

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**TUESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 1962**

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**TUESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER, 1962**

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

#### ASSENT TO BILLS

Assent to the following Bills reported by Mr. Speaker—

- Money Lenders Acts Amendment Bill.
- Primary Producers' Co-operative Associations Acts Amendment Bill.
- Business Names Bill.
- Co-operative Societies Acts Amendment Bill.

#### QUESTIONS

##### RAILWAY PASSES TO PENSIONERS

Mr. COBURN (Burdekin), for Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South), asked the Acting Minister for Labour and Industry—

“For the last twelve months for which figures are readily available, (a) how many passes were issued by his Department to pensioners and people in necessitous circumstances and (b) what was the monetary value of this concession?”

Hon. A. T. DEWAR (Wavell) replied—

“(a) Twenty-eight thousand five hundred and forty-three during the financial year ended June 30, 1962.”

“(b) In reference to (a), the sum of £69,323 was expended by the Department of Labour and Industry. However, as this Department pays only half the cost, the other half being borne by the Railway Department, the monetary value was £138,646.”

##### RAIL FARE CONCESSION TO PENSIONERS

Mr. COBURN (Burdekin), for Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South), asked the Minister for Transport—

“(1) When was the half rail fare concession first granted to Queensland pensioners by the State Government?”

“(2) From that date to the latest date for which figures are readily available, how many of these concession cards have been issued to pensioners?”

“(3) What is the estimated total value to pensioners of this concession?”

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

“(1 to 3) The half rail fare concession to Queensland pensioners was introduced by the present Country Party-Liberal Government and became operative from July 1, 1960. Since that date it has been extensively used by pensioners, and numerous letters of appreciation have been received from many who have considerably benefited by the present Government's

generous and humane action, which gesture was refused by previous Labour Governments. In 1960-1961, 42,323 concession cards were issued and the number increased to 47,897 in 1961-1962. Latest figures for this year total 57,304 which reveals the increasing popularity of the concession. It would be impossible to estimate the tremendous saving and benefit that the concession has meant to so many valued and esteemed Queensland citizens.”

##### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE, CURRAJONG STATE SCHOOL

Mr. TUCKER (Townsville North) asked the Minister for Public Works and Local Government—

“(1) Have the sketch plans for the drainage and installation of sewerage at the Currajong State School been completed by his Department's architect at Townsville?”

“(2) If so, what is recommended and when is it anticipated that costs will be calculated?”

Hon. H. RICHTER (Somerset) replied—

“(1) Plans for this work are not yet complete. In his speech delivered to the House on November 13 last the Honourable Member for Townsville North indicated that he was fully aware of the clayey nature of the Currajong State School grounds which presents problems in planning septic installation with a satisfactory method of disposal of effluent and associated drainage at this school.”

“(2) See answer to Question (1).”

##### LIQUOR PRICES, BOWEN

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

“(1) Further to my question of November 21, 1962, on Bowen liquor prices, will he seek the reason why the Queensland Hotels Association in a public notice, published in ‘The Bowen Independent’ of Friday, November 16, 1962, stated that the prices published were the only ones to which alterations had been suggested by the Licensing Commission, when in fact it had been also recommended that the price of the 7 oz. glass of draught beer be reduced by ½d. per glass?”

“(2) What were the further facts submitted which caused the Commission to reverse its decision within fourteen days?”

Hon. A. W. MUNRO (Toowong) replied—

“(1) I have been informed by the Licensing Commission that its attention had already been drawn to a notice, published under the name of Queensland Hotels Association in ‘The Bowen Independent’ of Friday, November, 16, 1962, announcing reduction in certain liquor prices in Bowen. I am further informed that the statement in such notice ‘These

are the only prices to which alterations have been suggested by the Commission' is not in accordance with the facts and that the Commission on November 22, 1962, requested the Bowen Branch of the Association to furnish an explanation of this mis-statement."

"(2) As a general comment on this Question I may say that the additional facts submitted to the Commission related to the economics of hotel businesses at Bowen which facts were not available to the Commission at the time of its first intimation as to prices to Bowen licensees on November 2, 1962. I also refer to my answer to the Honourable Member on November 21. To this I now add that I do not propose to set myself up as an extrajudicial authority to catechise or cross-examine the Licensing Commission as to the carrying out of its duties. In this connection I remind the Honourable Member for Townsville North that the Honourable Member for Bowen is most assiduous in carrying out his Parliamentary duties in all matters affecting the Bowen area. The Honourable Member for Bowen is, however, quite punctilious in not taking any action which could possibly be regarded as an attempt to influence the determination of a quasi judicial tribunal and I feel that the Honourable Member for Townsville North would be well advised to follow such an excellent example."

MOTOR VEHICLE FOR POLICE OFFICER,  
PORT DOUGLAS

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

"Owing to the heavy motor-vehicle traffic on the Cook Highway and the extensive patrol duties carried out by the police officer stationed at Port Douglas, will he grant this officer a motor-vehicle in place of the motor cycle now used?"

Hon. J. C. A. PIZZEY (Isis) replied—

"The Police Department is aware of the necessity for a motor vehicle at Port Douglas. A vehicle cannot be provided for this Station during 1962-1963, but Port Douglas has been listed for consideration as further finance becomes available for the purchase of additional motor vehicles."

PAINTERS DISMISSED FROM PUBLIC WORKS  
DEPARTMENT

Mr. DONALD (Ipswich East) asked the Minister for Public Works and Local Government—

"(1) How many painters have been dismissed from the Public Works Department since October 1, 1962?"

"(2) How many painters employed by the Department have been requested to take their annual leave during this period?"

Hon. H. RICHTER (Somerset) replied—

"(1) My Department considerably increased its work force of painters from 181 employees in January last to 313 as at September 30, 1962, to undertake an above-normal programme of painting work throughout the State. With the tapering off of such a heavy programme of work it could be expected that on completion of jobs some painters would be paid off, and in consequence since October 1, 1962, it has been necessary to reduce the number of painters employed by my Department from 313 to 270. Since July 1, 1962, the Housing Commission has let tenders for the external repainting of 777 homes and for the internal repainting of 159 homes. In addition to this all new structures are being painted. It will be seen that the Government is making every effort to employ the maximum number of painters."

"(2) Since October 1 last three painters in accordance with the usual practice have been requested to take the annual leave which had become due to each employee."

OFF-COURSE BOOKMAKERS' LICENCES,  
INNISFAIL AND BABINDA

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Mulgrave) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

"Following the declaration of Innisfail as an open town, when can the issue of off-course betting licences in Innisfail and Babinda be expected?"

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

"Off-course bookmakers' licences for Innisfail and Babinda cannot be considered until nominations are received from the Principal Club—The North Queensland Racing Association. The Club in question will be asked for a statement of its intentions."

BULK-SUGAR TERMINAL, CAIRNS

Mr. ARMSTRONG (Mulgrave) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

"What is the latest stage of development of the bulk-sugar terminal at Cairns?"

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

"The Cairns Harbour Board has commenced the dredging of the new berth for the bulk terminal. Test boring on the site and site preparation are proceeding and the Consulting Engineers for the project have working plans in hand. The State has approached Loan Council for a special financial allocation for this work and I understand the application has been circulated to other Premiers by the Chairman of Loan Council. I expect a reply in the very near future."

## PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table—

Order in Council under the Public Service Acts, 1922 to 1960.

Orders in Council under the Explosives Acts, 1952 to 1961.

Orders in Council under the Fisheries Acts, 1957 to 1959.

Order in Council under the City of Brisbane Market Acts, 1960 to 1962.

Regulation under the Sugar Experiment Stations Acts, 1900 to 1958.

By-laws Nos. 897 to 901 inclusive under the Railways Acts, 1914 to 1961.

Order in Council under the River Improvement Trust Acts, 1940 to 1959.

Regulation under the Statistical Returns Acts, 1896 to 1935.

Ordinance under the City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1960.

## SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

## PASSAGE OF APPROPRIATION BILL THROUGH ALL STAGES IN ONE DAY

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier): I move—

“That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would otherwise prevent the receiving of Resolutions from the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means on the same day as they shall have passed in those Committees, and the passing of an Appropriation Bill through all its stages in one day.”

Motion agreed to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTS  
AMENDMENT BILL

## INITIATION

**Hon. H. RICHTER** (Somerset—Minister for Public Works and Local Government): I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of the desirableness of introducing a Bill to amend the Local Government Acts, 1936 to 1961, in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

QUEENSLAND LAW SOCIETY ACTS  
AMENDMENT BILL

## INITIATION IN COMMITTEE

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

**Hon. A. W. MUNRO** (Toowong—Minister for Justice) (11.18 a.m.): I move—

“That it is desirable that a Bill be introduced to amend the Queensland Law Society Acts, 1952 to 1961, in certain particulars.”

The object of this Bill is to provide a means for further protecting members of the public for whom moneys and other property are held in trust by former legal practitioners after having been struck off the Solicitors' Roll or suspended from practice, or having died.

The council of the Queensland Law Society Incorporated, over the years has been very concerned with the plight of the people for whom property may have been held in trust by a former practitioner. Quite apart from the effects of any stealing or fraudulent misappropriation, it sometimes happens that the former legal practitioner, at the time of his being struck off the roll or suspended from practice, holds documents for various clients as well as property in trust. There have been cases where a legal practitioner struck off or suspended has either refused or neglected to account properly to his clients for moneys in his trust account.

In some instances the former practitioner placed in these circumstances has satisfactorily accounted to his clients for the documents and moneys held by him on their behalf, but in other cases this has not been done and the members of the public concerned may have had to wait a very long time before obtaining the moneys to which they were rightfully entitled.

It has been felt for some time that there should be some power vested in somebody to seize, or to authorise some other person to seize, all the documents held by a practitioner struck off or suspended and to control or appoint another person to control the moneys in the trust account of such a practitioner.

When a legal practitioner is struck off the roll or suspended from practice, he ceases to be subject to the control of the Queensland Law Society Incorporated except that a nominee, appointed under the Queensland Law Society Acts prior to the striking off or suspension, may have power to continue to control the practitioner's trust account for the balance of the period provided.

The society's powers also cease in relation to a legal practitioner when he dies and it has been thought that occasions could arise where some control is necessary over the trust moneys and documents of a practitioner who dies.

The proposed Bill is one which was originally submitted by the Queensland Law Society and later revised after a conference between Professor Harrison, Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Queensland, Mr. W. H. Hart (of the Queensland Law Society), and the Acting Solicitor-General, Mr. Skinner.

The Bill will authorise the appointment of a receiver by the council of the Queensland Law Society Incorporated in any case where a former legal practitioner has been and remains struck off the roll, or has been and

remains suspended from practice, or, having been and remaining struck off the roll or suspended, dies.

Similarly there will be authority for the appointment of a receiver by the Supreme Court or a Judge thereof where a legal practitioner dies. It will be appreciated that it will not be necessary to appoint a receiver in every such case, but only in those cases where such an appointment is advisable.

The measure will not apply to any former practitioner who at the time when he was struck off the roll or was suspended from practice or at the time of his death was in partnership with any other practitioner, as it has been the experience of the Queensland Law Society Incorporated that the same problems are not encountered in the case of a partnership. In any such case the remaining partner or partners would be in a position duly to administer the trust moneys and other property and to produce any documents required.

The Bill will enable a receiver to be appointed where a practitioner is struck off the roll or is suspended from practice for some reason other than that of stealing or fraudulent misappropriation, as well as for those particular reasons.

There has been at least one case where a practitioner who was struck off the roll for reasons not involving any dishonesty had been so careless with his clients' documents that they were known to be lying about in public places.

The receiver will be a receiver of the moneys in any trust account in any bank in the name or firm name of the former practitioner or in the name of his personal representative and, except in the case of a former practitioner who has died, other property, whether moneys or not, held in trust by him for another person, as well as books of account, deeds, and other documents and writings of any description relating to any of the trust property or his former practice as a practitioner.

The cases of death have been placed in a somewhat different category as usually there is an executor or administrator who handles the estate of the deceased. However, as previously stated, the Supreme Court or a judge thereof is to be empowered to appoint a receiver where a legal practitioner dies.

The receiver will be clothed with certain powers to enable him to carry out his functions and duties of properly dealing with the trust property, for example, to enable him to forbid any dealings with any trust account, except dealings by himself, and to enable him to advertise for claimants and to settle claims in respect of any property of which he has been appointed receiver.

The Council of the Queensland Law Society or any officer of that society or any other person may be appointed a receiver.

The receiver's remuneration for his services, as well as his costs, will be payable by the Queensland Law Society out of the Legal Practitioners' Fidelity Guarantee Fund, and in default of agreement between the council of the society and the receiver as to the amount payable, the Supreme Court or a judge thereof, on an application by the society or the receiver, will be empowered to determine the amount to be paid.

It is the opinion of a senior counsel that any deficiency in a trust account of a practitioner is not rateably borne by the clients whose moneys are in the trust account. In other words, each unauthorised withdrawal of trust moneys by the practitioner may be deemed to be a withdrawal of the moneys in the trust account at the date of the withdrawal which were first paid into the trust account. This means that of the clients who have moneys in the trust account at the time of striking off, or suspension, or death, of the practitioner, some may receive twenty shillings in the pound and some may receive nothing.

The Bill seeks to provide that, in the settlement of claims by the receiver, the trust moneys are to be distributed amongst the claimants in such manner that any deficiency is borne by them in proportion to the amount of their claims. The Supreme Court or a judge thereof will be empowered to give additional authorities to a receiver and to give such directions as it or he deems fit for the carrying out of the objects of the measure.

While it might be felt that the powers sought by the measure are somewhat extensive, it should also be borne in mind that it is most essential that the public should be protected by some scheme for the administration of the trust property and documents of a practitioner in the circumstances mentioned.

The measure will impose upon the Queensland Law Society an onerous function which will involve that society, and therefore the profession, in rather heavy expenses in implementing the scheme.

The rights of the practitioner affected will be fully protected as the legislation will provide that the practitioner affected may, at any time, apply to the court for an order that the appointment of a receiver be terminated.

The legislation is submitted for the consideration of hon. members as a measure of protection to the public, and I feel sure that such a worthy objective will receive general commendation.

**Mr. DUGGAN** (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) (11.28 a.m.): I think there will be agreement with the Minister's statement that a measure of this nature should be commended. It is obviously a fairly involved measure. The only aspect that I am concerned with is whether, in affording some protection for the public—and we desire to see that the public is amply

protected—we are creating some administrative or judicial machinery that may unnecessarily involve extra costs in giving effect to the measure. I think all of us view with apprehension the extent to which some members of this learned profession occasionally default, with the public as the losers. The other day we had an instance of a person who enjoyed a very high standing in the community, a person who apparently was sufficiently affluent to engage in a wide range of activities involving very high expenditure of money, and then overnight people who had deposited funds with him learned to their dismay that he had heavy liabilities running into many thousands of pounds.

It is very poor consolation for members of the public, who have very great trust in the legal profession, to find that there are black sheep among them, though I suppose the percentage of black sheep in the legal profession is lower than in most other professions. Nevertheless, a very high degree of responsibility devolves on members of the legal profession, particularly solicitors. After all, they are specially trained people from whom the public seek advice to protect themselves in all sorts of circumstances, whether it be legal advice or advice on the safeguarding of their funds.

Therefore, it is fitting that the council of the Queensland Law Society should take steps to strengthen the powers that it already possesses and to instil in the minds of the public a feeling of greater confidence in the profession. I welcome the society's declaration and action in trying to accomplish that purpose and I want to pay a tribute to the Queensland Law Society.

I had a case comparatively recently, in which, as a result of a verdict given, judgment was entered for an amount of £700 or £800 in favour of a minor, a lad of 16 years. The cheque was drawn in favour of his parents. In terms of the court order the lad was not permitted to operate on the fund until he reached the age of 21 years. His parents were very anxious to have the money deposited at a higher rate of interest than normal bank interest. I suggested to them that it might be desirable for them to obtain authority to buy either S.E.A. stock or Commonwealth bonds giving a higher return, and they accepted that advice. When the cheque was presented for payment for the purchase of the scrip it was found that it had been wrongly endorsed. By the time the cheque was sent back to the person concerned for an appropriate signature, the solicitor had died. As the payment was made from a trust fund, several months elapsed and the stockbroker had to wait four or five months because the scrip had been forwarded to the person when the first cheque was received. I found the Law Society extremely co-operative, particularly in arranging for the matter to be cleared expeditiously.

I repeat my plea to the Minister to examine ways and means of taking from the ambit of a Supreme Court judge some of the decision in these matters. It should be fairly easy to ascertain the fact if a person has placed a certain sum of money in the hands of a solicitor or can produce evidence that funds have been invested in a particular way, or even if they are in the solicitor's trust fund account. If it can be established that the deposit was made or that certain certificates were purchased with those funds, surely it should be a simple matter to determine that that person has a right to the money. While it might be in accordance with the best practices to get a Supreme Court judge to determine the terms and conditions on which certain authorities should be exercised or certain payments made, those applications must necessarily involve cost to the people concerned.

If there have already been defalcations and losses of funds, it means a heavier burden on the remaining solicitors in contributing to the Legal Practitioners' Fidelity Guarantee Fund, to which the Minister referred. I think it is necessary, of course, that these payments be made. Solicitors themselves realise that they are acting in a position of very high public trust so they naturally want to create an image of trust and integrity and honesty, which most of them do achieve. The records show that there are very few defaulters, but when they default the sums of money involved are large. It seems fashionable today for those people who deliberately default to do it on a grand scale. Petty cash no longer interests them. They want to do things in the grand manner.

The measure is a timely one but I should like to examine it more carefully. The Minister recited the various actions needed to be taken to give effect to the proposed provisions. They seem to be very necessary and desirable except for the reservation I make as to examining the possibility of circumventing the necessity for calling in people who make these various applications.

I feel that more and more work seems to be building up for legal people. The paper work involved might be very remunerative to the profession, but costs of litigation worry me very much. No matter how fair they are claimed to be, they do become astronomical, and I think that we should be searching for ways and means of reducing the costs involved in giving effect to the wishes of the Legislature in matters of this kind.

That is the only cautious criticism, if I may use that term, that I have to offer against this measure. I think, whilst regretting the necessity for it, that its general purpose is very commendable. I also express appreciation of the alacrity with which the Queensland Law Society took the steps that I mentioned in the case to which I referred.

When the previous Bill was before us and the question of defalcations was being considered, one would have thought that something would have been heard from the experienced members of the profession and the Minister, with the advice of his legal officers, on means of dealing with expected contingencies of this kind. Human nature being what it is, there always seems to be someone acting outside the scope of the law in some respect. In one particular case it was rather disturbing to find, not through dishonesty but as a result of sheer carelessness, documents of an important nature being discovered in a public place. That sort of conduct does not leave a feeling of security in the minds of people who have dealings with members of the legal profession.

The objectives of the Bill are commendable, and my only hope is that the processes involved in these things are absolutely necessary. I should also appreciate some comments from the Minister on whether it is possible in some way to obviate the necessity of constantly seeking legal opinions or judges' decisions. I feel that the prima-facie evidence is available in these cases to enable prompt and less costly action to be taken.

Until I have had an opportunity of seeing the Bill and examining it more carefully, I shall content myself with these general observations.

**Mr. BURROWS** (Port Curtis) (11.38 a.m.): I think that everybody welcomes any legislation, even though it may be considered weak, designed to tighten control over these trust accounts and facilitate negotiations on any transaction that might occur as outlined by the Minister. It is regrettable to me that the Government and the Minister have not profited more than they have by the experience of the last 12 months or two years.

A defaulter is just as much a burglar as one who breaks in to a home. In fact, he is more so, because, unlike in the case of a burglar, one reposes a trust in a solicitor. If it is possible to have differing categories of badness, a person who embezzles trust money would be in a very low one. The Minister, with everybody in the legal profession, knows that sums of money can be embezzled that would represent comfort to many people. The money could mean security for the remainder of their lives for some people, and even for their children. We find that in these cases prosecutions are delayed and justice is to a certain extent defeated by the defaulter's using his ill-gotten gains to conduct his defence and lodge appeals through all the courts. Delaying tactics of this kind would not be available to any ordinary citizen. The person concerned realises that he cannot defeat justice and can only delay it; but he delays it by using the money that he has misappropriated and still holds.

In another instance, a man with a big practice, who was held in fairly high esteem by people in the district in which he practised, became fairly deeply involved. Those of us who take an interest in these matters, and whose business brings us in contact with trust accounts of various kinds, were rather startled to see that another solicitor had moved in very quickly and taken over the practice within 24 hours of the balloon's going up on this defalcation or deficiency. From memory, I should say that was over 12 months ago. Although another solicitor moved in promptly and took over the practice and quite a lot of goodwill that attached to it, the solicitor who defaulted has not yet been arraigned before a court for prosecution as he would have been if he had been an ordinary criminal and had not belonged to a society membership of which was thought to lift a man onto a higher social level than would membership of the ordinary burglars' association, or something of that sort.

As I said before, I think the ends of justice are defeated if justice is not administered consistently. I am not asking that there should be undue haste in prosecuting people; but I think that in the minds of all fair-minded people a man should not be given any impunity or consideration, or have his prosecution delayed, merely because his trade or occupation is described as a profession.

**Hon. A. W. MUNRO** (Toowong—Minister for Justice) (11.43 a.m.), in reply: To reply very briefly to the remarks of the hon. member for Port Curtis, I gather that the hon. member supports the objectives of the Bill.

**Mr. Burrows:** Definitely.

**Mr. MUNRO:** The same can be said of the Leader of the Opposition, and I appreciate his reception of the Bill. Although he expressed himself in cautious terms and confined his remarks only to its objective, I think that is quite natural at this stage of the Bill. I join with the Leader of the Opposition in expressing appreciation of the work done by the Queensland Law Society and by Professor Harrison of the University of Queensland in relation to the Bill. They were particularly helpful in assisting us to draft it, and I should like to mention also the work of the Acting Solicitor-General, Mr. Skinner, in that connection.

As I understood him, the Leader of the Opposition suggested that he had some feelings of apprehension about whether undue cost might be involved in the reference of matters of this kind to the Supreme Court, or to a judge of the Supreme Court. With reference to that, I might say that, although in my introductory remarks I did make some references to judges of the Supreme Court, I feel that, when the Leader of the Opposition has had an opportunity

of reading my introductory speech and studying the precise terms of the Bill he will realise that only in exceptional circumstances will there be any necessity for referring a matter to the court. The broad principle of the Bill is to give authority to the appointment of a receiver, and it is the receiver who, in normal cases, will take the action that is required.

**Mr. Duggan:** That will be done very promptly, I presume?

**Mr. MUNRO:** I hope so. I realise that, as the Leader of the Opposition suggests, and as the hon. member for Port Curtis has suggested, expedition is tremendously important in these matters. That really is one of the prime objectives of the Bill, because one of the matters that has worried us recently is that, due to there being some deficiencies in the law, there has been much greater delay in dealing with cases than any of us would like. So I would include in the broad objectives of this Bill that the procedure generally will be less complex than it has been in the past, and, furthermore, that it will be more expeditious.

Motion (Mr. Munro) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

#### FIRST READING

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr. Munro, read a first time.

### REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES BILL

#### SECOND READING

**Hon. A. W. MUNRO** (Toowong—Minister for Justice) (11.48 a.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

It will be recalled that this measure is mainly administrative and, in addition, the registration provisions relating to marriage and legitimations are being altered to conform with the law of the Commonwealth. The secondary purpose is to review and consolidate the law relating to other aspects of the registration provisions so that they will be more in conformity with modern conditions and requirements.

In this general review there are some alterations of the existing procedure which I dealt with fairly fully in my introductory speech. The Bill is of an administrative nature, merely to remove what otherwise would be anomalies and inconsistencies. No question of Government policy is involved, and, in those circumstances, I feel it does not require any further explanation at this stage.

**Mr. DUGGAN** (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) (11.50 a.m.): This Bill was introduced during my temporary absence but a perusal of “*Insard*” and discussion with the Deputy Leader of the

Opposition indicate that, as the Minister pointed out, it is largely administrative; no new policies or principles are being introduced. As we understand that the passing of the measure will make for smooth working and greater uniformity between the Commonwealth and the State there certainly will be no opposition to the Bill from this side of the House.

Motion (Mr. Munro) agreed to.

#### COMMITTEE

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

Clauses 1 to 46, both inclusive, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

#### SUPPLY

### RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE—ESTIMATES—SIXTEENTH ALLOTTED DAY

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

#### ESTIMATES-IN-CHIEF, 1962-1963

### EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE—HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR (BALANCE OF VOTE)

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier) (11.52 a.m.): I move—

“That £29,165 be granted for ‘His Excellency the Governor (Balance of Vote).’”

This amount is an increase of £251 over the appropriation for last year and a increase of £2,129 over the actual expenditure for that year. Hon. members will note that there is very little alteration in the provision being made in the Vote on this occasion. The small increases are necessary in view of variations in wage rates and items of that nature.

I take the opportunity to express the Government's pleasure at Her Majesty's extension of our Governor's term of office for another three years. I am sure that every hon. member was very happy with the news, as were the people of this State generally. Since his appointment as the Queen's representative in our State, His Excellency the Governor has done a wonderful job. He has carried out his duties with great credit and with attention to all the multifarious responsibilities that he has to bear. He has indeed been a wonderful example to us all in the way he has carried out his duties in Queensland. He has travelled very widely. I doubt that there is another citizen in Queensland who has covered as much of the State and met as many of the people of Queensland as has His Excellency the Governor. As a result of his personal contacts and personality, he has endeared himself to the people of Queensland. We are indeed fortunate to have His Excellency as Governor for a

further term of office. In addition to being the Queen's representative in this State, I think I can say that he has become a good Queenslander. There is no greater advocate for Queensland than His Excellency. During the period of his leave, when he was in London he spent most of his time extolling the advantages of Queensland and its grand possibilities to the many important people he met. We are indeed fortunate to have a gentleman of his character and calibre as Governor. He has been ably assisted in carrying out his many duties by his wife, Lady May Abel Smith. I repeat that we are indeed fortunate to have His Excellency and his good Lady as Her Majesty's representatives in Queensland.

**Mr. DUGGAN** (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) (11.56 a.m.): I do not wish to take up the time of hon. members by engaging in unnecessary talk, but because of the importance of this Vote and the importance of the Governor it might be wrongly construed if I did not associate myself with the Premier, and it may be thought that the Opposition were not tremendously enthusiastic about the present Governor of this State. On behalf of the Opposition, I have said on many occasions that the traditional Labour policy is that we should give consideration to the appointment of Australians to these important posts, unless, of course, some meeting of the Commonwealth Ministers decided on a reciprocal arrangement whereby an Australian would be eligible for appointment as Governor to some other part of the British Commonwealth. If that custom applied it is possible that the Labour attitude to this matter might be modified.

However, it is the responsibility of the Government of the day to submit nominations for this office to Her Majesty the Queen. The Government did so on this occasion and the present Governor was appointed by Her Majesty. I join with the Premier and say that certainly people like Sir Henry make it hard to argue against the practice of appointing men of his calibre to this position, because undoubtedly he is a very fine Governor. I have had experience with Governors, not only in Queensland but in other parts of the Commonwealth as well, and they have all been actuated by a very high resolve and a desire to carry out their exacting duties—they are exacting—and they have done so with great credit to themselves.

Sir Henry is a man of conspicuous industry and is endowed with great gifts. On my assessment of his character, I am impressed mostly by his great knowledge of such a wide range of subjects, and the obvious interest he displays when talking to people from the groups that constitute the industries and the people of Queensland. Some people display a superficial interest in matters that are being discussed, particularly on formal visits, that a Governor is obliged to make from time to time, but Sir Henry always impresses me with his very genuine interest.

Those with whom he talks are impressed by the genuine interest he takes in their problems. When we have a Governor who displays this appropriate approach to his duties, that goes a long way to ensure the success of his appointment, as the Premier has indicated.

I do not wish to take up the time of hon. members. I endorse the Premier's very high commendation of Sir Henry and Lady May, who has been his able assistant in the performance of his duties. Many people see the glitter and the glamour associated with appointments of this nature. They see the ceremonial and the very attractive uniforms and are attracted by the colour, and the plumage, and the escorts. They see the Governor take pride of place at the main table at functions, and they see him occupying the best seat when he attends a theatre, or other places, and they think it is wonderful, but they forget that he has not very much private life. The many things he is obliged to do occasion a great deal of research. He certainly does not consider his private convenience. All in all, his is a very exacting office and to many people it would be an exasperating one. The fact that he has been carrying it out so pleasantly and so efficiently says much for his personal qualities. I have very much pleasure in joining with the Premier in paying a short but sincere tribute to the person of His Excellency the Governor.

Items (His Excellency the Governor—Balance of Vote) agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier) (12.2 p.m.): I move—

"That £905 be granted for 'Executive Council'."

This is a decrease of £65 on the appropriation for 1961-1962. Provision has been made to pay an appropriate allowance to an acting clerk of the Executive Council, and increased cost of printing and binding also has been taken into account.

Vote (Executive Council) agreed to.

#### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier) (12.3 p.m.): I move—

"That £166,624 be granted for 'Legislative Assembly'."

This is a decrease of £5,896 on the appropriation for 1961-1962 and a decrease of £3,755 on the actual expenditure for that year. The Vote shows a slight increase in salaries, of £1,577, on the appropriation for 1961-1962. This increase is due to provision being made for annual increments during 1962-1963. There is a decrease of £7,473 in the appropriation for contingencies and, as hon. members will note on looking through the items of the Vote compared with those of last year, there has been a very careful conservation of the sums allocated to Legislative Assembly.

**Mr. DUGGAN** (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) (12.4 p.m.): I do not want to say very much on this matter. The Premier has indicated that less is required this year than previously, which is rather surprising because in most departments there is an increase in these matters.

I note that there is an increase of £500 in the Library Vote, which is very timely. The cost of periodicals and books seems to be increasing, and I think we should see to it that the Parliamentary Librarian is not prevented from furnishing hon. members with books and material that can be helpful to us in the discharge of our parliamentary duties.

I should like to pay a particular tribute to the Parliamentary Librarian and his staff. I do not want to make invidious comparisons or to pick on one particular section, because if one starts praising one section one has to go round in these matters. I can say collectively that we are very fortunate in our staff right through, from the Clerk of the Parliament right down to the humblest officers who serve the requirements of Parliament House.

The Library in particular is a place where we gather material for our work. While the Librarian is very helpful, I do not see anything wrong with giving consideration to the appointment of an officer who might come under the general heading of a research officer. Certainly when we ask the Librarian to furnish particular information on a subject, he and his assistants go to a great deal of trouble to help us; but I sometimes think it would be helpful, generally speaking, to have someone who specialises in accumulating and having readily available material that might come into the category of research on general problems so that he could keep his eye on movements in matters of very great public importance. I mention, for instance, the subject of preferential voting, something now before the Parliament. Another is compensation. Indeed, material could be gathered on anything that calls for uniformity throughout the Commonwealth or that indicates a trend in certain directions. It would be a big help to have an officer with sufficient material to build up a specialised section of the Library. That is something that might be given consideration.

Not often do I praise the Government, but I want to say that, generally speaking, I approve of what has been done in the restoration of this House. I must confess that I have felt some concern at a disinclination previously to consider the preservation of this building. It is, after all, one of the most important buildings in the State, and as one travels round one sees the pride in their buildings shown by those in other States charged with the responsibility of maintaining them. I have been much impressed with their desire to preserve their buildings and improve their appointments, without meaning, of course, those things that

merely turn them into good clubs. Unquestionably, for reasons that need not now be enumerated, appropriations for repairs to this House were allowed to decline.

I do want to praise the Premier, the Speaker, and others who have advised them, for what has been accomplished. I think that a good job has been done, and I hope that there will be permanent allocations for this work. This is something that should be above party politics. It was distressing to see, until recently, the state of the Legislative Council Chamber. I hope that the improvement that has been made there will not be an incentive to endeavour to restore the Legislative Council, but I thought the torn benches and tattered carpets, and so on, were a poor advertisement for the State. Restoration work has been progressively undertaken, and I am pleased with the result.

I do not think that this Vote could be passed without suggesting that, when the major demands of the public outside for housing and so on have been met, some consideration be given to a different arrangement of seating in this Chamber. We all notice at times the empty places of hon. members who have commitments elsewhere. I think that if reasonably comfortable seats with desks were provided, many members who are obliged to attend to correspondence could do so in the Chamber. Once members are called outside and attend to business there, it is sometimes a little difficult to get them back. If correspondence or the signing of letters could be attended to in the Chamber, interest would be added to the debates by reason of the larger attendance, and I do not think that it would be a distraction if done properly. Naturally, it is easier to speak to a full than an empty House.

Consideration could also be given to air-conditioning. You and I, Mr. Taylor, have had many battles over this matter. Although I have been in Brisbane for 27 years, I do not like the humidity here compared with the invigorating climate of Toowoomba, and I must confess that the Brisbane humidity gets me down. I like plenty of air; everywhere I go I have fans running and windows open. Every time I open the windows behind me, you, Mr. Taylor, send a messenger to close them. When I think that you are preoccupied, I manage to have them raised a little, and again you complain about the draft and have them closed. I hope that, without adding to the level of noise by introducing fans, some cooling facilities might be installed here. That is becoming more or less the accepted practice. I would not want to see any vast sum of money spent on air-conditioning, but now that the Government has some of these non-recurring grants, particularly with the election coming up and an awareness down below of the political dangers of ignoring Queensland, a little bit more might be haggled out of the Commonwealth Government and diverted to this purpose.

**Mr. Nicklin:** The suggestion that we air-condition Parliament House wouldn't hit the deck down below.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** The Government is not obliged to give the reason for wanting it. I am certain that the Premier could manage it. I am not advocating great extravagance, but I feel that it would be money well spent.

I congratulate the Government on what has been done in the progressive restoration of this building. Even the stairway in my part of it is not regarded as being particularly safe. It is not used very much, but it is a pity that there is a part of the building that cannot be used by three or four people at once without someone saying that a slight risk is involved. That is not an urgent matter, but I think it is a pity that parts of a building of such importance and solidity as this, a place where so many people come, should be relatively unsafe. The balconies have been restored progressively, and I am pleased that that work has been done. I am not in favour of extravagance or luxury, but I think we should have a building of which we can be proud, and furniture that shows off our Queensland timbers. That need not necessarily involve us in heavy expenditure. Our old cedar, for example, is sometimes thrown away in favour of plastics and newer materials. Although they might be more functional, I think it is a pity that we do not use more Queensland woods and timbers in the building.

I ask you to forgive me, Mr. Taylor, for speaking a little longer than I had intended on these matters, but I think it is appropriate to draw the attention of the public to them now and again.

**Mr. WALSH (Bundaberg) (12.12 p.m.):** I have only a few comments to make on certain of the administrative phases of the work of Parliament.

Like the Leader of the Opposition, I am very happy about the structural improvements that have been effected to Parliament House. I appreciate that that comes under another Vote, but I should like to say in passing that the Government is to be commended for preserving this fine old building and buildings such as the Treasury Building and the Executive Building. However, certain parts of this building are still not completely safe—I refer particularly to some of the balconies on the southern side of the building—and I hope that the Government will catch up with that work in due course. The railings on some of the balconies are very dangerous.

Many improvements have been effected in the building, but the Leader of the Opposition has mentioned additional work that he thinks should be undertaken. The Chamber is fairly comfortable in many respects, but I think consideration could be given to using a different method of cooling it. When speakers get into the state of mind that

they wish to pursue personal vendettas or show vindictiveness—we all do that on occasions—there is a good deal of noise in the Chamber. I realise, Mr. Taylor, that if the windows on each side of where you are sitting were open, you would be subject to a considerable amount of discomfort because you do not wear a wig. However, hon. members sitting in the back of the Chamber find the fans behind them a continual nuisance. When listening to debates in this Assembly, I sometimes think that certain hon. members think you are deaf, Mr. Taylor; but I do not think I am going deaf—at least, I hope I am not—and I complain strongly about the fans. At times I have turned them off, and even now, when I am standing within a reasonable distance of you, I can hear something like a swarm of bees buzzing in the background. I take it that the microphone in the centre of the Chamber was designed, amongst other things, to assist the parliamentary reporters. With the fans making the noise that they do, I wonder whether they interfere with the voice of the speaker and make it ever so much more difficult for the reporters to hear. On the windows of some rooms on the lower floor of the building a contrivance has been fitted that prevents draughts from coming directly into the room but still allows a certain amount of fresh air to enter. I think a similar device could be used on windows in the Chamber, particularly when the air becomes very heated—I am referring not to the speeches of hon. members but to the humidity, which the Leader of the Opposition mentioned. Up at the back where I sit, it is quite cool because the benches are near a doorway; but all hon. members cannot enjoy that coolness. I hope that some tests will be made that will enable the Speaker and the Committee to do away with the existing fans. However, before anything is installed, tests should be carried out to indicate if there is an improvement or if the proposal is against the reception of members' voices by the parliamentary reporters.

In that respect, if I may say so, sometimes I think speakers show a complete disregard for the capacity of reporters to hear their remarks. Conversations are engaged in and I have often seen Ministers on the front bench almost rudely turn their backs on the Speaker or you, Mr. Taylor, to address remarks to hon. members at the back of the Assembly. I should say that is not only disrespectful to the Chair but I cannot see, with this instrument placed on the centre table, how their voices can be carried to the reporters. You are not one of the offenders, Mr. Premier. You generally look straight at the Chair or straight at your opponents over here, which is a good method of address so far as both the Chamber and the reporters are concerned. Frequently I have drawn the attention of the Speaker and the Chairman of Committees to the difficulties experienced by reporters because I sit

in such a position that I see them almost overbalancing, stretching over the gallery to get proper reception so that they can record correctly the remarks of the speaker.

Another matter to which I wish to refer is something outside the initial control of the Chairman of Committees. It is a practice that has developed in this Committee rather than in the House because the nature of the debates in the House does not call for the arrangement to which I wish to refer. It is the list of speakers that is presented to the Chairman. I never have accepted the practice. Although some people might say it contributes to more orderly business of the Committee, that cannot be accepted by those who are not affiliated with either of the party machines. In any case, as I say, I never did accept it. I think the rule is that it is the right of any member here to rise in his place and be called by the Chairman of Committees whether he appears on that list or not.

This is not merely a matter of breaking up arrangements; I do not think any member should be so tied down that he has to announce two or three days, or even one day, before a debate takes place whether or not he is going to speak. Many matters arise during debates that might prompt a member to rise, and he should not be debarred from speaking merely because he does not appear on the list. I have not yet reached the stage of attempting to apply what I think might be my own technique of demanding my rights because I know that you, Mr. Taylor, as Chairman, desire to respect these arrangements. I think that if I wanted to insist on my rights and speak in a debate and I arose on two occasions and was not given the call against speakers on the list, that would call for some objection that would have to be ironed out in the Committee.

I say that more particularly as the Leader of the Opposition himself drew attention to the matter the other day when he asked for Mr. Speaker's guidance on whether these arrangements should be continued. I do not want to be the authority on these things but, with all due respect, I say that it has nothing to do with Mr. Speaker. Neither has anything that happens in Committee unless, in accordance with Standing Orders, it is a matter that has to be reported by you, Mr. Taylor, to Mr. Speaker in the House. Let us get it clear that we do not want to be throwing the responsibility onto Mr. Speaker when he is not a party to the arrangements, any more than you are, Mr. Taylor, because it is the political parties that arrange these things. In the open debates where there are no such time limitations other than the time a speaker is limited to—25 minutes, 40 minutes, or an hour—he can work from a list presented to him, but that is only more or less in the nature of a record of how many hon. members are likely to speak. In Committee of Supply when we are dealing with Estimates there is a specific limit of three days for the

debate on each department. In those circumstances arrangements can be such as to deny an hon. member his right to speak. Irrespective of what anybody else thinks about it, I say here and now that I think that the hon. member for South Brisbane was specifically denied his right, even though he was prepared to speak at any time during the period of three days. I am not putting that responsibility onto you, Mr. Premier.

**Mr. Tooth:** I hope you are not putting it onto this side.

**Mr. WALSH:** I am putting it this way: if there were six waiting to speak on that side and the Premier wanted somebody to get up, he could easily make a gap for him to get up. That applies to this side just the same.

**Government Members interjected.**

**THE CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr. WALSH:** All I know is that it was perfectly clear that the hon. member for South Brisbane was running round on the Tuesday night previously—not the Thursday when the debate finished—and that he was about to sit on an egg and hatch something. I do not know what it was.

**Mr. Knox interjected.**

**Mr. WALSH:** If the hon. member wants to say something about it, let him get up and say it, not by interjection. I am putting my case as I see it. The hon. member does not have to accept it, but I have been here long enough to know the practice in the Chamber. We will see how it turns out.

I hope that the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition seeking some improvement in ventilating and air-conditioning in the Chamber will be considered. I had it in mind that I would mention that myself. In any case, whatever is done in this respect should be done only after tests are made on the floor of the Chamber with the parliamentary reporters in their positions in order to ensure that they are properly provided for.

**Hon. D. E. NICHOLSON** (Murrumba—Speaker) (12.24 p.m.): I listened with interest to the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Bundaberg. I was very pleased to hear the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition, particularly those concerning the restoration of this wonderful building. I take the opportunity to praise the Parliamentary Buildings Committee; in fact I take the opportunity to praise all the committees who come under my jurisdiction for the manner in which they have applied themselves during the year to the things needed in this Chamber and in the environs of Parliament House. I think I am particularly fortunate in having skilled men on the Building Committee who can recommend, with a practical mind, those things that are necessary.

A wonderful tribute was paid to Parliament House by the eminent poet, John Betjeman, who is recognised as an authority on Victorian architecture, and also on iron work. During a visit to Australia he visited our Parliament House and remarked that this building was one of the finest pieces of Victorian architecture, not only in Australia, but anywhere in the world. He remarked that the iron work and the grille work, particularly around the galleries and the balconies, were some of the finest examples of iron work anywhere in the world. I think that, in the light of that remark from an expert, we should be very proud that such things are noticed. I think therefore that the public, as public-spirited people, should not worry about the little extra money we may spend on the restoration of this beautiful building.

As the Leader of the Opposition has mentioned the matter it might be well worth while recording the expenditure on Parliament House since 1957. During 1957-1958, £22,756 17s. 7d. was spent on renovating and re-equipping the kitchen, additional lavatory accommodation, overhauling the division bell system, improvements to lighting and installation of power points, and the provision of a glass-washing machine, etc.

In 1958-1959, £8,894 0s. 3d. was spent on rebuilding verandas, refrigeration installation, renovating and re-equipping the kitchen, and the provision of furniture and fittings, etc. In 1959-1960, £12,249 7s. 10d. was spent on the supply and installation of the passenger lift, and the rebuilding of verandas. In 1960-1961, £30,493 10s. 1d. was spent on the supply and installation of the passenger lift, additional storage space for the Library, carpets, etc., rebuilding verandas, the provision of furniture, fittings, lino., etc., the construction of toilets, and the provision of basins, etc. In 1961-1962, £27,280 8s. 1d. was spent on rebuilding verandas, replacing the Alice Street balcony, attention to electrical installations, and the provision of furniture, lino., etc.

The hon. member for Bundaberg said that some attention should be given to the balconies. I think he referred to the George Street wing on the southern side. I might mention that that is on the list for immediate attention as soon as the House rises. Hon. members will realise that it would be almost impossible for us to work if we had machinery, and builders working while the House was sitting. I assure all hon. members that due notice has been taken of the dangerous condition of the balcony. School children and people conducting school children through Parliament House have been warned to stay clear of the railing. Every precaution has been taken to guard against any accident. The cost of rebuilding the balconies, at first sight, is rather astronomical, but when it is considered that the wooden balconies are being replaced with reinforced

concrete balconies that will last for ever, I think the job is well worth the money that is being spent on it. Although the new iron work is not of the same design as the original, I am assured that it conforms with the design which was incorporated in the first sketch plans for Parliament House, when the original plans were prepared. If anything, we have improved, we have gone back a little farther in the planning or design of the railings.

I agree that many changes seem desirable within Parliament House and in the Chamber. I have often felt that some consideration should be given to providing separate desks for hon. members. During my tour overseas I took advantage of the opportunity to go into many Parliaments and I would say that, compared with those of other Parliaments, the provisions for members here are bordering on the archaic. We have old benches, which perhaps would have done justice in the earlier days when there were smaller Parliaments; but my thoughts are that the Chamber could be made very much more comfortable for members. While perhaps ensuring a better attendance in the Chamber, it would, above all, ensure at least a little more comfort for them in their work during the time they are in the Chamber.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. NICHOLSON:** I feel it would add to the attendance in the Chamber if members could sit here and write a letter, whereas now they have to retire to their rooms to do so.

I have often thought, too, that space is wasted on the Speaker's dais, which takes up enough room for two desks. There would be no difficulty at all in shifting the chair and the desk back and bringing the table forward.

In many ways the Chamber could be re-planned, renovated, and reconditioned into an Assembly that would do justice to the Parliament of this great State of ours.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. NICHOLSON:** Outside the Chamber, too, we are terribly cramped for room. We can look back to the days when 16 members of the Opposition shared one room. Today, by arranging things a little better, we have managed to have members spread out. In some instances there may be eight in a big room and, in others, three occupying a small room; but on the whole, we have managed to make members more comfortable. Until such time as provision is made for further accommodation, I am afraid we are doing the best we possibly can with the resources at our disposal.

It is my hope that, in the future, provision will be made for a new country members' lodge.

**Mr. Walsh:** You might consider taking over the Queensland Club.

**Mr. NICHOLSON:** Either that or the Bellevue.

I think the provision of a new country members' lodge is essential, and it could be so planned as to include rooms for Ministers. The suggestion has already been put forward by the Parliamentary Buildings Committee that, when a new lodge is built, it should contain, on the ground floor, Ministers' suites—a combination of room and office—and, upstairs, provision for country members.

In many respects we have to encourage country members to come to Brisbane and stay here. Many a time they live away from home during the week-ends, and in this respect I have been very happy to provide some facilities in the way of cooking utensils for them at the Lodge. It is very difficult for them to get meals out during the week-end, so they are able to have a little bit of home-away-from-home through the provision of those amenities at the Lodge.

The Lodge itself is almost beyond repair. In fact, if any money were spent on it now, it would be wasted. I think, in the future, irrespective of who occupies the position I now hold, the committee should give a great deal of consideration to pushing the recommendations that have been made for the provision of a new lodge with office accommodation for the Ministers. That would automatically free the rooms at present occupied by Ministers and make them available for private members.

**Mr. Walsh:** Something will have to be done for the Library, too.

**Mr. NICHOLSON:** Unfortunately, the Library accommodation is a great problem. Accommodation in the stables is being used to store some of our papers. The recommendation has been made by the Library Committee that a central archive be built to be shared by the University of Queensland, the Royal Historical Society of Queensland, the State Public Library, and the Parliamentary Library. I think that when that comes to pass some of our troubles will be over.

I am happy to know that the Leader of the Opposition has acquiesced in the expenditure that has been incurred in renovating the House. I can honestly assure all hon. members that whilst I am looking after the House every possible effort will be made to keep it in a fit and proper state of repair as a House of Parliament.

There are, of course, other problems. For example, the electricity account was found to be very high. Investigation showed that power was being received from a certain supply and was costing much more than was necessary. After the expenditure of a couple of thousand pounds, it now appears that there will be a saving of at least £750 a year in the electricity account alone.

**Mr. Duggan:** I hope that you do not economise to such an extent that I bash my knee more often than I do now in knocking chairs over in my dark section of the building.

**Mr. NICHOLSON:** On the matter just mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition, the Premier suggests that he be provided with a torch! Hon. members can make arrangements with the night-watchman for lights to be left on in certain places. Additional lighting has been installed over steps and similar places that previously were really traps at night. I do not think that any hon. member will have any difficulty in arranging for the night-watchman to leave lights on in certain places. There is a "lights out" rule and the watchman goes round after the House has risen turning them off at a certain time. If the House is sitting late, of course, he does it much later than normally.

Another matter requires some attention in the interests of country members. There is a Vote for air fares for them. I feel that consideration will have to be given when Parliament re-assembles to extending this privilege of country members. I know many members who, for a week-end at home, spend their entire salary for a week on air fares when their quota of briefs has expired. I do not know what the air fare is to Cairns, but I should imagine that it would cost the best part of £50 to go to Cairns for the week-end and return. The hon. member for Whitsunday was not complaining when he mentioned this, and I am telling no secrets when I say that he informed me that his weekly salary, after deduction of taxation, is about £35, and the air fare to and from the airport in his constituency is £36. Hon. members are often called back to their electorates to functions that must be attended.

**Mr. Walsh:** My briefs are all expended, and I use them only one way.

**Mr. NICHOLSON:** Exactly. I think there could be some compromise. Many members living in the country do not use their air briefs, and I think that some arrangements could be made to transfer briefs from members not using them to members who have used all theirs. If only a couple of weeks remain in a session, I think that satisfactory arrangements could be made for members to receive those extra briefs to allow them to return home, particularly towards the end of a session when there are school break-ups and functions that it is necessary for them to attend.

With those thoughts, I again thank the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Bundaberg for their comments. I also thank them for their constructive criticism. While I am in the Speaker's chair, I shall be very happy to receive criticism from hon. members if it is constructive and put forward for the welfare of members generally.

Air-conditioning of the Chamber has been mentioned. I have discussed this matter with experts, and I have also had considerable experience in a refrigeration and air-conditioning business. It is not impossible to air-condition the Chamber, but it is a very difficult job and the cost would be very high. For example, atmospheric air-conditioning could be used, similar to that used in picture theatres, which would condition up as far as the galleries and leave a cloud of hot air above that in which the "Hansard" staff and representatives of the Press would work.

**Mr. Walsh:** What about dispersing units round the room?

**Mr. NICHOLSON:** The hon. member for Bundaberg has complained about the noise of the fans. It would be almost impossible to work with the noise from a single-unit refrigerated air-conditioning plant.

**Mr. Walsh:** They are used at the Bellevue.

**Mr. NICHOLSON:** When a convention is held over there, it is almost impossible to hear a person speaking when the air-conditioning units are operating. The only way to do the job properly would be to have a big unit downstairs and have ducts installed. I had talks with a technician only last week, and he has promised to give me some idea of what could be done with the Chamber. However, I think it is essential first to get better seating and desk accommodation. If we can get quieter fans, we will. We have replaced them twice already. The exhaust fans in the ceiling have been repaired. They have been obsolete, I should say, for the past 25 or 30 years; but they are now operating, and I think this has improved considerably the lot of people in the gallery. When a large number of school-children are in the gallery the air becomes quite hot. I like to have the doors and windows open, and I agree with hon. members that we could do with a little more fresh air in the Chamber and a little less "hot" air.

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier) (12.43 p.m.): I should like to express appreciation of the comments by hon. members, particularly those by the Leader of the Opposition on the restoration and preservation of this building. Like Mr. Speaker and the Leader of the Opposition, I believe that in this House of Parliament we have something worthwhile, something that should be cared for and maintained in good condition.

**Mr. Walsh:** It is a lovely building.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** Yes, it is a lovely building. It is admired by all visitors to Brisbane, but I do not think it is appreciated by as many of our own people as it ought to be. It is one of the most attractive buildings in the city, and it should be maintained in first-class condition. Much has been done

towards this end but there is still much more to be done, and I am glad that there is unanimity among members of Parliament on this question.

The hon. member for Bundaberg mentioned the practice that we have adopted of the Whips getting together and allocating the time for speakers. Like the hon. member for Bundaberg, I have been in this Chamber both under the catch-as-catch-can method and under the present arrangement. Personally, I think that the arrangement we have now is better than the former catch-as-catch-can method. It brings order into the debate and is much more satisfactory generally. There are very few occasions on which every hon. member is not satisfied and fitted in by the Whips. They come to mutual arrangements with the speakers to reduce their time, and everybody seems to be more or less happy. Personally, I feel that the business of the House is much better conducted under the present arrangement than it was under the catch-as-catch-can method, although the latter method can be used in the Committee stages of legislation. I think it might be better there because in the Committee stages points arise and speakers who are interested can come into the debate as they feel they should.

**Mr. Walsh:** There is no limit on the time of the debate in those stages, so you do not need lists. It is in the debate on the Estimates that this method is mostly used.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** The methods by which the Estimates are discussed now are much better than they were years ago when the hon. member was a Minister. In those days, time and time again only two departments' Estimates were debated over the whole 16 days.

**Mr. Walsh:** Quite true, because you always talked on them for so long.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** The practice that has been adopted in recent years—it was adopted by mutual agreement before we became the Government—was that we arranged that every department's Estimates would come before the Chamber every two years. That is a very much better arrangement than previously when, for years and years, because the Government did not want them before the Chamber, the Estimates of some departments never came up and were never the subject of debate.

**Mr. Walsh:** It was only because your own party took so long. On one occasion they spoke for five days on the Estimates for the Department of Public Lands.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** I suggest that the hon. member for Bundaberg should be the last to talk about speaking too long. Throughout this session he has wasted time by talking about all sorts of things not relevant to the matter before the Chamber.

**Mr. Duggan:** My view is that if a Minister cannot defend his own administration he should not be a Minister, so I do not think any department should be afraid to have its Estimates discussed.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** I agree, and, by mutual agreement among members of the Committee, we decided we should have every department brought before the Committee every two years.

**Mr. Lloyd:** You introduced the system of de facto Ministers introducing Estimates.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** What does the hon. member call a "de facto" Minister? Any Minister can step in and substitute for one who is not able to come in. It has been done time and time again before this session. It is nonsense to call them "de facto" Ministers. If a Minister is in charge of the Estimates before the Committee, he is the responsible Minister.

The hon. member for Bundaberg raised the question of some dire conspiracy that allegedly was entered into in the Committee last week. The Leader of the Opposition and I were away attending a function at the time of this alleged conspiracy, so I am sure we have no knowledge of what happened.

**Mr. Walsh:** For a period of three days?

**Mr. NICKLIN:** The only conspiracy that ever existed was in the hon. member's mind. On that occasion, the Whips made an arrangement on the list of speakers, and they did a good job to fit them in. If any member did not get on the list, it was his own fault. If one looks at the list of speakers for Tuesday, which was a double day, the gentleman concerned was not even on the list—and did not want to be on it. He did not ask to have his name put on the list.

**Mr. Walsh:** I do not know anything about that; he can speak for himself.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** The hon. member is his advocate. For the last day, when this alleged conspiracy occurred, I have the original list here. It is the list of speakers supplied to the Government Whip and there are six names on it, the last of which is that of the hon. member for South Brisbane. That was the list of Opposition speakers. Then there were speakers, of course, from this side of the Chamber and also speakers from that corner of the Chamber where the hon. member for Bundaberg generally takes his place. To say that there was a conspiracy on the part of anybody to keep the hon. member for South Brisbane out is sheer nonsense. The matter of conspiracy was brought up by the hon. member for Bundaberg, who always hops in when he thinks he can create a bit of a sensation. If the hon. member for South Brisbane did not get in, it was his own fault.

**Mr. Wallace:** The Minister in the first place was asked whether he was going to bring in the police Estimates. He said he would be doing that at a later stage but he vacated his seat.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** That shows the ignorance of the hon. member for Cairns, who apparently does not know that the police Estimates could have been discussed at any time after the Minister introduced his Chief Office Vote. As a matter of fact, some hon. members did take the opportunity to speak on police matters. If the hon. member did not know parliamentary practice it is not my job, or the job of anybody on this side, to teach him.

**Mr. Donald:** The Minister agreed to reply at half-past 3, but he sought the call at 20 past 3.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** The Minister is at least entitled to reply to the debate on his Estimates. He was entitled to the time he took to reply.

**Mr. Wallace:** The hon. member for Sandgate gave his ten minutes to the hon. member for South Brisbane.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** That is all very well. Let us look at the hon. member for Sandgate. He was denied the right to speak in a previous debate. At the special request of the then acting Whip he was fitted in for ten minutes. Then allegedly he gave his call up to allow the hon. member for South Brisbane to get in. The Minister rightly came in to take his time, because if the hon. member for South Brisbane got to his feet he could have spoken for 25 minutes and denied the Minister his right of reply. So all this talk about conspiracy is nonsense. The hon. member for South Brisbane did not put his name on the list in a high enough position to get in.

Let me deal with something else. It is appreciated by the Government that many country members living far distant from the capital city are placed at great disadvantage when Parliament is sitting in getting back to their electorates to carry out their electoral responsibilities. Progressively over the years additional air transport has been made available to hon. members. The Government will keep this matter under constant review to see whether it is possible to grant more concessions of this nature. I would point out that the Estimates contain provision for £11,130 in respect of gold passes for hon. members for use on the railways. As some hon. members very seldom use their gold passes I do not know whether some arrangement could be made, as happens with the Federal Government, that the value of the gold pass could be offset by expenditure on some other means of transport.

**Mr. Walsh:** That does not mean any additional expenditure.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** No, it is a book entry but it is a charge against the Vote. However, as I say, the Government appreciates the position with air fares and the difficulties of some country members, particularly when there are two parliamentary sessions in one financial year. Mr. Speaker

spoke about the re-allocation to some hon. members of the unused air transport of other hon. members. It will be noticed that out of the £10,000 appropriated for 1961-1962, £8,521 was used. That means that some hon. members do not use all the air fares allocated to them. Any adjustment will have to be a matter of voluntary arrangement between members.

**Mr. Wallace:** If some hon. members wanted to go home every week-end they would not have nearly enough. I have one left now.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** The hon. member is fortunate. Some hon. members have none; they have used all theirs. However, we will look into this question to see if something can be done about it after the next election—when we come back again.

**Mr. WALSH (Bundaberg) (12.56 p.m.):** I will not let the Premier get away with his observations on my remarks concerning the discourtesy between the Government and the Opposition during the debate on the Education Vote.

**Mr. Knox** interjected.

**Mr. WALSH:** I will exercise my rights here, and I hope that the hon. member will exercise his rights here, and every other hon. member, too. All we are asked to do when we are elected to this Chamber is to exercise our rights here.

After all, I think it was quite a pertinent observation on my part if I felt there was a member of this Chamber who wanted to speak and no provision was made for him.

**Mr. Nicklin** interjected.

**Mr. WALSH:** The Premier can say what he likes. I do not put the responsibility on him for the lists prepared by the parties. But since the matter was raised in this Chamber—I think it was on the Financial Statement—and due advice, or notice, was given by the hon. member—I am not concerned with the particular issue that he is trying to bring before the Chamber—I am concerned with the rights of any member to rise in this Chamber to criticise any public administration. I hope I will be able to fight for that all the time I am here. I am not blaming the Premier for the preparation of the lists. But, if the Premier, having given his public pledge—which was publicised for the second time in "The Courier-Mail"—wanted to put the hon. member for South Brisbane on the mat—and that is the way I suggest it could have been done—and if he wanted to make a fool of himself, if there was no case, the public could judge for themselves. But all this smother-up business of not allowing him to get on the floor of the Chamber—

**A Government Member:** You didn't let him.

**Mr. Nicklin:** Don't blame me for the fact that he was not on any list.

**Mr. WALSH:** I have already said that I do not blame the Premier for the preparation of the list on this side.

**Mr. Hodges:** He was on the list; he was No. 6 on the list.

**Mr. WALSH:** The hon. member is trying to tell me he was No. 6 on the list. I saw the man sitting with his brief under his arm all Tuesday night and the Estimates were not to conclude until the following Thursday. If he was not on the list for the Tuesday, I am not in a position to say why he was not on the list. All I know is that the matter was raised on the Financial Statement and the Premier indicated to the public of Queensland that an opportunity would be given to discuss the police Estimates.

**Mr. Nicklin:** Which is quite true.

**Mr. WALSH:** If the Premier felt happy, why didn't he pull out one of his men and let the hon. member get up?

**Mr. Knox:** I was not asked.

**Mr. WALSH:** The hon. member did not have to be asked. I am not so naive to accept that, when the hon. member gave so much notice of his intention to raise this important matter, somewhere along the line he could not have got on the list, on Tuesday night or on Thursday, either after midday or between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

**Mr. Smith:** He was not here.

**Mr. WALSH:** The hon. member for Windsor very rarely gets to his feet. It is a pity that he does not take a little more interest in these public questions. After all, he is not always here any more than any other hon. member is always here. I do not have to defend the hon. member for South Brisbane.

**Mr. Lloyd:** The Premier said we deliberately kept the hon. member out.

**Mr. WALSH:** I am defending the rights of hon. members.

I am afraid the Premier is treating this matter of the right of hon. members to get on their feet and talk in the Chamber as an unimportant part of the procedure of the Parliament. I do not know whether I have to put him in the category of more or less making an apology for the Opposition, because he is accepting the responsibility now to some extent by putting up what I am entitled to interpret as a defence for the failure of A.L.P. members to give a member of their own party the right to speak.

This is not as innocent as it looks. I recall that last year I was nearly involved in a similar incident when I wanted to raise a certain matter on the Estimates of the Department of Public Lands. The list of speakers had been prepared and the Government Whip had moved backwards and forwards repeatedly and asked me whether I really wanted to speak. I told him I did and, when I emphasised, and continued to

emphasise, my desire to talk on the Estimates of the Department of Public Lands at that stage, the Whip did not persist in the attempt to shut me out, as it were. I had been told that the Minister had an appointment at half-past 3, and in normal circumstances I would have respected that, but, on this occasion, as I thought the matter that I wished to raise was of public importance. I just sat back here all day until about the 3 o'clock or half-past 3 mark when the Minister for Public Lands conceded me the right to rise to my feet. I am just pointing out that positions can arise when, well, somebody does not want you to talk. I did raise that matter at the time. It dealt with the reappointment of a certain person. I will not mention his name or anything like that, but that was what I was interested in. It was to the Government's credit that it did not proceed to make the appointment a permanent one.

Therefore, in this case it is not for the Premier to be getting up and making the apology for the Opposition. If I am making any charge against the A.L.P. Opposition for having shut the hon. member for South Brisbane out from Tuesday till Thursday, the defence should come from this side. And I am saying quite openly and quite frankly that, if there was a desire on the part of his own party to give him an opportunity to talk on the particular subject, there is no way in the world that No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, or No. 5, on their list could not have been set aside and the hon. member for South Brisbane invited to come in and talk. But it did not happen that way and I am therefore entitled to make the suggestion that, somewhere along the line, somebody thought he should not speak. I do not have to condemn all the A.L.P. members, because the hon. member for Cairns has already confirmed what I have said. When the Premier, in making his observations on the matter, said that the hon. member for South Brisbane could have spoken, the hon. member for Cairns said that that was not completely true. They can fight that one out among themselves.

Irrespective of what the Premier says about the business of the list and the selection of speakers from it, I say that, if these incidents are going to arise, it is far better to put the responsibility back onto the Chairman presiding over the debate at the time and have him accept the responsibility in the Committee of the Whole House of deciding whether he has justification for refusing to call the particular hon. member. Consequently, even though you, Mr. Taylor, may see some virtues in the system now operating, I would prefer to go back to the former system, even if members of the Opposition wanted to talk on one set of Estimates for five or six days. I can remember when the Premier was in Opposition that his party spoke on only two departments in sixteen days. Whose fault was that?

(Time expired.)

**Mr. DUGGAN** (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) (2.21 p.m.): I have only one brief observation to make. The hon. member for Bundaberg has often claimed in this Chamber that every member has his rights and that he has been to the forefront in exercising them. I would be the last one to want to take them away. I do not want anyone to think that in this particular matter that has been raised the Opposition has any need to defend itself against a charge of conspiracy. I think the Premier made the declaration that, so far as he was concerned, at no time had this question been discussed of either permitting or not permitting it to be debated. That is also the position so far as I am concerned.

In regard to the calling of speakers, I have indicated very definitely that on this particular matter that is apparently the subject of this discussion—I do not want to go beyond making this general observation—it is not a question of the Opposition's officially linking or not linking itself with any charge. I have taken the view that, in the exercise of his privileges as a member, every hon. member is entitled to take whatever action he thinks, in good conscience, should be taken. If the hon. member for South Brisbane feels in good conscience that he has a case, he has the opportunity to take advantage of the appropriate Standing Orders. I, as Leader of the Opposition, have not been a party to any conspiracy. If there is anything that I, in good conscience, felt should be ventilated in the public interest, I would be the first one to take advantage of the appropriate Standing Order to deal with the matter. So far as providing an opportunity for the hon. member for South Brisbane to speak is concerned, I have not been a party to that, nor have I in any way been a party to preventing him from engaging in a debate on a matter that he thinks should, in the public interest, be brought forward.

I want to scotch the idea that there is any desire on my part officially as Leader of the Opposition either to accelerate or decelerate any action by any member on any particular matter. I hope that that will clear up the matter decisively for all time.

The only other point worthy of comment is that, as the hon. member for Sandgate wished to speak in the debate on another Estimate but had no opportunity to take part, I indicated to the Whip earlier that if any preference was to be given to any speaker, it should be given to the hon. member for Sandgate. That is the only request that I made to the Whip. If the hon. member for Sandgate made private arrangements to surrender that opportunity to the hon. member for South Brisbane, he was quite within his rights.

The only other thing I wish to say is to repeat what was said by the hon. member for Ipswich East. In his capacity as acting Whip, he obtained from the Government

Whip an expression of opinion on when the Minister in charge of the particular Estimates wished to reply. He was told that the Minister desired to reply at half-past 3. There was therefore under that arrangement opportunity for the hon. member for South Brisbane to take advantage of the offer of the hon. member for Sandgate.

I am not disputing the right of the Minister in charge of Estimates to enter the debate whenever he thinks fit, but I did raise the question of the desirability of conforming to any working arrangement entered into concerning panels of speakers. In a reply by the Premier to a letter sent by the secretary of our party on this matter, the Premier himself indicated that there should be adherence, so far as possible, to the arrangement entered into by the respective Whips. He indicated his wish that Ministers try to keep to that arrangement.

I was quite happy to have that assurance from the Premier. I accept it and have no quarrel with it. We received from him quite a courteous letter, and, in the light of his reply, we regarded the matter as closed. If this matter is pursued further, no doubt Mr. Speaker will be in a position to make a ruling one way or the other under Standing Orders, and if any hon. member on this side of the Chamber wishes to ventilate a matter that he believes to be of public importance, an opportunity will present itself. However, I wish to make it abundantly clear that the Opposition has not found occasion to say officially, as an Opposition, that it has been prevented during this session of Parliament from dealing with any matter that it thought should be raised. If I thought there was a matter of sufficient public importance I would move the adjournment of the House, and the responsibility would then be on the Premier to vote either for or against the motion to discuss that matter of public importance.

I hope I have made my observations on this matter clearly and succinctly and that the correct procedure to be adopted will be obvious to the public.

Vote (Legislative Assembly) agreed to.

PREMIER AND CHIEF SECRETARY  
CHIEF OFFICE

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier) (2.27 p.m.): I move—

“That £62,722 be granted for ‘Premier and Chief Secretary—Chief Office.’”

This is a decrease of £1,548 on the appropriation for 1961-1962, and an increase of £122 over actual expenditure for that year. There is a slight decrease in the amount shown for salaries, and in the amount shown for contingencies there is a decrease of £1,232 over last year. The amount required for fares, freights, printing, stationery, etc., has increased because of an increase in the amount and cost of printing. It will be noted that there is an increase of £3,222

in incidental and miscellaneous expenses, which is accounted for by the visit of the King of Thailand, £800, the visit of the Governor-General, £600, and a grant of £1,000 to the Queensland Band Association. There is also a decrease in the cash equivalent of long-service leave, and the amount required for 1962-1963 is very small compared with that required last year.

**Mr. DUGGAN** (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) (2.28 p.m.): I should like to touch on one or two matters very briefly. The report of the Public Service Commissioner discloses, as usual, that that gentleman has a very important responsibility. I think all hon. members who read the report will realise that he may very rightly be regarded as the most responsible officer in the employ of the Crown, because he is obliged, under the terms of his appointment, to advise the Government on a very wide variety of subjects. I notice in his report that one of the problems confronting the administration at present is the filling of professional vacancies in the Government service. Successive Governments over the years have done this by providing fellowships enabling skilled personnel to staff our hospitals, dental clinics, and so on. Many members of the dental profession seem to be leaving for overseas, and the position that applied a few years ago has now been reversed. Then we were recruiting dentists from overseas to come to Australia, but only recently I saw a list showing that an extraordinarily high percentage of Australian graduates is going overseas and accepting employment, particularly in Great Britain. Because of this, we find difficulty in staffing many of the clinics throughout the State. Two or three years ago, or even before that, we complained about the inadequate number of fellowships being awarded in the medical profession. It is stated on page 3 of the Public Service Commissioner's Report, that the number of graduate fellowship and scholarship holders appointed to the Public Service, in addition to the appointees mentioned in a previous table, was 11 fewer in 1961-1962 than in 1960-1961. I strongly urge the Premier to have a good look at the expected demands in the professions for the next few years to see that we have an adequate supply of fellowship holders to fill the requirements of this State. It seems to me, despite the statement of the Minister for Health and Home Affairs that we will have sufficient to cope with this problem, we have not yet reached that point.

I wish to mention another very interesting matter, at Commonwealth level, which affects the desire of Governments throughout Australia today to get some stability in costs. It deals with the payment to professional engineers. I do not blame professional engineers for striving hard, as they have been for many years, to establish the engineering profession as one that will attract the same emoluments as those in any other major profession. They have now broken through

as a result of an application to the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission and have been granted very substantial salary increases. In some cases in the higher divisions they obtained increases of something like £720 a year. This has had an effect throughout the salary scales of the Commonwealth Public Service. I was at a function on Friday night where I learned that some engineers in the P.M.G. Department receive higher salaries than does the Deputy Director of Posts and Telegraphs. That seems to be wrong, but it has been the result of the decision to which I refer.

The problem confronting the administration is that whatever the merits of this matter—I am not determining that because it has been determined by the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission—everyone in the Commonwealth service wants to preserve the margin of his classification as compared with every other classification in the service and obviously, when this adjustment took place, it set in train requests for adjustments throughout the service.

Recently the New South Wales Industrial Commission gave a determination relating to University professors involving salary increases of up to £1,000 a year, and the Government of that State subsequently appealed against the judgment. That matter is now being considered in another jurisdiction but it is rather important, I think, that we should mention that this chain of circumstances—and I am not referring particularly to the engineers, although that subject has been highlighted in the Public Service Commissioner's Report—will have some repercussions on the salaries of Government employees generally and consequently on the desire of Governments to stabilise costs.

Mention is made in this report of the State basic wage, as follows:—

“The State Basic Wage has not been increased since 29th May, 1961.”

It is 18 months since that action was taken and there has been no movement in the basic wage since that time. Quite frankly, there cannot be any equality or justice in my view if we are to peg the wages of the great majority of the population while white-collar workers, irrespective of what jurisdiction they are in, receive substantial salary increases. After all the so-called injustices have been removed they set in motion again a whole chain of readjustments which, in the final analysis, do not make them relatively better off than anyone else in their respective classifications, or, at least, do not improve their status although it might give them a substantial salary increase while the salaries of other people who do not enter into these conferences are pegged. Immediately a determination was made on the salaries of engineers, the rest of the Commonwealth Public Service unions went into

conference with the Public Service Board seeking an upward adjustment in the salaries of their members and consequently there will undoubtedly be an upward movement throughout the Commonwealth Public Service. As I say, in view of the desire of officers to preserve their marginal differences, it is understandable that these claims should come forward.

When we consider the principle followed by the State Public Service Commissioner of comparing like with like, we realise that it is only a question of time before public servants in this State will be seeking adjustments in their salaries. On the previous pattern it will be done largely on the basis of conferences, rather than by Industrial Commission determinations. The Premier may say that these agreements are taken to the commission, where they are ratified and registered, but for all practical purposes agreement is reached before the parties ever go before the commission. The Premier knows that it is done by agreement between the Public Service Commissioner, acting for the Crown, and the State Public Service Union. If it is the desire to preserve this system of dispensing industrial justice to white-collar and professional workers, I want to see the same measure of justice given to the great mass of people employed under outside awards. If that is not done, ultimately it will result in a great measure of industrial unrest which in my view will be justified unless some agreement can be reached on the subject of stabilisation. Naturally members of the outside trade unions—I mention them because their responsibilities cover the great mass of the working population of the State—are becoming very resentful of these tremendous increases that are taking place in the guise of merely effecting adjustments between various sections. Experience shows that once the adjustments are made the repercussions are felt right through the Public Service. I am correct in making that declaration, because it is confirmed by the Public Service Commissioner himself in his report. I hope the Premier might be able to indicate what he intends to do about arresting costs. As I have pointed out, it is not good enough for the Government in its election propaganda merely to say it has paid so much more in wages, which has been brought about by fantastic increases, than was paid five, six, seven, or 10 years ago. The increase in the wages section has been reported on by the Public Service Commissioner. There has been some increase in some sections of the Public Service. I suppose that that can be expected as legislation continually makes provision for somebody to operate some new instrumentality or for someone to administer some new Act. Consequently we have the gradual movement upwards in the number of public servants employed.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition wishes to speak on some aspects of the Mt. Isa proposal, which comes under the Premier's control. As no doubt there are many others on both sides who wish to speak on these Estimates, I do not want to monopolise the time. Consequently I will not take my customary 25 minutes to deal with all the other subjects I should like to mention. In particular, I should have liked to spend some time on the work of the Agent-General but as it is not a controversial subject, and my remarks are more of a general character, I might well do that on some other occasion. I shall content myself by saying that in view of the great movements in overseas trading operations that are contemplated a much heavier responsibility devolves upon the Agent-General. Being the representative of a primary-producing State, I feel that his value to the Government will increase by virtue of his knowledge of our primary industries, particularly the sugar industry, on which Queensland's economy is largely dependent. Recent events give us some encouraging signs, despite some disquieting long-term factors that could enter the picture. I conclude by making those general observations.

**Dr. DELAMOTHE** (Bowen) (2.39 p.m.): I should like to deal particularly with the Vote for the Co-ordinator-General of Public Works. There is probably no more important officer in the Government service. By being placed under the control of the Premier, the Co-ordinator-General is in a situation where he is free from the pressures which could develop in the battle for available funds, particularly Loan Funds, by the various departments. Because he is under the jurisdiction of the Premier, away from any specific Minister, there cannot be any suggestion at any time that he is favouring one department rather than another in the allocation of funds.

Those of us who have had a long experience in the sphere of local authorities have come to appreciate greatly the wisdom, justice, and very deep knowledge possessed by the present holder of this position. There is not a person associated with local-authority work in the State who would not pay a very high tribute to him for his sagacity, his very good advice, and fair allocation of available funds. As we know, local authorities, Government departments, and semi-government authorities have to share what is in the common basket. It does not matter how full it is; there is never enough to satisfy the voracious appetite of the various sections. Each year, at the appropriate time, the various local authorities and Government departments submit to the Co-ordinator-General their plans for loan works for the ensuing year, together with sufficient information to make it possible for him to understand what they want, why they want it, and how much it will cost. He and his officers very sagaciously sort through the tremendous pile of applications. When I was connected with a local authority I

thought our projects were much more important than anyone else's, but we all learnt, after the Co-ordinator-General had studied them, that our projects fell into their right places in the general scheme of things. That is a colossal task. The fact that there has been no agitation against the Co-ordinator-General's activities, and no criticism of his decisions that I have heard, is a sufficient indication of how well and how fairly the job is done. Following that, and after consultation with the Cabinet committee on the point, the finally approved list of works and loan applications is taken away and discussed with the Commonwealth Co-ordinator of Works. He has to examine the very carefully selected projects from all the States and the Commonwealth and assess those that should be fitted into the available loan money. Finally, when the Loan Council has decided how much will be made available, the scheme comes back to the Cabinet sub-committee and the Co-ordinator-General to determine the amount of finance available for selected jobs. It is really a tremendously important job because the whole of the loan works programme for the year for the Government, for local authorities, and for other semi-government authorities is decided. They in turn determine whether more or less employment will be created by the expenditure of loan fund moneys. Through these activities the Co-ordinator-General has really got his hands on the tiller that directs the well-being of the ship of State, through the waters during the following year.

Apart from this very important and, one would think, almost full-time activity, the Co-ordinator-General and his department also have a very great deal to do in the carrying out of investigations particularly of the resources and the developmental capacity of the State.

Just recently, we were advised of the tidying up of one of the projects of investigation carried out by the Co-ordinator-General, which resulted in the decision to build a dam on the Bowen River. He and his technical officers will now be charged with the job of preparing the plans for that dam and carrying out its construction, perhaps by his own officers, perhaps by contract. That will be decided in the future.

Concurrently with that, he carried out a very deep and thorough investigation into the hydro-electric and irrigation potential of the Herbert River. From that investigation came a very good report with knowledge for the future implementation of a scheme that will be of very great value in that part of Queensland.

There are other matters with which the Co-ordinator-General is intimately concerned in the field of investigation. For example, the Government has arranged for him to carry out a broad regional survey and investigation of East Central Queensland and of the Burdekin and Bowen River basins and the northern regions of North Queensland. Cabinet decided to concentrate

on the provision of services and the assembly of basic information on natural resources and to give high priorities on the allocation of funds to those departments that are concerned in investigational and exploratory work. The mainspring of these activities has been the Department of the Co-ordinator-General, which has been burdened, one might say, with the terrific job of supplying factual information on which the Government will depend in the future, as all Governments depend on similar information for sound planning.

Co-operation with the Commonwealth departments is another field in which the Co-ordinator-General acts. Arising out of the State Government's representations, the Commonwealth accepted the responsibility of carrying out the mapping of East Central and East Northern Queensland. The objective is to complete the mapping of East Central Queensland in four or five years and of East Northern Queensland within five years.

It has also been arranged that the Department of National Development, in association with the Department of the Co-ordinator-General, prepare a series of resources maps of the two regions showing, on a common basis, available information regarding the resources of these two areas which, for one reason or another, through the years have lagged in development behind the rest of the State. Now, with the awakening of interest in the areas for the first time by this Government, the sound planning that will follow is being based on this mapping and tabulation of the resources, minerals, etc., of these two areas. In addition, a preliminary base map for the East Central (Fitzroy region) project has been prepared, and the collection of information on several topics has been commenced. All this backroom and field investigation is carried out by the staff of the Department of the Co-ordinator-General, and is much appreciated by the people of Queensland, particularly those in the areas concerned.

Geological mapping and geophysical surveys are being undertaken by the Federal Bureau of Mineral Resources, in conjunction with the Queensland Geological Survey, in the Burdekin River basin and in the Bowen artesian basin. The Bureau is working in collaboration with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission in investigating the underground water resources of the Burdekin Delta.

The whole Burdekin scheme still remains within the field of the Co-ordinator-General, under whose aegis the original investigations were carried out. Only recently, in connection with the possibility of increased power production in North Queensland, a reassessment of the whole Burdekin scheme was carried out by officers of the Department of the Co-ordinator-General, and a realistic choice between the Bowen River, Burdekin River, and Herbert River schemes was able to be made.

It will be seen that the duties and capacities of the Co-ordinator-General and his technical officers, amongst whom there are many brilliant men, are of vital importance to Queensland and its development. As more and more knowledge is gained by the activities of this staff, so will greater and greater development take place within this fine State of ours.

**Mr. LLOYD (Kedron)** (2.53 p.m.): I compliment the officers of this department on the work that they have undertaken over a great many years. Many of them have been friends of mine for some time, and I hope that I shall retain their friendship for many more years.

This department is one that covers many different types of administration. An idea of the far-reaching effect of the work of the Chief Secretary's Department is obtained when one realises that it includes the Public Service Commissioner's Department, the Department of the Co-ordinator-General of Public Works, and the Agent-General for Queensland in London. In many cases there is direct contact with people overseas and with the Commonwealth Government, which has a marked effect on all types of administration over which the Government has control.

There is one matter that has given me a great deal of concern in recent weeks. Several days ago I asked a question of the Deputy Premier concerning the loan money that was flowing to the State from the Commonwealth Government for the Mt. Isa railway project, and received the reply that all the money available from Commonwealth sources had not been obtained by the State Government. The reply was—

"In terms of the agreement, the State is entitled to receive advances from the Commonwealth of two-thirds of the cost of the work from time to time and such additional amounts as are, in the opinion of the Treasurer of the Commonwealth, reasonably required as a working balance."

The answer to the question whether the full amount available was received was—

"No. The State is providing one-third of the cost from loan moneys allocated over a period of five years and has utilised such available funds before seeking advances from the Commonwealth."

I wish to refer to that matter, Mr. Gaven, and speak directly to the Premier as the Chief Minister of this State. Last year we had an unemployment crisis in Queensland, and unemployment here was far more widespread than it was in any other State in Australia. That fact was appreciated by the Commonwealth Government, which made available to the Queensland Government the greatest proportion of the money that it was prepared to advance to all the States as a contribution towards the relief of unemployment in Australia. Queensland received

£3.4 million, or approximately one-third of the total amount available. In 1961, when introducing the Financial Statement and Estimates for the year 1961-1962, the Treasurer informed hon. members that £4½ million would be available to Queensland from the Commonwealth by way of loan to enable reconstruction work to be undertaken on the Mt. Isa-Townsville-Collinsville railway line. At the end of last financial year, we found that the amount actually received by the State was £3.75 million, and the total expenditure from the fund up till 30 June last year was almost £11,000,000. Of that, Queensland had made available £7,020,000 and the Commonwealth £3,750,000. This year the Queensland Government will be making available from Loan Funds £980,000—in other words, a total of £8,000,000 up till the end of this financial year. If the Government accepts its full entitlement, it will receive from the Commonwealth Government about £12,000,000, which is approximately 50 per cent. more than the State Government has made available.

I believe it is the Premier's responsibility to control the funds required by the State, and the major point for consideration is that if we are not careful this fund could become the repository of all surplus funds that the State Government has at a particular time. Whereas last year the amount expended was £400,000 more than the amount voted in the State Loan Fund, we find that £600,000 was not received from the Commonwealth Government but was apparently available if the Premier had requested it. That was at a time when there was serious unemployment in Queensland and when £400,000 diverted for the construction of homes, schools, and hospitals could have alleviated considerably the difficulties with which we were confronted. The Premier and other Ministers appear to be quite happy about the present unemployment figures, but the report from the Commonwealth Department of Labour and National Service shows that it is not happy. Last month the number of unemployed in Queensland increased by 790, whereas in the same month last year it increased by only half that number.

The Commonwealth Government expected that the infusion of all this money into the State of Queensland would assist in overcoming a lack of seasonal employment, but it has not had that effect. As I said, the increase in the number of unemployed in October this year was double the increase in the previous year, and the Commonwealth Department of Labour and National Service is certainly not happy about that. Money that is required immediately to relieve this serious unemployment will not be available if the State Government carries on the practice that it apparently has adopted this year of diverting into the Mt. Isa Railway Project Fund money that could be used for that purpose. Until some adequate reply is given by the Premier, that appears to be the case

with this fund. I have already shown that this fund could have received an additional £650,000 from the Commonwealth Government last year yet it received only £400,000 from the State Loan Fund. In addition, there was an unexpected £410,000 recoupment for railway rolling stock. It is significant that rolling stock was not purchased last financial year. It had been purchased 12 months previously, but instead of that amount of money being used from this fund for the relief of unemployment it was used to recoup the cost of that rolling stock in the previous year.

The other matter to which I wish to refer is very adequately demonstrated by the Co-ordinator-General's report. It deals with the approved borrowing programmes per head of population, Governmental, semi-governmental, and local bodies. It is set out on page 23 of the report in the form of a table of comparison. That table shows that the approved borrowing programmes for the various States were as under—

State	Per head of Population (30-6-1960)	Per head of Population (31-3-1962)
	£	£
New South Wales ..	27.6	27.9
Victoria .. ..	33.8	35.1
Queensland .. ..	33.8	33.6
South Australia ..	39.2	41
Western Australia ..	35.9	36.1
Tasmania .. ..	57	59.1

The comparison between those loan borrowings for 1960-1961 and the estimated approvals for 1962-1963 indicates that there has been a decrease in only one State in the Commonwealth on a per-head-of-population basis, namely, the State of Queensland. In every other State in the Commonwealth there has been an increase. It is particularly marked in the amounts shown for semi-governmental and local bodies. The total figure shown for Queensland in those two years decreased whereas in every other State in the Commonwealth it increased.

We have been informed by the Treasurer that we were gradually reaching the stage where our borrowing programme was gradually rising because of his and the Premier's efforts yet we find that, to an extent, in the last two years our approved borrowing programme has been reduced.

The only other matter to which I wish to refer is civil defence, which is covered by the Public Service Commissioner's Department. Some 18 months ago in this Chamber I made a number of statements relating to the fire-fighting precautions being undertaken in many Government institutions, and in many privately-organised charitable institutions. I referred particularly to houses being converted into homes for aged people. I was virtually ignored at the time and questions were asked by me of the Minister for Health and Home Affairs and a statement was made in this Chamber. Although a real danger to life existed nothing was done. In Sunday's

newspaper there appeared a statement that the State and Federal health authorities have instituted inquiries into this matter, and the chief officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board made an individual report indicating that some shocking conditions existed in many of our institutions. I call them "our" institutions because they are wholly subsidised by the Commonwealth Government. I mention this to indicate that the Civil Defence Organisation inaugurated within the Public Service Commissioner's Department is not receiving the necessary encouragement from either the State or the Commonwealth Government. Apparently both administrations are prepared to allow the R.S.S.A.I.L.A. more or less to organise civil defence services as part of its organisation, whereas greater emphasis should be placed not only on the dangers of nuclear warfare but also the natural hazards of fire and flood. They are all part and parcel of the Civil Defence Organisation. In his report the Public Service Commissioner says—

"The establishment of the Civil Defence Organisation is for the purpose of educating the public upon measures and actions which can be taken to save lives, relieve suffering, protect property and maintain morale in wartime and natural disasters."

I have argued on previous occasions that fire protection in public institutions should come under the control of the Civil Defence Organisation of the Public Service Commissioner's Department. I think that is the proper place to administer it. There is an excellent officer in charge in the person of Mr. Barney Fogg. In view of his ability to administer staff he should have attached to his organisation a fire engineer under the control of the State Government. I have already informed the Department of Health and Home Affairs that I believe there should be uniformity in the precautionary measures throughout the State. Those uniform measures could be administered by the appointment of a fire engineer in the organisation in the Public Service Commissioner's office. There must not be a repetition of the shocking disaster that occurred in recent months after my original warning had been completely ignored by the Government. I understand it was an institution that had been subject to some investigation and that reports had been made to the department, and I understand that—

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Gaven): Order! The hon. member is straying from the Vote.

**Mr. LLOYD:** This is part of the Public Service Commissioner's office. If the Civil Defence Organisation was originally set up constitutionally for the purpose of saving lives, what worse natural disasters could there be than fire and flood? Fire and flood prevention are all part of the work of the Civil Defence Organisation.

I have briefly mentioned the three matters I wished to deal with. I shall conclude at this stage as no doubt the Premier wishes to reply.

**Mr. HERBERT** (Sherwood) (3.9 p.m.): As President of the Australia Day Council for this year, I should like to thank the Premier for the Government support we received for the 1963 festivities. For some years the State Government has provided the sum of £500, except in one year when it gave us £550. The Australia Day Council has now developed into a really big business. It costs us between £2,000 and £2,700 each year to conduct the Australia Day festivities, which means that we have to raise in the vicinity of £2,000 each year other than the money that comes to us in the form of Government grant. Not all our functions are ones for which people have to pay, but the additional money is raised in gate takings—if it rained we would be in real trouble—sales, advertising in programmes, and donations. We have a tremendous fluctuation in donations from year to year. This year the donations are holding fairly well. To give the Committee an idea of the public support we get I shall give the figures of cash donations received as at 31 March each year—

Year	Amount		
	£	s.	d.
1956	176	1	0
1957	81	19	0
1958	353	8	9
1959	348	10	2
1960	705	2	10
1961	565	6	4

The 1960 amount included £333 6s. 8d. from the "Telegraph" as a donation from one of its competitions, and the 1961 figure included a gift of £337 13s. 11d. from the same newspaper.

In 1962 we received £389 0s. 2d., which included £100 6s. 2d. from the "Telegraph", and so far this year we have received the "magnificent" total of £267 7s. 0d. as contributions from firms, organisations, and individuals, towards the conduct of Australia Day in this State. One of the reasons for the poor public support is that very many of the firms in Queensland are run by managers for southern enterprises and many of them judge Australia Day in this State on the experience they have had in the South. There is no doubt that Queensland provides the only real celebration of Australia Day in the Commonwealth. Until this year we had an indifferent Federal organisation, which met very rarely. I have been on the Australia Day Council for six years now and until this year we had only one meeting in that period. We now have a Federal organisation, of which I am vice-president, and it will meet every two years in a host State. The Federal executive is at present located in South Australia. The aim

of the Federal organisation is to enlist full financial support for Australia Day to give it a truly national character, but we run up against a series of real problems in the celebration of Australia Day. Firstly, it takes place during the school holidays and organised groups of children cannot take part, because the schools are still on holidays and there is no chance of organising the children at the beginning of the school year. Very often the school-children return to school after the Christmas vacation the next day. It is also the recess period for youth groups. Most of the youth groups and church organisations start their activities the week after the Australia Day week-end so we cannot expect support from them. The main sporting clubs are in the same position and, as it is the last week-end of the summer holidays, many people go away for Australia Day anyway. The fact that we always have a long week-end, irrespective of the date on which Australia Day falls, takes away the character of the day in many respects.

Next year Australia Day falls on a Saturday, but the Monday will still be a holiday. We are organising a quite impressive programme, but I am sure that many people will enjoy themselves at the beaches, which is the natural thing to do. For next year, we have made a number of changes in the traditional celebration. We will still have the procession from King George Square, leaving at 10 a.m. Over the years this procession has been very successful, and Government support has been good. We have acceptances for next year which will make the procession as good as it has ever been. We were worried because we thought that possibly the Warana Festival may have eaten up some of the money that firms allot for functions of this nature, but it does not seem to have affected us unduly. In previous years, at the end of the procession we have always gone to the Exhibition Ground. This has been a rather expensive item. This year we have cut out the Exhibition Ground and we will terminate at Victoria Park. We have permission from the Brisbane City Council to use the sporting fields in this area for our sporting functions at the end of the procession. The procession will arrive at Victoria Park at 11.15 a.m. and we will then have the Miss Australia Day judging. The Miss Australia Day competition has grown in recent years through the co-operation of air lines and the State Government Tourist Bureau. The girl who wins the competition is given a holiday on the Barrier Reef. Many girls enter the competition. Arrangements are made by the Margaret Rose School of Department and the M.G. Club provides transport for the girls during the procession. That gives us quite an attractive item in the procession, as well as something of interest to many people who might not otherwise take part.

At 12 noon the unfurling of the flag will take place, on this occasion by the Acting Minister for Labour and Industry, Hon. A. T. Dewar, who for many years was a member of the Australia Day Council.

From that time on there will be numerous sporting activities in the area. In addition, this year we will hold a very comprehensive aquatic carnival on the Brisbane River at Fairfield. The last two years this has been held at Petrie but we have come back to the Brisbane River for a really big carnival. So this year people will have the choice of the aquatic carnival, the procession, and the sports day for traditional celebration.

It would not be possible for the council to function as it has done without the support that the Government has given it and the amounts it makes available to local cities and shires give them an opportunity to conduct smaller functions to remind people of the nature of the day.

I should like to suggest to the Premier for future consideration that the Government give a slightly larger grant to the Australia Day Council, because it winds up the year with very little in reserve. We have had six years in a row without rain. The first year with rain will probably finish the Australia Day Council's banking account. Of course, it certainly will not finish the enthusiasm of the member organisations.

In conclusion, I should also like to thank Mr. Speaker for his generosity in allowing the use of the Parliamentary Refreshment Rooms for the Australia Day dinner next year, the year in which I am chairman of the council. It is our hope that each year the various organisations that provide the chairman will also provide some sort of facilities for the Australia Day dinner.

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier) (3.17 p.m.): I should like to thank hon. members generally for their complimentary references to officers of the department. Those officers are highly deserving of every commendation because they give great service to the State, which they love so well. We are fortunate indeed in having such a high standard in our Public Service and so many outstanding officers in charge of our various activities.

The Leader of the Opposition raised a very important subject relating to the Public Service generally. He mentioned the loss of the services to the State through graduates going overseas. Unfortunately, over the years we have had considerable losses of officers we have trained through our fellowship and scholarship schemes. Not only overseas but also within the Commonwealth of Australia, officers trained in our Queensland departments seem to be very highly regarded by corresponding departments. Up till just recently, we have lost a very large number because the salaries in this State did not compare with salaries in other States and in

private industry. In recent years we have largely protected the service of public servants by making Queensland salaries comparable with those of the Public Services of other States and to a certain extent comparable with those paid by private industry.

A great deal of credit for the high standard of our Public Service must be given to the Public Service Commissioner, Mr. Fraser. He has built up the State Service very much in recent years, and he has had the full backing of the Government. As a result of the improvement in salaries, in superannuation, and in accommodation now being provided through the actions of this Government, we have built up our Public Service very considerably, to the advantage of the State.

The Public Service Commissioner has in recent years very wisely made efforts to recruit suitable officers for the Public Service. There has been much competition from banks, insurance companies, and private industry for suitable boys and girls leaving school, and we were running second in getting the best. In the last few years, through the efforts of Mr. Fraser, we have been getting some of the top boys and girls in the various examinations.

Another innovation, which has proved very successful, is an indoctrination course at the beginning of each year, in which recruits to the service are given lectures on the obligations and duties of public servants. I feel that there has been, as a result, great improvement in the standard of recruits in recent years.

The Leader of the Opposition raised a very important matter when he spoke of the battle that we have to meet rising costs, over which in many cases we have no control. He referred to the difficulty that will face the Public Service in the near future as the result of recent increases granted to professional engineers by the Federal Arbitration Court. He pointed out that these high salaries recently awarded to one section of the Commonwealth Public Service will inevitably be introduced to our Public Service, bringing with them a substantial rise in costs.

**Mr. Newton:** Are you referring to the increases granted by the Federal Court?

**Mr. NICKLIN:** Yes. The Leader of the Opposition was wrong when he said that members of the Public Service do not have to go to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission to obtain salary increases. All public servants did go to the court, and key salaries within the service were fixed by it. Consequential salaries down the line were then arrived at by consultation between the Public Service Commissioner and Public Service unions. The basis of fixation of Public Service salaries is no different from that applying to any other section of the community.

**Mr. Newton:** He was pointing out that the Government does not go in and oppose them as openly as it does in other places where Government employees work.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** The Government at all times goes into the court and puts a fair case to help it make its determination. The court has on quite a number of occasions expressed appreciation of cases presented by the Public Service Commissioner and his officers on behalf of the Government.

The Leader of the Opposition also mentioned the great service that the Agent-General gives to this State. I am sure that his remarks will be endorsed by every hon. member in this Chamber. We are very fortunate in having an officer like Sir David Muir in charge of this important section of governmental activities in London. His service to the sugar industry is well known, and we are indeed fortunate in having an officer of his calibre to represent the State overseas. His vast knowledge, particularly of the sugar industry, is a great advantage when he is representing this State at international and Commonwealth conferences overseas. Undoubtedly he deserves every commendation that comes his way.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for Kedron, seemed to get his Estimates a little mixed. He spoke on matters affecting the Treasury and the Department of Health and Home Affairs and said very little about the department under consideration.

He complained very bitterly that Queensland was not getting its correct share of the Australian loan programme. The Treasurer and I have been making the same complaint at Canberra for some years and, as a result, have increased our share a little. But the sole blame for the small share of loan moneys coming to Queensland lies on former Labour Governments, which refused—I emphasise "refused"—to take loan money that was offered to them. As a result, the quota allocation based on the amount of loan money in those years is now reacting most unfavourably against Queensland, which receives the lowest per-capita allocation of loan money of any State in the Commonwealth, and if any State needs extra loan money it is a great developing State such as Queensland. It is no good the Deputy Leader of the Opposition coming here and complaining when his own party and the Governments that he supported were responsible for the position in which Queensland now finds itself.

The hon. member for Sherwood, Mr. Herbert, mentioned the support given by the Government to the Australia Day Committee. The Government is happy to support that committee, which so actively endeavours to inculcate in the minds of the people of Queensland the need to commemorate Australia Day in the proper way. Unfortunately, its task is difficult, and if it were

not for the enthusiasm of the small band of men and women of which the committee is composed, there would be no recognition of Australia Day in Queensland. The hon. member did not suggest that only the Government should make a greater contribution towards Australia Day activities. I agree that it is not entirely the Government's responsibility to provide finance for the appropriate commemoration of the day that should mean so much to Australia. The Australia Day Committee should get greater recognition and support from the people of Brisbane and the business section of the community. Australia Day will never be commemorated as it ought to be unless we get the full backing of all sections of the community, and I think that the business section is letting the committee down at present. I commend the committee for the work it is doing.

I thank hon. members generally for their contributions to the debate, and I am sorry that such a short time has been available in which to discuss the many interesting activities associated with the Public Service Commissioner's Department, the Department of the Co-ordinator-General, the office of the Agent-General for Queensland, and other departments.

#### VOTES PASSED UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 307 AND SESSIONAL ORDER

At 3.30 p.m., under Standing Order No. 307 and Sessional Order agreed to by the House on 10 October, the questions for the following Votes were put by the Chairman and agreed to—

	£	s.	d.
Department of Premier and Chief Secretary—Chief Office ..	62,722	0	0
Balance of Department (Consolidated Revenue and Trust and Special Funds) ..	15,120,238	0	0
Department of Public Works and Local Government ..	2,173,688	0	0
Department of Labour and Industry ..	1,218,784	0	0
Department of Justice ..	2,162,935	0	0
Department of Public Lands and Irrigation ..	1,540,220	0	0
Department of Railways ..	37,000,000	0	0
Department of Transport ..	330,000	0	0
Department of the Auditor-General ..	167,938	0	0
Trust and Special Funds Estimates—Balance of Estimates ..	8,313,655	0	0
Loan Fund Account Estimates—Balance of Estimates ..	17,124,000	0	0
Supplementary Estimates (Consolidated Revenue), 1961-1962 ..	6,186,665	15	1

Supplementary Trust and Special Funds Estimates, 1961-1962 ..	3,102,190	13	10
Supplementary Loan Fund Estimates, 1961-1962 ..	2,910,197	11	7
Vote on Account, 1963-1964 ..	44,000,000	0	0

#### SEVENTEENTH ALLOTTED DAY—RECEPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions reported and, on motion of Mr. Hiley, received.

#### ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

The Resolutions being taken as read—

**Hon. T. A. HILEY** (Chatsworth—Treasurer and Minister for Housing): I move—

“That the Resolutions be now agreed to.”

Honourable members indicating a desire to discuss certain Resolutions—

Resolutions 1 and 2 agreed to.

Resolution 3—Departments of Development and Mines, Main Roads, and Electricity—

**Mr. WALSH** (Bundaberg) (3.37 p.m.): I called “Not formal” to this Resolution because it deals with the administration of the Departments of Development and Mines, Main Roads, and Electricity. During the discussion earlier in the session on the production of coal, the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads, and Electricity referred to the intention of the Government to do everything in its power to see that, instead of coal being imported from New South Wales to supply Cairns and Townsville, those markets were met by Queensland coal mines. Everybody in the House agrees with the Minister's attitude on that subject.

After all, if we are importing coal from New South Wales for any purpose whatever, would it not be far better, as long as coal of equal or better quality can be produced in this State, to convey it on our railways and create increased employment in the State by the utilisation of that coal? The Minister is probably aware that there has been an application before the departments concerned regarding the utilisation of Queensland coal, Kianga coal in particular, for gas production. To enable this to be done, certain concessions would have to be made by the Government in rail freights, and so on. I do not want to go into the subject of rail freights as it is a matter that comes up under a Resolution much further down on the list. I do not think anyone called “Not formal” to that Resolution—not that we will reach it, anyway. The fact remains that there is certain evidence before the responsible Ministers. I hope that the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads, and Electricity will give this request his blessing and his backing. I refer to the fact that gas companies in this State, by using certain

Queensland coal, will be able to get 4,000 more cubic feet of gas from one ton of coal than from the coal they are compelled to take from another area. After all, 4,000 cubic feet of gas is a considerable quantity. If the companies concerned, those at Townsville, Cairns, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gympie, and Bundaberg, can produce more gas from a ton of this coal than from the coal they are receiving at present, that will be reflected somewhere in the cost of production. I do not know that we should compel a company of the magnitude of the one whose manager lives in Bundaberg and manages the gas works there to accept an inferior product which produces so much less gas.

The Minister for Transport knows that this case has been presented to his department. I think it is a pretty good case, particularly when it is known that in New South Wales a concession of as much as £1 a ton is granted to enable the coal to be handled by the Railway Department. It is perfectly clear to me that at present the Railway Department in Queensland has not got this trade because the coal is imported by sea to Cairns and Townsville from New South Wales. I say to both the Ministers concerned that my latest advice is that this company can land coal in Bundaberg by ship—which it could not be prevented from doing, as must be realised—as cheaply as it is getting it by rail from the Burrum area. If it can get so many thousands of tons of coal from Newcastle which will give it an extra 4,000 cubic feet of gas a ton, it will make a terrific saving. The other angle, as the Minister for Transport well knows—and the Minister for Transport responded very well to the representations—is that the manager, on behalf of the company, has agreed to give the consumers of gas the benefit of any saving that is made as a result of the company being allowed to use this Queensland coal. In addition, the company has offered to transport all its freight in Queensland by rail, and the Railway Department is not getting this trade at present. As one who handled for a time the financial affairs of this State, I could probably present an argument to show that to a certain extent, we are getting it from road transport fees, but that is not the correct approach. If this coal can be produced in Queensland, and transported by rail in Queensland by the Government's railway system, the company, as a result of the use of that coal, can produce more gas in each of the centres and give the consumers the benefit of it. I cannot understand any attitude, particularly by the Railway Department, which would hold up a decision on this. I would say frankly that no decision has been made by the Railway Department. Because the matter has been under discussion for so long, because there have been so many conferences about it, and because no result has been forthcoming from those conferences, I think it proper that I should

raise it. I think both the Ministers will agree that in view of the facts stated in the case presented by Mr. Cain, manager of the companies, it is pretty hard to refute. In his letter Mr. Cain said—

“At present all appliances, fittings, and miscellaneous requirements are brought by road.”

I think the figures that Mr. Cain gave to the Minister indicate that these companies have a very substantial freight business. Would it not be better to concede them the right to use the coal where it has been proved that it is so much superior to other coal in Queensland that they are compelled to use, and then for the Government to get the benefit all along the line in the transport of coal, and so on? I cannot see why an early decision could not be made on this and the company told what it has to do about its business. I again emphasise that I do not think there was a member of this Committee who disagreed with the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity when he said the objective of his Government was to capture that trade from New South Wales, where the coal was being exported. The Minister for Mines agreed with the contention and there can be no argument about it. After all, if the resources are here and they can be used, why should not they be tapped by Queensland organisation of labour and transport, and all that goes with it?

So I should like to hear from the Minister some reference to the fact that his department has already entered into an arrangement with the company to test the coal, and that the tests have proved the position, as I have outlined it, that it will produce 4,000 more cubic feet of gas per ton. The importance of this, no matter how you look at it, is that if you can get 17,000 cubic feet of gas from one ton of Kianga coal as against 13,000 cubic feet, again that must be reflected somewhere in the cost of production and the use of gas in homes, and so on. Again I emphasise that the company has indicated to the Minister and the department, as well as to me, that it is quite prepared to pass on to the consumer any savings or benefits from the increased production of gas from that coal.

**Hon. E. EVANS** (Mirani—Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity) (3.48 p.m.): The hon. member for Bundaberg raised the matter that I dealt with on the introduction of the Thiess Peabody Coal Pty. Ltd. Agreement Bill. I gave certain undertakings and reasons for the insistence upon the inclusion in the Bill of certain clauses. Since then, samples have been sent and at the present time discussions are going on with my colleague the Minister for Transport and I can assure the hon. member for Bundaberg that the matter is well in hand with the sole objective he mentioned, of holding that field.

**Hon. G. W. W. CHALK** (Lockyer—Minister for Transport) (3.49 p.m.): I want to endorse the remarks of the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity on the Kianga field and the prospects of securing the North Queensland business in particular. It is true, as the hon. member for Bundaberg has said, that he brought a deputation to me and a case was presented on behalf of the South Brisbane Gas and Light Co. Ltd. and other associate gas companies in relation to the haulage of coal generally. The hon. member has raised the question this afternoon.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! My attention has been drawn to the fact that the Minister for Transport is speaking following the Minister who closed the debate on the Resolution. I am sorry that I did not stop the Minister for Transport earlier, but I was busy writing the time in my record book.

Resolution 3—Departments of Development and Mines, Main Roads, and Electricity—agreed to.

Resolution 4—Treasurer and Housing—agreed to.

Resolution 5—Department of Education—

**Mr. BENNETT** (South Brisbane) (3.45 p.m.): Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! Before the hon. member commences his speech, I should like to mention to the House that I have been officially informed by counsel to the Government that a search made in the Supreme Court Registry, Brisbane, this morning shows that, on the 26th instant, Writ No. 1010 of 1962 was issued out of that Registry on behalf of Francis Erich Bischof as plaintiff against Mary Margaret Fels as defendant. The plaintiff claims damages for defamation. Any matter pertaining to that writ is sub judice. Any other matter concerning the Police Department may be openly discussed.

**Mr. BENNETT** (South Brisbane) (3.50 p.m.): I was rather intrigued with your observation, Mr. Speaker, that a search at the Supreme Court Registry this morning revealed that a writ had been issued. I am wondering if a search is made every morning of the week to ascertain what writs, if any, are issued, thus making discussions here sub judice. However, in keeping with your ruling, which I am bound to accept, I must make the observation that the ruling, given no doubt on legal advice, deprives me of the opportunity of bringing before this House certain very important material that I had in mind, which I have endeavoured to bring before the House from time to time. I do not propose to canvass the matter any further because I do not wish to end up with you, Mr. Speaker, as I ended up last week. For your consideration, I refer you to the High Court case of Lockwood v. The Commonwealth, which was

decided in 1954 and is reported in 90 Commonwealth Law Reports at page 177. A reading of that case may cause you to review your decision on such a matter as this on any future occasion.

In view of the ruling already given, I am wondering what will be your attitude to the other case that will come under litigation, or prospective investigation and inquiry. That is the matter concerning a top officer in the Criminal Investigation Branch, Inspector Bernard McNichol.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I announced to the House that any other matter coming under the administration of the Police Department is open for discussion. The case mentioned by the hon. member for South Brisbane has not as yet reached the judicial stage.

**Mr. BENNETT:** There is in that matter equally important material that could be introduced into this House. I am informed that a charge has been made by the Commissioner, the man involved in the writ to which reference has been made, so if the material relevant to that case cannot be fairly discussed here, I suppose it is only fair not to discuss the other person, who has been charged by the Commissioner. I do not therefore propose to state the circumstances under which he was charged because I feel that the two matters might be related. As a Parliamentarian and a member of the legal profession, I suppose it is only fair that the circumstances relating to the charge made against McNichol should not be ventilated at this stage, as it will be subject to certain litigation.

I hope, of course, that these matters were not brought into litigious circumstances for the base purpose of preventing a fair and free discussion in this Parliament. I say that merely as a passing observation, but I certainly hope that that has not been the real reason for the instigation of the charge and the issuing of the writ. Having made those observations, and in accepting your ruling, Mr. Speaker, and being fair to those who will be engaged in litigation, I do not propose to canvass the merits of the case or bring before Parliament the material that I had intended to. No doubt that material will be closely explored, not under your jurisdiction now, Mr. Speaker, but under the jurisdiction of a Supreme Court judge and perhaps some other judicial authority. Before leaving that particular aspect, I should like the Minister to indicate whether or not he has received certain correspondence from the judiciary itself in connection with police administration.

Having accepted your ruling, Mr. Speaker, as I say with a certain degree of disappointment, I merely say this in conclusion: that the circumstances and activities of the police administration over last week-end, and since last week-end, have completely vindicated my conduct and the activities that I have engaged in over recent months, and will satisfy

public opinion that there was good reason for my conduct. In time, as the full story unfolds, my action will meet not only with the approbation of the public but also with the approbation of members of this Assembly, and they will be convinced in due course that I have done this Parliament and the State a service.

**Mr. MELLOY** (Nudgee) (3.57 p.m.): I wish to speak on two matters affecting the education Vote, both of which relate to the University of Queensland.

The first is allied to some extent with mental hygiene in Queensland, and I suggest the appointment of a professor of psychiatrics in this State. In New South Wales a second professor of psychiatrics has been appointed recently, yet in Queensland we have none. The Minister for Health and Home Affairs is vitally interested in mental hygiene and the provision of adequate services in our mental institutions, and I think a professor of psychiatrics should be appointed in Queensland. A wonderful job is being done in New South Wales in this field, and the faculty at the university has been of great assistance to them. As a matter of fact, in Sydney yesterday I met the newly-appointed Professor of Psychiatry, who is one of the most enthusiastic men that I have ever met. I am sure that Queensland would benefit from the establishment of a similar faculty at the University of Queensland.

I now wish to make a comparison between activities at the University of Queensland and those at the University of Moscow. I shall refer to certain things that have happened in Russia and compare them with similar projects in the University of Queensland. I believe that our university could well undertake similar projects. In July of this year a Summer School of Banking was held at the University of Moscow.

**Mr. Knox:** Banking?

**Mr. MELLOY:** Yes, banking, and at that Summer School of Banking were represented nine Australian banks. I have information here giving many details of that representation.

**Mr. Knox:** Did Mr. Molotov write to you?

**Mr. MELLOY:** I will tell the hon. member who wrote to me.

The representation was as follows: the Reserve Bank of Australia was represented by Mr. E. Apted; the Bank of New South Wales by Mr. R. Norman; The Australia and New Zealand Bank by Mr. T. Williamson; the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney by Mr. P. Tweedy; the Commonwealth Bank of Australia by Mr. E. Speers; the Bank of Adelaide by Mr. J. Bashford; the Commercial Bank of Australia Limited by Mr. C. Worley; the E. S. & A. Bank by Mr. S. Doughtey, and the National Bank of Australia by Mr. B. Heath.

**Mr. Knox:** Who wrote you the letter?

**Mr. MELLOY:** Don't be in such a hurry. The hon. member is too keen. I can assure him it is on very good authority.

**Mr. Knox:** Quote the authority.

**Mr. MELLOY:** In due course.

We have been informed at various times by hon. members on the Government side that when any organisations send representatives to Moscow it is for some nefarious or ulterior motive. It is usually suggested that it is probably to plan the downfall of Australian industry if we send representatives from our unions. Perhaps we can assume, from the attitude adopted by hon. members on the Government side, that these representatives of the Australian banks were sent to plan the economic downfall of this country. We can assume that that was their purpose.

**Mr. Knox:** Why don't you table the letter?

**Mr. MELLOY:** I am making this speech.

If we are to be led by the statements of Government members, this is a matter of grave concern to Australia. These people were there at the invitation of the University of Moscow, and this Summer School of Banking was held at that university and papers on Soviet banking progress were read and submitted for discussion. Is it not remarkable, Mr. Speaker, that hon. members on your right, who are closely associated with the banking institutions of this country and who must, of course, endorse the visits of these representatives to Moscow, are put in the rather invidious position of condoning the visit to Moscow of these banking representatives? However, the point I want to make relates to the Queensland University. If summer schools are to be held would it not be of great interest to Queensland and Australia if they were held in Queensland or in some other Australian State? I suggest that the University of Queensland take the necessary action to hold a summer school of banking in Queensland at some future date.

**Mr. Duggan:** The Australian Institute of Management holds its summer schools here.

**Mr. MELLOY:** And it is quite competent that a banking summer school be held here. The attitude of Government members when trade-union representatives are sent to Moscow is to cast opprobrium upon them.

**Mr. Tooth** interjected.

**Mr. MELLOY:** We can assume that this gathering at Moscow could be planning threats to the economic basis of this country. I did not intend to speak at any length on this matter. I raised it merely to indicate—

**Mr. Knox:** Why don't you table your authority?

**Mr. MELLOY:** The hon. member for Nundah wants my authority. The letter that I have here is signed by Sir Garfield Barwick.

The letter is addressed to my colleague, the hon. member for Lilley. He has supplied me with this information, which was given to him over the signature of Sir Garfield Barwick. I do not think any member of the Government parties would dispute any information given by that hon. gentleman. I hope in future that hon. members opposite will think twice before they hurl abuse at industrial unionists who go to Russia to attend any conference. I should say that they are just as honourable and scrupulous as any representatives of the private banks in Australia, who also went to Moscow.

**Mr. Sullivan:** Is that letter from Sir Garfield Barwick relevant to education or police matters?

**Mr. MELLOY:** The hon. member has not been listening. I intend to leave the matter at that. It will provide hon. members opposite with a bit of thought. It may make them hesitate on future occasions before they attempt to throw any slur on members of trade unions who go to Russia. If they do we will be able to throw back at them this information, which will be contained in "Hansard".

**Mr. HERBERT (Sherwood) (4.8 p.m.):** The Bennett bubble has burst, and like all bubbles there was nothing inside it—just a slimy surface outside. We can pass over his comments and deal with the contribution of the hon. member for Nudgee, who was discussing banking procedure, based on a letter written by Sir Garfield Barwick to the hon. member for Lilley, Mr. Cameron.

**Mr. Melloy:** Don't cast any slur.

**Mr. HERBERT:** I do not want to cast any slurs. That has already been done by other people in other places. In view of some of his comments about me, the hon. member for Nudgee can say nothing about people casting slurs. For him to try to emerge as an expert on banking, and then the hon. member for Maryborough to interject that bankers are not workers, is indicative of the attitude of hon. members opposite, who believe that anyone who uses his head rather than his hands is not a worker. I would point out that two of the banks, the Commonwealth Bank and the Reserve Bank, are public instrumentalities and send delegates to meetings of representatives of banks all over the world. The meetings are held in a different country every year. I think that should refute the stupid implication of the hon. member for Nudgee, who was trying to put up a smoke screen to cover up the trips of people to Russia, which believes in peace as long as it is peace on Russia's terms.

I shall direct the remainder of my comments to the Estimates at present under discussion and deal with a very important feature of education in Queensland. One of the most distinctive features of Queensland education has been the unprecedented

growth in the number of pupils taking advantage of secondary education. Last year, over 80 per cent. of the children in their 15th year remained at school. That is extremely important. Until the advent of this Government, the majority of children in that age group had already left school.

**Mr. Houston:** They didn't have a job to go to.

**Mr. HERBERT:** That is the sort of idiotic answer we can expect from the Opposition. They left school because they had jobs to go to. We are keeping them at school so that they will be able to go to better jobs and be better equipped for the jobs and better equipped later in life. Anyone who thinks that a child should leave school at that age to go to work has no place in modern society, because education these days is necessary for a fuller enjoyment of life.

The raising of the school-leaving age to 15, therefore, represented virtually no hardship. It merely confirmed the need for what was already a fact. The 80 per cent. at present at school in their 15th year means that when the third-year Junior grades come in the figure will rise even higher. The reorganisation of high schooling has placed a new value on the 15-plus age group. We brought forward high school entry by admitting eighth grades as first-year high-school students and gave them a three-year course to Junior. It is considered that this extended course will give students a far more comprehensive education that will benefit them to choose, at Junior level, between vocation and further education.

**Mr. Bennett** interjected.

**Mr. HERBERT:** I spend my time in this House preparing speeches, and not in the courts trying to take a few more shillings from luckless people.

Another important decision was the introduction of a modified course for those somewhat academically below their fellows, and an agricultural course for those with a leaning towards the land. I forecast that there will be a rapid expansion in the demand for these Junior agricultural courses. Today, parents and children alike realise the absolute necessity for a scientific approach to farming, and I am quite sure that when this course becomes more widely known this year many more youngsters will be taking it up. This year the course is available at high schools at Atherton, Corinda, Dalby, Gympie, Innisfail, Kingaroy, Malanda, Monto, Murgon, Nambour, and Warwick, and next year courses will be initiated at Stanthorpe and Southport.

When the agricultural course started at Corinda at the beginning of this year, there was considerable doubt as to whether it would catch on. Hon. members will recall my earlier comments in this House about the desirability of the Junior agricultural

course. When it was introduced at Corinda it was not very widely advertised, but we did get two full classes of Junior students in agriculture from the metropolitan area. Half of them came from my electorate, and the remainder from other parts of Brisbane. If there is one class of State school students in Junior agriculture from one electorate in the metropolitan area where it was advertised—and I made sure of that—I think it is fair to say that we could repeat that in most of the other electorates in Brisbane. There is probably a potential for Junior agriculture courses in the metropolitan area many times in excess of the number at present attending at Corinda. I am sure that next year the Corinda High School will have a vast increase in the intake of students enrolling for Junior agriculture. It is a particularly healthy trend that should be encouraged.

I should like to support the comments of the hon. member for Hinchinbrook when he spoke on the education Estimates. He said that there was need for an academic agricultural grade at Senior level. At the moment, the youngsters leave at the Junior stage and then continue with a normal academic course for Senior, and then do a course in agriculture, or veterinary science, or whatever particular vocation they wish to follow. They have to do that without further practical work until they complete the degree. If we had a Senior agricultural course, mainly academic with one or two agricultural subjects, we would find that students would be much better fitted for introduction to the university. At the moment, their only avenue is to attend as boarders at Gatton College, where they get a considerable amount of practical experience. We already have a heavy Junior intake at the various schools, and I am quite sure that we would find that many of them would be sufficiently interested to continue on at least to Senior in the academic aspects of agriculture. As it is, many of these youngsters are lost to us for all time because they have not the incentive to continue. I have said before, and I repeat, that I think we could establish an agricultural college at Senior level in the metropolitan area by acquiring the William Powell Home for Discharged Prisoners from the Methodist Church. They are farming in one of the suburbs at the moment and I am sure they would be prepared to discuss a proposal to move their home to somewhere outside the metropolitan area, possibly closer to the new prison at Wacol, which was opened this morning.

Another reason for the wonderful response to the attractive and varied high-school syllabus is the promise of the Government to establish secondary education wherever there is a permanent enrolment of over 20 students. This, of course, has been one of the keynotes of this Government's activity in secondary education. Wherever there are children who require secondary education, we guarantee to

provide it and I think if a permanent enrolment of 20 students can be reached and we can provide them with secondary education, it will not be very long before the percentage of population attending high schools will be little short of 100. When this time comes, secondary education will really have arrived. But we as a Government accept the responsibility to provide for the youth of the State, irrespective of where they live, an opportunity for secondary education and also an opportunity to continue to tertiary education.

This will give us very big problems at the university level, and the fact that the University of Queensland is bigger than any of the universities in the United Kingdom except the University of London is not a very creditable performance. A university of that size cannot be fully effective and, irrespective of the cost, we will have to face up to the idea of another university within the metropolitan area.

I am well aware of the claims of Toowoomba and Rockhampton for university colleges, and both have a considerable amount of merit—if the money was available I think they should be established—but, irrespective of the justification for university colleges outside Brisbane, the capital itself has reached the stage where it must have another university within the very near future. Where the money for it is to come from is something that the Treasurer will have to argue out with the Commonwealth when the next university grant is made; but we need another university in Brisbane.

The University of Queensland is not as large as it appears on paper because a number of its students are external students. Nevertheless, the university is already over the desirable size and, in the very near future, this Government will have to face up to the responsibility of starting another university somewhere within the metropolitan area.

The proportion of those leaving at Junior to those remaining is necessarily high for economic and academic reasons, but what has happened is that nowadays children leave at Junior instead of at Scholarship. That is particularly important because those youngsters have had a taste of higher education in a way their parents were unable to. The majority of the parents of children in most of our perimeter high schools did not have secondary education themselves. They are faced with the problem that their children are receiving an education on a level above that to which they proceeded and they find extreme difficulty in assisting them in their studies. Altogether this indicates a widening desire to obtain maximum benefits from the education system and should ensure an increasing flow to the university. When we consider figures relating to the extension of the university, we should not use the present percentage rate. That is going to increase every year.

Abolition of the Scholarship examination will mean that in future years we will have a much greater percentage of youngsters proceeding beyond Junior, when they will have only that one examination to pass before continuing with secondary education. Already in my electorate some youngsters have completed commercial Seniors and, with those qualifications, will be applying for positions. Many years ago children entering the commercial world stopped at Junior standard and did not even consider continuing to Senior.

When a student enters secondary school, he makes what is perhaps his first really important decision. In choosing between general, industrial, commercial, scientific, and, where applicable, agricultural courses, he lays the foundation stone of his occupational edifice. He becomes, to a degree, specialised. This is where he first strikes a problem, particularly as many parents have had no experience of secondary education. The youngster has placed upon him the task of deciding what sort of course he is going to launch himself upon. At the age of 13 or 14, or whatever age he may be in 8th Grade, the typical youngster has ideas different from those that he will have in his 30's. As a matter of fact, the course in agriculture appeals to many youngsters who have no real idea of the sort of future that lies ahead of them.

The fact that we have research and guidance officers to help youngsters is, in itself, a great benefit. I think that there should be possibly a widening of the various courses so that if a lad realises that he has made a mistake, he can still change. After he has passed Junior and finds that he has made a mistake in the course that he has chosen, he often finds it very difficult to catch up on the subjects that he neglected for the first two years. I have known many cases of lads who have undertaken industrial courses and done well in them, and then have decided that they would like to go to the university, only to discover that they are lacking in subjects required at Junior level for matriculation.

The fact that the trend in secondary education is more towards science and less towards the classics is a satisfying recognition of the needs of students. It also reflects an appreciation of the demands most likely to be made on students in a competitive world. It is deplored in many circles that study of the humanities is in many cases badly neglected because of the necessity to have people with scientific training. Those who study the humanities are not necessarily restricted entirely to the teaching profession or library work. Such study gives a very firm basis for many other positions. Nevertheless, youngsters whose education has had a scientific backing find that positions are much more readily available, and in our modern world more and more technicians will be replacing labourers. The son of the labourer will be tomorrow's technician, and his son in turn will be one of the scientists of the future.

That more and more students consider that their talents find greater expression in a practical sphere is reflected in the phenomenal increase in enrolments for non-academic courses. I think that very many of these people would never have had secondary education under a Labour Government. Labour did not wish people to have any training whatever, particularly the type of training that would develop their minds and make them think for themselves. Labour preferred to have them enrolled at an early age in unions and have their thinking done for them by union secretaries.

**Mr. Houston:** Keep it on a higher plane.

**Mr. HERBERT:** That is the fact of the matter. Labour over the years neglected education in this State because they were frightened of what education would do to the people. That is the reason why they launched all sorts of attacks on our education programme, which has brought about the greatest advance in education that has ever taken place in Queensland. The only complaint that hon. members opposite are really making is that people are becoming too highly educated and too smart to swallow the sort of stuff that has been dished up by socialist propagandists over the years.

Dealing with non-academic courses now available at the high schools, I should say that industrial students have a wonderful range of courses from which to select, a range that was not available to them when they had to leave school after the Scholarship examination. The technically proficient can choose from engineering, apprenticeship to a trade, draftsmanship, teaching manual training, science, or the Public Service. Commercial students can choose from the Public Service, banking, insurance, business, clerical, sales, and accountancy, and home science students can choose from teaching, nursing, dressmaking, millinery, and the food and clothing trades. Agricultural students can choose from agricultural and veterinary sciences and rural occupations. All these things were closed books to the youngsters who had to leave school after the Scholarship examination; but with the extension of secondary-school education, they are given the opportunity to go farther than their fathers did before them.

More significant developments in secondary education have occurred during the present Government's term of office, and all the changes have been encouraged and guided by the Minister, who understands education from the practical side and who also served a hard apprenticeship on the Opposition benches watching our education system languish.

Apart from record construction and attraction of pupils, Grade I. high schools now have principal mistresses who are responsible for the welfare of the girls, and clerk typists have been appointed to assist the principals of high schools with enrolments in excess of 300. I should say that possibly

that figure could be reduced, because many principals in high schools with fewer than 300 pupils have to deal with a tremendous quantity of mail and other things and have nobody to help them.

Subject masters and mistresses are being appointed in 1963 to 11 of the largest schools to supervise the teaching of English, mathematics, and science. In this field, many new Australians with a knowledge of one language other than English could be very capable teachers of that language as subject masters at some of the bigger schools.

The present Government was the first Government to provide transport services for secondary students, and it also introduced the scheme for granting financial assistance to parents whose children are conveyed to school by licensed bus or private motor vehicle. It also was the first Government to provide residences for principals, inspectors, and regional directors, and it appoints groundsmen to care for playing areas and beautify the grounds.

As hon. members will appreciate, there is tremendous movement in secondary education. We do not claim that the system is perfect, but no effort will be spared to make it so. We believe that the tasks of a secondary school are: to promote sound learning according to the abilities and aptitudes of all children; to fit pupils for a constructive part in the life of the adult community; to nurture them in their personal development—that is extremely important—so that they become men and women of judgment, decision, and good taste; and to contribute to their growth in the direction of good moral character. No effort will be spared towards this end. No effort will be spared to encourage our youth to stay at school longer. This means that, immediately after we are over the introduction of the three-year Junior course and the extension of the school-leaving age, we will have to face up to these things.

Nothing distresses me more—I am sure it distresses many hon. members—than to have people coming to me with a special plea to get their child out of school before the present school-leaving age, which is 14. I think that only in the most extreme circumstances should the Minister permit a youngster of those tender years to be launched into employment simply because his parents think he can earn a few shillings. In one instance that I know of, a parent of a child of 12 thought he would be better off earning a few shillings a week in a factory in the metropolitan area than continuing his education. So that, when we introduce the 15-year age in the comparatively near future, I hope we will remain as steadfast as we have been on the 14-year age in refusing applications, except in the most extreme cases of hardship, for youngsters to go to outside employment before reaching 15 years of age.

I have a problem in my own area that I wish to bring to the Minister's attention, because it covers both his departments, namely, education and police. I refer to the Darra State School. That school has suffered in the last six months from a most remarkable wave of vandalism. It became so bad that the head teacher and several members of the committee took it in turn to sleep on the premises in an attempt to catch whoever was involved. Whoever they were, they were very well aware of what was going on because whenever there was someone there there was no move. Immediately those who were watching left—the following night—the school was again broken into and desecrated.

We do not know whether it was children or adults but whoever it was they did a deal of damage to the school. The problem has been accentuated by the fact that there is no police station at Darra, which at present is policed from the Oxley mounted-police depot. That depot is extremely hard worked to police Ipswich Road in the Oxley area, probably one of the most dangerous roads in Brisbane. The police there have a very large number of traffic cases to handle. Inala has now been taken off their shoulders but they still have the problem of policing Darra, which they find extremely difficult.

I suggest that consideration be given to the provision of a police station at Darra, not only to protect the school. It would assist if the police station was situated near the school, but one is also needed to protect the industrial area. I remind hon. members that not so long ago there was quite a large explosion in one of the masonry factories there, and that was the second time one had occurred. Also, a tremendous amount of building work is now going on at Centenary Estates. One attempt at theft has already occurred and was prevented by a private investigation service, but as builders move into the Centenary Estates area there will probably be a repetition of what happened at Inala, where vast quantities of material could not be accounted for.

I suggest that the provision of police facilities in the Darra area could cover existing industrial areas from Darra to Wacol and also expedite development in the Centenary Estates area.

**Mr. SHERRINGTON** (Salisbury) (4.33 p.m.): I rise to speak on this Resolution because I think one or two points should be brought to the notice of this Parliament and the Minister for Education, particularly in the light of many contributions that have been made to recent debates on the subject of road safety. Various speakers have enumerated their ideas on the many tragic road accidents in our State, and many have advanced suggestions as to how they could be prevented. Suggestions have ranged from the employment of more uniformed officers to heavier penalties.

I feel that the root cause of the high accident rate in Queensland could be linked closely with lack of education in road safety and lack of knowledge of the mechanics of safer driving. I was very interested to learn from a magazine called "Report," which is issued by the Australian Road Safety Council, that Australian schools lag in road-safety education and it states that an Australian Gallup Poll has found that 65 per cent. of the population support the teaching of road safety as a standard subject in the school curriculum. I have become particularly interested in this aspect of road safety. Accordingly, in conjunction with the principal of the Inala State High School, who was very desirous that some instruction in the mechanics of road safety should be given in his school, I was able to obtain for that school a second-hand utility truck. As one of the optional subjects, he intends to teach his pupils the whys and wherefors of the working of a motor-car engine. When the students have almost reached the age at which they can obtain a driving licence, he hopes that in his spare time he will be able to give them driving instruction. The article I referred to previously goes on to say—

"Commenting on the problem at the recent meeting of the Australian Road Safety Council the Chairman (Dr. J. R. Darling) said:

"The reaction of educational authorities can only be understood if we recognise the philosophy behind secondary education in this country, in all States, though perhaps less so in Tasmania.

"This is that secondary education beyond 15 is still regarded not as a continuation of primary education for all, or almost all, children, but as a more or less specialised preparation for university or other tertiary education.

"This is the old English conception as opposed to the American, and while it remains, school authorities consider themselves fully occupied with the teaching of "subjects" and prevented from entering the wider fields of education and training for life, of which this would be a part."

"The general consensus of opinion among directors of education is that it is undesirable to add another subject to an already crowded curriculum; that extra cost would be involved and there is an unwillingness on the part of State Governments to add to licence fees; and that a true comparison with the United States of America cannot be made because the school leaving age is much lower in Australia."

In other words, the article points out that the curriculum in secondary schools is already so overcrowded with academic subjects that education authorities are loth to introduce another subject such as that phase of road safety of safe driving instruction, and that

they feel it would not be part of their job but rather that they are there merely to prepare the student for higher or tertiary education. The article also points out—

"Some observers point to the 'lost' month in Australian education, a period which follows the annual examinations prior to the conclusion of the school year. They claim that road safety education and driver training could be undertaken at this time when teachers find it difficult to keep the children occupied."

I do not agree entirely with what that article says about the "lost" month. I feel that if we are going to include safe driving as part of the educational curriculum, it should become part of regular training in high schools in order to make a contribution towards lessening the number of tragic accidents on Queensland roads. I feel that we should approach this matter in primary schools by teaching the elementary operations of road safety in educating the children to understand the various signs and signals. I know that much of this is done at the present time. When they have a start on a road-safety programme, it can be carried through to our high schools. Once a child has left primary school and has a better knowledge of everything involved in road safety, particularly from a pedestrian's point of view, we should then proceed to teach him, as a potential car-driver, the rudiments of how a car works. I have thought for a long time that many of our accidents are contributed to by the person driving a vehicle having very little knowledge of what is going on under the bonnet of the car. I should say that at least 60 per cent. of drivers have not the slightest idea how a car engine works, what is involved when gears are changed, or what happens when the clutch is depressed or the accelerator is depressed. In many instances, I believe this contributes to accidents, particularly with unskilled drivers.

As a part of secondary-school training we should devote some of the time to teaching elementary features connected with car engines. Having instilled in the pupil an appreciation of what goes on when the motor is working, we should then proceed to teach him how to become a very good and a very safe driver. If that was done in the sub-Senior year of education we would make a contribution that would eventually turn onto the road drivers with an overall knowledge of safe driving.

All that is necessary today to get a driving licence is to obtain a learner's permit and have a limited amount of instruction. As long as an applicant is able to scratch through the tests he is then eligible for a licence. That is a very lax and haphazard approach to road safety. I think driving should be taught over a number of years. If instruction was given in primary schools and carried on through the secondary schools, much safer drivers would be turned onto the roads when they eventually qualified

for driving licences. I have not the details with me concerning a scheme which I understand is carried out in America, but I believe that in the American States various grades of licences are obtained by young people after they pass through a college, and the grade of licence has an effect on insurance premiums. If a driver obtains a certain certificate he is entitled to a rebate, or a lower premium, on insurance cover. I commend to the Minister the idea of instituting driver-training in secondary schools. I think it is quite clear that driving taught over a period of years is much more preferable to the hasty method of getting a learner's licence, having a few lessons, and then qualifying for a driver's licence. In the overall scheme, a driver taught over a number of years must be much more efficient than one who is taught for only a few weeks—

I should also like to mention another matter concerning that part of this year's report of the Minister for Education covering the Queensland Museum. It says—

"The historical display; which was first opened to the public during the State Centenary Year, was removed from exhibition in the latter part of 1961, having aroused so much interest that its retention was warranted far beyond the period of six months originally intended."

Between the two sessions of Parliament this year, I had the opportunity of meeting Mr. Mack, the Director of the Queensland Museum. He is a man tremendously dedicated to his job. In the long discussion I had with him he told me his ideas and that he is intensely interested in preserving the history of Queensland as part of the Museum. Basically the Queensland Museum is given over to exhibits of flora and fauna but Mr. Mack feels that, if a start is not made soon on preserving Queensland's historical relics, they will be lost for all time.

**Mr. Houston:** You mean the Liberals?

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** After next year no doubt they will recede into history; nevertheless, I do not think we would want any of them preserved in the Museum to haunt the people of the State in the years to come.

To return to the serious side—I feel that, at this stage in the history of the Museum, a master plan should be prepared setting out its eventual size. No doubt Government Budgets will provide only a limited amount of expenditure each year for such institutions, but, if a master plan and a design are prepared, we could, over a period of years by means of additional allocations each year providing for extensions, eventually build up in the State a museum that would be one of the greatest show pieces in the Commonwealth. I commend the suggestion to the Minister. I agree with Mr. Mack that it is important that we preserve many of those relics that have in some small way contributed to the State's history.

I get sick and tired of Government members getting up and saying what they have done for education and what Labour failed to do. In my electorate I have seen one of the greatest cases of mismanagement in education for primary-school children that could possibly be witnessed under any Government. In the satellite suburb of Inala more buildings are being concentrated than in any other part of the State and twelve months ago I drew the attention of the Minister for Education to the fact that, because Inala was growing at such an alarming rate, he should proceed immediately with the construction of the Serviceton South State School. No matter what he might say about Labour's alleged failures, this rests fairly and squarely in his lap. The situation has existed since this Government was elected to office; indeed, I drew it to the Minister's attention 12 months ago. I pointed out that the present Serviceton State School has an intake of 10 children a week, and that it was necessary to make an immediate start on a new school at Serviceton South. What has the Minister done about? Despite repeated letters by me to him, no start has been made, and the existing Serviceton school, which has accommodation for 1,250 pupils, will have an enrolment in January next year of 1,480. The only solution that the Minister has at present is to send the additional children to the Inala State School, which is a mile and a-half from the area of the Serviceton School.

**Mr. Pizzey:** Where there will be room.

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** If the Minister had started the new school when I drew the need to his attention 12 months ago, this position would not have arisen. I am getting sick and tired of hearing him complimented on what he has done for education. I have repeatedly brought this need to his attention, but he has done nothing about it.

**Mr. Pizzey:** You have a high school there.

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** Apparently the Minister is going to be content to rest on his laurels because a high school has been built there. Let me remind him that it was not until I led a deputation from the people of Inala that he got cracking and built the high school. He was still unable, even though he received the deputation 18 months previously, to have the high school ready for occupation in the following year. After the Minister had promised some 18 months previously that he would have the high school started, it was only half completed when students moved into it, and they have had to put up with the many distractions of builders continuously working on it. If the Inala High School is the paragon of what he has done for education, I am unable to accept that he is the greatest Minister for Education that the State has had.

**Mr. Windsor:** At least we did not raise the school starting age like your Government did.

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** I am not going to be side-tracked by the hon. member for Ithaca, because everyone knows the standard of his contributions to debates.

The Inala area is a classic example of how this Government has ignored situations that have arisen. Because of its rapid growth, it presents a special problem. It is no use the Minister's saying what he did or did not do. The fact remains that 12 months ago I asked him to provide this new school to avoid over-crowding present facilities, but he has done nothing and children will have to be sent to another school.

**Mr. SULLIVAN (Condamine) (4.54 p.m.):** I am not going to answer the charge that has just been levelled against the Minister; no doubt he will handle it himself in due course. However, let me point out to the hon. member for Salisbury that the conditions of which he speaks existed all over Queensland when this Government came into office.

I am glad to have the opportunity of speaking on education in this State. During the debate on the Estimates of the Department of Education, time was not available for me to speak. I join now with other hon. members in expressing pleasure at seeing the Minister back at work after his illness. I commend him for the wisdom that he showed in doing just as his doctors told him, and I think it will be agreed that in the last few days we have seen him as he was formerly. Without wishing to embarrass the Minister, I should say that he is very valuable to Queensland, and I think most hon. members will endorse that remark. He has proved that during his five years as Minister for Education. Country people and people in Brisbane and the provincial cities will say the same thing, but I am going to speak from my own experience and say just how much people in country areas appreciate the magnificent job that he has done in the interests of the State.

Figures will bear out what I have said, and I shall refer particularly to what has happened at the Chinchilla primary and secondary schools since the Minister took office in 1957. The hon. member for Aubigny was Minister for Education for 14 months prior to the overthrow of the Labour Government. As Chinchilla was in the area that he represented, no doubt he was very keen that a high school should be established at that centre. I may be giving credit where it is not due, but, knowing the hon. member, I think he probably did everything possible to have a high school established there. The hon. member for South Coast, in discussing the Estimates for the Department of Education, said recently that the former

Government refused to establish a high school on the South Coast. It also refused to give the hon. member for Aubigny a high school at Chinchilla.

**Mr. Pizzey:** It would not make the money available.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** That is so; it would not make the money available.

I am very pleased to tell hon. members that only last week I inspected the high school at Chinchilla, which is nearing completion and will be ready for occupation in January next year. It is a school worthy of the people of the town and district of Chinchilla. In 1957, 624 pupils were attending the primary school at Chinchilla and 76 were attending the secondary school. The figures for October of this year, which are the latest available, show that the number of children attending the primary school has risen by only three to 627, but the number attending secondary school has risen from 76 to 159—74 in sub-Junior, 69 in Junior, five in sub-Senior, and 11 in Senior. Those figures indicate to me the value that country people place on education. Although the attendance at the primary school has remained almost stationary for five years, the attendance at the secondary school has more than doubled. Of course, that is because of the facilities that have been made available there. I do not take credit from the Labour Government for establishing a secondary top at Chinchilla in about 1951 or 1952; but through our policy of centralising schools—Chinchilla is a fine example of this—we have been able to give secondary education to more children.

Although some hon. members opposite represent country electorates, many of them represent city electorates, and I should like to tell them and members on the Government benches who represent city electorates the great sacrifices that parents in country areas previously had to make to give their children a secondary education. In the main, the children had to attend boarding schools, and that is a fairly costly business. It costs about £400 a year to keep a child at boarding school. In the Chinchilla area, which has experienced the ravages of drought over the last five years, I would be safe in saying there would not have been more than about 2 per cent. of the children requiring secondary education whose parents could have afforded to give it to them. I do not say that lightly because I have spoken to people who have encountered this problem and they are extremely grateful for the manner in which this Government has faced up to its responsibilities in giving secondary education to the children in that and similar areas.

About two years ago, knowing that a separate high school was to be established at Chinchilla, I found it incumbent upon me to point out to the people their responsibility to give their children the opportunity of availing themselves of these advantages.

When we knew of the change in the education system by which the leaving age would be raised to 15 or up to Junior standard, I again felt it incumbent upon me, as their representative, to try to give those children who would be leaving school this year, prior to the change-over, the same opportunities as will be enjoyed by those who come under the changed system.

In Brigalow, at a time when the area was really ravaged by drought, I took the opportunity to sow the seed in the minds of parents to take advantage of the secondary school transport service to give their children the advantage of secondary education. I recall one Sunday afternoon when four dairy farmers in the Brigalow area were herding their cows on the road in an endeavour to keep them alive. I had heard of their plight and I went down to Brigalow to talk over with them whether they considered it was necessary to make freight rebates available to them. It was during that discussion—there were four farmers there in the shade of a brigalow tree—that we got onto the subject of centralising the secondary schools in the area in order that children would have the opportunity to attend the secondary school at Chinchilla. There were three secondary schools involved and, as a result of that discussion, they invited me to talk to all the parents. I had sown the seeds in the minds of two or three key men and they were all very happy about it. The next move was to talk it over with the Regional Director and as a result of that I am happy to state that those small schools have gone and we have a centralised primary transport service for these kiddies on the farms in the area. They go in with the primary-school children to Brigalow and from there on to the secondary school at Chinchilla.

I can see the hon. member for Barambah nodding his head because this is the pattern throughout the State; no doubt it is a result of the efforts of the Minister for Education early in his career in that portfolio. He went out into the country areas and met the people and talked over their needs with them, as all Country Party members have done. I have learned from older members just how they sowed the seed in the minds of the people in country areas.

I must pay a tribute to those school teachers who are entrusted with the task of educating our children. With the passing of one-teacher country schools the time might be opportune for me to pay special tribute to those men and women who, over the years, have done such a magnificent job of teaching in those far-flung areas. Those who have had the experience will know the difficulties of teaching six or seven classes in a one-teacher school. When I went to school, in many instances the teachers lived four, five or six miles from the school. Perhaps they were town lasses or lads who did not know which end of the horse to get on, but they learned to ride.

I place on record my appreciation of the wonderful job done by those people, particularly in one-teacher schools in the remote areas of Queensland.

I may not be old, but I have had a pretty long association with school committees. I became president of a school committee either just before or just after I became married. The old gentleman who was retiring must have thought I had a future. I have been associated with school committees ever since, during which time I have learned to appreciate what teachers have done for the children in those areas.

The centralising of schools brings about certain problems. Although they are being quickly overcome, the most obvious, of course, is the provision of classrooms. I am pleased to see that Mr. Longland is in the lobby. I pay tribute to the Department of Education and the Department of Public Works for the manner in which they have combined their efforts to overcome the problems. Although we do not have everything we want in my electorate—and the same would apply to other hon. members—we do know that we are moving in that direction. We are much better off than we were years ago when it was so difficult to get alterations and additions to schools. The problem to which I now refer is one that comes about as the result of centralising schools and bringing a number of children into one school area. I refer particularly to playing areas. Possibly many years ago, when the reserves were set aside for school purposes, it may have been difficult to see as far ahead as today when the area is inadequate for the centralising of many little schools. I recently took up with the Minister the present position at Jandowae. I am very grateful to the Premier for inspecting the school on his recent visit so that he would be aware of the situation there. When that school was built there were probably only 30 or 40 children to be catered for. The area has been sufficient until comparatively recently, but there are now 370 children attending the school. An approach was made to have a street closed and the school committee requested that a police paddock, no longer needed by the Police Department, should be made available to the Department of Education so that it could extend the playing area at that school. That application was made a couple of years ago. At the time the Police Department thought it would require that land at some time in the future to hold stolen cattle. However, I have lived in Jandowae for almost 38 years and I have never known cattle to be held in that paddock. Some years back there was a case of cattle stealing in Jandowae, but on that occasion the investigating detective camped at the dip yards and looked after the cattle there. I think the time has come when that land can no longer be retained for holding cattle. The Minister also administers the Police Department and I hope that when he looks

into this matter he will give earnest consideration to making this land available to the Department of Education, which can put it to much better use than its present purpose. I pay tribute to the parish priest in Jandowae because of his generosity in this matter when I raised it with him. He has already agreed to make available part of the land adjoining the police paddock, which is held by the Catholic Church, so that it will square up the area. He will play his part, and I hope that the Police Department will play its part.

There is one matter I wish to refer to concerning a request by the parents' committee for a subsidy of about £270 to preserve the original school at Chinchilla. When I was in that town the other day some of the parents came to me and explained their reasons for wishing to preserve the school. I think they are very good reasons and I hope that the Minister will consider them favourably. They think this schoolroom, which is of historical value to Chinchilla and to the Department of Education, should be preserved, and they are asking only for a subsidy. They are prepared to find half the money to effect repairs and painting so that it may be converted into a theatre in which concerts can be held, so that there will not be any necessity to interfere with classrooms when concerts are held. The room could also be used as a tuck shop by the ladies' committee. I commend the members of the parents' committee for the interest they have taken in this project, and I hope that the department will not deprive them of the opportunity to have this old building preserved. It is in a very sound condition, or it could be with minor repairs. I sincerely hope that the Minister and his departmental officers will accede to this request.

I think the ground work has been done, and done well, for the change-over in the education system next year. A high top is to be provided at Bell, which is a smaller town than either Jandowae or Chinchilla. My electorate is served by the Chinchilla High School in the western end, the high top at Jandowae, the high school in Dalby, which is a big centre of business for a large area of my electorate, the high top at Bell, and then, over the range in the Kumbia area, primary school transport and secondary-school transport facilities are available to the very good high school at Kingaroy. Hon. members will realise that the children in my area are pretty well provided for in secondary education. Remembering that in the electorate there are some 30 schools serving some 2,600 children, including the little one-teacher schools that still remain, some of which, owing to distances, will no doubt have to remain, hon. members will realise what a responsibility the Minister has in even one area. No doubt there are dozens of other similar areas. In the metropolitan area, of course, the areas are smaller but the

numbers greater. So I would say that the Minister for Education and his departmental officers, to whom I must pay a very high tribute, have a very big responsibility to the people of the State. I do not pay that tribute lightly. I think they are a very fine bunch of officers and the private secretary to the Minister, Mr. Don Marsen, is always very helpful. I find that the departmental officers are always there to assist us, and I think the people of Queensland should be very grateful to them for the job they are doing in educating their children.

I should like to end on the note I started on and I think I will be expressing the feeling of the people of the Condamine electorate, particularly the children, in saying how pleased I am to see the Minister restored to good health. With the expanding education system in Queensland, it is most important that he retain good health in order to carry out his job. He is a man of very wide vision and I only hope that what he has started he will enjoy good health to continue in the years that lie ahead.

**Mr. HOUSTON** (Bulimba) (5.18 p.m.): As we listen to Government members speak on this Resolution, it becomes more evident that all they can speak on is their own electorates. They do that in an endeavour to persuade the people of Queensland that this Government has a record far more outstanding than that of any previous Government.

**Mr. Sullivan:** The Minister has told the story.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** The Minister told us certain facts, just as the hon. member for Condamine did, but he did not tell us others. It is true that there has been an extensive building programme in Queensland schools over the last five years, but no more than in the previous five years, and no more than in the period before that.

**Mr. Pizzey:** You are not fair dinkum.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I am fair dinkum. It is a fact.

**Mr. Sullivan:** What about the figures I quoted?

**Mr. HOUSTON:** The hon. member would quote anything. Just as with counting sheep in his sleep, he adds to them every time. The Minister cannot deny the real position.

**Mr. Sullivan:** Ring up the Department of Education and see if they are not right.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I do not have to ring anyone up. I have two reports in front of me—the 1956 report and the 1961 report—the last report of the Labour Government and the last report to hand of this Government. The hon. member for Condamine paid a very high compliment to the officers of the Department of Education, and a well-deserved one, too. I have no intention of criticising in any way the high opinion he has of those officers. I have had the privilege

of working under some of them and of meeting them on social and other occasions, and I have a very high regard for them; but let us remember that, in the main, the same officers served under the Labour Government.

**Mr. Pizzey:** You wouldn't give them the money to do it.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** Never mind about that; we will come to the money later. They did everything within their power to do a job for Queensland and to improve the education system. The big difference is that the present Government has more money available for education. It has to admit that it has either taken money from other departments for education or had more made available to it. It has to be one or the other.

It is true that in 1956 more classrooms and teachers' residences were built than last year. Those figures are contained in the Government's own reports. Let there be no more carrying on with this nonsense and trying to hoodwink the people. The Government has talked so much about this fairy tale that it is honestly starting to believe it. From hearing the hon. member for Sherwood, one would swear that all who went to school prior to 1957 were only half educated and a lot of fools. It appears from what hon. members opposite say that only since 1957 has anyone received any education. From the way in which some Government members speak and the rubbish that they talk, I am inclined to agree with that.

**Mr. Pizzey:** It is only since 1957 that western children have had a chance.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** It is true that there have been definite advances, and I think the Minister will agree that he hopes for further improvements, particularly for the western children, in the next five years. I should think that he would acknowledge that.

**Mr. Pizzey:** I will be here to do it, too.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I sincerely hope that the Minister remains healthy over that period, but I certainly do not wish him well in the retaining of his office. I think that he will agree that whatever party is in office and whoever the Minister happens to be, there will naturally be an advance during that time.

The Minister need not refer to the figures as I shall give them to him. Reference to page 9 of the 1956 report of the Department of Public Works shows that in that year 298 primary and 71 secondary classrooms were built, making a total of 369. Last year only 316 primary and secondary classrooms were built. How the Minister can add those up in order to say honestly and sincerely that his Government has done more than we did, I shall never know. I shall leave that point because I know that the Leader of the Opposition wants to deal with it in greater detail.

I noticed in the paper this morning, supposedly under the name of the Director-General of Education, a statement that in 1964 an additional 20,000 students are expected. I do not know how that figure is arrived at. The fact is that this year there are over 26,000 children in 6th Grade. Most of them will go to 7th Grade, and then in 1964 they will become high-school students. With all due respect to the Director-General, I should say that there will be an additional 6,000 students, and that he should make allowance for them as far as possible in his planning.

My reason for mentioning the number of classrooms built last year was to bring me to the point that I am very doubtful whether the Government will be able to put into effect its hoped-for change in 1964. Last year 317 classrooms, both primary and secondary, were built. If there are to be an additional 26,000 students going to high schools in 1964, at least 800 more classrooms will be required. I do not know how the Government is going to build 800 classrooms in the coming year when it could build only 316 last year. I think the Minister should explain to us where the children will be accommodated when they arrive at the schools. Perhaps that will be one of the things held over till after the election, when we will be told, "Due to circumstances, we just could not do it." If he does not believe that about 800 classrooms are required, let the Minister tell us how many children he expects to be put into each class and how many children he believes that a teacher can handle efficiently and effectively if they are to be given the education that they deserve.

A few days ago I asked a question about the Government's policy in the employment of cleaners at high schools. I was told that the policy is now to employ one full-time male cleaner and one full-time female cleaner, plus temporary or part-time staff as required. As I indicated then—I say it openly now—I think the Government is making a great mistake in reducing the number of male cleaners to one. I have seen a school where two male cleaners were employed who I should say were second to none in the State. They found it impossible to keep the school in the state that we would all desire. It was a school on a main road that until recently was a dirt road. Because of the prevailing wind in the area, they had a constant battle to keep the dust away from the desks and the classrooms, quite apart from the windows. As the Minister knows, in a modern school there are more windows than anything else, and it is no use having windows covered with dust when they are designed to let light in. I suggest to the Minister that where schools have a large number of classrooms and local conditions warrant it, he should consider the appointment of two male cleaners. As hon. members know, female cleaners cannot get up on ladders or do many other jobs that male

cleaners can do. I make that recommendation to the Minister as a result of a considerable amount of experience at one high school.

The Minister is aware that school committees have played an important part in our education programme over the years. It is well known that projects such as the provision of swimming pools at primary schools were undertaken only because of the efforts of school committees. The arrangement at secondary schools is slightly different. In the newer schools, as the Minister knows, and as I think most members of the public know, the Government puts the grounds in order and maintains them and provides many other items of teaching equipment. At the older schools, those things have been provided by committees, which have been subsidised by the Government to the extent of half the cost. We are reaching the stage now at older high schools where committees are spending money on larger projects that are not being undertaken by the department but which the parents believe are absolutely necessary. I refer particularly to the establishment of assembly halls in schools in Queensland. A few months ago I had the opportunity of visiting quite a number of New South Wales schools, and in one school in particular we saw the advantages of having an assembly hall. There we saw students, with the assistance of the teachers, putting on displays and organising functions in their own hall in school time, and in every case we found that both teachers and students were prepared to stay back after school to complete the projects they had in hand.

My suggestion to the Minister is that while the school committees are prepared to finance projects such as that, they cannot do so for several reasons. One is that it would take many years to obtain the necessary money through normal money-raising channels. But if it was possible for the school committees to obtain money by means of loans from banking institutions, the school committees to be responsible for repaying them, I feel that most of the high schools in Queensland would very quickly obtain assembly halls and similar improvements. I know one particular high school at which the committee could guarantee up to £1,500 income a year, but to do anything worth while would require perhaps 10 years.

We have to bear in mind that children will attend secondary schools for a maximum of five years. It is therefore very difficult for committees to put plans into operation and ask parents to contribute to various functions and other money-raising activities by saying to them, "Look, we want your money but your children will not receive the benefit of what that money will provide." If we could say to them, "Look, we want your money to show good faith to the Government and we are going to start construction of an assembly hall immediately. We want your money to pay back a loan that we have obtained from outside sources to build it," I

should say that the sole cost to the Government, other than the subsidy, would be guaranteeing the loan.

From investigations I have made, provided the Government guaranteed the loans, I believe it is possible for school committees to obtain the necessary finance to build assembly halls. I put that suggestion to the Government because I believe these halls are badly needed. As I said previously, a high school without an assembly hall is only a cluster of buildings in which we are trying to carry out education. With an assembly hall there is a focal point where students can meet and where the things they are taught in school can be given practical effect.

In one of the schools I saw in Sydney the students were putting on a play. All the costumes were made by the girls doing the home science course; all the scenery and woodwork required for it were provided by students doing woodworking and arts courses. All those courses and the dramatic arts course were co-ordinated for the purpose of putting on this function and I would say it gave the children greater incentive to learn, to see the things they learnt at school put into practical effect.

School plays in Queensland are put on in public halls, it is true, but public halls are generally so far from the schools that both the students and teachers lose most of the advantages of this very important occasion in school life. I suggest that, from the point of view of secondary schools, it is essential for the Government either to build assembly halls or to give the committees an opportunity to assist in providing them.

Earlier I mentioned that the Government was using its education programme mainly for propaganda purposes. Every speech from the other side of the Chamber has been based on what the Government has done in the field of secondary education, but the primary schools are being completely neglected. At secondary schools cleaners and groundsmen are provided by the Department of Education, but at the primary schools the grounds can become untidy and overgrown with weeds, even to the extent of being dangerous. School committees have to foot the bill to have the school grounds cleaned and cleared. The department has nothing to be proud of in its allocation of money for the maintenance of primary-school grounds.

While the Minister for Public Works and Local Government is in the Chamber, let me point out that the committee of the Balmoral High School is very grateful for his assistance in obtaining the timber necessary for the building of one of its projects. I take the opportunity to thank him for that assistance, which was greatly appreciated by all concerned. The work is now being proceeded with.

I said that primary schools have been neglected, but apparently technical education does not exist in the mind of this Government. No major building in the technical

education field has been constructed since this Government assumed office. Following the decentralisation of technical training under the previous Government, not one new centre has been opened since 1957. All the promises made in the 1957 election campaign have been either ignored or forgotten. When they were in Opposition it was often said by hon. members opposite that they believed in giving apprentices every opportunity to become highly-skilled and highly-qualified tradesmen. But today, five years later, apprentices still have to go to college at night-time. The sooner the Government settles down to catering adequately for technical education, the better for all concerned. I know that quite a few employers believe that day-time training would ruin them. They say that they cannot afford to have apprentices attending college in the day-time.

At the present time most apprentices go to college one day a fortnight. They attend for eight hours or less per fortnight at night-time. If apprentices had day-time training it would mean that they would be at college one day per week instead of one day per fortnight, which would result in their becoming highly-skilled apprentices more quickly. I notice that the hon. member for Ithaca is nodding his head in agreement with that statement. Seeing that we could have more highly-skilled tradesmen earlier with day-time training and that the apprentice would be more skilled during his training period, I venture to say that the employer would receive a greater output from him than he does at the present time. We talk about encouraging lads who show extra ability to do higher things in their trade training. It is suggested that we must have more scientists and more engineers. I think we all agree that the diploma courses are the poor man's way to have his children trained to become engineers or members of the other professions.

What chance have these bright boys when they have to go to college two nights a week for their ordinary trade course and are expected to go three nights a week on their diploma course? As a result, only the bravest apprentice would consider tackling an apprenticeship course and a diploma course at the one time. I know that the Government will say that it has been done over the years, but years ago things were quite different. The diploma course was quite different and so was the trade course. As we have modernised our trade course, we have made it harder. There is more subject-matter to be studied. The average apprentice today has not the time to go to night classes, and as time goes on it will become harder for diploma-holders and engineers. However, the day-time training of apprentices would cater for the training of all apprentices in the day-time and the brighter students would have an opportunity of attending college three nights a week. There is a vast difference between three nights of college a week and five nights of college a week. I know that the Minister can say, "We have not the trained teachers."

However, I am positive that many hundreds of people would apply for jobs as trade instructors and manual-training teachers. The Government would have no problem at all in quickly recruiting the additional teachers. Once they are recruited, I say to the Government, "For goodness sake do something about training them in the art of teaching!" I asked the Minister a question the other day about courses at the Technical Correspondence School. Many teachers who are taking on those courses do so with credit to themselves, but what is the good of asking men, in the middle of their teaching careers, to take courses to make themselves more efficient and then saying to them, "It was jolly good of you to do it but we cannot accept what you have as a qualification for advancement."

The Minister must produce a policy on technical education to let the apprentice know where he is, to let the employers know where they are, and to let the teachers know exactly where they stand. I will leave it at that, because I think the Minister has quite a lot to reply to. I trust he can answer some of the questions that have been posed.

**Mr. HARRISON** (Logan) (5.43 p.m.): There were so many matters that hon. members on both sides of the Chamber wished to speak about on the education Estimates when they were before the Chamber recently—and they wished to pay tribute to the administration of the Department of Education—that, at the time, I had no opportunity to speak. I am very glad to have a chance this afternoon to say a few words on how education affects the agricultural and rural sections of the community, and to express appreciation to the Minister for taking care of the requirements of the young people in the rural areas of Queensland. Indeed, the people of Queensland should be very proud of the education service provided for the children and the youth in every corner of this State. Education today is big business in Queensland, catering for the needs of almost 250,000 pupils at a cost of about £25,000,000 a year. Primary-school pupils total almost 220,000 and there has been a tremendous increase in secondary-school enrolments since this Government took office.

I want to express particular appreciation of the recognition of the increased school population of my electorate in that each of the three main centres will have a high school functioning in 1963. The Cleveland High School was established in 1962, while the high schools at Beenleigh and Beaudesert are in course of construction and will be ready to serve those districts by 1963.

I express appreciation, too, of the Government's recognition of the needs of country school children by the provision of school transport. I note that we have throughout Queensland over 800 school transport services operating for primary and secondary schools and vocational classes at a cost of £616,000

for the year 1961-1962. I am very grateful for that because I know from actual experience that consideration is given right down to the minimum number of children who qualify for the service.

A unique service will be established in my electorate next year to serve the secondary-school children from Russell, Lamb, and Macleay Islands with a motor-launch service going round and picking up the children, bringing them over to the mainland at Redland Bay, putting them on a bus and taking them to the new Cleveland High School and then returning them to their homes at night. The launch will be equipped so that the children will be able to do quite a part of their homework as they come across in the morning and return in the evening. I know that the parents especially, who have felt very isolated in the past, will be very grateful for the service.

Where transport cannot be arranged, we have the continuation of the very splendid correspondence school system. I know something about it because so many children now attending secondary school have received their primary education through correspondence and they have not suffered from it in any way.

Following on from the correspondence school we have the rather new feature of the School of the Air, whereby children are given help with studies including some subjects that cannot be taught by correspondence.

In addition to that, we have the excellent secondary correspondence school. I see it caters now for 3,013 pupils as against 2,625 last year.

I am pleased to see that a special English course for New Guinea natives is now under way and that examinations will begin next year.

Another matter not so closely connected with country districts is the evening tutorial classes in Brisbane. They cater for over 1,700 pupils, and the thing that interests me is that 22 are from South-east Asia, of whom 13 are assisted students under the Colombo Plan.

I refer to these things because they indicate the extent of our education services in Queensland. I know that other hon. members have referred to many other services provided, particularly for the children in the cities. What I want to concentrate on is education as it affects the youth of rural areas. In this connection, one cannot very well overlook referring to the Queensland Agricultural High School and College at Gatton. It has been operating for a long time, and continues to turn out year after year many boys who have at least good elementary training in agriculture. With that training behind them, they are very valuable to Queensland.

The Junior Farmers' Organisation also comes under the administration of the Department of Education. Those who have not

had any close personal contact with this body will be glad to know that it serves a dual purpose. Not only is it concerned with getting together young people interested in rural matters, but it also interests them in community life and aids their development as citizens. What I have seen of its work augurs well for the future. Young people meet through this organisation at an early age to discuss matters and conduct their own affairs in a very fine way. What they learn equips them well for their future lives. The Junior Farmers' Organisation has a membership of 5,400 today, and I think it deserves the good will and assistance of every senior member of the community.

I am pleased to see at university level the continued growth of the Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Science. There is no doubt that for its development Queensland needs people trained in these fields. This is the age of specialisation, and it is necessary that this knowledge be made available in the field through what are called extension services. The future success and development of primary industries depend on this type of education. Extension services are very important, and I notice that final-year students in agricultural science can now elect to specialise in one of three different branches, as it were, of that course. They are dairy farming, farm management, and animal breeding. Of those three most important things, the one on which I should like to say a special word is farm management, which I referred to briefly the other day. Quite often primary producers do not regard themselves—and are not regarded by the community, either—as business men. In the competitive world in which we live today, we simply have to learn to be better business men than we have been in the past. I am not saying that there are not many very able business men amongst men on the land, but it will assist them greatly if a full range of services such as this is available.

Dairy science and animal breeding, the other two sections that I have mentioned, are assuming greater importance day by day. The dairy industry is going through a very difficult time. Our products are likely to be restricted in our customary market in the United Kingdom, and we have to find new markets and new products for those markets. We are now training boys at the university who will be able to undertake this specialised work.

It is also very important that we get on top the problem of animal breeding, and I compliment the Government on the establishment of an artificial-breeding and distribution centre at Wacol. This will enable us to have better control over breeding and produce better stock, and also will assist in overcoming the problem of infertility, which has become very serious in our dairy and beef herds. For those reasons, I express my appreciation for the establishment of those three new courses.

I should not like to conclude without saying a word of very sincere appreciation to all those who administer the Department of Education, from the Minister right down through the senior officers—the Director-General, Dr. Watkin, the Assistant Director-General, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Black, who is in charge of secondary education, and Mr. Guymmer, who is in charge of primary education. They are all very approachable men who are dedicated to their jobs, and they are succeeding very well.

I should also like to mention two other men with whom I have come in contact and who I believe deserve mention in the House for their work. One is Mr. Young, who looks after buildings and sites, and I have never met a more helpful and courteous officer. The other is Mr. Hyde, who has a very close association with, and sympathy for, problems associated with school transport.

As the Minister has now returned, I shall conclude by repeating my appreciation of his work and the work of his department.

**Mr. ADAIR (Cook)** (7.15 p.m.): I take the opportunity of speaking on the Resolution before the House. I, like many other hon. members, have my problems with education and particularly the transport of children to schools. I think I mentioned most of these points when the Estimates for the Department of Education were before the Committee, but one matter I should particularly like to bring to the Minister's notice is the building of a high school at Mt. Molloy. Mt. Molloy, like Julatten and Mary River, is an isolated area, and residents of those areas believe that a high school should be built at Mt. Molloy. The Minister has promised that a new school will be built there in 1964.

I encountered the same problem at Mossman, and I put up a fight in the House for the building of a high school in that centre. There is one there now. It started off with eight pupils and today has more than 60. I am sure that if a high top is built at Mt. Molloy something similar will happen there. In fact, there is a larger number of pupils available to attend such a school now. Almost 20 pupils would attend a high top if one was built, and I hope the Minister keeps that in mind and builds such a school there, certainly not later than 1964.

Another matter I should like to bring to the Minister's notice concerns the transport of children to schools, taking them over long distances from the Mary River area to Mt. Molloy. The two-way trip covers 37 miles. The person operating that transport service is paid, I think, 1s. 6½d. a mile, which amounts to a total payment of £16 or £17 a week. For the life of me I cannot see how he can carry on this service over rough, unsealed roads for such a meagre return. He has signified that he will carry on for that amount, and he is still doing so.

He has been operating for only about one month and I do not think it will be long before he requests that he be paid the full four-way travelling rate.

I have at the moment a request before the Minister for a person at Mt. Melloy to transport children from Mt. Molloy to Mareeba High School. The two-way transport would cover about 25 miles. The woman concerned claims that she can work in Mareeba during the time her children are there. I should like the Minister to look into that matter. I believe that on the short transport services where there is only a small number of children 1s. 6½d. a mile is not enough.

My main purpose in rising was to bring before the Minister's notice the facts about transport for police in the Coen area. I do not know where the Minister got his information from, but he certainly has not got it from anybody who knows anything about the area. The police station at Coen is one of the most remote in the State. The police officers there have a large area to control. I know of no other police station in Queensland where the police officers have to patrol on horseback. At the present time the three policemen there have 18 saddle-horses, but out of that number only five are fit for use. About 10 of them are so poor that if they last through the dry season it will be a miracle. The remainder of them are just brumbies, not yet broken in.

**Mr. Thackeray:** Do you think you should take half of the horses from Oxley up there?

**Mr. ADAIR:** Take a car from down here.

**Mr. Armstrong:** You would need a new road, too.

**Mr. ADAIR:** The roads are all right. The graziers are using those roads right through to Wenlock and up to Bamaga. Only a few weeks ago the Federal member, Mr. Wentworth, travelled right up to Bamaga, visiting a lot of the properties on the way back. Whoever has given the Minister his information about the transport in that area has given him the wrong advice. I can assure him that every grazier on the peninsula has a four-wheel-drive Land Rover so that he can get in and out of his area. The only time those roads are impassible is in the real wet season, from the end of December until about February or March. At the present time the police have to get whatever transport is available from the graziers or anybody else in the area who is prepared to give them lifts to where they are going.

At the tip of the Cape York Peninsula there are several mission stations. In order to go up there to register births, deaths, and so on, the police officers have to travel long distances. Using horse transport it is necessary for them to take 13 to 15 horses—pack-horses and saddle-horses. As I have

said, there are only five that they can really saddle up and take out on patrol duty. It is ridiculous for the Minister to think that horse transport is suitable for that area. Until nine or 12 months ago a Land Rover was provided and I believe that the Minister should supply the police officers with a Land Rover so that they may properly carry out their duties in the area.

Only recently there were headlines in "Sunday Truth" about louts on motor-bikes taking charge of Port Douglas. The police officer at Port Douglas has only a motor-bike, and half the time it is not functioning. I ask the Minister to make sure that the police officer at Port Douglas has a suitable vehicle to enable him to carry out his duties properly, instead of the old motor-bike he has at present.

**Mr. GILMORE** (Tablelands) (7.26 p.m.): I take this opportunity, on behalf of the people of the Tablelands electorate, to express gratitude to the Minister and to the Government for the great interest that has been taken in rural schools and for the standard of education that is now available in that area. One has only to travel across the Tableland to see the standard of schools erected; and one has only to see the high schools at Mareeba, Atherton, Malanda, Herberton, and Ravenshoe to get an idea of the importance of education in the minds of members of the Government, and to get to know the thoughts of the people. School attendances in the area are ever-increasing. It is true that many schools have been closed. I have heard members of the Opposition say that that is bad. However, it is standard practice throughout the world today to centralise education and bring as many scholars as possible into the larger towns. School buses have been used in Queensland to bring the benefits of centralised education to children in distant centres.

One factor has been brought to my attention recently concerning children who travel to school on school buses. They miss out on a great deal of sports time. They arrive just before school goes in, and leave almost immediately school is over. It may be claimed that it is not in the best interest of these children to miss out on valuable sporting time, which other children enjoy. The children who live close to the school assemble in the school grounds prior to the commencement of school and can stay after school is over. We all know that physical exercise is essential for growing children, and possibly it is the best way for children to get to know one another and to find their place in society. That is part of the education they get on the sports ground. I know it is a difficult problem to overcome. However, every action in itself seems to create a reaction, and we are now faced with this problem. I should like to see children—and particularly those who travel to school by bus—given a sports period so that they

may enjoy sport. To give an extreme example, I might point to the great strides being made in sport in Australia. At this very moment records are being broken in Perth at the Commonwealth Games. In years to come the lack of sporting time for these children may have some influence on Australia's sporting stature. However, I do not suppose, or even suggest, that we could do away with school buses. They are very beneficial.

Today we have had discussion on education as far away as Moscow. I am not astounded any more in this House at the Labour Party's stretching of the imagination and the way they can distort matters in an endeavour to make their own political points.

The hon. member for Nudgee had his teeth completely drawn today on his claim that the holding of a banking conference in Moscow justified the travelling of all the union representatives overseas from time to time to become indoctrinated in Communist techniques. It is well known how the Communists, after being indoctrinated in Moscow and in Hungary, have returned and held up our meatworks, and destroyed our shipping. We find the Labour Party now claiming complete justification for their future saboteurs and disruptors of industry by their training in Moscow or Red China. That is a type of education we can do without.

Only recently we had the spectacle here of the hon. member for Townsville North saying that I did not have the right to bring to the notice of the people the activities of the Communist Party.

**Mr. TUCKER:** I rise to a point of order. I deny that I said that. It is offensive to me and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member for Tablelands will accept the denial of the hon. member for Townsville North. I remind the hon. member, too, that the debate is on education. I know that he is entitled to answer any point mentioned during the debate, but I ask him not to pursue his present line of thought. It has not very much to do with the education Vote.

**Mr. GILMORE:** In deference to your ruling, Mr. Speaker, I accept the hon. member's explanation and his apology to me.

**Mr. TUCKER:** I rise to a point of order. I did not apologise to the hon. member.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. GILMORE:** I was about to say—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I trust that the hon. member will not be facetious when it comes to withdrawing a remark or accepting a denial.

**Mr. Bennett:** What about the withdrawal?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member for Tablelands has accepted the denial of the hon. member for Townsville North.

**Mr. GILMORE:** I should like to pay tribute to the great work that is being done by the members of the Police Force in the Gulf of Carpentaria area. They suffer somewhat in the same way as that pointed out by the hon. member for Cook, namely, through transport difficulties. It often involves a great deal of time and difficulty in arriving at the scene of a crime because of the vast distances. I appeal to the Minister to do his utmost to provide four-wheel-drive vehicles. Perhaps if I explain the situation it may be in the interests of the Police Force and help hon. members to understand the position. Most crimes up there relate to cattle-stealing. When the policeman is notified by a station owner that cattle have disappeared, the owner is always ready to provide horses for the search for the missing cattle. All that is required is a vehicle to enable the police officer to travel from his base to the place where the complaint is made. I think that police action would be expedited if vehicles were provided in that area.

Great progress has been made in the provision of education facilities in the district. We in North Queensland are most grateful for the establishment of the University College of Townsville. It is indeed a step forward. The standard of schools and classrooms that have been provided in the North is a revelation. It suits tropical conditions admirably, and the Department of Public Works is to be commended for the excellent job that it has done. The soft tonings used in the paint work are very refreshing and, I am sure, beneficial to students and teachers. I should like to thank the Minister for the great interest that he has taken in education in North Queensland and the great advances that have been made there under his guidance. I look forward to even greater expansion on his return to office next year.

**Mr. DONALD** (Ipswich East) (7.37 p.m.): I have listened to speaker after speaker on the Government benches eulogise the Minister for Education and thank him for what he has done in building schools and providing classrooms. I am justified in saying how little has been done, after repeated requests both verbal and in writing to the Minister, to have better facilities provided for the children in the Ipswich East electorate. I cast no aspersions on the ability of the Minister as a teacher or as a Minister; I am not going to fault him personally, because I feel that our friendship over the years would prevent that. I do want to say, however, that for more than six years the school committee and I have been trying to have conditions improved at the Goodna State School and additional classrooms provided, but we cannot get anything done.

Since 1957 the teachers and committee of the Redbank State School have been asking not only for additional classrooms but also to have the playground put into reasonable order. Correspondence has been tabled in this matter in the debate on the Estimates of the Department of Education. I have a letter from the Minister saying that inspectors from the department have been to the school and that the playground is suitable for the children to use. I fail to see how anyone can justify that statement. If these people went there and made that inspection, their minds were made up before they went that no improvements were to be effected at this school. The children there have not even a reasonable area on which to assemble before going into school. The playground is positively dangerous. I attended that school when I was a child and the playground now is not nearly as good as it was then. It is not at all suitable for children to play on.

When I went there some months ago at the request of the committee, I considered that it would be cheaper to move the school to another site than put the playground in order. The Minister for Public Works, I think, agreed with me. It is true that some very rough ground was bought by the department many years ago for extension purposes, but it is now to be cut in half by the new Darling Downs Highway that is by-passing Redbank. The parents, members of the committee, and I have been patient indeed in our efforts to get even the playground put in order, let alone having extensions made to the school.

I should like to make a few remarks on the Dinmore State School, which was opened officially last Saturday by the Acting Minister for Labour and Industry. It was quite a pleasant and very well-attended function, and I pay tribute to the teaching staff and Mrs. Brady, who conducted the school choir and gave us a couple of very delightful items. They were really delightful, and I am sure that the Acting Minister for Labour and Industry will agree with me when I say that.

I should like to place on record again my appreciation of the generous action of the Dinmore Pottery Company in donating to the school committee the £380 that it received for the 4½ acres of land on which the school is built. When the former Labour Government bought the land, the manager of the company came to see me. He was very concerned because the land contained valuable clay that was essential to the work of the pottery. When it was found that not such a great area of land was required by the department, the company was so relieved that it said, "Whatever price we get from the Department of Education or the Government we will donate to the school committee." It kept its promise, and I was very pleased to hear the Minister, when opening

the school, thank the company for its generous action, which doubled the amount available to the school committee.

The Silkstone State School is the largest State school in Queensland. It has an enrolment of between 1,500 and 1,600 pupils, and again there is a crying need for additional accommodation. I do not know where the pupils who will be attending the school at the beginning of the new school year will be accommodated.

The position at the Ipswich East State School will be relieved somewhat by the department's action in increasing and improving the playing area.

Before resuming my seat, I wish to pay a tribute to the committee that is conducting the Opportunity School in Ipswich and to the head master, Mr. Henderson, and his staff, Mr. Heath and Miss O'Donnell, who was recently transferred to the North—I think, to Townsville. It is amazing what these people have done for the backward children, and it is a great credit to them and to the department. Through the initiative of Mr. Henderson, a committee has been formed in Ipswich consisting of representatives from each of the service clubs and business men, all of whom are acting in an honorary capacity. They have met once and will meet again to try to place the pupils from the Opportunity School in suitable employment when they are ready to go into industry. I feel that their efforts will be successful because people are very anxious to help in this direction. We all know how difficult it is to find positions for children who are almost 100 per cent. physically and mentally perfect, so we can realise how difficult it will be to place these backward children in industry.

The old Girls' Central School is on the same block of land as the Ipswich Opportunity School. As accommodation at the Opportunity School is rather cramped, it would be a progressive step to house the children in the old Girls' Central School in the very near future.

This year the Opportunity School had its first plain and fancy dress ball, and I was very proud to see the interest taken by members of the public, members of the school committee, and parents of the children and to see how well the children performed their marching and dancing. It is wonderful to think that the education of these backward children has been improved considerably because they have responded so well to the very capable and kind tuition that they have received from Mr. Henderson and his staff.

It was not my intention to take part in the debate at this stage, but I thought I probably would be neglecting my duty if I did not take the opportunity presented by the discussion on this Resolution. I have repeatedly made requests verbally and in writing, and I hope that in the very near future we will receive no more promises and refusals, but decisions to proceed with the

work that not only I but also the teachers, staff, parents, and members of the respective school committees think is necessary.

**Mr. NEWTON** (Belmont) (7.45 p.m.): I take part in the discussion on the resolution before the House to mention a number of matters that I feel are of vital importance to this debate. The Minister of this department and other Government members have risen on a number of occasions and have had much to say about what the Government has done for education in this State. Since I have been a member of this Parliament I have raised a number of problems that exist in my own electorate. From time to time I have mentioned one of them about which I feel something should have been done even before I became the member for Belmont. It was then part of the Mt. Gravatt electorate. The matter to which I refer is the building of a primary school in the Wishart Road area, which is opposite the Queensland Housing Commission settlement.

Even though this matter has been raised periodically since 1960, it would seem that we are not much further advanced now than we were then. The Government's present policy appears to be to go ahead with the building of high schools and to do very little about providing primary schools. I again bring the matter to the Minister's attention. I am particularly concerned about it because, under Labour's policy of providing primary schools, wherever there were nine or 12 children of school age the Labour Party set about providing a school in that area. In the area in which I have been endeavouring to have a school built the parents, particularly of infant children, are sending them to the Upper Mt. Gravatt State School by bus transport. The Minister, any member of the Government, or any officer of the department could go out in the morning and he would see three busloads of children being transported from this area to the Upper Mt. Gravatt State School at the expense of their parents. It is not outside a three-mile radius from the school, and the Department of Education will not pay for the transporting of the children.

Members of the Government rise in this House and tell us they have done this and that. If that is so, surely something should have been done about this area long before 1960. I said then, and I say again now, that when the primary school was built in the Marshall Road area of Mt. Gravatt, one should also have been built in the Wishart Road area to accommodate the children living there, 300 of whom are at present being transported to either the Upper Mt. Gravatt State School or the Mt. Gravatt State School, although both these schools are overloaded with enrolments and have not sufficient classrooms. This matter should be taken into consideration when discussing the present Resolution.

The other matter I wish to mention is that it is all right for the Minister and members of the Government to say, "We have built so many new primary schools and so many new high schools throughout the State", when very little is said about the other side of the position relating to schools that were in existence before the Government took office and that should be painted and properly maintained.

**Mr. Ewan:** Aren't they?

**Mr. NEWTON:** To a certain extent, but if the hon. member will allow me to finish what I want to say he will see my point. It is that we are slipping behind in modernising many primary schools that were built years ago.

**Government Members** interjected.

**Mr. NEWTON:** That is true. That has been raised again, but it is only one primary school out of 10 or 11 in my electorate.

**Mr. Pizzey:** You had a fire in one.

**Mr. NEWTON:** That is true; we have to allow for that sort of thing. I hope the Minister will not tell me that a school was burnt down and was not insured. Surely it was insured.

**Mr. Pizzey** interjected.

**Mr. NEWTON:** There again something is wrong, and that should be looked at. It is unfortunate that the fire occurred. It occurred about 18 months ago, and because of that the school that should have been provided at Wishart Road is not there today. I know quite well that but for the fire we probably would have had a primary school there today. But it is no argument to say that because there has been a fire somewhere we have to forget about that primary school and worry about it only in the years ahead.

The Government has the responsibility of ensuring that schools are modernised. They should all be provided with such amenities as modern hat and bag racks. Some of the old schools did not provide that sort of amenity, only the old bag hook—

**Mr. Knox:** Under Labour.

**Mr. NEWTON:** The hon. member would get out of anything. He has always got an answer. The Government is failing to provide the modern amenities necessary for the children.

I wish to deal with the closing down of a number of police stations throughout the State. This is a backward step on the part of the Government. In the first place those police stations were set up not only for the protection of the public but also to give service. Quite a number of hon. members opposite, particularly Country Party members, know what a great service was

rendered to their areas by the one-man police stations before they were closed down by this Government. They are very silent over there now, because they know what I say is true.

**Government Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. NEWTON:** After closing down those police stations the Government has tried to build up the strength of the remaining stations in an area by the appointment, in many cases, of a senior officer over the senior officer already at the station, without providing the extra police needed to meet the problems of the area. This is happening quite close to the metropolitan area. Instead of making bigger police districts by closing down police stations, the Government should make more police districts. There was some talk about establishing a police station at Capalaba, in my area. I have taken the matter up with the Minister but, of course, he replied that finance was not available to go ahead with that proposal. The need for that station is evident when we consider the area that the Cleveland Police Station is required to look after. The nearest police station is at Camp Hill, and the nearest to the Camp Hill station is at Mt. Gravatt. There is a large area in the Belmont electorate with no police coverage. New police districts should be created in the various areas to overcome the problems where one-man police stations have been closed down.

I am still greatly concerned about the Office of the Traffic Engineer not being under the control of the Minister in charge of police. Under the present set-up too much time is being wasted where matters are taken up with the traffic engineer's department. If it were under the control of the Minister in charge of police, with the assistance of the police under his control, problems could be solved more quickly.

**Mr. BAXTER (Norman) (7.55 p.m.):** The discussion at the present time covers the Department of Education and the Police Department. I congratulate the Minister for Education and Migration in this instance because he has had the ability and the intestinal fortitude to have carried out exactly the plan laid down by the Australian Labour Party in 1947 for the building of high tops throughout Queensland. I sincerely congratulate the Minister because he has carried out the programme laid down by the A.L.P., and today we can see the benefits of it. If the A.L.P. had still been the Government we would have been in exactly the same position today. I extend my heartiest congratulations to the Minister because he has fulfilled the policy of the A.L.P. while he has been the Minister for Education and Migration.

Much debate is taking place in Queensland about the traffic laws and the various police departments. I agree with the hon. member for Belmont, who has just resumed his seat, that the Police Force is split into too many departments under too many ministerial heads. That is one of the reasons for our being in a very invidious position. Three Ministers control the Police Force. How in the name of goodness can we expect the Police Force to prevent child delinquency when one Minister says "Nay" and another Minister says "Yea"? The Police Force is trying to do the right thing, but the Government is doing everything possible to stop police officers from carrying out their duties in a proper manner. It has split the Police Force into three sections, and is not giving police officers the authority to which they are justly entitled. I say through you, Mr. Speaker, that it is about time that this Government realised its responsibilities to the people of Queensland. The Government should take upon its shoulders the responsibility of seeing that one Minister has complete control of the Police Force. How in the name of goodness can anything be done when there are three Ministers in charge?

**Mr. Knox:** Who shall it be?

**Mr. BAXTER:** There is an intellectual genius from the Young Liberal Party, the hon. member for Nundah, who says, "Who shall it be?" Mr. Speaker, let us hope that it never comes under his jurisdiction because he would be the greatest parliamentary delinquent of all time. Let us hope that it never comes under his jurisdiction!

I impress upon the Government to be fair to itself and to the people of Queensland and put the Police Force under the control of one Minister. I ask the Government not to have a section of the police under the control of the Minister for Education and Migration, and the traffic section under the control of the Minister for Labour and Industry. Let the people see that the Government is doing everything possible to keep law and order in Queensland. Let the Police Force be put under the control of one Minister so that something may be done, as has been done under an A.L.P. Government in New South Wales, to overcome the serious problem we are faced with through delinquents, boddies, and widdies in Queensland. The policy of the present Government seems to be to do everything to encourage those types. Let us do something to impress upon the people of Queensland the necessity for respect for law and order. Let us have some common-sense action so that the parents will assist the Police Force to make their children accept law and order. How can the Police Force possibly be expected to do the right thing in Queensland when it is under the control of three different Ministers? How can they be expected to administer the traffic regulations, which have been split up between the respective departments? Let us have one Minister responsible. Let us have one

Commissioner in charge. Let us have one man responsible to the Government. We must be fair. We have a responsibility to the people of Queensland. Let us have the traffic laws of the State administered properly and scientifically.

**Mr. Knox:** Call in the C.S.I.R.O.

**Mr. BAXTER:** The continued interjection from the parliamentary delinquent, Mr. Knox of Nundah, is most annoying.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I realise the hon. member is being facetious, but I advise him that the use of an expression such as that towards another hon. member is definitely unparliamentary and I ask him please to refrain from doing so in the future.

**Mr. BAXTER:** Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the remark.

Many avenues could be explored for the better control of traffic. The hon. member for Belmont drew attention to the fact that this Government has abolished many one-man police stations. This State covers a vast area and police stations are definitely understaffed. Investigate any branch of the Police Force and you will find a shortage of staff. Moreover, the poor old policeman suffers a great deal of confusion because he has three separate persons in charge of his activities.

In remote parts of the country, some police officers have to cover their areas on horseback, others by motor-cycle, and others more fortunate can do it by motor vehicle. This is a mechanised age. Unfortunately, in many instances the horse can be discarded but we must also take into consideration that because of the fast-moving traffic, particularly on our principal highways, the time has come for the department to consider equipping all police with four-wheel-drive vehicles where they can be used to advantage. In country areas what use would the ordinary motor-cycle be against a fast-moving motor-car? Anybody who has ridden a motor-cycle—and you, Mr. Speaker, will be quite conversant with this—knows that he cannot compete on country roads with fast-moving motor-cars or with four-wheel-drive vehicles. In a very sandy patch the police motor-cyclist will be very much at a disadvantage against a fast-moving motor-car. I say to the Minister in charge of the Police Force that he should examine closely the desirability of supplying to police officers in country areas some means of transport that will give them a chance to cover their areas with greater speed than at present and enable them to deal more effectively with their normal duties and compete in this fast-moving mechanised era of today. There are many means of transport that fully meet the needs of such a situation.

In the city today more traffic is moving than ever before, and we have more laws and counter-laws, more signposts and counter-signposts, than it was possible to create

previously in two decades. The Government, however, has done it very efficiently in five years. Just what has it done? It has confused everybody—the Commissioner of Police, every motorist, policeman, and parliamentarian sitting here tonight. I defy any member of Parliament here now to drive a car round the suburbs or through the city of Brisbane for 24 hours and not make a mistake.

**Mr. Chalk** interjected.

**Mr. BAXTER:** If the Minister for Transport is so blatant in his approach to it, I suggest that if he drove for eight hours he would commit 40 breaches. I was going to say that most parliamentarians and anybody else for that matter, could not possibly drive for 24 hours without breaching the traffic laws. How in the name of goodness can a Police Force not up to the required strength be expected to administer the laws of this State? How can it be expected to follow the rules and do full justice to itself and the Government when there are so many confusing laws and signs?

There is no reason at all why there should not be many more policemen trying to do the right thing for the State. After all, it must be accepted that the Police Force is responsible for the enforcement of the law. It should be given every assistance. From members of the Police Force should be expected—I want to emphasise this—a normal, common-sense application of the traffic laws, in which many anomalies exist today. I should hate to be a policeman endeavouring to administer them. When he goes onto the open road, a policeman is expected to be a superman. I travel on either the North Coast or the South Coast road every week-end, and never yet have I failed to see a policeman, or two or three of them, on duty when I have been driving. My sympathy goes to them in their endeavours, on their motor cycles, to do the right thing all along the road with the confusion that has been placed in their laps by this Government. We in Queensland should give solid support to the Police Force and expect its members to adopt a common-sense approach to the laws that they have to administer. I ask the Government at least to stop confusing them and make a logical, common-sense approach to the implementation of traffic rules, particularly on country roads, and to explore all avenues open to it.

**Mr. Nicklin:** Which avenue would you suggest?

**Mr. BAXTER:** As I am not on the Government benches, I leave it to the Premier to use his discretion and common-sense. I think hon. members on this side of the House have given the Government food for thought. I am sure the Premier will have absorbed the points that we have put forward and, with his genuine, logical approach, will do something to eliminate the

confusion that has existed in Queensland over the last few years. I say that in all sincerity. I know the Premier as a man, and I know that he will examine our submissions.

On the Government's own admission, the number of cadets in the Police Force is inadequate at present. I do not know how many cadets might become available as a result of recent examinations, but I do know that many policemen are being used in policing parking meters and controlling traffic generally within the precincts of the city of Brisbane. Although it is probably benefiting financially from their activities, I believe that the Government could well consider whether it should control traffic within the city of Brisbane or whether the Brisbane City Council should carry that responsibility. In this era of great progress, I think the Government must investigate matters such as these. It must try to reach a sound arrangement under which Parliament and the people have full confidence in the administration of the Police Force.

**Hon. J. C. A. PIZZEY** (Isis—Minister for Education and Migration) (8.14 p.m.), in reply: In deference to your ruling earlier today, Mr. Speaker, that the matter of allegations brought to the attention of the Premier by the hon. member for South Brisbane is sub judice, I do not propose to say anything on it except that the Government did not in any way stifle Mr. Bennett's desire to debate it. The Premier acted on the advice of the Crown Law Office in pointing out to the hon. member for South Brisbane that the allegations were such that they required to be substantiated before they could be acted upon.

**Mr. Bennett:** Why did you have to refer it to the Crown Law Office in the first place?

**Mr. PIZZEY:** The Premier followed the centuries-old practice of our courts.

**Mr. Bennett:** It is not.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. PIZZEY:** The hon. member has not yet made any reply to substantiate these allegations. I regret that through circumstances beyond your control, Mr. Speaker, and beyond the Government's control, the matter could not be fully debated this afternoon.

In regard to the Supreme Court writ that made it sub judice, it must be made clear that Mr. Bischof's action in issuing a writ for defamation was taken personally by him as a citizen and an individual—that is his right—and is a matter of which the Government had no prior knowledge and for which it is in no way responsible. Regarding the claim by the hon. member for South Brisbane that the circumstances—

**Mr. Bennett** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member for South Brisbane has been warned repeatedly about interjecting and continuing to interject. I ask him to please refrain from any further interjection.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** Regarding the claim by the hon. member for South Brisbane that the circumstances and activities of the police administration over last week-end and since have completely vindicated his conduct and the activities in which he has engaged over recent months, all I can say is that I find it passing strange that the hon. member, as a barrister-at-law, should base this claim on, firstly, the mere taking of the formal steps that are the necessary preliminary to establishing by proof of facts an official charge of unfitness for duty against one police officer. So far there is only a formal charge and a formal denial.

The second leg of the hon. member's claim is perhaps more remarkable, particularly having regard to his legal status. It is the even more formal step taken by a second police officer in a purely private capacity as a preliminary to refuting as defamatory the allegation the hon. member sought to promote against him in this House.

I want to assure the hon. member for South Brisbane that I have received no communication of any sort from the judiciary regarding the administration of the Police Force, nor have I received any intimation from any other Minister that such a communication was received from the judiciary. It is just another one of the furbies.

**Mr. Bennett:** If the writ is ever argued in court, the Commissioner will be sorry he ever issued it. I am sure he will.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. PIZZEY:** We all heard the hon. member this morning in silence and gave him an opportunity to state his case. Let it be understood by all, both inside this House and outside, that, apart from the one instance, the Opposition has been completely free to debate all aspects of police administration. That no-one except the last speaker, the hon. member for Hawthorne, has availed himself of the opportunity, indicates that members on both sides of the House have no real criticisms to make. The hon. member for South Brisbane did have an opportunity of speaking of an incident involving a senior commissioned officer. However, I commend him on his restraint in this matter and I, too, believe that in fairness to the officer concerned the matter should not be debated. If he adopted similar behaviour in all his discussions here he would be a worth-while member in the House.

It appears that the only real complaints the hon. member has were those he raised during the Budget debate and which I was unable to answer at the time because I was absent ill. However, I should like to relieve the hon. member's mind on one or two facets

of his earlier criticism of police administration. Firstly, he made great play in his allegations that the number of convictions by a police officer determined promotion. Using this fallacious basis, he then launched a welter of generalities on the Police Force.

**Mr. Bennett** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I have been very tolerant with the hon. member for South Brisbane to allow him to remain in the Chamber and listen to the Minister in reply, but I can assure him that if there are any more interjections bordering on disorderly conduct I shall have to classify them as disorderly.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** I, too, desire nothing more than to have the hon. member in the House when making this reply. I repeat that firstly, using this fallacious basis he then launched a welter of generalities, and I quote him as follows:—

"The Police Force is in a state of discontent; . . . there are schisms; there is intrigue going on; there are factions."

No proof, no nothing. He sets out to damage the prestige of the Force and the fellowship of its members without offering one iota of proof. He then takes one sentence out of the remarks of Sir Roslyn Philp and ties his argument to it. There is nothing more dangerous or misleading than taking a sentence out of context and using it to suit one's own ends, and the hon. member as a legal man should know it. However, let us have a look at his statement that "there is no clear-cut policy on promotions" and "I guarantee no direction has been given to those members of the C.I.B. on a policy of this nature as far as promotion is concerned." Those are his words. It is, of course, not true that the number of arrests effected by a police officer determines his fitness for promotion. Promotions in the Police Force are governed by the provisions of Police Rule 27 made under the Police Acts.

**Mr. BENNETT:** I rise to a point of order. The Minister is misquoting me when he says that it is my contention that promotion depends on the number of convictions that the police officer gets. What I actually said was that Inspector Bauer and Inspector Cronau swore on oath—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! What is the hon. member's point of order?

**Mr. BENNETT:** That I have been misquoted. Those top police officers swore on oath in court that that was one of the bases of promotion.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** That is not true.

**Mr. BENNETT:** It is true, and I was in court—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister will accept the denial of the hon. member for South Brisbane.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** I will accept the denial, Mr. Speaker. I was merely quoting what he said in the Budget debate. It is, of course, not true that the number of arrests effected by a police officer determines fitness for promotion. Promotions in the Police Force are covered by Police Rule No. 27 made under the Police Acts, 1937 to 1962, which reads—

“Subject to the powers of the Governor in Council with respect to the appointment of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors, promotions to ranks above that of constable shall be made from the next lower rank, and subject to the following considerations:

(a) Fitness for the vacancy required to be filled, including physical fitness, knowledge of the duties required, training, experience, and particularly capacity for control, direction and superintendence of subordinates;

(b) The efficiency, intelligence, zeal and good conduct hitherto shown in the performance of duty;

(c) Willingness to serve in any part of the State where required;

(d) Seniority in rank;

(e) Every member of the Force shall be prepared to accept promotion and to serve in any part of the State to which he may be transferred, otherwise he may be passed over;

(f) Any member of the Force who has been punished for any offence against the Police Act or Rules by being disgraced, fined, transferred or reprimanded shall not be entitled to consideration for promotion within two years from the time of the offence:

Provided that, all other things being equal, preference shall be given to seniority in rank; and provided also that any member of the Force may be promoted, irrespective of his seniority in rank or length of service, for exceptional bravery or specially meritorious service, always subject to his fitness for the duties of the higher rank.”

**Mr. Mann:** That means that you do not accept seniority all the time?

**Mr. PIZZEY:** No.

All promotions referred to in Rule 27 are made by the Commissioner of Police. The rule governing promotion is quite clear. There is no provision requiring that the number of arrests by an applicant for promotion shall be taken into consideration. The hon. member's statement that there is no clear-cut policy and that no direction has been given to C.I.B. members is obviously ridiculous, and does him no credit.

The hon. member also claimed that preferential treatment was being given to certain individuals and certain districts. He claimed that in some districts patrols wear leather jackets but in the coldest climate in

Queensland, namely, the Toowoomba area, they are not allowed to wear them. That would be true if he did not use the word “allowed”. They do not wear them there. I should like to help the hon. member get his facts right. Leather jackets have been on issue on trial to the Traffic Branch in Brisbane only for the last 12 months. The outcome of the trial will determine whether the Commissioner decides to extend their use to traffic personnel outside the metropolitan area.

The hon. member also referred to the dismissal of a constable who, he said, went to sleep at a depot after completing seven hours of duty and while waiting to start the next shift. He said the constable was reported, charged, and dismissed. I should like to inform the hon. member that there is no record at all over the last five years of any constable, apart from the Mt. Isa constable already referred to by the hon. member, who has been discharged under the circumstances outlined.

**Mr. BENNETT:** I must ask the Minister to accept my denial of the truth of that statement because I appeared for the constable. He was reinstated after I appeared for him.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member for South Brisbane is not in order in rising to a point of order to make an interjection.

**Mr. Bennett:** I am guided by what you say, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** There was a constable of police attached to the Roma Street Police Station who was discharged on 6 June, 1961, for being asleep on his beat. This member was sworn in on 16 November, 1960, and, as he had less than 12 months' service, he was discharged. He was not charged with misconduct. So once again hon. members can judge how little credence can be placed on the wild assertions of the hon. member.

Another allegation by the hon. member is that “At many times, if not most times, approximately two-thirds of the Police Force are on either long-service leave, annual leave, or sick leave.” Could anybody honestly believe such a statement? He said that two-thirds of the Police Force were absent at the one time. It is incredible that anyone could make such a statement. He said, “That means that the Police Force works at approximately one-third of its effective strength, and it is proving too much for the men.” Let me give the hon. member some facts. The number of members on recreation leave each month varies, the lowest numbers being in the months of June and July and the highest in September and October. The approximate number on recreation leave in September, 1962, was 250 and on 14 September, 1962, 53 members were on sick leave and four on long-service leave, which gives a total of 307 out of an active strength of just over 2,000,

or 11.8 per cent. At other times the number would be lower. So the attempt by the hon. member to sow discord once again redounds to his absolute discredit.

Finally, the hon. member said that in some police districts certain crimes are investigated, and in others they are not. I will quote what he said—

"I wish to touch in detail on an unfortunate accident that occurred in Rockhampton. I refer to the case of an elderly woman, Mary Griffin, who was knocked over"—

by a car and subsequently died.

Then the hon. member said—

"So far as I know, and so far as the public know, that accident has never been investigated."

Here is the usual scare cry: the hon. member then said—

"However, it appears there is a great deal of disquiet in Rockhampton about this accident and it seems that there will be no inquest."

Let us examine the hon. member's claim. The driver of the car was a policeman and the hon. member's obvious suggestion is that because he was a policeman there was no inquiry. To the contrary, the complete police file on the case was submitted to the coroner, who ordered that an inquest be held on 31 October, 1962.

**Mr. Bennett:** Yes, and I spoke on the 23rd.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** One would think they could get the whole police file completed in three or four days.

**Mr. Bennett:** I am quite satisfied that if I had not mentioned it there would have been no inquest.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** After inquiries, the finding of the coroner was as follows:—

"I find that the deceased, Mary Hannah Griffin, died at the Rockhampton General Hospital at about 11.5 p.m. on 18 August, 1962, as a result of—"

It was a pretty fast coroner's inquiry—within nine weeks.

The coroner's report continued—

". . . injuries received when she was struck by a motor car driven by Alexander Francis William Cameron at the intersection of William and West Streets, Rockhampton, at about 7.5 p.m. on 18 August, 1962. I find that there was no evidence of criminal negligence on the part of the driver of the motor vehicle concerned."

That is the report. Nobody can deny that the accident was investigated, and fully investigated, and that an inquiry was held. There is clear evidence that all necessary action was taken. So much again for one of the hon. member's claims.

Let me say that, generally speaking, there is complete contentment, efficiency, discipline, loyalty, and good conduct prevailing in the Police Force in Queensland. There are over 2,800 members of the Force all told, including probationers and women police. Last year there were only 16 charges of misconduct. You will always get misconduct in any large body. In every group of 100 men in any organisation you will have need for discipline. I think the record of the police is rather good for a force so large.

The hon. member said there is discontent. While there is promotion there will always be discontent. Naturally, you get it in every organisation. You get it in the Public Service. You get it in the Government. You get it in the Opposition.

**Mr. Bennett:** You get it in the Government, all right. You had it on preferential voting.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** You get it in the Opposition, too, when they are electing a front-bencher.

I think hon. members will realise that in any organisation where there is promotion, and especially where efficiency determines promotion, there are bound to be disappointments. Everybody rightly feels that perhaps he is the most efficient officer, that he is the one with the greatest potential to do a certain job. When someone else is selected over him, he feels a bit upset.

I knew recently, when we appointed a certain inspector and he superseded seven or eight other inspectors, that there would be discontent because those senior to him would ask, "Why is it that this man is given the job?" But it was because it was a special job, because it was a job for which we wanted somebody with the particular talent for taking control of a police depot and the training of recruits, that we appointed this man.

**Mr. Duggan:** That may be quite true; but do you propose to keep him on because of his special qualifications for that advancement? Do you propose to keep him in that appointment?

**Mr. PIZZEY:** We propose to keep him there for some considerable time. Of course we will!

**Mr. Duggan:** There is a tendency sometimes, because a man has particular qualifications, to promote him and not put him into general service.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** I think we would lose the value of all his training if we did that. He has been to Melbourne and has had special training in this sort of thing. Let me draw an analogy with the Australian cricket team. The 12 men have been named. There are 11 players and perhaps Shepherd would be the 12th man. Say a wicket-keeper is injured. You do not ask the 12th man to take his place; you go outside and select somebody

for the specialist job to supersede a man already selected for the team. That is exactly what happens here. I do not say that some of those men senior to the appointee who were passed over for the job would not have made better district inspectors. Possibly they would have. They have had more experience, and probably more experience in the particular types of duty needed for a district inspector. But at that time we were not wanting another district inspector, and the inspectors who were already in their districts had not the same experience or potential as the particular officer who was promoted over the others. Always when you have promotion, wherever it is—in any commercial organisation, in any cricket team, promotion from the reserve team to the A grade team—when somebody is selected on merit someone else who thinks he is equally good is disappointed.

**Mr. Donald:** Don't you think they should have picked Bizzell instead of Jarman?

**Mr. PIZZEY:** I would have advised it. But that is the situation. It would be foolish to deny that there are these small pockets of discontent. There always will be, every time a list of promotions comes out. We will have promotions soon for principals of high schools. About 20 will be called. There are bound to be some people whose names are not on the list, and, if superseded by men three or four years junior to them, they ask how those people were able to get promotion. However, a dissatisfied applicant has a right of appeal if he feels that he has not been justly dealt with. That right has been exercised, and on several occasions the hon. member for South Brisbane has appeared for applicants. If an applicant can establish his case, the Government invariably accepts the decision of the appeal board. There will, however, always be small pockets of discontent in any organisation, and I do not deny that they exist here.

What can be done to avoid that? I can tell hon. members the way to overcome it. The senior man has to be taken on every occasion, whether he is fitted for the job or not, and then everyone in the Force or organisation will be able to work out that in five years' time he will be a senior sergeant or a sub-inspector, or something else. With the passage of time, each proceeds to a higher job on a seniority basis. If that is done there is no discontent, but there is also no room for ambition and no efficiency or desire by any officer to make his alley good, so to speak. I do not think that the Leader of the Opposition when he was Minister for Railways would have wanted to run that department on that basis. It would be a sorry state of affairs for the efficiency of any department or organisation if the line of seniority were followed without any consideration of the relative merits and efficiency of various officers.

I should like to pay a tribute to the commissioned officers and district inspectors throughout Queensland for the wonderful job they do in maintaining law and order. Their particular job is the prevention and detection of crime. As I said before, the more they prevent it the happier I, the Government, and the Commissioner are. We prefer seeing crime nipped in the bud to taking action after it has been committed. The certainty of detection is probably the greatest deterrent to the commission of crime, and I believe that the Police Force of Queensland has indeed a very proud record in speed of bringing criminals to justice. Hardly a crime of a very serious nature has not been solved in the last 12 months, or over many years. Occasionally there will be a crime that baffles the police, but by and large the record of the Police Force in bringing criminals to justice is very good and is appreciated by the people of Queensland.

I know of no other country in the world in which the ordinary citizen can go about his affairs confident that he will not be molested by some thug or interfered with, knowing that, if something does go wrong, he has behind him an efficient Police Force that will rapidly bring the culprit to the place where he belongs. This has been possible mainly because of the co-operation of the public. No Police Force can be efficient without complete public co-operation. There was an example of that in Townsville at the week-end, and the public responded magnificently to the call. I shall make no further reference to that case; there has been an arrest but nothing has yet been proved. I would not say that everybody was delighted with that result because nothing in that case would delight one in any way, but there is reason for satisfaction with the quick action that was taken and the bringing before the court of someone alleged to be a criminal.

During recent years the juvenile delinquency squad has been working effectively in Brisbane, and there are also a stock squad, a railway squad, and a wharf pillage squad. The latter squad has cut down appreciably the amount of pillaging on the wharves.

Offences committed with violence against the person—these are the most serious offences—decreased by almost 8 per cent. last year. Despite an increase in population, fewer crimes of violence against the person were committed.

There are trouble spots, and they seem to be among youthful offenders. Too many boys of tender years are stealing, and are illegally using or stealing motor-cars.

**Mr. Mann:** Because your Government can't find jobs for them.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** The number is not much different from the number formerly. It has been going on for years and years. Again I

appeal to the public to take away, wherever possible, the opportunity for people to do these things. It is the duty of motorists to remove the ignition key and lock their car securely when they are leaving it for any length of time. Many people lock their car haphazardly.

**Mr. Thackeray:** Is your car locked now?

**Mr. PIZZEY:** My car is in the security of Parliament House yard now.

I am not denying that we are faced with a problem, and that the fact that some people do not have jobs makes it very difficult. If a man has no money in his pocket, the temptation to steal is greater than otherwise.

Police youth clubs, church organisations, the National Fitness Council, the Boy Scouts Association, various sporting bodies, and many other organisations that cater for the interests of youth do a wonderful job in limiting the amount of juvenile crime. They cannot eliminate it entirely, but the more of those organisations we have, the more opportunities are open to boys to express themselves in an adventurous way. I think that some of the trouble we have with boys illegally using motor vehicles is attributable to the fact that in the modern world we have taken away many of the opportunities for excitement and adventure that young people had in our day.

**Mr. Mann:** Why don't you find jobs for them?

**Mr. PIZZEY:** Almost all the children who left school last year have been found employment. There are those who left school, got a job temporarily, and then left it. Unfortunately, most of those who are out of a job are those without training or who left school at Scholarship age without passing the examination.

**Mr. Bennett:** Some children with a good Junior pass have not got a job.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** I do not think there would be many of those.

**Mr. Bennett:** There are hundreds throughout the State.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** The only ones who are out of a job are those who wanted to be selective.

**Mr. Mann:** Not at all.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** I am speaking of those who passed the Junior last year. I am certain that almost all of them have jobs, with the possible exception of some who live in remote areas and do not want to leave home. It is not always possible to find positions for them in their home town, I will admit. In fact, it is not always possible to find jobs for adults in their home town. While hundreds of single men are drawing unemployment relief, there are still hundreds

of vacancies in the canefields and tobacco fields in North Queensland. These men do not wish to leave their place of residence.

Some hon. members have mentioned traffic. In his last speech the hon. member for Hawthorne complained about the slowness of traffic. Tonight he has taken another line and complained about the speed of traffic.

**Mr. Bromley:** He is broad-minded.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** Perhaps. At times the slow motorist can be as big a menace as the speed hog, especially on a busy highway. Let us look at the Traffic Branch. In 1956 there were 119 men in Brisbane and 60 outside Brisbane, making a total of 179 employed in the Traffic Branch. In 1962 there were 188 in Brisbane and 91 outside, making 279, an increase in those six years from 179 to 279.

Wireless communication is so much better today than it was. Formerly only 75 cars were fitted with it—and what cars some of them were in 1956! Today, with a more up-to-date fleet there are 147 cars fitted with two-way wireless. There was no wireless communication on motor-cycles five or six years ago. Today there are 18 motor-cycles fitted with two-way radio, and there are three radar units. So there are ever so many more men, they are more mobile, they have better communications, and they are doing a tremendously important and good job in controlling traffic.

Of course, you can always do with more men but do not let us forget that our expenditure on law and order is almost the highest in the Commonwealth. According to the Commonwealth Grants Commission Report, Queensland spent £69.7 per capita, New South Wales £62.5; Victoria £60.9; South Australia £57.2, and Western Australia the same as Queensland. The only State that spent more than Queensland per capita was Tasmania, where the figure was £79.

**Mr. Bennett:** Have you the figures for policemen per capita?

**Mr. PIZZEY:** That is not always—

**Mr. Bennett:** It is important.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** It depends on density of population, how many cities there are, how many roads, how many remote areas, and so on. That would be just like taking the number of school teachers in the State and dividing it into the number of children and saying, "That is the number of children per teacher." You cannot take an analysis in that way. You must take all the schools and the teacher for every class—

**Mr. O'Donnell** interjected.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** We have never used it. You can always have more teachers; you can have more doctors; you can have more agricultural scientists. But the number is limited, of course, by the money available

to the Government. It would be so easy to say, "Well, now, we have 38 children per teacher in the metropolitan schools. Give us another 500 teachers and we will have 35." Someone could then come along and say, "Give us another 500 and we will have 30." Another educationist could argue, "That is too many; give us another 500 and we will have 25." Where do you finish?

By and large, we can always do with more men—I am not denying that we could—but compared with the position in 1956 we have many more men, they are more mobile, they are better equipped, they have fewer jobs to do because we have more lights, there is less time spent at courts on minor traffic breaches, and in many ways these men are available for more time. During certain times of the day and certain days of the week we need more men on duty because the Traffic Branch has analysed the position and concluded that those are particularly dangerous times. I think in Brisbane it is between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. that most accidents occur. I think the worst day is Friday, followed then by Saturday, and then by Thursday. On the South Coast road the worst day is Sunday, followed by Saturday and then Friday. Knowing where those trouble spots are, every effort is made to give adequate coverage at those particular times.

The figures over the years show that there has not been a great increase in the number of deaths from road accidents. Of course, any number of deaths is too many. Despite the fact that there are 70,000 more vehicles on the road now than five years ago, last year there were fewer deaths than five or six years ago.

**Mr. Knox:** The third year in succession with a reduction.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** And a reduction in the number of accidents, too. Of course, that is poor consolation to people when a member of their family has been killed or injured on the roads. It behoves us to do everything possible to minimise the number of accidents and number of deaths. It goes back largely to the person driving a motor-car. It might be expected that the drunken driver was the cause of most accidents but excessive speed has been, and continues to be, the major cause of road accidents.

**Mr. Bromley:** The other day you blamed the women drivers.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** I have always paid high tribute to women drivers. There are so few women convicted of traffic offences compared with the number of men that if the men's record were as good as the women's there would be a much lower accident rate and a much happier population.

Let us have another look at the working conditions of the Police Force today. How much better they have been during the last five years! How much better an employer

we have proved to be! And the men know it. Whatever else hon. members opposite may say, let them go to the men and ask them, "How are your conditions today compared with five years ago?" Their pay is so much better; their superannuation scheme is so much better. The maximum a widow could get prior to our becoming the Government was something like £250 a year—£249 10s., I think. Now a widow can get up to 50 per cent. of the retiring allowance of her deceased husband. That can be anything up to £700 a year. Previously all that the superannuation allowance meant in many cases was that the widow was deprived of the opportunity of applying for the age or widow's pension. Today the men have a great deal more security compared with what was previously their lot. Their uniforms are better. No police officer will deny that he feels more comfortable and efficient in his new uniform. On his return from a world trip, Mr. Hopgood, the Police Union solicitor, had something to say about the conditions of the Police Force in Queensland. He said that they were as good as any he had seen anywhere in the world.

Police officers now have a sick leave bank, which is a voluntary movement sponsored and encouraged by the Government whereby those officers who are fit give up a day of their leave to build up a bank of days which is available to the more unfortunate members of the Force whose sickness determines their entitlement to leave on full or reduced pay. Because of this voluntary agreement amongst members of the Force whereby they gave four days in the last four or five years, no member of the Police Force has been absent on extended sick leave without pay. He has had it made up because of this sick leave bank that is available. Would anyone deny that that has been a blessing in many cases?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! It appears that the hon. gentleman will not have sufficient time to complete his reply. He can ask for the indulgence of the House—he may be granted an extension.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the Minister be granted an extension of time?

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. PIZZEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank hon. members for giving me the opportunity to continue with my speech because I wish to reply to what hon. members have said.

Let us remember that, thanks to the co-operative housing scheme, members of the Police Force can buy or build their own homes through this scheme. Police buildings today are far more comfortable than formerly, and far better conditions of work are available in police stations. We have only to look at the figures. Expenditure has risen from something like £200,000 to over £1,000,000. Admittedly, £500,000 was spent on the new police headquarters, but

that was necessary and desirable. A transformation has taken place in the police quarters at Longreach, and the police stations at Rockhampton and Coolangatta are being rebuilt.

**Mr. O'Donnell:** Blackall is a little bit slow.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** It cannot all be done in one year. We were left with a rather big lag, but we are trying to catch up as fast as we possibly can.

**Mr. Inch:** You had better have a good look at the Cloncurry station.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** I admit that the Cloncurry station is rather bad, but now that the district headquarters have been moved to Mt. Isa we will be in a position to know just what is wanted at Cloncurry and it will receive attention. The hon. member may rest assured of that.

**Mr. Bennett:** Can you explain why, when a man is suspended and reinstated, he does not get his back pay on all occasions?

**Mr. PIZZEY:** We have given policemen the right to take other jobs during suspension. That was never allowed previously.

**Mr. Bennett:** They gave him his back pay previously.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** Not on every occasion, but I would not know what the policy was then.

Let me turn to what other hon. members had to say. The hon. member for Salisbury spoke about road safety. At the moment, of course, road safety does not come under the control of the Minister for Education and Migration.

**Mr. Sherrington:** You did not listen carefully. I said you should be teaching it in schools.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** Yes, I know. We teach it in schools. There are officers going round regularly delivering road-safety lectures. I commend the principal at Inala High School for his co-operation. I commend any action taken anywhere to do something for schools, or to help children in any way at all to move safely across a road. I commend any co-operation at all, whether it be in teaching children to swim before the school holidays, or in providing facilities to learn a bit more about motor-cars, or traffic itself. It is all to the good, and is quite commendable. The hon. member referred to a certain school not being built at Inala. That is so. However, it is not possible to build immediately every school that we should like to build. But it is a fact that while we have been the Government every child has been accommodated.

**Mr. Newton:** Temporary, or otherwise.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** Some of the temporaries are pretty good. Some of the temporaries under Labour Governments had been built in 1950, and the hon. member knows that we pulled down the one at Cavendish Road.

**Mr. Newton:** You are still using it at Upper Mt. Gravatt, after six years in office.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** I know that the position will be tight in some areas. It will be tight in a place like Inala, where suddenly 50 houses are thrown open.

**Mr. Sherrington:** It is not a case of "suddenly". You know development has been going on. It is not a case of a sudden emergency.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** Yes, of course we do. I can give the hon. member an assurance that at the beginning of next year there will be a place in school for every child at Inala.

I have replied to the hon. member for Belmont and others about certain primary schools. Next year we will be tight deliberately in certain primary schools because at the end of next year there will not be an eighth grade, and, in many cases, if we built now to accommodate completely and comfortably all the children for 1963, when 1964 came we should have a lot of empty classrooms throughout the State. We have to look ahead to that day and any money we have is better transferred to a high-school section even though we will be tight for a year in many of the primary schools. But when 1964 comes and the eighth grade is cut off, in many cases they will have enough room. That position is being closely watched.

**Mr. Newton:** That would not apply where new primary schools are needed?

**Mr. PIZZEY:** I know it is desirable to avoid having children travel a distance, but again one has to work within the money available. If I had thought the children in the area referred to—Wishart Road—would not be able to get to school in any circumstances, I would have given the matter the highest priority and would have made sure something was there. The school is still on the programme and it will be built some time during the next calendar year.

**Mr. Thackeray:** Would you say that this year will be the highest percentage of Scholarship passes seeing that it is the final Scholarship year?

**Mr. PIZZEY:** No, I did not say that.

**Mr. Thackeray:** But would you say it?

**Mr. PIZZEY:** No.

**Mr. Thackeray:** The highest percentage of passes this year on account of its being the final year?

**Mr. Bennett:** You are going to let them all through?

**Mr. PIZZEY:** I have not seen the examination papers—I do not know how difficult they are—but I can assure the hon. member that papers will be marked on their merits, and any child who passes the Scholarship may rest assured that he will deserve his pass. I do not want any child to think that, as the hon. member suggests, he will have got it merely because it was the last year. Any child who passes the Scholarship this year will have earned it just as the hon. member for South Brisbane did, 20, 30, or 40 years ago.

The hon. member for Belmont spoke about assembly halls. There is no doubt that assembly halls are desirable. We should like to see them in all the high schools. They are in many New South Wales high schools. We are lagging behind in the provision of assembly halls; but first things must come first. We have to make sure that we have sufficient accommodation, that we have a science laboratory and a general purpose science room, before we get on to what might be called the frills—something extra, but something we should like to see every school have. Consequently, we have agreed to subsidise, up to £15,000, any school, up to three schools a year, that is prepared and able to raise the money for the provision of its own assembly hall. Some schools are already moving in that direction.

The hon. member for Cook had something to say about the high top at Mt. Molloy. He, of course, as is his right, drew attention to those schools in his area that are not up to standard; but he was honest enough to admit that a tremendous job has been done in many parts of his area, that when we became the Government the Mossman school was white-ant-eaten, almost ready to fall down, and had been left in that state for years by the Government of which he was formerly a member. That school has been completely rebuilt, not only the high-top section but also the primary school and a residence across the road for the head teacher. The old residence there now will be sold for removal and they will have almost a completely new school at Mossman. I think the people there are quite proud of the school they have.

We have at Bloomfield River a problem that will have to be faced fairly soon. We have one also at Mt. Molloy. At the other end of the hon. member's electorate is the Mareeba High School. Perhaps everything has not been done there that should have been done. We have not built the manual training and domestic science sections. We have not done that at Caboolture and at many other centres recently, because we feel that those are jobs that can wait.

I think that we are getting a bit too soft with our girls and boys. We say that a mile or a mile and a-half is too far and inconvenient to walk at lunch-time. If they had to go there for half an hour or 40-minute periods, perhaps there would be some justification for that attitude, but domestic science

and manual training occupy half a day. Is it asking too much to require students to walk a mile to an existing domestic science section at which facilities are available, or are they getting too soft? I do not think that that is doing them an injustice. It is desirable to have all sections in the one area, but I do not think that we are imposing any hardship on students. The important thing is that facilities are available. Although they are not included in the school ground or adjacent to it, they will have to wait because the important thing is to ensure that accommodation is available for 1964.

The hon. member for Cook poses a problem. He asks what can be done to provide high schools for children in the smaller country towns. There is a limit, and always has been, below which it is not economically possible to start high tops, or secondary departments. If there are only six or seven children a year, no Government could afford to appoint three high-school teachers and build facilities for 18 children. It would cost approximately £6,000 a year to maintain the staff, or £300 a child. It would be better to say to each child, "Here is £200. Go and board somewhere."

**Mr. O'Donnell:** The Scholarship allowance for students living away from home is the same as it has been for 20 years.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** Admittedly it is, but it will be reviewed when the new system comes into operation in 1964. We are having a survey made by the regional directors who have visited all these areas and are endeavouring to see whether or not in places like Mt. Molloy schools in the surrounding area can be closed and a central school established with sufficient children to warrant the creation of a secondary department.

The hon. member made some reference to transport to Mareeba, a distance of approximately 25 miles. That may be satisfactory for children living in the immediate vicinity of Mt. Molloy, but some children would have to travel long distances by bus. They might not reach Mt. Molloy by the bus that conveys primary-school children in time to go on to Mareeba. Some children would be travelling 50, 60, or 70 miles a day.

We have looked at the possibility of one-teacher high tops, and may even try one as an experiment next year. It would operate just like one-teacher country schools. We may be able to find a talented and capable young man who is able to teach science and mathematics, perhaps a language, the general subjects of geography and history, and who has also done geometrical and perspective drawing and a bit of school carpentry. In places like Mt. Molloy, Augathella, and Mt. Perry, we may be able to bring children to central schools that we would provide with sufficient science equipment, a couple of benches, a stove or two for the girls, and then find the right teachers to take the three

groups. I think that would be fairly effective. As a matter of fact, it would not be anything very new, because I think it operated in some parts of Queensland 40 or 50 years ago.

**Mr. Adair:** It would give them an opportunity, anyhow.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** We are examining the position, and I think it may be the answer. Of course, we shall never be able to do anything in remote places such as Bloomfield River or Coen, but we are not forgetting those children. We may be able to assist them by subsidising the establishment of more hostels by local councils or the Country Women's Association or by providing allowances. In other parts of the State, especially in the closely-settled areas, the regional directors have made a very close and detailed survey. They have an overall plan that they are submitting to parents for their consideration and acceptance. It envisages the establishment of high tops in central areas and bringing the other children in by bus. That does not mean, of course, that every small school will be closed. We do not want to close a school merely for the sake of closing it. I would recommend its closure only where by doing so we will enable children to get a better opportunity of secondary education. If transport were not provided, parents would be compelled to board the children away from home. I suggest very strongly to parents that it is better to institute a school transport service to enable children to go through from the lowest grade at least till Junior while they are at home. I believe that the best place for children is at home. In many instances, of course, it is not possible to have hostels and boarding schools, but in any case home is the best place for children, provided it is a good home—I had better add that proviso—and fortunately most homes are good homes.

Other hon. members mentioned various aspects of education. Hon. members on the Government benches gave some indication of what was happening in their electorates and I should like to thank them for their tributes. I believe they are tributes to the enthusiasm of the departmental officers, who are very keen and who have worked extremely hard in planning for 1964.

I should like to pay a tribute to the members of the special committee on secondary education, who gave up their time voluntarily month after month for over a year to provide this plan for the future, which I believe will be in the interests of the children of Queensland. I should not have recommended it to the Government or to Cabinet if I had not believed that it was a worth-while plan. It achieved a great amount of unanimity throughout the State. We had over 80 submissions. We received a very lengthy submission from the A.L.P. and the plan that has been adopted is much in line with their thinking. In fact, it is much in line with the thinking of almost every section of the community in Queensland.

Very few people wanted to stick to the old tradition of the Scholarship examination. The hon. member for Aubigny said that he regretted the passing of the Scholarship. I suppose we are all a bit old-fashioned and do not like to part with something that we know and take on something we do not know. But if the hon. member was suggesting that the standard will be lowered because there is no Scholarship examination, he is really indicting the teachers of Queensland. He is suggesting that if they do not have an examination they will not teach as hard and put the same effort into their work as they are doing now. I believe they will; I believe they will put a different and better effort into it. There is no doubt that the Scholarship examination did tend to narrow and limit the education of our children round their 14th year. There was a tendency to do little about subjects other than those set for examinations. That is a natural tendency, because mother wanted the child to do well in Scholarship; father wanted the child to do well; the teacher wanted the child to do well, and previously employers gave employment largely on results in the Scholarship examination, overlooking the fact that there is something far more important than the mere ability to achieve success in an examination.

Getting the children into high school a year sooner will enable them to undertake a broader type of education that covers a much wider field than at present. That year will not be a year of marking time. It may not be a year of definite achievement, but it will be a year that will enable our boys and girls to discover themselves and to find out where their aptitudes and interests lie.

Today a child goes through the primary school and up to secondary school and when mother or father takes him along to the principal of the high school at the beginning of the school year he has to say, "I will do the academic course, the commercial course, or the industrial course." In a two-year course it is fairly hard to make a change if a mistake is made. In this preliminary year—that is the old Scholarship year—he will be able to have a taste of languages, a taste of science, and a taste of the manual arts, and he will be able to find out where his aptitude and interests lie. He should be in a much better position at the end of the year to decide which of those vocational courses he will take, and even if he does finish the vocational course at Junior a greater basis will be given to every child who will have his English, general mathematics, and a certain amount of science. They all have their social studies, geography, history or religious instruction, a little bit of music, sport, and physical education. There will be a broad basis for certain specialising sections after the first year. The girls will go to commerce, domestic science, and the other courses available to them, while the boys will take manual training if they want to do the trades, or whatever they can do.

Hon. members should not forget that in this three-year course we have agreed that children will move up automatically—there will be no qualifying examination—so there will be secondary education for all. That means that we are bringing in another group, namely, the group of the less intelligent in the passing of examinations. We will have to extend our special courses. We will need to have a modified course.

**Mr. Bromley:** Don't you think you should split the classes up so that the less intelligent children get a chance of more teaching?

**Mr. PIZZEY:** That will be done to some extent. I do not like it done completely in the school, but naturally, from the record card that the child brings forward—from his history over the years—the head teacher or the principal will say to the parent, "Your lad would be discontented; he would be hopeless endeavouring to follow an academic course. He is a pretty good leader; he is strong, he is intelligent and has general commonsense. I believe he would be better to do a special course and you will find that there will be avenues open to him. He may make a good salesman or a good tradesman; he might become a leader somewhere because there are many vocations where success depends on things other than mere intellectual ability and ability to memorise facts and produce them in an examination."

There are many successful men in the world who have been successful because they have a certain type of personality; they have qualities of leadership; they mature or develop later in life than others. There will be an opportunity for those young people.

Then you get the ones who are really backward. In each school we will need to have a special course designed to fit their talents. Most of them will be woven round the manual arts. It is no use taking them through subjects that are beyond their capacity, which means discontented children and trouble-makers in the school who become a nuisance to the others. If you can find a course that is within the capacity and talents of the children and which allows them to feel that they are doing something and that they are getting somewhere, then you are well on the road to having successful and happy children.

**Mr. Duggan:** It sounds like a Utopian ideal.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** There will always be some misfits. You get them particularly in families where the parents themselves are men and women of great educational qualifications. It is very hard for a mother and a father who have done particularly well at school when they realise that their children have not the same capacity. We all know the sort of thing that happens. Father is a doctor and he wants Johnny to be a doctor, by hook or by crook; or father is a lawyer

and he wants Johnny to be a lawyer, by hook or by crook. You will always get that sort of thing. I hope that parents will come to realise more and more the benefits of vocational guidance and that they will accept their children with the capacities they have. I should hate ever to deny parents the right to guide and advise their children. If father still wants to make his child a doctor when he has not shown that capacity, it is right that father have a crack at it, anyhow, and have it proved to himself that his own son or daughter has not that capacity. Although it is not so great now, there was a tendency to want the son to follow in the father's footsteps, irrespective of the son's talents or abilities.

**Mr. Bromley:** That does not apply if the father is a member of the Liberal Party.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** It applies to fathers in all walks of life, unfortunately, and it is only human that it should apply. In good time—I hope in sufficient time not to spoil the child's future—the parent will realise the special capacities of his own child and that his inclinations are in another direction than the one in which the father wants him to go, and that he will allow him to follow something that he will be happy in and able to do efficiently, and something that will make him a worth-while member of the community. It is not a matter of Utopian ideals but we will not get very far unless—

**Mr. Duggan:** Don't misunderstand me. There are some desirable features in what you have outlined, but I do not think all this talk will make the child cope very much better.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** He will cope with the future because he will have a less difficult course. If he has not the necessary talents he will be able to take a very modified course.

**Mr. Duggan:** There will still be the bright ones and the dull ones.

**Mr. PIZZEY:** That is what I am saying. Instead of making the dull ones and the average ones all try to do the same course as the bright ones, we will try to get stratas of courses that will fit each particular talent or grade of talents in the school.

**Mr. Duggan:** How is the employer going to make decisions about which ones to select?

**Mr. PIZZEY:** If he is wise he should take a little bit of advice in making the selection. I can remember the case of a particular employer in a factory where there was a lot of competitive work. This was told to me by an industrial psychologist. The employer was rather keen on psychology, I.Q.'s and so forth. Before he employed anyone in his factory he made sure he gave them I.Q. tests. He was going to employ in his factory only the brainiest, brightest, and most intelligent people.

(Time expired.)

Resolution 5—Department of Education—agreed to.

Resolutions 6 to 8, both inclusive, agreed to.

Resolution 9—Department of Public Works and Local Government—

**Mr. HANLON** (Baroona) (9.26 p.m.): I called "Not formal" to this Resolution principally to give the Minister an opportunity to tell us a little more about employment in the Department of Public Works. As you know, Mr. Speaker, in the Budget debate there was some discussion within the limited opportunity on that occasion about dismissal notices that had been given to employees in the Department of Public Works. There was also a suggestion, which was very strong in the department, that a large number of dismissals would be made before Christmas. In the building trade particularly, as you will know, Mr. Speaker, and as I think everyone knows, if a man loses his employment in the pre-Christmas period it means virtually that he is unemployed until well into the New Year. Naturally, employers are loth to take on men and pay them for the several days' holiday that fall in the Christmas period. In many cases some of the larger contractors have a lay-off period for a couple of weeks, and their employees, take their holidays at that time. I believe it is a rather callous attitude for the Government to adopt, particularly as it acknowledges that it has special finance from the Commonwealth Government to relieve unemployment. It is wrong that men should be dismissed at this time of the year, because really the Government should be providing employment. The only reason that we can get from the Government is that it desires to try to cushion any further unemployment that may develop in the early months of next year before the coming election.

When the hon. member for Belmont, who unfortunately cannot be here for the debate on this Resolution, raised this subject in the Budget debate, the Treasurer "rubbished" him, if I may use that expression, and said he was talking about three or four painters who were possibly being dismissed, and indeed they had been dismissed even on the day he was speaking. The Minister tried to build up a case to prove that the Opposition was insincere and that the Government had taken the men on with the full knowledge of the trade-union movement that they were taken on only to utilise funds available at that time and that they would inevitably have to go as soon as those funds were used up.

**Mr. Richter:** I answered that question pretty fully this morning.

**Mr. HANLON:** I do not know whether the Minister did or not. I am led to believe that some of the people who are being dismissed have had eight years' service. Let us see how this could arise if special

funds had been used this year to give these men work. The Government's excuse is that a particular job was financed from a source of revenue which was allocated by the Treasurer for certain works to stimulate employment in the middle of the year, and which has now run out. How could that apply to men with eight years' service? Obviously they could not have been employed only this year. If the Minister dealt with this matter fully this morning I apologise, but I do not think he did. Unfortunately I was attending a function with the Minister for Education and Migration at the presentation of a bursary, and I missed question time, which is unusual for me, but I do not think the Minister would have answered the point exactly. I think that employees of the Department of Public Works are very interested in getting an answer, and, because of the effects of unemployment, the public generally is very interested.

I wanted to refer to valuations and the town plan, but as we must finish by half-past 9 I will give the Minister a chance to say something.

At 9.30 p.m.,

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! Under the provisions of Standing Order No. 307 and Sessional Order agreed to by the House on 10 October, I shall now proceed to put the Resolution under discussion and all other Resolutions not already agreed to by the House.

Resolution 9—Department of Public Works and Local Government—agreed to.

Resolutions 10 to 21, both inclusive, agreed to.

## WAYS AND MEANS

### OPENING OF COMMITTEE

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

**Hon. T. A. HILEY** (Chatsworth—Treasurer and Minister for Housing): I move—

"(a) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1962-1963, a further sum not exceeding £54,232,446 be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

"(b) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1962-1963, a further sum not exceeding £82,781,636 be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

"(c) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1962-1963, a further sum not exceeding £18,956,000 be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

"(d) That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1961-1962 a supplementary sum not exceeding

£6,186,665 15s. 1d. be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

“(e) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1961-1962, a supplementary sum not exceeding £3,102,190 13s. 10d. be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

“(f) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1961-1962, a supplementary sum not exceeding £2,910,197 11s. 7d. be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

“(g) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1963-1964, a sum not exceeding £20,000,000 be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

“(h) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1963-1964, a sum not exceeding £20,000,000 be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

“(i) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1963-1964, a sum not exceeding £4,000,000 be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.”

Motion agreed to.

Resolutions reported, received, and agreed to.

## APPROPRIATION BILL No. 2

### FIRST READING

A Bill, founded on the Resolutions reported from the Committee of Ways and Means, was introduced and read a first time.

### SECOND READING

**Hon. T. A. HILEY** (Chatsworth—Treasurer and Minister for Housing) (9.37 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

This is the final Appropriation Bill for the year. It appropriates—

The estimated requirements for 1962-1963;

The unforeseen expenditure incurred during 1961-1962 under Executive authority but without parliamentary appropriation prior to its expenditure;

Vote on Account of 1963-1964.

Most hon. members are unaware that certain expenditures are appropriated by the relevant Acts of Parliament and payment is made without further legislative approval. These payments for 1962-1963 are estimated to

aggregate £22,015,311, and are set out in detail in Parts A, B, C, D, and E of the schedule to the Bill.

The estimated requirements for 1962-1963, which have been the subject of examination on so many recent days, are contained in Parts F, G, and H and are—

F Consolidated Revenue Fund	£ 99,232,446
G Trust and Special Funds	118,781,636
H Loan Fund	32,956,000

Towards those amounts, Supply totalling £95,000,000 has previously been granted. That Supply was granted in November, 1961, on an occasion similar to this, when the following appropriations were made:—

Consolidated Revenue Fund	£ 19,000,000
Trust and Special Funds	14,000,000
Loan Fund	4,000,000

and in August last, when Supply totalling £58,000,000 was provided—

Consolidated Revenue Fund	£ 26,000,000
Trust and Special Funds	22,000,000
Loan Fund	10,000,000

The Vote on Account of 1963-1964 is contained in Clause 2 of the Bill and comprises—

Consolidated Revenue Fund	£ 20,000,000
Trust and Special Funds	20,000,000
Loan Fund	4,000,000

The total of £44,000,000 may be compared with a total of £37,000,000 12 months ago.

This Vote on Account will provide Supply during July and August next, pending the passing of a further Appropriation Bill. It represents an increase of £7,000,000 over the provision for the current year. The increase of £1,000,000 in the Consolidated Revenue Fund is due to normal escalation of costs, but the big increase is in Trust and Special Funds, where £6,000,000 more is provided for. This is due to the operation of new Trust Funds not included in the past, namely Trust Funds for hospital administration, beef-cattle roads construction, and Fitzroy brigalow-land development.

I shall give the House the most recent picture, as the Government sees it, of the trend in the State's finances. As already disclosed in the Budget brought down two months ago, record spending is provided for. Not only is there an increase in revenue and loan raisings normally available to the State, but there is also a substantial lift in special Commonwealth assistance this year, made up of—

Mt. Isa Railway project	£ 8,195,000
Beef Cattle Roads	1,830,000
Fitzroy Brigalow Land Development	1,650,000
Gladstone Harbour Facilities	145,000
	<hr/>
	£11,820,000

I draw the attention of the House to the fact that with the exception of the Mt. Isa railway project, work on which has been continuing steadily throughout the year, the majority of the expenditure on beef-cattle roads, brigalow-land development, and the Gladstone Harbour facilities will fall into the second half of the financial year.

The figure of £11,820,000 represents over one-quarter of the total funds made available by the Commonwealth for special developmental works this year, including over £24,000,000 for the Snowy River project. It is interesting to note that of the £45,747,000, which is the expenditure for the whole of Australia from Commonwealth revenue on developmental projects, the Commonwealth Government takes £25,210,000 for its own use, Queensland gets £11,820,000, and the other five States together get £8,717,000 this year. In other words, the other five States this year will get less than Queensland will get, which is a very welcome reversal of the trend that occurred for many years.

**Mr. Burrows:** The moral is to have a Federal election every year.

**Mr. HILEY:** There will not be a Federal election next year, but I think we will find that the position is just as satisfactory then as it is this year. Government spending on this occasion will be assisted by record semi-governmental and local-body borrowing, and here I am pleased to be able to inform the House of the outstanding success that is being achieved in raisings up to date, which gives complete confirmation of the hopes I had earlier expressed of a further 100-per-cent. raising for this year—the sixth year in succession.

I think the Government can claim great credit for the remarkable improvement that will be shown in the following figures of semi-governmental raisings, which figures indicate that in the short space of seven years raisings for the first five months of the calendar year have risen from £4,500,000 to £16,500,000 today. On any terms that is a fantastic expansion and it has proved a very helpful and welcome feature in the basis of spending in the governmental sector of the economy.

The figures are—

30th November	Offers	Approved Programme	Percentage Offers to Approved Programme
	£	£	Per cent.
1955 .. ..	4,526,219	14,000,000	32.3
1956 .. ..	6,341,597	13,179,000	48.1
1957 .. ..	7,620,843	14,997,000	50.8
1958 .. ..	9,812,496	15,710,500	62.5
1959 .. ..	12,109,074	16,519,900	73.3
1960 .. ..	11,477,959	17,651,093	65.0
1961 .. ..	13,017,474	19,547,152	66.6
26th Nov., 1962	16,558,113	21,501,800	77.0

That shows that in each of the preceding five years the full programme was raised, and there is no doubt in the world that

this record programme will be raised in record time. It gives colour to pressures, which are showing out in other States as well, that the capacity and liquidity position remain and the banking community and great financial institutions of the Commonwealth would, in my judgment, support an increase in the programme if the Loan Council sees fit to approve of it. So we can point in this year to an all-time record raising percentage of an all-time record allocation.

**Mr. Duggan:** Could the approving of a higher programme be construed to mean that there is need for more governmental spending as against private spending?

**Mr. HILEY:** Not necessarily. It could do that, but it would not necessarily do so. The character of governmental spending is changing through the years. There was a time when most governmental spending was on non-revenue-producing assets, which simply resulted in increasing the future burden on the taxpayers of the Commonwealth. But take, for instance, electricity expenditure, housing expenditure, and expenditure by harbour boards. There you have three classic examples of expenditure by public authorities which usually result in no charge whatever on the general body of taxpayers as such. They are expenditures of a class that are able to service their interest and redemption quite comfortably from the services that they in turn render to the community. The same applies in the local-authority field with expenditure on most water and sewerage schemes. They are not a burden on the general taxpayer because the charges are properly calculated.

**Mr. Burrows** interjected.

**Mr. HILEY:** That is a factor that must be taken into account.

The Leader of the Opposition queried whether there could be more Government expenditure instead of private spending. I point out that there is so much to be done on the side of electricity. We can do more in housing and in the other directions I have mentioned. If the opportunity is there, I would have no hesitation in feeling that it is quite good business in Queensland to take advantage of the extra opportunity. The point I wanted to put on record was that on the impression I formed of the financial atmosphere generally, I feel that if the opportunity is provided there is no way in the world the money is not there to be raised if given the allocation to do it. On top of those figures. I did not include the special allocation of £214,800 made by the Loan Council to the Brisbane City Council for Wynnun sewerage. The bulk of that money will be spent in the second half of the year. They were getting ready the first half preparing and letting contracts. My understanding is that the bulk of that would take place in the January-June half. I hope that the greater portion

will be spent up to Christmas. In addition, as indicated in a reply to a question this morning, I am hopeful of a further special allocation of £1,000,000 for bulk-sugar handling facilities at Cairns and increased storage at Mackay. As reported earlier, the Government is authorised to proceed in anticipation of this approval. If we do not get it we will have to find it somewhere out of our floating cash. I am quite confident that we will get the approval and again I inform the House that our expectation is that less than £100,000 of that £1,000,000 will be spent before the end of December; we will endeavour to spend more than £900,000 between January and June. In Cairns they are getting ready. In Mackay they will spend about £60,000 on foundations while they are getting plans out for the big, new shed. The contract will be let and a start will be made on the shed in the second half of the year.

I make these observations because of the concern frequently held by the Government and, indeed, by all hon. members, about unemployment. The Government's efforts to date have assisted in reducing the number of registered unemployed from 30,426 at the end of January to 12,924 at the end of October. Although the latter figure will obviously rise again until the end of January next due to the termination of seasonal work in meat-works, and sugar mills, and on tobacco harvesting, plus the influx of school-leavers, the Government confidently expects a very much lower level than last year, when the figure reached 30,426. The Government has geared itself to make its contribution in securing a substantial reduction in the ensuing months.

Contrary to the syllogisms of a number of hon. members opposite, there has been no withdrawal of Government funds for a sudden splurge next year. Up to yesterday, 26 November, our receipts for all funds totalled £90,200,000, and up to the same day our expenditure from all funds amounted to £91,800,000. So in fact from 1 July to 26 November we had spent £1,600,000 more than we had received in the same period.

**Mr. Bennett:** Do you think you will end up with a deficit at the end of the year?

**Mr. HILEY:** No, I do not.

**Mr. Melloy:** Could you have had the full unemployment grant in one sum if you had asked for it?

**Mr. HILEY:** No.

**Mr. Melloy:** That was a condition of the grant, that it was to be taken over three months?

**Mr. HILEY:** No, every month. We get it on the second-last working day of the month. That is the basis on which the Commonwealth Government made it available. How silly it would have been to take the whole £3,000,000 and adopt the attitude

of eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die. Only fools do that. If the hon. member were to read the quotation he would find that it is very apt. If we had taken the whole £3,600,000, and had gone on a spending spree and run out of money in the latter part of the year, it would have been silly. Regularity of employment is just as important as quantity of employment. Putting people in and out of work like yo-yos is bad business.

**Mr. Melloy:** Those who were given work would gain some benefit.

**Mr. HILEY:** What benefit is it to give a considerable number of people employment for July, August, and September, and then have no money to follow up to keep them employed in October, November, and December? We have a certain cake; should we cut it into 12 equal slices and spend it evenly during the year, or should we spend madly and provide employment wildly without any capacity to follow up and simply burn our resources and use every coupon we have and then have nothing to follow up with?

**Mr. Hanlon:** You would have had a case to go back and ask for more funds. You had to do it in February, 1961.

**Mr. HILEY:** On this occasion they came to us early and made the money available, as I have said, in 12 monthly instalments payable on the second-last working day of each month. That is the Commonwealth's decision on how this money is made available to us.

**Mr. Hanlon:** How does the £1,600,000 deficit this year compare with those of previous years? Is it higher, or lower?

**Mr. HILEY:** We are doing better; it is a lower deficit. If the hon. member followed the movement in the Consolidated Revenue Fund he would find we are running rather better. That is what enabled me to reply to the hon. member for South Brisbane when he asked if we would finish the year with a balanced Budget. I said that I thought we would.

I think it may interest hon. members to know of the major governmental projects likely to commence in the second half of 1962-1963. The list is very extensive and I do not propose to go into any detailed discussion on it. I think that many hon. members watching affairs in their areas will find something of interest in it. It will appeal to almost every one of them. Hon. members will recognise some of the items I am referring to. The first one concerns the Mt. Isa railway project. We will be proceeding with a building extension for the Townsville railway office.

The next item concerns the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission and the construction of the Callide Creek dam to provide a water supply for the Callide power station.

The Railway Department will be proceeding with high-level bridges over the Russell River and Josephine Creek. It has also placed orders for 300 G.L.C. vans and 12 diesel-electric locomotives.

The Department of Main Roads will be proceeding with the reconstruction of the Moura-Bahinia Downs road, which is part of the pre-development of the Fitzroy River Basin. On the Pacific Highway a new bridge will be built over the Albert River at Yatala. Major work is listed to commence on the Duaringa-Emerald road, and the road from Emerald to Bogantungan. On the road from Rockhampton to Mackay a bridge will be constructed over Sandy Creek, and the roads between Mt. Isa and Camooweal, Cloncurry and Mt. Isa, and Charters Towers and Hughenden will be improved.

In addition to those works coming from the Main Roads Fund, under the beef-roads scheme work will be carried out between Boullia and Dajarra, between Winton and Boullia, and between Julia Creek and Normanton, and a further section will be added to what has already been constructed between Cloncurry and Normanton. In addition to that, bitumen-surfacing will be commenced on the first section between Julia Creek and Normanton and a start will be made on the road between Georgetown and Mt. Surprise.

In addition, the Department of Public Works has furnished me with a list of the works it will commence and has given me an indication of the sums it proposes to expend between 1 January and 30 June next.

Four completely new primary schools will be built, one at Mt. Isa, in the suburb of Happy Valley, at a proposed cost of £10,000; and one at Inala South, £23,000.

**Mr. Sherrington:** Not before time, that one.

**Mr. HILEY:** I thank the hon. member for his words of appreciation. One at Cootharaba Road, Gympie, £10,000, and one at Normanton, £10,000. On major remodelling of the school at Ingham, £25,000 will be spent. Additional classrooms scattered at centres throughout the State too numerous to mention are estimated to require £200,000. I listened a while ago to the suggestion that nothing was being done for primary schools. There will be £278,000 spent on new buildings for primary schools.

Technical colleges also came under complaint. New workshops at the Rockhampton Technical College will cost £10,000, and new workshops at Mt. Isa, £30,000, a total of £40,000 in the coming half-year for technical colleges.

High schools and high tops have been an important part of the construction programme. There will be additions at Corinda and Kelvin Grove costing £26,500 and £42,000 respectively. There will be new secondary departments at Kenilworth (£25,000), Rosewood (£20,000), Bell

(£20,000), Home Hill (£29,000), and Gordonvale (£20,000). There will be additions at Biloela, a town that is growing fast, costing £30,000, while additional classrooms at scattered high schools throughout the State will require another £150,000. The total value of new projects to be started in the next half year for high schools and high tops is £362,500.

Sundry educational works include major remodelling and extensions at the South Brisbane School for the Deaf and the Blind, requiring £15,000, and the remodelling of the Ipswich Opportunity School, £10,000, a total of £25,000.

Some small work will be done at the Queensland Agricultural College, Gatton—new kitchen, dining-hall, dormitory accommodation, and administration block, £10,000.

Four new court houses—Maroochydore, Laidley, Gatton and Nambour—will cost £68,000.

Under the heading of "Government Institutions" there will be a new building at the Chermiside Neuro-psychiatric Clinic, second section, £35,000, and some small expenditure on a building at Goodna for the treatment of inebriates.

For the Department of Agriculture and Stock there will be a new building for the Hamilton Pilot Experimental Plant, £30,000, and a new Ooonoona isolation building, £16,500.

New work to be commenced in the financial year includes the expenditure of £34,000 on H.M. Prison, Stuart.

It is proposed to spend £20,000 on a new lift and lavatory block for the Transport Building and, in pursuance of our policy of building more and more residences for public servants, £100,000 is expected to be spent on the projects to be commenced and carried out in the first half of 1963.

All told, under those headings of the Department of Public Works alone, £1,024,000 will be spent on projects, not to continue those that have already been started, but on new projects to be commenced in the first half of next year.

The heaviest expenditure by the Department of Harbours and Marine on Commonwealth aid marine works will be in the second half of the year. There will be further dredging at Manly costing £5,000. Amounts of £10,000 will be spent on each of three boat harbours, at Urangan, Ross Creek, and Bowen. We are going to proceed with the construction of jetties at Mossman Head and Daintree, which are essential projects in the Far North and not very expensive, costing £3,300 each. An amount of £5,000 is to be spent on work on the jetty at Normanton.

In addition, to catch up with the new craze for trailer-borne craft, the first really significant programme of expenditure will see £9,000 spent on boat ramps as the start of a quite extensive programme for the provision of boat-launching ramps throughout the State.

I have already referred in the Budget debate to the pilot launch, the fisheries launch, and the new survey launch. Under this heading construction of pilot launches at Brisbane, Maryborough, and Rockhampton is to be started in the next half of this year. Construction of a new survey launch will be started, and smaller craft, mainly trailer-borne craft driven by outboard motors for fisheries work, will involve expenditure of £4,500. Some river beacons at Bundaberg will cost £8,000, and at the wharf at Pinkenba and at Cairncross Dock we expect to spend £28,000 on amenities blocks to be commenced in the second half of this financial year.

I am now able to say quite confidently that, following the work already carried out in reclaiming the area for the Amoco company to establish an oil terminal in Brisbane, the site will be at a stage that will allow the company to actually start the refinery project during the second half of this financial year. I was hoping to be able to give a very positive programme for this work. I was down there on Saturday morning last and tramped all over the site. Some points still have to be discussed between the various parties concerned as to the order of carrying out certain work, but I can say confidently that I have every reason to believe that construction of the refinery will begin slightly ahead of the scheduled date.

Three dredges are now working on the job and they are really throwing material out. As a layman, I gained the firm impression that the quality of material being thrown onto the site of the reclamation is somewhat too good for this purpose. So far as I can see, what is being thrown out is predominantly sand. There is a slight mixture of silt, but what is being thrown out seems to be pure sand. As a matter of fact, I think that any sand and gravel merchant would be very happy to have in his yard what I saw on the site; he would immediately turn it into money.

The laundering process appears to be working with over-severity, and the quality of the filling material is really first-class. One of the problems in reclamation work is that material with a high silt content takes a long time to dry out. This material can be dumped today and it is dry enough to walk over tomorrow. It is pure coarse sand and shell, with a small amount of gravel, and it drains well. Within an hour or two of dumping, the surface is dry enough to break up in the hand.

I think that that gives to the House a list of expenditures on the Government's own and associated projects. In addition, in going through the local authorities' works programme there is a truly imposing list of projects that will start in the second half of 1962-1963.

Most hon. members are aware from Press announcements that the Brisbane Market Trust will be letting contracts for the new

market buildings at Rocklea, on which work will begin early in the New Year. I have already referred to the additional storage that will be provided at the bulk-sugar terminal at Mackay, and a bulk-sugar terminal will be constructed at Cairns. The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board is now clearing the site at Kemp Place and construction of the new fire station will begin in the New Year.

**Mr. Bennett:** When will the markets actually be shifted to the new site?

**Mr. HILEY:** That will depend on when the contractor has the main establishment ready. Much of the work of site preparation has been done. It has been going on for some time, and the position has now been reached where the contract for the main market buildings can be let. When that is nearing completion, I will be able to give the hon. member a definite date. At the moment I am unable to say whether the project will take 12 months, 18 months, or two years. All I know is that it is a very big building project. From memory, I think it is something of the order of £1,500,000, and buildings costing that amount of money are not built in a few weeks or in a few months. I expect that the contract will be spread over the remainder of this financial year and well into next financial year.

The Wide Bay Regional Electricity Board will construct a new sub-station at Kilkivan, and I will deal with other electricity boards later. At the Brisbane General Hospital a building for the new psychiatric service will be erected, and the Redcliffe Hospitals Board will make a start on its hospital. The Toowoomba Hospitals Board will begin work on a new surgical block, and at Ayr Hospital substantial additions will be made to the nurses' quarters. A new psychiatric block will be commenced at Townsville General Hospital. As will be seen, quite extensive major hospital work will be commenced in the first half of next calendar year.

The Albert Shire Council will make a start on a water supply to Woodridge and Kingston, and the Ipswich City Council will begin the fourth stage of the augmentation of its water distribution mains. The Redcliffe City Council will start Stage 3 of its sewerage scheme. The Gold Coast City Council will undertake a number of projects, including the construction of a swimming pool and major beach reclamation associated with it. The Maroochy Shire Council will construct the treatment plant for its water supply scheme, and Gympie City Council will begin Stage 1 of its sewerage scheme. Ayr Shire Council will commence Stage 1 of its water scheme, and Townsville City Council will begin Stage 3 of the western suburbs sewerage scheme. Johnstone Shire Council will undertake the construction of the North Johnstone River bridge. McKinlay Shire Council will commence the Julia Creek sewerage scheme, and Tara Shire Council will begin a sewerage scheme for Tara.

Those are the major items that I have taken out of the local-authority programme that will begin in the first half of next calendar year. As many of the jobs referred to will involve the calling of tenders, I do not propose to give the estimated cost of each project. However, the aggregate cost of works referred to is about £10,000,000 in Government projects, plus another £1,000,000 for the Department of Public Works, and local-government and semi-governmental projects amount to between £11,000,000 and £12,000,000.

I ask hon. members to observe that I have not included anything from the Brisbane City Council's detailed programme, because it is in a state of uncertainty at the moment pending finalisation of negotiations with the Southern Electric Authority of Queensland. The sooner those negotiations are completed, the sooner the Brisbane City Council will be in a position to use in financing works the money that we allowed it to divert from financing electricity.

I repeat that I wish to draw the attention of the House to the fact that not only is this programme of new works to be commenced a large one, but it is also widespread in range, variety, and type, and in the view of the Government is calculated to give considerable assistance to the Government over a period which, without fail, in Queensland's history has been a difficult period of unemployment. The Government does not pretend that even with this list it will completely overcome the problem, but we are hopeful and confident that the start of these many projects will certainly help to keep the level of unemployment below that of the corresponding period last year when, as the Government freely acknowledges and recognises, the level was far too high to endure.

We know that this problem of seasonal unemployment has many facets to it. We know, for example, that there are some industries which help to provide an intermittent background of seasonal employment which, while it exists, attracts a loaded rate and where the take-away envelope of those engaged in the industry is relatively high. But that does not quite comfort us, just as it does not completely satisfy the people concerned. I know the argument may be put up that it is true that these men might, for three or four months' employment in January, February, March, and April, or in the months they are working, take away envelopes that are so big that they still earn as much as, or more than, employees working at the ordinary rate of pay earned in 12 months. That argument does carry a certain amount of weight and we find, as a matter of fact, that all those who suffer through casual employment are not over-eager to accept employment in the lay-off periods. It has certain taxation consequences and they do not like to put themselves into a higher bracket. They have worked hard and have saved well, and some of them are quite content to breeze along over that

period. Whilst they do register for employment, they are always very hopeful that they will not be asked to work. However, that does not apply to all. The fact that you get a few that react that way, does not in my judgment, or in the judgment of the Government, lead us to brand everyone that way.

All we can say—and I say it quite soberly to the House—is that when the list of works is read out it will be seen that their character, their diversification, and the skills involved will provide employment to the extent that it is our hope that the position in the early months of the coming year, following as we do upon a season which, if it is tending to deteriorate—we are signing drought-relief applications all over the place now—is still a relatively better season than last year's. We are still finding that the duration of our sugar season will be longer than last year's. We are still finding that, in some of our farming districts, although farmers in grain-growing areas are asking for drought relief because the pastures are withering, they are still rejoicing in the fact that they are taking off a record crop.

The employment provided in that way and the spending capacity that comes only from good production are helpful, and it is our belief that the employment situation in the early months of next year will be better than it was in the opening months of this year when, we frankly admit, it was higher than was comfortable, higher than was good for the community, and higher than we ever like to see it.

Those are the only observations I want to make. This is a debate of very limited opportunity and I content myself with having moved the second reading.

**Mr. DUGGAN** (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) (10.19 p.m.): I do not propose to speak for very long because two members on this side wish to raise two or three matters of some importance and the debate terminates for the Opposition at 11 o'clock, which means there is 40 minutes for three speakers. But I do want to say in the few minutes available to me that I can only express the hope that the Treasurer's prediction of an employment improvement during the next few months will be realised. It is true that we have had a bountiful sugar crop. It is true also that the wheat harvest will be an almost record one. But, as he has pointed out, dry conditions are prevailing throughout the State. There is increasing evidence of people being obliged for various reasons to suspend their spending programmes to some extent. The programme of work that the Treasurer has indicated certainly is a very large one. It indicates that at the Commonwealth level we have been able to receive something in excess of £11,000,000, as compared with the total amount to the other States of £8,717,000. That is a realisation on the part of the Federal authorities that the position in Queensland has

deteriorated. Some years ago the Treasurer set out by the operation of a definite financial policy to enable Queensland virtually to become a mendicant State. But he has claimed that either this year or last year, as a result of husbanding of the finances, they were stronger than in 1957. By what process he was able to spend certain funds and virtually become a mendicant State and, at the same time, strengthen the financial position, is one for the accountants to argue. Frankly I really believe that this awakening of interest in Queensland is purely because of political considerations. I should like to share the Treasurer's optimism that there is a better relationship between the Commonwealth and the State. I do not want to be a knocker in this regard. If the State is able to produce programmes that will attract Federal aid from time to time, I shall be very happy indeed. If these moneys are being used wisely to promote the development of the State, it is a good thing for Queensland. It may be that we can establish the precedent of something that has happened this year and last year. Those sort of arguments are welcomed by Treasurers when they are making their proposals in the South. They say, "You gave us a certain sum last year, we think you should give it to us again this year." If that is the technique in negotiations that the Treasurer proposes to employ, I can only wish him well. But it is not only because of the shudder that went down the political spine of the Federal Government in December. I do not think it is without coincidence that next year there will be a State election in Queensland.

As to the unemployment position, again I can only express the hope on the part of the unemployed that the various projects will mitigate to some extent the effect of unemployment. What the future holds for this country, of course, is very difficult to offer an opinion on. Our policies are changing. For example, the development of smelter works in New Zealand for the Consolidated Zinc organisation seems to have come to a standstill, which may mean a re-examination of Queensland's prospects if some aid can be given. The European Common Market proposal enters the picture, particularly with the return of de Gaulle in the French elections the other day. It may mean that the French influence will harden as to the conditions that that country will impose. As recently as Sunday last Mr. McEwen said that if Great Britain proceeded with her application to enter the Common Market on the conditions which seemed to constitute in some measure, if not a breach of faith, at least a breach of expectation regarding the treatment of primary-producing countries, it would have an adverse effect on Australia, and particularly on her dairying industry.

The Treasurer pointed out that loan raisings have improved quite considerably in recent times. But it is interesting to note that there has been a progressive increase in

the percentage of successful loan raisings over the years. I will not waste time on this point because I have only a few minutes available, but it does advance in arithmetical progression from 1955 until the excellent figure this year. That may be a good thing, and it may not. I have previously pointed out in the Budget debate that the Treasurer seemed to deprecate the argument I used about the insistence of the Commonwealth authorities on 30 per cent. of the insurance companies' funds being channelled into governmental and semi-governmental borrowing programmes. Unfortunately I could not ascertain the total amount that the insurance companies have invested, but it is a considerable sum. There is a reluctance on the part of private industries to embark upon large capital expansion programmes because they have just emerged from the effects of a recession. There is more money available, but because so many people have had their fingers burnt there is a greater disposition on the part of many investors to channel their funds into gilt-edged securities. The investments in hire-purchase companies are down considerably compared with a year or two ago. Consequently, insurance companies are now able to issue prospectuses at lower rates of interest compared with two years ago. All this makes it more attractive for people to invest in Government securities of some kind or another. That is possibly very good and will reflect itself in lower rates of interest, which will benefit the Government and local authorities.

There is an indication that the nature of Government spending has changed to some extent, and it is true that the State is beginning to reap some dividend from part of the capital expenditure on some of the large works. However, when we are a pioneering State much of the money is spent on roads and railways, and that attracts population and industry. Because of the increased development we require increased industrial power. That is the pattern in Queensland particularly; the great search for power has resulted in a great deal of expenditure.

While these things in themselves are revenue-producing, they present some problems in unemployment. No-one can stand in the way of progress so far as technological advances and automation are concerned. The Minister mentioned the Cairns bulk-handling project and the very high priority given to it. However, the number of men affected by it at Cairns could well be 300. I think the people of Queensland accept that, if we are to market our goods, we must use every possible means to do so. When bulk handling is introduced at various ports on the coast, we can multiply the number of installations by 200 or 300 wharf employees, and find that a considerable work force is affected. At Blair Athol I believe that the labour force has been reduced from over 100 to about 45 or 50.

The same applies to mechanical can harvesting. Every mechanical cane harvester displaces about 10 men. The cumulative effect of these things, whilst bringing about savings in industry, constitutes problems of another kind.

**Mr. Hiley:** If you do not get your costs down you lose the market anyhow.

**Mr. DUGGAN:** I agree that it is like a dog chasing its tail. It is necessary to get costs down when you are trying to sell your goods in another country, but in the country you are trying to penetrate they say, "Australia is making inroads and we must get our costs down." It is like a dog chasing its tail downwards. It can be rectified only by agreement, on a free board basis, at an international level, on primary commodities and so on. Over the years there has been a decline in the price of primary goods on the international markets, but generally speaking there has been an increase in the price of the products of secondary industry. Unless we can greatly expand production in this country there will not be an incentive, or any opportunity, to repay some of the commitments that local authorities, harbour boards, and other constructing authorities are incurring at present because of expected demands.

There have been tariff problems that resulted in the resignation of the chairman of the Tariff Board. Some firms have taken advantage of a more liberal policy to import many components, particularly in the motor industry.

The latest figures show an increase in unemployment in Queensland whereas there has been a decline in every other State, and, disturbingly, apart altogether from the meat industry and other seasonal industries, since the report was issued there has been a decline in employment in our ship repair yards and plymills. That should not happen in Queensland. That is the sort of thing about which very vigorous protests should be made by the State to try to get a better allocation for ship repair work. That type of work could be allocated to the less prosperous State.

As for plywood, too, it is disturbing to know that we are spending something to the order of £85,000,000 a year on importing timber when fewer people are being employed in timber mills in this State.

There are many subjects I should like to develop along this line, but I want to give the other two hon. members at least a quarter of an hour each so I will content myself with expressing the hope that the employment expectations for next year will be realised.

I cannot close without reference to the query of the hon. member for Baroona on unemployment. I should like to spend some time on that but, for the reasons I have given, I cannot very well. The Treasurer

indicated that the overspending up to 26 November was to the order of £1,600,000 and that that is rather a better picture, lower down on 12 months ago, which perhaps enabled him to balance the Budget.

It seems to me that he has done one of several things. He may have set out deliberately to balance the Budget for some reasons that I do not want to canvass very much at the moment. Alternatively, he felt that last year there was a bigger obligation to spend more money to reduce the incidence of unemployment than he feels necessary at this time. If he does not accept that theory, then he is saying, "Well, we will have fewer unemployed now than at the corresponding period last year and we prefer to do that and improve our financial position and not take advantage to the same extent as we might have done of these extra funds from Commonwealth sources." Because if he is overspent £1,600,000 now and he has a sum in excess of that last year, I feel there should have been an injection of a larger sum into the spending programme, especially as there are men with long service being entrenched at present.

I agree with the Treasurer that some stability in employment is desirable. I do not like great fluctuations. Possibly there are some men with lengthy periods of service whose employment is being terminated. Once they get on to two or three years, there should be some organisation to look after them. Perhaps there could be better organisation of some aspects of the Department of Public Works in the furnishing of material and supplies, so that we could have a more stable labour force with provision for these extra injections of money for particular non-recurring types of maintenance and other work. If I keep on in this strain I will be going longer than I intended, so I will content myself with those observations and give the other hon. members an opportunity to refer to matters that they wish to bring to the notice of the Treasurer.

**Mr. TUCKER** (Townsville North) (10.33 p.m.): I intend to take advantage of the short time allowed me to speak on a matter I have raised over the past week in the House, and that is the Bowen beer prices. This morning, in answering a question I had put to him previously, the Minister for Justice virtually told me to mind my own business with reference to these prices and to stick to Townsville and not bother about Bowen. I do not intend to take his advice on that, because I will raise my voice on behalf of the unionists and the workers in Bowen.

**Opposition Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. TUCKER:** If the hon. member for Bowen does not intend to raise his voice on their behalf, I certainly will raise mine.

**Opposition Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. TUCKER:** The half-penny on the glass of beer in Bowen comes out of the pockets of the workers of Bowen. Therefore it is very necessary that we raise our voices on their behalf. I understand that certain tactics will be used against me because I have raised my voice. Always in this Chamber when anybody stands and raises his voice on behalf of the Trades and Labour Council or on behalf of unionists—

**Dr. Delamothe:** They are good Comms on the Trades and Labour Council.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. TUCKER:** I am not afraid of this "Comms" smear. If the hon. member for Bowen, who interjected, wants to try to hang it on me, good on him. I am not afraid because of it. I will raise my voice on behalf of those people because they are good unionists and good people of the North. The action of the Trades and Labour Council was completely justified, despite the remarks and the interjection of the hon. member for Bowen. In view of the Licensing Commission's finding on 2 November, 1962, that spirits be reduced in price, that the price of canned beer be reduced, and that the 7-oz. glass of draught beer be reduced by a half-penny, which was the crux of the fight at Bowen, the fight by the Trades and Labour Council against the hotel-keepers in Bowen was indeed justified. It was exactly what they had asked for.

Let us look at the background of this dispute. The ban was imposed early this year because of excessive beer prices. I was approached and I expressed the opinion that it was a matter for the Licensing Commission. I believe that that was quite a correct opinion. In fact, I wrote this letter on 13 September, 1962, to the Minister—

"I have been requested by the President of the Bowen and District Trades and Labour Council to bring to your notice the fact that excessive prices are being charged for Beer and Lager in Bowen at present. It is alleged that the prices of these commodities are the highest in any sea-port Town on the Queensland Coast.

"I am informed that Bowen Publicans retail a 7 oz. glass of Beer at 1s. 2½d. which is ½d. in excess of Mackay and Ayr prices, although the freight rate of 178s. 3d. per ton is the same for Bowen and Mackay from Cairns. The freight charge on Beer from Cairns to Ayr is 240s. per ton.

"Further, Bowen now receives its interstate Lager requirements by boat at freight rates identical with those paid by Townsville and Mackay, yet a 26 oz. bottle of southern Lager is retailed in Bowen at 5s., compared with 4s. 8d. in Mackay and Townsville.

"It has been stated that the Queensland Hoteliers Association are subsidising local publicans to offset financial losses incurred as a result of a ban placed by a number of townspeople on local hotels in an effort to have these prices reduced to an equitable level.

"In view of these allegations, it would appear that an inspection by officers of your Department is vitally necessary in this area and I accordingly bring the matter to your notice for your action."

On 17 September I received a letter to the effect that the Minister had received mine and that he would again communicate with me when he had received further advice on the matter. On 28 September, 1962, I received another letter stating, in effect, that the matter of liquor prices in Bowen was receiving the attention of the Licensing Commission and that the investigation had not been completed, which left me believing that the Minister would later communicate with me on these prices.

Having heard nothing from the Minister, I again wrote to him on 8 November, and on 16 November I received from him another letter reading—

"With reference to your personal representations and to your letter of 8th November, 1962, regarding liquor prices at Bowen, I wish to advise that I have been informed by the Licensing Commission that it has given consideration to the matter of liquor prices at Bowen and that in the light of all material presented to it, it has been determined certain reductions to be made in the prices of certain classes of liquor, details of which have been communicated to the licensees at Bowen today."

That letter was dated 16 November, and in it no mention is made of 2 November, although in reply to my question on 21 November the Minister said that on 2 November certain information had been conveyed to the Bowen hotel-keepers. In the letter of 16 November he said that it had been indicated to the licensees at Bowen "today". It is very hard to follow this discrepancy.

I read those letters because I want it to be noted that the investigation at Bowen was going on for six or seven weeks, as can be seen from the dates of the letters that I have mentioned. I presume that the Licensing Commission sent skilled investigators to Bowen. It must have been aware that a controversy had raged for many months over beer prices in Bowen; it would have had to be deaf and blind to be unaware of the bad feeling that existed over prices. Will anyone try to tell me that the hotel-keepers would not have made available to the investigators every scrap of evidence that supported their case during the seven weeks that the Minister said in his letters that the investigation was going on? I am not so naive as to believe

that they did not. Yet on 2 November, 1962, the Licensing Commission found in favour of a reduction of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the price of a 7-oz. glass of beer. After seven weeks of investigation, it agreed with the Trades and Labour Council's contention over many months that the price of beer should be reduced.

Hon. members opposite can joke about it. It does not worry them what the worker pays. Two weeks after the Licensing Commission arrived at its decision as a result of the investigation, it completely reversed its decision. In the meantime, an advertisement appeared in the "Bowen Independent"—I drew the Minister's attention to this—ostensibly by the Queensland Hotels Association, mentioning some reductions in prices but completely ignoring the fact that the Commission had recommended that the price of a 7-ounce glass of beer be reduced by  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. Was this an attempt to mislead the public of Bowen into believing that no such reduction had been recommended by the Commission? I am told that the Commission usually announces its decisions to the Press. If that is so, why was this blatant attempt made by the Queensland Hotels Association to mislead the public of Bowen into believing that the Trades & Labour Council had not had a victory? If the decision had been arrived at by the Commission, why was it reversed within a fortnight? The Minister said that fresh evidence was forthcoming. What evidence not given during the seven weeks that the investigation was proceeding could have been forthcoming in a fortnight? In my opinion, it is farcical to make such an allegation. When it was realised that the attitude of the Trades & Labour Council was justified, pressure was brought to bear on the Commission to reverse its decision. I can read nothing else into the Commission's unseemly haste to reverse the decision it had made a fortnight earlier.

Although  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. on each glass may not sound very much, it can mount into many hundreds or thousands of pounds, and it comes from the pockets of the workers. It is criminal that the decision of the Commission should be reversed. I ask the Minister to make a thorough investigation of this matter and to cast out politics from something that vitally affects the workers. In my opinion it is the duty of the Licensing Commission to investigate the whole question of liquor prices. It should not wait until it is forced to take action because of pressure exerted by workers' organisations. If the Commission does its duty properly it should keep a close watch on prices, and I believe the Commission has failed in its duty to the people of Queensland in acting as it did in regard to the price of beer at Bowen.

**Mr. SHERRINGTON** (Salisbury) (10.45 p.m.): I want to take the opportunity, in the limited time available to me in the debate on the Appropriation Bill, to air a matter that is causing a considerable amount of concern to certain Government employees.

I refer, in the main, to the day-labour force employed throughout the various Government departments and in particular in the Department of Public Works.

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

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** How would the Minister know? He is such a great brain storm that he is trying to anticipate what I am about to say.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member has a-quarter of an hour. I trust he will put it to good use without arguing the point with the Minister.

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** I will do that and I trust the Minister will give me the opportunity to—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member need not take that attitude with the Chair. If he does, I will ask him to resume his seat. I remind the hon. member—who, by the way, is still standing—that I have tolerated disobedience to the Chair sufficiently for one night.

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** As I was saying before I was interrupted, this matter is causing considerable concern to the employees concerned. I refer particularly to the day-labour force in Queensland. For some months past there has been a concerted campaign by members of the Master Builders' Association to enter the field and bulldoze the Government into abolishing the day-labour force in Queensland so that members of that association might tender for public works throughout the State.

This campaign has gone on now for some months and it seems to be gathering momentum. Special pressure is being exerted on the Government by the Master Builders' Association and, because of the silence of the Premier and the Minister for Public Works and Local Government, members of the day-labour force are experiencing a certain amount of disquiet, particularly as to their future.

I shall quote the Press reports of portion of this campaign that has been undertaken. The Brisbane "Telegraph" of 16 August last says—

"The Queensland Master Builders' Association wants the State Government to stop immediately its labour system of carrying out public works.

"The President, Mr. K. D. Morris, said today that the builders would fight for what they considered the most satisfactory means of building—the tender system."

He said—

"Builders are anxious to employ and train more apprentices but are unable to do so because of the huge amount of work being carried out by the Government and the small amount handed to builders."

He went on to say—

"The Government should make available a programme of works covering at least six months.

"The association was tired of asking the Government for this small consideration."

Subsequent to this article, in a statement in "Sunday Truth" of 11 November this same sort of campaign was carried on by the Master Builders' Association. The article was under the heading, "Day labour strangling industry" and the article goes on to say—

"One of the gravest problems facing the building industry in Queensland is the failure of the State Government to heed its pleas for a revision of the policy of building public works by day labour."

As I say, this campaign is causing disquiet amongst these day-labour employees, more particularly because there has been no forthright statement by the Premier or the Minister for Public Works and Local Government.

I have made statements on it on several occasions because I am deeply concerned about the matter of day-labour. I made a study of reports of the Department of Public Works over a number of years and to me it was more than pleasing to note that down through successive years the day-labour force has been able to compete more than favourably with the tendering system. I think the Minister will agree that on certain occasions over the last few years, particularly in the construction of school buildings, the Government has burnt its fingers when it allowed the work to be done under the tender system. The Minister cannot deny that the standard of work was not up to that required by the Department of Public Works.

I feel that we have every reason to be proud of the standard of workmanship carried out by the day-labour force. I should be very disappointed if any inroads were to be made into the strength of that force by the substitution of the tender system. In the construction of public buildings it is not so much the amount of money the Government can save in their erection but that the buildings should be built to last. They are provided for a definite purpose. The more solidly they are built the less is needed to maintain them over the years. The day-labour force is noted for its efficiency, particularly in school construction jobs. That efficiency has been obtained only by long years of experience in the type of construction required, the standard set by the supervisors in the Department of Public Works, and the standard demanded by the architects who have designed the building, plus the teamwork that has developed over a long period of time among the men themselves. Because of all these factors the day-labour force has been able to compete more than favourably with any tender system.

**Mr. Ramsden interjected.**

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** The hon. member ought to have a look at himself. He would be awfully disappointed. Why does he not keep out while I am making an intelligent contribution?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** I am very surprised to hear the ridiculous sneers and jokes from hon. members opposite. It is quite evident they have taken no notice of the reports of the Department of Public Works over the years. The Minister for Public Works and Local Government is not smiling, because he agrees with everything I am saying. If the Minister says that he is not satisfied with the performance of the day-labour force, I shall be very surprised. For the reasons I have already mentioned, the day-labour force in this State has reached a stage of efficiency that cannot be equalled in any other State of the Commonwealth. It is essential that we protect the day-labour force because it does provide continuity of employment for many people. Knowing that they have this continuity of employment brings about a feeling of contentment which tends to make those workers give of their very best.

If the Master Builders' Association wants to horn in now on the work that is being performed by the day-labour force, possibly I could compare its attitude with that of Borthwicks in wanting to enter the retail meat trade in Brisbane. Members of the Master Builders' Association were never interested in day-labour work when any amount of building was going on that was being tendered for. In the wake of the recent recession, possibly because there is not the same amount of building work available, they now seek to come in on public works. I realise of course, that the livelihood of employees of the members of the Master Builders' Association has to be protected. However, the master builders would be doing the State and themselves a better service if, instead of trying to get in on the work done by the day-labour force, they brought pressure to bear on the Government to bring a few more industries to this State and to bring about development in the State which would meet the requirements of the building force employed by the master builders. They are very short-sighted if they expect salvation only through eating into the work done by the day-labour force in Queensland. It is quite obvious that the president of the association, Mr. Morris, is absolutely ignorant of the day-labour force in Queensland. In the supplement in "Sunday Truth", which I previously quoted, he said that the day-labour policy was introduced by the Government during the credit squeeze and it had continued to develop. That statement alone proves that he is completely off-beam.

I can recall a report published by the Ryan Government in 1917 in which the work performed under the day-labour system

introduced at that time was spoken of in glowing terms. The president of the Master Builders' Association wishes to mislead the public, and possibly he wishes to mislead uninformed members of the Government, by saying that it sprang up suddenly during the last credit squeeze and has since developed.

At the outset . . .

**Mr. Smith:** You have been speaking for a quarter of an hour.

**Mr. SHERRINGTON:** At least my speech has been more intelligent in that quarter of an hour than any of the hon. member's I have listened to in three years in this Chamber.

The Premier and the Minister for Public Works have chosen not to make a public statement on this subject. They have failed to reassure the members of the day-labour force that they believe in that system and that they intend to preserve it. The basis of the propaganda emanating from the Master Builders' Association is the fact that they have been unable to get any answer from the Government. There is complete silence. Because the Minister, or the Premier, is not prepared to say he does not intend to adopt the tender system and intends to stick with the day-labour force, which has given good service for a number of years, we find discontent growing in the day-labour force or an uneasy feeling that the Government will yield to the pressure being exerted on it, as well as a feeling that an extension of the tender system could come into public works.

I am fair enough to admit that with some of our public buildings, because of their magnitude and because certain types of equipment are required to carry out their construction, it may be economical to have them done by contract. However, I think that schools, police stations, and certain other public buildings have been constructed efficiently by the day-labour force, yet at this stage the Government will not declare whether it intends to carry on with these buildings under the day-labour system as in the past few years. Until it does that, there will be this uneasiness following this dismissal of certain members of the work force. The Minister might be able to explain that they were put on for a special purpose and then dismissed, but, while the dismissals are going on among the day-labour force, each and every man is approaching his job with uneasiness because he may be out of work by the end of the week.

At 11 p.m.,

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! Under the provisions of Standing Order No. 307 and Sessional Order agreed to by the House on 10 October, the sitting will be extended to enable the Treasurer to make his speech in reply, after which all questions necessary

for the passage of the remaining stages of the Bill will be put without amendment or debate.

**Hon. T. A. HILEY** (Chatsworth—Treasurer and Minister for Housing) (11 p.m.), in reply: I have only a few brief matters in answer. The Leader of the Opposition raised again the question of insurance companies' support and expressed some doubt as to whether added support from the insurance field was an explanation for the greater degree of raising performance in the first five months of this year in comparison with similar figures over preceding years. It will interest the House to know that for last year, for the full year, insurance companies in all contributed £5,477,000 to the debenture programme but, of that, no less than £3,600,000 came from our own State Government Insurance Office, so that all the other insurance companies supported the programme to the tune of £1.8 million in 12 months. Now, up to the end of October, that is, one-third of this year—and this is the last figure I have dissected out over the contributors—the insurance companies all over Australia had contributed £3.8 million, of which £3.2 million had come from the State Government Insurance Office, meaning that in one-third of the year the other insurance companies this year have contributed .6 of a million pounds, which is exactly one-third of the £1.8 million they provided last year. So there is just no evidence of any surge from the insurance field.

It may interest hon. members to know that the improved performance this year so far is largely due to a tremendous proportionate increase by the banks, and that confirms what I said earlier concerning the liquidity of the nation and the capacity of the institutional lenders. Last year, from savings banks and trading banks and bank officers' superannuation funds, we received £8,893,000, or almost £9,000,000. In four months this year we have received £7.3 million, and there is no way in the world that that proportionately increased contribution by banks and savings banks is not dominating the better performance this year.

I have given the House the figures of insurance companies. The figure for various boards and funds—and these include the various provident funds, retirement funds, debt redemption funds and boards of that nature—was £4,100,000 last year. So far, proportionately, they are doing no better; they are £1,500,000 in four months, which is about running on a par with last year's contribution.

From the final group—public offerings—£8.3 million was the total amount received last year as against £5,500,000 in four months of the big public loan for the Brisbane City Council now open, a big proportion happens to be conversion, which consequently does not count as new. It is clear that the contribution from various public sources and public loans is running at a much better rate than last year.

So I do not think those figures support the view that the tremendous increase in performance springs from the narrow field of the compelled investment by the insurance companies. On the other hand, I think it confirms the picture I had given earlier of a general improvement in liquidity.

I repeat, I am quite confident that, if the door is opened to allow additional money to go into productive fields like electricity, housing, harbour development, and water and sewerage, there is just no way in the world that I will not with complete confidence feel that this State will be able to take advantage of such an opportunity.

He referred also to a falling-off of employment in ship-repairing work. On the ship-building side I know that the Premier has given his support from time to time to representations to the responsible Commonwealth Minister for the allocation of additional ship-building work to this State. On ship-repair work, it was our desire to stimulate opportunities, which prompted us to spend money in carrying out the improvements at Cairncross Dock. Whilst we have no firm booking as yet, only last week we received an inquiry that looks very promising from a group that regularly brings large tankers to Australia. We are hoping to secure repair work on those vessels.

In the list of works to be carried out, I mentioned that we are providing a new amenities block at this dock. We have done three things there to help its operations. We have electrified the pumps and disposed of the old steam ones, so that filling and emptying can now be done quicker. The second thing is the provision of the amenities block to which I have referred, and the third matter eludes me for the moment. I shall think of it shortly.

Mention was made of the decline of the plywood industry. Again I know that the Premier has been vocal in making representations in support of this industry. Here I want to say that the Queensland plywood industry is mainly an exporter interstate. If it depended on sales within Queensland, it would be a trifling industry compared with what it is. The great demand is from furniture manufacturers and other consumers in the southern States, and that is the trade that has been eaten into heavily by imported plywood.

I know that the Premier has frequently made representations on behalf of the Queensland industry in an endeavour to have the tariff policy of Australia exclude the very virulent competition from outside.

**Mr. Adair:** New Guinea ply has been coming in.

**Mr. HILEY:** It is coming in from places other than New Guinea. There is Japanese, Singapore, and Chinese ply. Quite a lot has come in and it has caused considerable distress. I know that the Premier made very strong representations in the hope of assisting this industry.

I am now reminded of the third point to which I wished to refer when speaking of the Cairncross Dock. No doubt I would have remembered it myself when dealing with the question of liquor supplies at Bowen. Surprising enough, one of the things that have made quite a difference at Cairncross has been the provision of an adequate water supply to the dock. Some vessels formerly could not leave and move into the stream without having their ballast tanks filled to certain levels. One large ship that was in there had as much water put in the tanks as was possible whilst in the dock, and then permission had to be obtained to cross the river with the ballast tanks light to where there was a larger main on the other side.

There is now an augmented water supply at the Cairncross Dock, and we are negotiating for a still larger supply to be provided along the wharves at Hamilton. A vessel wanting to take on a tonnage of water will be able to do so in a few hours instead of some two or three days because only a 6-inch pipe is available when an 8-inch or a 10-inch pipe is really needed for the job. That is the third improvement at Cairncross, and it is our hope that we will gradually win more custom and gain more ship-repairing work.

On the question of the price of beer at Bowen, I hope the hon. member for Townsville North will forgive me if I do not make a detailed survey of the liquid assets of the State, particularly when I examine some of the arithmetic that he used to support his argument. I heard the hon. member trumpet forth that  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a glass could mean hundreds of thousands of pounds to the people of Bowen. I have done some quick arithmetic, and I find that in £100,000 there are 48,000,000 half-pennies. The population of Bowen—men, women, and children in arms—is 5,200, so let us assume that there are 4,800 who are capable of drinking beer. Taking the hon. member's illustration, it means that the average person in Bowen consumes 10,000 pots of beer a year. Do I need to reply to that sort of rubbish?

The hon. member for Salisbury referred to use of day labour. I could not quite make out which side he was on. One moment he gave me the impression that he was on the side of the master builders; the next moment he gave me the impression that he was on the other side. In fact, on one occasion he even gave me the impression that he was on the Government's side.

The day-labour force has been more stable under this Government than it was under former Governments. If hon. members need a reminder let me remind them of that dreadful "black Friday" when over 400 building workers were sacked by a Labour Government out of the blue. It would be quite wrong to assume that the only department that awards contracts and employs day labour is the Department of Public Works. Quite a number of Government departments engage

in those activities. To mention only a few, there are the Railway Department, the Queensland Housing Commission, the Department of Harbours and Marine, the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, the Co-ordinator-General of Public Works, and that does not exhaust the list.

The Government is not wedded on any doctrinaire basis to either form of carrying out work to the exclusion of the other. In practice, in the normal year we have more than £20,000,000 worth of work under all headings. If the majority has been and still is under contract, there is a large day-labour content in the Department of Public Works and there is some day-labour content in the other departments. The day labour content has not decreased under this Government; on the contrary, it has increased. Although I am prepared to express the view that the percentage of work entrusted to day labour is roughly the same as it was under our predecessors, the quantity has increased because the total volume has increased.

As I said during the Budget debate, a department such as the Department of Public Works does not engage in single projects of a repetitive nature in one locality but inevitably has to start a school here and finish it, a building there and finish it, and it is impossible for it to organise its work pattern to provide completely uniform employment for every grade of tradesmen for every week of the year. It just cannot be done. In fairness, when complaints are raised that the department has laid off 20 men this week, the critics should say, "We recognise that a month ago you put on 80 men." Unfortunately, that is a charge that I have often had to level at our critics on the benches opposite. If it is fair to blame the Minister for Public Works when he has to give notice to 20 men, in fairness hon. members opposite should rise to their feet and give thanks when he puts on 80 men a month later. It sours the Government against trying to put a certain amount of work into the day-labour field when we are whipped every time we put one man off although our record of employment overall is equal to or better than that of our predecessors.

I repeat my personal attitude towards day labour; it is what I told the Housing Commission day-labour employees when I took over. They came and asked me where they stood in relation to their day-labour opportunities. I said to them, "I will watch the value of your output. If it remains satisfactory you need not fear for your jobs." That, in fact, is what happened over 5½ years. You will not find one tradesman or union prepared to come with one word of complaint over the Government's attitude in the Housing Commission, because that is precisely how we judge it and precisely how we have carried it out.

It is quite true that there have been occasions when we have laid off a worker with a few years' service. Some men occasionally get into lapses. They run along

for some years of satisfactory work. All follies are not the follies of youth. As a matter of fact, I think a book should be written about the follies of middle age and old age. Very often one finds people who give 10 or 20 years of satisfactory, dependable, and level-headed service and all of a sudden they get into a silly stage and play up. Something happens to them physically or mentally and they get caught up in follies. Look at the divorce statistics and see when marriages go wrong. It is remarkable how many go wrong between the ages of 40 and 50. They are not the follies of youth; they are the uncertainties of middle age.

I want to repeat that there will be occasions, even when the broad policy of holding stable employment in the day-labour force is being honoured in its broad essence, when it is necessary to lay off a man with several years' service and the reasons will almost inevitably be personal and to do with the performance of the man concerned. If the man who is laid off is replaced with a newcomer into the day-labour force, broadly there is nothing on which to whip the Government.

I sense that my colleague, the Minister for Public Works, becomes, quite properly, a bit testy about the complaints that are raised against him by the Opposition in this matter. If there is one man who is entitled to be praised by the Opposition for his performance on employment, it is the Minister for Public Works and Local Government. But he never gets the bouquets for the good things he does. When he does one little unpopular thing, it is presented as though it is a broad picture of his employment record. That is quite unfair.

I personally have escaped this type of criticism because I have not the type of problem that he has. He has to start large projects at scattered places. If I were placed in the same position I could not maintain the complete regularity that I have been fortunate to maintain in the Housing Commission.

That, I think, answers the three matters that were raised, and I commend the second reading to the House.

Motion (Mr. Hiley) agreed to.

#### COMMITTEE

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

Clauses 1 to 8, both inclusive, schedule and preamble, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

#### THIRD READING

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

The House adjourned at 11.22 p.m.