

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 18 OCTOBER 1962**

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

**QUESTIONS**

**COMPULSORY AUDIT OF TRUST ACCOUNTS**

**Mr. DEAN** (Sandgate) asked the Minister for Justice—

“In view of the ever-increasing breaches of the Trust Acts and the apparent weakness in the auditing of trust accounts, are all moneys held in trust accounts and also moneys held in the private accounts subject to compulsory audit? If not, will he give consideration to having incorporated in any future amendments to the relative Acts a clause making it mandatory for both the private and trust accounts to be subject to compulsory audit?”

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

“Regulations under ‘The Trust Accounts Acts, 1923 to 1959’ provide that any trustee who is a solicitor, legal practitioner, conveyancer or a public accountant must cause his trust account or accounts to be audited at June 30 and at December 31 by a certificated accountant. A copy of the report must be submitted to the Department of Justice within two months after such dates. Trustees are required to use only trust account receipt books obtained from the Government Printer who transmits to the Department of Justice a list showing particulars of trust receipt forms supplied to all trustees. Trustees licensed under the provisions of ‘The Auctioneers, Real Estate Agents, Debt Collectors and Motor Dealers Acts, 1922 to 1961’ are

required to have their trust account or accounts audited by a person registered as a public accountant under "The Public Accountants Registration Acts, 1946 to 1954" at September 30 in each year and to submit the ensuing report to the State Government Insurance Office (Queensland) within two months of that date. When the auditor is unable to certify that the account or accounts have been properly kept, he is required to forward a copy of his report to the Registrar. Honourable Members will recall that in recent years, the provisions of both these Acts have been strengthened in regard to audit requirements, and in certain instances steps were taken by the Justice Department to place complaints before the Public Accountants Registration Board in respect to auditors who were shown to have submitted misleading audit reports. The requirements of the law in relation to the custody and audit of trust accounts are reviewed from time to time in the light of experience."

#### MOUNT ISA RAILWAY PROJECT FUND

**Mr. LLOYD** (Kedron) asked the Premier—

"(1) How much of the expenditure on rolling-stock from the Mount Isa Railway Project Fund and which of the items announced by him in December, 1961, viz., (a) conversion of fifty 'W' wagons to 'WR' wagons, (b) fifteen ballast ploughs, (c) ten brake vans, (d) contracts let for 200 20-ton ballast wagons costing £290,809, (e) ten 90-ton diesel-electric locomotives costing £972,890, (f) 800 bogies costing £585,532 and (g) 400 bodies, including draft gear and automatic couplers costing £789,166 for 400 ore wagons, will be met from the Loan Fund Account and charged against the Railway Department?"

"(2) Is this rolling-stock for sole use on the Collinsville-Townsville-Mount Isa Railway?"

**Hon. A. W. MUNRO** (Toowong—Minister for Justice), for **Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough), replied—

"(1) £400,151, comprising items A, C and D."

"(2) No."

#### CLEANING STAFF, BALMORAL HIGH SCHOOL

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

"Why has the number of full-time cleaners employed at the Balmoral State High School to be altered from two males to one male and one female, having in mind the number of windows, toilets and amount of concrete that have to be regularly cleaned and the fact that further buildings are to be built in the near future?"

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

"The cleaning staff of the Balmoral State High School consists of a janitor, two (2) full-time male cleaners and two (2) part-time female cleaners. As one of the male cleaners is at present employed temporarily as a groundsman, approval was given for the temporary employment of a full-time female cleaner. In the event of the male cleaner in question subsequently being appointed as permanent groundsman, in accordance with present Departmental policy, he will be replaced by a permanent full-time female cleaner. It is considered that the composition of the cleaning staff will then be satisfactory for the efficient performance of all the cleaning duties at the school. When additional accommodation is provided, the cleaning position will be reviewed and arrangements made for the appointment of any additional staff considered necessary."

#### EXAMINATION OF "THE FREETHINKER" BY LITERATURE BOARD OF REVIEW

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

"(1) Are copies of 'The Freethinker,' a newspaper circulating at the Queensland University, submitted to the Literature Board of Review for examination as to obscenity and, if not, why is only this paper granted immunity from the operation of the law in this regard?"

"(2) If the Literature Board of Review has sighted issues of 'The Freethinker' what, if any, action was taken or is proposed to be taken?"

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

"(1 and 2) There is no legislative authority requiring literature to be submitted to the Literature Board of Review. I am not aware whether copies of the publication mentioned in the question have been examined by the Board. However, I will bring the Honourable Member's question to the notice of the Chairman of the Board. For general information as to the activities of the Literature Board of Review I would refer the Honourable Member to the Eighth Annual Report of the Board which was presented to Parliament on August 22, 1962."

#### HANDICRAFT ALLOWANCE FOR STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

**Mr. TUCKER** (Townsville North) asked the Minister for Education and Migration—

"As the amount is found to be entirely inadequate could the sum of £50, which is presently allocated to large primary schools for the purchase of materials used in handicraft classes, be substantially increased?"

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

“A handicraft allowance paid to State primary schools on the basis of enrolment of pupils is intended to assist in the provision of tools and materials for craft work for boys of Grades III to VIII. As some crafts use more expensive materials than others, head teachers need to choose the craft to be undertaken in their schools in the light of funds available to them. Craft work is closely associated with the art programme of the school and the Department has no evidence to suggest that head teachers are not arranging within the funds available, programmes of work which fulfil the objectives of the course in Art and Craft.”

#### BUSINESS SITES AT INALA CIVIC CENTRE

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

“(1) What is the number of business sites available in the Inala Civic Centre?”

“(2) How many tenders for leasing have been received?”

“(3) How many tenders have been accepted?”

“(4) How many companies have commenced building operations?”

“(5) What means are being used to publicise the fact that sites are available?”

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

“(1) Thirty-three sites.”

“(2) Nineteen tenders have been received covering forty-one sites. In addition three applications have been received and negotiations are proceeding with the applicants for the leasing of areas for light industry.”

“(3) Nine tenders covering twenty-seven sites.”

“(4) Three of the lessees have commenced construction work on the sites and five are in the process of preparing plans of which two have submitted sketch plans to the Commission.”

“(5) Advertisements were inserted in the Brisbane Press on January 25, 1962, and at weekly intervals until March 24. Advertisements were also inserted in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide papers on January 27 and February 3. Prior to the first Press advertisement invitations to attend an informal gathering at Lennons Hotel on January 24 were sent to firms and persons who had enquired regarding sites in the Civic Centre and also to large commercial firms, banks and similar organisations who, it was considered, could be interested in the Civic Centre. At this function we were able to explain the Civic Centre proposals

to a large gathering. All those who attended and all subsequent enquirers were issued with a comprehensive brochure showing clearly the available sites and the park areas, walkways and so on. Since April 24 last, the closing date for the initial applications, several business houses were contacted and frequent enquiries are received at the Commission regarding leases. Several of the successful applicants are arranging to erect groups of shops on the areas allotted to them and these applicants are arranging in advance for the subletting of the shops when completed and for the approval of the Commission to such subletting. It is considered that the availability of sites is fairly well known in commercial circles.”

#### TRAFFIC EDUCATION LECTURES

**Mr. BROMLEY** (Norman) asked the Minister for Education and Migration—

“How many traffic lectures have been held since the introduction of this method of educating the public in traffic matters and what was the total attendance?”

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

“The system of delivering traffic education lectures to members of the public was inaugurated on September 1, 1958. Since that date 184 lectures have been delivered to a total attendance of 13,573 people.”

#### PATIENTS IN “S” WARDS, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

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

“Is there a waiting list for sick people desiring to be admitted as patients to the ‘S’ Wards, Princess Alexandra Hospital? If so, how many are (a) males and (b) females?”

**Hon. G. W. W. CHALK** (Lockyer—Minister for Transport), for **Hon. H. W. NOBLE** (Yeronga), replied—

“I take it that the Honourable Member is referring to the rehabilitation unit at Princess Alexandra Hospital. There has, of course, been a great demand on this unit because no such service was previously available. However, an additional ward has now been opened. I feel sure that not only the Honourable Member but all Honourable Members will realise what a terrific job has been done by this unit when it is remembered that patients have not been limited to patients of the Public Hospitals, but that private doctors’ patients who were being cared for in the home have also been admitted.”

## EROSION DAMAGE, MACHAN'S BEACH

**Mr. ADAIR** (Cook) asked the Premier—  
 “As sea erosion is causing excessive damage to the bitumen road and beach frontages and is now threatening the destruction of a number of dwellings and properties at Machan's Beach and as the position has now reached the stage where the cost of repairs is beyond the financial resources of the Mulgrave Shire Council, will he have the plight of the persons concerned investigated immediately with a view to granting financial assistance to the local authority concerned, as is granted for cyclone damage?”

**Hon. A. W. MUNRO** (Toowong—Minister for Justice), for **Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough), replied—

“Responsibility in this matter lies primarily with the Mulgrave Shire Council. However, the question of erosion of North Queensland beaches was recently investigated by an engineer of the Co-ordinator-General's Department. A copy of the report was forwarded to the Mulgrave Shire Council on Friday last. The Government is awaiting advice from the Council after it has had an opportunity of considering the report. As the Honourable Member has been informed in reply to a number of questions on this subject, the Government is prepared to subsidise approved permanent public works undertaken by Mulgrave Shire Council in erosion control at Machan's Beach. To date, the Council has not submitted any proposal.”

TOTALISATOR ADMINISTRATION BOARD AGENCY  
AT CAIRNS

**Mr. ADAIR** (Cook) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

“Owing to the fact that the Cairns Jockey Club and other responsible persons directly interested in the future of horse racing in Cairns and district are emphatic in their belief that racing will collapse with the introduction of the totalisator system to the area, will he confer with the Chairman of the T.A.B. with a view to deferring the establishment of a T.A.B. agency until such time as the views of the racing club have been fully considered?”

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

“The Totalisator Administration Board has indicated that it will confer with the North Queensland Racing Association before extending to North Queensland. The Cairns Jockey Club, which is affiliated with the North Queensland Racing Association, should channel its views through that body.”

## PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Order in Council under the Labour and Industry Acts, 1946 to 1961.

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

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

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

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**Mr. DUGGAN** (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) (11.15 a.m.), by leave: Following the completely unfounded statement by the hon. member for Townsville South that my private secretary had made strong representations on a Ministerial level on behalf of Mr. Malcolm McColm, I wish to say that the Parliamentary “pull” of the speeches made in the House yesterday does not disclose that I stated in reply to the hon. member for Townsville South that his allegation was “absolute nonsense,” although such remark, which I made, did appear in a “Courier-Mail” report of yesterday's proceedings.

At no time have I made any representations of any kind whatever for or against Mr. McColm and, on hearing the statements of the hon. member for Townsville South, I requested my private secretary to furnish me with a statement of what had occurred.

He informs me that, while walking along the corridor of the House at approximately 11.15 o'clock on the night of 25 September, he encountered a former private secretary to the Lord Mayor, with a companion whose name he did not know, who asked him whether he could see the Treasurer to discuss a matter that involved Mr. McColm, who was in some sort of predicament.

My secretary, purely as a matter of courtesy, arranged for these men to be seated on a bench in the corridor, and when the House rose a few moments later, he advised the Treasurer that these two men were waiting to speak to him on a matter involving Mr. McColm.

I was not aware of the results of any conversation between the Treasurer and the two men concerned, nor do I now know what transpired at such conversation, nor do I suggest or imply that the Treasurer was in any way receptive to, or encouraged or helped, the people concerned.

Not even the most biased witness could construe this act of common courtesy to visitors to the House in the matter of an accidental meeting of a member of the staff employed at the House as being, and I quote the hon. member for Townsville South, “strong representations on a Ministerial level.”

The hon. member, under the guise of making a personal explanation, has seen fit, in my view, to infringe the privileges relating to the making of personal explanations.

Unless evidence can be furnished—and I suggest that no such evidence has been furnished, certainly not as far as my private secretary is concerned—it cannot be accepted that any action would have been taken by the Treasurer in preventing the police doing their duty freely and unfettered, nor do I think such action would be taken. I feel, if I may say so, that a grave injustice was done to Mr. McColm in bandying his name about in this way in a matter which, as the Premier's statement discloses, has taken its course in exactly the same way as that involving any other person charged with a similar offence.

**Mr. Aikens:** Your secretary wrote the Treasurer a note. He wrote him a note!

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. DUGGAN:** The hon. member is nothing but a muck-raker.

**Mr. Aikens:** I am not as filthy as you are.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order: The hon. member for Townsville South was given the opportunity yesterday to make a personal explanation. I have given the Leader of the Opposition the opportunity of denying the allegations made by the hon. member for Townsville South. If the hon. member continues to interject during the course of any further discussion on this matter, I will have no alternative but to deal with him under Standing Order No. 123A.

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

**Hon. T. A. HILEY** (Chatsworth—Treasurer and Minister for Housing) (11.18 a.m.), by leave: In view of what has already been said in the Chamber, I feel it necessary to clear up some aspects of what has been presented in relation to representations said to have been made about a pending charge for being in charge of a motor vehicle whilst under the influence of liquor.

The hon. member for Townsville South has stated that representations were made by the private secretary to the Leader of the Opposition. In fairness to the Leader of the Opposition, who is involved by implication, I want to put on record the facts as I know them.

Late in the evening of 25 September, just as the House adjourned from the first meeting to elect a Senator, I was approached by Mr. Stan Richardson, the private secretary to Mr. Duggan. He handed me a signed telephone-record slip reading, first a name and then, "So-and-so in trouble."

**Mr. Aikens:** "McColm in trouble."

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I have warned the hon. member for Townsville South. If there is any further interjection from him, I will definitely take action.

**Mr. HILEY:** If I might proceed, Sir, the telephone-record slip began, "So-and-so in trouble." The name was supplied. It mentioned, "Two friends from Air Force Association here to see you." It was signed, "Stan Richardson."

That concluded Mr. Richardson's approach to me, and I want to make it clear that I can detect no hint of impropriety or irregularity in his action.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. HILEY:** I do not propose at this stage, or in this place, to record who were the callers or what they sought. They were unknown to me; I have no reason to believe they were friends of Mr. Richardson, and I believe that they were friends of the person involved. It is sufficient to repeat that a charge has been laid and that action is proceeding. I may say on behalf of the Government that we have a growing concern at the tendency to use the proceedings of Parliament as either a source of information or a means of intermediate expression in matters that are before the court for determination. The Government has already made it clear that it will not answer any question the answer to which could, by even a remote possibility, affect the result of a trial that is pending.

In the hurly-burly of politics, blows are freely given and exchanged. Between members, that may be understandable and excusable; but where the liberty and reputation of a citizen are at stake, the Government expresses the hope that hon. members will not use the processes of this House in a manner that could prejudice the proper legal rights of the citizen.

#### ADDITIONAL SITTING DAY

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

"That, during the remainder of this Session, unless otherwise ordered, the House will meet for the dispatch of business at 11 o'clock a.m. on Friday in each week, in addition to the days already provided by Sessional Order, and that Government business do take precedence on that day."

Motion agreed to.

#### SUPPLY

COMMITTEE—FINANCIAL STATEMENT—  
RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

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

Debate resumed from 11 October (see p. 760) 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."

**Mr. DONALD** (Ipswich East) (11.23 a.m.): Six or seven years ago, during the Budget debate, I spoke on the subject of automation. As I still feel that this will play a very important part in not only the Budget of this State but the nation generally, I propose to speak on the same subject this morning.

Automation is not a single invention, nor is it just another word for mechanisation, though many think that these words are synonymous.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I ask hon. members to reduce the level of their conversations to a minimum. It is extremely difficult for me, and the "Hansard" staff, to hear the hon. member.

**Mr. DONALD:** Mechanisation has been with us since the first windlass was made to draw water from a well. However, it does imply the use of automatic devices, and these have been with us for a considerable time. As one who was an engine-driver for many years, I feel that the steam safety valve, which was constructed over a century ago, must have been among the first of these devices. But when automation, automatic control, and a number of other ingenious innovations are combined in a deliberate and organised way, they add up to a technique for manufacturing goods or processing materials that is qualitatively different from previous methods.

Automatic control—we are all familiar with two common examples in the household refrigerator and the float-valve water cistern—is an essential component of the automatic factory, but another necessary feature is the transfer device which passes material from one machine to the next without laborious manhandling.

A completely automatic factory also makes use of electronic computers which, upon being fed information, make calculations and issue appropriate directives to machines or chemical plant engaged in a variety of separate tasks or processes. Computers are exceedingly expensive, but an interesting development reported recently from the United States of America provides a clue to how this disadvantage may be minimised, if not completely overcome.

Standard Oil has installed a computer in San Francisco and has linked it by telephone lines to two other laboratories and three refineries. Eventually this computer is expected to serve 35 separate operating units.

The net result of these developments is that the tedious repetitive drudgery formerly performed by men is taken over by machines. Less labour produces the same quantity or a larger quantity of goods, and it is claimed that factories are beginning to look like hospitals in their atmosphere of impersonal cleanliness and order.

The possibilities inherent in automation in terms of productivity per man and increased leisure for workers throughout the world are stupendous. In England, two machines occupying only a few thousand square feet produce sufficient glass envelopes for light bulbs and radio valves to supply the entire United Kingdom requirements plus a comfortable surplus for export. However, some manufacturing operations still defy the ingenuity of the automation engineer. For example, many assembling processes are performed more economically by hand. But even here, by suitable design of the product, mechanical techniques can be applied. The printed circuit for radio receivers is an instance of this. Instead of wires to connect the components (each of which must be joined by soldered joints), the circuit is printed in a conducting substance on a series of boards to which the components are then attached mechanically. By utilising this technique, a machine has been developed which, if operated continuously, will produce 10,000,000 radio receivers a year. Many examples could be quoted, but those I have mentioned are sufficient to indicate the astonishing productive potential of men when armed with modern industrial equipment.

Mechanisation, as distinct from automation, is also increasing and it is strengthening the trend whereby men are replaced by machines. In Australian agriculture, which has become strongly mechanised but not automated, production has increased by about 50 per cent. above pre-war level even though the rural work force has remained constant. This increase in productivity per man is not all due to mechanisation. Some of it is a result of more efficient soil and animal husbandry, but there can be no doubt that machines, too, have played a very significant role.

Coupled with automation and mechanisation in increasing the productivity of labour is better factory organisation. Factories are no longer run in a haphazard, disorganised way. Improved layout and a painstaking study of the movement of material have shown how to eliminate wasted time and effort.

Automation is no longer a subject we can discuss altogether academically. It is here now and is already making an impact on capitalist economies and societies. In the United States of America, where the impact has been most profound, there is increasing concern with what the Americans have called structural unemployment. Booms and recessions come and go, and the number of unemployed workers rises and falls accordingly. Of course, I am prepared to admit that that is nothing new. But underlining this cyclic movement there is an increasing residue of men who are unemployed permanently. These constitute the problem of structural unemployment, due at least in part, it is thought, to automation.

Prominent journals in the U.S.A. have reported that more than 1,000,000 jobs have disappeared in United States industry since 1953. Another 1,000,000 have disappeared in agriculture. From another American source we learn that there are forces at work that have produced another structural type of unemployment that already has proved to be indefinitely persistent, even in periods of unprecedented prosperity. Permanent unemployment has grown faster than unemployment as a whole.

It is very difficult to separate that part of unemployment due to automation from that which is caused by a general slackening of trade. Nevertheless, it can be shown that in the chemical industry in the United States of America the production jobs have fallen by 3 per cent. since 1956 although output has increased by 27 per cent. Similarly, production of steel has increased by 20 per cent. since 1955 although 17,000 fewer men are employed in the industry. More goods are being produced with fewer employees.

The same story is told by figures for the motor-manufacturing industry. In 1953, 929,000 workers produced 6,100,000 motor cars; in 1960, 100,000 fewer workers produced 6,600,000. Perhaps that can be better illustrated if I say that with 100,000 fewer workers, the motor-car industry has been able to produce 500,000 more vehicles.

One of the greatest problems with automation is not the worker who is dismissed, but the worker who is not engaged. Mr. A. J. Goldberg, the United States Secretary of Labour, writing in the "Evening Post" of 29 April, 1961, pointed out that in the next 10 years at least 26,000,000 new young workers will be flooding into the labour force, 40 per cent. more than during the 1950's. In addition, some 3,000,000 women will be returning to the labour force after having temporarily left it. The normal causes of attrition, deaths, retirements, and the like, will yield only 15,000,000 openings. We will therefore have to provide new jobs for more than 13,000,000 people throughout the 1960's. This task will be made all the more difficult because of displacement by technological change, which will affect many millions more who are currently employed.

That is a statement by an official of the United States Government which we cannot dismiss lightly, and from which we can draw only one conclusion, namely, that it is evident that the Americans are becoming worried. Potential productivity has increased enormously but, at the same time, industry provides fewer jobs and thus depletes the purchasing power of the potential buyers. Of course, this basic contradiction is not new; it is as old as capitalism itself. But it is now becoming sharper and may be accelerating towards a crisis.

The chemical industry, which is rapidly becoming the important basic industry of modern times and is regarded by some as the key industry of the future, is thought by many to lend itself more readily to automation than most industries do. This industry is responsible for the production of agricultural fertilisers, insecticides, weed-killers, veterinarian drugs, fibres such as nylon and orlon, which are encroaching upon and challenging wool, aspirin and sulphadiazole, plastics, which are encroaching upon traditional metal markets, and detergents, which are replacing the time-honoured soap as cleansing agents.

In Australia, this industry is represented by such powerful foreign companies as the I.C.I.A.N.Z., Union Carbide, Monsanto, and so on. The market is divided between American and British companies. Because of the nature of the raw materials and the products, production is readily adaptable to automatic control. The materials processed are largely liquids and powders, which can be pumped through pipes, blown along tunnels, or transported by endless belts, all methods lending themselves to automation. The processes are also ideally suited to control-board manipulation, heating, pressing, and agitation.

The path followed by Monsanto is indicative of the growth of automation both in Australia and in the U.S.A. It is a story of increased productivity coupled with a diminishing productive labour force.

In 10 years from 1949 the number of employees of Monsanto has doubled, while over the same period production has increased 5½ times. This trend has been duplicated by the Australian branch of the firm. At its Braybrook plant in Victoria, the number of men employed on production dropped from 298 in 1953 to 214 in 1961, even though productivity increased approximately five-fold. In other words, with 84 fewer people employed, this firm has been able to increase its production five-fold.

To examine the trend more closely, one of the main products in Australia of Monsanto is the chemical phenol, a basic raw material for aspirin, which is, in turn, the raw material for Aspro, A.P.C., and so on, plastic products such as electric switches and other fittings, and agricultural chemicals. This firm is the major producer of phenol and aspirin in Australia.

When the plant first started producing in 1941, it had a capacity of 110,000 lb. of phenol a month. The present output is six times this amount, but the number of men employed per shift has dropped from nine to six. Significantly, the plant is now working seven days a week as against five days in 1942. Too much capital is tied up for it to be idle two days a week.

Such is the productivity of labour in a modern chemical factory that the basic substance for almost every aspirin tablet or

powder consumed in Australia is thus produced by a handful of 20 men split into four shifts.

A hard core of unemployment is now an acknowledged fact in the U.S.A. The technological trends causing this situation are being duplicated in Australia, and there can be little doubt that we are now being faced with a deficiency of jobs in industry, which is leading to the American style of structural unemployment.

Representatives of capital and management see the solution to the problem of automation in a high rate of economic growth. Reduced to simple terms, what they mean is that the increased capacity of industry must be put to work producing something. It matters very little what is being produced as long as it keeps people occupied and, of course, yields a profit.

The possibilities of refrigerators, television sets, radios, lawn mowers, deep freezers, washing machines, electric appliances, and a thousand and one other gadgets which the advertisers persuade the public to buy, have been exploited to the full, yet there is still great difficulty in keeping employed all who are anxious and willing to work. Something new must be thought up.

A "Saturday Evening Post" article, in discussing the problem of unemployment in the State of Michigan, remarked that the obvious answer is for Michigan, with its reservoir of highly productive workers, to diversify—to start manufacturing new things for a new age. The people of Michigan would be justified in asking, "But what new things?"

Man's ingenuity has made it possible to produce all that we need with the expenditure of much less labour than was necessary in the past. Capitalism's solution amounts to keeping the work force working for the sake of working, producing more of what we do not need, but which an army of advertising experts and retailers persuade us that we want.

Production has become easy, but as a consequence disposing of the product has become more difficult. An increasing proportion of the work force is moving from productive work to service industries, such as advertising and selling.

It is significant, however, that the only services which are expanding are those concerned with disposing of the product. All these services are, of course, part and parcel of the private-enterprise system. The picture is very different when we look at those services which are dependent upon Government funds.

Education, for example, from the kindergarten to the university is not what we would like it to be. That cannot be denied by any hon. member. As a result of the increased birthrate since the war, primary and secondary schools are already seriously overcrowded and standards have fallen as a consequence. Again, that statement cannot be denied.

The wave of the increased post-war births will soon reach the universities, and enrolments may be expected to double over the next ten years. Even now, most of the Australian universities have found it necessary to fix quotas. Even to maintain present standards, university accommodation must be doubled in 1970. Now that the unskilled labourer is becoming a thing of the past, education is more essential than ever. If many of our young people are to be fitted for any sort of employment, the standard of education must be raised. Perhaps this may mean a higher school-leaving age.

With the probability of more leisure resulting from increased productivity, people should be educated to obtain the greatest satisfaction and pleasure from leisure. I feel that the measure of this is whether people can get some benefit or satisfaction out of it. What satisfaction or pleasure would an unemployed worker get from his enforced idleness? Our educational system must not neglect our human cultural heritage in favour of electronics and industrial chemistry.

The Australian road system is another public responsibility which is crying out for funds. According to the National Association of State Road Authorities, over £2,000 million is required to bring all main roads and other roads in the country areas to an appropriate standard within 10 years. The appalling number of accidents resulting in the death of many young people is positive proof of that statement by such a responsible body as the National Association of State Road Authorities.

Because of inflation, social service benefits are now worth less in purchasing power than they were 10 years ago. I remind hon. members of the tremendous struggle to exist on the Commonwealth Social Services pension. If we, on what might be regarded as a satisfactory salary, had it reduced by 10 per cent., I think we would object very vigorously. Adequate housing, if it is to be within the financial capacity of wage or salary-earners, must become increasingly dependent on Government money. The rate of home-building will have to be accelerated to accommodate the increased numbers of post-war children soon to reach marriageable age.

Public transport is in a state of constant crisis. We have that demonstrated over and over again not only in this Chamber, but outside as well.

State library services are run on a shoe-string budget. That is not to the credit of members of this Assembly or any other Parliament. So is the A.B.C. Virtually every service provided by public funds is working at half-power owing to lack of money.

What are the alternatives to the high rate of economic growth programme? In practice, the capitalists' solution to the problem of automation is bringing us a hard core of

unemployment, transforming productive workers into non-productive workers, and at the same time keeping essential public amenities starved of resources.

Broadly speaking, there are two alternatives to this state of affairs. Both of them involve reducing the profits which at present accrue to the employers.

Firstly, the hours of work could be reduced, with prices and wages remaining the same. By this means we could enjoy the increased wealth resulting from automation in the form of more leisure. While there is undoubtedly some justification for a reduction of hours worked per day, and/or longer annual holidays, it must be remembered that this policy will not provide the increased public services which this country needs so badly.

There are still plenty of worth-while tasks to be done in Australia. The objective should be to put people to work doing them. Furthermore, before we sit back taking things too easily, should we not consider the ethics of this in a world where a big proportion of the population is poverty-stricken and scarcely able to obtain even enough to eat?

The second alternative is to appropriate the profits made in industry, either by tax or nationalisation, and channel them into education, housing, roads, and water and sewerage schemes. In other words, throw our spare resources into producing what we need, and not what will produce the highest profit.

At the present time, much of the enormous profits earned by the key firms in industry is sent to shareholders overseas. Admittedly, some of it is reinvested in Australia, but unfortunately to produce things we do not need. Thus, every effort is made to convince us that the 1962 motor-car is ever so much superior to the 1961 model. The same remarks apply to the radio receiver, the television, and the motor-mower. It is accepted that life is more gracious with a petrol station on every corner, that it is unnatural to walk along the beach without the benefit of a transistor radio, and that television is worthwhile but that a bowling alley is ever so much better and offers a welcome change. There is money for anything that private funds can produce but none for more essential services. Prestige buildings, many storeys high, and luxury hotels, take precedence over bridges and hospitals. Bowling alleys and petrol stations have priority over schools and houses. We all know that. We want another bridge over the Brisbane River in the vicinity of Brisbane. At Bundamba we want a pedestrian crossing attached to the new bridge over Bundamba Creek to enable about 250 children to get to school without running the risk of being knocked down or killed, particularly when the new four-lane highway is built. But no, it is regarded as much nicer to build a petrol station on every corner, or some palatial buildings. No money for essentials!

Beautifully-planned retail emporiums are more important than beautifully-planned cities!

The goal for any Government must be to ensure that the wealth accruing to the community as a result of automation is used to provide what the community needs.

There is no logic in producing more than we need merely because we have learnt a quick way of doing it. This is, in essence, just what spokesmen for capital are advocating when they call for a high rate of economic growth.

Well-meaning people, in their anxiety to ensure full employment, should beware of embracing the capitalist solution. There are more ways than one of providing jobs. It is the public, and largely non-productive, section of the economy that is in need of a high rate of growth, not the private sector with its propensity for generating a demand for goods it does not know how to stop producing.

Trade unions, faced as they are with automation in capitalist societies, have a dual responsibility. They have, first, to strive for some degree of protection for their members. In addition, however, they must bear at least some of the burden of educating the community to insist on a more rational employment of the country's resources.

Workers and their trade-union officials should be fully informed and consulted well in advance of any technological change. Every effort should be made to provide displaced workers with alternative jobs quickly, while compensation should be paid to workers who are transferred or compelled to seek other employment. Adequate facilities should be provided for training and retraining, with particular attention to older workers. Wage rates and earnings should be safeguarded and the benefits of technological change shared by all. Working conditions must be improved and human problems met by close consultation at all levels. Above all, pressure upon Governments to maintain full employment must be kept up.

It should be clear that, unless the demand for full employment is met, unions will have little chance of attaining the other objectives mentioned. Full employment has not been maintained in the United States of America, the richest country in the world, where automation has been widely adopted. As alternatives have not been provided, it is safe to assume that the capitalist solution of high rate of economic growth has been accepted.

The special mention of older workers suggests one serious problem connected with retraining. For those who know something of unskilled workers who have lost their jobs, retraining is not as simple as it sounds. It may be possible to train at least some of these men for more skilled employment, but it would be naive to expect this to be undertaken by private firms. It calls for a well-organised Government scheme.

At a time when many traditional production methods and human skills are becoming redundant, the community must be prepared to treat education and retraining very seriously. It may be found very difficult to train some of the older employees to fill positions in the new industrial regime. Such men should be offered early retirement on adequate pensions.

For the young men, special new techniques, which may be radically different from conventional teaching, may be required for successful training. However, if adequate resources are made available, large-scale retraining would be successful, as was the case after the war, when, under a Labour Government, thousands of exservicemen were trained to University standards. With sincere and scientific planning by a Labour Government of the Commonwealth, we then had full employment.

Some thought must also be given to that large proportion of young people who do not respond to present teaching methods and finally leave school equipped for only unskilled labouring. Jobs for these people will not be available in the future. Are we therefore to admit that many people in the community are to be unemployed forever?

Should we not come to grips with the problem of educating these people? This is a task far too big for our present over-worked teaching fraternity, with its overloaded classrooms and time-tables. If the job is to be tackled at all, it calls for a new band of teachers, specially trained and with the necessary time to cope with people having slow mental processes.

Many skills will become outmoded. Craft unions catering for redundant artisans must expect their memberships to dwindle to insignificant proportions. Their jobs will not necessarily be taken by other tradesmen, but by complex automatic equipment controlled by engineers and other professional white-collar workers.

Before automation, a factory may, and can, employ 1,000 workers belonging to a particular trade union. With the successful introduction of automation, their places may eventually be taken by a few dozen technicians. Unless these white-collar workers are organised and thoroughly welded into the trade-union movement, the bargaining power of the wage and salary-earners will be progressively weakened. The trade-union movement must be ready to adapt itself to the changes expected in the whole structure of the production process by the introduction of automation.

I must stress here the fact that white-collar workers such as clerks, bank and insurance officers, and others, are just as vulnerable to automation as employees in factories and industry generally. Much tedious clerical work has already been eliminated by computers, and the trend will continue.

A trade-union wage policy alone will not be sufficient to maintain full employment if the State is not prepared to assist with a properly-orientated economic policy, and, among other things, investments of its own.

An enlightened trade-union policy aims to protect workers facing loss of employment in a capitalist society. However, it also recognises the need to change the nature of the economic system. Unless this is done, trade-union members will, at most, make only marginal gains.

As compensation for structural unemployment, they can expect a further flood of cheap promises of better things to come. In the meantime, the state of public responsibilities, such as housing and education, could quite possibly assume the proportions of a national disaster.

Because automation makes labour more productive, the community is richer in terms of resources. Should these resources be channelled into producing more goods which yield higher profits but which have low priority in terms of need, or should the increased wealth be used to give us the services and leisure that private enterprise fails to provide? I think we can agree that the latter would be more beneficial to Australia and its people.

The cost-price movement over the last decade has resulted in falling standards for a large section of the farming community. I am positive that members of the Country Party will agree with that statement. Should some of our surplus wealth from automotive industry be directed towards lifting the incomes of farmers? I should like to have the opinions of Country Party members on that point. This brings to mind our balance-of-payments problem. How can automation be used to overcome this? How are our national resources to be used? To provide a dozen different brands of identical petrol, or more leisure for the work force? To build towering office blocks full of sales representatives and advertising men, or to provide adequate educational opportunities for our children? Do Australians really prefer the former? Or is it that the alternatives have never been put to them in clear terms?

To dispose of increasing volumes of goods produced by automatic factories, the advertising industry is expanding. It uses up many resources itself and at the same time creates artificial demands for unessential products. Where there is a real demand, advertising is not necessary.

The cost structure in an automated industry has high capital and low labour components. Employers in such an industry could thus increase wages substantially without affecting costs significantly. If they should decide to do this, one section of the work force would be on a much higher living standard than the remainder. What effect is this likely to have on worker solidarity? Would the favoured workers then lose interest in the agitation for better conditions for the whole community?

Any serious attempt to restrict profits of industrial enterprises and any whisper of nationalisation may well cause a flight of overseas capital. That prompts the question: what price, in terms of living standards, are we prepared to pay for the privilege of owning our own country?

With the growth of automatic processes, the degree of skill required of workers will increase. We should at least consider the possibility that, in spite of the best training facilities, a significant proportion of people may be unemployed. It will be the responsibility of the State to see that gainful employment is found for them, and that no idle hands or idle minds are left to do mischief.

Quite recently, as a small shareholder, I attended a meeting in the Ipswich district to listen to a report submitted by the "managing director" of an office. I admit quite frankly that before this gentleman, whom I regard as a very able administrator, a man who has held many company directorships, was appointed, I did my very best to prevent his being appointed by the shareholders to the position he now holds. In fact, I made several trips over the length and breadth of Queensland but ultimately was unsuccessful in preventing his appointment. Since he became "managing director" of the office, I have again toured Queensland and attempted to have him removed, but I have failed.

In reporting to the gathering of about 250 shareholders, the "managing director" had this to say—

"We have finished with a 'fantastic surplus' of £1,132,678, with a general bonus of 15 per cent., indicating a return to shareholders of £675,000."

He went on to say—

"It is one of the largest and most successful enterprises in Queensland, and one which has brought remarkable benefits not only to those who deal with it, but to the State as a whole."

I want you to consider those words, Mr. Taylor, which are the words of the "managing director" of this office. He said that what the office is doing is rendering a better service to the State than other companies. That is very creditable. I have no quarrel with that.

He went on to say—

"The sheer majesty of the concern was seen in the total of £48,424,000 of accumulated funds at the end of June. This figure was expected to be past £50,000,000 by Christmas and was growing at the rate of £4,000,000 to £5,000,000 each year."

A very wealthy and successful enterprise, I think all hon. members will admit. There can be no quarrel about that; it cannot be denied. He continued—

"This set a huge task for the General Manager in the way of deciding what investments could be made."

The concern is so successful that the managing director is faced with the problem of how best to invest the funds.

He continued—

"With over £9,000,000 already in Commonwealth bonds, the office had switched to semi-governmental lending and to date had over £40,000,000 in loans with the bodies."

Hon. members will see the service this organisation is rendering to the people of Queensland. When local authorities in Queensland find money so hard to get this office can afford to lend £40,000,000."

He then said—

"It had also done more than any other body in the State towards helping co-operative housing societies."

Could any service rendered by an organisation to the community be more valuable than that of providing homes for the people? Is that something that we should discourage, or something that we should be encouraging?

He went on to say—

"A start has been made, very slowly and very carefully, to get into the field of loans, on a very safe basis, for solid commercial uses. With fire insurance the result had been 'almost frightening'."

They are strong words. They are not frightened because of the failure of this enterprise but because of the success that has been achieved year after year. They are being frightened by its success. They are not alarmed at its being an unsubstantial enterprise, but because it has a surplus of over £500,000. The Treasurer was there referring to the result of the fire insurance business in which the surplus was £556,864, which he described as unbelievably high, and stated that a 33 1/3rd-per cent. rebate on premiums would be continued in spite of the recent claims. The report continues—

"The company was also proceeding with a domestic policy of expanding premises throughout the State, giving not only added space and comfort but prestige value."

"The company was 'now rolling along in its full majesty' and was blest by a wide field of customers and loyal, trained staff."

"In response, the General Manager said that in its 46 years of existence the company had built a reputation for honesty which had to be lived up to by every member of the staff."

He also added that any member of the staff who departed from that would be no longer employed by the organisation. I do not know if members of the general public know this, but let me read this section of the report—

"The general fund, including motor vehicle insurance, had shown a profit of over £100,000. However, the 'nightmare'

of every insurance company in the world at present was 'what was happening on our roads.'

"This was one of the greatest social problems of the day."

Then he goes on to say that—

" . . . benefits of the record year would include the new merit bonus system for employers on their workers' compensation policies for effective increased safety precautions.

"There had also been improvements in the treatment of mining disease cases which, with the help of the Chest Board and the Cardiac Board, had received more sympathetic consideration than formerly."

I notice that the hon. member for Ashgrove is absent.

**Mr. Tooth;** Apologise!

**Mr. DONALD:** All right, I am pleased he is here. Had he known these things before moving his private member's motion he would have seen that he was skating on very thin ice.

From what I have quoted of the report submitted to that gathering by the Treasurer, whom I have been referring to as the "managing director," it will be seen that he was outlining the operations of the State Government Insurance Office for the previous 12 months.

To his credit, he described in a very lucid manner just what I have mentioned here this morning.

If anyone should think that that is merely an exception that proves the rule, let me remind him that that is not the only public enterprise that has succeeded. T.A.A., which was Labour founded and publicly owned, in spite of unfair competition, and the handicaps placed on it by the privileges given to A.N.A., made a net profit of £383,444 for the year 1959-1960. I cannot give hon. members later figures than those. Of that sum it paid £358,926 to the Federal Treasury, something that no private company would or could do. The National Shipping Line, too, made a profit of £1,314,376. Such profits were shown despite years of anti-Labour Commonwealth Government restriction on public air and shipping competition, and despite the subtraction before net profit of provision for obsolescence, insurance, depreciation, superannuation, and income tax. Not only those two public enterprises and others, but also the histories of C.O.R., A.W.A., and other public undertakings that have been sold by the Commonwealth Government, show what can be done by Government in business. Those enterprises were sold by business Governments because they were earning too much for the people of Australia and damaging the profits of shareholders in private companies.

The Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority, which the present Federal Government and members of the State Government are lauding, is another A.L.P.-founded

project. It is a long-term construction job that is bound to return rich dividends to a great number of beneficiaries.

What about the Commonwealth railways? We hear of Queensland's losses of millions of pounds a year on its railways but the Commonwealth railways are earning millions of pounds a year. Last year they finished with a surplus of £1,076,459. That is an indication of how successful public enterprise can be if it is managed efficiently. The Commonwealth Bank and the Public Curator's Office are also excellent examples of Government enterprise.

One of the recommendations contained in the Ford, Bacon and Davis Report is the provision of a new railway station at Ipswich. Fancy these important people from America telling the Ipswich people that they need a new station! Naturally we have known it or many years, but no work has been done on the station since the Labour Government went out of office. The Labour Government began to construct a new railway station, spending a considerable amount of money on it, but the station is now a disgrace to the city of Ipswich. The department started to paint the Bundamba station but what did they find? They had to almost rebuild it. They had to call the carpenters in because the building had been so neglected.

In spite of what the experts from America say, I still think we should have electrification of the railways in Queensland. That is only common sense. The power to drive electric trains would come from a product that is mined and developed in our own State. Electrification has been a success in Sydney and Melbourne. What do we see now? The work that was planned and put into effect by the Labour Government has been stopped. Workshops are left uncompleted and deteriorating from attack by the weather. Rubbish and saplings are growing and water is lying in the excavations made by the Labour Government for quadruplication, if not electrification.

In the short time I have left, let me comment briefly on the private member's motion moved by the hon. member for Ashgrove, seconded by the hon. member for Roma. If a private member's motion means anything, it means that a private member is given an opportunity to express himself. But we had two private members' motions moved from the Government side with only four Government members participating in the debate.

The hon. member for Roma said that I was talking nonsense when I stated that the Labour Party's policy and objective was endorsed by more voters than that of any other single party in the Commonwealth or in Queensland. Let us see what the figures were. In the 1960 State elections the Country Party received 19.49 per cent. of the votes. They received the support of only 144,865 voters, but those votes gave them a majority of the seats in this Parliament. They won 26 seats from only 19 per cent. of the voters

in the whole of the State. The Liberal Party received 178,567 votes, or 23.3 per cent., and they gained 20 seats. The Australian Labour Party received 296,430 votes, a percentage of 39.37 of the voting strength of the State. From that magnificent voting they gained 25 seats. Is that not positive proof that the people of Queensland support the Labour Party objectives and policy to a greater extent than any other single party in this State?

If we turn now to the Queensland results in the 1961 Federal elections we find that the Country Party received 126,316 votes, or 16 per cent. of the total; the Liberal Party, 205,457, or 26 per cent.; the Australian Labour Party, 365,930, or 46 per cent. The Communist Party received .33 per cent., the Independents .48 per cent., and the Queensland Labour Party 7.34 per cent. Informal votes represented 2.71 per cent.

It amazes me that an intelligent man like the hon. member for Ashgrove should fear the Communist Party as a political body. Their percentages were only .14 and .33. What do the Communists do at the elections? What do they do when they get the chance? Is not the Communist vote responsible for the fact that we have a non-Labour Government in the Federal sphere? Where do the preferences go? Ask the hon. member for Moreton, the most prominent Red-baiter in Queensland, if not in Australia. The Communists gave him their preference votes, which enabled him to continue as the member for that electorate. Government members try to whip up some enthusiasm by blaming the Communist Party for everything.

I challenge them to look at the records of the returns of any election. They will see that in spite of their loud voices at the present time, in the main the Communist preferences go to the Liberal Party. The figures I have quoted are authentic; they are not a figment of my imagination or just picked up from anywhere at all. We know that the Liberal Party in particular tries to connect the Communist Party with the Labour Party. Its members know their very existence as a party is in jeopardy, but they have to do something.

**Mr. Gilmore:** There would not be any Communists in the trade-union movement, would there?

**Mr. DONALD:** There are Communists everywhere. If the hon. member had listened to my speech on the Address in Reply, he would have heard everything he wanted to know about the Communist Party. Does the hon. member believe, or not believe, in democracy? Does he believe that because a man has particular and definite religious or political views, he should be ostracised and should not be allowed to live his own life? Is that his idea? If he has that idea he is entitled to it. As a democrat, I concede that right to everyone irrespective of his

colour or nationality, or his religious or political views. If a man can, by the democratic vote of his organisation, gain election, he is entitled to it. He must have been elected because he had particular qualifications. To my mind, the only way to remove a Communist official from the trade-union movement is for those who are non-Communists to demonstrate to the members of the organisation that they can do a better job than the Communist.

**Mr. Armstrong:** And oppose them on all occasions.

**Mr. DONALD:** And oppose them on all occasions, which hon. members opposite do not always do; they run with them and solicit their vote. They accept their vote. What would have been the honourable thing for any hon. member to do if he disbelieved in a particular political philosophy and if he was elected to Parliament on the preference of adherents to that philosophy? If he was honourable he would say, "Rather than go to Parliament with the support of these people whom I detest, I will remain an ordinary citizen." But not on your life.

**Mr. Gilmore:** Would that apply to the unions? Have you heard about "Bluey" Millar?

**Mr. DONALD:** I have worked with "Bluey" Millar. For years I was a union secretary when "Bluey" Millar was its president.

**Mr. Gilmore:** In view of what you have said about members of Parliament, why didn't you throw your job in then? It was the same thing.

**Mr. DONALD:** I was secretary. He was president. We were not running for the same position. The same members at the same time elected both of us. There was no collusion between us. There was nothing like it. We differed politically. We had a job to do to look after our members and we did our very best for them. Because we did it, we got the support of our members. Let me conclude by reading a letter.

**Mr. Armstrong:** Before you leave that point—you were charging our Government a while ago with accepting Communist preferences. It is only a few years since a referendum was taken, and what was your attitude to Communists then?

**Mr. DONALD:** We believe in democracy. We do not talk about it with tongue in cheek. We practise it. We gave the people of Australia the right to decide whether the Communist Party should be outlawed.

**Mr. Armstrong:** But you opposed it.

**Mr. DONALD:** What would outlawing the Communist Party do? Would it reduce its effectiveness? Would it not enable its members to carry on the work they are doing now? Of course it would. They would still be able to meet secretly. Would

not they be just as big a menace? Of course they would! Hon. members opposite are still afraid of people whose party secured only .33 per cent. of the votes in 1961.

Let me conclude by reading a letter over the signature of Cyril T. Vickers, District Secretary of the Queensland Colliery Employees' Union. I had no intention of reading this letter, but, in view of what has been said, I will. He writes—

"Dear Jim,

My executive and Board of Management have directed me to convey to you our appreciation of the service which you gave our Union during the many years when you represented us on the Queensland Central Executive of the Australian Labour Party.

During this period your willingness to represent us, despite your many commitments was always in evidence, and your recent resignation from the Q.C.E. in my favour leads me to express the hope that my representation in the future can be of as much benefit to the Union as yours has been in the past.

My Executive and Board of Management have further directed me to convey to you our appreciation of your work as a member of the State Parliament and particularly your ability to argue the viewpoint of the Miners' Union on questions relating to the problems of the Coal Mining Industry."

That refutes any suggestion that I was displaced by the union from the Q.C.E. I was not displaced. My resignation from that body, or from any other body, is my business and nobody else's. I was there for over 20 years, and 15 or 16 of them were spent in this Chamber. It is the policy of the Queensland Colliery Employees' Union not to allow a politician to represent them on the Q.C.E., but they overlooked that and appointed me year after year. It is a yearly appointment; each year you have to face re-election. I resigned voluntarily, not knowing who would be selected to represent the miners, but knowing from the constitution that it would be a member of their executive. It is futile to argue that what happens in trade unions is not the business and responsibility of their members. So far as I am concerned, I do not consider it desirable for any Parliament to interfere in the business of a trade union, any more than we would like trade unions to interfere with our business. If union members decide to do certain things or elect certain people, as long as their affairs are conducted in a democratic way and above suspicion, what man calling himself a democrat would quarrel with that?

Because Communists are elected to trade-union offices, it is futile to suggest that those particular unions are under the control of the Communist Party. Those who say that know nothing of the working class and have no knowledge of the trade-union movement. Miners' Union elections are conducted as

fairly as State and Federal elections, which is something of which we are proud. In the election approaching now, Mr. Cyril Vickers is unopposed, but "Bluey" Millar is opposed, and opponents have nominated for all other official positions.

**Mr. Armstrong:** Is the inference from that that you have a large membership of Communists?

**Mr. DONALD:** It means that we have a large membership of people who understand the working-class movement, who are very intelligent, and who do not allow their political opinions to influence their choosing men to occupy official positions in the union. It demonstrates that they are anxious to consolidate their ranks, to improve their position in society, and better the conditions in the industry in which they work. That is the record of the Queensland Colliery Employees' Union, the Miners' Federation, and, I am glad to say, every industrial union in the Commonwealth. Thanks are due to the trade-union movement from men like the hon. member for Mulgrave for their being in such a comfortable position, because from trade unions sprang the co-operative movement, which has given much to those in primary industry.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. INCH (Burke) (12.23 p.m.):** As other hon. members on the Opposition side have dealt in a capable manner with the various aspects of this Budget, it is not my intention to speak on it at any great length.

I may say, however, that the financial report presented by the Treasurer is skilfully designed to create in the minds of the public the impression that, under the administration of this Government, Queensland will be lifted out of the doldrums, in which it has wallowed and stagnated since 1957, into an era of unprecedented prosperity, and that this will be achieved solely by the Government's efforts.

The Government also takes full credit for increased Commonwealth aid by way of loans, tax reimbursements, and grants, and conveniently overlooks failures in the past to obtain the fair and just allocations due to the State from the Commonwealth Government. It was not the efforts of the Treasurer or his aides that produced this long-overdue and most-desired result; it was the electors of Queensland. They were the people who, in no uncertain manner, indicated to the Menzies Government at the last Federal election that they were no longer prepared to be cast in the role of wood-and-water joys for the rest of the Commonwealth, and they demanded, and expected to receive, in accordance with the needs of this State, a proportionate share of all financial disbursements made in future.

Their rebuke at the Federal polls rocked the Menzies mausoleum to its very foundations and galvanised the Tory inmates into activity and a recognition of our needs,

which is something that the Treasurer and the Premier, and his deputy, were not able to achieve by their pandering, gentlemanly, kid-glove methods of approach. And it will be the same electors who deliver a similar lesson to this coalition Government when it seeks their support at the next State elections.

The hope of the Government to remain in office after 1963 is doomed to disappointment, for neither this Budget, which to some extent will be financed by the money filched from the pockets of John Citizen every time he has a glass of ale or wagers on a horse, nor the honeyed words that accompanied its presentation will ever erase from the minds of the workers the fear of continued unemployment or offset the effects of the harsh, repressive, anti-worker arbitration Act introduced into this Parliament by the Minister for Labour and Industry and so loudly acclaimed by members of the Government parties. This and other measures that have been introduced by the Government, which have been dealt with in a most capable manner by my colleagues, will undoubtedly have created doubt and mistrust in the minds of electors about the ability of the coalition parties to govern the State in the interests of all sections of the community. Even the daily Press, which strongly supports the Government, has at times become concerned about some of its activities and has chided it on a number of occasions. It has even gone to the extent of lampooning members of the Cabinet.

In his speech in this Assembly last week, the hon. member for Gregory complained about some reference to Quilpie as a "whistle stop". I do not disagree with the hon. member for doing that. It is his bounden duty to stand by the people who live in electorates in the Far West, the people who are doing so much to produce the wealth of this State. But is it any wonder that this impression was gained so easily after the recent visit by Cabinet to this western town, when the antics of the Minister for Justice in parading the streets of Quilpie, decked out in fancy garb and sporting an over-size Stetson, would not be likely to indicate to outsiders other than that, in the minds of Cabinet members, this town would be little better than a whistle stop in their political jaunt round the countryside? Even the Premier, in his role of ringmaster of what might be termed a three-ring circus, extended an invitation to the residents of the town to "whoop it up" on the dance floor with the Minister for Education and Migration. The Minister for Justice has now been dubbed "Maverick" in some newspaper circles. The Minister for Education has been more fortunate, inasmuch as only slight reference has been made to his ability to perform a gyration known as the Twist. Had he been less fortunate, it is quite possible that by now he would have been dubbed the "dancing dervish" of that political circus.

It would seem that the Premier and members of his Government approve of such antics and consider that the ability of members of the Government to ape the part of a rough-rider or to perform some sort of a belly-dance are necessary attributes for Cabinet rank and also contribute to the good government of Queensland. I believe, however, that the people of Queensland do not applaud the acrobatic performances by various Ministers; nor will they be dazzled by the glowing picture of future prosperity and full employment that the Treasurer attempts to portray in his Financial Statement, but will, when given the opportunity, deliver a swift and resounding kick to the nether portion of this Government's political anatomy.

There are one or two items in the summary of the Financial Statement to which I intend to refer briefly. One of these is the proposed record expenditure on beef roads and the bitumen-sealing of these roads.

I can recall that the Premier expressed surprise and concern at certain opinions that I offered during a short broadcast on the beef roads scheme. One opinion that I expressed was that these roads would have to be bitumen-sealed to be really effective, and I should like now to quote the relevant passage from that broadcast speech—

"From the welter of publicity and propaganda which has accompanied the initiation of this scheme, a false impression could easily be gained that the beef cattle can be carried over unlimited distances without damage or loss of condition, but discussions which I have had with experienced cattlemen from as far afield as Lake Nash in the Northern Territory, indicate that a distance of 350 miles is considered to be the extreme range over which cattle could be hauled by road transport, and that a haul of this distance would cause distress to the cattle being moved.

"Unless these roads are eventually sealed with bitumen, the constant and heavy pounding of road trains travelling at speed will reduce the surface of the roads to an unending series of pot holes and corrugations, and even with experienced and careful drivers such as these road train drivers are, this must result in heavy bruising and possible laceration of the cattle being transported, and these are factors which could also influence the cattlemen in favour of overlanding, or droving as we know it, of herds of any size.

"Whenever favourable seasonal conditions prevail, and cattle can be walked in easy stages to the rail head or market and still retain their condition, the demand for the old-time drover will always exist until such time as road haulage costs are reduced, and the possibility of damage to the beast is minimised to an extent

that this method of transport becomes more attractive and economical to the cattlemaster."

That is one of the passages at which the Premier expressed surprise and concern. I have also had discussions with train-drivers as to the effect that road transport has had on cattle that they have loaded into cattle-trains and they have informed me that, in some instances, the beasts were so bruised and distressed that they were impervious to the shock of the battery-operated jigger that is used to goad them into walking up the race into the cattle trucks.

I think that if inquiries were made from those engaged in the meat trade they would reveal that the meat from those beasts would, in many instances, be unfit for overseas export owing to the heavy bruising of the cattle.

Road transport could have its advantages to cattlemen in time of drought, but this could be offset by the loss to the meat trade of the amount of beef that would be unfit for export trade.

The opinion that I expressed at the time I made my broadcast was later confirmed by one of the delegates to the Local Authorities Conference convened at Mt. Isa and attended by delegates from all shire councils throughout the western districts, and by the Premier.

Further confirmation of the observation that I had made came as the result of visits by the Minister for Labour and Industry and the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation to the Gulf and Julia Creek areas respectively, and also from a decision of the Cabinet at its Quilpie meeting that these roads would be sealed.

I am not unduly concerned by the Premier's aversion to any criticism of these roads, but I am concerned at the demand that I am given to understand has been made on the owners of properties through which these roads will pass. I refer specifically to the 76-mile section of the beef road that will extend from Gregory Downs to Burketown. This road will pass through the properties of Gregory Downs, Planet Downs, Almora, Brinawa, Brookdale Estates, and Waldon Bros. There is a total of 19 cattle grids on this section of road which is being converted to use as a beef road, and all these grids will be ripped up and disposed of during this conversion. Unfortunately for the property-owners, they are expected to bear the cost of replacing the old grids with new ones. It is estimated that the purchase price, plus freight, of six grids would be approximately £720, but the overall cost to the grazier for the purchase and installation of each grid would be in the vicinity of from £300 to £350.

On the Planet Downs property, which is worked by the Carrington family, five grids will have to be replaced. This means that these people have not only shouldered the cost of the original grids, which will be

torn up, but they will also be called upon to pay the cost of their replacement, which could amount to £1,750.

The Government endeavours to give the impression that all costs connected with the beef-roads scheme are born by the State and Federal Governments but "under the lap" the mailed fist has been waved under the nose of the small graziers to force them to contribute by this measure towards the cost of construction of these roads. This is in direct contrast to the attitude of the Government towards the installation of five grids on the 38 miles of road running between Nardoo and Gregory, which was built under Commonwealth aid. The cost of those grids was included in the contract and approved by the Department of Main Roads. Similar conditions apply to the construction of the road from Burketown to Woollogorang. The Department of Main Roads has approved of the Burke Shire Council classifying this road as a No. 1 development road, and has also approved of the necessary expenditure for the construction of the first stage from Domadgee to the Territory. This road will not only assist in developing the grazing lands through which it will pass, but, should further extension be made through the Territory at a later date, it could well be converted to use as a military defence road extending from Cairns to Darwin.

It was not my intention to discourse for any length of time upon the beef-roads scheme, but in view of the statement by the Treasurer that there will be a record expenditure on the construction of these roads in this State, I felt it was necessary for me to mention the contributions that are being demanded of graziers in my electorate through the medium of the replacement costs of these cattle grids, and to indicate that by this means the Government is not bearing the full cost of the construction of these roads, as it would have us believe.

One other item of the summary that I will comment upon is the reference to the proposed heavy school-construction programme. Under this programme the number of high schools will be increased to 73 and the number of high tops to 56, catering for the needs of some 40,600 pupils, compared with 36, 34, and 14,300 respectively, six years earlier.

I might digress a moment at this stage and mention that much of the school construction and planning that this Government has taken credit for was already in progress when it came into office. The Labour Government is entitled to its share of the credit that this Government has taken unto itself.

Reverting to the construction programme, I point out that if we take the number of students that had to be catered for six years ago—according to the Treasurer they numbered 14,300—and compare it with the present-day figure of 40,600, we find that over the six-year period there has been an increase of 26,300 pupils, so is it any wonder

that the number of high schools and high tops has had to be increased? Had a Labour Government been in office over this period it, too, would have had to build these schools to cope with the increased number of pupils.

Compulsion has been the motivating force behind this increase in school construction, and the Government is now trying to gain for itself some political kudos on the provision of facilities which it has been forced to provide through sheer necessity and demand.

I note also that £4,145,000 has been provided for expenditure on State primary, technical, and high schools throughout the State, and I hope that some of this allocation will be expended on an immediate start on the construction of the technical block, which is taking so long to materialise, at the Mount Isa High School. For quite some time now this project has been shunted back and forth between the Department of Education and the Department of Public Works, and there has been a considerable amount of back-passing on the delay in its construction.

I might mention that some time ago when it appeared that this project would get under way, the local Apprenticeship Committee, with a view to improving the facilities for the practical training of apprentices in the Mt. Isa district, approached the various motor firms in Mt. Isa and received assurances from them that they would supply everything from a complete vehicle down to separate parts, such as gear boxes, differentials, automatic transmissions, etc., which could be housed in this block for the purpose of dismantling, inspection, reassembly, and practical demonstration for and by the apprentices. Mount Isa Mines Ltd. has also given an assurance of assistance in the supply of electrical equipment to this block.

Here we have a practical demonstration of the way in which the citizens and business people of Mt. Isa are prepared to assist the department in the further education of their children, but I am afraid their enthusiasm is somewhat dampened by the delay and shilly-shallying that is going on in the construction of the technical block. The Government should get on with this job and not just talk about it.

In concluding this speech might I add, for the sake of the unemployed workers throughout this State, and of those young people who will be leaving school at the end of this year, that I sincerely hope that the Government is able to put into operation the projects that it has listed and promised to undertake. No-one, least of all hon. members on this side of the Chamber, ever wants to see a repetition of what has happened to thousands of our workers who have been unable to obtain lasting employment during the previous years of this Government's tenure of office.

I am afraid, however, that this Budget is designed purely for election purposes, and remembering the rash and extravagant promises of this Government in 1957 and 1960, there is no doubt that the electors will reject it when we go to the polls in 1963.

**Mr. SULLIVAN** (Condamine) (12.44 p.m.): I am pleased to express my appreciation of the Budget delivered by the Treasurer. I am sure that most sane-thinking people in Queensland will have the same appreciation. This Budget, brought down by a Government that has been in office for only five years, reveals that there is to be no increase in taxation. People on the land, householders, and others, will be very appreciative of the fact that there is to be a definite decrease in land tax.

Let us compare this Budget with that delivered by the Treasurer of New South Wales, a Budget brought down by a Labour Government that has been in office for many years. The Treasurer there, when introducing his Budget, announced that there would be increases in taxes in many directions.

We read in the Press the other day the report of a statement by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Duggan, that if the A.L.P. were returned as the Government in 1963, he would legislate for three weeks' leave. To my mind, and to the minds of all sane members of the Assembly, and of all sane Queenslanders, that means only one thing—that to meet the extra cost and other demands of three weeks' leave we must have increases in taxation in many directions. I am opposed to increased taxation and I throw out this challenge to hon. members opposite, through you, Mr. Taylor: if they can show us some way in which they can introduce three weeks' leave without imposing extra taxation on the people of Queensland, let them do it during this debate.

The Government is to be highly commended for presenting a Budget that calls for no further taxation. We have heard it argued in the Chamber that certain of our legislation has not been acceptable to the people. For one, the measure providing for a turnover tax on bookmakers has been criticised and the tax termed "objectionable". In travelling through the country we find that in particular the farming community and others engaged in private industry who, over the years, had iniquitous taxes imposed on them by Labour Governments, now accept with open arms the legislation providing for a tax on bookmakers' turnover because the Treasury will benefit from it by approximately £1,000,000. The Treasurer has outlined what the increased revenue will be used for. Are A.L.P. members sincere when they say that the turnover tax should be condemned? Would they prefer to see further taxes imposed on the people of Queensland generally while the minority—the bookmakers—continue to get away with what they have got away with for so many years? Apparently they are on the side of the bookmakers, believing that

they should pay no tax other than their ticket tax. As most of us know, both in the metropolitan area and in country areas those who follow that means of livelihood are usually people with the biggest bank balances.

I think it is fitting, while talking of the turnover tax, to refer to the legislation passed last session setting up the Totalisator Administration Board. We have heard some criticism of that. I know that, in all towns throughout the State where the S.P. bookmaker has been allowed to carry on illegally over the years, with his great turnover he is better off than the licensed bookmaker because he pays no tax whatever. Worse than that, we have seen the spectacle—and I have two towns in mind; no doubt it goes on in many others—of these illegal bookmakers having boys of 13 or 14 years of age to keep an eye out in case of a raid. Those boys are trained as “cockatoos”, to use the colloquial expression. With the introduction of the Totalisator Administration Board people can go along and have their bet in much the same way as they buy their daily groceries. As the Treasurer said in introducing the Budget, that is something that has gone on in other States for many years, and the allegation that it will increase betting among the public is, to my mind, so much ballyhoo.

**Mr. Mann:** You do not believe that?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** Of course I believe it.

**Mr. Mann:** You are very naive.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** If it does have that effect, it is better to see betting done legally than as it was under Labour's administration, and under ours before this measure was introduced.

There is one other matter to which I wish to refer. I believe that if anything incorrect is said in this Chamber—in this case I said it about something on which I put a wrong construction, and a certain person has taken exception to it—the first opportunity should be taken to correct it. Coming from a line of big people—not physically, but in outlook—I am prepared, if I have misconstrued anything, to put it right. I refer to the speech that I made here during the Address-in-Reply debate, when I referred to my trip to the Atherton Tableland. Referring to Mr. Alf. Jonsson, I said—

“I was driven past the property of Mr. Alf. Jonsson by his own nephew, and he indicated to me that the happiest time of his life was when his Uncle Alf. was in gaol.”

I have since received a letter from Mr. Bill Jonsson, Junior, registering his disapproval of what I said. Unlike some hon. members who interject, if I place any incorrect construction on anything, I am big enough to stand up and correct it. I sincerely hope that young Mr. Jonsson will appreciate that. I accepted the courtesy of the Herberton Shire Council, of which he is a member. From that reading of “Hansard,” I did not say everything that he said in his letter, but I

did say that he said those things. However, if the construction that I placed on certain things said to me was incorrect, perhaps that is because I am dense or it was not conveyed in the manner intended. As appeared in “Sunday Truth” or some other newspaper, Mr. Alf. Jonsson did say that the happiest time of his life was when he was in gaol. This young fellow did not subscribe to that exactly, but he did not voice any objection to me and, when we spoke of Alf. Jonsson's time in gaol, he seemed to speak in a bright and hearty vein.

However, if it has caused disruption within the family, I am very sorry, but I believed that to be the construction to be placed on what the young fellow said. I understood him to say that his farm was downstream from his Uncle Alf's. It is difficult in a strange district to get the lay of the land, but if he does not suffer as a result of the unregistered dams erected in the gullies, the people living downstream must. I make that explanation, feeling that I owe it to this young man, as apparently he is fairly upset over it. I hope that hon. members opposite who have made statements in the past that they know to be untrue will take a leaf out of my book.

After 2½ years as a member of the Government, I can stand before this Assembly and say that I am very proud of the team of which I am a member. In my opinion, Queensland has never had such a team of hard-working Cabinet Ministers as it is its good fortune to have now.

**Mr. Mann:** They are all out of condition.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** We hear the inane interjection from the hon. member for Brisbane that they are out of condition. No matter how fit one may be, overwork will take its toll, and I am not making excuses for that. If the Minister for Education and Migration, the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, and the former Deputy Premier have had temporary lapses, that is something that can happen to every human being. The hon. member for Brisbane will find that in a short space of time they will be back in their offices doing their jobs as sincerely and conscientiously as before. What Cabinet, with the support of Government members, has achieved in the short time that this Government has been in office is something of which Queensland is very proud. I think all hon. members will agree with that.

In the Budget debate members usually have a look at what has been achieved in their own electorates. The hon. member for Burke, who has just resumed his seat, said that the improvements in education envisaged in the Financial Statement would have come about in any case. I can tell hon. members that in my electorate, and in other electorates, the Government has begun and brought to fruition projects to which absolutely no thought had been given prior to its taking office. I can remember the fight that Jim Sparkes put up during the time that he

was member for Aubigny to get secondary education facilities in the towns in his electorate. Within a matter of weeks of the accession to office of the present Minister for Education and Migration, Jim Sparkes had him out in his electorate, in towns such as Crow's Nest, Oakey, and Jandowae, assessing the position. The Minister was not content to leave it to his executive or departmental officers to make the assessment at that stage, although he could possibly do it now and know that it would be done very efficiently. I have the highest regard for the top departmental officers in the Department of Education. As I said, the Minister visited the area, and I have been told that he travelled throughout Queensland. He knew that great changes had to be made in the field of education, particularly in country areas, if children were to be given the opportunity of a secondary education. After five years, the projects that the Minister for Education and Migration saw fit to begin are established facts, and the people in country areas such as the electorate of Condamine, which I am proud to represent, will be forever grateful to the Government and to the Minister for what has been done for their children.

Last week, while I was in Chinchilla, I took the opportunity of giving the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation a first-hand look at the new high school so that he could tell the Minister for Education and Migration what progress was being made on it. My Government has, in its wisdom, seen fit to build a high school in Chinchilla at a cost of approximately £83,000. To my mind, this high school is long overdue because, for a number of years, secondary education has had to be given to the children in the primary school. Accommodation at the primary school is highly taxed and I am very pleased that my Government has seen fit to have that high school made available for the beginning of the coming school year.

It was rather surprising, and amusing, for me to hear, while I was in Chinchilla, of certain alleged opposition on my part to the provision of a new high school, and it leads me to believe that certain A.L.P. members in that town have set about a campaign against me and my activities. I understand that a teacher had told the pupils to be sure to do everything to make a good impression if Mr. Sullivan visited Chinchilla for the high-school speech night, as he was very opposed to the provision of a new high school at Chinchilla. I am sure that, if the Minister for Education and Migration heard that remark he too would be highly amused, because he could tell that particular teacher just how I was on his doorstep for many months endeavouring to have the money made available for that high school.

Apart from that, I have not heard any criticism, and I know that the people of

Chinchilla are very grateful to the Government and have expressed their gratitude to me for my representations to have that high school provided.

I shall conclude by thanking the Minister for Education and informing the Chamber of what is being done in this particular area. I am sure it is the pattern throughout the country areas of the State, and is a magnificent example of what can be done to give country children a secondary education. In the Brigalow area, four small country schools were closed and centralised and I am very proud of the fact that this was achieved as a result of my efforts. It looked at one stage as though it would be deferred but, as a result of what was done, 23 country children this year will receive secondary education. Had we not been able to centralise these Brigalow schools and provide a secondary-school bus to Chinchilla, because of bad seasonal conditions over the past three or four years the parents of many of these pupils would not have been in a position to send them away to boarding-school and thus they would have been deprived of a secondary education. Whilst driving through the Brigalow area the other day I pointed that out to the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation. As its name implies, at one time the area was covered with brigalow scrub and prickly pear. As we drove through the area we could see what a magnificent job the people had done in developing it. Now it is a waving wheat field. The Minister's comment was "Anything you can do for the people in this area, they are worthy of it."

We were very proud to see the development that had taken place. For so many years under Labour administration the people in the area were deprived of this kind of thing. It is all very well for the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to toss his head and scoff, but he knows in his own mind that it is a fact. Secondary education for the children in the area was almost unheard of. Only if parents could afford to send their children away could they hope to have a secondary education. But for what the Government has done, bad seasonal conditions would have deprived 23 children in the area of a secondary education.

**Mr. Aikens:** The workers were penalised because they could not afford to send their children away to secondary schools.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** That is true. The hon. member is reiterating what I have said in the Chamber previously.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition referred to the Budget as a "ballot-box Budget". The story of what the Government has done in the field of education, both in the country and in the cities, is enough to go to the people and win an election on next year.

On behalf of the people of Condamine, I must express appreciation for the magnificent job done over the years by the Department of Health and Home Affairs. I am sorry

that the Minister is not in the Chamber, although I have expressed my appreciation to him personally.

Prior to the Country-Liberal Party Government taking office, as a person drove through Chinchilla it would appear to him that the hospital there was worthy of the town. But shortly after I was elected as the area's parliamentary representative I made it my business to have a look at the hospital. Although it may have been worthy of the town from the point of view of the grand staff employed there, it was the worst designed hospital I have ever seen. I blame not the previous Government, but the architect. Whoever administered the Department of Public Works at that time should have ensured that a better lay-out was provided for the hospital.

It has just been brought to my notice that the Minister for Health and Home Affairs is busy with a deputation. He is not having his lunch-time exercises, as was suggested by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

We immediately set about to get better hospital facilities at Chinchilla. I am very pleased to be able to say that within about a month we will be opening extensions that have cost some £55,000. We will then be able to say that Chinchilla really has a hospital worthy of the people of the district.

Magnificent development is taking place in Chinchilla at the present time. Only last Saturday the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation opened an Olympic swimming pool, which is another excellent amenity in that area. Further, the building that is going on in the town expresses the confidence of the people in their district.

**Mr. Lloyd:** Subsidised by the Government?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** Yes, to the extent of £15,000. The people of Chinchilla are very grateful for what the Government is doing. As their Parliamentary representative I, too, am very grateful.

Speaking of hospitals in my area brings me to the Jandowae hospital. This has been a bone of contention for many years. I know that Mr. Toby Bassingthwaighe, the Jandowae member of the Hospitals Board, together with Mr. Jim Sparkes, who was then the member for Aubigny, strove to have a hospital provided in Jandowae. The only hospital that had been provided there was in the form of a private house with a few extensions built onto the back, and very inadequate nurses' quarters.

It was not a matter of who represented the area. We made representations but we could not get the Government of the day to do anything about it. I know the Leader of the Opposition has been to the Jandowae hospital. He was amazed at the conditions that existed there. With the change of Government it was possible for the people of Jandowae to get a hearing. Now the district has a hospital which is very worthy of the

people. The first wing of the hospital was built in the first two or three years of this Government's term of office. A very fine hospital has been established. The Minister for Health and Home Affairs has approved of plans and tenders have been approved, and within the next two or three weeks a start will be made on the construction of a maternity wing. So Jandowae, the centre of another thriving farming district, will have a hospital which is worthy of the district.

At Dalby there is a very great need for a new maternity wing. I admit that Dalby is not in my electorate, but it is on the edge of it. The hospital there serves a large number of my constituents and it behoves me to make representations at a very high level to see that a modern hospital will be available in the very near future. The hon. member for Aubigny will also be making representations. I feel that between us a new maternity block will be made available to the people of Dalby and the surrounding district within the very near future. My appreciation goes to the Minister for Health and Home Affairs for what he is doing for the people in this locality. When expressing that appreciation, Mr. Talyor, I am certain that I am expressing the appreciation of all the people concerned.

My speech on the Budget would be far from complete if I made no reference to the work that is being done by the Department of Main Roads under the administration of Mr. Evans. I suppose the name of Mr. Evans is one that is sweet to all in Queensland except, perhaps, in view of what happened in the Chamber yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition.

We really marvel at the work which the Minister has done in the development of Queensland during his five years of administration. He has placed schemes before the Treasurer, who has made representations to the Federal Government for the provision of money for the beef roads. Latterly, an amount of £1,750,000 has been granted for the sealing of those roads. What a magnificent part that is playing in the development of the outback parts of Queensland which, for so many years under the administration of the Labour Government, were forgotten. That was done for a designed purpose. They were Labour-held electorates. They did not want to develop those electorates out there because they knew they had the votes of the working public on the large stations, which they did not see fit to cut up for closer settlement. Today the tune has changed somewhat. People living in those areas, whether they are workers or otherwise, realise that the Country Party-Liberal Government is a Government for the people. Labour meant a great deal to them once, but they have found out that their Country Party representatives do much more for them. I refer particularly to the hon. member for Flinders and the hon. member for Gregory in those far-flung areas, and to the hon.

member for Balonne and the hon. member for Roma, coming to the closer and smaller areas. The workers in those parts realise that they get better representation from Country Party members than ever they got from the Labour Party.

**Mr. Lloyd:** Particularly the railway men.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** Railway men, too. I know that, as soon as I open my mouth to talk about railway men, hon. members opposite will claim that I am the man who wanted to sack them all. Go out to Chinchilla and Jandowae and I will guarantee that I will get a better railway vote at the next election than any hon. member opposite.

**Mr. Lloyd interjected.**

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** It may be the tactics of the hon. member for Kedron to go round the hotels and buy drinks for his voters. We do not do that. We do not have to. The electors are appreciative of what we do for them, and for their wives and families. I have no fear about the next elections. When we go to the people with our record we will be returned, perhaps with increased majorities.

The reclassifying of roads has been a mammoth task and one long overdue. I am pleased to note from a statement by the Minister that he has extended by some 3,000 miles—from 20,638 to 23,584 miles—the declared roads under the main roads system. While this has been put before the local authorities conference and accepted in principle, the various local authorities still have the right to lodge objections. No doubt there will be objections, but the overall plan appears to me to be fairly acceptable. I can see anomalies in it. One affects the Chinchilla shire. Tomorrow afternoon at this time I will be attending a meeting of the Chinchilla Shire Council to discuss a couple of problems with it.

The Condamine-Burnett highway has been reduced from highway status to a main road. That in effect means that constructing the road will put a heavier burden on the shoulders of the Chinchilla Shire Council. Fortunately its share is only about 4 miles but it involves a bridge over the Condamine River. The Condamine-Burnett highway is a vital link between the Western Downs and the south-west and the South Burnett. A great deal of the traffic on the road is through-traffic, and ratepayers should not be obliged to carry the burden of building a road for through-traffic. I maintain it is one road that should retain its highway status.

Likewise the Chinchilla-Auburn road, which extends into a vast area of only semi-developed country, has been reduced from a main road to a secondary road. I feel that there is a case for its being classified as a developmental road. I had the Minister for Public Lands on it last Sunday and I am sure he will realise that it goes into a semi-developed area. The Chinchilla Shire

Council does a good job in maintaining it as well as it can with the revenue available. It goes through about 22 miles of forest country from which no revenue is obtained, but the Forestry Department assists to a certain extent. There is definitely a claim for its classification as a developmental road.

In the Wambo shire, I feel that the reclassification scheme will assist considerably. The extension westwards of the Warrego Highway from Dalby to Charleville will assist the Wambo Shire Council in building some 17 miles of bitumen-sealed road over black soil, which can cost anything from £16,000 to £18,000 a mile. This Warrego Highway will carry a great volume of through-traffic. With the development of the Wandoan and Taroom areas, a stream of traffic, instead of using the Condamine Highway through to Dalby, is coming through that way now that bitumen-sealing is almost completed from Miles to Warra. The Wambo shire will be assisted in the construction of that portion of the road from the Ranger's Bridge turnoff on the Condamine Highway through Warra to the boundary of the Chinchilla and Wambo Shires. The Bunya Highway, which is from Dalby to Kingaroy and connecting the Darling Downs with the Burnett and South Burnett areas, is also attracting much through traffic. This will certainly assist the Wambo shire in the construction of that road.

I feel that the job done by the Department of Main Roads in this reclassification plan has been a mammoth one, and one that was long overdue. I commend the Minister for it. Certain representations will be made to him from shire councils, and I assure him that any assistance that I and the shire councils within my electorate can give will be forthcoming.

Time does not permit of my dealing with every aspect of the development that has taken place in the various departments administered by the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity. The people of Queensland appreciate the efforts that brought about legislation that attracted overseas capital to extend the search for oil in this State. Today, the Moonie field is on the point of being declared a commercial field. The company has signified its intention to have an oil pipeline constructed from the field to the port of Brisbane by the end of 1963, and I think that Queensland people appreciate the Minister's legislation that attracted overseas capital for oil search.

**Mr. Graham:** Have you any oil shares?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** No, unfortunately I have not.

I wish to deal now with a matter coming under the administration of the Minister for Transport. Although I am confident that the Minister can reply to any accusations that are levelled at him from time to time, I noticed that during the Address-in-Reply debate the hon. member for Norman referred

to him as the "Feuhrer" of Lockyer. I think that is quite uncalled for. Let us go back to the introduction of the State Transport Act of 1960.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I understand that the hon. member is referring to the Address-in-Reply debate. If he is, I point out to him that under the Standing Orders a concluded debate cannot again be referred to.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** Thank you, Mr. Taylor. I was referring only to a term used by the hon. member for Norman during that debate. I do not intend to pursue the point any further.

Let us see what has been achieved since the Transport Act was introduced.

**Mr. Melloy:** Be careful what you say, now.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** I shall make my own speech. I do not need any help from hon. members opposite. When I rise to make a speech, I do not have my tongue in my cheek. I know what I am going to say, and I proceed to say it.

Those of us who live in country areas and are concerned with freights realise the benefits that have been conferred by the State Transport Act of 1960. I want hon. members opposite, who are its greatest critics, to bear in mind that the few people in country areas who still support them are very appreciative of the reduction in freight rates. It may be said that because the Minister for Transport reduced rail freights it was necessary for road-transport operators to reduce their freights, and that may be true. My only regret is that rail freights were not reduced 20 or 30 years ago.

I discussed this matter at length with the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, and he told me of the reduction in freight rates to Warwick that has been brought about under the State Transport Act of 1960. Road-transport operators did not wait for the Railway Department to reduce freights in this instance. They got in first. Under the previous Act they were obliged to charge freights comparable with rail freights, but under the new Act they were able to reduce their freights. The freight to Warwick on general goods was £13 13s. a ton, even though road-transport operators used the Cunningham Highway, which was about 50 or 60 miles shorter than the railway line to Warwick. They cut the rate to £5 10s. a ton. That indicates the exorbitant freight rates that the people of Warwick, in common with people in other country centres, were being charged. Reductions in freight rates must mean that retailers in country areas are able to pass on to members of the public, some of whom support hon. members opposite, the benefit of reduced prices. So much for transport. I made representations to the Minister as recently as during the last few days. There are certain aspects with

which I still do not agree but I feel confident that, with the Premier arranging for all users of transport, and representatives of transport interests, to meet himself, the Minister for Transport, and one or two others, any existing problems or anomalies will be ironed out in the near future. I understand that a report on this subject is shortly to be tabled. If any problems exist after that meeting, I will have to go on making representations on behalf of those who are still not quite satisfied.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, when speaking on the Financial Statement, referred to this Budget as a "ballot-box Budget". I suppose, with an election coming up next year and politics being what they are, that he is entitled to make that accusation.

**Mr. Windsor** interjected.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** That is very true. We know that the Leader of the Opposition is going into next year's election with a terrific handicap. He must recognise that himself, because he is reported in the Press as having stated that in no way can the A.L.P. win the election next year.

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

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** The Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Thackeray:** He did not say that.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** He was reported in "The Courier-Mail" as having said it, and this is one occasion on which I would say that the Leader of the Opposition is being truthful, because he knows he cannot win the next election. The people of Queensland are applauding him for his frankness, but what made him make that statement? I should say he made it for two or three reasons, the first being that if you were going in to play a football match—

**Mr. DAVIES:** I rise to a point of order. The hon. member has alleged that the Leader of the Opposition said that the Opposition will not win the next State election. That is not correct. The Leader of the Opposition made no such statement.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** The hon. member for Maryborough having made that inane interjection—

**Mr. Smith:** It was not inane. He admitted they were not going to win the next election.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** What I was about to say is that if you are playing a strong team, which the Opposition know they are in the next election—the Country Party-Liberal Government having served the electors so well over two terms of government—you know you are starting from behind scratch. Another reason for his remark is that, as the hon. member for South Coast recently said, the A.L.P. is now only the shirt-tail of the once great A.L.P. I should say he

was referring to those very short shirts that have not much tail. In support of that statement, yesterday in this Chamber I asked a question about a certain gentleman. I want to reveal now that that gentleman is the endorsed A.L.P. candidate for Flinders. That is the type of A.L.P. candidate who will contest the next election, so is it any wonder that the Leader of the Opposition, having to rely on such men, made the statement that they will not win the election next year?

What happened when we were required, two or three weeks ago, to elect a Senator? The people of Queensland know only too well that an A.L.P. Government would not be a Government of the people but a Government dictated to by seven men in the Q.C.E., some of whom have had a long association with the Communist Party. The average Queenslander does not want any Socialist Government. They have been without that type of Government for the last five years, during which time they have begun to appreciate what it means to be without it. They do not want a Government in here that, although supposedly elected by the people, is merely a mouthpiece for the Q.C.E. The Leader of the Opposition knows that only too well. We have the spectacle of their nominating and supporting Mr. Arnell, who was not acceptable to Parliament for the reasons outlined by the Premier. I know that certain hon. members opposite did not want him, but they were told by the Q.C.E. to support him. Should the Government of Queensland govern in accordance with the dictates of the Trades Hall?

Until hon. members opposite are prepared to stand up in the Chamber and defy this Trades Hall domination they will continue to lose ground. No wonder the Leader of the Opposition makes the statement that he cannot win the next election. With such a team, how could he? Mr. Egerton said that the type of candidate coming forward for A.L.P. selection was not suitable. It appears that the Leader of the Opposition supports him in those views. I noticed when reading a speech of the hon. member for Norman—

**Mr. Lloyd:** In the debate on the Address in Reply?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** In the Address-in-Reply debate. He said—

"Government members have plenty of property or business, and what property they have not got they are endeavouring to sell to overseas interests."

It would appear that the hon. member for Norman resents the fact that Government members do own a certain amount of property. I should say that every Government member who owns property has earned it through hard work. There are hon. members sitting on this side who, when they were young men, worked a darned sight harder than some who call themselves members of the Australian Labour Party. It is through their good business sense that hon. members on this side have been able to build up their

assets. I was not spoon-fed. The bit of land I have is not leasehold; it is freehold. When I bought it ten years ago I borrowed nine-tenths of the necessary capital. They are the type of men who make up the Country Party and the Liberal Party.

If the hon. member for Norman were in the Chamber I could direct a question at him, but as usual he is not here. When he is he usually lolls on the seat half asleep. Has he any objection to men of humble beginnings who have made their way in the world—little men, as the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity refers to them—being occupants of the Treasury benches? Does he not realise that they have proved themselves in their own businesses, and thus are capable of standing a far better chance of running a country than hon. members opposite, who, even though they may have property, have not enough of what it takes to stand up to the dictates of the Trades Hall?

The hon. member for Norman has made accusations and charges against the Government. If he wants to come back and argue the position I will be very interested to hear what he has to say.

Do not make any mistake. To become a member of the Country Party it is necessary to have a good record in your own area to gain endorsement. Usually there are four or five pretty solid men in each area who contest the plebiscites, and the plebiscites are run in such a way that everything is fair and square and above-board. It is the man who has the best record who will win.

It grieves me to think that any man on the Opposition benches could aspire to the Government benches when Opposition members make such ridiculous statements as they have done against the Government. I will finish on that note. Perhaps this will be the last opportunity I will have during this session of Parliament to talk in such a way. I can assure hon. members opposite that if they want to attract support from the people of Queensland, the first thing they will have to do is clean up the Trades Hall—the Q.C.E. dictators—and stand up and say to them, "We are going to be the Government of Queensland. We will govern; not you fellows, who have absolutely no sense of responsibility."

**Mr. PILBEAM** (Rockhampton South) (2.57 p.m.): Within recent weeks one Budget has been presented in New South Wales by a Labour Government, and another in Queensland by a Country Party-Liberal Government. It has been said that ours is an election Budget, but a comparison of the two will give a fair indication as to the Government which would best serve the interests of the people.

A review of the two budgets suggests a definite superiority by the Country Party-Liberal Government over the Labour Government in the housekeeping of this State.

Where a Budget of tax concessions and benefits has been offered in Queensland, Labour in New South Wales presented a very doleful Budget of increased taxes and charges covering, amongst other things, railway fares, drivers' licence fees, and motor-vehicle registration fees. Where the Queensland Budget was orientated towards record development expenditure, the New South Wales Budget was directed towards restrictions which can only hinder the development of that State. The Queensland Budget is truly a record one. I sincerely congratulate the Treasurer, who always presents a very good Budget.

Queensland has not been fortunate in the weather conditions experienced in this State. The Treasurer referred in his statement to the fact that we have had four unfortunate seasons in this State. In Central Queensland, if we do not get a wet season after Christmas, when the monsoonal rain season commences, it will be our fifth dry season. So we have not had a very true picture of what this Government can do in Central Queensland. However, despite this we have made a definite break-through towards its development. We see the possibility, under this Government, of making development where there was only stagnation for many years under Labour.

The Queensland State Budget will give real assistance through direct concessions. For example, benefits under the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act have been greatly increased, and extra financial incentive in the way of merit bonuses is passed on to those firms that effect greater occupational safety for their employees.

In the field of home-building the level of advances on all forms of housing by the Queensland Housing Commission has been increased to £3,500. That cannot help but benefit the younger hire-purchasers and the families in the lower-income bracket who want to build a modern house within their price bracket.

There is an important reduction in land tax affecting industrial, commercial, and agricultural land, which will play a real part in helping reduce the costs of production.

This year the State Treasurer has had considerable assistance by way of Federal Government grants. Altogether an additional £9,000,000 has been granted in this financial year. It has been suggested by hon. members opposite that that was induced by the voting at the last Federal election. I would not say that was the case at all. As a result of continued good representation by the Premier and the Treasurer, we are at last opening the eyes of the Commonwealth Government to our needs under the heading of development. I congratulate the Treasurer on the part he has played in getting these extra grants for Queensland.

**Mr. Sherrington:** You do not think the election had anything to do with it?

**Mr. PILBEAM:** I am prepared to be something the hon. member is not—and that is be honest—and I will admit there would be some influence. It is a novelty for hon. members opposite to find someone admitting something in all honesty.

The Country Party-Liberal State Government has been able to step up the construction programme of beef and Channel Country roads. Even since the presentation of the Financial Statement, there has been an indication of more money under this heading to help in this very worth-while project.

The Mt. Isa railway construction project is proceeding apace and is actually running below the estimated cost. Money thus saved is to be diverted to better long-term road maintenance by bitumen-sealing beef roads.

Other schemes that must commend themselves to every person concerned with the development of Queensland, and which are allowed for in the Budget, are the brigalow belt development and the Gladstone Harbour Board development schemes. Those schemes are of great significance to the whole State, and of particular significance to Central Queensland, a part of the State which was sadly neglected under previous Labour administrations.

Indeed, in all parts of the State—the metropolitan area, Central and Northern Queensland, along the coast and in the interior—planned development is forging ahead. The State Budget is a magnificent indication of the bright future awaiting Queensland, and it is also a tribute to the foresight and courageous long-term planning of a Country Party-Liberal State Government that has been in office for only five years—and five years of not very good weather at that.

The hon. member for Baroona was pleased to pay tribute to the efficiency of Country Party-Liberal Governments in Australia. In seeking to criticise the Queensland Budget he compared us with the Country Party-Liberal Government of South Australia. He said we were not as good as the Playford Government. I thank him for the analogy. I remind him that we have not been here as long as the Playford Government has been in office in South Australia, and possibly the only difference between this Government and that Government will be eliminated after three or four more elections. When we have been here the same length of time, we will have had an equal opportunity to do the work that has been done by the splendid Playford Government in South Australia. We may perhaps be able to do a little better, because it will be admitted that most of the development in South Australia has been in the city of Adelaide, whereas we are planning, on a basis of decentralisation, development of the central and northern parts of the State. Indeed, there is ample evidence that we are already succeeding in those fields.

I submit that the New South Wales Budget was a pretty doleful one. It presented many increases in fees and taxes. For instance, the stamp duty on cheques was increased by 1d. Motorists have to bear an added burden; the annual fee for driver's licenses was increased by £1 and is now £2. They have to pay 10/- per cent. of the value upon the registration and re-registration of motor vehicles.

Immediately the A.L.P. was returned in March, third-party insurance premiums were increased by 25 per cent. Not even technical and evening students were missed; their fees were raised. A tax of 2s. 6d. in the £1 was imposed on revenue from poker machines. There will be real difficulty in policing this half-yearly turnover tax, worth an estimated £1,000,000 to £2,000,000, and the administrative costs could prove burdensome.

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** Mr. Dewar, I draw your attention to the state of the Committee. (Quorum formed.)

**Mr. PILBEAM:** To continue with the increased taxes provided in the New South Wales Budget, there have been increases in rail fares and workers' weekly concessions. Fares were also increased after the last three A.L.P. election victories in New South Wales. Passenger fares are up 1d. over distances of between 3 and 10 miles and to 1/- for journeys over 100 miles. Goods rates will rise by 1/- a ton up to 10 miles, to 5/- a ton over 50 miles. Parcel rates have also been increased. Stamp duty has been increased by 5 per cent. in the sale price of real property over £7,000; the present flat rate of £1 5s. continues. Liquor licence fees have also been increased, to produce an estimated £600,000.

It can be fairly said that the New South Wales Budget has stifled expansion by the taxing of all available resources. The working man particularly is being hit by such taxes as sales tax on second-hand vehicles and the increases in rail fares and workers' concession rates to which I have referred. Increased freight rates will affect commerce. Industries that are fractionally competitive will have to close or cut employment. The recent enlargement of long-service leave makes it costlier for firms to operate, and therefore to expand.

The New South Wales Treasurer has set greater store on balancing his Budget and achieving a surplus than on developing the State and giving commerce a healthy climate in which to expand, as our Treasurer has done.

I should like to deal with some points in the Financial Statement. The first source of gratification to me is the reference by the Treasurer to the increase in sorghum and wheat production this year. Anyone would get great satisfaction from going to the Peak Downs area of the State—the Central Highlands—and seeing the greatly-increased area under sorghum and wheat. The work being

done by private enterprise is in marked contrast to what was achieved under former Governments.

**Mr. Mann:** Your Government cannot provide transport for the sorghum.

**Mr. PILBEAM:** The sorghum has all been taken away. At first there was some confusion because the area under sorghum had been increased so rapidly, but that was a tribute to the work of the people in the area. I think there will probably be difficulty in getting the wheat away, too, because of the big increase in wheat-growing in the area. It is a good thing for Queensland.

I was very pleased to see the reference in the Financial Statement to loan raisings on the local-government front. I was somewhat disturbed when the interest rate was reduced to 5½ per cent. If one is competing in the loan field against organisations that are prepared to pay much more than 5½ per cent., one has reason to be apprehensive about the possibility of securing one's full allocation. However, I am happy to say that almost every local authority in Queensland has already been successful in raising its allocation for the forthcoming year at 5½ per cent. That reflects confidence in the Government of the day. I can vouch for that. The Rockhampton City Council has been trying to get extra money to proceed with its sewerage programme, but it has been hampered in its efforts because so many local authorities have been unable to raise their full allocation. This year, as I said, the full allocations have been raised, and that is very gratifying to anyone who is interested in the welfare and progress of Queensland.

The section in the Treasurer's Financial Statement dealing with "Commonwealth Aid Roads" is very important, and Queensland has been very fortunate in receiving such a generous allocation under the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act this year. Our share is £8,344,488 basic grant and £1,451,215 matching grant—a total of £9,795,703. That is an increase of £702,101 over the sum available for 1961-1962. It will give a big impetus to road-building in the various shires and cities in Queensland that participate in the grant.

I am very happy to see that, quite apart from this, the Minister has seen fit to pass on a saving of a further £3,000,000 to local authorities to enable them to push ahead still faster with their road-building programmes. Those of us who are interested in local government have been worried for years by the large allocations that have to be made from local-authority funds for main roads work. I thank the Minister most sincerely for his action. I have made representations to him on an individual basis in relation to particular roads, and in each instance he has been very sympathetic. This is something even better. He has dealt with

all the roads collectively and given en bloc the allocation that we have been seeking separately.

I think most people who travel regularly to western parts of the State, as I do, must be worried about the state of the roads in that area. I have often sat in a train on a wet night and seen people boarding the train who have had to leave their cars at the side of the road. I should say that we have no chance of developing the West until we have a proper system of all-weather roads built throughout. This is a very definite step towards the achievement of that object.

The section relating to beef roads makes very satisfactory reading to those of us who are interested in the development of the beef-cattle industry. The Treasurer makes reference to the fact that during the year the expenditure on beef roads totalled £980,000, of which £650,000 was received from the Commonwealth. He also said—

“Expenditure in 1962-1963 will be almost entirely from Commonwealth sources as only £19,061 is necessary from State sources this year to complete the State's expenditure of £350,000 required on those roads. It will be recalled that the original offer for the Normanton to Julia Creek Road was £650,000 of which £300,000 was a base grant and £350,000 was to be matched £ for £ by the State from its own resources.

“Expenditure approaching £1,500,000 is expected to be made on these roads in 1962-1963, of which £1,480,000 has been provided in the Commonwealth Budget.”

In addition to that he said—

“Expenditure on Channel Country Roads amounted to £300,000 in the last financial year.”

We cannot speak too highly—and I am not making a pun—of the work being done from Commonwealth grants on beef roads. It is wonderful that we have secured a total amount of £5,000,000 from the Commonwealth Government as a result of the representations made principally by the Treasurer and the Premier. Over and above this, the Commonwealth Government, since the Budget was brought down, has seen fit to promise another £3,000,000 to be used for the sealing of these beef-cattle roads. I do not think anyone will argue against that.

Those of us who have suffered through travelling on gravel roads will appreciate just what a sealed road means. It not only means comfort for human beings but it makes a big difference to have an all-weather road when travelling cattle. It comes as a great surprise to me, and to many other people, that the Commonwealth has agreed to provide this extra £3,000,000 to seal the roads.

In reading the Premier's statement on the matter I notice that the construction programme includes roads in the Gulf country, and the main roads between Normanton and

Julia Creek and Georgetown and Mt. Surprise, with other interlocking roads, and in the Channel Country, from Quilpie to Windorah, Winton to Boulia, and Windorah to Yaraka, with other interlocking roads.

The Windorah-Yaraka road particularly concerns me, because we in Central Queensland have been fighting for some time for a high priority for it. It is the only road in the whole of the beef-roads scheme which serves the meatworks at Rockhampton and Gladstone, and it is most gratifying for me to see that the Premier has stated that it will be included in the list of roads to be bitumen-sealed under this latest grant. It is very good news for Central Queensland, and, as I say, it is something we have been fighting for for a long time.

Another paragraph in the Treasurer's Statement to which I wish particularly to refer relates to the coal-loading facilities at Gladstone. As I said during the introduction of the Bill covering this project, we are most gratified to see the port of Gladstone get such strong support. We are very gratified to see an assured coal trade for the port of Gladstone for the next five to seven years, and something even better than that in the background. The Gladstone people have been fortunate in getting £100,000 of that money free, but we do not begrudge it to them.

In building up Port Alma to first-class standard we do so in the certain knowledge that if Central Queensland is developed—as it will be—we will certainly need those two first-class ports. Let me state the attitude of the Rockhampton Harbour Board now, because it has been confused by a lot of wrong thinking. We bear no malice against Gladstone. We support everything that helps that port. We offer our port as the second port in Central Queensland because we know there will be enough trade for the two ports. We know that, under the agreement with Thiess Peabody Coal Pty. Ltd., that company has to give a guarantee to build a railway line between the Moura field and Gladstone, or some other port. If that port is Gladstone, we support it. Let there be no doubt about that. We are pushing ahead with Port Alma to make it a first-class port. If the opportunity comes our way we will take it, but we will do nothing to offset Gladstone's chances of getting the line. Wherever the line goes we will support the development that is envisaged by its construction.

I hope you will pardon me, Mr. Low, for referring to the development of the brigalow lands, which the Treasurer outlined in his Financial Statement. The closer settlement of the brigalow lands in the Fitzroy River Basin must be of benefit to Queensland, and of particular benefit to Central Queensland. It cannot help but develop the city of Rockhampton. I cannot see how anyone would offer objection to this project. No doubt there are many problems to be worked out, but surely no-one would cavil at the financial

arrangements that provide for an expenditure of £1,750,000 in the area in this budget year. What we need in Central Queensland is more population. We need closer settlement; we need more produce carried over our ports. I cannot see that anyone could honestly say a word against the development of the brigalow belt, a fertile area that has barely been used up to the present time. I cannot see anyone speaking against the development of an undeveloped area, the populating of an area previously unpopulated or the putting into production of an unproductive area, which is what is envisaged by the brigalow development scheme.

I do not propose to make special reference to the Queensland University other than to say that an ever-increasing expenditure is necessary to support tertiary education in Queensland. We congratulate Townsville on its very successful university college. We in Rockhampton are endeavouring to co-operate to the fullest extent in ensuring that we, in turn, have a university. We feel that in any properly decentralised scheme of education, if there are to be three universities, one should be in Southern Queensland, one in Central Queensland, and one in North Queensland. I do not think there is anything unfair about that. We were quite happy to see Townsville getting its university first because of its distance from Brisbane, but we would be unhappy if the next university were not built in Rockhampton.

I propose now to comment on the racing and betting revenue, because it is a matter that I have studied in my own city. I do not propose to make any statements about the whole of the State because I would not be qualified to do so. But in Rockhampton we have had a very fair opportunity to study how the Act has worked, because we have a very active race club and a pretty strong betting public. I suppose that we have had our share of off-course operations, too. I should say that the Racing and Betting Act has been administered very successfully in Rockhampton. Everybody knows where he stands. We know that we can lodge a bet with a bookmaker before 12 o'clock. If the public go across to the racecourse they can get a bet there, or they can go to the T.A.B. to place a bet. It is working very satisfactorily in Rockhampton. It is no surprise to me that it will be a financial success in Queensland.

I congratulate the Treasurer on his early move to give benefits to the racing clubs concerned. They are quite substantial benefits, too. They are allied to the lowering of the tax on betting tickets. No-one can say we have been avaricious in the administration of the Act. The T.A.B. has been a success and is doing nothing more than regularise something that has been going on illegally for years.

We know what is going on in New South Wales, where the Government has no control over betting. I will read an extract

from last week's "Sunday Truth", which deals with the fact that an amount of £174,000 is being derived from the "one-armed bandits" by a junior football club in New South Wales.

It says:

"The South Sydney Junior Rugby League Club made £174,975 from its 65 poker machines for the last financial year. The huge profit compares with £105,287 the club made from 40 machines in 1960-1961."

It goes on to quote a statement by the secretary-manager—

"Our members would be almost 100 per cent. players," he said. "Our poker machine business is nothing short of fantastic."

That is a club run by juniors. No-one can point a finger at the Queensland Government. We have nothing like that here. There is nothing like that going on every day and every night. Anyone who goes to Sydney will know what I mean.

What is the criticism of the T.A.B. worth? Would hon. members opposite be prepared to give a guarantee that they would cut it out if they were returned to office?

**Mr. Hanlon:** You did not tell the people that it was to be introduced.

**Mr. PILBEAM:** Let us hear the criticism. It is purely political. If the Government is returned to power it will carry on with the good work.

**Mr. Diplock:** How did you get a bet on with a bookmaker at 12 o'clock on a Saturday? You said that. If we could get a bet on at Dalby, it would be very welcome.

**Mr. PILBEAM:** A bet can be placed at a certain time. I would not say you can get a bet up to 12 o'clock. I have not checked the hour.

**Mr. Thackeray** interjected.

**Mr. PILBEAM:** I will retract that statement because I am not sure. I am not like the hon. member for Rockhampton North, who never goes to the races. He is talking about racing but he never goes. I go there almost every Saturday afternoon. I know something about the industry. He is talking about something of which he knows nothing. I do not patronise the T.A.B. I do not have to lodge my bets in the morning. I can prove that I go to the races almost every Saturday.

**Mr. Hiley:** The Central Queensland Racing Club and the North Queensland Racing Club allow bookmakers to take bets on the course.

**Mr. PILBEAM:** I will admit that I am speaking from hearsay. I go to the races. I have said that quite frankly.

I also make reference to the success of the altered drinking regulations in Rockhampton, which have resulted in the elimination of the Sunday drunk. Before the drinking laws were regularised, one could see drunks all over the town on a Sunday. Now they have properly organised drinking sessions and we have no trouble. The changed regulations have been a great success in Rockhampton, and I support the Treasurer on them.

**Mr. Davies:** Do you support the opening of the hotels for four hours on Sundays in all cities and towns on the coast?

**Mr. PILBEAM:** Yes. I support that. There is no doubt about it, it has regularised the drinking habits of the population. We do not see the Sunday drunk at all. We would see more drunks on Sundays in other places than in Rockhampton. It all depends on the individual.

I propose now to speak on something of great importance to the city of Rockhampton. In the Treasurer's Estimates, in the Loan Fund Account under the heading of Agricultural Bank, appears an allocation of £107,500 towards the cost of construction of the Callide-Dawson Co-operative Abattoir. I am most apprehensive about the continuation of the building of district abattoirs. I have nothing to say against co-operative abattoirs—I support them—but at this stage I feel I should say something about the continued attempts to construct a district abattoir in Rockhampton. It amuses me to have hon. members opposite crying about the increase in the price of meat when they know that most of it is brought about by the capitalisation of additional and unnecessary works, which is added to the cost of meat. I say quite definitely that, when you build an abattoir costing at least £500,000 and you tie the recovery of that amount to the cost of meat in the area, you must increase the price of meat.

**Mr. Graham:** What are the killing charges in Brisbane?

**Mr. PILBEAM:** Exactly the same as they are in Rockhampton, namely, 27s. 6d.—the lowest in the State. The tremendous population of Brisbane has a bearing on that. To get the proper comparison, compare Townsville and Rockhampton. The Townsville charge is 50s. against Rockhampton's 27s. 6d. That is the district abattoir as compared with the private abattoir. Let us get this thing straight. Let us not have people crying about the high price of meat for the poor when they are responsible for increasing the price. They are not working in the interests of the people when they allow the construction of district abattoirs. I can give the Committee the idea behind this. (Opposition laughter.) Wait a minute. Let me explain. The district abattoir in Rockhampton is calculated to cost at least

£500,000 and the main reason for building it is to allow for the export of beef. That is a fact that cannot be contested. Purely and simply for the local trade, it will not mean the killing of one more bullock. By the construction of the district abattoir they are hoping to increase the export of meat from Rockhampton. The only people who can use it are big operators in the South. Do hon. members opposite mean to say they are honest in suggesting that the people, by paying an extra 4d. or 6d. or 1s. a lb. for meat every day for 365 days of the year, should make it possible for the big operators to use the works whenever they feel inclined? These big operators will not put money into the area, but the people of the city have to pay from 6d. to 1s. extra a pound for meat the whole year round. That is simply to pander to the rich southern operators, yet hon. members opposite tell me that they support a district abattoir. After six years the Townsville abattoir has not exported one beast, and the people of Townsville are paying 1s. a pound extra for meat to make the abattoir pay its way. What is worse, the abattoir is allowed to do things that no private operator would be allowed to. To balance the books at Townsville this year, only half the correct amount of depreciation has been charged. It is allowed to get away with those things.

I think that the situation in Rockhampton, in particular, calls for a full inquiry. I shall give the Committee the facts as an example of how a district abattoir works. This board has been in existence for 16 years, much of it under a Labour Government and some of it under us. Almost £3,000 has been spent already in members' fees, yet a site has not even been selected.

**Mr. Sherrington:** Do you agree with the Minister's views on abattoir boards?

**Mr. PILBEAM:** I disagree with his view on this board. I shall tell hon. members something about it. It has been in existence for 16 years. It commenced by selecting a site. It did not go to the experts and get them to make the selection. Two engineers informed the board that the suggested site was unsuitable. One of them was Westerholm from New Zealand, who selected the sites at Toowoomba and Townsville, and the other was named Smith. Numerous engineers said to me, "How could any engineer in his right mind pick a site at Gracemere when you have a river running through the town? The greatest difficulty for any abattoir is, of course, disposal of the effluent. Any private operator would consider it stupid not to build on a river, if such a site is available, to facilitate disposal of the effluent. The board decided to build at Gracemere, which is isolated by flood waters for as long as five weeks a year. The Archers first settled there. It is over 100 years old, and is the oldest suburb in Rockhampton. The hon. member for Brisbane used to be there, and he will remember it well. It is the same as it was

when he left years ago. Not one businessman would think it economic to establish a business there, yet these people, because they have an open cheque on the people of Rockhampton, propose to put an abattoir there.

An analysis of the water available in the area was obtained from the Government Analyst. The first analysis revealed that the water was unfit for human consumption, so it was rejected. A second analysis was obtained, and again the result was that the water was unfit for human consumption. A third analysis revealed that, although the water was unfit for human consumption and not suitable for domestic use, it was suitable for an abattoir. That was accepted.

The site selected is at the side of the sanitary depot at Gracemere where nightsoil has been buried for years, and is still being buried. I have a statement by the chairman of the Abattoir Board admitting these things.

**Mr. Houston:** Is he a friend of yours?

**Mr. PILBEAM:** I do not care whether or not he is a friend. I must oppose anything that is against the interests of the people of Rockhampton. I think that this plan of the meatworks calls for a full inquiry because of its uneconomic nature. It is in an area which is cut off by floods and which has an unsuitable water supply. Even if the water is considered suitable for an abattoir, it has a high saline content and maintenance costs will be high because of rusting in pipes, and so on.

**Mr. Houston:** Have you raised this in your own Caucus?

**Mr. PILBEAM:** I have raised it, don't worry. No private meatworks would be in favour of the plan. The plan shows a water tower something like the tower that would be needed for a town water supply. It will cost between £60,000 and £100,000. By selecting a site on the river, the city council could have supplied the water for about £20,000.

**Mr. Thackeray:** It is only an artist's impression, and you know it.

**Mr. PILBEAM:** It is the engineer's plan. It is a shocking thing. To dispose of the effluent there are two open lakes of blood. The effluent could be treated, of course, but they could not get the blood out of it. At least once every two years the thick scum that will form on top of the lakes will have to be removed and buried, or put in the river.

This is an example of the abattoir that we are asked to support in Rockhampton. For what? Members of the Opposition say that it would provide more employment, or something of that sort. I tell them that it will not provide more employment. We have now one major meatworks and one minor meatworks prepared to start in Rockhampton if their hands are not tied by the establishment of a district abattoir. If the abattoir is satisfactory, why does it not

stand on its own legs? We do not mind how many abattoirs are constructed in the area, but we do object strongly to the restrictive clause that prevents our own meatworks, or any other private meatworks, from operating in the area.

I have told hon. members that, according to this statement, the estimated cost is £500,000. But I am going to tell them something even more serious. They know quite well that it will cost much more than that, and the reporters at the last board meeting were given false information. They were told to publish that it would cost only £500,000.

**Mr. Houston:** Who are "they"?

**Mr. PILBEAM:** The chairman and the committee of the Abattoir Board. It could cost £1,000,000.

**Mr. Houston:** Who appointed them?

**Mr. PILBEAM:** They were appointed by a Labour council in Rockhampton, and by other shire councils.

**Mr. Houston:** And supported by the Government.

**Mr. PILBEAM:** I should say that the main purpose of the abattoir is to provide a works for big operators who, for economic reasons, have their own meatworks on the border, where they get the best return, and who would like to see the Government establish meatworks in towns all along the coast so that, when it suits them, they can use this one and that one, although the one at Townsville is not yet being used by them. They have not used the one at Townsville for export for six years, and the people there are paying an extra 1s. a lb. for their meat to maintain it.

**Mr. Houston:** You said that was because the beef roads were not there.

**Mr. PILBEAM:** Beef roads will be of value only if the meatworks are there to handle the cattle. I say that the district abattoir scheme is restrictive, and anything restrictive is no good. The Rockhampton proposal is wrong in principle. The site is wrong; the plans are wrong. False information has been given to the public. I intend making a request to the Government for a full inquiry into the matter. I have the interests of the people of Rockhampton at heart, and do not intend to see them robbed and asked to pay anything extra for their meat so that Tancred's or Playfair's can come up from the border and use the meatworks when they feel like using it. If they are interested and they want to put up their own meatworks in the area, using their own capital, I support them to the hilt. But if they want to get an unfair advantage over the operators in the area, I say that is wrong. The people of Rockhampton should not be forced to support them in their profit-making ventures. Hon. members opposite are supporting Big Business and taking every opportunity to do so.

**Mr. Houston:** If the Government does not give you this inquiry, will you resign from the party?

**Mr. PILBEAM:** Whatever I do, I do at the dictates of my own conscience. I do not take advice from those who have no conscience. At least I have a conscience, which I use.

**Mr. Bennett:** You should be the last to talk about conscience.

**Mr. PILBEAM:** I know what the hon. member is referring to. He has referred to it before, but I tell him now that whatever mistakes I have made in my past only the cowardly and the ill-bred refer to them now, and he is definitely in that category.

I strongly support the progressive moves envisaged in the Budget brought down this year. I strongly support all the matters to which I referred in it—the development of beef roads, the development of trade over the port of Gladstone, or some other port, and the grain-growing developments in the area. But I strongly oppose any move that would affect the development of the meat industry in Central Queensland or affect adversely the people in the area.

**Mr. BROMLEY (Norman)** (3.46 p.m.): On the completion of the repeat performance of his Address-in-Reply speech just delivered by the hon. member for Rochhampton South during which he was on his favourite hobby-horse, I intend to deal with something different; I intend to deal with the Budget and matters connected with the Financial Statement.

When the Treasurer spoke on 27 September he gave us the history of the rainfall in this State and the benefits that flowed therefrom. I am sure that everybody was pleased that the State enjoyed such widespread rains. I suppose we should all be very thankful for them.

However, that very fact leads me to comment briefly on the production of butter, which the Treasurer stated was up 39 per cent. on that of the previous year. He also stated that production of cheese was up 57 per cent. It is, however, unfortunate to read in the Press and in various statistics sent to us that we are eating less butter and that the overall consumption of this commodity has declined. In the "Telegraph" of 4 October, 1962, it is stated that Australians are eating less butter than they were ten years ago. Consumption was 31.2 lb. per head in 1951-1952 but only 24.3 lb. in 1960-1961. The article states that a dairy economist, Mr. A. D. Ross, said that one reason was the increase in price. The price was 2s. 2d. a lb. in 1951 and it is now 4s. 10d. a lb. under this anti-worker Government.

The article continues to say—

"Other factors were a trend towards American-style low-fat diets, health fears, and the eating habits of migrants.

"Mr. Ross warned that the decline in consumption had serious implications for the dairying industry, particularly as overseas markets could contract in areas covered by the Common Market or could run into chronic over-supply."

Very recently it was reported in the Press that there is no market for the higher cheese production. This sad state of affairs is borne out by an article in "The Courier-Mail" of 5 October headed, "September Trade Deficit" and reading—

"The third successive overseas monthly trade deficit was recorded last month, the Commonwealth Statistics Bureau said yesterday.

"The deficit—£13.2 million—brought the total for the three months to £45,500,000 compared with a surplus of £34,600,000 in the same period last year."

Those figures give us food for thought. They could have a serious effect on the economy of the State. From that article it is obvious that there is a need to develop trade with countries closer to Australia. As I have pointed out before, perhaps we should form a common market to be known as the "Asian Common Market." We must do something to offset what could happen because of Great Britain's entry into the European Common Market.

Increased exports must create increased employment. We of the A.L.P. are always worrying about how we can create increased employment so that the economy of the country will improve. In his Financial Statement the Treasurer mentioned the drop in unemployment figures, and endeavoured to bolster up his belief by quoting percentages and figures. Let us examine some of those figures and the unemployment position as we know it today. In "The Courier-Mail" of 12 October, in an article headed "More out of jobs soon," Mr. McMahon, the Labour and National Service Minister, warned that there would be an increase in unemployment in Queensland towards the end of the year. Of course, the unemployment figures dropped in September but that month is normally regarded as being the peak of both the sugar and meat seasons. Unfortunately, the meat season is tapering off now and we are getting increased numbers of unemployed. The latest figures for registered unemployed in Queensland are—

Males (Adults)	.. ..	6,319
Juniors	.. ..	1,434
Females (Adults)	.. ..	2,022
Juniors	.. ..	2,218
Total	.. ..	11,993

Those figures show that 8,341 adult males and females and 3,652 juniors are unemployed. That number of juniors under 21 represents about 30 per cent. of the total unemployed in Queensland. That is a shocking indictment of the Government when it is remembered that in their policy speeches

hon. members opposite said that there would be more jobs than people to fill them. In addition, thousands of juniors will be leaving school at the end of November. Even now parents are asking members of the A.L.P. what they will do to get jobs for their children and what the Government will do about it. I do not think the Government is worrying too much about it—certainly not as much as it should.

An article in "The Courier-Mail" of 16 October, 1962 states—

"The A.C.T.U. president (Mr. Monk) said that he welcomed the decrease in the registrations of unemployed for September. It was to be hoped that the unemployment figure would be reduced materially for November and December before the influx of more than 200,000 school-leavers into the work force early in the New Year."

What plan has the Government for the employment of the school-leavers? I do not think it has any plan at all. We have only to look at the various headlines in the newspapers. The Government has said that it will provide employment for juniors as well as adults.

On 11 February, 1962, the Minister for Labour and Industry was reported as follows:—

"Jobs for unemployed start next week.

"The State Government will begin employing thousands of jobless Queenslanders a week from tomorrow."

The Government did no such thing. As usual it broke its promise. Perhaps I could qualify that by quoting another headline from "The Courier-Mail"—

"Top Job for Seven Wise Men of Queensland."

At least the Government has provided seven jobs for the unemployed.

The Treasurer has a certain amount of money allocated by the Commonwealth Government for unemployment. The Government should spend that money immediately and not hoard it up until just before the elections, as apparently is their intention. I think "splurge" would then be the right word. After the elections we will find that "splurge" will be the correct word, because the Australian Labour Party will be returned and we will provide employment.

The Government is failing to employ apprentices. It is failing to spend money on public works. It is therefore denying many youths the opportunity of obtaining employment.

It was predicted in "The Courier-Mail" that there would be full employment before October of next year. I challenge that. When is the Government going to start? What is it going to do with the 11,933 people presently registered for employment? That number will be increased by the meat and sugar workers when those industries close down in the latter part of this year.

Job vacancies in Queensland are substantially fewer than the number of unemployed. The percentage in Australia of registered unemployed people for vacancies is 3.5, and in Queensland it is 5.6. I think I have given the Government some figures on which to ponder. I think we can demand some action.

I have a number of figures here. I have gone to a lot of trouble securing them. They relate to persons in various semi-professional and other industries, and also to unskilled labour. I do not intend to quote them except to say that the latest figure of registered unemployed in Australia is 75,951. The vacancies number only about 24,000. Consequently, I feel that something definite should be done to increase employment.

The Treasurer agreed with my contention that we must be prepared for an increase in unemployment towards December, when the sugar season finishes. He said that we have to be prepared, but he does not seem to be doing much about it because he is holding onto the money that the Commonwealth Government provided specifically for the relief of unemployment.

I have just seen one or two members sitting in the corner, laughing at my statements on unemployment figures. I feel that I should quote this very apt poem—

"How doth the Tory crocodile  
Too kind for ruthless rule,  
Envisage with a tearful smile  
The unemployment pool!  
He bows with sympathetic grief  
To 'economic laws',  
And wrings his sopping handkerchief  
And gently licks his jaws."

Going on to the Financial Statement, at page 3 the Treasurer admits that the Commonwealth Government, too, has failed to govern properly. This is what he says—

"In the field of State Taxation, Stamp Duty fell below the estimate by £306,944 due to the continuation of the effects of the Commonwealth's economic measures for a longer period than had been anticipated."

I think we can truthfully say that the Treasurer believes that the Federal Government has governed incorrectly.

On page 4 of the Financial Statement the Treasurer says—

"I take this opportunity to commend Departments for their responsible attitude. Savings in the various capital Departments were:—

Health and Home Affairs—£208,441."

The staff of that department, and throughout the field of medical service in this State, are doing a wonderful job, but, when we see that saving, it makes one wonder if the public have suffered through the ministerial control and mismanagement of the department's Estimates. The total amount unspent in the last financial year was £959,269, or almost £1,000,000.

Briefly, dealing with the departments seriatim, we find that £208,441 was unspent in the Department of Health and Home Affairs. That partly accounts for the decline in hospital services recently and over the last five years under this anti-Labour Government. If we get the chance to debate the Health and Home Affairs Estimates I intend to deal more fully with that department. In fact, we can easily justify criticism of any department whose Estimates we will have a chance to debate. In any case, previous speakers on this side have already debunked and exposed the education myth by which this Government hopes to gain more seats at the next election and other speakers will do so, too.

One of the reasons for the decrease in the expenditure on hospitals is the Government's policy of discharging patients from the public sections of the hospitals before they are ready for discharge. Although the Minister is not in the Chamber, if he wants to challenge that statement I can give him plenty of names of people in my electorate who have been discharged prematurely, and he has only to get in touch with private doctors and suburban chemists in Brisbane for further confirmation of that. The plain fact of the matter is that Government hospitals are understaffed and consequently the staff is overworked.

Furthermore, the public have suffered through unspent moneys in the Department of Justice. The Prices Branch and the Fair Rents Office are almost non-existent, and costs of necessary household items have soared while the ordinary worker with a fixed income renting accommodation is paying on an average 27 per cent. to 33½ per cent. of his income and more in some cases on rent. That is a shocking state of affairs. This is probably the only country in the world where such a high percentage of income goes in rent. Though the Government realises this, it has not spent all the money allocated for State rental accommodation. It is a dreadful situation where thousands of people are on the waiting list for homes or flats. I do not think that the Treasurer can deny that, because I and other hon. members have made various representations to him on State rental accommodation.

A surplus of £102,643 is shown for the Education Department, which includes the administration of the Police Force for the latter period of the year. That is despite the fact that the Police Union has stated repeatedly that the Force is undermanned, and there is a shocking death rate on the roads. The Government has continued to ignore not only my repeated pleas but those of the Press and other responsible people of the community for more motor-cycle patrols on the road. As a matter of fact, I said in my maiden speech that the Government, if not prepared to take any notice of anything else that I said, should at least do something to prevent more accidents and deaths, by providing more cycle and car road

patrols. However it completely ignored that plea and we have seen the result. To my way of thinking it is no use saving money if we are not saving lives. Consequently I feel that something should be done in that direction.

An amount of £349,753 remained unspent in the Railway Department Vote. That cannot be said to be a saving because, if it is dissected, it will be found to be attributable to the sacking of railway apprentices, the failure to re-engage staff, and the closing down of lines, which cannot help the development of the State. Everyone realises that there is a place for road transport and a need for more roads, but we must have railways to develop the State. That is recognised throughout the world. In my opinion, the closing of some lines is definitely a retrograde step.

**Mr. Davies:** Then there is the shocking sacking of apprentices.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** Yes, which can only create a pool of unskilled labour. It is a shocking indictment of any Government when it does not consider the youth of the day. Because of these so-called savings in the various departments, which are not savings at all but reductions of services to which the people are entitled, I feel that the antipathy of the public towards this monopoly Government will mount higher and higher, until 1963 will see the return of the Australian Labour Party to the Government benches. The Government does not give a damn about the real needs of the people or individuals. We see instances of that throughout the Budget. So far as I am concerned, the Government is subject to thinking of a Fascist nature.

**Mr. Muller:** What about MacFarlane?

**Mr. BROMLEY:** If hon. members opposite want to engage in personalities, I shall mention a few of the things that the central executive of their party in Wickham Terrace has done. I could say what was done by not only the executive of the Liberal Party but the central executive of the Country Party. Hon. members opposite are always taking shots at the Q.C.E. I will have a crack at their parties any time they like. We witnessed the Fascist dictatorship of the Government last Tuesday night when a Senator was elected. He was not the choice of the people, but of 46 members of the Government parties who ignored our first choice who was the choice of the people, not only in a plebiscite, but in an election. They selected the Senator; they did not want the choice of the people or of the A.L.P. That was their one-sided Fascist-dictatorship thinking. They elected a Senator themselves, without regard to the wish of the people.

**Mr. Herbert:** You nominated him.

The **TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Low): Order! The hon. member will continue his Budget speech.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I was carried away, because some of the interjections were unworthy of people who regard themselves as gentlemen.

I will give the Committee another example of the general disgust of the people of Queensland with the attitude of the Government. The hon. member for Condamine made a very brief speech this morning, in which he crawled to Bill Jonsson and Alf Jonsson up on the Tableland. He mentioned the time when Alf Jonsson was in gaol, and Government members burst out laughing. They will not be laughing very much next year when they see that the hon. member for Condamine has been defeated. The hon. member spoke about disruption in the Jonsson family as a result of his speech in the Address-in-Reply debate, which is recorded on page 190 of "Hansard" for 1962. There is a good deal of disruption not only in the lives of the Jonsson family because of the hon. member's speech, but also in the ranks of the Country Party in that electorate. I will not read it now because he referred to it in his speech this morning.

**Mr. Graham:** Tell us. It is worth repeating.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I can tell hon. members what Mr. Jonsson had to say about it. He really attacked the hon. member for Condamine and the Country Party, and I intend to read his letter.

To show the ignorance of the hon. member for Condamine, he said in his speech in the Address-in-Reply debate—

"I mentioned earlier that this debate has been used for political campaigning. A very prominent member of the A.W.U., Mr. Egerton, said last year . . ."

It shows how little the hon. member for Condamine knows about the A.L.P. and other matters when he says that Mr. Egerton is a member of the A.W.U. He also said—

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

What a disgraceful thing for anyone to repeat when he knows it is untrue!

Very recently I received a registered letter addressed to me by Mr. Bill Jonsson. It reads—

"Mr. F. Bromley,  
Member for Norman.

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed letter to Mr. Sullivan, member for Condamine.

I wish to thank you for the support you have given us on the matter of transport.

I wish to point out that I am a member of the Herberton Shire Council and Mr. Sullivan came on a tour, with the Irrigation Department delegation, of the Shire. It would appear I made these statements this day.

I will not go into all the facts again here as I think you can get a clear picture of the story from the enclosed letter.

There is no doubt that 99 per cent of the people of the Tableland are behind Alf in this, it only being the jealous one or two you may get against him who the Government are apparently getting these absurd statements from.

It would appear Mr. Sullivan had all the transport information at his fingertips, but I would like to point out that the day he was with me he wasn't even aware that the Stanthorpe area transported produce to Brisbane for ¼d. a ton mile because of their position in relation to the border, which is just one of the many downfalls in this sectional legislation.

However, I assure you you can use the facts you can gather from the enclosed letter with the utmost confidence.

Yours faithfully,

Bill Jonsson.

P.S. I have also enclosed a copy of a letter I wrote to the Premier."

That letter also gives an indication of the ignorance of the hon. member for Condamine.

The carbon copy of the letter to the hon. member for Condamine reads—

"Dear Sir,

"It was with profound astonishment I read today your statement on the second half of page 190, Proof No. 2 of Hansard, Thursday, August 30th.

"This statement concerning myself and Alf Jonsson, is so absurd, and such a pack of outright lies, that if I were, as you, without conscience, I would not bother myself to deny it.

"Before going any further I will point out to you the facts you could have got straight before you dragged honest citizens into your political football.

"My property happens to be approximately 170 ft. above Alf's country, and is three miles away, and in no way connected to these gullies, etc. Alf put (your) unregistered dams on.

"If you had have had the decency to get your facts straight, you would remember me pointing out to you and Mr. Haig, that the water supply, Alf had asked for Government assistance on, would have come from the next property below mine across three miles or from the dam site less than two miles to Kabon.

"This scheme I may point out had been surveyed, as Mr. Haig will verify, so it is beyond my comprehension how in Hansard I find my property below that of Alf, downstream to use the words of a man who accuses the member for Norman of talking ballyhoo.

"I also am wondering when you dreamed the former part of your statement, where it was the happiest time of my life when Alf was in goal.

"The only thing I stated was that Alf enjoyed this stay in goal, being his first holiday for years as he stated in Sunday Truth.

"I will inform you that I was at the 'Ravenshoe Meeting', which was attended by some 490 Tableland people, and that the people are right behind him in his fight for what he considers is a fair thing.

"The only place Alf is outlawed is in 'Parliament House', because he has the 'guts' to stand up and defy, a group of what, if all were to make statements as you have, I would call political ratbags."

I think he is fairly right in those remarks—

"The fact that you have made this statement, after the Herberton Shire Council and myself showing you around with the Irrigation and Water Supply delegation, to me shows your true type, and with this in mind, I will get some satisfaction.

"However, as I will be sending a copy of this to Mr. Bromley, I expect you to apologise before the House for this statement, when Mr. Bromley brings it to notice as I expect he will."

**Mr. Davies:** To whom is that letter written?

**Mr. BROMLEY:** This letter was addressed to me and enclosed the one I am reading, addressed to Mr. Sullivan, the hon. member for Condamine.

**Mr. Davies:** Describing the Government members as political rat-bags?

**Mr. BROMLEY:** Yes, and Mr. Sullivan also. As a matter of fact, before lunch today, Mr. Sullivan did refer to Mr. Alf Jonsson.

**Mr. Hanlon:** He did not read that letter.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** No, that is why I made a point of reading it, because I want hon. members to know the full facts and the amount of damage Mr. Sullivan has done to his party in the North.

The letter continues—

"I notice you call on the member for Tablelands for support."

The hon. member for Tablelands has just walked into the Chamber.

Mr. Jonsson goes on to say—

"I hardly think he would actually support you.

"However, after my experience with him over this matter in the last few months, I do not expect he would have the guts to stand up and point out the real facts of this fight as 'we' see it, because I say he would be trounced for 'Bucking the Machine'."

**Mr. Newton:** Is that the hon. member for Tablelands?

**Mr. BROMLEY:** That is so. Mr. Bill Jonsson concludes the letter by saying to Mr. Sullivan—

"Hoping you may have the decency to read the foregone."

Now I intend to read a carbon copy of a letter addressed to the Premier, Hon. G. F. R. Nicklin.

**Mr. Anderson:** What is the date of it?

**Mr. BROMLEY:** 18 September, 1962.

The letter reads—

"Dear Sir,

"I wish to draw attention to a statement made in parliamentary debate on Thursday, August 30th.

"I also have enclosed a copy of a letter I have written to Mr. Sullivan and I would thank you if you could spare the time to read same.

"Up to this time I have boasted being a member of the Country Party, but the happenings of the last few months have changed my mind considerably and I would say this statement of one of your Ministers to say the least has finished me completely."

I think he was referring to the hon. member for Condamine, but obviously he made a mistake. As the hon. member for Belmont reminds me, the hon. member for Condamine will never become a Minister, nor will he even be a member of Parliament after the next election.

The letter continues—

"If you care to believe what I have stated in this letter as being true, you will realise the position I could be placed in, as I have always been right behind Alf in what he is fighting for as no doubt Mr. Gilmore will tell you.

"I cannot see your Government getting any pats on the back if such statements are allowed to continue on this matter."

No doubt various hon. members have been pulled into line. Probably they have been pulled into gear by the Premier. However, we can only surmise on that.

The letter continues—

"I look forward to see what step will be taken on this matter in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Bill Jonsson."

I do not think any action has been taken in this matter for the simple reason, as I said earlier, that the Government could not care less about what is happening to the people. Hon. members opposite will learn the result of their attitude next year.

At page 5 of the Financial Statement the Treasurer deals with timber and timber sales in the Forestry Department. I feel that I must mention this matter as members of the A.L.P. are greatly concerned at the general decline in the timber industry. This is a direct result of the incompetence of the coalition Government. I point out that on the business sheet there is a notice of motion standing in the name of the hon. member for Maryborough. It reads: Mr. Davies to move—

"That this House is of the opinion that the present Government has by its unsympathetic and unrealistic handling of the timber and plywood industries—(a) caused widespread unemployment in these valuable industries with serious resultant effects, particularly in rural areas where little or no alternative employment is available; (b) permitted the level of production in 1961 to fall to the lowest level in post-war years; (c) failed to fulfil its function of assuring the timber supplies of Queensland for present and future generations; and (d) failed to secure adequate grants from the Commonwealth Government, particularly for housing, and to persuade that Government to place sufficient restraints on the import of timbers from other countries; and should therefore take urgent and practical steps to revitalise these industries."

Let us hope that the Government will bring this matter on for debate. If it has the guts to do so, the hon. member for Maryborough will have plenty to say on the matter as I am sure will northern hon. members on both sides of the Chamber.

From the Financial Statement we see that it is anticipated that in 1962-1963 the Consolidated Revenue Fund will be boosted by an additional £3,296,099. That indicates clearly the Government's greed for money. How will they get it? They are not concerned with whether they get it morally or immorally. So long as it pays, they are happy. The totalisator, betting and turnover tax will fleece the public of £1,300,000. That is a shocking indictment of what I think we can honestly say is a morally bankrupt Government.

Speaking of the T.A.B. and liquor licences, I point out that no bookmaker, either S.P. or legally registered, has ever enticed or

asked the public to wager with him. Nor does he put temptation in their way. When they are at the racecourse they are there on business, and they are trying to make a quid just as much as the punter is. The Government is putting temptation in the way of people by advertising in the daily Press and by placing signs on T.A.B. shops. If the Treasurer, or any other observant member of the Government, would like to go along to these betting shops on Saturday mornings, or on Wednesdays, for observation purposes, he will see people going in to bet, people who probably have never before had a wager in their lives. Admittedly they are doing it legally, but they are there because they are being tempted by advertisements and by publicity on the part of the T.A.B., sponsored by the Government, inviting them to come along and wager their hard-earned money. As a result of that money being wasted or spent through the T.A.B., which is urged by the Government in their greed for money, some other section of the community is suffering. No-one can deny that.

I have been to these places and I have seen young people not only betting, but also getting other people to put their wagers on for them. Of course, there are notices that people under 21 years of age cannot bet. I have seen young housewives pushing strollers there.

Mr. Gilmore interjected.

Mr. BROMLEY: The hon. member will be whistling for a crust next year when he gets beaten in the State election, and for the rest of his life. If he starts coming into anything like that, especially since I have read what the people in the North think about it, and if he is one of those persons who thinks that S.P. betting and T.A.B. betting, and all that sort of thing, should be encouraged, he should have a very guilty conscience.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Low): Order! I ask the hon. member to address his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. BROMLEY: I was addressing the hon. member through you, Mr. Low. He was trying to get an interjection in because that is about the only way he can make a speech. I want to give him the opportunity to have his name in "Hansard". That is why I replied to his interjection.

I am very concerned about this matter. I do not think anyone can describe me as a wowser. I mention it because by the actions of this Government in its wage-fixing policy and its removal of price control, everything has soared in price. Yet we see people encouraged by this Government, spending their hard-earned money on betting.

Mr. Hart: Are you in favour of the T.A.B.?

Mr. BROMLEY: The hon. member for Mt. Gravatt is very sour. He wants to have a crack at somebody because unfortunately he has just been beaten in the

second and final round of the ballot for the position of acting Minister. I am very sorry for him.

**Mr. Hart:** Will you answer the question instead of avoiding it?

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Low): Order! I ask the hon. member for Norman to continue with his speech.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** He is not up at the courts now. He should address his remarks to the Chair just as you have asked me to, Mr. Low.

I have already pointed out that the Government has imposed the bookmakers' turn-over tax to get more revenue. The Treasurer has estimated that this financial year the relaxation of the liquor laws will pour £1,600,000 into the hungry coffers of the Government from liquor permit fees. Those are only two of the new avenues of taxation being exploited by the Government.

In headlines and editorials of the daily Press the Budget has been hailed as a masterpiece. They did not say what sort of a masterpiece. I think it is a masterpiece of "bull". It is a bludging on the public of Queensland that can be classed only as legal robbery of the people. If we say it is legal robbery we might as well call it "Hiley-way" robbery. The Government has no conscience.

One could be forgiven for thinking that the Treasurer was a disk jockey in a radio station because in the Financial Statement he has used the word "record" about twelve times. I only hope his prophecies prove correct and that everything turns out all right, but in my view the Government's record is cracked, and the people will show that next year.

In conclusion, let me say that, as the Treasurer might be regarded as a disk jockey, I feel sure that the top tune of the hit parade next year will be entitled "Labour's Return to the Treasury Benches", featuring John Duggan as the leader of the band.

**Mr. HERBERT** (Sherwood) (4.34 p.m.): Usually when a member rises in the Chamber to discuss the Communist menace in Queensland he is accused of introducing a pre-election red herring. In order that my comments this afternoon will not be construed in that light, I am going to document the evidence I intend to produce. This evidence is not hearsay; it is not conjecture; it is based on very sound grounds.

Until recent years, electors assumed that when they voted a man into Parliament he would represent them, and them alone. Since the 1957 split in the Labour Party, it is now abundantly clear that with A.L.P. members that is no longer the case. From the Leader of the Opposition down, they freely admit that they will accept direction

from the Queensland Central Executive of the A.L.P. There is no argument about that; it has been shown time and time again.

**Mr. Graham:** A typical Fascist.

**Mr. HERBERT:** There we have a typical Communist remark from the hon. member for Mackay. That is the usual Communist line. Everyone opposed to Communists is a Fascist. If the hon. member knew anything of political history, he would know that the Fascists were National Socialists and no relation to the Liberal Party, which was wiped out by the Fascists in Germany. Calling me a Fascist is a typical Communist smear. All over Australia that cry is heard from Communist platforms. Anyone opposing them is a Fascist.

Because of this direction of A.L.P. members by the Q.C.E., it behoves us to look closer, not at the candidates for Parliamentary honours, but at members of the Q.C.E. After all, the members of the A.L.P. in this Assembly are puppets. It does not matter what their names are or where they come from. We look at the members of the Q.C.E., as they are the ones who will run the State. They will be the real Government of any future A.L.P. Government in this State. We hope that this will not happen, but the political pendulum may perhaps at some time swing towards the A.L.P., and so we have to look at the men who will make the decisions for that Government.

Bearing that in mind, I now invite hon. members to inspect carefully the record of the new member of the Q.C.E. of the A.L.P. He is 42-year-old Cyril Thomas Vickers who has joined the Q.C.E. as the Miners' Union representative. Strangely enough, there is hardly an interjection. Many hon. members opposite agree with me on this point. He joined the Q.C.E. as representative of that union, replacing Mr. Jim Donald. Mr. Donald is known to all of us as an honest, genuine Socialist of the old order, and he is a former Leader of the Opposition. I have the greatest respect for his ability and integrity, and so obviously did a majority of the members of the Q.C.E., as he was elected by them to the Inner Executive.

When I became a member of this Assembly, Mr. Donald was regarded as the extreme left-wing representative of the A.L.P. He is not far enough to the left for the Miners' Union today, and he has been replaced by this man whose record I intend to give. He has been replaced by Mr. Vickers, and the Miners' Union has lost an effective voice on the Inner Executive and obtained a replacement on the full Q.C.E. by someone who is, as I shall indicate by his record, a Communist agent. I say that with a full realisation of its implication.

**Mr. Wallace:** Are you prepared to say that outside?

**Mr. HERBERT:** There we go again. Making that statement outside would produce a writ against me to close my mouth. As a

representative of an electorate in this State, I cannot have my mouth shut in this Parliament, provided I observe the rules. This is part of the world-wide pattern. Eastern European countries, overrun by Russia, found themselves in an unhappy predicament through Communist infiltration of post-war Socialist Governments. By gradual infiltration, Communists get into key positions, and finally take over. People who say it cannot happen here should have a very close look at recent developments.

Mr. Vickers joined the A.L.P. in 1959 as a foundation member and first secretary of the Blackstone A.L.P. Branch. That branch was formed by friends of Mr. Vickers, and it is strange that it was not until 1959 that he entered the A.L.P. Even at that time, his presence as a branch member brought forth a storm of protest. In "The Worker" of 20 July, 1959, the late Mr. Joe Bukowski asked some questions, and I shall quote them just as they were asked by him. He said—

"The second person about whom I ask a question or two is Mr. Cyril Thomas Vickers of Joan Street, Blackstone, Ipswich.

"Here they are—

Was Mr. Cyril Thomas Vickers, of the address mentioned above Secretary of the Collinsville Branch of the Communist Party in 1940?

Was he relieving secretary of the North Queensland Branch of the Communist Party in 1948?

Did he ever attend the Marx School in Sydney . . . a school which is regarded highly as a training ground by Communists throughout Australia?

Did he stand as a Communist candidate for the Livingstone Shire Council elections in 1946?

Was he a member of the Central Queensland Committee of the Communist Party in 1949?

Did he speak on 2nd May, 1949, in support of Mr. R. C. Andrews, the Communist candidate at the poll to elect the Chairman of the Pioneer Shire Council, and was he listed on that occasion as C. T. Vickers, the District Organiser of the Australian Communist Party?

If Mr. Cyril Thomas Vickers of Joan Street, Blackstone, is identifiable with the questions I have asked, has the former Leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party, Mr. Jim Donald, M.L.A., always had a full knowledge of the positions held by Vickers?

Is Mr. Cyril Thomas Vickers a member of the Blackstone Branch of the Australian Labour Party? If so, what position (if any) does he hold, and when was the Branch first established?

Further, is the Mr. Cyril Thomas Vickers I have mentioned identical with the C. T. Vickers in the reproduction

of the advertisement on page 1, which appeared in the Mackay 'Mercury' of May 2, 1949, and if so, are members of the Queensland Central Executive of the Australian Labour Party aware of that stage of his political career?

If Mr. Cyril Thomas Vickers, of the address I have given, is identifiable with the questions I have asked, and if he is a member of the Blackstone Branch of the A.L.P., what Branch of the A.L.P. first accepted him into membership of the Australian Labour Party, and what knowledge had that Branch of his past political and industrial activities? Further, what proof had that Branch that he had completely severed all previous political affiliations?

"I now ask members of the Queensland Central Executive of the Australian Labour Party if they are completely satisfied with the method of endorsing candidates for plebiscites and political honours generally, and do they consider that any candidate who has worked actively for the Communist Party against members of the Australian Labour Party can be accepted into A.L.P. membership without first having undergone the closest scrutiny, and years of testing?"

Those are the questions that were asked by Mr. Bukowski in "The Worker" in 1959. Strangely enough, there was complete silence about that.

**Mr. Duggan:** Strangely enough, the man you are supporting, Mr. Bukowski, was attacked by Government members in 1957.

**Mr. HERBERT:** I am not supporting Mr. Bukowski at all, but during the last few years of his life he began to realise what was going wrong with the A.L.P.

This particular disclosure was taken at the time as an indication of just how easy it was for a known Communist to become a branch member of the A.L.P. Every Government member has seen men in his electorate on recent polling days, handing out A.L.P. tickets, who prior to 1957 handed out Communist cards. However, Mr. Vickers is now, only a few years after admission to the party, on the ruling body which directs A.L.P. members in this Chamber.

"Sunday Truth" on 30 September, 1962, gave some of the details of Mr. Vickers's record, and he admitted to that newspaper that most of the statements were correct. I quote the following admissions—

"He was secretary of the Collinsville branch of the Communist Party in 1947 for about 12 months.

"He was North Queensland organiser of the Party in 1948.

"He attended the Marx School in Sydney for three months in 1948.

"He stood as Communist candidate for the Livingstone (Central Queensland) Shire election in 1946.

"He was a member of the Central Queensland committee of the Communist Party in 1946.

"Mr. Vickers said in 1959—after he had been seven years out of any political party—he became a foundation member and first secretary of the Blacksone (near Ipswich) A.L.P. branch.

"Mr. Vickers, who joined the Communist Party while fighting with the A.I.F. in New Guinea in 1942, figured in the R.S.L. purge of Communists in 1948."

That finishes the quotation from "Sunday Truth" of only a few weeks ago. I will admit that it might be possible for a former paid official of the Communist Party, a man who attended the Marx school in Sydney, to see the light. He might leave the Communist Party and he might, in all sincerity, join the A.L.P. After all, the final objective of the two parties is very similar. However, in Mr. Vickers's case that is extremely unlikely as I shall proceed to demonstrate.

I state quite definitely that Mr. Vickers is still an active Communist agent. He is secretary of the Queensland Colliery Employees' Union, the Queensland District of the Miners Federation of Australia. The president of that organisation is Thomas McClellan Millar, a self-acknowledged and dedicated Communist. Since Mr. Vickers's admission to the A.L.P. he has been acting with Mr. Millar in the promotion of Communist projects.

I quote from page 10 of "Common Cause" of 12 December, 1959, the official organ of the Miners' Federation of Australia. In the printed minutes of the central council meeting held in Sydney in November, 1959, the following motion was seconded by Mr. Vickers—

"Central Council after hearing the report from the General Secretary and Cr. McGregor on the activities of the Peace Congress recently held in Melbourne, are completely convinced that the Congress was an unqualified success despite the earnest endeavours of a certain section of the Australian public."

That "certain section," incidentally, is opposed to Communism. To continue—

"The success of the Congress emphasises the growing consciousness of the Australian people generally for peace and to this end Central Council calls upon members of the Federation to do everything within their power to further this cause.

"We also direct the Central Executive to convey to the Australian and New Zealand Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament, the congratulations of the Central Council at the successful outcome of their organising."

That body is, of course, an active Communist organisation, supported by Vickers after he joined the A.L.P.

Quoting again from "Common Cause", this time under date 13 June, 1959, we find Mr. Vickers again very active at the central council meeting, supporting more Communist moves. This loyal member of the A.L.P. seconded a motion which contained the following comment:—

"We have the spectacle, however, of the New South Wales Labor Government acting in the same way as private coal owners in its approach to rationalisation, mechanisation, bonus systems, and is also facilitating the increasing use of oil fuel, and cutting orders for coal for its own enterprises.

"We endorse the stand by the Combined Mining Unions that these assurances must be carried out without further delay, and hereby authorise the Central Executive, failing satisfaction being obtained not later than the end of June, to organise appropriate action to bring this matter to a head, in consultation with other mining unions and the A.C.T.U."

On the same page Mr. Vickers moved that the report of the Miners' Women's Auxiliary Liaison Officer be adopted. That report contained the following two interesting proposals—

"Special activity by auxiliaries in preparation for the Australian-New Zealand Congress on Disarmament, including a survey among women on the dangers of radiation from atomic tests, etc."

"Invitations to overseas women to come to Australia on the occasion of the celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of International Women's Day in 1960."

Again in the same issue we find that Mr. Vickers moved the following motion—

"Moved Vickers/Shirlaw: 'Council commends the initiative of the Queensland District in ensuring representation from young mineworkers at the Youth Festival in Vienna. We strongly recommend other Districts to give serious consideration to sending delegates.

"We cannot support the extraordinary attitude of the A.L.P. Executive . . ."

He is now on that executive—

". . . in banning the Festival and thus seeking to weaken Australian representation at this gathering which, in strengthening friendly relations between the youth of all countries, must clearly serve the cause of international understanding and world peace.

"One cannot help contrasting the speed with which the Executive has taken action against the Festival with its continued failure to implement many policy decisions of A.L.P. Conferences, such as the A.C.T.U.-Mining Unions' Programme, the repeal of the penal clauses of the Arbitration Act. Council's decision to be conveyed to the A.L.P. Executive."

This is the man who is on the A.L.P. Executive. It is a remarkable motion by a man who now claims the he left the Communist Party to join the A.L.P. The date of that publication was 30 June, 1959.

On the same day, we find at page 11 that Mr. Vickers moved the following motion—

“This Council endorses decision of the Federal Conference of the A.L.P. in calling for a cessation of the testing of nuclear weapons, which so clearly threatens the health and lives of future generations as well as the present populations of the world. We join with other peace loving people in expressing the hope that progress will be made at the Geneva conference of Foreign Ministers in settling the German problem along the lines of bringing about the withdrawal of foreign troops from German soil and guarantees against future aggression by a rearmed Germany.

We also reaffirm our support for the holding of ‘summit’ talks between the leaders of the major powers to seek the settlement of outstanding issues that undermine world peace.”

Here we have the typical Communist move. That motion, padded with typical Communist propaganda, was moved by Mr. Vickers, who is one of the bosses of hon. members opposite. Let me turn again to this interesting journal, “Common Cause”. I have every copy here so that I can ensure that all my statements are documented. At a central council meeting held during that month in Sydney Mr. Vickers moved, and I quote from page 10—

“Letter 29-1-60, from Eureka Youth League National Council asking that protests be made concerning three young people being put on trial in Western Germany for their part in organising youth delegations to World Youth festivals.”

It is headed, “Persecution of Youth” and the following motion is moved by Mr. Vickers, seconded by Mr. Shirlaw—

“Central Council, after reading correspondence from the National Council of the Eureka Youth League on the prosecution of three young people, whose only crime was that they participated in recent World Youth Festival directs the Central Executive to forward the protests required to the appropriate authority.”

Mr. Vickers also seconded a further motion at page 11. I ask the Committee to bear in mind that he was a member of the A.L.P. when he did so.

The motion reads—

“This Council requests the Districts affiliated with the A.L.P. to take steps to have included in the agenda for the annual conference an appropriate resolution expressing keen dissatisfaction at the failure of the New South Wales Government to carry out the decision of previous conference for the nationalisation of the

coal industry, and renewing the demand for the full implementation of the A.C.T.U. Mining Unions Programme, including the general introduction of a 35-hour week, full coal utilisation, the establishment of secondary industries in the coal-fields, and provision for the maximum public works necessary to provide immediate employment for all displaced mineworkers.

“We also recommend that the conference be urged to insist upon the complete repeal of the penal sections of the Arbitration Act.”

That motion was carried.

The latest reported activity of Mr. Vickers can be found on 11 August, 1962, only a couple of months ago. This is the man who is now on the Q.C.E. directing A.L.P. members.

On that date a Communist peace cavalcade arrived in Ipswich. Amongst those prominent in welcoming the committee was Mr. C. T. Vickers, Secretary of the Queensland Miners’ Union. That statement can be verified by reference to the “Ipswich Times” of 13 August, 1962, and the “Communist Guardian” of 14 August, 1962. They are quite pleased to recognise Communist Vickers.

An analysis of the papers that I have referred to discloses that Mr. Vickers moved or seconded more Communist policy items at Miners’ Federation central council meetings than anyone else there. There were acknowledged Communists there. Here we have a man on the Queensland Central Executive of the A.L.P. moving more Communist items for the Miners’ Federation than any of the acknowledged Communists in the organisation. He identified himself with Communist propaganda in August of this year. He represents on the Q.C.E. a completely Communist-dominated union.

**Mr. DONALD:** I rise to a point of order. I give a complete denial to the allegation that the Queensland Colliery Employees’ Union is a Communist-dominated union. It is affiliated with the Australian Labour Party and is in no way connected with the Communist Party. I ask for a withdrawal of that statement. The hon. member has accused my union of being a Communist-dominated union.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dewar):** Order! There is no reflection on any member of this Chamber.

**Mr. DONALD:** Again I rise to a point of order. If the hon. member had been present in the Chamber this morning he would have heard me read a letter from my union which definitely stated I was not dismissed, that I resigned. I ask for a withdrawal of that statement. Surely I can get that protection.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Dewar): Will the hon. member for Sherwood accept the statement of the hon. member for Ipswich East that he resigned from his union?

**Mr. Donald:** I have not resigned from my union. I am still a member. I resigned from the Queensland Central Executive of the A.L.P.

**Mr. HERBERT:** I accept his statement. It was a very bad day for the A.L.P. when Mr. Vickers replaced Mr. Donald. Jim Donald did a good and honest job. Mr. Vickers is there today. He is there to do a definite job as a Communist agent on the body that is controlling and directing hon. members on the opposite side of the Committee. Mr. Millar is president of the union. He is an acknowledged Communist. Anyone who knows about trade unionism will realise that the president is the strength in that union. What Mr. Millar says, goes. The position, as I see it, is that the Communists have had a close look at this matter. They realise that they could not get in through normal electoral channels, so they put Mr. Vickers through his school in Sydney. They have already posted him in the field as their operative. He retired from the political scene for a short period of only a few years. Then the split came in the A.L.P. The right wing was out and the left wing moved. A number of Communists got in through the back door. The members of the A.L.P. in this Assembly know they are there, and that this is the first move by these people to get a definite Communist on the Queensland Central Executive. We have our Arnells and our Waters. Discussions were held on those men. There is no question about that.

I have given all these details and documented them from newspapers. They prove that Mr. Vickers has moved more Communist policy points than anyone else since he has joined the A.L.P. To my mind that is sufficient evidence for any honest man. Surely they are honest men on that side of the Committee, including the Leader of the Opposition. He knows as well as I do that the mark is on him. The Communists will use him until he is expendable. When they have sufficient control of the Queensland Central Executive he will go overboard and they will put someone more militant in his position.

I realise that many A.L.P. members are disturbed by this situation, but I am sure that the Queensland electorate will not accept an organisation that has within its ultimate governing authority a man who has proved beyond all doubt that he is an active worker for a foreign ideology that can never attract direct electoral support. Everything that I have said is documented and it can be inspected by any member of this Committee. I have not one statement here that is not supported by the very best evidence.

**Mr. Donald:** Why did Mr. Vickers oppose Mr. Millar as president of the union?

**Mr. HERBERT:** Fancy the hon. member being so naive, or pretending to be so naive, as that. These people have to put up a front once they get into the A.L.P. It is not what they say on the stump or anywhere else that counts; it is the motions they move. Hon. members opposite cannot get round it; since Mr. Vickers became a member of the A.L.P. he has moved more Communist-policy items than any other member of the federation including the Communist officers. It is an open-and-shut case. The point is, of course, that people like the hon. member for Ipswich East still are not prepared to accept what is happening to the A.L.P. The A.L.P. that put Mr. Donald into Parliament in the first place no longer exists. Whatever the split arose over in 1957 does not concern me, but what has happened since does concern me. Communist infiltration of the A.L.P. executive is now an established fact. We have the usual screams, but it is there. Hon. members opposite know that they have to do as they are told. Unfortunately there are too many members who regard this as a good job and who do what they are told irrespective of the results. We have the job here to show the people of Queensland just what is happening within the Opposition's central executive.

I will now move from the sphere of disclosing the deplorable state of affairs within the A.L.P. and pass on to some constructive items. I will point out what this Government has done in the last few years. Many times in the Chamber I have spoken on native affairs and I think at this stage of the debate that I should give a few further comments on that subject as an indication of just what the Government has done. The present Government has amply demonstrated that it is alive to its responsibilities to the coloured people of this State as witness, for example, the taking over of the Yarrabah Mission by agreement with the Church of England, and the development of the mission by the Department of Native Affairs into an aboriginal settlement which now ranks with Palm Island as a showplace amongst the settlements and missions in the State.

I had the pleasure of inspecting Yarrabah before the take-over. The Church of England had done a wonderful job there but it was handicapped by lack of funds. Now that the mission has been handed over to the State I am sure that the Department of Native Affairs will see that further progress takes place in the interests of the inhabitants of the mission. It must become part of Government policy in the future to take over missions progressively when they get to the stage that has been reached by Yarrabah. When the church first moves into a primitive aboriginal area, it has a tremendous job getting the people to depart from their nomadic customs and settle down into a mission and to conform to the rules of hygiene so necessary when they remain in

one place. At Yarrabah the Church of England had, to a great measure, succeeded in this direction. Many of the people from the settlement had gone into work outside and were making a success of their lives. I think it now behoves the Government to spend more money there to make sure that more and more of the aboriginal citizens in the area can be assimilated into the community.

Worthy of mention is the vast improvement at Foleyvale, which is an adjunct to the Woorabinda aboriginal settlement. The hon. member for Mackenzie has often told us about the advances that have been made at that very attractive cattle property. One of the problems of which this Government is fully aware has been that of providing suitable accommodation, both in Brisbane and in country areas, for aboriginals and part-aboriginal people, many of whom are not subject to the *Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Act*. This problem is often highlighted in the newspapers. People talk about the fringe dwellers and the problems there, and say that someone should do something. As soon as somebody suggests doing something, the people who live in the immediate vicinity are loud in protest. I often wonder just how deep the feelings of some of the people who espouse the aboriginal cause really are when we consider what happens when they find them on their own doorstep.

Dr. Noble, as Minister for Health and Home Affairs, has been, and is, aware of, and sympathetic towards, the problems of these people, many of whom have been referred to as "fringe dwellers" because they live in shacks and humpies on the outskirts of cities and towns. Evidence of the Minister's interest is his determination to create a feeling of responsibility not only among the coloured people concerned, but also the white community.

Thus in 1961 the One People for Australia League, known briefly as Opal, was formed under the sponsorship of the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, having as its ultimate principal aim the assimilation into the community of all coloured people. This unfortunately was necessary because our friends, the Communists, could not keep their fingers off some of the other organisations, and we had to form an organisation with no possible tainting from people who would exploit any avenue whatever. Opal's immediate aim has been the provision of suitable accommodation for any and all coloured people needing shelter in the metropolitan area. It was fostered with the assistance of the Director of Native Affairs and has the backing of the Government. It numbers among its members representatives of all major churches and many responsible organisations such as Rotary, Toc H, the Young Women's Christian Association, and the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The Commissioner of Police and the Director of Native Affairs are also represented.

Opal had for some time taken an interest in a hostel/boarding house in South Brisbane that provided accommodation for coloured people. This hostel had previously received assistance from the St. Vincent de Paul Society and other organisations. However, appreciating that, although this hostel had served a most useful purpose over the years, some better type of accommodation should be provided for the coloured people than the hostel premises which, in any case, were required by the owner to be vacated, Dr. Noble conferred at length with his departmental officers and representatives of Opal with a view to determining what other accommodation might be available in Brisbane for the same purpose.

Quite a few sites were examined, and the desirability of erecting a new building as against purchasing existing premises was carefully considered. In due course, a property situated at 19 Russell Street, South Brisbane, was selected as being ideally suitable for immediate requirements, and so located as to meet the needs of the coloured people in whose interests the new accommodation was being provided.

Accordingly, the Minister for Health and Home Affairs submitted to Cabinet a proposal that Russell House be acquired by his department at an outlay of £21,000, to be conducted under the auspices of Opal as a hostel for aboriginals, the capital outlay of £21,000 to include £2,500 for furniture and equipment and the expenses of moving from the old hostel to the new premises. It was also approved, on the recommendation of the Minister, that an annual subsidy of £2,500 be paid by the Department of Health and Home Affairs towards the cost of maintaining the hostel. Opal, which incidentally is incorporated under the *Companies Act*, with articles and memorandums of association, and is also registered under the *Charitable Organisations Act*, readily accepted responsibility for supervising and staffing the Russell Street accommodation, which provides shelter for any coloured person in need of it, irrespective of whether or not he or she is subject to the provisions of the *Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Act*. The building contains accommodation for 35 residents, has adequate grounds, is in a very quiet locality, and provides convenient access to the city. It is also in an area that attracted quite a number of coloured people before this accommodation was available. Because it was not then available, these people were the cause of some complaints to the police and welfare organisations. With the establishment of this hostel, many of those complaints have disappeared.

The provision of this new hostel is another example of the acceptance by this Government of its obligations, in this case to the coloured people. Hon. members will no doubt be interested to know also that during the present Government's term of office other transit centre/hostels have been provided for aboriginals at Aitkenvale, near

Townsville—that is a very effective one—and Cairns, and, in addition, the following programme of housing for aboriginals in country districts has been undertaken—

(a) Coen—Ten cottages and two community buildings, all with water reticulation, have been provided for the aged.

(b) Normanton-Croydon—Seven prefabricated steel buildings to provide accommodation, cooking, and messing facilities, have been provided. I have inspected them, and they are extremely satisfactory for the purpose for which they have been built.

(c) Cloncurry—Three prefabricated steel buildings have been built.

(d) Mareeba—Three cottages have been completed and arrangements are being made for the erection of a further three.

(e) Georgetown—Four cottages are virtually completed.

(f) Mossman-Gorge Reserve—Six cottages have been erected and arrangements are being made for the erection of a further five.

(g) Birdsville—Four cottages have been erected.

(h) Mount Garnet—Six cottages have been erected.

(i) Camooweal—Five cottages have been erected.

This, mark you, is in addition to the erection of over 700 houses on Government aboriginal settlements and church missions, and in the Torres Strait area, during the last five years.

With the establishment of a responsible organisation—Opal—and the overtaking of the housing lag on settlements, missions, and country reserves, the Government proposes to go a step further. Consideration is being given to the matter of housing assistance which can be afforded to coloured people in various parts of the State, and it is hoped that a scheme can be evolved under which the Government will make finance available for the erection of homes for non-controlled aboriginal people. They are the problem. It is possible to deal with controlled aboriginals in ways in which one cannot deal with people who are not under the control of the Act. An offer has already been made through Opal to provide on loan deposits of £250 for each of 25 selected people. These people would be chosen by welfare organisations in their own districts, which would also assist them in measuring up to the requirements of the Housing Commission, through which the homes would be erected. Consideration is also being given to making available Government homes, to be erected first, perhaps, at Cairns, Ipswich, and Hervey Bay, for non-controlled people. Under this scheme Opal would be responsible for the allocation of the homes to coloured families either by rental or purchase, and would maintain close contact with the people to assist them in every way possible.

Dr. Noble has already announced that he is determined to sponsor and promote a scheme for helping native families in their housing problems—a step towards the assimilation of coloured people within the general community, and another “first” for the Country Party—Liberal Government. Our record in native affairs is worthy of the heartiest commendation by anyone who has had a close association with it over the years. We saw how little was done before. The little that was done was done by the churches, not by former Governments. I think we have a native affairs set-up of which we can be very proud, and we hope very early in the life of the new Parliament to see further legislation relating to native welfare in an enlightened State.

Also connected with native affairs is the sale of curios, an activity that has been built up considerably in the last few years. Most hon. members will be familiar with the arts and crafts displays arranged by the Department of Native Affairs that are a most interesting feature of the Brisbane Exhibition each year, and of other festivals that we have in the metropolitan area and in areas outside the city. These displays may be seen as a contribution to the overall programme by which the Government, through the Department of Native Affairs, encourages the aboriginals in their progress towards the goal of assimilation in the community.

At this year's Exhibition, some 5,000 pieces of handicraft and art work were shown, the display being organised by the Department of Native Affairs Curio Sales Promotion Section. With the encouragement of an interested and enlightened Minister, this section was formed and commenced operations in 1959. It should have been formed 50 years ago, but we got it at last in 1959. It has a showroom, warehouse, and workshop in the basement of the Native Affairs building in William Street. Queensland Native Creations, as the section is now called, acts as both wholesaler and retailer of curios on behalf of the native people who make them on missions and settlements throughout the State, and the manufacture and sale of these native productions has been built up into an industry returning £15,000 annually.

The curio section at the Department of Native Affairs has engaged the interest of many prominent overseas and interstate visitors, and when the Department of Native Affairs transfers to other premises in the city in the very near future, on the completion of the present building programme, advantage will be taken by the department of display windows which will then be available to attract the attention of passing tourists. In its present location, people have to know exactly how to get there. To keep pace with widening local outlets and an increasing demand from overseas, there is little doubt that the activities of the native curio sale section will continue to expand, which will be all to the good of the people for whose benefit it was established.

On the production side, a modern workshop was set up this year at the Cherbourg aboriginal settlement for the use of the native people there in the manufacture of curios. The foreman of this new workshop is a well-known aboriginal craftsman who for many years has been active in making curios from wood, shell, and horn.

It is interesting to note that the original intention behind the display of native curios was to encourage the aboriginals to express their artistic talents and to present their native skills. However, with the establishment of the curio centre and its expanding sales promotion, no less than £6,626 was paid to interested and industrious people on the various settlements and missions last year, for making items of aboriginal art, crafts and curios, as a result of which the coloured folk concerned were able to add considerably to their earnings.

I think we should see a marked increase in that trade. Many people in this State go overseas and come back with all sorts of knick-knacks from other countries. Many of them could be, and are, made in this State, and they are of a far higher quality. Many visitors who come to this State do not get the opportunity to see the curios and souvenirs that they could take back home. The most that visitors from interstate and overseas can buy at our seaside resorts are a few badly-coloured coral and shell ornaments. We should see that these people take full advantage of any native talents we may have here. In America the concentration is on the Indian arts. This is something that should have been done in this State a long time ago and it is significant that the Department of Native Affairs is building up an interstate trade that will develop over the years.

Still on the Department of Health and Home Affairs, there are a couple of further points I should like to make in this debate. The policy of granting State social service fellowships in the faculties of medicine and dentistry has been continued. At the start of the 1962 academic year, eight fellowships in medicine and six in dentistry were allotted to students commencing their first-year studies.

The dentistry course has now been increased to five years, and to offset the year when no students will graduate in dentistry a further six fellowships were allotted to students doing their second year during 1962. Those were the people who did their first year last year and had started their second year, so we will not have any break in the continuity of dentists coming forward to the department. It is a well-known fact that dentists in Australia are unable to cope with the onset of tooth decay. In other words, we have not enough dentists, so that every one of these men we can get into the State service will mean a marked improvement dentally in the area to which he is allocated.

The Department of Health and Home Affairs meets all fees payable by these fellowship-holders, and in addition pays them a weekly allowance which varies according to marital status and residential circumstances. They also receive £15 a year book allowance. That does not go very far, but it is some help towards the goal on which they have set their sights. In return, the fellowship-holders are required, upon graduating, to serve the department for one year longer than the period of the fellowship. Where possible these fellowship graduates who desire to undertake further studies are encouraged to do so, and at present two dentists who qualified under the fellowship scheme are undertaking post-graduate study overseas.

At present 68 fellowship-holders in medicine and 35 in dentistry are studying at the University in the various years of their courses. To February, 1962, the fellowship scheme had provided 49 doctors and 74 dentists for appointment to country hospitals and dental clinics and the school health dental service.

Thus the fellowship scheme has provided many qualified personnel and has helped expand and maintain medical and dental services throughout the State. The cost of fellowships for 1961-1962, the highest year according to the Budget, was £45,238. That is quite an amount of money but it is being well invested because every hon. member here knows that hospitals have not their full quota of doctors, not because the Government or the hospitals boards will not appoint them, but simply because they cannot get them. These fellowship-holders are the answer to the problem in some of the districts that cannot attract a doctor direct.

**Mr. Hanlon:** Many of them are buying themselves out of their bonds.

**Mr. HERBERT:** As has been mentioned, many of them do buy themselves out of their bonds. That is a matter for their own consciences. They satisfy the legal requirements, but a man who has the door opened to a profession like medicine or dentistry and reneges on the Government and refuses his services for the period is certainly worthy of moral censure. There have been a couple of very distressing instances in recent years. Doctors who have been put through their post-graduate specialty training, and had all sorts of facilities made available to them during their training, and for whom all sorts of expensive equipment had been acquired to put them into certain posts, walked out on the completion of their training and paid off the money they were bound to pay by law. Of course, the State suffers a grievous loss as the result. But I cannot see a way round it. We cannot force a man to stay if he fulfils his legal obligations. The sort of man he would be in his profession if he has that type of moral outlook is an entirely different matter.

In briefly reviewing some of the work of the Government especially directed towards promoting the welfare of the young citizens of tomorrow, reference must be made to the State subsidy scheme for day nurseries, which was introduced by the present Minister for Health and Home Affairs and came into operation as from 1st July, 1962. It is yet another of the many measures introduced by the Government to provide assistance where, under the previous administration, no help was forthcoming.

**Mr. Hanlon:** You are not suggesting that the fellowships you were talking about were not introduced by the previous Government?

**Mr. HERBERT:** I am now talking about day nurseries. The hon. member for Kurilpa has played a very active part in this phase of Government activity. He will agree with me that the previous Government did nothing in this direction. We have done much to help, particularly in the Kurilpa area.

The scheme, which envisages payment of a State subsidy to approved day nurseries that care for under-privileged children, is, in fact, a service to the under-privileged in order to keep families together. This is not a cold-blooded approach but a realisation that if families are not kept together they become a total charge on the State. Therefore, it is an economic as well as a sympathetic outlook. Payments under this scheme are intended to assist day nurseries which provide for the children of one-parent families where the parent—perhaps a widow or a deserted mother—is required to accept employment in order that the family can be maintained. This is a problem the existence of which every hon. member recognised over and over again in years gone by. Fortunately we now have the answer.

Provision is made for payment of subsidy in respect of children of other families in those cases where exceptional circumstances are such as to warrant the granting of assistance so that the children can be cared for in a day nursery. Needless to say, in order to be eligible for the subsidy, the day nursery must be non-profit-making and must function as a community undertaking. The Government certainly is not going to subsidise something that makes a "cop". Other conditions are concerned with mode of operation, constitution, management, programme of work, staff, equipment, buildings, etc.

The scheme of subsidy payments is based as follows—

Approved day nurseries with a daily average of eligible children numbering 10, £500 per annum; 20, £1,000 per annum; 30, £1,500 per annum; 40, £2,000 per annum; 50, £2,500 per annum.

The maximum subsidy payable is £2,500

This assistance is a great help to the various organisations. The scheme had its roots in a special grant of £2,500—the first of three such grants—through the Department of Health and Home Affairs to

the Creche and Kindergarten Association in 1959, although smaller amounts had been paid by the department to assist the Association over the years. In December 1959 financial difficulties were forcing the Association to consider closing its Fortitude Valley centre, and an appeal was made to the Government for urgent assistance. Recognising that if the Valley centre were closed considerable hardship would be caused to mothers whose children were kept there while they were at work, the Government, on the recommendation of the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, approved a special grant of £2,500 to the Association, to be paid in addition to the annual grant of £500 which the Association had been receiving from the department for some years. Similar special grants were made during 1960-1961 and again in 1961-1962.

Earlier this year the Government gave consideration to the needs of organisations conducting day nurseries, and this resulted in the introduction of the scheme to provide financial assistance to approved day nurseries based on the number of eligible children being cared for. As I mentioned previously, the scheme came into operation as from 1 July, 1962, and this form of assistance will in future take the place of special grants paid during previous years.

Needless to say, the Valley creche and kindergarten is one of the beneficiaries under the day nurseries subsidies scheme, as is also the Kurilpa child care centre, in which the hon. member for Kurilpa has taken a great deal of interest. If other hon. members took the same interest in this field in other areas we would be much better off.

It should be mentioned here that the State Government, through the Department of Education, pays an annual grant to the Creche and Kindergarten Association for the training of kindergarten teachers, and in addition makes annual grants to the Association's four kindergartens as well as to affiliated kindergartens.

I have been asked why the Government does not support the various child-minding centres. It boils down to the question of whether or not the Government should accept the responsibility of looking after children of mothers who can afford to pay to have them cared for, or for mothers who work for reasons other than the necessity of bringing income into the home.

If mothers desire to work I do not think it should be the State's responsibility to look after their children. They should pay for those services. If mothers want to form a child-minding centre, let them go ahead, but they should not expect the other taxpayers who are looking after their own children to pay for having theirs looked after, too. That is the general attitude. I agree that the child-minding centres serve a very good purpose, but I disagree with the suggestion that the taxpayers who look after their own children should pay more so that other people's children can be looked after.

I have covered a fairly wide field in this debate, and in these closing stages I have covered some of the smaller facets of work carried out by the Department of Health and Home Affairs. These little things can be often overlooked in the overall picture of the Budget. Much of the information that I have supplied never receives Press recognition, but in each case it is in respect of some facet which previously was not accredited to the Minister for Health and Home Affairs. Not only has he kept free hospitalisation going, but he has also been able to expand greatly the psychiatric services. Undoubtedly, after the next State election we will see an increased majority on this side of the Chamber.

**Mr. TUCKER** (Townsville North) (5.29 p.m.): I believe that the hon. member who has just resumed his seat, and who has attempted again to fill this Chamber with Red Dust, is a reflection of his jittery Government who, desperately in need of some election gimmick, and seeing nothing in the Budget to raise their hopes and stocks, stoop to any cowardly trick under the privilege of Parliament to put a doubt in the minds of the electors. I believe they will not succeed, just as the Menzies Government failed to hoodwink Queensland electors at the last Federal elections.

It reflects no credit on the hon. member for Sherwood that he should throw away his supposedly high principles and launch such a low, cowardly attack to gain some electoral or political advantage.

A number of my colleagues have dealt very effectively with various aspects of the Budget. I shall take this opportunity to deal with certain facets of the Ford, Bacon and Davis Report. The essential part of doing work by contract is that plans and detailed quantities are prepared first so that the contractor knows what he has to do and what he will be paid for, and also that the Government department concerned knows what it has to pay for and just what it is getting.

As I see the Ford, Bacon and Davis Report, the company is to be paid quite a sum to prepare plans after the work has been finished. I would say without hesitation that this document—the Ford, Bacon and Davis Report—which has cost the taxpayers of the State some £118,000, or £1,000 a page, sets out for the Government a plan of attack on the railway workers generally. It shows how to make lightning attacks on their security of employment, how to divide by means of closures, forcing workers in the industry to sell up homes and move elsewhere at tremendous loss, how to frustrate by turning great workshops into corner service stations, and how to demoralise by a retrograde policy designed to let other forms of transport flourish at the expense of the railways.

It is a report designed by representatives of a big monopoly for the benefit of big monopolies. It is designed to help those who

are already big to grow bigger at the expense of the taxpayers of the State, and more particularly the workers, the primary producers, and the small business people. Obviously these foreign consultants were quick to assess the Government's policy, and that was to assist private investment in any field of transport which would yield quick and large profits.

What a slight to the many skilful men in the State to call in this team of so-called experts from a foreign country! From the report it is obvious that they have failed to understand the background and the traditions of the railways in Queensland. It chooses to ignore the magnificent part played by the railway men in the development of the State and it chooses to ignore the needs of the people in the far-flung areas.

If the railways are to be treated as a commercial enterprise—and the way I read the report everything points to that way of thinking—without reference to the great need for development or to the needs of industry or to the needs of the people generally, I believe such thinking is completely negative. If a public transport system runs solely for profit and ignores the needs of the Community and industry, it is not a public service and therefore it should not be known as a public transport service. To continue to claim that it is so is, in my opinion, nonsense, and so it is in this instance.

If various aspects of this report are implemented—and I will deal with them in detail later—rail transport as a public transport system will be emasculated, losing its virility by its inability to provide for the community's needs on a commercial basis.

**Mr. Chalk:** Who wrote that word?

**Mr. Wallace:** He wrote it himself.

**Mr. TUCKER:** The effects of the interim report from these foreign consultants can already be seen in the railways. Disintegration has already begun. The railway workshops are rapidly declining in importance, following closely the senseless transport policies of the Government.

Since coming into power this Government has reduced the railway staff by some 3,500 employees. Let the hon. gentleman ask again who wrote that one. It has closed hundreds of miles of branch lines and practically given away the lines, equipment, and station buildings. Tradesmen have been down-graded and transferred to other depots without a care of what may happen to homes or families.

Only last week I elicited by question the fact that only four apprentices would be taken on by the railways in Townsville this year. Other apprentices have been told to look for other work when their indentures finish. In other words, the Government refuses to employ the youth it has trained. What a farce, when one remembers that but a few short years ago the Government sent representatives overseas to secure skilled men.

How now can it justify its present attitude? A Government's first duty is to find full employment for all citizens, yet, aided and abetted by the Ford, Bacon and Davis Report, it sacks apprentices and regresses tradesmen.

Let us look at some of the major recommendations of the report. They are—

- (a) Plan for electrification of Brisbane suburban railways to be discontinued;
- (b) The plan for quadruplication in Brisbane to be curtailed;
- (c) Closure of some suburban stations;
- (d) Zoning of fares because south-side railway passengers have to use other transport to enter the city. It is proposed that fares to the north-side be 6d. dearer.

These recommendations clearly demonstrate what I have said before, namely, that the attitude is one of commercial enterprise, without reference to the needs of the people. The question is not asked, "Is there a good case for maintaining these services because they serve the community?" Rather is it, "What quick profits are there?"

The negative approach is again shown with electrification and quadruplication. It is not, "Will they provide a quick, clean service, and thus win back people to the rail-days?" but rather, "It will cost too much, so rub it out." Their inconsistency, however, is clearly demonstrated in the case of the Mt. Isa line, which is a project that will ultimately place millions of pounds in the coffers of Mount Isa Mines Limited. In that case, providing it serves Big Business, their motto is, "Borrow the money at any price."

The Minister said some time ago that the report dealt with "cold, hard facts" and would cure most of the financial ills of the Railway Department if rigidly implemented. We had an example of his rigid implementation when he dived for cover after the chaos he created by cutting metropolitan services following the interim report. It was obvious after that debacle that even his faith was shaken. It was either that or his Cabinet colleagues placed a bit in his mouth and are keeping their hands on the reins till after the election next year. I say to the railway men that the economies proposed in this report are to be at their expense, but let me continue.

The report recommends also—

- (a) Concentration on main lines rather than branch lines;
- (b) More branch lines to be closed, with the possibility of eliminating the South-West Division based at Toowoomba, and the operation of only three divisions—Southern, Central and Northern;
- (c) Road transport eventually to provide feeder services to the northern line and three main western lines from Brisbane, Rockhampton, and Townsville.

Here is clearly demonstrated the complete disregard for the welfare of the people who are still pioneering this State, and the development of the State generally. If a branch line is not paying at the moment, the present policy is to close it and tear it up. This will deprive rural areas of their right to a railway service, and impose great hardship on the people in western areas. This is in line with the rest of the deliberate policy of the Government to placate private hauliers, who have been up in arms over the recent additions to the State Transport Act.

A policy such as this can have an important effect upon the whole economy of the State. On the one hand, we hear the cry that development is vitally necessary, and on the other we find a policy such as this designed to close northern workshops and reduce western railway towns to the point where they will ultimately become ghost towns, forcing people to the coastal areas. All sorts of campaigns are being waged to develop and people the North, yet here we have a deliberate attempt to force people away. It appears to me that the people waging these campaigns would be well advised to turn their guns initially on the Government of the day, and particularly on this useless, short-sighted report, which is designed to retard our progress.

What of the people who are today manning the small depots and stations on the western lines and the lines that are to be closed? What of the people who are presently maintaining those lines? Does the report state what is to become of those workers and their wives and families? The answer is an emphatic "No".

When I asked a question of the Minister for Transport recently, I received no complete and proper answer as to what would become of the people when the depots were closed. Does the report suggest that the Government should compensate those who own their own homes and have no-one to sell them to, or who are forced to sell them at a ridiculous figure and then to buy on the top of the market elsewhere? Already there have been a number of instances of that. In a number of the towns that will ultimately become ghost towns it is obvious that people have no chance of selling their homes, many of which are of a good standard, for a fair price. When people are transferred from depots and sent to other places, they will be out of pocket by many thousands of pounds. As I said, they leave one home and buy another somewhere else right at the top of the market. In some instances the move will be a tragedy for a family.

This is a human problem and is of no concern to Ford, Bacon and Davis, just at it is of little concern to the Government from which they receive their instructions. In a speech earlier this year I drew attention to this matter and gave a glaring example of a worker and his family being sent to a

place where there was absolutely no accommodation, and my colleagues on this side of the Chamber gave other examples. In that case a man was sent out West. On asking the shire clerk where he could obtain accommodation, he was told not to come because if he did he would have to camp on the bank of the river. It was only through the intervention of Mr. Dinsmore in Townsville that the man was found a position where he could get accommodation for his wife and family.

**Mr. Chalk** interjected.

**Mr. TUCKER:** The trouble is beginning, but the Minister takes no notice of what is going on and makes inane interjections in an effort to stop me from proceeding.

The suggestion to cut out the south-western division shows that no railway employee is safe from this report, and the employee who claims that he is safe obviously has not read it closely and may be in for a rude awakening.

Let us now have a look at some of the recommendations in the Ford, Bacon and Davis Report relating to workshops. One says—

“There is no further economic need for maintaining workshops at Cairns. Essential work can be absorbed at Townsville workshops.”

Another says—

“Planned expansions of the Chief Engineer’s Workshops at Banyo be drastically curtailed and the new Banyo shops be reassigned to the Chief Mechanical Engineer as major Workshops for the rehabilitation of wagons on a ‘cycle’ basis.”

Another recommendation relating to the same workshops is—

“By establishing a policy of purchasing rather than manufacturing of maintenance-of-way material, the expansion of the Chief Engineer’s Workshops necessary at Banyo can be drastically curtailed.”

Then it has a shot at Redbank—

“Since the number of steam locomotives in service is decreasing and since they ultimately must be replaced by diesel-electric locomotives, the workshops at Redbank should be developed and constructed as a diesel-locomotive repair shop and repairs to steam locomotives continued at Ipswich.”

Here is another one—

“With the development of Redbank as diesel-locomotive workshops, there no longer is any logical reason for completing the diesel facilities at Northgate. No further work be done on the Northgate Workshops and the Railways dispose of the buildings and the land to the best possible advantage.”

I have already touched on the Cairns closure. What a tragedy for the North is contained in this recommendation and how completely out of touch with our needs are

these consultants! Only the vigilance of railway workers themselves has prevented this from being a reality now. Another industry closes down, more people leave the North, and young people leave employment and follow their families. Although 50 men may be initially involved at Cairns, it is quite possible that it will involve many more. Many of these men have grown-up families and, if they have to seek employment elsewhere, naturally their families will want to go with them and we will lose not only those 50, but many more as well. Where are these tradesmen to be absorbed in the light of the foregoing recommendations? All workshop activities are to be curtailed.

According to the report, Townsville is to be only a major servicing and inspecting depot to support Redbank, as will be Mayne and Rockhampton, too.

The primary functions of these depots will be providing such daily servicing items as fuel, lubricating oil, water, sand, and the performance of all inspections between major rehabilitations. Does it sound likely that Townsville, or any other workshops, will be able to absorb men from other depots? The complete truth on this has not been told and we on this side of the Chamber want to know. Every man’s future and that of his family is our business, and we will fight to see that his future is made secure.

Again I say that the consultants’ approach to our railway system is completely unrealistic: Why must our workshops be closed or curtailed and our tradesmen dispersed? Why cannot we offer apprenticeships to young men on the same scale as before? As I mentioned previously, the department is offering only four apprenticeships this year in Townsville. Why is this Government not giving the lead in the employment of our youth?

The call goes out to outside companies to employ more youth while this Government sits on its tail and adds its contribution by ordering more cut-backs in Government enterprises, especially the railway industry. Surely it must be ashamed and surely it stands indicted before the people of this State for its failure to grapple with the situation. Even at this late hour it should cut its losses and hurl the whole report into the Brisbane River. It should then call together the top rail men who understand the workings of the railways and railway union leaders who have spent a lifetime in the job and understand every facet of railway administration and the needs of the railway men. Working in conjunction with joint consultative committees in the railway industry, which the Government previously promised would be established—although it failed to honour that promise—a plan could be worked out to rejuvenate and modernise the Queensland railways.

The Government should understand that railway men are realistic enough to acknowledge that with changing times there will be changes in services and depots. But they

demand, and rightly so, that they should benefit by these changes, not be the victims of them. They ask, and I ask on their behalf, "Why should the railway workshops be closed and curtailed?" Who benefits by that in the long run? Nobody. Why should not all work possible be done in the railway workshops and all material where practicable be manufactured therein? Diesel locomotives should be manufactured, if not wholly, at least in part, in our railway workshops. We could manufacture air-conditioned coaches, rail-motor units, steel wagons, steel suburban cars and refrigeration units. We could manufacture containerisation requirements, that is, containers for the transport of goods on rail.

To maintain full employment in the railways I suggest the purchase of a line-boring machine to bore rail-motor A.E.C. and Gardiner mains, big ends, gudgeons, and other bearings. The Government should purchase a crankshaft-grinding machine for A.E.C., Meadows, and Gardiner crankshafts. I suggest the manufacture of steel constructional sections, working tools and many other items, which today are purchased from private enterprise. What I have suggested would certainly keep the railway workshops open—not as they are today, the Aunt Sallys of the whole railway system. As I have said on previous occasions, how can the railway workshops, using the hammer-and-chisel method, compete with private enterprise that has installed modern machines? It is very obvious that when a job is given to these outside people who have modern machines, they must be more efficient. They must be able to cut down costs. When a job is given to the railway workshops and the old methods are used because no modern machinery has been installed for many years, the cost may be higher than it would be outside. Consequently, the criticism is levelled, "The railway workshops certainly cannot compete with private enterprise. We will wrap them into as small a parcel as possible."

It is obvious that with their lack of modern equipment the railway workshops find it difficult to compete. How can they keep their costs down if the men are not given modern machinery? I have previously pointed out that in Townsville stocks of spare parts have been cut to a minimum. When an employee wants bolts or nuts he is sent down to the scrap yard to knock them out of old machinery. Often when steel is required to effect repair work an employee is sent to the scrap yard to cut a piece of steel from an old railway wagon. I have learned only recently that stocks of spare parts for the air-conditioned trains have been cut to a minimum. If a coil failed while an air-conditioned train was travelling, the electrician would not have a spare coil to replace it. If it was a coil on the heater he would have to take one from the refrigerator, and vice versa. Whether the exchange was made, of course, would depend on the weather at the time.

Is it any wonder that the railway workshops find it difficult to compete with private enterprise? Not very long ago there was an occasion in Townsville when acetylene gas was in very short supply. Finally, the tradesmen ran out of it altogether. In order to complete the job they asked if they could buy it locally but they were told they could not. It was three days before the gas was made available. I could tell a hundred stories about neglect in the workshops over the last five or six years. Men working on locos under roofs that were so leaky that the rain came through were able to claim wet pay. I have told the story about Townsville. I believe that is the same story over the whole of the State. It seems that it is the Government's intention to continue to let the railway workshops run down so that the work can be channelled into private enterprise, in which it appears that the Government has a vested interest. While that is continuing and while the railways are continuing to run down road-transport business is flourishing. I believe it is in the interests of the Government to let road transport flourish at the expense of the railways. It is obvious that the road-transport operators are paying very little for the use of the roads. The Queensland railways have to maintain their own tracks. Roads are maintained out of the taxpayers' money, and although the road-transport people are competing with the Railway Department, they are paying only a small amount for the use of the roads.

I believe there is a place for road transport, but the hauliers are not asked to construct their own roads. The Railway Department, however, is forced to lay its own tracks and maintain them.

Why should this work be channelled to, or railway material obtained from outside sources? Has the Government a vested interest in these sources? Has any system for the re-training of displaced staff been investigated so that displaced men may take up alternative positions in the railways? It appears to me that there has been no investigation of this idea at all. Has any real effort been made to co-ordinate transport to give better service to the public by door-to-door deliveries through the Railway Department? Why should not the railways compete in road transport with road services providing feeders to the railways, which, after all, are the arteries of the country's industry and trade? Again I say that railway men understand that, in the fast-developing field of transportation, the railways cannot expect to have a monopoly, but they can and should be allowed to compete. The establishment of the Railway Department's own road transport to provide feeder-services to the railways would make it a formidable competitor.

In the Ford, Bacon and Davis Report the railways were looked at on a commercial basis. I think it suggests that all these branch railway lines should be torn up because they do not pay.

As I mentioned a while ago, road transport appears to have, if not a straight-out subsidy by the Government, a hidden subsidy through the fact that road transport is able to travel on our main roads. I believe that the Government realises that, and, aided and abetted by this report, has set out secretly to let the blood out of the veins of the railways, to make it lose its virility, and then point out its lethargy which, in fact, is of the Government's own making.

There again, if we are not prepared to rejuvenate them, but are prepared to let them run down, it is very obvious that they will not be able to pay, or attract people to use them, and they will not be able to give the type of service that we feel the people of Queensland should have.

Millions of pounds have been spent, and are being spent, on roads, which road transport uses with gay abandon, all over the State. The railways have to maintain their own tracks and, when a deficit is shown in the Railway Department, there is a howl to high heaven. Why should not this deficit be regarded as a Government subsidy, such as is given directly or indirectly to all other forms of transport?

With the moves already made by the Government against railway men, with its determined attempt to emasculate the railways, and particularly if the Ford, Bacon and Davis Report is to be implemented, there is a dire need for the return of a Labour Government at the next State election.

I say again that, with progressive thought and planning, our railways can cope with any competitor as long as that competitor is not subsidised against them. Our workshops can compete, given the right machinery and the proper materials, and, on behalf of the many hundreds of skilled men who work therein, I discount the suggestion that they have any peers either for their skill or for their ability to turn out a solid day's work. Despite all the difficulties they have to overcome, I am certain that they can compete against all comers.

I conclude by asking the Government to put aside for all time this useless report and look upon the railways as a national asset to be fostered by every means at our disposal, and I call on all the people of the North to resist with every means available the implementation of the report. It would strike at what we hold dear, our northern population. If the report is implemented and the workshops are closed, inevitably the population of the North will decrease. If the Cairns railway workshops are closed, the people of Cairns must come south to other work, to the detriment of the population in the North. The same goes for the people in the West. So railway men must work like beavers to get rid of this Government or the Government will get rid of the railway men.

**Mr. DEAN** (Sandgate) (7.19 p.m.): A perusal of the Budget reveals once again the familiar pattern of concealment that this Government has consistently employed in previous Financial Statements to cloud the true financial position of the State. The custom of concealment appears to camouflage certain ramifications of the Budget and yet, from another view, one gains a definite impression that this Budget is being deliberately used to create a very favourable picture for next year's State election. I am sure that the people of Queensland will not be misled by some of the clever tricks that the Treasurer has endeavoured to put across. I consider also that the day of reckoning for this coalition Government, with its various political colours, is very close. The parents of the hundreds of unfortunate girls and boys who are still walking the streets looking for their first positions in industry and professional life will certainly vent their full feelings next year at the State election, which will certainly be an epic one for this coalition Government.

**Mr. Armstrong:** You will be walking the streets after the election.

**Mr. DEAN:** Perhaps, but if I am the hon. member for Mulgrave will be, too. It must be poor consolation to those parents to listen to the persistent cry of the Government about the construction of beef roads. Not for a moment am I implying that beef roads are not necessary in this State, but I do say that the amount of money allocated for that scheme is far too large. If all the money intended to be spent for that purpose is spent, the unemployment problem of the State will not be solved. As I have said on previous occasions, the amount to be spent is certainly too large when so many other sections of industry need urgent development. Portion of this huge sum could well be spent this year on roads in many areas of Queensland.

This Government appears to be one-eyed, especially when it comes to development. Of course, its attitude has been created by its composition as a coalition Government. In other words, it is an alliance of very diverse views. I, with many other people, have at times gained the impression that this Government is composed of four different political sections. They are the Country Party, the Liberal Party, a party that refers to itself as having some kind of North Australian composition, and what is called the Independent Party. With this peculiar composition, the Government has very little tolerance for the larger cities and towns along the coast in which the greatest number of our people reside and work. The one thing that they share—and they share it fully—is their desire at every opportunity to destroy the Australian Labour Party. Apart from that, they have very little sympathy with each other's political views, and very little charitable feeling towards each other. Their main object in keeping together is the destruction of the great A.L.P. I suggest that they broaden

their views and think for a while. Let them think of Queensland for a change, instead of continuing their parochial and narrow-minded outlook.

**Mr. Ewan:** Brisbane is only a small part of the State.

**Mr. DEAN:** I know that.

This attitude is exemplified by the shabby treatment meted out to the various local authorities of the State who have had their subsidies reduced. Subsidies are the very lifeblood of many local authorities. I do not think it takes very much imagination or power of reasoning to see that a reduction in subsidies will retard the development of many areas throughout Queensland. It certainly will not accelerate it.

In my opinion the Budget also failed to show what the Government intends doing to encourage trade with our near-Asian neighbours, or to foster a friendly understanding with them. Australia has a small population in a very large continent, and in certain respects its geographical size is somewhat of a handicap. Historically we belong to Europe, but geographically we belong to Asia. The sooner we begin thinking along those lines, the better. We are a long way from our traditional friends, and in global terms we have very little strategic importance at the moment. Away to our North in East-Asia live more than half the people of the world, and they live in circumstances much different from our own. The majority of our Asian neighbours live in sub-standard conditions, and if the Government considers that it has a Christian outlook, why does it not show it by encouraging friendly relations with the non-Communist nations of East Asia? There are many people there who are thinking in terms of friendship towards Australia—I am speaking of those who are not under the Communist influence—and I think that the State Government, if it cannot combine with other State Governments in a united approach, should make an individual effort to help the new nations of Asia. The responsibility for their economic growth devolves just as much on this Government as it does on any other Government. Perhaps our responsibility is a little greater because Queensland is closer to the areas in which these people live. Sooner or later we will have to try to understand them, and our nearness demands that this Government, or some other Government, should do something about it in the very near future.

After that rather broad beginning to my speech, I shall refer to certain aspects of the Budget that I think call for clarification by the Treasurer.

Under the heading "Grants and Endowments", I found an item "Special Grants, £95,845". That is not a small sum, even in a Budget of this magnitude, and I think at least the Treasurer should have clarified what he meant by "Special Grants".

When he makes an examination of the various speeches, I hope that he will give an answer to my question.

The Financial Statement also shows that several other items have been transferred to Consolidated Revenue, yet we have been told many times that we are short of money and that the allocations to the various departments are not sufficient to enable them to carry out all the projects that they have in mind. For instance, £200,000 was transferred from the Agricultural Bank Fund to Consolidated Revenue. Surely that amount could have been used to assist in some way the men on the land, especially the small farmers, who can always make use of a little extra money to buy modern agricultural implements for use in the development of their properties. They certainly cannot do it without bank assistance.

In the Harbours and Rivers Dues Fund, an amount of £130,000 has been transferred to Consolidated Revenue. I also raise a query on that item. I have taken many deputations to the Treasurer during the year asking for improved facilities for boating and yachting in the Bay areas. More important than the sporting recreation that takes place on our Bay, is that it has great industrial potential, calling for a deeper channel, a deeper port and better mooring facilities. yet here we see the transfer of £130,000 to Consolidated Revenue. Coming closer to home, I think that money could have been spent to very good purpose in my electorate where the prawning industry is developing at a fast rate in Cabbage Tree Creek.

Another item that attracted my attention in the housing section was the transfer to Consolidated Revenue of an amount of £343,200. That is done in spite of the fact that we are told that people cannot get houses. There are not enough houses to meet the demand for rental homes by people who cannot afford to build their own home or to put a deposit on one already built. In spite of that the Treasurer transfers £343,200 to Consolidated Revenue. I hope he will clarify these matters in his reply and inform us why these things were done.

Under the heading of "Department of Education", a very important department, we again find the transfer of £10,000 to Consolidated Revenue. £10,000 may not sound much to some people but it is still too much to be put back into Consolidated Revenue when there is such a keen demand for educational facilities as there is at the moment. In spite of that, £10,000 is tossed back into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

After going very carefully through the Budget looking for certain other figures, I failed to find them and I came to the conclusion that this year certain figures must be concealed somewhere. I refer particularly to figures relating to the revenue derived

from the recently introduced gambling legislation, which revenue must have been swelled considerably by that betting machine known as the totalisator.

It was reported in "The Courier-Mail" of 8 October that in the first eight weeks of the operation of the totalisator £470,519 was received, but I failed to find that amount dissected anywhere in the Financial Statement.

In the same newspaper on 15 October it was reported that the Totalisator Administration Board was seeking the supply of 4,000,000 betting tickets annually, giving another indication of the amount of revenue that it expected from this source. I know that other hon. members on this side have discussed the effect of the T.A.B. on the average household and family unit. Personally, I abhor this method of raising revenue. I may be taking a different view from that taken by some other people, but I do not give the Government any credit for coming out into the open and encouraging this evil of gambling by providing the facilities for it. When this scheme is in full operation the Board expects to have from 180 to 200 agencies operating throughout the State. It will not be long before we arrive at the stage that has been reached in some other States where the gambling vice has swollen to terrific proportions. What a prospect for Queensland when we see the administration of the State depending on this type of revenue! It can have only one effect. If it continues the way it is going, within a few years poverty and misery will be the keynote of the living conditions in Queensland.

At the present time 29 T.A.B. agencies are operating. The supervision of those agencies is very inadequate. Indeed, they are very inefficiently supervised. I am informed that many housewives are investing their house-keeping money in T.A.B. bets—money that should be buying food for their families. Worse still, it has been reported to me that children have been noticed placing bets on behalf of their parents. That is a scandalous state of affairs. No Government should allow such a nefarious practice, by which children can become contaminated at such an early age. Government members should bow their heads in shame rather than joke about it, because it is a very serious matter. It reminds me of the days when the "bingo" scourge was rampant in Queensland. Is it the Government's intention to plunge the State back into that dreadful "bingo" era?

**Mr. Evans:** Who started the Golden Casket?

**Mr. DEAN:** Never mind that; we know the Minister who started the off-course totalisator.

I looked for further figures in the Budget dealing with the extra revenue the Government has gained from the liberalisation of the liquor laws. On the subject of the increased consumption of alcohol, I remind the Committee of the question I asked on

27 September dealing with the causes of traffic accidents. The Minister's reply revealed that 7,174 accidents occurred during week-end periods, that is, from Friday night to Sunday night. Of that number 146 persons were killed on the roads. Of the total of 7,174 accidents, 600 occurred in which the drivers were under the influence of alcohol. In that figure of 600, 29 persons died on the roads. Dealing with these figures, I am reminded of the speech we listened to in the Chamber last week by the hon. member for Wavell. On that occasion I consider the limits of pious hypocrisy were reached by the hon. member when he related the increase in the consumption of alcohol by young people to the high percentage of teenage deaths occasioned by motor-vehicle accidents. He was extremely careful in his speech not to tell us that the main blame for this dreadful carnage can be laid at the door of his Government. With his full support, the hon. member's Government passed an amending liquor Bill which was instrumental in liberalising the consumption of alcohol for the young people in the State. I remind you, Mr. Taylor, that this self-same hon. member and his fellow Government members flung open the hotel doors for the sale of alcohol to young people on Sunday afternoons. We can only express very strong feelings of disgust. All I can say is, "Shame on the Liberal member for Wavell!" I was amazed at the hon. member on that occasion. He swayed backwards and forwards, endeavouring, no doubt, to impress hon. members and certain people in the public gallery.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I point out to hon. members that the hon. member for Sandgate is not speaking in a very strong voice. I am losing half his speech because of the conversations that are going on. I trust that all hon. members will show consideration to the hon. member who is speaking so that he can be heard by both sides, by me, and by the "Hansard" staff.

**Honourable Members** interjected.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! Will the hon. members please be quiet? I ask the hon. member for Sandgate to proceed.

**Mr. DEAN:** Let me impress upon the hon. member for Wavell and the members of his Government that he and his Government colleagues are not fooling the various temperance organisations, and other organisations interested in the welfare of the youth of Queensland.

Let me remind him of the promise made by Government members prior to the last State election that they would not jeopardise the youth of Queensland by liberalising the liquor laws. I think they used the words "liquor reform". How well I remember those words. How well I can remember the differences of opinion I had outside this Chamber. But they have been honest enough to admit to me since then that they have indeed had their legs pulled very hard.

The hon. member for Wavell is like the Government he belongs to. He is devoid of a conscience. With the lax gambling laws and the liberalising of the liquor laws, the teenager could be reduced to a low level of degradation.

At this stage it is necessary for me to introduce a different matter. I will deal with a very important industry, namely the fishing industry. It is worked within my area to a very large degree, and is suffering hardship at the moment. This Government has very little sympathy for the wide interests of the fishing industry and its value to the State's food production. I specifically refer to the prawn-trawling section of the industry.

An indication has been given that the Government intends to restrict the trawling of prawns to certain areas throughout the Bay. That legislation has not yet been introduced. Moreover, the intention is to restrict the catching of prawns to five days of the week by introducing week-end closure. I point out to the Minister that the average working week for prawn trawlers is no more than five days now. During the winter months, especially from May to September, with unfavourable winter winds, the working week is reduced to an average of 3½ days. Bear in mind that maintenance on the boats has to be carried out; they have to be slipped regularly throughout the year. Crews change frequently because of the arduous work and the hardship of the calling. I am informed that the slipping of the boats accounts for three weeks of the season, and that means a great loss of revenue to the prawn trawlers.

If the Government is not careful in its handling of this very important industry it will throw many men onto the labour market. Many hundreds of men are employed in the industry today, but if harsh restrictions are imposed and if prawn trawlers are forced away from their present grounds out into deeper water, which calls for heavier boats and more modern equipment, the present trawlers working with smaller equipment and bringing in a fair haul to the market will be put out of business. The industry will then be left to the big companies and mergers will swallow it up into a big combine.

The weekend closure contemplated is very unreasonable. It would appear from common talk along the coastline and in the various ports that it springs from wrong advice given to the Minister about its value and wisdom. Until the Minister or anyone else can control the vagaries of the weather, it is ridiculous to attempt to restrict fishing in the Bay to any set time. It is a calling controlled by the weather. Anyone in the fishing industry fishes when the weather lets him. It is ridiculous to expect to run the industry on an 8-hour-day basis on certain days. The weather determines when prawn trawling can be done.

One way the Government could help this important industry would be by evolving a thorough method of survey to ascertain its full possibilities. One important outcome of such an investigation would be that the Government would be given an indication of its reasonable capacity for trawlers to work on a sensible and economic basis. It is well known to those interested in the industry that it has become overloaded. The prawning fleets are getting too large. I think that a thorough investigation of the potential of the industry would indicate that the present trend is in that direction. The industry is becoming overcrowded.

**Mr. Melloy:** Anybody can get a licence.

**Mr. DEAN:** I have been told, and I know it to be correct, that farmers on the North Coast are getting prawning licences and making a part-time hobby of trawling. They use their licences for periods during the week, and in many cases, if they cannot sell them privately, they take their prawns to the Board where they are even given preference in disposing of the catch. That is done for the simple reason that some control is then retained over the catches. One official said that if no consideration was given to a particular farmer-prawner, he might be frightened away and sell his product privately. They would prefer to give him some preference over regular prawners who depend wholly and solely on trawling for a living.

**Mr. Camm:** What sort of preference would he get?

**Mr. DEAN:** Once he reaches the Board floor, his product is taken before that of regular prawners, who are engaged full-time in the industry.

It has been suggested by many people competent to discuss the matter at meetings of fishermen that some protection should be given to them by restricting licences, in the same way as taxi-cab owners are protected. Not everyone can get a taxi-cab licence; the number is held at a certain level to give those in the calling a reasonable living. Those in the prawning industry feel entitled to the same protection as is given to taxi-cab owners and milk vendors and people in several other callings, to allow them to concentrate on their particular trade. The prawning industry should be no exception.

As I intimated earlier, people in the industry are by no means happy with the way in which the Government conducts the Fish Board. From the many suggestions that come from their meetings, I think that the Minister would be well advised to obtain information by consulting the people working in the industry before future legislation is brought down. He could well seek their advice on the running of the industry and on its weaknesses.

This is no personal reflection on the present chairman of the Board, and I heard no such reflection cast at any meeting, but one

suggestion is that, as a matter of democratic principle, the chairman should be chosen from the board members themselves by election, and not appointed from outside.

Another matter suggested was a revision of the constitution to give the industry greater representation on the Board. Many felt that it is restricted at the moment and selective to a degree of unfairness. They feel that greater representation from the industry itself would be a more democratic way to constitute this very important Board.

They also complained to a certain extent about the activities of the Board in seeking new markets for the disposal of their catches. They feel that the Board does not do as much as it could to expand markets and find new outlets for prawns to assist in stabilising the industry and providing a fair and reasonable price level. The market in northern and western country areas in Queensland is untapped, and the men in the industry believe that production could be increased if this market were open to them. They also believe that an approach could be made to the three defence services. Many nasty things are said about the fish products placed on the tables of defence personnel. I am informed that many of them are imported at a time when we should be using our own products. The prawning industry believes that it could supply almost all the requirements of the three defence forces, particularly in Queensland.

The men in the industry have been annoyed for some time over the system of buyers' rings operating at the fish markets, and they have suggested that we should adopt a system similar to that operating in New South Wales. I have not been to the Sydney fish markets, but I am prepared to accept the advice of people who have been there that the system works very well and is much better than the ring system operating in the buying of prawns at the Brisbane fish markets.

There is a very strong feeling within the industry that the industry will never develop as it should until a separate Fisheries Department is set up.

**Mr. Houghton:** Don't you think there are too many organisations within the industry itself for it to get anywhere?

**Mr. DEAN:** They do not get much encouragement from the Government.

**Mr. Houghton:** They fight among themselves, don't they?

**Mr. DEAN:** The fighting among themselves is caused largely by the Government's scant consideration for them. In the end they unconsciously adopt the Government's attitude of "every man for himself". Unfortunately, that attitude exists in some of the organisations. It is thought that the establishment of a Fisheries Department would give them a better standing and a better control of the industry, which would enable them to develop it.

I could mention many other matters relating to the prawning industry that could be remedied by the Department without causing heartache or inconvenience to people in the industry, and without the need for the many conferences that now take place. Somewhere along the line a little sympathy must be shown for this industry, which is developing so rapidly. There seems to be a move afoot to allow a big organisation to come in and take control, and drive the smaller boats out of the industry, and if the men do not fall into line with the framework of the organisation, they will not be in the industry for very long.

**Mr. BEARDMORE** (Balonne) (8 p.m.): First of all, I congratulate the Treasurer on the very fine Budget that has been prepared for this session of Parliament. Much has been said for and against it by hon. members on both sides of the Chamber, but all must recognise that the Treasurer has a very heavy responsibility in keeping the State financially stable.

I do not intend to go into the details of the Budget, on which, as I say, I think the Treasurer has done a very fine job. I do not very often rise to speak in this Chamber. I prefer on every available opportunity to get out among my constituents, the people I represent in this Parliament, because I realise that action is much more effective than words. In that way, I am able to learn on the spot the problems that beset my constituents from time to time and, because of the experience gained in the back country of Queensland, where I have lived most of my life, I am able to understand the problems that arise and to make intelligent representations on their behalf.

The land and what it will produce is, of course, the life blood of this country. It is vitally important that the mistakes that have been made in the past on land matters should be rectified. The opportunity to do so now presents itself. It was previous Labour Governments that made the majority of those mistakes.

Balonne is, or should be, primarily a wool-growing area. Cattle-raising also plays an important part in the electorate. In the western parts of the electorate, adjoining that of the hon. member for Warrego, reasonably large areas are necessary because of the hazards of drought, which in fact has raged for the last five or six years. In many of the western areas drought still prevails and action must be taken to as far as possible provide means of combating it. Firstly, adequate-sized areas should be made available to prevent over-stocking. Many factors exist as an inducement to over-stocking one being high rentals and lower receipts for the products of the land. When droughts occur, as they inevitable do, the ill-effects are doubly pronounced and, even though rain falls and the drought is broken, the country takes longer to recuperate.

Growing wool today is, in the vernacular, a mug's game. My wool-broker advised me recently that at the last wool sales held in Brisbane the average price for greasy wool when the sales closed was 52d. a lb. At the previous sale the average price was 48.73d. a lb. When one realises that the Bureau of Economics estimates that the average cost of growing and marketing a pound of wool is 48d., one wonders where the profit comes from. I am blessed if I know where it comes from, and the puzzle is why men go on the land under the conditions obtaining today.

I suppose we can be pleased that men will go into the back country and spend their lives working from daylight to dark, rearing families in unfavourable circumstances, when they could remain in the city enjoying the amenities that are available there. Instead, they choose to tackle a much less comfortable life because the love of the soil is in their hearts, even though the reward is small.

Let us be thankful that we have people whose roots are in the soil. If it were not for them there would be no cities. Let us be thankful they are prepared to go on the land and give it a go, not knowing perhaps the heartbreaks in store for them, but still knowing that they are responsible for producing the wealth that is so important to the economy of the State. I shall emphasise that as I go along.

The landholders's lot today is a precarious one, the small man being the most affected. Strangely enough, when land is made available for selection there is generally a rush of applications, yet I know of many properties that lately have been sold for less than it cost to put the improvements on them. To bring it closer to home, without mentioning any names, a member of this Parliament told me only a few days ago that he had bought a property for much less than the value of the improvements. Yet we hear of people on the land referred to as "greedy graziers"! What an injustice! What a lack of understanding! Because of their calling they are the most important unit in the State's economy.

Generally, the holders of large areas, where they are justified, with their increased turnover are able to look after themselves to a degree. But do not forget that they have been on the land a lifetime—perhaps the whole of their life, and their fathers before them, learning the hard way, taking the knocks and putting it down to experience. Someone has said that they finish up at the seaside, but who has earned it more than they? There are many more city dwellers than landholders with homes at the seaside.

I have a great deal of sympathy for the battler on a small area, one that is sub-standard now because it was designed as a living area in the years when wool was bringing three times as much as it is today. His income is curtailed and restricted to what

his small area will produce, and so it becomes necessary to cut the cloth to suit the garment, as it were, because he is entirely dependent on the price he gets for his produce on the available market. Because restricted areas have proved too small in the light of present-day primary produce values, landholders are forced to go in for cropping in an attempt to add something to their earnings. Very often that is a trap for beginners. Where it is possible to switch from wool-growing and where crops can be grown as winter fodder, they can be of great value as supplementary feed. With crop-fattening the position is improved a little, but even then a suitable season is necessary. It may be that there is enough rain to grow fodder on the Downs, where it is spread over a period. In that area they can depend on having rain every few weeks, but in areas where 4 or 5 inches falls in one storm and no more for six weeks, or two or three months—

**Mr. Walsh:** What is the rainfall in your area?

**Mr. BEARDMORE:** It is supposed to be 20 inches a year, but that has not been my experience in the last five years. The recordings were 7 inches, 9 inches, and then we gave up counting. To depend on good or regular seasons beyond, say, Meandarra is nothing short of suicide. I realise that in odd seasons crops grow well anywhere if enough rain falls. That happens at odd intervals as far west as St. George, but woe betide the person who depends on such a season. Crop-growing is chancy at any time. In western areas it is plain stupid. We attempt to do some cultivation on our St. George property but with most disappointing results, notwithstanding that at the last Royal National Association field trials my son won second prize for pasture improvement with buffel grass in the 20-inch rainfall area.

It cost more than £20 an acre to clear the land for the plough and to plant it with buffel grass. Does it pay? Of course it does not. It puts that method of improving the carrying capacity out of the question.

**An Opposition Member:** What about the brigalow?

**Mr. BEARDMORE:** We have no brigalow in the western areas to speak of. We have wire grass in our country. With land costing 30s. an acre, it would pay much better to buy a farm in a better and more secure rainfall area, but wool-growers are wool-growers, and farmers are farmers, and money does not grow on mulga trees.

I want to draw attention to the plight of settlers on small areas that were designed by a Labour Government before 1957, particularly in the Hannaford and Meandarra areas, the areas north of Goondiwindi and Bungunya, and the Moonie River area. The idea was that grain could be grown there successfully. This idea was exploded

years ago. About four bags to the acre were grown for four consecutive years on one property at Meandarra by a man who is dedicated to farming. That would barely cover the cost of the seed. He could tell his own story. No doubt the contributing factor to having these small areas made available at the time was that wool was then worth from 10s. to 12s. a lb., and more, and land was cut up on that basis. It was regarded at the time as a living area. That has put the settler in a very sorry position today, when it is a different picture. I know most of the pitfalls as well as the good spots. Settlers who depend on wool-growing on areas that are too small on today's wool prices are heading for disaster unless they are given practical help. No-one would be more conscious of this than the financial institutions who usually find the necessary cash for such ventures. Where it is proved that the selector has reached the stage where he cannot make his selection pay because the area is too small, would it not be better to give him a helping hand by giving him an additional area where possible, so as to make him an economic unit? In many cases nothing can be done because no land is available, but where leases of large areas are falling due would it not be better from an economic as well as a humane point of view to give the proved battler an additional area, and thereby make him self-supporting, rather than search for new settlers who still have to prove their worth? After all, a Government has some responsibility because of the designing of sub-standard areas in the first place. It has been said that additional areas are a present. If they are, we must concede that the original selection too, was a present. The selector on an area that is too small can look forward only to a lot of hard work and hardship for his family and himself. No-one realises more than I do that land settlement is a "must" to develop this State. Let it be sane settlement that will go hand in hand with successful settlers, rather than produce a race of peasants who know that if they leave their properties for a day it has to be made up for on the morrow.

**Mr. Walsh:** You are giving the Minister a lecture now.

**Mr. BEARDMORE:** The Minister would know all about this. I feel ashamed when I go round and see the wife of a small settler doing a man's work in an effort to help her husband because he cannot afford to pay for labour. This is more noticeable where development conditions are a Crown requirement. The settler becomes a Jack-of-all-trades, and because he cannot afford to pay labour something has to be neglected. His family is neglected as well as his work.

Each district has its own problem. What is suitable to one district is unsuitable in another. I hope the Minister for Public Lands will take heed and see that in future no sub-standard areas are made available.

I have some authentic figures here issued by one of our leading wool firms, Dalgety and New Zealand Loan Ltd., which gives some emphasis to the importance of this industry. The figures refer to the amount realised from wool in this country. The company's Annual Wool Digest for the season 1961-1962 says—

"Exports of wool for year ended June, 1961 and 1962

"The following statement shows the recorded exports of wool for the year ended June, 1961 and 1962. The particulars do not necessarily bear any relation to the production or sales of wool in Australia during the same periods.

"The figures for 1961-1962 are preliminary and are subject to revision."

Then these are the values of wool shown as having been exported to the various countries in 1962—

	£
United Kingdom . . . . .	49,355,000
India . . . . .	2,436,000
Ireland, Republic of . . . . .	650,000
Other Commonwealth Countries . . . . .	403,000
Austria . . . . .	1,371,000
Belgium-Luxembourg . . . . .	19,877,000
China . . . . .	5,956,000
Czechoslovakia . . . . .	4,756,000
France . . . . .	30,972,000
Germany, Eastern . . . . .	362,000
Germany, Federal Republic of . . . . .	15,237,000
Italy . . . . .	35,441,000
Japan . . . . .	112,210,000
Mexico . . . . .	4,307,000
Netherlands . . . . .	300,000
Poland . . . . .	9,068,000
South Africa . . . . .	1,209,000
Spain . . . . .	2,166,000
Switzerland . . . . .	1,022,000
Turkey . . . . .	4,429,000
U.S.S.R. . . . .	11,449,000
United States of America . . . . .	9,696,000
Yugoslavia . . . . .	2,654,000
Other Foreign Countries . . . . .	1,464,000

The total value of wool exports from this country for the year was £330,764,000.

**Mr. Baxter:** From Queensland?

**Mr. BEARDMORE:** No, but if the hon. member wants the Queensland figures I will be very glad to give them. However, those figures give some idea of the importance of the wool industry to the country's economy. They represent about half the total value of exports from Australia. Now, is the grazing industry important?

With the exception of 1959, the year just passed was the lowest year of wool earnings. Japan was the largest buyer; she paid £112,210,000. In the same year Queensland ports handled wool for export valued at £54,443,000. It is hard to realise that, in spite of land settlement and the development that has taken place in Queensland, there

is not a corresponding increase in sheep numbers within the State. In 1910 Queensland depastured 20,332,000 sheep. Today the numbers are 22,123,000, so the increase in sheep numbers has been slight in spite of all the development and land settlement that has taken place. That is perhaps because of drought conditions that are peculiar to Queensland.

I should now like to make some reference to the St. George irrigation scheme. I have a little story to tell about it. It is something that I know because I have lived there for 45 or 50 years. These farms were originally made available by a Labour Government in areas of about 300 acres, which has since proved to be too small an area. That position has since been rectified by this Government by doubling the area of each farm and granting a secure tenure of the original farm, thus making it possible to freehold or sell should it be so desired. A substantial reduction was also made in the cost of water for irrigation. These men have been helped quite considerably, and they appreciate it.

**Mr. Walsh:** How many have converted to freehold?

**Mr. BEARDMORE:** That is their own business. I do not know. It costs money, but everyone will do it. Many of the farms have been sold. Any man who does not convert to freehold will not be showing much common sense, because there is no better means of making the land secure.

Many farmers found themselves financially embarrassed because their money was exhausted. Finance from the Agricultural Bank became hard to obtain. I commend to the Minister that he make available on secure tenure the additional areas, now special leases, also, thus providing sufficient equity for the trading banks in the towns, and enabling them to pay off loans from the Agricultural Bank and make advances to farmers in financial difficulties. At the same time, the Agricultural Bank would be relieved of its responsibility and would have money available for investment elsewhere.

**Mr. Houston:** What bank would take them on?

**Mr. BEARDMORE:** I know one bank that would.

**Mr. Walsh:** A creek bank?

**Mr. BEARDMORE:** It will not be a creek bank; it is one of the strongest banks in Australia.

Frankly, this scheme should never have been initiated. It is difficult for settlers at St. George who raise fat lambs to compete against more favourably situated areas on the Downs, where the distance to Brisbane is half that from St. George. Dalby, too, provides a market that is only at the back door of the Downs. The St. George irrigation farmers and their wives have done a wonderful job.

**Mr. Houston:** What are they growing?

**Mr. BEARDMORE:** Lucerne, and they are raising fat lambs. They should not be compelled to work themselves to a shadow merely because they are on irrigated farms.

There is another matter on which I did not want to touch, but I feel now that I must. It is another aspect of land settlement. I have been disturbed for quite a long time at the amount that it seems to cost to enter a ballot when land is thrown open for selection. I know that certain improvements put there by previous owners have to be paid for by the incoming settlers, but I think great care should be taken to see that the incoming settler is protected. He needs all the protection that can be given to him.

**Mr. Walsh:** I hope the Minister is listening to you now.

**Mr. BEARDMORE:** He will be.

I have in mind a property in the Mitchell district that was bought by a large pastoral firm about 15 years ago for £26,000. It was bought in the dying stages of the lease, so it is unlikely that much would have been spent on additional improvements. The purchase no doubt justified itself because about 19,000 sheep were moved to the property from another one owned by the same company at Quilpie or Adavale—I am not certain which—where severe drought prevailed. They were shorn twice while on agistment on the Mitchell property before being returned home. I am not attempting for one moment to discredit the company referred to. It is entitled to keep its sheep alive and, for this purpose, to move them where it wishes. In fact, it is entirely its own business. Sheep are a national asset and should be kept alive if possible. However, I wish to point out that the purchase price paid for the property was £26,000, and when it was made available for selection Government officers valued the improvements that the incoming selectors were asked to pay for at over £62,000. The value of improvements on one selection was £17,585 and on another, £22,000. In each case the amount would have to be found in cash, whereas my experience tells me that had the selector had the opportunity of putting the improvements there himself he would have received the advantage of an income-tax rebate on those improvements, with the exception of a house that he may have erected for himself, and they would have cost him next to nothing. This is not an isolated case, of course. A similar set of circumstances operates in all areas made available for selection.

The selections in the Mitchell district to which I have referred were five in number and ranged up to 50,000 acres in area. Immediately adjacent to the boundary of the property are selections that were made available originally in areas of from 4,000

to 9,000 acres, where the occupiers are waging a losing battle because of the small areas. One of the blocks could well have been made available as an additional area to those who now must carry on the best way they can, with the knowledge that their only hope is to sell to a neighbour or somebody who can build up an aggregation. That is not good land settlement in my book, and I am sure that many other people agree with me.

I am sorry to know that two Cabinet Ministers are suffering from illnesses undoubtedly caused by overwork. The Minister for Labour and Industry, Mr. Morris, has always brought zest to his work, and unfortunately his health has suffered. I hope he is soon restored to his usual vigour and good health.

I congratulate the hon. member for Wavell, Mr. Alex Dewar, on his elevation to the office of Acting Minister. His duties will be announced by the Premier next week, and I predict that he will do a good job in the department to which he is appointed.

The Hon. Otto Madsen is also carrying on as Minister for Agriculture and Forestry under difficulties, and I hope that he is soon restored to good health.

I am afraid that the Hon. Jack Pizzey also has been burning the midnight oil. Not long ago I travelled with him into my electorate when he opened high-school tops at Tara and St. George, two State schools, one at Deepwater and one at Westmar, a provisional school at Weengallon, and an extensive addition to the Meandarra State School. I should say that when I became member for Balonne there was not one high-school top in the electorate. There are now five, and several new State schools are being erected. There is also a new school at Moonie. I am proud to represent the district, and I thank the Minister for his very valuable assistance.

**Mr. Houston** interjected.

**Mr. BEARDMORE:** There are not enough scholars; I know my area.

**Mr. Houston:** I do not think you do.

**Mr. BEARDMORE:** I know my area, and I think the hon. member had better pay more attention to his. It has been a constant battle for me. The Minister knows that I have been on his back for more school buildings and I appreciate what he has done for my electorate. I say that the Hon. Jack Pizzey is one of the best Ministers for Education this State has ever known. I am indeed sorry to hear of his illness and hope that he will soon be well again. He has done such a remarkable job in the education field that one could unhesitatingly say that it is the most outstanding in Queensland history. I thank him for the attention he has given to Balonne.

Last week I went with my friend, Hon. E. Evans, to officially open the electricity project at Meandarra. It is wonderful to see these country towns enjoying the amenities that are being provided by the present Government, amenities that will make life more livable for them. Mr. Evans has a full-time job, in which is included that of Minister for Mines. This brings him into the Moonie oilfield, which promises to be not only a good oilfield but a fabulous one. I am not a specialist in oil lore, but I did spend quite some time, when in America recently, in visiting oil installations and learning a little of the background of oil drilling. When I was there I was told—in fact it was impressed on me by American oil men—that we did not have merely a good oilfield; they were quite certain that we had a fabulous oilfield. I hope that that forecast is realised.

It is interesting to know that the average yield of oil wells in America is only 11 barrels a day. That makes the Moonie oilfield look something out of the box. I venture to hope with some confidence that in the near future Moonie will provide the necessary revenue to give Queensland a push ahead that will benefit everyone in an indirect way. This Government will see to it that that money is used in the right way for the progress of this State. Queensland is in a happy position and I am proud that the Moonie oilfield is in the electorate of Balonne, which I represent.

Before resuming my seat, I should like to express my appreciation to the members of the A.L.P. residing in Balonne for their expression of confidence in me as their representative in Parliament. The fact that no-one in the electorate offered himself as an A.L.P. candidate in the election next year speaks for itself. It gives me some pleasure to know that my efforts as their member are appreciated in such a marked way. I understand that my A.L.P. opponent, who resides in Brisbane, is a saw doctor. I mention that fact without any intention of deprecating his means of earning a living, but the thought has come into my mind that perhaps he thinks he is a witch doctor, too, and can cure the ills of Balonne, if there are any, from Brisbane. He has the job ahead of him. He is like the man with the wheelbarrow.

I again congratulate the Treasurer on the job that he is doing.

Progress reported.

#### SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

“That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until Tuesday next.”

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 8.36 p.m.