weeks. This motion was defeated by an overwhelming majority—the only dissenting voice being Miss Rickard. Dr. Kenny, who is Director of Research for the Australian Broadcasting Commission will be in Brisbane this coming weekend, and will be speaking for both the Freethought Society and the Queensland Rationalist Society. Dr. Kenny's address to the Freethought Society will be given at 1.10 p.m. on Friday in Room 45; he will speak to the Society on the subject of 'Libertarianism at the Sydney University', and in the

evening at 8.00 p.m., in the Teachers' Conference Hall, 81 Elizabeth Street (at the back of the 'Telegraph'). Dr. Kenny will address the Rationalist Society on 'Some Aspects of Morality'.

"The Freethought Society is planning a special reception for Dr. Kenny, which will be given in the Formal Room in the Union Building. Students desiring to attend this reception should contact one of the Organizers. Cost of the reception to students will be five shillings."

The next section, which is headed "I am a Camera", reads—

"Brisbane dentist, Mr. Alan Russell, it was announced in the Sunday press, is starting a 'one-man campaign to clean-up Brisbane's live theatre.' His first target was the Arts Theatre's current production of 'I am a Camera', which Mr. Russell claims is obscene. Mr. Russell said that he left the play after the first act, and went on to say: 'Even if the second and third acts had been full of Biblical quotations, they would not have changed my opinion.' Had the quotations in question been of the following standard, we should probably agree.

"Genesis: 19:32-33. 'Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve the seed of our father. And they made their father drink wine that night: and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose.'

"However, we will have the benefit of Mr. Russell's own statement of his case against 'I am a Camera', when, on July 24th, he will address the Society on 'Life Upon the Wicked Stage'."

I will read all of this because I do not want to be accused of missing anything out.

It goes on—

"Competition: The Society's Competition for the most unusual newspaper headline has closed, and results will be announced in next week's 'Freethinker'.

"Men are never so likely to settle a question rightly, as when they discuss it freely."

I am very pleased that the Premier is in the Chamber to hear that filthy thing read. There it is. It is a photostat of a newspaper that was freely circulated at the Queensland University among our young boys and our young girls by men who are drawing salaries from the public purse, men like McQueen and MacFarlane. Yet apparently, as the hon. member for Bundaberg interjected, this Parliament, which provides the money for the University—the students' fees do not go anywhere near paying for it—has no say in the type of filthy individual who can be, and is, employed there.

Mr. Walsh: You have heard about the so-called academic freedom.

Mr. AIKENS: As I have said, I have no objection to freedom. No-one here would say that I am squeamish. I do not make any claim to being squeamish. When all is said and done, I am probably less squeamish than most hon. members. As a man who, to use an old western expression, has been up every dry gully, I would probably have read the first three or four lines of it and thrown it away. But when I realised—I am not going to harp on this—that it was published by two prominent members of the A.L.P., I really thought we should do something about it. Had it been circulated in Spring Hill or in South Brisbane where the type of people congregate who would like this sort of thing, there could be no objection to it. But are we going to allow this sort of moral and oral and verbal filth to be circulated at our University and do nothing about it? It is a question, Mr. Premier, that I believe you and your Government should examine closely to see whether something can be done to stop it.

Now I am going to deal with our friend the co-author of that shockingly filthy and disgusting document, Mr. Bruce MacFarlane, who, as I said previously, is known at the University as Mr. MacStalin. He was expelled from the Communist Party not so long ago and is now such an honoured member of the A.L.P. that we read this in last Sunday's "Sunday-Mail", and on the front page, too—

"Northern Potential 'all guff"

"Nambour.—To talk about the 'fantastic potential' of North Queensland was 'nonsense and guff', a Queensland University lecturer in Economic Development said yesterday.

"He is Mr. Bruce MacFarlane, who was addressing 40 people at the Young Labour Association's annual school of political science . . ."

If I might interpolate here, the Australian Labour Party, should consider whether it ought to allow a filthy-minded and filthy-tongued individual like MacFarlane to associate with young members of the Australian Labour Party. I know that if there was a young members' branch of the North Queensland Labour Party, such a filthy-minded and filthy-tongued animal would not get within 100 yards of its members. But perhaps the moral standards and tone of the North Queensland Labour Party are much higher than those of the A.L.P.

Mr. Knox: What about Thackeray?

Mr. AIKENS: No, I do not want to engage in any personalities. At least I would say of the hon. member for Rockhampton North that he would rather cut his throat than be in any way associated with such a filthy thing as I have read out this evening. With all due respect to the hon. member for Rockhampton North, I do not think anyone here would suggest that he would be even mildly associated with it but, no doubt because of the control

of the A.L.P. today, he and other members of the Australian Labour Party in this Chamber are forced to associate with this McQueen and this MacFarlane at A.L.P. meetings and functions, and other places where A.L.P. members forgather.

Now let me pursue the article—

"He is Mr. Bruce MacFarlane, who was addressing 40 people at the Young Labour Association annual school of political science.

"Speaking under the gum trees near the Wappa Creek waterfall, he said North Queensland's 'fantastic potential' had never been supported by techno-economic studies.

"There had only been one economic study of North Queensland and that was very sketchy.

"We can only talk about this fantastic potential when there is a list of industries which can be developed in North Queensland to show a proper rate of return on capital so that allocation of investment funds to this area is rational.

"You cannot dot the coast of Queensland with industrial white elephants," Mr. MacFarlane said.

"Talk of developing a £40,000,000 steel works at Gladstone and other industries in North Queensland by Federal politicians without knowing whether or not this would be economical was irresponsible, he said."

Then there is a sub-heading

"One Body"

and then—

"The State Government should establish a development council of experts in contact with all economic sectors of the community to study what can be done.

"Integrated planning is necessary and is possible when there is one body with an overall view."

Then, being a good old A.L.P. stooge and his mind being temporarily free of the filth that usually clutters it up, he finished on this note—

"The Nicklin Government set up a planning committee of 20 business men headed by Sir Albert Axon.

"This was set up 12 months ago and has not done anything yet."

How does a condemnation of the potential of North Queensland—

Mr. Evans: And it is mostly untrue.

Mr. AIKENS: Of course it is untrue; it is the sort of thing one would expect from a sexual pervert—

Mr. Evans: And a Comm.

Mr. AIKENS: I am not concerned about his politics at this point. How do the remarks of a sexual pervert like MacFarlane, who in all probability has never been away from Brisbane and has never had his nose

outside of the pages of a book, on the "fantastic talk of the potential of North Queensland" square with the highfalutin speech delivered by the Leader of the Opposition only yesterday at the Trades and Labour Council Convention in Brisbane, when he boasted that if the Labour Party was returned to office next June it would spend countless millions on North Queensland? This MacFarlane claims the fantastic potential of North Queensland to be so much guff.

I am speaking now apart from politics, and purely and simply as a 100-per cent. North Queenslander. We in the North know, and have known for some time, that both the Federal Australian Labour Party and the State Australian Labour Party are preparing a gigantic "dump" for North Queensland if they are returned either in the Federal sphere or the State sphere. We have seen this change coming. We were very quick to recognise it when it did come. How often have members in this Chamber, particularly those from North Queensland, seen both State and Federal members of the A.L.P. go to the North, and the moment they arrive start to talk about the very things that were condemned by Mr. MacFarlane—or "Mr. MacStalin", call him what you will? They began to tell us what we already knew of the vast potential of North Queensland and its immense possibilities. They began to tell us how they were going to develop North Queensland, and how they were going to spend millions of pounds on North Queensland if the electors could be gulled into returning them to office. But we did not miss the significance of these things. Over the last 18 months no Australian Labour Party politician, either State or Federal, who has come to North Queensland or has spoken anywhere else, has mentioned North Queensland. They have changed their story about the development of North Queensland to the development of North Australia. Senator Felix Dittmer for some years was at least superficially a blatant talker about what the Australian Labour Party would do for North Queensland. But Senator Dittmer in his articles in "The Worker", Senator Dittmer on the public platform, Senator Dittmer in the Press, Senator Dittmer wherever you care to read him or hear him, in the last 18 months has never mentioned the words "North Queensland". He talked always very glibly about North Australia—the need to defend North Australia; the need to pour rivers of Commonwealth money into the development of North Australia. We have also had Mr. Duggan, the Leader of the Opposition, up there. But best of all—and we watch this fellow with a very close eye and keen ear—we had Mr. Gough Whitlam, the aristocratic Deputy Leader of the Federal Labour Party, a man who has as much genuine, dinki-die Labour and trade-union principles to his name as I have knowledge of flying one of the latest jet planes. Mr. Whitlam came to North Queensland and addressed a public

meeting. He was silly enough to do that even though he must have known someone would set a trap for him and that he would walk into it. He came to North Queensland and addressed a public meeting in Townsville. Again he spoke about the need to close the open door of the North. He talked of the need to develop, not North Queensland, but North Australia. Finally one chap pinned him down and said, "You have been speaking about North Australia, Mr. Whitlam, what about North Queensland? What part does North Queensland play in the Government's plan to develop North Australia?" Mr. Whitlam said, "Our first consideration is, of course, that we must develop the Ord River district in Western Australia. Secondly, my good man, we must develop the Fitzroy Basin. Your scheme up here for the—for the—for the—for the—what is the name of that river again? For the Burdekin River—I am afraid, Sir, that that has a very low priority." Mr. Whitlam was caught off his guard, and he spilt the beans.

Then we had Mr. Calwell, the Leader of the Federal Labour Party, who made a statement in reply to the Premier that if elected to power the Federal Labour Party would spend £25,000,000 in North Australia. The editor of the "Townsville Daily Bulletin" took him to task. He said, "It is easy to talk glibly about spending £25,000,000 in North Australia." That amount of money, by the way, is only peanuts to what Mr. Calwell is going to spend in the southern parts of Australia. The editor asked Mr. Calwell, "Where are you going to spend it?" At least Mr. Calwell was wise enough to remain silent. He did not reply. We will not have £25,000,000 spent in Queensland by a Federal Labour Government; we will not have 25,000,000 pence spent in Queensland by a Federal Labour Government. Everyone knows that.

Mr. Hughes: Federal Labour Governments did nothing for Queensland at any time.

Mr. AIKENS: They used to when they had dinky-die Labour men, but their interest in Queensland finished in 1929 when they built the Mt. Isa railway line. Ever since then, when asked what they have done for Queensland, they have adopted the role of the old fellow who sits outside the back-country pub and starts to tell you in a querulous tone, "I was a good man in me day." The Labour Party members were good men in their day but today the party is now purely and simply the Brisbane Labour Party, and everyone knows it.

A Government Member: Do you reckon they are on their knees now?

Mr. AIKENS: I will not be used as an instrument by anybody in this Chamber. I am not speaking now from the political angle. I am speaking purely and simply as a North Queenslander and I tell the

Labour Party, in both the State and Federal spheres, that we are wide awake to the coming sell-out if the people of Queensland are foolish enough to elect the Labour Party to office next year. The Labour Party must do something to improve itself, but what the heck it is going to do, considering the mess it is in, I would not know, and neither does it.

When we talk about the development of North Queensland—and let me say that over the years there has been a tremendous demand by all sections of the community in North Queensland for development of North Queensland—we in North Queensland do not play politics. A few months ago I was called to a meeting by the New State Movement to consider again, as we have considered many times in the past, the construction of the Burdekin Dam, which is essential for the development of North Queensland. The meeting was attended by both State and Federal Labour politicians. I do not question for one moment the personal sincerity of some of the northern Labour politicians, but when we remember the cast-iron grip, something like the Iron Maiden of the old mediaeval torture days, that the Q.C.E. has on Labour members in Queensland, we realise it does not matter what a member of the Labour Party thinks; it is what his party bosses will allow him to do, and they will allow him to do nothing except what they tell him to do. They will pull the strings from the Trades Hall, or if Johnno's mob is successful at the Labour-in-Politics Convention, they will pull the strings from Dunstan House, but at least the strings will be pulled from some big office building right here in Brisbane. Whether they are pulled from the Trades Hall, or from Dunstan House, North Queensland will be sold down the river.

At that meeting at the Townsville City Council chambers we had State politicians, and we had a Federal politician in the person of Mr. Bill Riordan, the Federal member for Kennedy and former Minister for the Navy in the Curtin and Chifley Governments. I took a very keen interest in what Mr. Riordan said. We heard State members of Parliament say that they believed the Burdekin Dam scheme should be proceeded with. They agreed that it was a good scheme and would do much to develop and populate North Queensland. I listened carefully to hear what Mr. Riordan had to say. He said that he thought the Burdekin scheme was a pretty good one. He said that he had no doubt that the case presented by the guest speaker, the hon. member for Burdekin, Mr. Coburn, and me as assistant guest speaker, was very strong, and then he said what we were waiting for him to say. He said, "Of course, when the Labour Party is returned to power in the Federal House these things must be viewed from the national angle and the problem of the Burdekin Dam will have to be taken into consideration together with other problems presented to us from other parts of

Australia." In other words, he told us, in a very roundabout, circumlocutionary, ambiguous way what Mr. Whitlam told his questioner at the public meeting in Townsville, that is, that the Burdekin Dam and North Queensland had a very low priority on the policy of the Federal Labour Party.

In North Queensland, as I said, we deal with these things purely on a non-political basis. There are many organisations in the North that are doing a particularly good job. Some of the political bigots might think it is strange that I should talk in this strain because, of course, everyone who does not agree with them politically is a Tory or a Fascist, or something else. I am neither of those things; I am purely and simply a North Queenslander. One organisation that has done a particularly good job is the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of North Queensland, most of them, admittedly, Tories if you speak of them in a political sense, but all of them good North Queenslanders if you speak of them as citizens. Only recently they held a big meeting in North Queensland and they read a report, a statement made by their chairman, Mr. Davies-Graham, who has been manager of the North Queensland Cement Coy. works at Stuart. He referred to the fact that a considerable time ago the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of North Queensland had drawn up a master plan for the development of North Queensland. They had submitted it to the Premier and to the Prime Minister, so that this master plan is freely known to all the people who really count. I have not the slightest doubt that the Leader of the Opposition has a copy of it because State members of the Labour Party were present at the meeting that drew up the master plan. We all received a copy of it. They told us that extra copies would be available if we wanted them, and I am only assuming that the State members of the Labour Party would have done what we would expect them to do; they would have sent a copy of the master plan down to their Leader, Jack Duggan.

In his report, Mr. Davies-Graham, stated, *inter alia*, that the Chambers of Commerce had a master plan drawn up for the development of North Queensland. Apparently this sexual pervert, this MacFarlane, this member of the A.L.P., heard nothing about it. I would suggest that the Leader of the Opposition, or one of the northern A.L.P. members of Parliament, send this "pervo" a copy of the master plan drawn up by the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of North Queensland.

Now listen to this newspaper report of a decision of the meeting of the Federation. This is like turning the knife in the wound, or rubbing salt into the open wound, as far as the Labour Party is concerned—

"It was agreed that . . . as so much development had taken place in certain spheres, some parts of the Master Plan would need to be reviewed and brought up to date."

The report went on—and I am not going to play politics—to pay a very glowing tribute to the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity, the Treasurer, the Premier, and others who had taken their place, quite rightly, in the development that had already taken place in North Queensland. It went on to say that, in view of the many changes and the development that had taken place, they would have to draw up a new plan, or reorganise the plan that they had and that, after this amended plan was drawn up, they would seek a well-planned and well-organised conference with representatives of the State and Federal Governments to bring all concerned fully up to date on the master plan. I wonder if the Labour Party knows anything about that. I wonder if this pervert knows anything about it.

The Federation are also going to invite the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity to meet them on one of his frequent visits to North Queensland. I would say that these frequent visits of his to North Queensland have been of much assistance to the people of the North. At least we can go along and see a Minister in the flesh. We can talk with him and we can get from him the information that we cannot get by correspondence or by the devious ways of representation. And when we are talking about Ministers going into the country, let me remind the Committee that, when this Government decided to hold Cabinet meetings in the country, they became an object of ridicule and scorn and hilarity on the part of the A.L.P. When Cabinet was going out to Quilpie, they said that the Minister for Justice was Two-Gun Cassidy or Hopalong Cassidy or the 'Cisco Kid or something like that, and they laughed the idea to scorn. Not long after that we read that the Labour Government in New South Wales had copied the idea from this Government, and Labour Ministers in that State are going to the country to hold Cabinet meetings. From that date, members of the A.L.P. here, and their supporters, have been silent on that point.

Mr. Sullivan: New South Wales may get some good government, after all.

Mr. AIKENS: I do not know. A fellow said to me the other day, "Tom, do you think that changing the Government will remedy the unemployment position?" I said, "If I really thought that, I would say 'Yes', and I would advocate changing the Government," as there is nothing more heartrending, in my opinion, than unemployment. I do not like to see it, as I know the misery and hardship that it causes to women and children. I would support anything that, in my opinion, would be certain to remove the curse of unemployment from Queensland. But I said, "How can you claim that merely changing the Government will remove unemployment in Queensland when we have over the border, where there has been a

Labour Government for 21 years, 16,000 more unemployed than there are in Queensland?"

It is obvious to all but a fool that merely changing the Government has nothing to do with the abolition of unemployment. The only thing that will relieve it is the creation of work and jobs. By that I do not mean temporary or fill-in jobs, such as putting men to digging holes today and filling them in tomorrow and receiving the basic wage. I mean the establishment of primary and secondary industries that will give genuine work and enable men to take home full pay-packets every fortnight. That is my idea of the solution.

Mr. Evans: And have permanent homes.

Mr. AIKENS: Yes. That is my idea of how the problem should be solved, and that is what we are trying to do in the North. That is what the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and other interested organisations in North Queensland are trying to do. They are working to a plan. They have quite a lot of interesting data on the subject, and if any hon. member cares to read it I shall be happy to send for it for him. They are endeavouring to have a bauxite-treatment plant established at Bowen. It is known that there may be some technical difficulties in the way, but at least a lot of preparatory work has been done and they are in a position to be heard on it.

Anyone who looks at the map of Australia and cares to read the figures will find that more water runs to waste into the Gulf of Carpentaria and on the coast of North Queensland than on the rest of the coastline of Australia. Did hon. members know that? It is obvious, therefore, that the conservation of water should be the first problem tackled by those with the interest of North Queensland at heart.

People in North Queensland ask why it is that all the defence forces of Australia are based in the South. Why are not greater numbers of our necessary defence forces in the North? I am no imperialist, or jingo, or sabre-rattler, or warmonger, but if we must have defence forces it is obvious that any attack will come from the North, and that is where they should be. No-one is going to attack from the Antarctic. I do not think that the seals or whales are going to arm themselves and attack us. Any attack must come from the North, so why are not more of the Army, Navy, and Air Force establishments in or near the towns in North Queensland? When we get those Army, Navy, and Air Force establishments there, why should not factories be set up in the North to manufacture the arms, ammunition, and equipment that those forces will need? That is something that the Federal Government can do.

Here is a matter that really concerns us when we speak of unemployment. I suppose I have mentioned this before, and some

of the city-slickers might be getting tired of hearing it, but unless we provide permanent employment we will never get the people that we need to Northern Queensland. Unless we abolish seasonal unemployment we will never attract to Northern Queensland people who will go there to establish a home and make it their permanent residence. So the first thing we must do is to keep our meatworks working all the year round, or as close as possible to all the year round.

I will tell hon. members something that will interest all those who are really concerned for the development of Northern Queensland and in providing permanent employment for the people we have there now, and jobs for the others that we hope will come there. Australia is the only country in the world that is expected to sell beef on a competitive world market using natural pastures. We get away with it because, unfortunately, we do not produce very much beef for world consumption and, consequently, we can sell what we produce. But in the last 12 months lot-feeding and pasture improvement have taken big strides forward. Although I am always accused of being a Tory when I suggest these things, I want to pay a compliment to some of the North Queensland graziers who are now turning off two beasts where they previously turned off one. If they are given the encouragement and assistance that they ask for, and should get, it is quite possible that they will turn off four beasts where they used to turn off one. If we can turn off another 100,000 or 150,000 beasts in Northern Queensland—and there is no reason on earth why we should not be able to do it—our present meatworks will be working all the year round. If we can only turn off another quarter of a million beasts—and there is no reason why we should not be able to do it—not only will our present meatworks be working all the year round, but we will have room for the establishment of another big meatworks or extensive extensions at the existing meatworks. Surely this is something worth striving for. No-one who lives in Townsville, or Cairns, or Gladstone, or Rockhampton, where we have meatworks that are subject to seasonal conditions—

Mr. Graham: Or Mackay.

Mr. AIKENS: They have three or four billy-goats and a few cane-beetles there. I am referring to the towns where there are big meatworks. Alligator Creek meatworks has closed down, and Ross River and Merinda are still struggling on. What a wonderful thing it would be for towns such as Townsville, Rockhampton, Cairns, and Gladstone, and for North Queensland, if these meatworks could work all the year.

This sex pervert MacFarlane probably does not know that we have a branch of the C.S.I.R.O. in Townsville which is investigating questions such as pasture improvement, the improvement of herds, fertility, soil conservation, and plant conservation. A section

has also been established up there by the State Government to deal with the curse of botulism along the coastal strip. But of course one would not expect this masturbation artist to know anything about that. He would not be able to grasp that. He is too busy grasping something else. To use the vernacular, he is too busy grasping the willow. But these things are going on.

I regret that at times we do not get the assistance from the southern Press or from the South that we should get and hope that one day we will get. To get over the paucity of advertisement of the potentialities of North Queensland that this imbecile believes are fantastic and do not exist, there is an organisation up there called "The People of the North Committee". It has raised, mainly from local authorities and other interested bodies, about £7,000 or £8,000 a year and it has employed a top-flight journalist by the name of Mr. Larry Foley. He will have an office there, and it will be his sole job to publicise Northern Queensland and to tell the whole of Australia, and the world, of the potentialities and possibilities that this MacFarlane imbecile says do not exist. That is all we need to tell the people of the rest of Australia—just what we have in North Queensland, what we have to offer in the form of industry, both primary and secondary—and, of course, once we have done that we might be well on the way to genuine progress.

It was said by a very wise man—I think it was Professor Baxter—

A Government Member: Not Bill Baxter?

Mr. AIKENS: No, there is nothing wrong with old Bill Baxter, despite the fact that Duggan sunk the knife between his shoulder blades over the Whip's job. I worked with Bill Baxter. He was an engineman, as I was, and I have a very high regard for him. If every member on the opposition benches was as good as Bill Baxter we certainly would not have degraded individuals like McQueen and MacFarlane as top-ranking members of the A.L.P. If Bill Baxter could get a blunt knife he would very quickly operate on them where they should be operated on.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member will refer to members of this Chamber by their proper titles.

Mr. AIKENS: I am sorry, Mr. Taylor. I will accept your advice. I speak of the hon. member for Hawthorne.

Professor Baxter said what we all know—

"We do not want to develop the North as cattle country or rice country or any other one-industry country. Rather must we have integrated industry on all fronts at once."

That sums it up. In the past there have been these sporadic attempts to expand certain industries, mainly primary industries, in North Queensland. There have been sporadic attempts to increase or better the sugar

industry, the maize industry on the Atherton Tableland, and the tobacco industry. I can remember when we were talking of developing North Queensland. I will not mention the man's name because he is dead now, and unlike the A.L.P., I do not slander the dead. I do not make any remark about the dead because they are not here to deny it or admit it. But if hon. members refer to "Hansard" they will see that in my first year in this Parliament, or very shortly afterwards, I advocated the establishment of the tobacco industry in North Queensland and from the Labour Party Ministerial bench I had an interjection from a Minister, "What nonsense are you talking? You will never grow enough tobacco in North Queensland to fill a pipe." Last year—I think the hon. member for Cook will correct me if I am wrong in this figure—North Queensland produced £6,000,000 worth of tobacco.

Mr. Evans: That is correct.

Mr. AIKENS: When we first advocate these things we are told we are visionaries and that they are things that are impossible of accomplishment.

Mr. Evans: And it is good tobacco.

Mr. AIKENS: It is good tobacco, and I hope this industry will advance and prosper and develop. I cannot mention the Minister's name. He is dead now. I will give anyone who is interested the "Hansard" and he can read it for himself. He said, "You will never grow enough tobacco in North Queensland to fill a pipe."

When we advocated the establishment of a cement works in North Queensland I, as a member of the Townsville City Council, put it up to Chifley, who was then Prime Minister of Australia. He told us he could not get the equipment and the plant, and as members of the Townsville City Council we put it to Chifley to take a cement works from Japan as part of Australia's war reparation. He put up all the arguments in the world why that could not be done. Labour has never had any intention of developing North Queensland, and it never will. Yet we now have a cement works there.

A member of this Parliament who died only recently was addressing a meeting on the "Plaza" corner during the 1947 election campaign and he scoffed at and ridiculed me for suggesting that North Queensland could support a cement works. He said, "This Aikens dill talks about starting a cement works in North Queensland. Ladies and gentlemen, I ask you, if we had a cement works in North Queensland where the hell and to whom in hell would we sell the cement?" Well, the cement works are in operation and are going strong.

Those are the things we are up against with the scoffers and the sceptics, all the people who say it cannot be done. They are the people whom, between the end of this Parliament and next April, May, or June, whenever it is finally decided to go

to the country, one will not be able to walk down Flinders Street without bumping into—some greasy, pasty-faced southern A.L.P. politician. They come up from Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania. They may even bring Senator Aylett up. They are there speaking to the mothers and fondling the children. They pat us on the back and tell us what wonderful fellows we are and what a wonderful country we have. At the same time they say, "Vote Labour and watch this place go ahead." It is almost a magical transformation the moment election day arrives. Most of them leave the day before. The day after, not one of them is in sight. Very rarely do the local members stay in the North. That is the last we see of them until the next election—may be the Federal election, maybe the State election. Then they are back again with their pasty pimply faces and grog-blossomed noses. They are all up there—all these Labour boys, Hendrickson and all the rest of them—telling us what a wonderful place North Queensland is and how Labour will develop it if given a chance.

This MacFarlane said that there should be some return for the money that has been spent in North Queensland. We are told quite a lot about the money that has been spent by the Government up there. We are very grateful for what they have spent there. But we think we should get more. Do not think we are satisfied. Our attitude has always been the *Oliver Twist* attitude. When I was developing this theme three or four years ago I can remember the Premier saying to me, "We have done a lot for North Queensland. What do you want?" I said one word, "More." We want more, we demand more, and we are entitled to more.

We have been told how much has been spent in North Queensland, but let us take the figures from statistical records. I did not make them up; I got them from statistical records. The figures I am about to give are for production per capita in Queensland. In the southern and metropolitan area, in round figures, leaving out the shillings and pence, it is £43 a year; in the central area, £30 a year; in North Queensland, £50 a year. No Government can say—nobody can say—that they are not getting a good financial investment from the money that has been spent in North Queensland. The more money that is spent there, the more money will be returned by the people of North Queensland.

Let me be a little fantastic for a while and say that North Queensland has always poured a golden flood of money into Brisbane and into the south-eastern corner of the State. Recently we have been getting something back—a lot more recently than we ever did. For instance, we get a fair cut of the Main Roads money now, which is something we never got from the Labour Government. We are now getting a fair cut of some other money that the Federal Government has given us, again something we never got

from the Labour Government. Therefore, in these production figures alone is the unanswerable argument to this filthy thing who was the co-editor of that particularly scurrilous bit of work.

With all his talk of North Queensland's potential being fantastic guff and something that cannot be supported by facts and figures, I wonder if that oaf has ever heard of Weipa. I know there is some argument about where the Weipa bauxite should be treated and where it should be turned into aluminium. But I have enough confidence in the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity to know that the agreement entered into between the Government and the people who have the bauxite concession will be honoured. If it is not honoured, the Minister will exercise the powers conferred on him under that agreement. But can we hope for the same sort of thing from a Labour Government if Labour is returned?

Mr. Evans: They were not game to tackle the franchise.

Mr. AIKENS: They knew the bauxite was there, but they did nothing about it.

Mr. Knox: The Q.C.E. would not allow them.

Mr. AIKENS: The Q.C.E. has an amazing set-up. It is in a pickle that I should not like to be in. I have been in some pickles in my life, but I have never been in as big a mess as the A.L.P. is at present. And A.L.P. members know that is true.

Anyone who has been to Mt. Isa can see in a few days the terrific potential of that field alone.

Mr. Evans: According to the World Bank, it is one of the greatest copper mines in the world.

Mr. AIKENS: It is one of the greatest copper mines in the world. The area contains the most extensive ore deposits in the world of copper, silver, and zinc, with a sprinkling of gold. Those deposits are to be found at Mt. Isa, and they are also to be found on another field 14 miles farther out. It is bigger than the present Mt. Isa field. The deposits extend right to Lawn Hill. As a matter of fact, the whole of that area is one huge mineral deposit.

A Government Member: It extends to Mary Kathleen.

Mr. AIKENS: Yes. Anyone who cares to read the reports that have been published by Mount Isa Mines Ltd. on what they propose to do to increase production and develop Mt. Isa when the rehabilitated railway line and the new wagons and diesel locomotives are in full stride, cannot fail to be impressed with the terrific development that will take place in North Queensland when Mt. Isa gets into full production. There appears to be no limit to what can be done. The building up of these plans

means so much to North Queensland that the Australian Labour Party bitterly opposed this Government's getting money from the Federal Government to rehabilitate the Mt. Isa railway line. Let the A.L.P. be truthful about this. I have said this from the public platform in the North, and I repeat it; the A.L.P. did not want the Mt. Isa line rehabilitated because it did not want North Queensland developed and populated. If the A.L.P. had wanted the Mt. Isa line to be rehabilitated and the tremendous development and expansion to take place at Mt. Isa that we know will take place, why did its members so bitterly oppose this Government's borrowing money from the Federal Government at 5½ per cent.? Why did they so bitterly advocate that the State Government should wait until it suited the convenience of the World Bank to lend the money at 6½ per cent.? Let us assume that some day the World Bank decided to lend the money to the Queensland Government at 6½ per cent. with no strings attached—and goodness knows, they attached enough strings to their proposals!

Mr. Evans: They made it impossible.

Mr. AIKENS: Yes, they made it impossible. However, let us assume that they came along in a spirit of generosity and said, "We will let you have the money at 6½ per cent. interest for the rehabilitation of the Mt. Isa line. That would mean that the taxpayers of Queensland would pay to the World Bank, in interest alone, £800,000 more than they will pay to the Commonwealth Government. The A.L.P. was prepared to pour £800,000 of the taxpayers' money down the drain. Of course that is not the real reason. We in the North know what the real reason is. They put up that spurious argument simply because they did not want the line rehabilitated at any cost; they did not want North Queensland to develop. We know it, and we are a wake-up to it.

I have only a minute left and I will not develop the other items I have in mind. I am sure they can wait. I hope I may get an opportunity to deal with some of them during the debate on the Estimates. I will make this photostat available to the Premier, and no doubt he will vomit when he reads it, as I almost vomited when I read it. I ask him to take it to Cabinet and ask Cabinet what they will do about the shocking state of affairs at the Queensland University when the minds and the morals of our young boys and girls can be so defiled and corrupted by two prominent members of the Australian Labour Party, in the persons of McQueen and MacFarlane, who occupy professorial lecturing jobs there at £3,000 to £4,000 a year. Will the Government allow this sort of stuff to continue?

(Time expired.)

Progress reported.

The House adjourned at 8.31 p.m.