

Queensland



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[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 1963

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

ELECTION ADVERTISEMENT

MR. SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: On Tuesday last the hon. member for Barooka, Mr. Hanlon, under the purport of bringing to my notice an election advertisement, stated in effect that failure by me to take action according to the meaning he chose to assign to that advertisement would be a breach by me of my office as Speaker.

It is to be regretted that the hon. member both used this advertisement in this House in a partisan manner and framed his use of it in intemperate language. Here we expect political partisanship and we allow it within quite wide limits. But however keen the advocate, we expect, and are entitled to expect, that his case will be factual and presented in parliamentary language.

The hon. member wrongly said that I held the office of Speaker on 24 May last, the date on which the advertisement appeared in the Press. I remind him that 24 May last fell between the dissolution of the previous and the election of the present Legislative Assembly—or when in fact there was not in existence a Parliament of which I or anyone else could have been the Speaker or a member. The advertisement itself was published as political propaganda by one of the major parties contesting the general election held on 1 June, 1963.

While I appreciate that the tenor of the advertisement may have greatly irked the hon. member for Barooka, I am unable to see that the use it made of a photo or representation of this building in any way attacked or abused the dignity or privileges of this Parliament itself or of any of its members, nor did the hon. member bring to my attention any authority or precedent for his claim that it did. Certainly it did not do so comparatively to the representations and cartoons satirising political personalities which have always been a feature of political propaganda. It did appear to me somewhat strange that the hon. member did not concern himself with producing to me a copy of the advertisement. However,

I procured a copy for myself and may I be permitted to say that having done so, I quite appreciate this seeming lack of courtesy.

Hon. members are aware that there is a remedy for persons, including members of this House, who have genuine cause for complaint against political propaganda promulgated outside Parliament. Their remedy is in our courts. The fact that in the considerable interval since 24 May last the hon. member has not resorted to this remedy leads to the inescapable conclusion that he well knows he has no real cause to complain of this advertisement.

Mr. DUGGAN (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) (11.5 a.m.): I rise on a question of privilege. I regret that a statement of such importance should be delivered by you, Mr. Speaker, without my having an opportunity of previously knowing its import. I feel that on a matter of privilege your statement does require some examination. I want to examine the Standing Orders to see just what recourse might be available to the Opposition to enable us to examine some of the observations which have been made. One of your important observations is the fact that you have indicated that during the period this series of advertisements appeared you were not the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. That is a matter that might be examined so as to see just what steps should be taken to ensure that Parliament is continued through the office of Speaker during a period such as you have described. I very much regret that from a pronouncement which, according to May, could well be a precedent to guide future Speakers and the House itself on matters of this kind, it might be construed that it is possible for discrimination to be exercised by successors of yours as to what is admissible evidence to be introduced into this Assembly. With respect, I should like to examine the full implications of your statement, but at the same time it seems to me to be quite irregular and wrong to say that the matter introduced by the hon. member for Barooka was inaccurate and had certain other defects, when we find that contrary propaganda material can be introduced into the Assembly—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I have allowed the hon. gentleman enough latitude. I draw his attention to the Standing Orders. This is an instance where the Leader of the Opposition is prosecuting a quarrel, and under the Standing Orders that is not permitted. I

have given him ample opportunity to say that he wishes to peruse this statement and that he wishes to study its implications. I will give him an opportunity to do so. However, I remind the hon. gentleman that I had had no opportunity to examine the matter until the accusations were made against me.

Mr. DUGGAN: I intend to observe your ruling, Mr. Speaker, but as there are very far-reaching implications in your statement I indicate now that the Opposition reserves the right to examine it and deal with it in the way it thinks fit in accordance with the Standing Orders of this Parliament. I think that some of the observations you have made certainly call for some corrective action by the Opposition.

QUESTIONS

REPAINTING OF ROAD TRAFFIC LINES.—Mr. Duggan, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Labour and Industry,—

As a maze of white lines seems to be a necessary component of the Government's planning for better traffic flow and control—

(1) What is the average length of time before renewal of white lines becomes desirable?

(2) Has the Traffic Commission the men and the machinery to enable renewal to be made within those periods?

(3) If the Answer to Question No. 2 is in the affirmative, will he issue instructions that a more generous safety margin be allowed, as traffic lines fading into the background of bitumen, particularly at night, are a trap, giving pedestrians a false sense of security and motorists no warning of impending danger?

Answers:—

(1) "The length of time between repainting is influenced by a number of things and as a result it varies from location to location, three months being the minimum period and twelve to fifteen months the maximum period. Factors which have to be taken into account at any particular point include the weather conditions prevailing during the effective life of the paint, the amount of traffic and the type of road surface to which the paint is applied."

(2) "Yes, and sufficient funds are available to maintain the now existing road markings at the same standard as has been maintained in the past."

(3) "See Answer to Question No. 2. However, the Traffic Engineer has been asked to furnish a report as to whether the existing lines should be painted more frequently."

COMPREHENSIVE MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE POLICIES.—Mr. Sherrington, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

(1) If the information is readily available, how many comprehensive policies in connection with motor vehicle insurance were held by Queensland insurance companies for the year ended June 30, 1963?

(2) How many of these policies were held by persons under the age of twenty-five years?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The information sought by the Honourable Member is not readily available. The only way in which I could obtain such information would be to ask the various insurance companies to supply it. I do not see what good purpose would be served by doing so. Approximately 37,000 comprehensive motor vehicle insurance policies were held with the State Government Insurance Office as at June 30, 1963. It is not known how many of these were held by persons under 25 years of age."

RAILWAY MARSHALLING YARDS, STUART.—Mr. Aikens, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

(1) What will be the extent of the railway marshalling yards under construction at Stuart?

(2) What will be the classification of the officer-in-charge of the yards when they are fully operative?

(3) How many (a) shunters of all categories, (b) number-takers and (c) other employees will be required to operate the yards?

(4) Will any provision be made to house at Stuart the employees engaged in the yards?

(5) On what date will the yards be fully operative?

Answer:—

(1 to 5) "As part of the working of the Mount Isa Project there will be provided at Partington two long loops each of a length of at least 58 chains and four of at least 29 chains, together with a run-around road and repair and diesel roads where diesel fuel servicing, &c., will be accommodated. An amenities building with dining room, lockers, showers, toilets, &c., will be provided for the staff engaged in operating Partington. No definite decision has yet been made as to the number of employees who will operate the yards nor can I say definitely at the present time when they will become fully operative."

EXTENSION OF WATER SUPPLY TO BELMONT STATE SCHOOL.—Mr. Newton, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

(1) Have the plans for the new toilet blocks at the Belmont State School been completed?

(2) As such plans are to include conversion to a septic system, are negotiations still being made by the Department to get a town water supply to this school?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "Negotiations were undertaken with the Brisbane City Council in connection with the extension of the water supply to the Belmont State School but the costs involved were considered excessive. Negotiations are not still proceeding but in the event of the Council extending the supply main to within a reasonable distance of the school, this proposal will receive further consideration."

CHILD WELFARE AND GUIDANCE CENTRE. TOWNSVILLE.—Mr. Tucker, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health and Home Affairs,—

Further to his assurance to me of last year that a child welfare and guidance centre would be established in Townsville, can he now give an indication when this is likely to eventuate?

Answer:—

"This project is being considered in conjunction with psychiatric and other additional hospital services in Townsville. Negotiations are in progress with the Commonwealth for an area of land held by it in Townsville to be made available to the Hospitals Board for hospital purposes. A final decision depends on the result of these negotiations and consequently I am unable at present to indicate when the child welfare and guidance centre will be established in Townsville."

HIGH SCHOOL AT STRATFORD OR FRESHWATER.—Mr. Diplock for Mr. Adair, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

As a large number of students from the Redlynch, Freshwater, Stratford and Beach areas now attend high schools at Cairns, will he have an investigation carried out by officers of the Education Department into the urgent necessity for the building of a central high school at either Stratford or Freshwater?

Answer:—

"Secondary educational facilities in Cairns are able to provide adequately for students from the Redlynch, Freshwater, Stratford areas."

MOTOR TRANSPORT FOR POLICE AT COEN.—Mr. Diplock for Mr. Adair, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

In view of the hardship and inconvenience experienced by officers of the Police Department stationed at Coen in having to patrol this large and remote area on horseback, will he give consideration to granting to the area a four-wheel-drive vehicle for patrol duties?

Answer:—

"The provision of a four-wheel drive vehicle at Coen was given consideration when the Estimates of the Police Department for 1963-64 were being prepared, and Coen is listed as one of the centres to be supplied with a motor vehicle during the current financial year, providing funds are available."

BITUMEN SEALING OF BRINSMEAD ROAD.—Mr. Diplock for Mr. Adair, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Mines,—

(1) When will work be commenced on the bitumen sealing of the Brinsmead Road and the Kamerunga section from Redlynch to the Barron River?

(2) When does he anticipate that work on these sections will be completed?

Answers:—

(1) "Work is in progress on both roads and surfacing should start in November."

(2) "The Shire Engineer has assured the Main Roads District Engineer at Cairns that work will be completed in December."

WATER TANKS PROVIDED FOR FORMER MONA MONA MISSION ABORIGINES.—Mr. Wallis-Smith, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health and Home Affairs,—

In view of the fact that the water supply for each house occupied by aborigines, who were previously at Mona Mona Mission, is limited to one tank of 1,000-gallons capacity, what number of inspections were made by health inspectors and what did their reports contain?

Answer:—

"No inspections designed to determine the adequacy or otherwise of 1,000 gallon tanks of houses occupied by aborigines who were previously at Mona Mona Mission were made by health inspectors from this Department. The aborigines concerned are no longer controlled, and in the exercise of their citizen's rights, are entitled to determine what the size of the water tank provided at their houses shall be."

PAPERS

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

Report—

The Nominal Defendant (Queensland) for the year 1962-1963.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

The Stamp Acts, 1894 to 1962.

The Agricultural Bank (Loans) Act of 1959.

Regulation under—

The Stamp Acts, 1894 to 1962.

ORDER IN CHAMBER DURING QUESTION TIME

Mr. TUCKER (Townsville North) having given notice of a question—

Mr. Chalk: Fancy asking a question like that!

Mr. TUCKER: You are the ones responsible for it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I should not have to remind the hon. member for Townsville North, or for that matter any other hon. member except the new hon. members, of the ruling I gave last year covering question time. Cross-firing in the Chamber when questions are being asked, or when notice of questions is being given, is entirely out of order.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

ELECTRICAL WORKERS AND CONTRACTORS ACT

PROPOSED DISALLOWANCE OF REGULATIONS

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba) (11.24 a.m.): I move—

“That the Regulations, dated 13 December, 1962, and 4 July, 1963, under the Electrical Workers and Contractors Act of 1962, laid on the table of the House on 22 August and 27 August, 1963, be disallowed.”

I do so for several reasons. First of all, I claim that the regulations introduced subsequent to the passing of the Act are not in conformity with it. To prove my case, it is necessary to refer to the Act for a few moments. First, Section 30 lays down quite clearly, I believe, that regulations can be brought in under the Act. It says—

“The Governor in Council may from time to time make regulations, not inconsistent with this Act . . .”

I admit that regulations can be brought in under the Act. But if we have a further look at the Act, we find that it is divided into four parts. Part I covers the definitions

and sets out various terms and their meanings. Part II deals with electrical workers and sets out how they may receive various licences, and among the things included—this is very important—is the power of a board that is set up to grant restricted certificates. In other words, it lays down quite clearly that the board shall grant full certificates to persons who are fully qualified but only a restricted form of certificate to those who are not fully qualified and who may, perhaps, do certain electrical work in performing their normal duties. I am not arguing against that, because that is what the Act says; but Part II does lay down every conceivable type of licence that may be issued to an employee. Part III deals with electrical contractors. It says that the board shall have power to grant contractors' licences. It mentions only one type of contractor's licence—this is important—a full contractor's licence; nothing else; no bits and pieces at all. Part IV, of course, deals with general provisions.

Having made those points, I wish now to consider some of the regulations. The first is Regulation 40. It was tabled in the House by the Minister some time after I gave notice of this motion and did improve the regulations to some extent, as I think the Minister will agree. By eliminating certain words, it overcame one of the difficulties about which I intended to speak, and I am quite happy about that. However, the regulation as amended still includes provision for the board to issue a limited electrical contractor's licence, in addition to a full electrical contractor's licence. If we refer to Part I of the Act, we see that there is no definition of a limited contractor's licence, whereas there is a definition covering the various things that may be done in regard to issuing a restricted certificate to an employee. If it came to a showdown, perhaps I might have no fight with the Government on whether it should or should not issue such licences; but when the Act does not make any provision for limited contractors' licences, why should a regulation be issued granting this privilege? It is set out not only in Regulation 40, but also in Regulation 41 and in Forms 17 and 18.

I admit, too, that the Minister for Education and Migration, when introducing the Bill, referred to the advantages of issuing a limited contractor's licence. However, we find quite often that a Minister or some other speaker will say in the House that so-and-so should be included in the Bill, although this does not necessarily mean that the Bill will actually cover the point. As the Act does not permit the issuing of anything other than a full contractor's licence to a person who is a fully-qualified electrician, or who employs a fully-qualified electrician, and who satisfies all the other legal requirements, I maintain that the issuing of a limited contractor's licence is not in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Further, in Clause 24, Part IV., which is the general part of the Act, it is laid down that those who feel that their applications have been rejected unfairly may appeal to the Minister. There again, for those who can appeal to the Minister, the regulation does not mention anything about anyone who has applied unsuccessfully for a limited contractor's licence.

Unfortunately, time is limited, but if I may be permitted to say so many excerpts from the regulations indicate how they allow for various types of employees' certificates, whereas the Act provides for only one type of contractor's licence.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but I am sure it must be difficult for the Minister to concentrate on what he is saying while other members are speaking from the back bench to Ministers in front of them.

Mr. HOUSTON: I move now to another point which justifies our asking that the Government reframe the whole of these regulations. The ideal, of course, would be to reframe the Act so that we would not be relying on regulations in these matters. However, let us look at Regulations 17 and 19 as they now stand. They concern the issuing without examination of electrical certificates to employees. In the main, it seems to be the intention that those who serve their apprenticeship with good results but do not sit for the electrical workers' examination can be certificated. Regulation 17 sets out that an "applicant for certificate without examination shall make application on Form IV. set out in the schedule hereto and shall forward such application to the Board accompanied by the prescribed fee." That means that an applicant for a certificate without examination has to pay a fee. Regulation 33 sets out that the prescribed fee is £2. Under Regulation 19, after the board has received the fee of £2 and the application, it can grant a certificate. That is covered by Regulation 19, which reads:—

"Every person who satisfies the Board's requirements for the issue of a certificate without examination, and upon being notified thereof by the Secretary, pays the prescribed fee . . ."

There we are asking for another fee. The applicant has already paid a £2 fee to have his case considered and, when his application is approved, he has to pay another fee.

Incidentally, Regulation 33 contains no information on the amount of the second fee. It could not be made the same as the first one without considering the amount set as the examination fee. When an applicant desires to sit for the examination he pays £1; then, if successful, he pays another £2 for his certificate. I maintain that Regulations 17 and 19, although being applied correctly, are not in themselves correctly worded, particularly Regulation 19.

Another point I should like to raise refers to the issuing of a restricted certificate. To the best of my knowledge, close to 700 applications have been received by the board for restricted certificates from 1 January to the present time and only one has been granted. Therefore, over 600 people who have applied for restricted certificates still do not know whether or not their applications are being granted and hon. members can bet that the great majority of those people are doing electrical work, as they did before the Act was gazetted. In other words, there are several hundred people around the place doing electrical work illegally and that, to me, seems to be a reflection on the Act, the regulations or the board. Nine months after the Act was brought into effect the board has dealt with only one application; and it is not one of which the board can be proud, because I know the circumstances surrounding it. Why only one over all that time?

(Time expired.)

Mr. SHERRINGTON (Salisbury) (11.35 a.m.): I second the motion. In doing so I feel that it would be fair comment to say that these regulations have been hastily and ill conceived. We on this side of the House are disturbed at the trend of the electrical regulations and the jurisdiction they cover throughout the State. The Act provides for the establishment of an Electrical Workers' Board composed of various representatives, yet nowhere in the regulations has it been clarified that with the transfer of this responsibility to the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity will there be any guarantee other than that the Government will have two nominees on the board. With the retirement of the present Chairman, Mr. Lydon, it would seem that the Minister who will now be responsible for the administration of the Act could, in effect, nominate two members from the Government. The whole idea of the board was to provide a wide and varied representation of the various people affected by the Act. The regulations should have clarified this matter to ensure the preservation of that variety of members on the board. Although the Act provides for certain punitive measures against any person who holds a licence within the meaning of the Act, the regulations do not clarify the legal position as to who is to be responsible for supplying the test notices for electrical installations. Reference to the electric light and power by-laws indicates that at the present time a consumer may notify the authority that an installation is ready for test. The Act provides for the taking of certain punitive action against any person holding a certificate under the Act for various misdemeanours in this connection, but nowhere do the regulations throw responsibility on to the logical person, that is, the electrician who completes the installation, for notifying

the authority that an installation is ready for test. The regulations are notable for their omissions and irregularities.

The regulations provide for a certain method of voting. They provide also that if the voting is equal the chairman has a casting vote in addition to his primary vote. In effect, that means that in certain cases the chairman will be making the sole decision on the matter then before the board. I think the regulations should have followed the ordinary rules of debate under which it is commonly accepted that when voting on a motion is equal the motion is declared lost. By giving the chairman of the board a casting vote, in addition to his primary vote, we are placing him in a position where, particularly in a contentious matter, he is the sole authority to make the decision for the board. I do not think that such a composition of a board is desirable when the board is dealing with such an important subject as the electrical laws of the State.

Section 7 (f) makes provision for the calling of a special meeting if it is requested by two members of the board. I point out again that in much of the legislation introduced into this House by the present Government there has often been ambiguity where the word "may" has been substituted for "shall".

(Time expired.)

Mr. MANN (Brisbane) (11.41 a.m.): I rise to support the hon. member for Bulimba in moving for the disallowance of these regulations. Frequently Ministers are not too sure of their ground when they table regulations. On one occasion the Minister for Education and Migration tabled regulations, and subsequently the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity amended them. That is typical of this Government's attitude to all industrial matters and industrial law. Ministers promulgate regulations by Order in Council, thus amending industrial laws without consulting the unions and without letting them know anything about what is intended.

I support the hon. member for Bulimba. He is well qualified to deal with this subject and has a thorough theoretical and practical knowledge of it. I have discussed this matter with him and he has pointed out to me that, in effect, the regulations introduced by the Minister take away the original intention of the Act. That is his contention and I believe he has sound grounds for making that charge. I repeat that that is typical of the action of the Government. A former Minister brought in regulations under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. I know that you will not allow me to discuss that matter, Mr. Speaker, but I wish to point out what this Government does about matters affecting unions by bringing down regulations, by Order in Council, to take away the full impact of an Act or to undermine its legislative intention.

Mr. BENNETT (South Brisbane) (11.43 a.m.): I support the hon. member for Bulimba and in doing so I confirm the submissions of the hon. member for Brisbane. On reading these regulations it is obvious that they are going further than the Act allows and, in many instances, they do not carry out the specific intentions expressed in the Act. Of course, time does not permit me to detail many examples, but the most glaring one, to my mind, is to be found in Section 15 (1) of the Act which deals with restricted certificates. It says—

"The Board may at its discretion grant a certificate of competency of any class specified in paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of Section 13 of this Act restricted—

(b) to the carrying out of electrical work according to the class of the certificate for the employer specified therein;"

In effect, that sets out the employer-employee relationship. The relevant regulation under that section, no doubt, is Regulation 21, which says—

"A candidate for examination for a Restricted Certificate of Competency for the carrying out of electrical work which is incidental or special to a trade or calling other than that of electrical fitter, electrical joiner, electrical linesman, or electrical mechanic shall make application to the Board in Form 10 set out in the Schedule hereto and shall forward such application to the Secretary of the Board, together with—

(b) Certificate completed by his employer in Form 11 set out in the Schedule hereto;"

In other words, a certificate must be given by the employer, which presupposes that the recipient is an employee. Perhaps there have been many certificates improperly granted under that regulation and under Section 15. One that comes particularly to my mind concerns a husband and wife partnership carrying on business as electrical contractors. The husband is the employer and is not employed by anybody. He is the proprietor of the firm and has been granted a restricted certificate under that regulation. Such a condition is completely wrong so far as the board is concerned. In this modern age when electrical equipment is being used more and more extensively, and when electrical facilities are being used by children who do not understand electricity, it is imperative that electrical goods be properly prepared by skilled tradesmen or by people who are properly qualified, with the appropriate certificates, restricted though they may be. From time to time we have heard hon. members express in Parliament their fears and anxiety about tragic and fatal accidents that have occurred, many of them through faulty workmanship carried out by employers who have no certificate of competency and who are not prepared to employ qualified tradesmen or possessors of a

restricted certificate. As a result of that position, allowed and acknowledged by the Government, many deaths have occurred. We so often hear about a man cleaning out his car and receiving an electric shock while using an appliance that has been repaired by some bogus firm or a firm that should never have been allowed to practise as electrical contractors. We see the same with household utensils. More and more teenage children are being allowed to use irons and other electrical appliances that are repaired from time to time by unskilled people—incidentally, people who charge as much for repairs as qualified tradesmen or others well qualified to carry out the job, and very often they charge more.

From the point of view of the people, these regulations are much more important than many others made under other statutes in Queensland. These regulations are designed to protect life and when we are dealing with them we are dealing with a matter of life and death. Anomalies in other regulations made under other statutes may be corrected from time to time when very little damage might have been done.

(Time expired.)

Mr. DAVIES (Maryborough) (11.48 a.m.): I support the hon. member for Bulimba. There are many in the electrical trade in Maryborough who find that the Act is causing a great deal of confusion through its definitions of many terms. There is no doubt that in the Act itself there is a great deal of ambiguity and obscurity in many of the definitions, and in the regulations under the Act these have been added to. As a matter of fact there have been so many regulations that they almost constitute a complete Act in themselves. It seems that the Government would have been better advised to delay the Act in order that the regulations could have been prepared and presented to the House. This Government truly earns the criticism that its policy is one of government by regulation.

In Maryborough the people are becoming very confused about restricted licences and they are wondering whether they are operating within the Act or illegally. We should like to know whether under the Act a radio mechanic requires a certificate in order to carry out work on an electrical circuit which may be connected to the source of supply. It is well known that there are two circuits in radio—the DC, which operates the wireless itself, and the AC, which is connected to the supply. As the previous speaker said, these regulations may involve matters of life and death. Unless work on electrical circuits is properly under control and carried out by certified men, there is a considerable danger not only to the men themselves but also to the people who subsequently operate the radios. It is not clear whether the radio mechanic has to be the holder of a certificate under the

Act in order to work on a DC circuit on a set that has an AC circuit as well. The definition is rather obscure. The Minister might say that a restricted certificate may be granted under Section 15 of the Act as it relates to electrical work incidental to or part of an ordinary calling other than that of an electrical fitter, electrical joiner, electrical linesman, or electrical mechanic.

The Minister may claim that that covers it, but we should like to know whether it covers work on the AC circuit of a radio and other work incidental to the trade or calling of a radio mechanic. There seems to be much guesswork in deciding what is meant by it. It seems to cover types of work done only in particular trades or callings and not electrical work generally.

I should like the Minister to clear up the confusion that exists at present in the minds of many workers in this trade, and quite clearly within the board itself.

Hon. J. C. A. PIZZEY (Isis—Minister for Education and Migration) (11.51 a.m.), in reply: The hon. member for Bulimba has moved that these regulations under "The Electrical Workers and Contractors Act of 1962," be disallowed. There are numerous regulations, but I believe that at the time when he moved for their disallowance he was concerned primarily with Regulation 40.

Mr. Houston: That is guesswork.

Mr. PIZZEY: It is obvious that that is the only one with which the hon. member could have been concerned. Let it be appreciated in the first place that the Act and these regulations were designed primarily to give greater confidence, safety, and security to people using electricity, whether in the home or in industry.

We had an agreement with the Opposition when this Bill was introduced. The Leader of the Opposition said—

"I am in agreement with its general principles. It should be welcomed by everyone in the community. My main concern is that some people may get a greater measure of competitive protection. I think that must be watched. At the same time, I am not encouraging week-end work."

When I introduced the Bill, I indicated that it represented the unanimous recommendations and single view of members of the Electrical Workers' Board and the State Electricity Commission. The union had a representative, and a very worthy one, on the board; I think that at the time it was Mr. Archie Dawson. He was there to put forward the views of the union. In all ways, the Bill was framed with the closest consultation of all interested parties.

When the Bill became law, it was necessary to formulate regulations under the Act. Quite a long time was spent in framing those regulations, and they were not framed by officers of my department alone, or those

of the State Electricity Commission. All regulations are subsequently vetted by the Crown Law Office, but the Electrical Workers' Board played the dominant role in the framing of these regulations.

When they were presented to me for gazettal, I was assured that they had the support and full confidence of members of the Electrical Workers' Board. They had looked at them and vetted them, but subsequently, because of the querying of one, namely, Regulation 40, by one organisation, the Crown Law Office gave the opinion that that regulation, as then printed, was not within the scope of the Act. However, that was only an opinion, and it is still law until thrown out by the court. This is an autonomous, responsible Parliament, and regulations, when gazetted, have the power of law until thrown out by a court.

Mr. Bennett: That is not true. It is only bluff until somebody takes it to court.

Mr. PIZZEY: If one seeks judicial opinion, one might get two or three differing opinions. Opinions from the Crown Law Office are not always completely correct. If the opinion of the hon. member for South Brisbane were obtained, we might find that it would be thrown out in a court.

Mr. Bennett: It would be the first time I have been wrong.

Mr. PIZZEY: As a matter of fact, one finds in the highest authority in the land, namely the High Court of Australia, differing opinions on points of law. It is very similar to saying, perhaps, that the regulations were intended to convey the intention of the Act. I know it is not enough to say, "That is what we intended to do." The words have to indicate what we mean to do.

Take another very controversial question. The Constitution of Australia says that trade and intercourse among the States shall be absolutely free. What was the intention of those words? Over the years judges have interpreted them literally. They have considered not so much the intention as what the words actually say, and differing views have been expressed by different High Courts at various times. It has taken years to decide whether certain things were or were not within the law.

When it was explained that it was the opinion of the Crown Law Office that Regulation 40 would be declared invalid if it were tested in court, the Government, not wanting to put anybody to unnecessary litigation, decided, immediately it discovered that and attention was drawn to it by the motion to disallow the regulation, that the right and proper thing to do was withdraw Regulation 40 and substitute for it a regulation that would be within the Act without any shadow of doubt. That is what has been done.

Mr. Houston: Whereabouts in the Act does it allow the issuing of a limited contractor's licence?

Mr. PIZZEY: The Act does not provide for a full electrical contractor's licence.

Mr. Houston: Yes, it does.

Mr. PIZZEY: The Act simply refers to a contractor's licence, and the Government has had legal opinion, which it has accepted, that a contractor's licence can be either a full licence or a limited licence, or a licence of any other type. The mere fact that it mentions a contractor's licence does not mean that it is limited only to the issuing of a particular type of contractor's licence. If they come within the scope of a contractor's licence, the legal opinion we have received is that it is valid to have full or restricted licences.

Mr. Sherrington: Was the opinion of the Crown Law Office sought before the original regulations were tabled?

Mr. PIZZEY: It is sought at all times.

Mr. Sherrington: Why didn't they pick it up then?

Mr. PIZZEY: Well, Sir Samuel Griffith played a major part in framing the Constitution of Australia, but various parts of the Constitution have been questioned.

Mr. Sherrington: Get back to this Act.

Mr. PIZZEY: I do not care what legal men one gets to draw Bills and regulations, somewhere along the line someone will challenge a particular aspect and a court will disagree with the person who drafted it. The Government has done the right thing. It has corrected the one thing that seemed to be outside the scope of the Act.

Other hon. members referred to the Act itself. I claim that it is not competent for us to discuss the Act on this motion. We are discussing regulations made under the Act, which have become the law of the land. As the hon. member for Salisbury said, the constitution of the board is laid down in the Act; but it is not laid down in the regulations.

Mr. Sherrington: The regulations provide for certain co-operation with the Education Department.

Mr. PIZZEY: The time to discuss that is when the Act is being amended, and I hope it will be. Invariably there are teething troubles with any new Act. When it is implemented, one finds that it does not quite serve the purpose, and there is a continual review of Acts of Parliament to improve them and to enable them to carry out more exactly the intention of the legislature.

Mr. Houston: When can we expect this amendment?

Mr. PIZZEY: I hope it will be this session.

The hon. member for Bulimba complained that there had been 681 applications for restricted licences and only one had been issued. That is true. The reason for this is the tremendous amount of work involved in implementing the provisions of the Act. The Electrical Workers' Board is primarily in charge of the conduct of examinations. Examinations have been held recently, but the results are not yet available. The board has had 65 meetings this year, whereas normally it has about 19 meetings. It has issued 1,260 contractors' licences, and its time has been absorbed almost completely in finally disposing of the major part of the section dealing with licences. Applications are still coming in. I do not know whether the hon. member would suggest that the board should meet more than 65 times a year. It is doing its work as expeditiously as possible. One cannot, overnight, bring in a Bill and say that tomorrow all who apply will get their licences; it takes time.

The hon. member for Brisbane spoke about altering the regulations. He knows nothing about them, but he must have his say. He said they were altered without any reference to the unions. I assure the hon. member for Brisbane that the unions vitally involved in this matter were consulted through their representative—Mr. Kane, I think it is now.

The hon. member for South Brisbane complained about our desire to get greater safety, greater security, and greater protection. I agree with him, but he made an incorrect assumption that many of the accidents were caused through faulty workmanship by employees who are not registered. That is not so. The experience this year has been that, to our knowledge, not one fatality has been caused through faulty workmanship. On the other hand, we must educate the public to employ tradesmen and not go playing around with electricity themselves. Almost every fatality this year has been caused by failure to get the work done by a qualified person, by this do-it-yourself idea of putting on the three-point plug or whatever it is. There have been odd cases where members of the union themselves—I think two—have been electrocuted through pure accident. In some cases trouble arises from failure to take full safety precautions. But there is not on record this year to my knowledge, any case of a citizen having suffered shock or fatality because of faulty work by a qualified tradesman.

Mr. Bennett: I agree, but I said "unqualified" tradesmen.

Mr. PIZZEY: It depends on what the hon. member means by "unqualified". Not all uncertificated people are unqualified. They are not all unqualified because they have not obtained their certificates. Somebody has suggested that many of them are already electrical fitters.

It is, I believe, the intention of the whole of this Parliament that we should be able to have the regulations, and even the Act, amended in accordance with the desires of members on both sides of the House. I will admit that there are some weaknesses in the Act, weaknesses which were not there until the Act had been legally questioned, and we intend to invite all interested bodies to give us some indication of what is required to perfect it. Numerous organisations, such as the Electrical Trades Union, the Electrical Contractors' Association, the Fire and Accident Underwriters' Association, the Institute of Engineers of Australia, the Chamber of Manufactures, the Metal Trades Employers' Association, and the supply authorities, will want to make a very careful and thorough perusal of the Act and regulations so that when an amendment is brought forward it will give greater safety and security, as was the aim when the legislation was introduced.

The Government intends to oppose the motion for disallowance because it is satisfied that, in the main, with the air cleared about the invalidity of one section, the regulations and the Act are in the best interests of the people of Queensland.

Question—That the motion (Mr. Houston) be agreed to—put; and the House divided—

AYES, 27

Mr. Adair	Mr. Mann
" Baxter	" Marsden
" Bromley	" Melloy
" Byrne	" O'Donnell
" Davies	" Sherrington
" Dean	" Thackeray
" Diplock	" Tucker
" Donald	" Wallace
" Dufficy	" Wallis-Smith
" Duggan	" Walsh
" Gunn	
" Hanlon	<i>Tellers:</i>
" Hanson	Mr. Bennett
" Houston	" Newton
" Lloyd	

NOES, 43

Mr. Anderson	Mr. Hughes
" Armstrong	" Jones
" Beardmore	" Knox
" Bjelke-Petersen	" Lickiss
" Camm	" Loncrgan
" Campbell	" Low
" Carey	" McKechnie
" Chalk	" Munro
" Chinchen	" Murray
" Coburn	" Nicklin
Dr. Delamothe	Dr. Noble
Mr. Dewar	Mr. Pizey
" Evans	" Rae
" Ewan	" Ramsden
" Fletcher	" Richter
" Gaven	" Row
" Harrison	" Sullivan
" Herbert	" Windsor
" Hewitt	
" Hiley	<i>Tellers:</i>
" Hodges	Mr. Tooth
" Hooper	" Wharton
" Houghton	

PAIRS

Mr. Graham	Mr. Piibeam
" Inch	" Smith

Resolved in the negative.

MEDICAL ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

Hon. H. W. NOBLE (Yeronga—Minister for Health and Home Affairs): I move—

“That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of the desirableness of introducing a Bill to amend the Medical Acts, 1939 to 1958, in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

DISTRICT COURTS ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

THIRD READING

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

QUEENSLAND LAW SOCIETY ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. A. W. MUNRO (Toowong—Minister for Justice) (12.13 p.m.): I move—

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

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE

(The Chairman of Committees, Mr. Hooper, Greenslopes, in the chair.)

Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

Debate resumed from 12 September (see p. 335) on Mr. McKechnie's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. MANN (Brisbane) (12.16 p.m.): First of all, I should like to offer my congratulations to the new hon. members who have entered this Assembly and to the mover and seconder of the motion. I also congratulate the hon. member for Clayfield and the hon. members for Tabelelands and Port Curtis. I believe all will agree with me that each of them acquitted himself very well indeed and I think I speak for all when I say that this Assembly will be all the richer for having men of their calibre in it.

I offer you my congratulations, Mr. Speaker, on once again being elected Speaker of the House. I feel that you have looked after the privileges of members of the Assembly while you have occupied the position. I hope you will not depart from that but will continue to be the guardian and custodian of the rights and privileges of members of this Assembly. I know your job is not an easy one and therefore I feel that all hon. members will endeavour to co-operate with you in carrying out your very arduous duties.

I congratulate the Chairman of Committees, because it is a great thing to have the confidence of one's party and to get a majority vote of that party for election as Chairman of Committees of the Whole House. I feel that hon. members will co-operate with him in every way so that he and the Temporary Chairmen will be able to conduct the affairs of the Committees as we should all like them to be conducted.

I have before me a copy of the Administrator's Opening Speech. I listened to the whole of it very attentively and I was very disappointed in its subject matter. Have a look at a copy of the printed address, which was obtained for greater accuracy, and you will find an account of the things that have happened over the three years but no mention of any indication of the Government's attitude towards the future development and prosperity of the State.

Early in the speech we find this statement—

“The Department of Agriculture and Stock is increasing its research into marketing and farm management in the interest of primary producers. A study of the economic aspects of dairying in the Wide Bay, Darling Downs and Atherton Tableland districts will be followed by further work on the Downs and in the Lockyer Valley.”

But we find the hon. members for Barambah, Burnett and Port Curtis offering criticism of the Government's attitude to the farmers. Those Government members in their speeches in this Assembly urged the Government to do more for the dairy-farmers than they have done in the past. The hon. member for Port Curtis went further and said there should be a commission of inquiry into some aspects of the dairy industry. I support him in that. I believe that some method should be sought to lower the costs of production in industry, to lower the dairy-farmers' overheads. The hon. member for Port Curtis told us that some dairy-farmers in his area are working exceptionally long hours for a very poor return, that their children, after coming home from school, have to help with the work on the farm. Despite what other hon. members opposite might say, there is condemnation of the Government by two of its own members, and I support the hon. member for Port Curtis in his demand for more consideration for the industry.

Mr. Sullivan: Statistics do not indicate that.

Mr. MANN: We had two Government members asking the Government for more assistance; the hon. member cannot deny that.

A little further on in the speech mention is made of the capacity of the sugar industry “to meet changing conditions that have brought into view exciting prospects of further expansion.” Surely the Government is not going to claim credit for the prosperity

of the sugar industry? The Minister for Education and Migration spent minutes of his speech referring to the sugar industry. Let it not be forgotten that there were Labour Governments in office in Canberra and in this State when the agreement that stabilised the sugar industry and made it what it is today was entered into.

Mr. Wharton: If you accept that, you must also accept some of the stigma for the losses in the dairy industry.

Mr. MANN: The hon. member for Burnett is supporting the hon. member for Port Curtis in the contention that something should be done by this Government and the Federal Government to assist dairy farmers. The Government embarrassed the Administrator by asking him to read this sort of stuff to the Assembly in the hope of gaining some political credit to which it is not entitled.

Mr. Murray: There is a subsidy of £13,500,000 a year at the moment, is there not?

Mr. Hanson: If Chifley had stopped there, dairy farmers would have got cost of production, which was denied by the Government.

Mr. MANN: I am very grateful for the help I am getting.

A little further on in this Opening Speech the Government tries to claim credit for the development of public lands. This passage reads—

"In accordance with the agreement with the Commonwealth providing for the development of 4½ million acres in the Fitzroy River Basin, action has been taken by the Department of Public Lands to acquire by negotiation 960,000 acres from existing lessees."

I feel that my colleague the hon. member for Warrego will deal with that and show that the picture is not as bright as the Government would lead us to believe. He is quite competent to do so.

The Opening Speech continues a little further on—

"A Special Lease of about 51,000 acres of tropical forest and lightly timbered country west of Tully has been granted to King Ranch Development Company Pty. Ltd. for development as a cattle fattening project. Upon compliance with clearing and draining conditions the Company will be entitled to obtain freehold title to the land as it is developed."

The Government is going to give away to this company 51,000 acres. After the land has been developed, the country's assets are to be given away. I do not think that that is anything to their credit, but it is in keeping with their policy of looking after the wealthy people in the community.

Mr. Murray: You had that land unproductive for 40 years. Now we are getting it into production.

Mr. MANN: The Opening Speech then contains some references to the construction of dams, and in this matter I do give the Government some credit. I agree with the hon. member for Roma on dam construction. Every person with any knowledge of country areas realises the necessity for water. I therefore think it is to the credit of the Government that it has undertaken the construction of additional dams for irrigation purposes. This will be of great assistance to people desiring to take up land in the areas concerned, and it will lead to closer settlement.

Mr. Wharton: You are getting on-side now.

Mr. MANN: I have always been on-side; that has always been part of Labour policy. My only complaint is that the Government is trying to claim credit for putting into effect Labour policy.

The Administrator's Speech goes on to say—

"A delegation from Queensland visited industrial fairs at Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo.

"Collections of the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau for the year ended June 30, 1963, amounted to the record figure of £1,954,823."

That is a good thing for the State, and I hope the Government holds its form there. However, I do not know what good the visits of Ministers of the Crown to industrial fairs will do. I think that the Government should send the heads of business organisations to fairs of that type, and even pay their fares. They would publicise Queensland more effectively than would a Minister of the Crown.

Mr. Hughes: What do you say about a casino on the South Coast as a tourist attraction?

Mr. MANN: I am strongly against it. I do not think that a facility for gambling is an amenity, although I am an avowed gambler myself.

The Government will claim some credit, if it can, for coal production having remained more or less stable at 2,750,000 tons during the year. Let me say that no credit is due to the Government for its attitude to the miners at Moura. I am pleased to see that the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity is in the Chamber to hear what I have to say. I have here some Press clippings, one of which contains a story written by Elgin Reid, who went to Moura and wrote it. It is factual; what Mr. Reid says cannot be denied by the Minister or anyone else.

A Government Member: What is the date of it?

Mr. MANN: It is dated 15 March, 1963, and it says—

"Mr. Evans (the Minister for Mines) said yesterday that he had not defended

the company concerned in the Moura dispute. He was defending the people of Queensland, and particularly the law-abiding workers at Moura."

Mr. Evans: And arbitration.

Mr. MANN: They had to go on strike to get decent conditions at Moura. It was no thanks to the Government or to the Minister. It was due to the solidarity of the miners and their womenfolk. The men went on strike against a big overseas company to obtain conditions that were acceptable to them and their wives. The Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity made an attack in the Press upon Mr. Duggan, the Leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Mr. Evans: I attacked Macdonald; I attacked Parkinson. Were you cobbers with them? They were the fellows I attacked.

Mr. MANN: The Minister attacked the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Evans: I attacked Parkinson and Macdonald. There were 17 Coms. up there.

Mr. MANN: The Minister attacked the Leader of the Opposition. He cannot get away from Coms. I believe that every night when he goes to bed he looks under the bed to see if there is a Com. there.

I want it recorded in "Hansard" that this is what Judge Gallagher said about the conditions under which the miners were forced to work—

"... living conditions provided by the company at Moura for workers and their families were 'nauseating, revolting and degrading'."

Those are not the words of any Labour man or unionist; they are the words of Judge Gallagher, the Coal Industry Tribunal. Therefore, it ill-becomes the Government to attack the miners for resorting to those tactics to get some redress. Since then the Government has built six Housing Commission homes at Moura and is building eight more.

Mr. Evans: You know that there was not one request for a Housing Commission home there.

Mr. MANN: It is all very well for the Minister to shed crocodile tears for the Thiess Peabody Company and the Mitsui Coal Group. He should have shed some real tears for the workers at Moura. I say that the Government stands condemned in the eyes of the workers for its attack on the workers. This story is as old as Methuselah.

Mr. Evans: They refused houses, and you know it. Macdonald, Millar, and all your cobbers were there.

Mr. MANN: The Administrator's Speech goes on to say—

"A new Youth Welfare and Guidance Clinic for children was opened this year at Toowoomba."

That is the only mention in the Speech of youth or what is to be done for youth. The Minister for Education and Migration has done a reasonable job as Minister. But I find, on looking up statistics, that 846 males under 21 are registered for employment and cannot get jobs. There are 2,560 junior females out of work—they cannot find jobs—yet the Minister for Education and Migration spoke in this House for 60 minutes and uttered not one word about how his Government is going to solve the problem of finding work for these youths.

Every day in the Press we read reports of vandalism, about youths doing this or doing that. I feel that the majority of them—and I do not want to make any excuses for them—are unemployed and have nothing to do; consequently, they get into mischief. When I was a small boy at home, my mother always gave us work to do. Her favourite saying was that Satan finds mischief for idle hands to do. I believe that is a good and true old saying and I challenge all members of the Government—those on the back benches as well as the Ministers—to tell us what they are going to do to find work for the 3,500 teenagers who are registered for employment, and the thousands more who will be thrown on to the employment market in December. Not one word came from the Minister for Education and Migration during the whole of his speech about the Government's intention to do anything for them.

Mr. Evans: Did you read the unemployment figures in the paper this morning?

Mr. MANN: Of course I read them.

Mr. Evans: They are the lowest in Australia.

Mr. MANN: That is right. I also read, and have here, a statement by the Premier that appeared in "The Courier-Mail" of 15 October last year. It reads—

"The hon. the Premier predicted that the unemployment position in Queensland would be eliminated by October next year."

That is October this year—1963. Later on, in "The Courier-Mail" of 1 July, 1963, the Minister for Labour and National Service, Mr. McMahon, stated that the unemployment figure in Queensland would be below the national figure. Who is right? The Premier is going to eliminate unemployment by October this year, and the Minister for Labour and National Service states that the figure will be below the national level. Is the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity proud of the fact that there is unemployment in the community?

Mr. Evans: You know there are unemployables.

Mr. MANN: The Minister knows, and I know too, that there is a great demand for skilled workers in the community, but it is

the responsibility of the Government to find work for unskilled workers too, and if he does not know it, let me inform him that right from Townsville to Brisbane there are numbers of unemployed. Despite all the talk about the North being neglected, Townsville is the most progressive city in the State yet it has 155 unemployed; in Mackay there are 104; in Bundaberg 173; in Cairns 275; in Maryborough 199; in Toowoomba 425; and in Ipswich 220. That was early in the year.

Mr. Wharton: You are out of date.

Mr. MANN: That is at the end of the financial year. I got this table from "The Bulletin" in the Library.

Mr. Armstrong: Did you read this morning's paper?

Mr. MANN: Yes, I read it. I hope the hon. member for Mulgrave is not happy about the position. It is nothing for him to be proud of that there is an army of unemployed people in our community. I ask the Government and the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity what the Government intends to do to provide work for these people. If the hon. gentleman does not know it, let me remind him that the sugar season will soon be over and there will be hundreds of workers from the sugar industry and the meat industry to add to the number I have mentioned.

Mr. Bennett: And more teenagers looking for work at the end of the year.

Mr. Windsor: There are a lot of howlers over there who know nothing about it.

Mr. MANN: The hon. member is running a business. How many apprentices has he employed in his business? I ask the Minister for Transport how many apprentices are employed in the railways? When we left office we had a yearly intake of 150 apprentices. Last year this Government got down to a mere 60 in the Railway Department. We want an assurance from the Minister for Transport that this year they intend to raise the quota to 130—only 130 out of all the youngsters who will be looking for work after the end of the school year. I wanted to deal particularly with that matter because I had hoped that the Minister for Education would have something to tell the House about the attitude of his Government towards finding work for young people. Last year I suggested that the Government establish hostels or youth centres in all the leading towns and cities where young people could be taught something useful. They could be trained to become semi-skilled, if not fully skilled. During their period of training they should be paid a wage, just as people were paid the dole in the depression years. Let us put these 3,500 young people to school to teach them some sort of a trade. I am confident that it would help to overcome the problem of delinquency. It is important to our economy to find employment for these out-of-work youngsters.

Mr. Windsor: You want everybody else to do something but you don't do anything yourself.

Mr. MANN: We were finding work for them. Had we been the Government during the past few years we would have had hundreds more apprenticed in all the trades. We would have been teaching them in the day-time, not the night-time.

Dealing with the recent election campaign, the Minister for Education and Migration made an attack on the Leader of the Opposition. I draw the attention of the Assembly to this advertisement that was published during the campaign. It makes the comparison—

"YOU KNOW you can trust these men (photographs).

BUT can you trust these men?" (photographs).

On the top there are photographs of the Premier and the Minister for Justice, both looking very sad and sorry for themselves. On the bottom there are photographs of John Duggan and John Egerton. I regard this advertisement as a cowardly trick. If our opponents wanted to publish an advertisement of this kind why didn't they publish photographs of Duggan and Lloyd and compare them with Nicklin and Munro? Instead of doing that they dragged in somebody outside, somebody who is not standing for Parliament, somebody who had nothing to do with the—

Mr. Sullivan: Don't you like your big boss—Egerton—being photographed?

Mr. MANN: He is not the big boss; he is only one of the bosses.

The Minister for Education had to go right back to 1957 to attack the Leader of the Opposition. He commented on a certain famous round robin that Mr. Gair put to his Cabinet Ministers. The Minister was getting pretty low in his tactics when he resorted to what happened in 1957 at a Labour Cabinet meeting. If he wanted to talk about 1957, why didn't he talk about the meeting his party had downstairs when they were going to enter into a secret pact with Mr. Gair—the Country Party and the Groupers—to run the Government? It was only Sir Arthur Fadden's intervention that stopped the plot from being hatched. If the Minister for Education wants to talk about 1957, why doesn't he mention things that he knows something about? No; he is very silent about them. All his political life John Duggan has been honourable and straightforward. When he was Minister for Transport the railway workers were confident that they had somebody at the head of the department who would look after their interests and do his best in the interests of the State as a whole.

Mr. Sullivan: What do they think now? Ask some of them, and they will tell you they have a better Minister now than ever they had.

Mr. MANN: The hon. member has been here for so long he does not know what is happening. Only recently 8,000 railway workers in the various towns in the North stopped work for 24 hours as a protest against the actions of the Nicklin Government and its attacks on railwaymen, yet the hon. member says that railway workers were never better off.

Mr. Armstrong: What were the attacks?

Mr. MANN: If the hon. member refers to the August issue of "The Advocate" he will find that it was stated that the railwaymen have been attacked in regard to their seniority, loss of work, the closing-down of workshops, and the transferring of people from one town to another.

Mr. Aikens: Didn't they have any troubles when Mr. Duggan was Minister for Transport? What about 1948?

Mr. MANN: I am talking about the Minister's attack on Mr. Duggan. I throw it in the teeth of the hon. member for Townsville South, the hon. member for Nundah, the hon. member for Ashgrove, and the Minister for Education and Migration. They are all bitter opponents of Labour. The hon. member for Townsville South should be the last to attack Labour, because it was only through his being a member of the A.L.P. that he became an alderman of the Townsville City Council. It was from there that he advanced to here.

Mr. Evans: He voted against three weeks' leave.

Mr. MANN: He scabbed and ratted on the Labour movement, and at every opportunity he comes into this House to assist the known opponents of Labour in smearing and belittling Labour leaders and members of the Labour Party generally.

Mr. Aikens: I do not have to smear them; they smear themselves.

Mr. MANN: And so it goes on. The hon. member for Townsville South adopts the Fascist line.

Mr. Aikens: I am a Fascist now?

Mr. MANN: He believes that if you tell a lie often enough someone will believe it. That is what the Fascists do and that is the line adopted by the hon. member for Townsville South.

Mr. Aikens: Tell us why the Q.C.E. will not accept Tom Dooley into the A.L.P.? What is wrong with him? He is a decent citizen and a mate of yours, but the Q.C.E. will not have him.

Mr. MANN: Mr. Speaker, I will not ask for your protection, but I hope you will not allow the hon. member to take up any more of my time.

It is a very serious position when the Minister for Education and Migration attacks our Leader, and for a moment I am trying to compare him with the Minister for Transport. The Minister also said that we increased railway freights and fares during our time. Of course we did, but the hon. gentleman would like to imply that the present Government has done nothing like that. I have here an article from "The Sunday Mail" of 14 August, 1960, which says that the railway figures were so poor that "The State Treasury Department moved into the Railways following a deficit of £2,600,000 between Railways earnings and its working expenses in 1959-60." Another article appeared in the same paper about the chaos in the goods shed at Roma Street.

Mr. Armstrong: That is not an increase in freights.

Mr. MANN: This article is headed "Rail charge up 10 per cent."

Mr. Armstrong: Once in the life of this Government.

Mr. MANN: What is the hon. member trying to do? He cannot have it both ways. He cannot say on the one hand that the Government has raised freights and fares, and, on the other hand, that the Government has done nothing about it.

I am sorry that the Minister is not here because I want to deal with a few matters that appeared in the Press lately about youths and juveniles, and to comment on the fact that every second doctor or professor sets himself up as some sort of psychologist in youth problems. I read in "Sunday Truth" the other day that a senior police officer suggested that the police should be allowed to use force on people whom they believed were doing wrong. I fervently hope that the Minister for Education and Migration, who is in charge of the Police Force, will not stand for anything like that. I do not believe that force is the answer. I believe that the law, as it stands today, provides adequate punishment for wrong-doers, and if anybody is doing wrong it is the job of the police to arrest him properly and charge him properly.

Mr. Hughes: Don't you think that a pat on the back a little lower down will help some juvenile delinquents to see the light?

Mr. MANN: I certainly do not. I am strongly opposed to the suggestion by Tory aldermen that they should be put in the stocks, or the suggestion by Alderman McCafferty that they should be flogged.

Mr. Hughes: You do not suggest they should be given drip-dry shirts?

Mr. MANN: I have never made that suggestion. But I do not believe in violence. The hon. member is not an authority on the subject. If he believes that belting a youth will help rehabilitate him, he has the wrong slant on things. I hope that is not the attitude of the Minister for Education and I hope it is not the intention or policy of the Government to allow that sort of thing. I sincerely hope the Minister in charge of police will take some notice of what I am saying.

After all, who created the image of the teenager in the first place? It was big business. Go into any big business concern, whether it be a Valley store or Allan and Stark's or any other, and you will find counter upon counter of merchandise specially designed for teenagers. You will find that special styles of hairdo are created for teenage girls in the community. You will find tight-fitting blouses for girls.

Mr. Gaven: Most revealing.

Mr. MANN: Yes, and all created by big business. That is where it starts. It is ridiculous to blame the young person when he or she reaches the age of 18, 19 or 20 years.

I was in a barber shop one day waiting for a haircut and listening to the radio and I heard records like, "Move, baby, move, I'm in the groove now". (Govt. laughter.) Government members can laugh. That is all they do about it. I am urging the Government to do something for the teenagers. Another record played was, "I'm holding trouble in my arms" and still another, "My boy friend's home, so beat it". Teenagers are listening to that sort of thing every day. The only person I have read of in the Press who seems to have the solution is the Rev. Alcorn. He says they need someone to love them and to do something for them.

Mr. Hughes interjected.

Mr. MANN: The hon. member is a delinquent himself. I ask the Government to do something about the unemployed youth and I am speaking on their behalf here. I want something done. I do not want them to be belted. I do not want the police to be given authority to belt them. As I say, the only person I have read about who seems to be on the right track is the Rev. Alcorn, and he says they should be loved and taken notice of. He said that centres should be set up, clubs organised and young people invited to join them and take part. Give them a place to go every day, or three or four days a week. If they do any work, pay them a wage and they will be useful. They will soon get out of the groove they are in and into another and more satisfactory one all round.

The other day I asked the Treasurer how many applicants there were for rental homes and he told me there were 1,237 with points priorities and 1,399 with no priority. I do not offer any criticism of the Queensland

Housing Commission. I think the Minister is doing a reasonable job with the funds at his command but I think something further should be done. Rental houses should be made available for people with the greatest family and financial need. Secondly, home purchase should be made easier for people whose family and financial needs most entitle them to it. Money should be made available from the Housing Commission for the repair of old, substandard homes, or the rebuilding of them. I know a man with a family of six who lives in the city, works at a place in George Street, and pays £8 a week rent. Because he has a home and a roof over his head, he has no priority at all. He cannot go to the Housing Commission, and there are 1,300 ahead of him anyway.

A Government Member: Too much.

Mr. MANN: I am glad the hon. member said "too much" because it was his Government that removed rent control and said that things would find their own level. They have not.

Before concluding, I wish to bring to the notice of the House an article by Pat Farrell in "Sunday Truth". There appears a photograph of the Treasurer, with a large question mark superimposed on it. The question posed is whether the Treasurer is going to remove track bookmakers from trotting meetings.

Mr. Gaven: I hope he does not.

Mr. MANN: I ask him not to. Before he considers it, I ask him to look at the set-up at the race tracks now. I feel that if he intends to do that to the bookmakers at trotting meetings, he should alter the law and make it compulsory for bookmakers at registered tracks to bet a price or S.P. If he does what is suggested in this article, he will be conscripting to race tracks all those who attend trotting meetings at Southport, Rocklea, Ipswich, and Redcliffe. I do not think that that is right. When all this pressure is being applied by the committee of the Queensland Turf Club, what the trotting clubs are doing for show societies is forgotten. Nearly every place where trotting is conducted is a showground, and the rent received by the show societies from the trotting clubs helps them to improve their facilities. This applies to the showgrounds at Rocklea, Ipswich, and Southport, and it has all been achieved by revenue received from the trotting clubs.

Dr. Robert Coates, President of the Queensland Trotting Control League, is reported as saying that he knew nothing of any Government plan to wipe out gallops betting. I do not know who he is and I have never met him, but I have been advised by trotting people, and other people whose opinion I value, that the removal of bookmakers from trotting meetings will do more harm to trotting clubs than it will do good for racing clubs. I do not know whether that is or is not true, but that is what I have been told by men whose word I respect.

I know that the Treasurer is tight-lipped and will not say much about Government business, but when I saw this article in the Press I thought that I would endeavour to ascertain if it was the intention of the Government to do it. I agree with the hon. member for South Coast that it should not be done. If it is, the Treasurer should look at the betting set-up at race tracks and see that betting S.P. is available there so that punters can get the best price. I shall conclude on that note.

Mr. CHINCHEN (Mt. Gravatt) (2.15 p.m.): I take this opportunity to express my loyalty to the Crown and to our Sovereign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I wish also to associate myself with hon. members on both sides of the House who have expressed their appreciation of the Governor, Sir Henry Abel Smith, and Lady May and of the Administrator, Sir Alan Mansfield, and Lady Mansfield. By their work and their devotion they have been an inspiration to us all.

I should like at this stage to spend one or two moments in paying tribute to my predecessor, now Mr. Justice Hart. Mr. Justice Hart, of course, is well respected and well known in my district. He has worked hard for the Mt. Gravatt electorate and I know that the people of Mt. Gravatt would like me, on their behalf, to express their congratulations to him on his elevation to the Supreme Court bench. I am quite sure they would desire me to thank him and Mrs. Hart for all they have done, and to wish them the very best for the future.

To the people of Mt. Gravatt electorate I should like to say a most inadequate "Thank you" for electing me as their representative in this Parliament. I can assure them that I will do my best in their interests and in the interests of the State of Queensland.

I can well imagine that, on an occasion like this, newcomers feel somewhat overawed at having to stand here and speak in this Chamber. I think that is particularly so when one has no political background—as I have not. It is a most difficult occasion, but I can assure hon. members that although what I say will not be lengthy, it will be said in all sincerity. I am, of course, lacking in political background and parliamentary polish, but perhaps a fresh mind applied to looking at the State of Queensland as a whole may be beneficial, and I feel that, speaking as a normal citizen, as I will be, could perhaps have some advantages.

I will not be endeavouring to obtain any political advantage from what I say, and what I say will be what I would have said even if I had not been a member of this Assembly. If there is any contribution that I can make because of my background in normal, civilian life, I will make it in that way rather than as a member of this House.

One thing that is most apparent to me is that this State at the present time is poised for a great future. That stands out and, I think, is apparent to us all, but the point I should like to make is that successful development is not, of necessity, inevitable. There is a tendency, particularly in this State, for people and organisations to think that everything must be handled by the Government. I wish to stress that it is the job of everybody in the State to do his bit and push the State to the future it must ultimately reach, and I wish to emphasise the point that, if I refer to "we" during my speech, I do not mean only hon. members of this Chamber; I mean Queenslanders as a whole. We all have a job to do and it is very necessary that we all accept the load in our own sphere, whatever it may be.

The development that has taken place in this State reflects great credit on this Country-Liberal Government. The improvement that has occurred in the last few years has been beyond the wildest dreams of most Queenslanders. That point cannot be expressed too strongly. We must realise that formerly Queensland was backward on any standards. When I came here from a southern State 12 or 14 years ago I adopted the attitude that the general state of mind in Queensland was perhaps due to the climate. The population was not as large as those of the southern States and I thought perhaps that was why Queensland suffered this stagnation. But I soon realised the reason for it. It was a partial stagnation that had taken place over a period of time and it had affected most people in the State. For that reason I say that the development that has taken place in the last six years is all the more remarkable. There is yet a great deal of work to be done, but we cannot expect things to fall into our lap. Unless everybody plays his part, as I will explain shortly, we cannot possibly reach the manifest destiny that is the ultimate of this State in the future. As I have said, the State is poised for a bright future, but that is not enough. Success must be deserved. It must be worked for, planned for, thought for. In many areas this is not being done. It is all left to the Government. People say, "The Government will take care of it." That is the general attitude. We are not helping ourselves as individuals, organisations, or bodies of people. This is where I think a great deal can be done. We have no automatic rights.

Nature has been very kind to Queensland. We have great mineral wealth, magnificent harbours, a wonderful climate for growing things, and excellent soils; we also have valuable timber and other natural resources. Nature has done a great deal; man has done very little. At this stage things are happening but we cannot expect things just to happen. We have to do the job ourselves; we have to do it by thinking and planning. In some places there is the thought that we in Queensland do things our own way and

that is good enough. This is having a stultifying effect. The first thing we must do is to open our minds so that we can accept new thoughts and new ideas. We have to remember that we are one of six States—all highly competitive. Not only have we to catch up with them; but we have also to jump out in front of them. That can be done only by planning and thinking at all levels.

In various areas there is an inclination to adopt the attitude of mind where you leave it to the other fellow, and, whatever happens, do not do it yourself. We have to change that outlook so that we are all moving in the one direction. This period of transition, while moving from stagnation to the bright prospects of the future, could be likened to what happens when a country store finds, of necessity, that it must expand into a self-service emporium. It poses great problems. It all goes back to changing our thinking. For the small country store to change into a large emporium it is necessary to have reorganised thinking, new methods and new processes, a new approach to management—a new everything. The whole thing is difficult and troublesome. There are problems in the change-over. This State is right at the point of moving from a small-State aspect to a large-State aspect. Our thinking must be changed, our methods must be changed, and our plans must be developed. Everyone in the State has a responsibility. The load cannot be carried by the Government alone. There has to be a broadening of horizons and new energy in our thinking. In fact, it requires creative, instructive and inspirational thinking. It requires a philosophy of change.

The important thing for this State is the philosophy of change which will allow us to move away from what is accepted at the moment. I do not say that what we have always done is wrong, but I am inclined to think that we stick with what we are doing and do not accept any new thoughts, new ideas or new methods. When we remember that we are in the jet age and the rocket age, we must also remember that our planning and thinking must be advanced so that we are receptive to entirely new situations.

The important point I wish to make at this stage is that the philosophy of change must be adopted by individuals, organisations, bodies, unions, and all the other units that comprise the working fabric of our economy and society. We all know full well that if we do not go forward we drift back, but there is another thought: if we do not go forward as fast as the other States, we are still going back. For that reason it is absolutely necessary for us to make sure that any of our planning is at least as fast, and as good, as the planning of other States, or perhaps better. It is preferable that in any planning or thinking we should allow ourselves to consider overseas methods and approaches. I am sure if we do that we will really start

to move. I am inclined to think that at the moment we are jumping out of the hole, but not fast enough.

When we come to the stage of identifying the terms of this proposition in detail, I think it would be wise to look at two aspects. We have a private side and a public side of our economy. When we look at the private side, operating under a free-enterprise system as we do, we must remember that the consumer is king. It is the consumer who calls the tune. In effect, he decides whether or not a business will stay in business. This system demands that all private enterprises and organisations must be reasonably efficient. If they are not, they must go out of business. Competitors overrun them, or they just cannot succeed. On the private side, this applies particularly to national companies. I was an executive of one and it is necessary for the executive of large organisations to be efficient and to find new ways and methods of cutting costs, and new merchandising plans. That is part of their daily routine. For that reason they are reasonably efficient, but in addition—and I am mentioning this to make a point later—it is still necessary to stop every now and again to look at all departmental activity to see how we are going and to see how we can overcome difficulties, and we must bring in experts from outside to analyse, suggest, and advise. Even because of this we still find, of course, that there are areas where complacency develops and efficiency is not as it should be. The point I want to make is that today in Queensland every industry, every firm, every agriculturist, every unit of private enterprise must, of necessity to help the State, analyse its methods and its thinking, must do some re-thinking about its programme, so that the State can really move ahead. This is vital and will help the State enormously. The development of the philosophy of change can be of great help to an organisation of any size just as it is to an individual, keeping the mind receptive to new thoughts and ideas.

When we move to the public sector—and I want to dwell a moment or two on it—we find that local government and government departments are taking a bigger and bigger share of the burden as the years go by. They are doing a big job and a wonderful job. This field of activity is in effect the true complement of the private sector, the two work so closely. The public sector provides the power, the communications, the stability of economy and the 101 tangibles and intangibles too numerous to mention. The two together form the network of our economy. In the public field we have not the inbuilt system of efficiency found in the private sector.

I am inclined to think it is only natural that, over a period of time, the ways of these departments fall into time-honoured and well-grooved patterns. They have been quite suitable and obviously they work, but they have been there for many years. I am suggesting that this field, which has such an

important influence on the private sector, is an area in which new thinking, new methods and new approaches could pay big dividends to the State.

Not for one moment do I criticise the public servants or the public departments. I have found them a conscientious and hard-working body of people. But at this stage of the State's development—growing from in effect the small store to the big and vigorous store—perhaps we, too, should change our methods and our thinking, and I feel that this is the area in which great reward can come to the State from such an approach.

I have spoken so far in general terms. I do not like mentioning cases but the sort of thing I have in mind is the possibility that from delayed decisions and so on the public will gain the impression that time is not so important. This sort of thing can happen and will happen if the system is not looked at, rehashed and reviewed periodically. I know that from time to time a certain amount of work is done by the Public Service Commissioner's office in all the administrative departments; but I feel that, to cope with this explosion of development that we can without a doubt expect, we must have our house in order and take care that we do not miss any possibilities in the way of new business and new approaches that may come our way. We have all heard from time to time of organisations that would have come to Queensland but, because of petty frustrations and difficulties, have gone to other States. In my opinion most of the trouble can be laid at the door of the city council, which is the home of frustrations and problems. When I speak of the public sector I refer not only to the State Government but also to the local authorities. They have a big responsibility to the State. The Brisbane City Council, in particular, has an enormous responsibility, and I believe that a lot of re-thinking should be done in that direction. If change is required anywhere, it is in the City Hall.

It would certainly be impertinent of me to make suggestions at this stage, but, as I mentioned, I am thinking from the point of view of a civilian. If this is the way that I think, probably thousands of others are thinking similarly. I feel that we have to be big enough to forget political advantage or disadvantage and consider only where the State is going and what we can do to help. I feel that that is a field in which much can be done, but how it can be done I can only suggest; I would not really know.

I suggest, particularly in those areas round which development hinges, the appointment of a developmental ways-and-means committee—call it that if you wish, as any name will do—of, say, six people who are top-liners in their particular commercial fields and in administration by modern, business-like methods. I am inclined to think that our difficulty lies in time-worn methods. No doubt they were good methods for the old days and were nothing to be ashamed of,

but I think the machinery should be streamlined so that decisions and results can be obtained in a much better and quicker manner.

I shall mention one particular instance. It is a simple case and no doubt there are thousands like it, but it shows how the stage can be reached at which totally-unacceptable situations are considered acceptable. I was asked by a constituent to assist him to secure a loan from the Agricultural Bank. I am not directing my remarks at any particular department, but this illustrates the point that I wish to make. He wanted some money to put down a bore on a small farm. The Agricultural Bank had previously lent money for a bore on this site and another one on that site, and he now wanted money to put a bore at his own site. The officers of the Agricultural Bank knew something of the area. He needed the money quickly because the boring plant would be leaving—they actually wanted to leave right then—and there were 200 feet of basalt to be drilled. For that reason, he was in a hurry to get the money.

I said that I would like to help. I approached the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission. Its officers were most courteous, as they always are, and they said that they would like to help and would see what could be done. The gentleman I approached said that he would endeavour to push the matter through, and it was hurried along. Here, now, is the point that I wish to mention. The officer with whom I was dealing said, "Mr. Chinchin, you probably do not realise that the usual time for an application like this is three to six months." That is accepted as normal. This is only a small thing and does not matter much, but that is what we are led to expect as usual. In some cases it would probably take longer.

My thinking is that everybody is working hard in that department, so the only thing that can be wrong is the system. There must be files galore floating around. I asked what such an application entailed and I was told it meant a visit from an irrigation inspector and a report, and a visit from an agricultural officer and a report. Those two reports are co-ordinated and, if they are both favourable, they are sent to the Agricultural Bank and the money is, or is not, made available. There are three things that have to be done.

This no doubt is happening thousands of times in the departments, and I am inclined to think that we could help ourselves enormously if, by some means or other, we could shorten this time factor so that the State could really move ahead. It would stimulate primary and secondary industry and be a stimulation also to this city and the State. A body such as I suggest would not be a fact-finding committee—it is not a question of putting blame anywhere—but would provide a gingering-up treatment resulting in the better service that the people should have. I make that suggestion only in an endeavour to assist

Queensland to reach more quickly the position of eminence that it must eventually attain. I believe that a move in this direction is very necessary if we are to attract secondary industry and stimulate dynamic development of the State.

Having had the temerity to say that, I should now like to put my neck right on the block by making one more suggestion. It is a simple one, again based to some extent on the developmental requirements of Queensland. Looking from the outside, as a person engaged both in industry and in agriculture, as I have been recently, I believe that there is a great need—I say this most humbly to the Premier—for a separate Ministry of Development. In my opinion, certain departments that are now under the control of separate Ministers should be brought together under one portfolio, so that anyone approaching the Government in regard to developmental projects could go to one department and get all the information he required. I suggest that perhaps the departments dealing with mines, electricity, the secondary industries section of labour and industry, and immigration, could be brought under one Minister. In effect, we would be taking away the planning side from the construction side, and I foresee the need for giving the portfolio to a senior Minister who could call Cabinet sub-committee meetings to consider matters such as rural development. He would be able to get the assistance of his Cabinet colleagues—in this instance it would be the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry and the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation—to discuss various aspects of rural development. We would have to make sure that there was an adequate framework to make the scheme workable, but I believe that having various aspects of development under the direction of various Ministers is handicapping the State and that the time is ripe to bring them all under one Ministry. My suggestion might possibly be rejected out of hand on the ground that I have not sufficient experience politically to make it. However, as a layman, I believe that somewhere along the line there is room for improved thinking because we must plan in a big way for the development that must inevitably take place. Other countries have seen the need for planning, so let us plan wisely now for the development that must come.

Although I have made my two suggestions with a great deal of hesitancy, I think that what I have said would be in accord with the thinking of a great many people in Queensland. Perhaps I have not the political background to enable me to speak with authority in this field, but as a citizen I wished to get them off my chest. I have done so, and I have made my suggestions in the interests of our wonderful State, Queensland.

Mr. DUFFICY (Warrego) (2.45 p.m.): At the outset I want to congratulate Mr. Speaker on his re-election to the important position

of Speaker in this Parliament. I also wish to congratulate the hon. member for Greenslopes on his appointment to the responsible position of Chairman of Committees. I should like also to convey my congratulations to new members on both sides of the House who have delivered their maiden speeches. Their contributions were thoughtful and well-prepared and we can look forward, during this Parliament, to very many useful and constructive contributions from them. I wish particularly to congratulate the hon. members for Tablelands and Port Curtis on their contributions which, as maiden speeches, were outstanding.

The hon. member for Brisbane mentioned that I might deal with land matters this afternoon, and I might get on to that question later because I have usually taken advantage of this debate to point out obvious weaknesses in the Government's land policy. However, I feel on this occasion that the hon. member for Gregory has, to some extent, stolen my thunder. My only regret is that the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation was not in the House to listen to the hon. member's scathing criticism of the Government's policy. I could add very little to what the hon. gentleman said in condemnation of the Government's pastoral policy.

I may return to that subject later. At the moment I should like to say a few words about a matter that I consider a disgrace, that is, the conditions under which age pensioners are living in Charleville. I have visited their little camp on the sandhills frequently and during the last two or three weeks I had the rather sad occasion to do so once again; and let me say that these old people, who pioneered the West, and laboured there all their working lives, are today living under conditions almost as primitive as those under which aborigines lived when white men first came to this country. They are living in gunyahs. No Government, whether it be State or Federal, and no local authority, can be proud of those conditions.

Mr. Hughes: Is it not possible that a scheme similar to that applied by Alderman Pilbeam, in Rockhampton, with the Government's aid, could be introduced there? He constructed houses for them in Rockhampton; why couldn't that be done at Charleville?

Mr. DUFFICY: I thank the hon. member for the interjection.

Mr. Hughes: Local authority and Government combined.

Mr. DUFFICY: I am very happy about that. I am only sorry that the Treasurer and the Minister for Public Works and Local Government are not in the House. I should be interested to know just what is the policy of the present Government towards subsidies to local authorities that are prepared to assist aged people who are not able to look after themselves.

Mr. Ewan: £2 for £1.

Mr. DUFFICY: The hon. member may be slightly wrong. If he is speaking on behalf of the Government, I am more than delighted to know that it is this Government's policy to give a subsidy of £2 for £1—

Government Members interjected.

Mr. DUFFICY: I am getting a lot of assistance from people who probably are not very qualified to give it. If I am wrong in what I am saying, I should be glad to get a truthful and responsible correction from someone on that side. I suggest that the Commonwealth Government is not prepared to subsidise any local authority for expenditure that it may incur along the lines I have indicated. I shall be very happy if I can get any responsible correction of that statement.

Mr. Ewan: We have an organisation at Roma, apart from the town council.

Mr. DUFFICY: There are several organisations in Roma but I am afraid their activities have not been very successful because they have resulted in the return of the hon. member to this Parliament. If the hon. member, who I assume hopes to get on to the front bench very shortly, would just keep quiet for a moment and allow the responsible Ministers of the Government to interject or reply to me, I should be very happy. I think the hon. member is a little previous. Probably he hopes to be in a position to make a ministerial statement later. Until he is in that position, I suggest he allow me to develop my argument. I should be very happy if I could receive an assurance from the Minister for Public Works and Local Government that this Government is prepared to subsidise local authorities £1 for £1 for any capital expenditure involved in the erection of accommodation for aged pensioners within that local-authority area.

Mr. Richter: Why should the State have to do that? The Federal Government is already doing it.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. DUFFICY: I do not want very much assistance on this. I am accepting what the responsible Minister says—that his Government is not prepared to accept, nor does it think it should accept, any responsibility in the matter. Of course, that is completely contrary to the attitude of the Labour Government because that Government subsidised local authorities £1 for £1 for schemes such as I have indicated. I will give the Minister a case in point that he might refer to Cabinet.

Mr. Richter: Why do we have to do this when the Federal Government is already doing it?

Mr. DUFFICY: The Federal Government is not doing it already. As far as I know, the Federal Government is subsidising church organisations £2 for £1 in the establishment of aged pensioners' homes.

Mr. Richter: Not only church organisations; any approved organisation.

Mr. DUFFICY: Very well, an approved organisation, but may I suggest that a local authority does not come within that category. It is not an approved organisation.

Mr. Richter: A local authority is an instrument of the State Government.

Mr. DUFFICY: Exactly, and as such it is not entitled to benefit from the £2 for £1 subsidy granted to other organisations by the Federal Government. Is that not so?

Mr. Hughes: They got around that in Rockhampton, on council land.

Mr. DUFFICY: That is so. I am getting a lot of help and I am particularly grateful to the Minister for his assistance. The Minister indicated that, so far as his Government is concerned, it considers it has no responsibility in this matter.

Mr. Richter: We have assisted and we do.

Mr. DUFFICY: What does the Government do, and what is it prepared to do?

Mr. Richter: We subsidise all the approved organisations for the supply of furniture and fittings.

Mr. DUFFICY: Does a Local Authority come within the scope of approved organisations?

Mr. Richter: That is entirely a matter for the Federal Government. If it approves it, the State Government does too.

Mr. DUFFICY: I know what I am talking about, and I can give an example where, in the past, a Labour State Government subsidised a local authority £1 for £1 for the capital investment spent in providing accommodation for aged people within a local-authority area.

Mr. Richter: Since your Government went out of office the Federal Government has taken over the responsibility and has doubled the benefit.

Mr. DUFFICY: I am suggesting that the Federal Government did not take over responsibility. I am suggesting also that in Cunnamulla, in my own area, excellent accommodation was provided by the local authority for 18 or 20 aged pensioners. It included a toilet block and separate accommodation for the elderly people. For the whole of the cost incurred by the Paroo Shire Council in providing that accommodation the then Labour Government granted a subsidy of 50 per cent. That is true. In Charleville the circumstances over the years were slightly different because the town council was not in a very good financial position; as a matter of fact, its financial position was so bad that fairly recently an amalgamation with the Murweh Shire Council became a necessity. I am sure that we now have a wealthy shire and that it

will be prepared to take some action so that the old pioneers who are now camping on the sandhills under shocking conditions will at least be housed a little better. I feel sure that this Government, if it adopts the attitude adopted by a previous Labour Government, will be prepared to subsidise that council £1 for £1 for its outlay. There are three authorities in this country that should accept some responsibility for the old pioneers who are not able to look after themselves. The first is the local authority. Western shires in general know the position and are prepared to accept some responsibility—and the Paroo Shire Council is one of them. The second authority is the State Government, which surely must accept some responsibility, and finally the Federal Government.

Mr. Richter: Has the Paroo Shire Council made any representations on this matter?

Mr. DUFFICY: The Paroo Shire Council made representations to a Labour Government and achieved the desired result, as I pointed out. Excellent accommodation is already provided in Cunnamulla by the Paroo Shire Council.

Mr. Richter: You are suggesting they might do it again?

Mr. DUFFICY: The Minister asked me a question. I ask him to let me answer it.

Mr. Richter: But you are not answering it.

Mr. DUFFICY: But I am. The Minister asked me if the Paroo Shire Council had made any representations in this matter. I replied that the Paroo Shire Council made representations to the Labour Government of the day, which acceded to those representations and met 50 per cent. of the cost of the accommodation provided for the pensioners. I think that answers the Minister's question.

Mr. Richter: Have they made any representations to this Government?

Mr. DUFFICY: They did not have to. They made them to a Labour Government. The Minister's answer to my first question indicated that his Government was not prepared to accept any responsibility in this matter. I suggested to the Minister that, now that the municipal set-up in Charleville had been changed, in all probability representations would be made by the Murweh Shire Council to this Government.

Mr. Richter: You are speaking on their behalf?

Mr. DUFFICY: Of course I am speaking on their behalf!

Dr. Noble: We have spent more money on old people's homes in the last six years than Labour ever thought of doing. We have spent half a million pounds.

Mr. Bennett: The figures do not support that.

Dr. Noble: Of course they do. And in the last six years about 1,200 beds have been made available in old people's homes.

Mr. DUFFICY: I really do not know who is making this speech. I happen to be on my feet at the moment. If the Ministers want to make speeches, I suggest that they be allowed to make them and that the time they occupy be added to the time left to me to make up my 40 minutes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member for Warrego in his remarks has not been addressing the Chair. He has been addressing the Ministers direct. I ask that he address the Chair.

Mr. DUFFICY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am very happy to accept your ruling and I can assure you that I will obey if you will also insist that the hon. gentlemen opposite on the front bench address their remarks to you rather than argue the point with me. I am sure that you are prepared to do that.

To continue my remarks, I am grateful for the interruption of the Minister for Health and Home Affairs. I am also very pleased that his Government is spending a considerable amount of money in looking after the aged people of the State. Let me, however, put this aspect of it to him not only as a Minister but also as a medical man, and he might agree with me. Elderly people who have spent their lives in Western Queensland are not happy in coastal areas, and the environment there is not the best for their health. When people who have lived in Far Western Queensland all their lives are taken from the smell of the gidgee and brought to the coast, their life expectancies are very short. Many who were admitted to Eventide from South-western Queensland stayed there only a week or two and could not get back fast enough to the environment to which they were accustomed. I have had experience of that and what I say is true.

When the Minister speaks of what his Government has done for elderly people, it is true that there are Eventide homes along the coast, but let him tell me how many such homes the Government has established in Western Queensland. Let me suggest to the Minister, too, that he consult the records of his office. There he will find that prior to this Government's coming into office, plans were in hand for the establishment of an Eventide home in Charleville on land acquired for that purpose close to the base hospital.

Mr. Evans: Forty-five years ago.

Mr. DUFFICY: Not 45 years ago. When I was a member of the hospitals board in Charleville just prior to my entering this House, those plans were in existence. Now, in these exciting times of tremendous development that the Premier speaks so much about, those plans have, possibly in the excitement, been mislaid along the way. From the beginning of this Government's term, there

has been no suggestion that those plans be implemented. When the Minister speaks of the amount of money being spent in the housing of elderly people I ask him to tell me through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, how much has been spent in Western Queensland in catering for the aged people in that part of the State. I can tell him that it is absolutely nil. The Minister did make a very hurried trip through there on one occasion. I do not want to be nasty about this but, if there are too many interjections, I shall be.

The Minister made a few promises when he went through the South-West, and people have made accusations against me because they have not been carried out yet. One only has to mention Morven, for example.

Dr. Noble: Do you want me to answer the question?

Mr. DUFFICY: I had to explain to those people that I was not a member of the Government and that the Minister for Health and Home Affairs did not seek my opinion either before or after he made the promises.

Dr. NOBLE: I rise to a point of order. I have been accused by the hon. member for Warrego of not carrying out my promises made on a hurried visit, as he called it, through the South-West. I made a promise at Cunnamulla that we would do up the Cunnamulla Hospital, and that is now being done. At Charleville I promised new nurses' quarters. They were opened before the last election. I made a promise at Morven that they would have extensions to their building there, and that is being done. I might add that I had no representations from the hon. member.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I ask the hon. member for Warrego to accept the Minister's explanation.

Mr. DUFFICY: What have I to accept?

Dr. Noble: Just accept the truth.

Mr. DUFFICY: I will accept what the Minister said, because I heard it. I will also accept the fact that he conveniently did not mention Morven.

Dr. Noble: I did mention Morven. I said that it is being carried out and the plans are going through at the moment.

Mr. DUFFICY: The plans for the Eventide Home at Charleville also have been going through for the past six or seven years, apparently.

Dr. NOBLE: I rise to a point of order. The hon. member asked me to answer him through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I will take this opportunity. It has been announced in the House that it is Government policy not to build any more Eventide Homes, as such, in the State, but that we, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government, will subsidise churches in an area if

they desire to build such homes. If the hon. member would go to his area, he might get the churches to build them.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. DUFFICY: I have never previously known a Minister to be given the opportunity of rising in the House and making a speech when another hon. member is on his feet. Ministers have an opportunity during the debate of replying to statements made by hon. members on this side of the Chamber. Surely I am entitled to criticise Ministers and the Government fairly without being interrupted continually by a Minister rising in his place and making a speech while I am required to sit down.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! If the hon. member for Warrego continues to reflect on the Chair, he will be sat down. When any member of this House rises to a point of order it is the privilege of the member to make that point and my privilege to listen and see that the point is made.

Mr. DUFFICY: Let me say this—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I ask the hon. member for Warrego to continue his speech or I will ask him to resume his seat.

Mr. DUFFICY: You did not even listen to what I was going to say before you assured me that if I did not resume my speech you would ask me to resume my seat. Can you read my mind, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Did you know what I was going to say?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I remind the hon. member for the last time that if he continues to reflect on the Chair I will name him.

Mr. Bennett interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member for South Brisbane will be included in that too,

Mr. Bennett interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I again ask the hon. member for South Brisbane to refrain from making these remarks.

Mr. DUFFICY: Getting back to my point, I was reminding the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, who spoke about the plans in Morven, that the plans for an Eventide Home in Charleville have not been implemented. They were in existence for a very long time, so I am not so much concerned about the plans, and I do not intend to withdraw the remark I made that the Minister's promises in my electorate have not yet been met. I will quote his own word as evidence to support what I have said. He said that plans are in existence, but his promises have not yet been implemented. He cannot take advantage of the plans being in existence because nothing has yet been done, and I suggest that it may be a considerable time before anything is done.

Dr. Noble: The building at Charleville has been completed; you know that. You know that was done before the last election. A building is now going up at Cunnamulla, too, is it not?

Mr. DUFFICY: As a matter of fact, there was an excellent base hospital in Charleville long before the hon. gentleman became Minister and all he and his Government have achieved is to construct a few insignificant additions to it. So do not let the Minister for Health and Home Affairs or the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity try to convince the people of Queensland that this State was not discovered until six years ago when hon. members opposite became the Government.

The Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity tries to convince the people of Queensland that every little bit of bitumen on the roads of Queensland has been put down only during the last six or seven years, and the Minister for Health and Home Affairs suggests that the base hospitals we enjoy in the West—and they are excellent base hospitals—are the result of the actions of his Government or his administration. I am prepared to give him, as a Minister, and the Government, credit where credit is due, but I am not prepared to accept blindly the suggestion that they discovered Queensland only six years ago.

I have, to some extent, been led away from my original argument, so let me suggest that if, as a result of the discussions we have had, this Government is prepared to subsidise the Murweh Shire Council £1 for £1 in the actual cost of decent housing for the aged pensioners in that area—and I believe it is—then I am very happy about it.

Dr. Noble: No, we don't do that. Under the present Commonwealth-State agreement the Federal Government subsidises two-thirds of the capital cost of buildings.

Mr. DUFFICY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, would it be a good idea if the Minister made a speech about this matter in reply? He says that it cannot be done. I am saying that it has been done in the past.

Dr. Noble: In those days the Commonwealth Government didn't come into the field.

Mr. DUFFICY: The Commonwealth Government does not come into the field with local authorities now.

Dr. Noble: The churches out there could build an old people's home and they would get two-thirds of the cost.

Mr. DUFFICY: Through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, could I ask the Minister a question? Under existing circumstances can a local authority receive a subsidy of £2 for £1 from the Commonwealth Government?

Dr. Noble: The local authorities can't.

Mr. DUFFICY: That is what I am talking about, so do not let us confuse the issue. What I am saying is that the Labour Government subsidised local authorities, which this Government is not prepared to do. Let us leave it at that, and get on with something else.

In the few minutes still available to me I want to talk about the Totalisator Administration Board.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I ask hon. members both on my right and on my left to keep their conversations down. The hon. member for Warrego has the right to continue his speech uninterrupted.

Mr. DUFFICY: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I have received letters from almost every racing club in my electorate complaining that the T.A.B. agencies remain open in centres where race meetings are being held.

When I have approached the Treasurer on this matter he has listened to me quite courteously, but I think he has a wrong appreciation of the position in Western Queensland. He said that these clubs could not expect to have it both ways; they could not get revenue from the T.A.B. and then expect the agencies to close down in centres where local race meetings were being held. Some of the clubs in the West may hold only one race meeting a year. They are dependent upon public support. If the T.A.B. agency remains open in a centre where a race meeting is being held, the club receives very little public support because 90 per cent. or more of the people attend race meetings in the West for the sole purpose of betting on Brisbane or southern events. When we had licensed off-course shops in the West it was compulsory under the Act for those shops to cease operations at midday. Anybody who wanted a bet had to go to the racecourse. With the T.A.B. agency remaining open all day hundreds of people who are interested in betting only on Brisbane and southern events will not go to the local racetrack. It is not much use saying that the small clubs that hold only one meeting a year will derive some benefit from the T.A.B. and the betting tax. The fact of the matter is that a club that ceases to function because of lack of public support cannot get any revenue from anywhere.

(Time expired.)

Mr. CAMM (Whitsunday) (3.25 p.m.): Before adding my support to the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply so ably moved by the hon. member for Carnarvon, I reaffirm the loyalty of the people of Whitsunday and myself to Her Majesty the Queen. I also express our appreciation for the good work done by her representative in Queensland, Sir Henry Abel Smith. At the same time, may I say how impressed I was by the Opening Speech of the Administrator, Sir Alan Mansfield.

I congratulate Mr. Speaker on his re-election to office and I am quite confident that he will again carry out his duties in an impartial manner. I offer my congratulations to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, upon your election as Chairman of Committees, and I congratulate my friend the Iron member for Hinchinbrook on his appointment to Cabinet rank. May I also offer my congratulations to all the new members who have been elected to Parliament. They have received a vote of confidence from the people in their electorates. Whilst I congratulate them on their election to Parliament I do so with a touch of sympathy for the hon. members for Port Curtis and Tablelands because I think their stay in this Chamber may not be of long duration. If they stay here for a considerable term I wish them many, many years in Opposition.

I compliment the mover of the motion, the hon. member for Carnarvon, and the seconder, the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha. Both gentlemen are successful in their chosen professions and I am sure they will add considerably to the value of debates in this Chamber.

However, while I am congratulating everyone, I must express regret for the fact that the Leader of the Opposition, in speaking to the Address-in-Reply motion, saw fit to criticise the mover and seconder—he also criticised previous movers, of whom I was one—because their speeches were read from copious notes. I assure you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that any new member who is privileged to move the Address-in-Reply motion places a very high value on that privilege and goes to a good deal of trouble to assemble his thoughts so that he may deliver an address worthy of the motion. In his maiden speech he considers it most important to make an impact on members of the Chamber as well as on the memories of the people who elected him. Perhaps it is so long since a member of the Opposition has had the privilege of moving this motion that the Leader of the Opposition has forgotten what they did. I am quite sure there are many hon. members on the other side of the House who have read from copious notes, and who have read from speeches prepared by their political bosses. If the Leader of the Opposition must criticise anyone I suggest to him not to attack new hon. members, and those fairly recently elected, such as I am. He should attack members who have been in this House for some years, some of his political colleagues who come into this Chamber to make a speech looking like newsboys with all their newspaper cuttings, and what have you. Some of them read copious notes from end to end.

We were criticised for political ethics or methods said to have been adopted by candidates on our side during the election campaign. All I can say is that those methods must have been acceptable to the majority of the electors of Queensland because we are back on this side of the Chamber.

Mr. Tucker: But you never got a majority!

Mr. CAMM: The hon. member says we did not get a majority. Let me refer him to the statement made time and time again by the Leader of the Opposition, that figures can be made to prove anything. It is not the figures on paper that count; it is the figures who sit along the back benches and the front benches on this side of the Chamber who count as to who governs the State.

It was the dynamic leadership of Mr. Nicklin and Mr. Munro and the progressive policy of the Country Party and the Liberal Party that returned this Government to office.

The Leader of the Opposition also said that it was only through favourable seasonal conditions and the good prospects of the sugar industry that we were returned to office. That has been said very many times and it is apparent that the converse must apply to the other side. It is only through poverty, despair and distress that hon. members opposite can hope to be returned as the Government. And those conditions will never prevail while we have a Government such as this occupying the Treasury benches. I believe that poverty, despair and distress are ingredients essential to Labour's success and it is also recognised throughout the world that they are ingredients essential to the growth of Communism, Socialism or any other ism.

Mr. Thackeray: What about Fascism?

Mr. CAMM: No, not Fascism. All through my election campaign, I did not use the word "Communism". I do not believe that hon. members opposite are Communists. I do not think many of them believe in Communism. But I say in all sincerity that the men who dictate their policy really believe in it, and this is borne out not by me but by men of their own party. If you will permit me, I will read an extract from a Labour newspaper, "The Worker", the organ of the A.W.U., which is a really good industrial union and a union of which I was once very proud to be a member. It is a union which has gained tremendous advantages for its members. Mr. Williams, as all Queenslanders know, has always been opposed to Communism and so have many other officials of the A.W.U. This is what he wrote in "The Worker" of 27 February, 1961. I am not well versed in the art of political propaganda but, when one of their own members writes an article such as this, I think some of us newer members can be excused for believing that there must be some merit in the article.

Mr. Bennett: How long have you got to sit here before you cease to be called a new member?

Mr. CAMM: If my presence in the Chamber is noted over a period and the hours that I spend in it counted, I think it will be found that, even though the hon. member for South Brisbane has been a

member for a few years more than I, he will be in effect a younger member than I. However, I said I was a newcomer to this political propaganda. I have no hesitation in saying that. In this article Mr. Williams said—

“Communist influence is also strong in the 13 Trades and Labour Councils in provincial cities, notably Townsville, Rockhampton, and Ipswich.

“These provincial Trades and Labour Councils consist of the local sub-branches of Unions affiliated with the Queensland Trades and Labour Council and are at Townsville, Rockhampton, Ipswich, Cairns, Maryborough, Bowen, Mackay, Mt. Isa, Innisfail, Gladstone, Bundaberg, South Coast and Toowoomba.”

He went on to say—

“They are listed in their importance as centres of Communist influence at the present time. In the present Queensland Trades and Labour Council Executive of 13, six are Communists. These are:—

G. W. Dawson (B.W.I.U.), T. Millar (Miners), H. Field (A.M.I.E.U.), A. MacDonald (Secretary), E. J. Hanson (Painters), and A. Nicol (B.W.I.U.).

“The other seven members are:—

J. Egerton (Boiler-makers), B. Milliner (Printers), A. Arnell (W.W.F.), G. Whiteside (F.E.D.F.A.), F. Nolan (A.R.U.), F. Waters (Postal), and A. H. Dawson (E.T.U.).

“In addition to an Executive of 13, the Queensland Trades and Labour Council has six sub-committees—Hall, Basic Wage, Disputes, Parliamentary, Labour Day and Education. Apart from the Hall and the Disputes Committees, these rarely meet.

“At present their main importance lies in the fact that the Chairmen of these Committees sit on the Executive.

“This is the method by which most of the Communists get on the Executive. Millar, Field, Hanson and Nicol are sub-committee Chairmen.

“In addition to the above six Communists on the Queensland Trades and Labour Council, another nine Communists are on these sub-committees.

“This makes a total of 15 Communists in 45 positions on the Executive and the sub-Committees.”

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr. Delamothe): Order! there is too much cross-firing in the Chamber. I ask hon. members on both sides to give their full attention to the speaker.

Mr. CAMM: Mr. Williams went on to say—

“In practice, the Trade Union Congress has become one day of industrial items and two days of Communist propaganda—No Troops for Malaya; Recognise Communist China; No Secret Union Ballots!

Amalgamate the I.C.F.T.U. with the Communist W.F.T.U.; Reciprocal visits to Russia and Communist China; Ban the Bomb; Support Communist Peace Fronts; Disband the Security Service, etc., etc.

“For the last four annual elections of the Queensland Trades and Labour Council,” said Mr. Williams, “all 15 Communists on the Executive and the sub-committees have been unopposed.”

“In fact there has been no election—exactly 45 nominations being received for the 45 positions!”

That shows that it is not only members on our side of the House who believe that the A.L.P. has become dominated by Communist influence. It is also borne out by that statement by one of their own organisers in a union that has obtained many concessions for its employees and should be an example for the other militant unions, who support the Labour Party and are forever going on strike, to follow. A comparison of the conditions of true A.W.U. members with those of members of other unions shows what a good moderate union can do. Look at the earnings of cane-cutters and shearers, who are members of the A.W.U., and compare them with those of members of the militant unions who are always talking about strikes.

It has also been said many times that Mr. Killen was elected to the Federal Parliament because he received Communist preference votes.

Mr. Bennett: That is true.

Mr. CAMM: That has been said on many occasions. Those who say that should go further and state that of 674 preference votes of the Communist candidate, Mr. Max Julius, only 96 went to the Liberal candidate, Mr. Killen. Of those 674, 165 went to the Q.L.P. candidate, and could anyone accuse any Q.L.P. candidate of Communist affiliations? The A.L.P. candidate, Mr. O'Donnell, received 413, or more than 61 per cent., of the Communist preferences.

There is great silence now on the result of the election for the seat of Stirling in Western Australia, which was won by Mr. Webb of the Australian Labour Party, now a member of the party's Federal executive, by 330 votes after receiving 380 Communist preferences. Where do the Communist preferences go?

I think that is a sufficient reply to the complaints of the Leader of the Opposition about the political tactics adopted during the last election campaign by candidates representing the parties on this side of the House. I am sure that we can be excused for thinking that there might be some truth in a letter such as the one I have read from Mr. Edgar Williams.

I shall now give some of the reasons why we were returned to the Government benches. The progress and development that have taken place under the Government

during the last six years have been recognised by the electors of Queensland, and an atmosphere of confidence has been created in the field of investment by the democratic principles adopted by the Government and the stable form of government in which we believe. Queensland has never had better prospects than it has at present.

The Leader of the Opposition also criticised the speed with which three weeks' annual leave was granted to the unions when their application came before the Industrial Commission during the election campaign. Three weeks' annual leave was one of the promises made by the Leader of the Opposition in his policy speech, and he made that promise well knowing that the economy of Queensland could stand it. He knew that, because of the prosperity of various industries in Queensland, an application to the Industrial Commission would automatically mean the granting of three weeks' annual leave. The members of the Commission were appointed by former Labour Governments, and they are all sincere industrial men. The unions applied for three weeks' annual leave and their application was granted immediately. That the Leader of the Opposition was able to promise three weeks' annual leave was an admission of the good work of this Government, because previously he and other Cabinet Ministers were prepared to accept political oblivion rather than force three weeks' annual leave onto the people of Queensland. In fact, because of the cost involved, he was against its introduction when he was the Minister in charge of railways.

Mr. Newton: If you believe that, why do you not legislate now to provide that every worker in Queensland shall get it, instead of the unions having to go to the Commission?

Mr. CAMM: The Government has always believed in industrial arbitration. If the unions go to the Commission and the economy of the State enables their claims to be granted, they will get it.

Hon. members opposite fail to recognise the development that has taken place on our mineral fields, at Weipa and Callide, or the significance of oil discoveries and the main roads that are being constructed. Then again, I do not know why hon. members opposite tried to pick holes during the election campaign in what has been done in the field of education. If anything helped the Government parties to win the election, it was the policy implemented by the Minister for Education and Migration for the education of the children of Queensland. I know that our opponents say that we are not spending as much on education as they did. All I can say is that if we are not spending as much as the Opposition did when they were in power they must have been wasting a considerable amount of money, because one has only to travel throughout Queensland to discover the wonderful feeling among the

people as the result of our policy on education. New schools are being established everywhere and today there are very few pupils in Queensland who are not within reach of secondary education.

In my electorate, for many years the nearest high school was in Mackay. This year we have another new high-school building in Mackay, a new high school has been started in North Mackay, there is a high top at Calen and a beautiful new high school at Proserpine. The same conditions apply throughout the length and breadth of Queensland.

I should say also that the encouragement given by the Government to the tourist industry has done a great deal for the development of this State as a whole and for my electorate of Whitsunday in particular. We believe, as a Government, that the Government provides the amenities for industry development and then private enterprise supplies the industry itself. By building first-class roads and providing mainland jetties for the benefit of tourists at no cost to the local authorities in whose areas they are built, this Government has done much for the tourist industry. These mainland jetties are subsidised by the Commonwealth Aid Fund as are the island jetties to which the Treasurer recently referred. Tourist islands can apply to have jetties built and the actual cost to the proprietor will be 25 per cent. of the total cost, the balance being provided from Government funds. In addition, the proprietor can obtain a loan of his share of 25 per cent. from the local authority and pay it back as a benefited area in the form of increased rent.

We have also seen the building of small-boat harbours along the coast. Hon. members opposite must have noticed them being built in and around Brisbane and at Bowen; surely they do not go around with their eyes closed all the time. These small-boat harbours are being built by the Minister in charge of harbours and marine out of the Commonwealth Aid Fund at no cost to the local authority concerned. That is one way in which the Treasurer has encouraged the development of the tourist industry, and the Government Tourist Bureau itself has allocated a larger amount of money than previously for publicity purposes. We have full coloured brochures now completed for major centres and towns such as Cairns, Toowoomba, Mackay, Townsville, and Rockhampton, and next year any small locality that has been omitted can obtain a £200 subsidy if it wants to publish a colour brochure. Advantage has recently been taken of that provision in the publication of a beautiful brochure on Proserpine and the Whitsunday Islands.

Reforestation projects have also been started in my area. There has been criticism here and questions asked over the past few days about forestry workers being dismissed from these plantations. In my area forestry work goes on only in the wet season each

year, up till about June or July, and it is always looked upon as slack-season work for sugar industry employees. It is no good trying to plant trees between June and Christmas in the dry spring months that we have in the northern areas. In the wet season forestry projects employ 40-odd men, and at the end of the wet season they are quite happy to go back to the sugar industry. There was criticism of the Government because forestry employees were paid off. If they were not paid off they would leave of their own accord and go back to their seasonal work in the sugar industry.

During the election campaign much was made of alleged unemployment in Queensland. In many of the sugar electorates women had to be employed in stripping cane, and again in the planting season, but notwithstanding that Opposition candidates still made the same cry to the electors about unemployment. One has only to look at "The Courier-Mail" or any of the provincial newspapers and see how the "Positions Vacant" columns spread over many pages to realise the true position. Hon. members opposite talk about juvenile unemployment. In Proserpine, which is a reasonable-sized town with pupils leaving school every year, the shire council advertised for a junior typist. It was a good position that any girl would be proud to occupy, but the council received only two applications, one from Brisbane and one from Sydney. That is the real picture of the position as it exists in country areas.

It was said that the prosperity of the sugar industry helped us win the election. Anyone connected with that industry will admit that it is now enjoying a measure of prosperity. It should be recognised also that the embargo under which the sugar industry flourishes has been of wonderful assistance to the Australian sugar consumers. The industry is protected by an embargo that prohibits the importation of overseas sugar. That protection means stability for the industry and an assurance to the Australian consumers that they always will have a plentiful supply of sugar. The embargo imposes on the sugar industry an obligation to provide Australian consumers with all their sugar requirements before any sugar is exported. Over the period the embargo has been in force there have been many upsurges in overseas prices for this commodity. This has resulted in increased returns for the sugar producers for very short periods, but it has never resulted in any upsurge in the price of sugar to the Australian consumer.

Mr. Evans: Over the years it has been stable.

Mr. CAMM: The producers have received a stable price for their sugar. It does not mean protection for only the 8,000-odd cane-farmers; it means protection, too, for the 8,000-odd mill workers and the 8,000-odd

field workers who rely on the sugar industry for their livelihood. Others closely associated with the industry are those who transport sugar in motor lorries and by rail and ship. It has frequently been said that one person in every 10 in Queensland is affected by the prosperity of the sugar industry.

Mr. Newton: That would not be so now with the introduction of automation. It may have been years ago.

Mr. CAMM: The introduction of automation into the sugar industry has resulted in a larger tonnage being grown and a larger tonnage being exported. The money received for that larger tonnage sent overseas is spread over Queensland just the same as overseas earnings always have been. I shudder to think what the price of sugar would be in Australia today without automation in the industry. The introduction of automation in the cane fields and in the bulk loading of sugar has meant that the industry has been able to absorb many increased costs. It is a remarkable industry, and this season's crop will result in a return of £100,000,000 to the producers. This sum will be a little lower than the combined return from all the grazing industries in Queensland. It is even more remarkable when we remember that it will be earned by an area of a little over 400,000 acres in size, which is not as big as some of the large cattle stations in the West. It is truly a remarkable industry when such a return comes from such a small area of Queensland.

In the past few months we have been criticised over the high price received for sugar that is sold overseas. The marketing of sugar is very complex. Only about 12 per cent. of the total world production of sugar is affected by the world market price. Every sugar-producing country in the world has its own protective market, such as we have in Australia with our home-consumption price. Every country in the world enjoys that privilege, but only 12 per cent. of the total world sugar production is affected by the world market price, whereas over 50 per cent. of Australia's production is affected by it. When hon. members know that, they must realise how complex the marketing problems are for the sugar industry.

I am sure that every sugar producer will agree with me when I say how pleased I am that a man of the calibre of Dr. Summerville is to be our new Agent-General. For many years we have been represented by Sir David Muir, a man well versed in the marketing problems of the sugar industry. I am quite confident that Dr. Summerville is equally well versed in our marketing problems and that he will prove a very valuable man when he takes up his position in London.

A short while ago I referred to the protection enjoyed by the sugar industry. I remind hon. members that everything connected with the sugar industry, every

purchase we make of machinery and fertiliser, or of any other commodity, also enjoys a certain amount of protection.

Mr. Evans: We help the fruit industry.

Mr. CAMM: We cannot order from overseas any item of machinery that can be manufactured in Australia without paying high import duty. We are in the same position as other industries. When we speak about protection we must realise that virtually all manufacturing industries in Australia enjoy the same measure of protection to meet the high cost of production. I do not make any excuse for that because I believe that the workers in our industries enjoy, and deserve, the highest living standards in the world. When we have a high cost of production we must expect a high cost for articles produced in Australia. That is why the sugar industry subsidises the fruit processors in the cost of sugar used in products sent overseas.

Many people in the sugar-growing areas are very optimistic over the expansion that they think will come about in the industry through the high overseas price ruling today. The industry has always been happy to take in new growers and new producers. The short-term measure adopted by the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board to provide the sugar required for the overseas market has been to allow the growers to grow a larger percentage of their assignments. As a long-term measure, the sugar industry approached the Premier to appoint a committee of inquiry to inquire into all aspects of marketing sugar so that we could go forward with an orderly method of expansion and no-one would suffer unduly in the event of a recession in the sugar areas.

Much has been said about the establishment of new mills. I do not want to dwell at length on that subject because it will be the job of the committee of inquiry to study it and from the report of that committee the Government will determine the future policy of the sugar industry. But I should like to stress that, in nearly all mill areas in Queensland, there is ample land on which to grow all the sugar needed to supply the foreseeable market. I do not think there is any need for anyone to talk about the establishment of a new mill in any area of Queensland. Even though I should like to see further development take place in the North, the establishment of a new mill, with its tremendous expenditure, its transport difficulties and the provision of new bulk-handling equipment, would cost a tremendous sum. While we have mills today that are not crushing up to their full capacity and farms that are not producing up to their full capacity, while we have other land available in mill areas within the present transport system of the mills and capable of growing cane, and while those mills are prepared to accept new growers as suppliers, I do not see any need for a new sugar mill.

Mr. Evans: Without any financial responsibilities.

Mr. CAMM: I am quite sure that that is true of the proprietary mills as well as of the co-operatives. Both the co-operative mills in my district have signified their willingness to take in new growers to share in the profits and all the other benefits that the shareholders have enjoyed over many years.

Mr. Byrne: Without any premium?

Mr. Evans: Yes.

Mr. CAMM: Yes, Proserpine and Farleigh mills are prepared to take farmers in without the payment of one penny premium.

A previous Opposition speaker claimed that it was the Australian Labour Party that started the sugar industry on the road to prosperity. I want to point out to the House that it was under the Sugar Works Guarantee Act of 1893 that most of the sugar mills in Queensland came into existence. The Government of the day guaranteed groups of farmers the finance to build new sugar mills.

Mr. Lloyd: Back to the days of the kanakas.

Mr. CAMM: Many of these mills did not employ kanakas.

Mr. Evans: How many mills were built under that Act?

Mr. CAMM: Under the Sugar Works Guarantee Act there were 11 mills built in Queensland, but others were financed by the Government before the Act came into operation.

(Time expired.)

Mr. THACKERAY (Rockhampton North) (4.5 p.m.): At the outset, let me congratulate the newly-elected members on this side of the House, namely, the hon. member for Port Curtis, Mr. Hanson, and the hon. member for Tablelands, Mr. Wallis-Smith. I believe that these two members will be welcome acquisitions to this side.

I should also like to thank the Australian Labour Party for endorsing me as their candidate, and also my campaign director, the trade-union movement generally, and all the other people in the Rockhampton area who supported me and enabled me to increase my margin very handsomely. Let me say that we gave the hon. member for Rockhampton South one of the greatest frights of his life. We ran to within 149 votes of him and it was only on the shenanigan vote—the preferential vote—that he is here today. I say quite frankly that the hon. member for Rockhampton South, the Mayor of Rockhampton, will not be in this House after the present term.

In "Sunday Truth" of last Sunday there were two outstanding items. One concerned a Federal Cabinet Minister, Mr. Davidson,

and the hon. member for Whitsunday, Mr. Camm. Mr. Camm was invited to see Mr. Davidson concerning the election for the seat of Dawson. He was told to go to lunch. When the button was pressed and the young girl came in—

Mr. CAMM: I rise to a point of order. I never thought that I would have to sit here and listen to such a statement as I have just heard. In fairness to Mr. Davidson, I was invited to see him. I was never invited to any Cabinet session.

Mr. THACKERAY: There was another statement in "Sunday Truth" concerning a Cabinet Minister, and I think we all realise that it referred to the hon. member for Mirani, "Big Ernie", or "Sell-out Ernie", because he said he would retire after this term but only if he was able to get his blood brother into the Cabinet. After his speech today, I do not think that there is much chance of that. I think that he has joined forces with the hon. member for Nundah, known as "Knocker Knox".

He made some alarming statements about Australian Labour Party members, particularly trade-union officials, going overseas from time to time. Let me say quite openly that I believe that it is a good thing for trade-union officials, members of Parliament, and people in all walks of life to go to other countries and endeavour to understand their problems. If it is good enough for Mr. Khrushchev to go to America and have interviews with Mr. Kennedy, the President of the United States, and for Mr. Macmillan, the blood brother of hon. members on the other side (not forgetting the Profumo scandal and all that happened there), to do the same thing, let me say that it is good enough for our trade union officials, who belong to the Australian Labour Party, to visit these countries. I would love to go and see what they are doing. If it is good enough for Khrushchev's son-in-law to have an audience with the late Pope John, it is good enough for anyone else, even if he be a member of the Communist Party, to travel abroad.

Concerning three weeks' annual leave, the hon. member for Whitsunday said, "We believe in arbitration." What he believes in is arbitration for the slaves, but for the white-collar workers increases in pay by agreement between the Government and the unions concerned. He knows that just prior to the election—in fact, in the last three weeks of the campaign—increases were granted to public servants, members of the teaching profession, and members of the Police Force. I am not opposed to those increases, but why should there be one rule for one section of the community and a different rule for another section? The Minister likes to keep the old fellow with the pick and shovel well down, and that is the policy of the Government.

I believe that the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity was politically dishonest in this Chamber a fortnight ago. He is well known as "Sell-out Ernie."

Mr. EVANS: I rise to a point of order. I have to listen to ratbags outside, but I do not have to listen to ratbags in the House. The statement that I am dishonest is insulting to me, and I ask the hon. member to withdraw it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I ask the hon. member to withdraw the remark that he made about the Minister.

Mr. THACKERAY: I will take a point on that. I will withdraw it on condition that the Minister withdraws the remark he made about me.

Mr. EVANS: I withdraw my remark.

Mr. THACKERAY: The Minister said that tests were being undertaken at the Rockhampton Gas Works and results were awaited, but he gave no details. I believe that the Minister was politically dishonest a fortnight ago when he was asked a question in the House because only today there was an announcement that the Government intended selling the Ogmoo State Coal Mine. More than likely it has been sold already to the Mitsui Coal Group in Japan, to which the Minister is a frequent visitor. Let us have no more talk about sell-outs.

Let me now say something to the Minister for Education and Migration. The police are very upset about conditions at the Rockhampton gaol and watchhouse. Representations have been made to the Minister by the executive of the Police Union and its secretary, Mr. Callaghan, but he has simply turned a deaf ear to them. It is right in the centre of the city of Rockhampton.

Mr. Pizzey: Who put it there?

Mr. THACKERAY: I admit that it was put there by a Labour Government, but the present Government has plans for an additional seven cells for some of its clientele. It is an eyesore in the city, and I suggest that the Government should give serious consideration to providing another gaol, perhaps along the lines of a prison farm, outside the municipal area of Rockhampton. There is not sufficient land available on the present site for any further extensions. The exercise yard is already very cramped for prisoners who have to spend a maximum of 28 days there, and in some instances they are not given enough exercise. There is always the danger of a break-out—it could come at any time—and the Police Union and its officials are worried about the responsibility of members of the Police Force. I believe that warders come under the workers' compensation scheme of the State Government Insurance Office. I suggest that a gaol should be established, under the supervision of a superintendent, somewhere outside the city of Rockhampton. If the Government

is fair dinkum in regard to costs, I contend that it is cheaper to staff a prison with warders than it is to engage extra policemen. As all hon. members are aware, there is a shortage of about 250 policemen in Queensland. The Government talks about crime, corruption, bodgies, and so on, in the State, but it will not even strengthen the Police Force. The Minister knows that the union has asked him on many occasions for an increase in strength and has told him that there is a shortage of 250 men.

Mr. Pizzey: They are 100 men better off than they were in 1957.

Mr. THACKERAY: I am stating facts. In spite of Government talk about this glorious era, I will tell the Minister a few things. He can crow about education but he cannot crow about this. These men should be released from the position they are in, the gaol should be shifted out of Rockhampton, and five men could easily be released as warders. I ask the Minister to give serious consideration to this and a number of other matters which I will deal with in a moment.

I should like now to deal with abattoirs, because once again the Minister for Education and Migration comes to Rockhampton and tries to quell the outbreak in Country Party ranks there. The Minister spoke in several areas about the projected abattoir. Hon. members know that in the Federal sphere there is an argument on between the Leader of the Country Party, Mr. McEwen, and the Liberal Party about the body-snatching that is going on in relation to endorsements in several seats. The same thing is beginning to happen in Queensland. There is no doubt that in Queensland the Liberal Party is the dominant party in the Government and "Country Party" is spelt with a very small "c". The Country Party in Queensland has sold out the people who support it. The Minister for Education and Migration knows how his slush account has gone down as a result of resignations in Central Queensland. He has sold out to the Liberal Party and the meat combines—the C.Q.M.E. Company, which is Vestey's, Fields Pty. Ltd. and some of those other companies.

The hon. member for Rockhampton South came into this House the other day—I am sorry he is not here today because he has been up and down like a yo-yo—and said quite openly that he was very pleased that no abattoir is to be built in Rockhampton and in his remarks, or Mr. Hinchliff's, dealt with the position in Townsville. The only reason abattoir costs are so high in Townsville is the sell-out of the board. No-one can tell me that I am wrong. The sell-out of the board is the sole cause for the cost being so high.

In Ipswich, where the chairman of the board is a member of the Australian Labour Party, the abattoir shows a profit year in, year out, and it gives the people of Ipswich very cheap meat. The price is very low compared with that treated by the Queensland Meat Industry Board.

The people of Rockhampton want to know exactly the terms of the agreement between C.Q.M.E. Company and Fields Pty. Ltd. We asked a question in the House and received a reply from the junior member of the Cabinet. Incidentally, I must congratulate him. I should say that he is a fine successor to the late Otto Madsen, to whom I should also like to pay tribute.

I say quite openly that no-one in Rockhampton knows the exact terms of the agreement between C.Q.M.E. and Fields Pty. Ltd. We do not know exactly what the terms will be in relation to the 20 per cent. of killing rate and the query that has been raised with me is whether it is to be 20 per cent. of the killing facilities that will be available after 1965. Does 20 per cent. of killing facilities mean refrigeration facilities and all the rest of it in April, May and June each year, which is the flush season in the meat industry when the peak kill is reached in the meatworks in Queensland? Are Mr. Mark Hinchliff and Mr. Vestey prepared to make available 20 per cent. of the facilities during peak production at Lake's Creek, which is about 1,300 head under the new chain-gang system? Say there are 2,000 and the capacity is 1,300 as the maximum kill—

Mr. Evans: Twenty per cent. of capacity.

Mr. THACKERAY: Let us say 2,500 head are sold at the Rockhampton saleyards on the Monday. Outside operators also buy there. Is it likely that Mark Hinchliff is going to say, "I'll knock my kill down 500 for the day so that I can kill my mate's cattle"? Certainly not. Is he going to make available 20 per cent. of the refrigeration space at the meatworks? Are Fields going to do the same? What are the arrangements about refrigeration space? What would happen if some outside operators were waiting for a ship? What are the conditions imposed on these outside operators? It is a lot of poppycock! We all know it. We know that it has been a complete sell-out. Until we can learn something different we will be highly suspicious of what is going on. As to private operators killing, Mr. Hinchliff's company owns 75 per cent. of the butcher shops so he would not be worried very much about the rest.

Last year I drew to the notice of the House the pollution of the Fitzroy River. Now we learn that Fields are going to build at Nerimbera. Everyone in Rockhampton knows that the Fitzroy River has been polluted by Lake's Creek meatworks for years. Any of the people five or six miles up the river can tell us of the fat and all the rest of it on the banks of the river. This matter has previously been brought to the notice of the Minister but now Fields are going to do the same thing at Nerimbera. Last year I asked a question in the House about hygiene at the Lake's Creek meatworks. I said a lot of nasty things about Lake's Creek. I said that they had been protected for years and years.

A Government Member: By your Government.

Mr. THACKERAY: Yes, ours in the past and the hon. member's at the present time. They have not carried out the provisions of the Health Act. The Government has done nothing about that. Over 1,000 men and women are using straight-through discharge pipes into the river, and then they pump the water back for washing the floors down. There have been cases of lads contracting tuberculosis because of the diseased cattle at Lake's Creek meatworks. I have drawn the matter to the attention of the Government, particularly the Minister in charge of the Department of Primary Industry, and Mr. Biddle, who is the chief officer there. I have asked that some action be taken. It is quite clear to me, and to everyone else who knows the position at Rockhampton, that Mr. Biddle and the works manager at Lake's Creek, Mr. Day, are working hand-in-glove as far as the hygiene of the killing facilities at Lake's Creek is concerned. I say that without equivocation because no action has been taken; it is still going on. Of course, some action has been taken because of the American export market. At the moment the C.Q.M.E. company are killing 70 per cent. of their stock for the American export market, 20 per cent. for the English market and 10 per cent. for home consumption. The American authorities are demanding that vast improvements be effected at the C.Q.M.E. meatworks at Rockhampton. Without doubt, if the C.Q.M.E. company does not carry out these improvements it will lose its American order. I was with the Federal A.L.P. Development Committee three or four months ago when it went through the meatworks in Rockhampton. In the smallgoods section there was a container approximately 6 ft. long, 4 ft. wide and 4 ft. deep full of half-cooked meat. The contents were rotten with maggots and blowflies. No cover was provided. The people of Rockhampton were eating that stuff. But now the American authorities are forcing the issue.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. THACKERAY: They were not there to start with. There were six or seven Federal members of Parliament there standing right beside me. One would think that this afternoon the hon. member for Whitsunday would realise that this is important. It was not ham; it was cooked meat. That has happened at Lake's Creek for years. It is about time the people of Rockhampton had a better service from Lake's Creek. It is about time, too, that Mr. Biddle realised his position and contacted his officers there instead of ringing Mr. Day, the works manager, to get authority about what to do and what not to do. That is what is happening at the meatworks at Lake's Creek. I defy anyone to prove otherwise.

Let me say something now about television. For the past week and a-half we, in Rockhampton, have had the pleasure of viewing television. I think it is a wonderful amenity for the people and they were all looking forward to it. I must say that one funny thing has happened. On the opening night we were all standing in the viewing room at the Criterion Hotel, and of all nights for it to play up, it had to be that night. Of course, the mayor of Rockhampton, the hon. member for Rockhampton South, came on to the screen, and the next thing he was doing Catherine-wheels and somersaulting backwards and forwards. Of course, the editor of "The Morning Bulletin" could not miss a dig at me. He said, "It must have been the hon. member for Rockhampton North getting out there in his own territory and cross-circuiting the wires, or something," or he said, "The chairman of the abattoir board must have been the culprit." All that is just beside the point, to let hon. members opposite cool down a little.

I want to launch an attack on the manufacturers of television sets in Australia. They are blatantly racketeering. In Rockhampton, and for that matter in Queensland as a whole, people are being exploited with television sets and all other types of electrical apparatus. We have only to read any newspaper to see, quite openly, that it is possible to get £80 off a refrigerator and so much off a washing machine, and so it goes on and on. This is happening in Rockhampton right now. On a set that costs £175 you can get £50 off. That is the discount given to the buyer. The distributors of these sets came to Rockhampton and had cocktail parties and told the retailers, through their wholesale distributors in Queensland, that no discount whatsoever was to be given on television sets. They said, "That is the retail price, gentlemen. You must stick to it." Now one can go around Rockhampton and get at least £50 off a set. With some sets one can get £60 and I have been offered £75 off the price of a set. I have not yet bought a television set for reasons that I will mention later. I will buy one when the national programmes come on the air; I do not want some of the slush programmes that we are getting now.

In Rockhampton the people are being exploited by this racket in discounts on retail prices. For a set costing £175 retail, the buyer can get £50 off the price. Then the retailer gets his cut of about £20. After that the wholesale distributor for Queensland gets his cut out of it, and then the manufacturer in New South Wales gets his share. When you add up everyone's chop you find that the television set you are buying at a retail price of £175 is not worth £50. That is what is being foisted on the people of Rockhampton.

There are many brands of television sets and I know there are differences between the various types, but the people in Rockhampton are being fleeced by fly-by-night operators who come in like vultures for the

television kill. Furthermore, some of the reputable business houses in Rockhampton are not carrying out proper business practices of the standard that might be expected of them. For various reasons I do not intend to name any organisations here today, but one southern operator came to Rockhampton—and, of course, one of his salesmen is a well-known confidence man. Only last year he was in Rockhampton with a fictitious letter signed by a monsignor of the Roman Catholic Church of Sydney on church paper and he was going around Rockhampton hawking mass cards for the people of that religious belief at £5 a pop. Naturally he did not last very long. He was released from gaol not long ago after serving four months and he told certain people that the only reason he went to gaol was to protect his boss but he got £500 for doing it. This is the type of person going around Rockhampton selling television sets to people who do not understand the position there at the moment.

A large proportion of the sets that are being sold in Rockhampton are not the current models being displayed in Brisbane. Only a fortnight or so ago a transport truck came back from Townsville fully loaded with television sets. When this business man was asked why they went to Townsville, he said, "Oh, it was over-carriage, a mistake by the road-transport driver." Can you imagine that being true—paying the State transport facilities tax and all the other taxes! He only went 500 miles out of his way and overran to Townsville when he should have stopped at Rockhampton!

Here is another example of the type of stuff they are putting on. Mr. Bill Mellors, licensed victualler of the Globe Hotel, has been in Rockhampton for about 2½ years. He brought his television set with him from Brisbane. He turned the set on daily, as instructed, to keep the valves warmed and in working order, pending the installation of telecasting facilities in Rockhampton. Three days or so before the opening night he was receiving quite good pictures on the set when all of a sudden it started to play up, so his wife rang a very reputable retailer in Rockhampton. I would say he was one of the leading retailers, if not the leading electrical retailer, in the city. The salesman came down and he said, "I will have to take this set away." It was taken away and he rang back and said, "Oh, this has got to be done and that has got to be done to it. We will have to get parts up from Melbourne." So Bill said to him, "Look, I have a phone here. We will ring Melbourne direct now and we will have that part for the set on the plane this afternoon." "Oh," said the salesman, "just a minute. I had better find out a bit more about this." He went off and found out and then he said to Bill, "We will have to make the part here in Rockhampton." Bill Mellors then said to him, "Give me a quote for the job." They said, "Oh, it will cost you at least £20 for the part," and this and that. So Bill asked, "Is there any chance

of having it ready for Saturday night?" He was told, "Oh, no, Mr. Mellors, there is no chance whatsoever for Saturday night." But this organisation does not do the repairing or the servicing of television sets. It gives the work out to a very reputable servicing organisation, and of course there is the old badger trick; they hock the set if they possibly can. They said, "You can't have it under a fortnight, but we'll give you £60 now for this set and you can have one installed in your hotel immediately this afternoon or tomorrow morning. It will be all ready for the opening on Saturday night." Mr. Mellors said, "I am sorry, but I do not intend to carry on with you any more. I am going to take that set away from you." He said, "Where is the set now?" He was told the name of the service organisation and telephoned them. A girl answered the phone and said, "I will inform the manager now." The manager rang back within two minutes and said, "What is the reason for taking the set away?" He said, "I have been told it cannot be fixed for over a fortnight; that the fine tuner on the inside is beyond repair and that it will cost over £20." The manager said, "I am here to look after the people I service sets for, but my first duty is to the firm that I represent. This organisation"—which is the largest seller of electrical goods in Rockhampton—"has told you an untruth and is trying to fleece you. The part required for the set costs only £5. Taking it apart and putting it back will cost about another £5 or £6, and I will guarantee that you will have your set back in your home tomorrow afternoon and it will not cost more than £11." That is the practice going on, and yet we talk about reputable organisations.

I shall tell the House some more about these service organisations. An antenna costs £4 10s. retail. Two boys of about 17 or 18 erect it on the side of a house. They take about an hour and a half to do the job, and the bill is £17 10s. As hon. members are aware, we have these fly-by-night operators in service organisations. I say quite openly that the people of Rockhampton will have to look closely at the general service position. One service rate in Rockhampton for a particular brand of set is £11, because it is made by the organisation, but the average cost is £15 a year. If such an organisation gets 500 contracts for a year, that amounts to £7,500. As with new cars, we all know that very little trouble is experienced with any new article, so that if these contracts bring £1,500 worth of trouble against a coverage of £7,500, the operators could walk out of Rockhampton after the first year with £6,000 in their pockets, and the people of Rockhampton would never see them again.

I only wish the mayor of Rockhampton were present now because I have something to say about another service organisation. This was a southern firm that wired a Government building after undercutting in

its price by many pounds all the other electrical contractors in Rockhampton. At such a price, surely the Minister should have realised that there was something wrong with the organisation. The building was wired but was never passed by the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board. Fresh tenders had to be called and the wiring of the court house in Rockhampton done again. It was done in the first place by a fly-by-night organisation from Brisbane, now television specialists. I do not know how many times the people of Rockhampton have to be told about con men. The hon. member for Rockhampton South would know a lot about such people.

This same organisation then tendered for the electrical re-wiring of the caravan park at Rockhampton. I am led to believe that this tender was not recommended but its acceptance was forced through, and they are now going to do this work, even though they have already cost the Government hundreds of pounds. The mayor must accept the responsibility for giving the contract to this firm.

Mr. Bennett: For any consideration?

Mr. THACKERAY: We all know various things about that. One gentleman went to this organisation for a job as a labourer and was told, "Yes, you can have the job, but bring along a pick and shovel and crowbar because we will have to dig up a bit of dirt." That is the type of organisation it is. The Government is responsible for it because it is not policing the Hire Purchase Act as it should be policed. I could say a few more words about that, but I know it is difficult for hon. members opposite to understand the problems of working-class people.

Let me say this about the hon. member for Rockhampton South. It was not very long ago that T.V. Rentals came to Rockhampton. The hon. member jumped into print and said, "Yes, you must have T.V. rentals." The firm has a little shop in East Street, for which it probably pays a small rental. It has fixed the front up with fancy trimming, and it is there to exploit the people. I say this to the people of Rockhampton in regard not only to T.V. Rentals but also all other television rental organisations: "Seriously consider the television rental position before you accept a set." The majority of television rentals are for six months. In Rockhampton it costs about £72 for the first year and about £122 for two years, and that is on a £142 superseded-model set. The wholesale price would not be £72, so the poor old worker pays for the set in rental in the first year. From then on it is a lay-down misery for the television rental organisations. It is all profit. I say to the established business houses in Rockhampton, people of repute in television servicing, that they should seriously consider setting up an association to protect their interests and the interests of the people of Rockhampton against the fly-by-night

operators who are in Rockhampton now and have been in other States. There is such an association in N.S.W., where it has been found necessary to set it up to counteract the activities of people who are interested only in making a quick kill, knocking off £6,000 in a year, and getting out. I advise the people of Rockhampton to shop round. There is not a shop in Rockhampton that will not give a big discount on a television set, and any person who pays the full retail price for a set is a complete fool. All the dealers are trying to make a quick quid in the first 12 months or so before sales taper off. Hire-purchase organisations and business houses charge varying rates of interest, and I advise people to get the best rates that they can. I do not want to mention names, but if people come to me privately I will give them the name of organisations from which they will get the best deal on hire purchase, and they can then look round and find out which is the best set to buy.

I wish to say something now about a gentleman who was in Rockhampton as recently as last Sunday night. He is well known as B. A. Santamaria, Santamaria Incorporated, and so on. It was quite obvious to me that my worthy colleague, the hon. member for South Brisbane, completely annihilated him in "Sunday Truth" last Sunday. The people of Rockhampton of all religious denominations said, "Here is a man who in all sincerity can deliver a message such as this." The hon. member for South Brisbane is president of the Nudgee College Old Boys' Association, and no-one can doubt the honesty of his remarks about the National Civic Council and Santamaria Incorporated. Mr. Santamaria was in Rockhampton and congratulated the R.S.L. Let me conclude with this: If Mr. Santamaria is so worried about Communists, as a descendant of Italian stock he should go back to Italy and fight Communism there, where it has virtual control of the Italian Government. In Australia today we have no Communists in Parliament.

Mr. RAMSDEN (Merthyr) (4.45 p.m.): In pledging my loyalty and that of the people of Merthyr, I should like to join with the hon. member for Carnarvon and the seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha. These hon. members have shown that they will add lustre to the debating strength of this Parliament.

We look forward to the return to the Governorship of the State next month of His Excellency Sir Henry Abel Smith. In saying that, I wish to place on record my appreciation of the work done by Sir Alan Mansfield as Administrator on the occasions I have had to use his services during his period of administration.

In addition, as is customary at this time, I should like to extend my congratulations to the new members of the House. Unlike the hon. member who has just resumed his

seat, I want to extend them to the new members on both sides of the House, namely, the hon. member for Clayfield, the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt, the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha, the hon. member for Port Curtis, and the hon. member for Tableland.

A Government Member: They are a big improvement.

Mr. RAMSDEN: They are a big improvement. I must say that anybody who came into the House on the Opposition side could not help but be an improvement. The new members on the other side will undoubtedly improve their colleagues.

To you, Mr. Speaker, I offer my personal congratulations on your appointment for your second Parliament as Speaker of the House; and, of course, to my old bowling skipper, Mr. John Row, I offer my sincere congratulations on his appointment to the Ministry in place of the late Mr. Otto Madsen, whose passing we all regret. To my friend and colleague with six years' acquaintance in the broom cupboard, Mr. Keith Hooper, I again offer my sincere congratulations on his appointment as Chairman of Committees.

Lastly, I wish to thank the electors of Merthyr who have returned me to this House for my third term. I want to say in passing that when I first came to the House in 1957 I came in on a very narrow majority of 121 votes.

Mr. Hanlon: In other words, by political accident.

Mr. RAMSDEN: If I came in by political accident it is no accident that keeps me here. My constituents now do it on purpose. In 1960, instead of a mere majority of 121 I was returned with an absolute majority of 20 and in the last election that majority went up to 640, absolute. So I say that if my return to this House was a political accident I am here on purpose from now on and I will stay here.

Now let me turn my attention to matters that have been discussed by other hon. members in this debate. They are matters, I believe, that need some answering. Firstly, let me turn my attention to the hon. member for Norman.

Mr. Aikens: Do you think he is worth speaking about?

Mr. RAMSDEN: No, I do not think he is worth speaking about but I wish to answer what he said. He spoke with some emotion; he had just suffered the loss of his father and I want to say to him that I sympathise with him. I know from my own personal experience what a gap the loss of one's parent can leave in the life of an affectionate son. I hope that what I am going to say in reply to the hon. member will not be misconstrued, for I reply to him in deepest charity.

After telling the House of the war record of his father, a record of which the hon. member may well be proud, he then went on to give the war records of the rest of his family. And a very good record it is, too—six boys in the A.I.F., four of whom apparently married service women. As a record of war service it is one of which he can feel justly proud—I have no objection to his placing it on record in "Hansard"—but my criticism is directed against the occasion upon which he placed it there and its use in connection with the rest of his speech. For example, he had just referred to "the filthy, guttersnipe tactics of my opponents and the Liberal Party in general, and, in particular, the typical Fascist type of propaganda they expounded." It is rather significant that when anyone speaks against Communism he is immediately branded a Fascist by the Communists, their supporters and their fellow travellers. Lest I should be misunderstood or misquoted, let me say here and now that I have an abhorrence in equal degree both of the Fascists on the Right and the Communists on the Left. In my thinking there is no place for either of these two revolutionary religions, politics, or parties—call them what you will.

If the hon. member for Norman used the war record of his family to prove that anyone with such a family record in the armed services could be neither of the extreme Left, nor an associate of the Communists or a Communist, then I am afraid his illustration proves nothing. During the war I served in many places in Papua and New Guinea. One of them was Milne Bay. Amongst the units that came under my official notice, and which I visited weekly, was a small anti-aircraft battery on the shores of Milne Bay that was under the command of a Lieut. Edward Laurie. Mr. Laurie was a very good commanding officer—he was a very popular officer and a very good soldier, too. But let there be no doubt about it—the same Ted Laurie was a self-confessed Communist. In fact on at least three occasions he stood for the electorate of Kooyong as a Communist candidate against Prime Minister R. G. Menzies. When I tell the House these facts what does it avail the hon. member for Norman to say that anyone who is a member of the R.S.L. must be loyal to the Throne?

Ted Laurie never rose beyond the rank of lieutenant, as far as I know, because Army Command, although realising his good qualities, never felt that he could be completely trusted. How valid then is the argument advanced by the hon. member for Norman that a man wearing an R.S.L. badge is of necessity beyond reproach or suspicion? I have said these things because, by implication, the hon. member accused me of brain-washing a young lady to whom I introduced him as my niece.

Mr. BROMLEY: I rise to a point of order. I did not accuse the hon. member—I should

say the member for Merthyr—of brain-washing the young lady in relation to his ideas and his political ideas. I accused the Liberal Party as a whole.

Mr. RAMSDEN: I accept the hon. member's statement. This matter is rather too trivial to mention. Indeed, I would not have wasted the time of the House in replying to the statements of the hon. member had it not been that he, in what I considered to be a hypocritical claim that he did not wish to endanger this young lady's employment, used every opportunity to identify her and sow the seeds of discontent with her employer. No, he did not want to name her, and he refused to name her, he said—and I quote him—"because she is employed in Brisbane and I wish to protect her name." In his eagerness to protect her he thought nothing of revealing the name of the firm and the product it made. He thought nothing of saying that she was damaging the sales and their product by asking him, where his hammer and sickle were. This is too silly to talk about.

As a matter of fact, I said to the hon. member for Norman, who was accompanied on that occasion by the hon. members for Bulimba and Barcoo, "Fred, have you met my niece, Miss Betty James?"

Mr. Bromley: You have mentioned the young lady's name yourself.

Mr. RAMSDEN: I did it deliberately. If the hon. member will listen, he will know why. At the time I was with the hon. member for Nundah and the hon. member for Greenslopes. We had been talking.

Mr. Bromley: I particularly left out the name of the hon. member for Greenslopes in my speech. Just take a note of that.

Mr. RAMSDEN: I am putting it in. The hon. member for Greenslopes has not asked me to hide the fact that he was with us.

A Government Member: He was proud to be with you.

Mr. RAMSDEN: He was quite proud to be with me. Most people are proud to be with me.

To carry on with the story, we had been talking and joking with this young lady for a short time before the arrival of the three Opposition members whom I have mentioned. We were genuinely interested in the product. We had seen a partial demonstration of it and had had many things explained to us. As a matter of fact, my only interest in speaking to the hon. member was to protect the young lady from the remark which, to my mind, from the rather lecherous look on his face, was obviously going to come. I gave her my protection by saying, "Meet my niece, Miss Betty James." I gave her my protection, although I had never seen her before that; I had never met her until five minutes before and I have never seen her since, but I gave

her my protection and said, "Meet my niece, Miss Betty James". I do not know where she is now. At any rate, my introduction had the desired effect on the hon. member, who changed his facial expression immediately and actually became quite respectable. He raised his hat, as a gentleman would.

Mr. Bromley: I think you are romancing.

Mr. RAMSDEN: I am not romancing. He said, "I am pleased to meet you, Miss James." It was then I said to her, "You know, these people are not like us; they are members of the A.L.P." It was then that this lass peered at the hon. member's chest—not, I repeat, at the R.S.L. badge—and said to him, "If that is so, where is your hammer and sickle?" Let me assure the House that at no time had I suggested to her that she should say what she did say, and all I can say—I beg the hon. member's pardon?

Mr. Bromley: I did not say anything, but I will say, "Why don't you tell the truth for once in your life?"

Mr. RAMSDEN: I am telling the truth, as my two colleagues know.

Mr. Hooper: That is completely the truth.

Mr. RAMSDEN: All I can say is that, if the A.L.P. has created for itself a certain image by marching along hand-in-hand with people of questionable character and politics, then neither the hon. member for Norman nor the A.L.P. can blame the young people of today, such as my mythical Miss Betty James, for assessing them in accordance with the image they themselves have created.

Mr. Hanlon: If you think we show any allegiance to the hammer and sickle, why don't you move for our disqualification as members in this House? You know we cannot sit here if we show allegiance to any body outside this country?

Mr. RAMSDEN: The hon. member for Barooa—

Mr. Bromley: Apart from that, you are a horrible liar.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I have listened very attentively to the hon. member for Norman and he is working up to a crescendo to the extent that he has offended against the rules of this House by calling an hon. member a name that is not allowed. I ask him to withdraw it and apologise to the hon. member.

Mr. Bromley: I withdraw that word out of deference to you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member will withdraw it unconditionally. There is no "out of deference" to me or anyone else. His expression is not allowed in the House and it must be withdrawn.

Mr. Bromley: I will withdraw that word, but may I say that the hon. member—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member will withdraw it unconditionally. I do not want any "ifs" or "buts".

Mr. Bromley: I withdraw.

Mr. RAMSDEN: The hon. member for Baroona has just come in on this. I think he is rather silly to come into it in view of statements he made earlier. He asked why I did not move for the disallowance of his right to sit in the Chamber. How on earth could I when it is a well-known fact that Fred Paterson, a former hon. member for Bowen, sat in this Chamber as a known Communist? This is a democracy. How could we stop them?

Mr. Hanlon: What rubbish! What action did you take against Paterson? A Communist sat in here as a member and you did not take any action.

Mr. RAMSDEN: Labour was in office then. Hon. members opposite seem to be very upset when I say these things but not one of them can deny that they marched shoulder to shoulder with self-acknowledged Communists.

Let me turn now to the hon. member for Nudgee, who said in his speech in this debate that this Government claimed credit for many of the developments in Queensland. He made this statement—

"They have tried to claim credit for many of the developments in the State, most of which have come about by natural processes, such as the discovery of oil, the discovery of bauxite, and the discovery of excellent deposits of coal. They were not put there by members of the Government nor were they developed by members of the Government but Government members hop on the bandwagon and point to these things as showing how they have developed Queensland."

A little further on he said—

"This State will develop in the next few years, not as a result of the Government's efforts or the administration of Queensland by the Country Party-Liberal coalition, but purely as a result of money coming into the State from overseas."

How unrealistic can he be? For at least 40 years Labour was in office in Queensland, during which period we were entirely bereft of overseas capital. In the six years under the Country-Liberal Government a climate for overseas capital has been created and it has come in, but the hon. member for Nudgee says it has nothing to do with the Government; that it is purely an accident.

Again, he was highly critical of this Government for setting up committees to investigate matters for it, and then he blamed it because it did not accept the advice of those committees. It is quite apparent that he understands neither the functioning of committees nor the functioning of government. It is the function of committees to

examine facts and to draw conclusions and it is the function of government not to accept necessarily every committee's recommendation but, as a matter of policy, to make up its mind in accordance with the facts placed before it. That is what this Government has done continuously, and I am sure it will continue to do so.

Mr. Aiken: Is this a speech on the Address-in-Reply motion or a speech on the hon. member for Norman?

Mr. RAMSDEN: This is a speech on the Address-in-Reply motion, and the hon. member for Norman, and the hon. member for Nudgee.

The hon. member for Nudgee, acting and speaking in the true character of the A.L.P. in the favourite role of knocker, became highly critical of the Queensland exhibit in the recent Sydney Trade Fair.

Mr. Melloy: So they should have been.

Mr. RAMSDEN: I am glad the hon. member has admitted that. Amongst other things, he said that we went into it half-heartedly and showed poor judgment in going into it at all, and that the other States showed more sense than us by staying right out of it, with the exception of Western Australia, which left us for dead. Is that not typical of the A.L.P. in Queensland?

Let me tell the hon. member, in case he misleads the House by his colossal ignorance, that the section of the State Fair which he says did nothing for Queensland boosted the State immeasurably in the eyes of overseas trade commissioners and exhibitors. Do not let him tell me it did not, because I spent a week down there, not only in the Queensland exhibit but talking day and night to people from overseas and inviting them to come up and see our exhibits. On not one occasion, except from hon. members opposite, did we hear any criticism. We heard nothing from overseas exhibitors but the highest praise.

Mr. Melloy: They were dribbling in your pocket.

Mr. RAMSDEN: I do not know why millionaires from overseas should dribble in the pocket of a poor, humble man like me. The hon. member said that that section of the State Fair would have done nothing whatever for Queensland, that it certainly would not have attracted business from the other States of Australia in competition with other sections that were set up by overseas nations. He said that Queensland had nothing it could sell them, and they were not interested in buying from Queensland but only in selling their own goods.

When he said that, he showed his lamentable ignorance of international trade. Who can buy from us unless we sell to them? To whom can we sell if they do not buy from us? Of course Queensland had goods on display for overseas markets. One firm told me that in the first two days alone of

the fair they had more than paid for their exhibit from overseas orders, yet the hon. member for Nudgee tells us, in his colossal ignorance, that nothing was achieved.

Mr. Sherrington: What were they selling?

Mr. RAMSDEN: They were a machinery firm. The opinion expressed that we had such a poor display that it ill-served the State is not in accord with the opinions of overseas exhibitors and trade commissioners.

Mr. Melloy: If they said that about our display, they must have gone into superlatives to describe the display of Western Australia.

Mr. RAMSDEN: They probably did. I give full credit to Western Australia. Theirs was a magnificent display, particularly when it is considered that they have not a third of the potential of Queensland or a third of its future development.

Mr. Camm: They have quite a good Government.

Mr. RAMSDEN: They have.

Again the hon. member was wrong when he said that other States had enough sense to stay out. Let me point out that there was a Commonwealth pavilion and that it was in that building that the Labour Government of N.S.W. had its exhibit. Let no-one say that it was not there because I spoke to public servants attending it. I shall say a few words about that in a moment. I repeat that, standing down there at the trade fair, with people from overseas on every side, I heard expressions of pride and congratulations referring to the Queensland exhibit in the Sydney Trade Fair this year. Mr. John Godson, the news editor of radio station 2CH, whom I met in the Dutch pavilion, was so impressed with our display when I took him up to see it that he arranged for me to make a broadcast on the Queensland pavilion and its exhibits from his station for transmission throughout New South Wales.

Mr. Melloy: Apparently those fellows were prepared to tell you anything.

Mr. RAMSDEN: All I ask of members of the Opposition is that they do no more of this knocking and decrying of the State of Queensland. Of course the exhibit was not perfect; no-one is saying that it was. There were some firms not represented that I should have liked to see represented. The hon. member for Ithaca, who is well known in the engineering field and in interstate trade, was not represented at the fair. I should have liked to see his firm represented there.

Mr. Windsor: I did not get enough warning.

Mr. RAMSDEN: That may be so.

Mr. Hughes: As distinct from displaying articles made in every part of Queensland, do you think it might be better at the next fair to show only our mineral resources or our developmental projects?

Mr. RAMSDEN: We did that.

Mr. Hughes: But to a greater extent.

Mr. RAMSDEN: I shall have a few words to say about what I hope to see there next year.

I believe that we could have made better use of working models. For instance, the Dutch pavilion had a wonderful working model of the Delta plan by which they keep out the North Sea. We could have had a model of the Wacol Estate or the Hamilton Estate. There could have been models of the Sunlander or the Westlander, similar to those which New South Wales had of its trains.

Mr. Melloy: Why weren't there?

Mr. RAMSDEN: We are not perfect. Even the Country-Liberal Government takes a little time to achieve perfection. Give us a chance. We will do better next time.

I suggest to the Government in all sincerity that at the next trade fair we should do two things. We should appoint, first of all, a co-ordinating officer. It seemed to me, from a study of our pavilion, that there was no-one in charge to give directions to exhibitors. When something happened, there was no-one to tell an exhibitor whether to stay open or close down, or what he should do. I suggest that a co-ordinating officer should be put in charge to take complete control of our displays in future years.

I also suggest, again in all seriousness, that top public servants should go down there, if necessary even on a roster system. One of the things that we found in the New South Wales exhibit—the hon. member for Nundah will agree with me on this—was that they had their top public servants in charge of their exhibits.

Mr. Duggan: You had only Vincie there.

Mr. RAMSDEN: He was better than the hon. gentleman would have been.

I suggest, too, that possibly next time some small island windows might be set up for smaller exhibitors who have not the money to take full floor space. There is one lesson we can learn from the Western Australian exhibit, which the hon. member for Nudgee said was so wonderful. In large plastic cones—made by Peters, incidentally—they had frozen Western Australian wild flowers on display. Perhaps in future we could give some consideration to sending down Cooktown orchids as a counter to the very brilliant display of wild flowers by Western Australia.

I think an inquiry office should be established, too, because there were dozens and dozens of people from interstate and overseas asking questions and at the time the person in charge of a particular stand may not have been there and there was no-one to answer them. I suggest that at the next trade

fair we put in an inquiry box into which people could drop their queries. These could be answered by the public relations office of the firm concerned.

I think, too, that with more time we might well develop illustrated lectures and films on some aspects of the industrial development of the State in much the same way as Holland did with her industrial development films. Those are suggestions which I make in all seriousness for the improvement of our exhibit which, in spite of the knocking by the hon. member for Nudgee, was indeed a very fine one.

Now I want to raise a matter to which I hope the Government will have some regard.

Mr. Duggan: You have abandoned the tunnel idea?

Mr. RAMSDEN: I ask the Leader of the Opposition not to show his ignorance.

There is a certain relationship between landlords and tenants and, for the protection of landlords, there is what is known as the Landlord and Tenant Act. I am going to make a suggestion to the Government, again in all seriousness, because I suppose, with the exception of the hon. members for Kurilpa and South Brisbane, I would have more tenants living in my electorate than anybody else in this Chamber.

There is a great need to protect the good tenant from the bad landlord just as there is to protect the good landlord from the bad tenant, and certain incidents have occurred in the last few months which have caused me great personal concern. I bring them to the attention of this House and hope that what I have to say this afternoon will be considered by the Government in the interests of protecting people who need protection.

Mr. Davies interjected.

Mr. RAMSDEN: The hon. member for Maryborough interjects; he does not seem to realise that, unlike the Labour Party, we have not to submit our ideas to Caucus before expressing them in this Chamber.

Over past months I have become concerned with the attitude adopted by some of these people. The hon. member for Windsor has been advocating in this House for some time now—and I think from statements made in the Press by Government members that he is meeting with some success—the setting up of legal assistance on the civil side of our courts just as assistance is granted under the Criminal Code. The hon. member for Windsor has been pleading for the setting up of a system that will give relief to needy people who have to launch civil actions. I hope that the plan put forward by the hon. member for Windsor comes to fruition because, in these past weeks, I have seen things that are quite illegal, things which should not happen but do simply because the person to whom they happen cannot afford to go to court and prevent them.

Mr. Aikens: Are you speaking of the landlord, or the tenant?

Mr. RAMSDEN: I am speaking of both.

Mr. Bromley: You are having two bob each way.

Mr. RAMSDEN: I do not need two bob each way; I know where I am.

Only a few weeks ago I learned of a landlord in Merthyr who owns property all over Brisbane. He does not live in my electorate; he lives, I think, in South Brisbane, although I am not certain of that. However, the position is that he owns flats. They are quite good flats. I have been in them and have seen them. They are not controlled. He got them out of control by evicting the tenants who were there. He had some tenants, two in particular; one was a woman who was pregnant and who had been taken to hospital suffering a miscarriage. Whilst she was in hospital her husband was injured in a car accident in Brunswick Street and taken to the General Hospital where he still is and where he looks like being for another six months. Because they owed one week's rent, those tenants were forcibly evicted from the premises. This occurred in spite of the fact that they approached the sergeant of police at the New Farm Police Station and acquainted him of what was going to happen. It took place in spite of the attendance of the police at the premises. I took the trouble to ring the Solicitor-General at his home at night. I said, "What is the position in law? These people are being evicted. This is a woman who has come out of hospital prematurely, having just lost her baby by miscarriage. What is the position in law?" The Solicitor-General said, "He cannot do that." I said, "He has done it." I told him that I wanted him to remember the conversation because I wanted to repeat it elsewhere. I am doing that now. In law the landlord could not do it, but in fact he did it. The only way to stop him would have been to take out an injunction in the Supreme Court. How could anybody who was being evicted for owing one week's rent take out an injunction in the Supreme Court?

Mr. Aikens: You should have done what I did on one occasion. You should have gone there and forcibly prevented the landlord from putting them out. You fell down on the job there.

Mr. RAMSDEN: I believe in the rule of law. I do not believe that anybody should have to protect the rights of anybody else in the Australian community by force. It should be done by law. I ask that consideration be given to this matter.

I remember another incident concerning another landlord in my electorate. I went down to see what was happening. He said, "Leave the premises; you are trespassing." In law I was trespassing.

Mr. Aikens: No, you weren't, because the premises belonged in law to the tenant. You don't know your law.

Mr. RAMSDEN: If I am inside the flat, yes; if I am in the grounds, no.

Mr. Aikens: In law you would have been an invitee. You are right.

Mr. RAMSDEN: I am indebted to the hon. member for his explanation of the law.

When I walked into the place on that occasion the landlord sang out to his wife in a hostile voice, "Mum, we have a visitor. Ring up 'Truth' and tell them who it is." "Truth" to its eternal disgrace, actually had the nerve to publish a paragraph in "Truth to Tell" the following Sunday, not naming me, but obviously meaning me. I am asking that the poor, indigent person in these circumstances should receive some protection. I sincerely support the hon. member for Windsor in his plea for legal aid in the civil courts.

Mr. Aikens: Wouldn't it be easier for the Government to amend the Landlord and Tenant Act to protect these tenants?

Mr. RAMSDEN: What is the use of amending the Act? The law says that the landlord could not do it, but he did it. The Solicitor-General himself said that the landlord could not do it, but he did it. What is the use of amending the law? A policeman was there, but under the law the police could not do anything unless an assault took place. (Time expired.)

Mr. COBURN (Burdekin) (5.25 p.m.): I desire to associate myself with the expressions of loyalty to Her Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth and to express to His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Abel Smith, the appreciation and gratitude of my constituents and myself for his devotion to duty and the very kindly and friendly attitude adopted by him towards the people of this State.

During the course of this debate much has been said about the urgent necessity for the development of Northern Australia, with special emphasis on the development of North Queensland. Divergent views have been expressed by the various hon. members who have spoken on this subject and made northern development the basis of their discussions. These contributions have been interesting, but the reasoning applied by some and the knocker attitude adopted by others have been rather startling. To declare with the greatest of emphasis that Northern Australia must be developed, and developed quickly, if we are to retain this Commonwealth, and then to devote all the time allowed for individual discussion in endeavouring to prove to the House that such development is impossible, is simply a waste of time on a contribution that is valueless. The hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha stated that this matter of northern development has become one of the great issues of our time and that we can expect it to remain a great issue for many, many years to come. He said that what he may say on this vital subject might surprise some hon. members.

It might even startle them, he said. He stated that he hoped it would make all hon. members think a little more deeply about it for it is a matter on which it is all too easy to become hypnotised by some sing-song chant of "Let's have development of the North", without thinking what sort of development, for what purpose, and how we are to get the people who will be essential to prosecuting any development of any sort at all.

He went on to declare that he honestly believes that a strong emotional fervour has been built up over the last couple of years for the development of Australia's north. He said that nobody ever explains the development in detail, but that the same theme of "Develop the North" is plugged and plugged and everybody feels that it is good. He said, "This is desirable; indeed, this is fine and patriotic, so let us support it." He said, "Let us get on the bandwagon and join in the wild cry, 'Develop the North'."

What a gratuitous insult such statements are to the band of intelligent, industrious, sincere, patriotic citizens of North Queensland, amongst whom are many of our most successful business men and civic leaders who have already contributed much to the development of North Queensland and who are devoting their time, their talent, and their money to the very commendable work of the development of North Queensland. Amongst the organisations that are enthusiastically supporting a campaign for the development of North Queensland are the North Queensland Local Authorities' Association, the Federated Chambers of Commerce, the People the North Committee, and the New State for North Queensland Movement. I say to the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha that "Develop the North" is not, as he terms it, a wild cry by a lot of irresponsible people. It is a clarion call from experienced, practical and patriotic leaders in the community whose desire is not to be on the bandwagon, but to make our Commonwealth great, strong and secure, by developing its resources and providing homes and a decent standard of living for thousands more people. They are also motivated by a desire to use our undeveloped resources to provide food and clothing for the teeming millions who now exist on a coolie standard and are never far removed from starvation.

To say, as the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha did, that nobody ever explains the desired development in detail is, either through ignorance or by design, to express an untruth. The report on the Burdekin River irrigation, hydro-electric and flood mitigation project, which was thoroughly and comprehensively investigated by the Burdekin River Authority, comprising Queensland's top-ranking public servants, with the late Sir John Kemp as chairman, contained no fewer than 144 pages of printed matter, photographs, maps and graphs.

How any claim for development could be presented in greater detail than this it would be difficult to imagine. Later I shall quote

extracts from the report to show how favourable to the Burdekin River project the Burdekin River Authority was. There are those who, though without qualifications of any kind, knowledge or authority, simply reject the report out of hand. Without any investigation whatsoever by any other competent authority, they very blatantly say, in effect, that the late Sir John Kemp, Mr. W. Nimmo and Mr. Neil Smith, who had the services of such eminent public officers as Messrs. H. Egeberg, Bachelor of Science (Engineering), Member of the Institute of Engineers (Australia), Chief Engineer of the Queensland State Electricity Commission, F. B. Haigh, Associate Member of the Institute of Engineers (Australia), Assistant Commissioner (Engineering) Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, E. M. Shepherd, Master of Engineering, Member of the Institute of Engineers (Australia), Associate Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers, Associate Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Deputy Chief Engineer (Hydraulics), Co-ordinator-General's Department, P. J. Skerman, Bachelor of Arts, Master of Science and Agriculture, Agricultural Resources Officer, Bureau of Investigation of Land and Water Resources, the late A. F. Bell, Bachelor of Science (Queensland), Master of Science (California), Diploma Imperial College (London), Associate of the Australian Chemical Institute, Under Secretary Department of Agriculture and Stock, and Deputy Chairman of the Bureau of Investigation of Land and Water Resources, and Dr. W. A. T. Summerville, Doctor of Science, Director, Division of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture and Stock, who were largely responsible for all the investigations by the various departments and for the departmental reports that were furnished to the authorities, were either so incompetent or so dishonest that they furnished to Parliament a favourable report on a project which the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha, says, if implemented, "must blow up in our faces." The implied insult is so unworthy that it would never be condoned by any decent, sensible person. Until some other competent authority composed of highly-qualified persons completes an investigation as comprehensively and thoroughly as that completed by the Burdekin River Authority and furnishes a report to the effect that it would be uneconomic and therefore unwise to implement the Burdekin River hydro-electric, irrigation and flood mitigation project, the people who are really interested in the development of North Queensland will continue unabatedly to advocate the completion of the project, the first stage of which was undertaken in 1957.

As it would be impossible for me to traverse the whole of the report furnished to Parliament by the Burdekin River Authority in 1951, I hope hon. members will be patient and bear with me at this late hour of the day while I acquaint them with selected quotations from it. The following are some

of the important statements that appeared in the 1951 report of the Burdekin River Authority—

(1) "Australia cannot afford to continue allowing the waters of the Burdekin River to run to waste, and to lose the potential wealth to which construction of even a 75-foot dam would contribute. Speedy construction of the Burdekin Falls dam to this level is therefore imperative as a national interest."

(2) "The Burdekin River Project is of such vital importance to the State and the nation that early and energetic action to speed its development is imperative."

(3) "The Burdekin River Authority is convinced that the Burdekin River project is a sound one and that its immediate implementation on a stage development basis is essential in the State and the National interests."

Those statements are the statements of our most eminent public servants of the day, who were supported by those men whose names and qualifications I have read to the House. Are we expected to believe, as the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha obviously would have us believe, that those statements were made by such eminent, honourable and highly-qualified public officers as the late Sir John Kemp, Mr. Nimmo, and Mr. Neil Smith, for political gain or personal prestige?

What did the Burdekin River Authority have to say in regard to the agricultural aspects of the Burdekin River project? Again I quote from the report—

"(1) There is good evidence, as indicated in reports by the Department of Agriculture and Stock and the Bureau of Investigation of Land and Water Resources that a variety of crops and pastures will thrive in the large area to be served by the project, quite apart from the lands close to the river, which are being and will be utilised in the early stages of development for tobacco and mixed agriculture, including potatoes and other vegetables, pineapples and other tropical fruits, peanuts, cotton, sunflower seed, linseed, and, if required, sugar-cane."

This is the report of men with qualifications, and only they can speak with authority.

The report continues—

"Wheat, maize, sorghums (both sweet and grain), grazing oats, cowpeas, peanuts, sunflowers, linseed, cotton and jute have all been shown to grow successfully in the area to be developed away from the river when gravitational supply is available.

"Considerable expansion of sugar acreage would be possible if and when increased production in the area is desired by the sugar authorities."

That time is now arriving.

The report continues—

"Large areas of the heavier type soils of the main valley floor will offer considerable potentialities for rice production using irrigation as supplementary to the wet season rainfall."

Mr. Lickiss said that these areas are not capable of irrigation. These authorities, who are men with the highest qualifications, tell us that they are capable of irrigation and production on a profitable scale.

The report continues—

"A large part of the irrigable area in due course will be used for the production of irrigated pastures and fodder crops for the livestock industries—dairying, cattle fattening, pig production and, possibly, sheep fattening and fat lamb raising."

A Government Member: Do you know anything about rice-raising?

Mr. COBURN: I have been asked by interjection if I know anything about rice-raising. I know that recently Mr. Robbins, who conducts a dairy farm at Ayr, had his property up for sale. A Canadian was introduced by Dalgetys from Townsville and, when he saw the property, he was very struck with it as a dairying property, but he said, "Did you ever think of growing rice here? You would make more money growing rice than growing sugar-cane." He said that when he returned to Canada he would tell his Canadian friends who were interested in rice production about the possibilities of the Burdekin area, and he said, "You will find them coming out here in droves." On another occasion a Spaniard, who had grown rice in Central America, told a friend of mine that he had never seen a better place for rice production than the area between Brandon and Ayr. So much for the question about whether I know anything about rice production.

The report goes on—

"The stock-raising potentialities of the project cannot be over-emphasised in view of the favourable transport, power and meat-producing facilities at present in the area, the juxtaposition of breeding areas and the increasing demand for meat not only in Queensland but in the other States of Australia and overseas.

"The establishment of irrigated pastures and fodder crops is so vitally needed to give security against drought losses. As pointed out by the Bureau of Investigation of Land and Water Resources, the Burdekin region is extensive enough to act as a holding area for a large number of cattle when drought threatens their very existence outside of irrigation areas.

"Annual turnover of fat beef could amount to 462,000 fat cattle from the stock fattening areas envisaged in the West Burdekin section. This is approximately 50 per cent. of present average annual slaughterings, excluding calves, for the State."

The annual turn-off of fat cattle could rise to 708,000, with the full development representing the turn-off from 66,000 square miles of breeding country. The creation of this assured market for store cattle must assist breeding areas in the management of and the return from properties.

We have either to accept this or declare that our public servants, who were so highly paid and so highly qualified, knew nothing about what they were saying.

Mr. Aikens: And that Mr. Lickiss knew everything.

Mr. COBURN: And that the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha knew everything because he was chairman of the Liberal Party Rural Committee. That was the only qualification he put forward for being an authority on this particular matter.

The Burdekin Delta is already well known as a leading sugar-producing area—the best in the Commonwealth—as a result of the development of irrigation from underground water supplies. There is every reason to believe that similar results can be achieved with the irrigation of other crops and pastures in the large area which can ultimately be commanded by the Burdekin River gravitational distribution system—an area extending from the coast some 70 miles up the Burdekin Valley to the foot of the Leichhardt Range—and including the coastal plain from Bowen to north of Townsville. Only by irrigation can the full potentialities of this large area be developed. Irrigation will enable the production of both agricultural and animal products to be expanded and stabilised and will serve as a protection against drought.

The hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha referred only, as he said, to the lands below the dam. He said that many of them were impermeable and therefore incapable of irrigation, and that the only irrigation carried out was in the Delta. In the Delta we have an underground water supply unsurpassed anywhere in the world, and the whole of the production of sugar cane in the area depends exclusively on supplies of water from the underground reservoir. Nothing is illimitable. In 1935, because of incessant pumping during the dry season, stocks of water became so low that on the marginal farms salt began to infiltrate, and it was feared that if there was not a quick replenishment of the underground water supplies this marvellous basin could be ruined. That possibility faces us for all time; but we are told by the experts that, with the building of the Burdekin Dam at the 99-mile site, water could be let from the main channels into the main feeder streams that run through the basin and the underground supply could be replenished so as to guarantee for all time that supply of water.

The value of sugar in the Burdekin area this year is estimated at £14,000,000, and saving an industry worth that amount is something worth considering. Nobody can

go into the Burdekin area and tell the farmers there that the Burdekin Dam is not desirable. They realise that their very existence as farmers will depend on an adequate replenishment of the underground water supplies should drought continue for any length of time.

In a letter to the secretary of the Burdekin River Authority dated 7 December, 1951, the late Arthur Bell, who was then Under Secretary to the Department of Agriculture and Stock, said—

"In respect of agriculture generally it may be said that experience over the past few years has confirmed the opinion that, assuming suitable soil conditions, almost any temperate zone field crop may be satisfactorily grown under irrigation in the tropics if it is grown as an 'out of season' crop. Indeed, one may go further and say there are reasons for expecting that in many cases yields even better than those of temperate regions will be obtained. In respect of many purely tropical crops, the use of irrigation permits their growth during the dry season—with the consequent comparative freedom from many of the pests and diseases characteristic of normal tropical agriculture."

That statement was made, as I said, by the late Arthur Bell, an eminent Under Secretary for Agriculture and Stock.

Mr. P. M. Silcock, secretary of the Bureau of Investigation, Department of Public Lands, wrote to the secretary of the Burdekin River Authority in 1951 as follows:—

"The Bureau has been associated with the plans for development of the Burdekin region since its inception. It concurs generally with Mr. Skerman's report, which has also been specially reviewed by the members of the Bureau who are associated with the Department of Agriculture and Stock. . . ."

And this is a very significant portion of the letter—

"The Bureau is of opinion that early implementation of the Burdekin River Irrigation, Hydro-electric and Flood Mitigation Project is one of the finest possible means of developing North Queensland and of utilising to the best advantage the land and water resources of the important Burdekin River region."

Mr. Aikens: Will you give the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha a copy of that letter?

Mr. COBURN: He will get it in "Hansard".

Another extract from the Burdekin River Authority's 1951 report reads—

"In the Southern States irrigation has increased the productive capacity of the lands irrigated by from ten to twenty times, under a variety of crops and pastures. Semi-arid country has been converted into a veritable Garden of Eden with flourishing towns and balanced industries, all tending to an increase in

the standard of living, education and culture, and density of population, both human and animal.

"There is every reason to believe that a similar transformation will be effected in the Burdekin area. Indeed, for the majority of species higher yields may be expected there under irrigation than in the South."

Concern has been expressed in some quarters—it has been expressed to me even in this House—that the possible effect of the Burdekin River project on the Burdekin Delta and its underground water supply would be detrimental, but the Burdekin River Authority's report assures us that such fears are unfounded. It declares that as soon as Burdekin Falls Dam reaches an appreciable height and for all time thereafter, the low flows in the river will be considerably increased at the expense of the flood flows, which will be decreased. Should it be found necessary or desirable to supplement the underground supplies in the Delta, it would be possible to provide water in the area by gravitation from the main source of supply upstream.

The Burdekin Delta is a closely settled farming area, much of which has suffered serious and costly damage by flooding on a number of occasions. The Burdekin River Authority's report states very emphatically that the dam will virtually eliminate the risk of occurrence of very large floods.

One day—and we hope that day is not very distant—both Townsville and Bowen will become the locations of large important secondary industries that will require enormous quantities of water; that is, if we do not have the knockers. Both will have no alternative to depending upon the Burdekin for their water requirements and this source could supply them with almost unlimited supplies of water. In relation to this aspect of the project, the Burdekin River Authority's report states—

"Adequate supplementary water supplies for Townsville could be readily achieved by delivery from the main West Burdekin irrigation channel into Ross River, or one of its tributaries where the channel crosses any such stream."

I might add that already Townsville is feeling the effects of a shortage of water. Industry cannot develop in Townsville unless it has adequate supplies of water, and I know of no other place from which it can draw its supplies than from the reservoir created by the Burdekin Dam.

To continue with the Burdekin River Authority's report—

"If the developmental area is not taken beyond Splitter's Creek, a comparatively short extension of the main irrigation channel could provide water to the Don River for supply to Bowen."

The hon. member for Bowen knows as well as I do how short Bowen is of water on so many occasions. If Bowen is to be the

great industrial centre of North Queensland, which I sincerely hope one day it will be, then it will need great quantities of water supplied to it from the Burdekin River.

The report continues—

“If it is found necessary to develop land up to or across the Don River supply can be diverted direct to the stream from the main channel where it crosses the river.”

That is the case on which the proponents for the implementation of the Burdekin River irrigation, hydro-electric and flood mitigation project base their advocacy, not just on something that is plucked out of the air, not a wild flight of fancy, as the hon. member would have us believe. There have been detailed investigations into it. It was because a comprehensive and extensive survey had been made of the whole area.

This was not done by unqualified people, but by people with the highest qualifications which give them authority to speak.

Fortunately, the Premier does not hold views similar to those expressed by the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha. In a letter to me he said—

“However, there can be no doubt of the importance of the Burdekin River when thinking and planning for northern development and that is why in May last we appointed a committee to undertake a survey of the soil types in the Burdekin River Basin and the availability of markets for products that might be eventually produced there. The Minister for Development, who is the Cabinet Minister generally responsible for North Queensland affairs to Cabinet as a whole, was instrumental in having this matter raised.”

The importance of the Burdekin in the development of North Queensland is fully understood by both the Premier and the Minister for Development. They realise that there are some matters in connection with the Burdekin Dam scheme that still need cleaning up. They do not come here and condemn the Burdekin Dam scheme, saying that it would blow up in our faces; they say that there are certain aspects of it about which they are not quite satisfied, and so they have appointed a committee to give confirmation to statements already made on those aspects. As long as they continue to regard the Burdekin River as one of the main bases upon which northern development depends we can be quite satisfied. As a North Queenslander and one who has urged for the Burdekin Dam scheme since 1944, I implicitly believe that one day it will be implemented. Whether it will be in our time or not, I do not know, but I am certain that one day the Burdekin hydro-electric and flood mitigation scheme will be implemented and will become the basis for the development of the whole of North Queensland.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Wallace, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5.53 p.m.