

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 19 AUGUST 1964

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

**BY-ELECTION DURING RECESS;
YERONGA**

RETURN OF WRIT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that during the recess I received from the Registrar-General a certified copy of the registration of the death, on 28 March, 1964, of the Honourable Henry Winston Noble, lately serving in the Legislative Assembly as member for the electoral district of Yeronga.

In accordance with the direction of the tenth section of the Legislative Assembly Act of 1867, I issued a writ on 7 May, 1964, for the election of a member to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Yeronga in the room of the Honourable Henry Winston Noble, deceased, and the said writ was duly returned to me with a certificate endorsed thereon by the returning officer of the election on 6 June, 1964, of Norman Edward Lee, Esquire, to serve as such member.

MEMBER SWORN

Mr. N. E. Lee was introduced, took the oath of allegiance, and subscribed the roll.

DEATH OF HON. H. W. NOBLE, M.B.,
B.S.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN (Landsborough—Premier) (11.5 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“(1) That this House desires to place on record its sense of the loss this State has sustained by the death of the Honourable Henry Winston Noble, M.B., B.S., former Minister for Health and member for the electoral district of Yeronga.

“(2) That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the widow and family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland in the loss they have sustained.”

In moving this motion I think I can very rightly say that the passing of the late Dr. Noble was a great shock to us all. The wonderful tributes paid to him for his services to the State by all sections of the community show very clearly the high regard in which he was held. He was held in high regard as a man, a medico, a member of the Legislative Assembly, and a Minister of the Crown.

There is no doubt that the death of Henry Winston Noble is regretted by all who knew him. He was a great Queenslander and his work as Minister for Health will stand forever as a monument to him. In looking back over a century of self government in this State it is rather strange to find that the late Dr. Noble was the first qualified medical man to administer the Department of Health, and under his direction considerable expansion took place in all fields of medical, health, and hospital services.

The late Dr. Noble entered this Parliament in 1950 as the member for Yeronga and held that seat until his death on 28 March this year. During the time he sat on the Opposition benches in this Parliament he made very many worth-while contributions to the debates in the Chamber, particularly in regard to health matters as they affected the State. When he became Minister for Health he put into practice many of the ideas he advocated as an Opposition member.

In reviewing his term as Minister for Health I think it can be rightly said that he was particularly concerned with the welfare of children and the aged people of Queensland, and the legislation which he introduced in this Chamber to improve their lot was a very definite advance in these fields. The unfortunates in the community concerned him especially and credit must be given to him for the annexes now established in many hospitals of this State to care for the aged and infirm and for the special sections set up for handicapped children.

Another great achievement of his administration was the setting-up of the open-heart surgery unit at the Chermside Hospital which began operating only a few weeks

after his death. We all know that he took a great interest in its development. Queensland's first hole-in-the-heart operation was performed at the Chermside Chest Hospital on 11 April this year and was a complete success. That operation was the climax to nearly two years of work and planning by Dr. Noble. The neuro-psychiatric unit at the Chermside Hospital and the establishment of a cytology department at the Brisbane Women's Hospital for the detection and early treatment of cancer in women were also the result of his planning for up-to-date medical services in this State.

His aim for the integration of psychiatric services within the General Hospital structure was furthered with the opening of the Chermside neuro-psychiatric unit, and the completion of additions to Lowson House will give practical effect to the policy he set out to achieve, that is, to make the mental health services of this State something to be proud of. They certainly are something to be proud of, and they are a monument and a tribute to the work of the late Dr. Noble in the health services of this State.

He also made some worth-while contributions at various interstate conferences which he attended with other Health Ministers of the Commonwealth. His passing will be regretted not only by this State, but also by many other parts of Australia where he was known so well for his work in improving the health services of Queensland. He was a humanitarian in every sense of the word, and his death is undoubtedly a great loss to this State and this Parliament. On behalf of all members of this Assembly I extend the very deepest sympathy to his wife and family.

Mr. DUGGAN (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) (11.12 a.m.): On behalf of the Opposition, I am happy to join the Premier in paying tribute to the late Dr. Noble—not happy because of the circumstances that bring this motion before us, but because of the opportunity of saying, in all sincerity, that we regret and deplore the loss of a person who served the State with such distinction.

It is true, as the Premier pointed out, that it is a long while since we have had a medical man in control of this most important department. Of all departments, it is perhaps the most rewarding to a dedicated person and Minister who is able to influence his Cabinet colleagues in the appropriation of sufficient funds to enable many worthy humanitarian projects to be launched. A man of Dr. Noble's disposition and professional competence had a fruitful field in which to operate, and he seized every opportunity in full measure. It is essential that a professional man should be in charge of a department which is dealing largely with his own specialty, and although we very often find that the main qualification of an administrator is the evaluation of information, and the determination, as a matter of common

sense and practical politics, what can be done with information furnished by specialists, I think it can be said that Dr. Noble had a happy knack of being able to employ his own professional knowledge as well as to evaluate the point of view of the ordinary person in the community.

He was quite a remarkable character in many ways. I think I can say this without detracting from the dignity or solemnity of the occasion: when I was defeated in 1957, although I had no great expectation of being returned as the honourable member for Gregory, as a party responsibility I accepted the duty and nominated for that seat. It may not be inappropriate at this stage to refer briefly to the present member for Gregory who, in quite an unusual way, invited me, on the night of my arrival in the electorate, to become an honorary member of the local club, an invitation not often extended to a political opponent. I did not think that my acceptance would win votes, or that the environment would be helpful, but because the gesture was appreciated I accepted the invitation.

Dr. Noble went out there to campaign for my opponents. He said that what Gregory wanted was a person with the atmosphere of the West well in his blood, that therefore the Country Party nominee should be returned, and that the electors of Gregory would be wise to reject a city slicker. Not having a suave manner, I took this very much to heart. I spoke to Dr. Noble later and said, "I thought it was very unkind of you to refer to me in those terms." He said, "I thought I had better get in first because I am certain that you would have referred to me as a city slicker had you been the campaign director." There was that sense of humour in him.

He had other qualities, too. When we were sitting late he was always happy to give professional advice, of even a surgical character, but I am afraid that some members on this side of the House questioned the wisdom of accepting such offers, fearing that he may have taken the opportunity to remove their vocal cords and render them silent! Nevertheless, he was always ready to offer help and advice to hon. members on both sides of the House.

He was a very generous person in debate. He could hit hard but was also receptive to ideas and suggestions. I say with respect that I think he was more ready to accept amendments from the Opposition than has been any other member of the Cabinet. He did not, for purely party reasons, feel that he would be demeaning himself in any way by accepting suggestions for amendments to Bills. If he felt that there was some purpose behind a suggested amendment and that it would help in some way in the administration of his department, he was always happy to acknowledge the benefit of it or have it examined by his officers and put into effect by administrative instruction later.

For all of these things members of the Opposition are grateful to the late Dr. Noble. He was able to assimilate information very quickly. He had the advantage of a good education, which was perhaps of some importance in this regard. He was certainly a very effective Minister, both in the House and in his administrative capacity.

As the Premier said, Dr. Noble was fortunate in being able to command funds that enabled him to accelerate developments in the period in which we live. This is an age of specialisation in so many fields, of which medicine is not the least important. It was his happy duty and privilege to provide certain increased special services for the medical welfare of the people of this State, and I am certain that those interested in such services are grateful for the things done in this field.

It is indeed unfortunate that a man virtually in the prime of life should be struck down so suddenly. He had finished dinner and was about to clear the pieces from the table. The members of his family wanted to help him in this task but he said, "No, I want you to go out and enjoy yourselves. Leave this to me!" They went down the stairs and he collapsed. I think that that is characteristic of the man; he always had consideration for other people. His death under those circumstances was indeed tragic.

On behalf of the Opposition, I say in all sincerity that we regret very much indeed his passing. He was a man of happy disposition, and one who had no real rancour in his heart. He could hit hard; at times we felt that he hit too hard, but on those occasions it was always prompted by considerations of political exigency rather than a desire to score personally. If he did engage in hard debate, within a few minutes he was very happy to adopt a cordial atmosphere of personal friendship with those privileged to associate with him.

To Mrs. Noble and the members of his family, the Opposition joins most sincerely in the tributes that have been paid, and expresses a similar sense of loss felt in the passing of a distinguished parliamentarian, a man who made his mark in the medical field, and one whose name will live for many years in the affections and hearts of the great number of people in Queensland privileged to know him.

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (11.20 a.m.): Many fine compliments have been paid by the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition to the late Dr. Noble, and I do not propose to repeat them or to elaborate on them. I just want to say that, irrespective of party-political affiliations, this Parliament has been graced over the years by many humane men. There may have been some just as humane as Dr. Noble, but I doubt if any were more humane. I shall always remember him with a good deal of affection for the job he did for what was then the

forgotten legion of our citizens, the age pensioners. When Dr. Noble became Minister for Health there were at Goodna 1,200 age pensioners, many of whom had been grabbed like wild beasts, put in a barred railway wagon, and sent to Goodna to rot and to live in loneliness and destitution just because they were senile. It was Dr. Noble, to his eternal credit, who took all except a few of those pensioners out of Goodna and sent them back to the areas whence they came, so that they could live in comfort and security among their friends and relatives who could visit them and comfort them. As I said, I shall always remember him with deep affection as the man who took the pensioners out of Goodna, the man who removed, in my opinion, the greatest blot that was ever placed on this democratic State of Queensland.

I join with all other hon. members in conveying my sincere condolences to his widow and the members of his family.

Mr. DIPLOCK (Aubigny) (11.22 a.m.): I desire respectfully to associate myself with the motion before the House. I knew the late hon. gentleman many years before I entered Parliament, and I always entertained the greatest and most sincere respect for him. As a member of the Opposition, I say quite sincerely that he was one of the Ministers who always paid to me the courtesy and respect due to every member of this House. I remember many occasions on which I had to approach him and I knew that he had to consider my requests in spite of party-political opposition from my electorate; but I can say sincerely that at no time did he forget his obligation of office and at no time did I not receive the consideration that was due to my request or submission.

I join with other hon. members in extending to the members of his family my deep and sincere sympathy.

Motion (Mr. Nicklin) agreed to, hon. members standing in silence.

PANEL OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN

NOMINATION OF MR. F. A. CAMPBELL

Mr. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the requirements of Standing Order No. 13, I nominate Frederick Alexander Campbell, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Aspley, to fill the vacancy in the panel of Temporary Chairmen caused by the appointment of Mr. Tooth to the Ministry.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

CHANGE IN MINISTRY; DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN (Premier—Landsborough) (11.24 a.m.): I desire to inform the House that, following upon the death of the late Henry Winston Noble, His Excellency the Governor, on 14 April,

1964, appointed Seymour Douglas Tooth to be a member of the Executive Council of Queensland, and Minister for Health of Queensland.

I lay upon the table of the House a copy of the Queensland Government Gazette Extraordinary dated 14 April, 1964, containing the relevant notifications.

I also desire to inform the House that, in connection with the visit overseas of the Minister for Industrial Development, His Excellency the Governor, in pursuance of the provisions of Section 8 of the Officials In Parliament Acts, 1896 to 1964, has authorised and empowered the Honourable George Francis Reuben Nicklin, Premier and Minister for State Development, to perform and exercise all or any of the duties, powers, and authorities imposed or conferred upon the Honourable the Minister for Industrial Development by any Act, rule, practice, or ordinance, on and from 9 May, 1964, and until the return to Queensland of the Honourable Alan Whiteside Munro.

I lay upon the table of the House a copy of the Queensland Government Gazette Extraordinary of 30 April, 1964, notifying these arrangements.

Whereupon the hon. gentleman laid the Government Gazettes Extraordinary upon the table.

SHOP TRADING HOURS

Hon. A. T. DEWAR (Wavell—Minister for Labour and Industry) (11.26 a.m.), by leave: During the last six months, at the request of the principal parties concerned with the Shop Assistants' (General) Award—Southern Division, a number of conferences has been held with a view to endeavouring to resolve what was a most unsatisfactory position regarding the trading hours being observed by small shops.

The fixation of trading hours is clearly a matter for the consideration of the Industrial Commission under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts, which was the position under the previous Government.

The parties recognised that in regard to mixed stores, that is, the small shops, the existing trading hours for non-exempt goods not only imposed a burden on such shops but also deprived the community generally of an adequate service in regard to groceries and certain other lines.

The parties concerned in this matter, who recently unanimously agreed to an application to the Industrial Commission for a consent variation of the Award, were as follows:—

The Queensland Shop Assistants' Union of Employees;

The Australian Workers' Union of Employees;

The Retailers' Association of Queensland Ltd. Union of Employers;

The Queensland Retail Traders' Association of Grocers, Drapers and General Stores;

The Queensland Shopkeepers' Association Union of Employers;

The Queensland Employers' Federation;

The Metal Trades Employers' Association (Queensland Branch) Union of Employers and other members of the Federation;

The Queensland Chamber of Manufacturers Union of Employers.

Briefly, the position is as follows, in regard to the area covered by the Shop Assistants (General) Award—Southern Division, which extends from north of Bundaberg to the border and out to the western border.

Prior to the granting of this application, the only shops which could trade 24 hours a day, if they so desired, and if they had not come to an agreement between themselves to fix their own trading hours, subject to my approval as in the case of chemists' shops, were shops which may be referred to as exempt shops.

These shops may still sell, without any limitation of hours, except by agreement between themselves, all or any of the items set out in Regulation 31 under the Factories and Shops Acts, a copy of which I shall table for the information of honourable members, together with a copy of an amendment thereto, dated 6 August, 1964. This list was recently extended to include toys, plants, potted or otherwise, seedlings, coffee, cocoa and margarine, and as will be seen covers many items and a very comprehensive and varied range of items most likely to be urgently required by customers.

Previously, in the Brisbane area, all other types of shops could only legally sell items other than those set out on the exempt list between the hours of 8.15 a.m. and 4.40 p.m., Mondays to Fridays, and 8.35 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. on Saturdays. Before and after that closing time, mixed shops were required to structurally and effectively separate their non-exempt goods from exempt goods, when they could trade in exempt goods only.

Mixed shops, however, were only permitted to trade in exempt lines outside the non-exempt goods trading hours, between 7 a.m. and 8.15 a.m., and 4.40 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, between 7 a.m. and 8.35 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. on Saturdays, and between 8 a.m. and noon on Sundays.

It might be mentioned here that these hours vary in other areas outside Brisbane, but the same principle obtains.

As a result of the granting of this application by the Industrial Commission, small stores now have greatly extended legal trading hours and a much wider range of items to sell. There are now three classes of shops, as follows:—

(a) Exempt shops:

These are shops which may trade 24 hours a day if they so desire, provided they sell only the items set out in Regulation 31 of the Factories and Shops Acts.

(b) Small shops (commonly known as the "Mum and Dad" shops):

Briefly, these shops sell a mixture of items, in addition to all or any of the exempt items.

These shops may now trade legally between 7 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays; 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 5 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. on Sundays and public holidays, with the exception of Christmas Day, Good Friday, Anzac Day and Labour Day, in regard to the following items:—

(i) All types of groceries.

(ii) In addition to groceries and exempt lines, these shops may also sell certain hardware and haberdashery lines which, formerly, were non-exempt goods, and legally could not be sold outside the restricted hours of non-exempt shops, and this list was unanimously agreed to by the parties concerned. These are set out in Clause 2 of the variation to the award, a copy of which I shall also table.

(c) Non-exempt shops:

Briefly, these are shops other than small and exempt shops, and the trading hours for these shops remain as formerly, namely, 8.15 a.m. to 4.40 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, and 8.35 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. on Saturdays.

The position in regard to small shops, who are also subnewsagents, has also received the consideration of the relevant parties, who have agreed that a further application be made to the Industrial Commission for approval for small shops to open at 6 a.m. instead of 7 a.m., which will enable such shops to sell the early-morning newspapers.

Newsagents may sell toys, or any of the items contained in the exempt list, during any period they desire.

It will be seen that the small shops may now trade legally in a greatly extended range of items during a total period of 81½ hours a week, and reports indicate that these new hours are acceptable to over 95 per cent. of the small shops.

The number of shops registered in the metropolitan area is approximately 7,000, and I am informed that not more than 2 per cent. at present are not observing the new trading hours.

The agreement reached between all of the parties interested—retailers, mixed and small shops, the Shop Assistants' Union and the Australian Workers' Union—is indeed a triumph for conciliation, and I would be remiss if I did not express here my great

appreciation of the spirit which existed between all parties at the discussions, which have resulted in greatly extended trading hours, which are very realistic, and in addition to being of much benefit to consumers will also enable shopkeepers to have their choice of three types of shops, and yet still trade legally. This is indeed a very great achievement, and a tribute to all of the parties concerned.

I should also like to pay a tribute to the Retailers' Association of Queensland and the Pharmaceutical Guild, who have also been able to reach agreement in respect of the additional items, outside purely chemists' lines, which chemists' shops may also sell during chemists' trading hours.

As stressed before, the only official interest which my department could have in this matter is to ensure that, as has also been requested by all of the parties, the provisions of the relevant award and the relevant agreements regarding the new trading hours are strictly observed, and it is intended to ensure that this is done.

Whereupon the hon. gentleman laid the relevant papers upon the table.

Mr. DUGGAN (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) (11.33 a.m.): I seek your guidance, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to imply any discourtesy to the Minister for Labour and Industry, or to indicate any lack of co-operation on the part of the Opposition, but I was wondering whether the pronouncements contained in his ministerial statement are in accordance with the practices of the House. After all, the information contained in it is already in the Government Gazette. I have a copy of it on my table. If we are going to have ministerial statements concerning industrial agreements the time of this Parliament will be taken up unnecessarily in the recital of information already officially available. I should like your guidance whether it is proper that statements on such matters, which are already officially acknowledged and recognised, should be repeated here in this Assembly.

Mr. SPEAKER: I wish to advise the Leader of the Opposition that I was informed this morning that there would be some ministerial statements, the contents of which I am never aware of. I honestly believe that a statement such as has just been given by the Minister could well be either the subject of a Press statement or laid upon the table of the House.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—

Reports—

Public Accountants Registration Board of Queensland for the year 1963-1964.

Police Superannuation Board for the year 1963-1964.

Seventy-ninth Report of the Registrar of Friendly Societies.

Literature Board of Review for the year 1963-1964.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamations under—

The Public Works Lands Resumption Acts, 1906 to 1955 and The State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1958.

The State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1958, The Public Works Land Resumption Acts, 1906 to 1955, and The Petroleum Acts, 1923 to 1962.

The Northern Electric Authority of Queensland Act of 1963.

The Anzac Day Acts, 1921 to 1930.

The Justices Acts, 1886 to 1963.

The Interstate Destitute Persons Relief Acts, 1914 to 1944.

Orders in Council under—

The Public Service Acts, 1922 to 1963.

The State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1958.

The State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1958, and The Tully Falls Hydro-Electric Project Act of 1950.

The State Electricity Commission Acts, 1937 to 1964.

The Electric Light and Power Acts, 1896 to 1962.

The Regional Electric Authorities Acts, 1945 to 1962.

The Northern Electric Authority of Queensland Act of 1963.

The Southern Electric Authority of Queensland Acts, 1952 to 1958.

The Grammar Schools Acts, 1860 to 1962.

The Fisheries Acts, 1957 to 1962.

The Harbours Acts, 1955 to 1963.

The Harbours Acts, 1955 to 1964.

The Racing and Betting Acts, 1954 to 1963.

The Stamp Acts, 1894 to 1963.

The Traffic Acts, 1949 to 1962.

The Irrigation Acts, 1922 to 1961.

The Water Acts, 1926 to 1961.

The Apprentices and Minors Acts, 1929 to 1959.

The State Enterprises Repeal and The Under Secretary, Department of Labour and Industry Corporation Act of 1931.

The Factories and Shops Acts, 1960 to 1963.

The State Housing Acts, 1945 to 1964, and The Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Acts, 1923 to 1957.

The State Housing Acts, 1945 to 1964.

The Liquor Acts, 1912 to 1961.

The Real Property Acts, 1861 to 1963.

The Supreme Court Act of 1921.
The Explosives Acts, 1952 to 1963.
The Medical Acts, 1939 to 1963.

Regulations under—

The Public Accountants Registration Acts, 1946 to 1963.
The Public Service Acts, 1922 to 1963.
The Public Service Superannuation Acts, 1958 to 1964.
The Harbours Acts, 1955 to 1963.
The Queensland Marine Acts, 1958 to 1963.
The Workers' Compensation Acts, 1916 to 1962.
The Traffic Acts, 1949 to 1962.
The Main Roads Acts, 1920 to 1963.
The State Transport Act of 1960.
The Land Acts, 1962 to 1963, and The Brigalow and Other Lands Development Act of 1962.
The Land Acts, 1962 to 1963.
The Rural Fires Acts, 1946 to 1964.
The Apprentices and Minors Acts, 1929 to 1959.
The State Children Acts, 1911 to 1955.
The State Housing Acts, 1945 to 1964.
The Hospitals Acts, 1936 to 1962.
The Hospitals Acts, 1936 to 1963.
The Explosives Acts, 1952 to 1963.
The Health Acts, 1937 to 1962.

Statute under The University of Queensland Acts, 1909 to 1960.

By-laws under—

The Harbours Acts, 1955 to 1964.
The Railways Acts, 1914 to 1964.
Numbers 922 to 923.
The Medical Acts, 1939 to 1963.

Reports—

Royal Commission Appointed to Inquire into and Report on certain matters relating to members of the Police Force and the National Hotel, Petrie Bight, Brisbane.

Union-Fidelity Trustee Company of Australia Limited.

QUESTIONS

Mr. MURRAY (Clayfield) proceeding to ask a question of Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member is not permitted to ask questions of the Speaker. Notice of the question must be given in writing.

DEATHS OF MR. A. C. ELPHINSTONE, MR. J. D. KANE, AND MRS. I. LONGMAN

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN (Landsborough—Premier) (12.5 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“(1) That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Augustus Cecil Elphinstone, Esquire, the late James

David Kane, Esquire, and the late Mrs. Irene Longman, former members of the Parliament of Queensland.

“(2) That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the relatives of the deceased members the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland in the loss they have sustained.”

Only one of the three former members, Mr. Kane, served in this House during the term of any present honourable member. Each gave very good service to this Parliament, and to the State, and the late Mrs. Longman had the honour of being the only woman member ever to sit in this Parliament.

Mr. Elphinstone served from 16 March 1918 till 10 May 1929 and was a member of the Country Progressive National Party. During his service in the House he was a very keen representative of his electorate. He was recognised as one of the most fluent debaters, with a very cultivated style of speech and a talent for a well-turned phrase. In the Parliament in which he served he was a man of more than average ability, with a particularly sound knowledge of financial and business principles, and he was a prominent business manager in the city for many years. He made a contribution to the early industrial development of this State with the formation of a Queensland company which still bears his name. Both inside and outside this House he made a very great contribution to the development of Queensland.

The late Mr. Kane was known to quite a number of us here and his death undoubtedly was a great loss to the Labour Party, which he served so well. He served in this Parliament from 11 May 1935 till 6 May 1938, and during that time he made many friends on both sides of the House. He had a very friendly disposition and was universally admired. He made very many useful contributions to the debates in the House during the time he served here. He was also a very able journalist and, as the editor of the “New Age”, he made a contribution to politics generally. During his term of office in this House in the 27th Parliament of Queensland it may be truthfully said that he was a very able representative of his electorate. He was a good debater, and generally made a contribution to the democratic government of this State.

As I said, the late Mrs. Irene Longman was the only woman representative ever to sit in the Queensland Parliament. She represented the Bulimba electorate for one term, from 11 May 1929 to 10 June 1932. She was a very able representative and was imbued with a sense of dedication and high purpose. She spoke with clarity and vigour on matters affecting women and was an eloquent advocate for the place of women in public affairs, not only in this House but also in private life after she was defeated.

During her term as a member of this House she was responsible for the admittance of women into the Police Force of Queensland and as a result of her constant advocacy here during her term in Parliament the first two admissions to the Queensland Police Force were made. She was also very concerned with juvenile delinquency and it was her advocacy which changed the venue of the Children's Court from the Police Courts. She was a woman with great character, capacity and ability who gave of her best in the service of this State and its people.

The three persons named in the motion each made a worthy contribution to this State and it is fitting that we should record that fact. I am sure that honourable members will join with me in expressing to their relatives their deepest sympathy in the great loss they have sustained.

Mr. DUGGAN (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) (12.11 p.m.): Generally speaking, motions of condolence mention names of former members of Parliament known to at least a number of members of this Assembly. On this occasion two of the three people referred to were not known very well personally by existing members of the Parliament.

I have read and heard quite a deal about the late Mr. Elphinstone. As the Premier pointed out, he was regarded as one of the best public speakers heard in this Parliament. He had a very eloquent style, had the gift of lucidity of expression, was regarded as being a formidable opponent in debate, and certainly left a marked impression on those who were privileged to hear him, either in this Assembly or on the public platform. It is a rarity to find an outstanding public speaker who was always warmly welcomed on so many rostrums in the State.

Apart from his identification with a leading industrial firm in this city, the foundation of which he laid so successfully, he was intimately associated with causes for the promotion of better trade with Great Britain. He was a staunch Commonwealth man, and used his talents in that direction. He identified himself with the St. George Society and similar societies.

Parliament is the poorer for the passing of a man of his calibre because of his success as a Parliamentarian, as a business man, and as a citizen of this State. On behalf of the Opposition I join in extending to his relatives our sympathy in the loss they have sustained.

I am thankful that the Premier mentioned the late Mr. Kane. He said he served the Labour Party faithfully and well, and that is true. I was co-member of this Parliament with Mr. Kane for the period 1935-1938, when he entered State Parliament, and although I would not regard Mr. Kane as the best public speaker I have heard I can say without fear of contradiction that he was undoubtedly one of the best debators I have heard.

He was a self-educated man. He received training as a student in the Workers' Educational Association many years ago. Many railway men recall the days of Moroney, Rymer and Gordon Crane. Gordon Crane was regarded as a great tutor in the art of logic and self-expression, and unquestionably Mr. Kane modelled himself on the lines of Gordon Crane and Mr. Rymer. Frequently in my younger days I may have had an opinion different from that expressed by Mr. Kane, but I was always impressed by the way he marshalled his arguments.

If one were looking at a black object, and one's eyesight had been passed by an optometrist as being above average, Mr. Kane could argue that it was white. He would leave you with the impression that if you depended on your ears to determine your judgment you should visit an optical specialist, because you would feel that what you thought to be black was undoubtedly white. He had this gift of being able to present a particular line of argument in a very logical way, and he was very successful.

He was very courageous in a way. I recall his entry into Parliament. He led a campaign for the closing of an institution in Toowoomba known as the Home of Rest. It provoked a very bitter controversy. Pages and pages of letters appeared in the Press over a long period, some for Mr. Kane but a greater number against him. The Opposition was not based on any logical case but largely on sentiment, because the home had been carried on by a family who had established a reputation for looking after these people. Despite a good deal of local sentiment in favour of those conducting the home, it was not up to the standard expected. Against strong adverse criticism, and without fear of political consequences, Mr. Kane championed the closure of it.

He took part in the internal affairs of the Labour Party to a marked degree. He was always anxious to discuss politics and industrial matters. In his own union, namely, the Australian Railways Union, he was a delegate to the governing body and was regarded as one of its best spokesmen. Following his defeat as the member for East Toowoomba, he studied shorthand in his general desire to improve himself and became a journalist with "The Toowoomba Chronicle". He then served as public relations officer for a transport firm, and ultimately became editor of "The New Age". The marshalling of resources necessary to conduct a newspaper today is a considerable task and, with the very limited funds that he was permitted to use and the limited opportunities available to him for the collation of information, I feel that he did a very good job.

There is one side of his life that I do not think is generally known and to which on this occasion I should like to refer. One of his sons is a prominent official in the Electrical Trades Union and another is a successful

practising solicitor in this city. His third son had a disability from birth which has kept him in an invalid chair all his life. He had some enlargement of the brain which to some extent impaired his faculties. I know of no other person who was so steadfast in his devotion to his son as was Jimmy Kane. No matter how inviting the circumstances may have been when he was out at functions, he would always go home, without staying late, to attend to the boy. Of course, his son would be a man of 40 years or more now, but right till his death he would invariably leave functions to cater for the physical requirements of his son Brian. I should like that to be known. I know of no case of greater attachment than that of Jimmy Kane for his son who has this impairment of faculties, and for whom he cared so lovingly and with such constancy.

On behalf of the Opposition I offer to the relatives of Mr. Kane sincere sympathy in their loss.

I shall be brief in my remarks concerning Mrs. Longman. She certainly was distinguished in being the only woman ever elected to this Parliament. That was certainly a triumph for her. In those years there was not quite public acceptance of the candidature of women for public office. Indeed, it is suggested by women's organisations today that it is still very difficult for women to gain nomination and acceptance in parliamentary and city council fields. Despite our claims that Australia is an advanced nation, we seem to lag very far behind Great Britain, and particularly the United States, in the number of women that we permit to enter public life. They seem to be slightly handicapped if they wish to attain public office. It is unfortunate but true that, generally speaking, these disabilities still attach to women. There is no reason for it. They are equal with men in intelligence, industrious, and very capable of expressing the point of view of a large percentage of the people. It is indeed a matter for regret that there are not more of them in Parliament throughout the land.

For Mrs. Longman to gain acceptance when the prejudice against women was greater than it is now was indeed a personal triumph. I should like to express my appreciation of her short service in this Parliament, of the things that she tried to achieve and the things that she did achieve. It is sometimes a disability for a man to be the husband of a famous woman, and I do not know whether Mrs. Longman is remembered as the wife of the Director of the Queensland Museum or whether Mr. Longman is remembered as the husband of the first woman member of Parliament in Queensland. At least she was a very patient woman, a very earnest woman, and she worked very hard in the interests of women.

I join with the Premier in expressing, on behalf of the Opposition, very sincere regret at the passing of these three former members of this Assembly.

Mr. HERBERT (Sherwood) (12.21 p.m.): I should like to associate myself with this motion of condolence because two of the people concerned were very well known in my area.

Many years ago Mr. Elphinstone represented the electorate that I now have the honour to represent. He was followed by Mr. Nimmo and then by Mr. Kerr before I was elected to this assembly. Mrs. Longman lived most of her life in the street in Chelmer that bears the family name. Both of them will be missed in the local area, and both of them lived to a ripe old age.

Mr. Elphinstone is remembered for his speeches by many people who visited this Chamber. Whenever he spoke here he attracted a full house, and all his life he had the facility of making a magnificent speech.

My association with Mrs. Longman goes back to my very young days, through a professional association between her husband and my father, and she kept a very keen interest in politics throughout her life. For the last ten years I have carried probably hundreds of books from the Parliamentary Library out to Mrs. Longman's home for her, because she was one of the most avid readers of literature that the Parliamentary Library has ever had on its books. Until shortly before her death, when her eyesight failed, she read many books that had been here for years and had never previously been read. She certainly read very heavy material on occasions.

It is also of interest to note that her nearest relative, with whom she was living before her death, her brother Mr. J. G. Bayley was also a member of this Assembly before he moved to the Federal sphere. Mr. Bayley was principal of the Charters Towers High School when it was opened in 1913 and he retired from politics in 1929. He is probably one of the oldest living former members of this Assembly.

On behalf of the people of the Sherwood electorate, I extend sympathy to the relatives of both the former members concerned.

Motion (Mr. Nicklin) agreed to, hon. members standing in silence.

PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY COMMITTEE

APPOINTMENT OF MR. J. D. HERBERT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that a vacancy exists in the Library Committee consequent upon the appointment of Mr. Tooth to the Ministry.

Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN (Landsborough—Premier) by leave, without notice: I move—

“That John Desmond Herbert, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Sherwood, be appointed a member of the Library Committee to fill the vacancy caused by the appointment of Mr. Tooth to the Ministry.”

Motion agreed to.

PRIVILEGE

STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS, PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Mr. WALSH (Bundaberg) (12.24 p.m.): I desire, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 115, to raise a question of privilege that has arisen suddenly. I think, Mr. Speaker, you will gather from my remarks as I proceed that I have not had an earlier opportunity to discuss the matters that are involved in the question that I hope to raise. I want to say that, whatever remarks I may make as I go along, I do not wish to take away from you, Mr. Speaker, any credit to which you may be justifiably entitled for your enthusiasm and interest in doing things that are necessary to provide added comforts for members of this Chamber.

It has been said on other occasions that you certainly have shown a very enthusiastic interest in many matters here since you assumed office; nevertheless, that does not prevent me from raising matters which I think affect the interest and privileges of members. The matters to which I refer are related to structural improvements that have been carried out within Parliament House itself during recent times and they relate, strangely enough, to seating accommodation under different headings.

The first matter I wish to bring to mind briefly is that there were certain facilities and conveniences provided for gentlemen members of this Chamber when the original Parliament House was constructed, long before the modern system of sewerage as we know it today was available. That facility existed immediately to the left of the library and it concerned me somewhat to find, on a recent inspection, that by a decision of some authority that particular convenience had been taken away from hon. members of this House. It may have been done by a decision of the Building Committee or somebody else, but hon. members are affected by these matters and should have some say in them. There should be some method of consultation with members generally before such alterations are made.

When this matter came to my notice, I immediately drew the attention of certain hon. members to what had happened. I have to be quite fair and say that I did not mention it to you, Mr. Speaker, but I did draw attention to it and I think there is one member of the committee who will remember that. I am happy to know that, following an observation made by you, Mr. Speaker, certain additional facilities have been put in since my first complaint, if I may put it that way.

While that might overcome part of my complaint it certainly does not remove the more important part of it. Those hon. members who have been here long enough—the Premier, I think, is now Father of the House—will remember that certain installations were placed at the far end of the balcony for the convenience of the only lady

member who has ever been elected to this Parliament and whose name has been mentioned by the Premier and others this morning in a motion of condolence. That remained there for a considerable time, until some five or six years ago, when it was removed. I am not questioning the grounds for its removal—it was probably done with the idea of making better provision in other ways for the comfort and convenience of members generally—but I think it is going a bit far when one knows that there has been a facility established within the precincts of this Chamber and then suddenly finds it removed and handed over to strangers. Although one part of the complaint has been rectified, so that I can get off this particular subject I want to say to you now, Mr. Speaker, that I feel that a decision should be made by you or the appropriate committee to restore the facility to its previous position for the use of hon. members. I do not subscribe, and I do not feel that any other hon. member subscribes, to a position where members are relegated to some back portion of the building in order to provide for the convenience of strangers. A considerable amount of money was expended to provide some conveniences on the lower floor—there can be no complaint about that—but once this territory of Parliament House proper is invaded, as it were, and these things happen, I think somebody has to draw attention to it. Many of these changes can take place and be accepted only for hon. members to find in due course that privileges they previously enjoyed have been systematically taken away from them.

Having dealt with that part of the seating accommodation, I turn now to the seating accommodation within the Chamber itself.

Mr. Ramsden: I thought you had made it up with Johnno.

Mr. WALSH: The mere fact that I am sitting beside the hon. member for Brisbane in no way indicates any evidence of a political reconciliation. I am sure he is not embarrassed, and I certainly am not.

Again I pay tribute to you, Mr. Speaker, particularly for your enthusiasm in renovating this Chamber. There is certainly a lot of modernity about it today. Although we blindly follow some of the traditions—the carpet must be this colour so that it is like the House of Commons—which may be a good thing, at this stage I want to draw attention to another complaint I have. I refer to the removal of the Coat of Arms from this Chamber. As far as I am concerned no longer is the Legislative Council of this State in existence. It is completely out. The former Legislative Council Chamber is just another room in this parliamentary building. For over 50 years the Coat of Arms was over your chair, Mr. Speaker. Although I appreciate the beauty of the ornament which is now above your head, nevertheless I think the rightful place for the Coat of Arms is where it was previously.

Although the renovations might appear attractive and in some respects comfortable, only time will tell whether they are in all respects comfortable, particularly when we are sitting at night. The appearance of the Chamber, of course, may bring back happy memories for the Minister for Education, the Minister for Health and the hon. member for Aubigny. Some might say that it reminds them of the fourth form at St. Percy's and others might say that there is now more wood in the Chamber than there was previously. However, the fact remains that references to the seating accommodation in the House are contained in the 1951 reprint of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly, since which date members have been supplied with the various amendments brought down by the Standing Orders Committee, which are reported to, and adopted by, the House. Let us be clear that the Standing Orders are adopted by this Assembly. I should say that, apart from the select committees which may be appointed for particular purposes, the Standing Orders Committee is the only committee that is in some way obligated to report to the House. Any other committee appointed by the House can meet and come to decisions. However, there is an obligation on the Standing Orders Committee to report to the House and seek its approval for any amendments to the Standing Orders.

There are approximately 332 or 333 Standing Orders and 11 Rules of Practice, several of which refer to yourself, Mr. Speaker, in relation to your election and other matters associated therewith. Rule of Practice No. 6 is the only one that in any way refers to the seating accommodation within the House. I do not want to stick to any literal interpretation of these rules, and I do not rise today for that purpose. I rise mainly to register something in the nature of a protest so that in future no action will be taken by anybody to disturb in any way the rights and privileges of this House without first bringing the matter before the House, or arranging for some form of consultation. It may be appropriate for me to quote the Rule of Practice with which I am concerned. It is to be found on page 9 of the Standing Rules and Orders and reads—

“The front bench on the right hand of the Chair is reserved for Members holding office under the Crown, and the front bench on the left hand of the Chair, and the front crossbenches on either side of the Chair, are ordinarily occupied by Members who have held office under the Crown.”

Nowhere within the Standing Orders is there any reference to the seating of members, so far as seats are concerned. Strange though it may seem, Standing Orders generally do not refer to seats; they refer to places of members.

My complaint is that, without the authority of this House, some arrangement appears to have been made whereby certain seats are allocated to particular members, and it is in that respect that I want to voice my protest. This House has never—and I hope it never will—specifically written into the Standing Orders any matter that will determine the rights of members on a party-political basis. We have to be very careful about that. Also, we should not subscribe to any arrangement being made mutually between members regarding seating accommodation. Members are expected to conform to the Standing Orders, and generally, with the guiding hand of Mr. Speaker, most of us do. There is a desire that we conform to the Standing Orders so as to enable the business of the House to be conducted with decorum.

In 1953 there were 50 members of the then Government party sitting on that side, and another member who usually sat on that side made it 51. In 1956 there were 49 members. A division was recorded in the last two years in which 69 members were seated on that side. The Minister for Education can turn his arm-rest up in an endeavour to come to a statistical calculation, but I challenge him to show how he could put 69 members where 45 are seated now. No doubt the honourable member for Landsborough, who occupies the position of Premier, is looking forward to the day when he will return here with 60 members. I do not know which Standing Order will provide for that eventuality. The fact remains that these things do affect the rights of members.

It is only fair to say, Mr. Speaker, that you have not dictated to me in any way where I should sit, and I have no doubt that had you wanted to exercise any right not written into the Standing Orders you would have done it this morning. I am sure you appreciate, as I hope every other honourable member does, that I raised this subject only for the purpose of future guidance. It is not good enough to decide outside this Chamber matters which so greatly affect the rights of members.

I do not care two hoots about the courtesies shown in this Standing Order to former Ministers of the Crown. That courtesy has been there for many years, no doubt even since there have been Standing Orders. The Leader of the Opposition and I are both former Ministers, as are also the honourable member for Fassifern and the honourable member for Aubigny. I found that irrespective of this Rule of Practice the so-called Independents were to be relegated to what I have called the “Royal Box”, up in the corner.

I do not overlook the fact that the Ministers have placed themselves in an isolated area. I am dealing with this matter from the point of view of the rights of members who represent the people as a whole, not any particular section. I am not worried about politics, Mr. Speaker. All

that I should like you to do, either now or on an occasion suitable to you, is give the House an assurance that no action will be taken here to regiment honourable members in any way outside what is specifically provided for, particularly in relation to Ministers occupying positions under the Crown.

When the Speaker is obliged to give an interpretation of Standing Orders, he, as does a good barrister (some people say the honourable member for South Brisbane is that), likes to give a correct one. No doubt the honourable member for Fassifern is sitting in a place selected by him, and that probably will destroy fears that there is an attempt to regiment members. I should like to emphasise now that that should not apply in this Parliament or in any future Parliament. I think the Premier will agree—

Mr. Nicklin: You will remember that years ago there used to be a rush by members to select their seats when each Parliament opened.

Mr. WALSH: I think that is the practice now.

Mr. Nicklin: You wrote your name on a seat, and woe betide anyone who sat there.

Mr. WALSH: I imagine that could apply to some members in this House, particularly when there is a section as rebellious as Independents can be from time to time. So far as the relegating of Independents to a particular corner is concerned, I remind honourable members that, whilst there may be six now, the records of the House will show that at one time there were ten, and, if headlines in the Press for months past are any guide, there may be many more in the future.

I have taken my stand under Rule of Practice No. 6 instead of doing it under Standing Order No. 46. If I had done that, it would, of course, have had the effect of opening a general discussion by all members. I have no knowledge of any other honourable member wishing to raise this matter, and I have consequently exercised my rights under the appropriate Standing Orders.

I have two things to say. One is that the facilities available to members in the passage and in the Chamber should be handed back for the use of hon. members, and strangers, whoever they may be, should not be allowed to invade the corridors or any part of the House usually set aside for the use of members. Secondly, if an assurance is given that nothing is going to be done to disturb the arrangement under which members select their seats, as long as Standing Orders remain as they are I do not want to hand over a right whereby on the one hand we can be told, "There are Standing Orders and they must be complied with," and, on the other, "You are to do as you are told, even though it is not in Standing Orders." That is not my way of looking at an interpretation of the rights and privileges of honourable members in this House.

Mr. AIKENS: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no motion before the House. I do not propose to allow any debate.

Mr. AIKENS: I rise on a question of privilege under Standing Order No. 115.

Mr. SPEAKER: I wish to deal with one question of privilege at a time. There is no motion before the House; therefore there can be no debate.

I should like to say a few words in reply to the hon. member for Bundaberg. First of all, I wish to thank the Parliamentary Buildings Committee and the other committees under my control in this House.

Members who occupy a seat in this Parliament have more privileges today than they have ever had in the history of the Parliament. The hon. member for Bundaberg has spoken about the handing-over of a certain facility to strangers. That facility never belonged to members of the Legislative Assembly; it belonged to the members of the Legislative Council, which is now defunct. The change was found very necessary because other breaches of privilege were being committed by female members of the staff upstairs having to pass through the members' dining-room to approach their own wash-room. We have converted the old Legislative Council Chamber to an area where we can encourage the public and strangers to take an interest in Parliament—something that we have very much desired to do—and by doing that we have lifted Parliament to a higher position in the eyes of the people than it has ever been before.

Strangely enough, the hon. member for Bundaberg said that he had made a recent inspection and discovered this change. His recent inspection could not have been a very minute one, because he did not discover until this morning, when I told him, that instead of the one pedestal in the cubicle that has been used for other purposes, two are now provided. I think it is quite sufficient for me to say that members of the staff of this Parliament had fewer privileges than did the staff in any other building or Government department in Queensland, and I thought it was high time that some provision was made for the convenience and comfort of the women members of the staff. I sincerely hope that hon. members will not deny them that privilege.

The hon. member for Bundaberg referred to the Coat of Arms. Again, that was something that belonged to the Legislative Council. The Legislative Council was abolished in 1922, and the Coat of Arms was not removed from the Legislative Council Chamber, which was then under the jurisdiction of a Government of which the hon. member for Bundaberg was a member, until 1934. It was the British Coat of Arms, and I do not know by whose authority it was placed here, because I was not a member of this Assembly

at that time. I have given a great deal of thought to the replacement of the Coat of Arms in another section of the Chamber, but I think that, if we display any Coat of Arms, it should be our own. We are a sovereign State and we are entitled to display our own Coat of Arms in this Chamber, while still owing allegiance to the British Commonwealth and to Her Majesty the Queen.

The matters raised by the hon. member for Bundaberg have not been lost sight of by me or by members of my committee, who have had constant discussions during the alteration of this Chamber.

It is passing strange that the question of where former Ministers of the Crown should sit is raised only when an alteration of seating takes place in the Chamber. I do not remember the question being discussed between 1950 and the present day.

Mr. Walsh: I beg your pardon.

Mr. SPEAKER: We had cross-benches previously, and the hon. member for Bundaberg, a former Minister, sat on the cross-benches at the back because he chose to sit there.

Mr. Walsh: Excuse me, I sat here on the front cross-bench.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let me say that there are certain very necessary improvements to be carried out for the convenience of members of this House. For the convenience of members we have installed an annunciator, in other words, a message board. If a member presses the button on his desk it immediately registers in front of the messengers. That is a convenience that has never previously been enjoyed in this Parliament. It is for that reason that, once a member occupies a seat, it is necessary for him to remain in that seat in order to enjoy the convenience of having a messenger come to him when he presses the button. I do not think any member should complain about a convenience such as that being provided.

The honourable member for Bundaberg also mentioned something about Independents being put in a certain section. I wish to thank Independent members for their ready co-operation. I asked them where they wanted to sit and they very readily said, "Anywhere you like." What a difference in the attitude of Independent members, about whom the honourable member for Bundaberg is so worried! They were most co-operative and very readily acceded to the section in which they sit being, of necessity, on the opposite side of the Chamber from that on which they previously sat.

As the custodian of honourable members' privileges I will not allow anything to stand in my way in ensuring that they get all the privileges to which they are entitled. If the honourable member for Bundaberg visited other sections of the House—the committee rooms and other areas where members have

of necessity to put in a great deal of time—he would find that, as I said previously, members generally have more privileges today than they have ever enjoyed in the history of this Parliament.

So far as the seating and many other matters affecting this Parliament are concerned, it is my desire to call the Standing Orders Committee together. I would have done so before the House met to suggest certain things that should be done, but unfortunately a member of the Standing Orders Committee, Mr. Munro, the Minister for Industrial Development, is overseas. The honourable member for Bundaberg is a member of that committee. It is very necessary that we meet to discuss these problems and all that is needed to have a meeting called at any time is for any member of the committee to request me to call one. As I say, I did intend to call the committee together to discuss certain problems that have arisen because of the necessity to expand the seating in this Chamber. Some of the Standing Orders are very difficult to apply. They were promulgated before the days of party politics, and now that the party politics apply and are the general rule of Parliament certain of the Standing Orders are outdated and outmoded.

Honourable members will have ample opportunity to raise any complaints they may have about the seating in this Chamber. I have always intended that they should have ample opportunity to discuss that matter or anything else. In fact, the honourable member for Bundaberg today made what was really an Address-in-Reply speech. I told him I would give him the opportunity this morning because I did not want a lengthy debate on it, but the Address-in-Reply debate will give any other member ample opportunity to discuss particular problems relating to the seating or any other amenity in this Parliament.

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (12.59 p.m.): I rise pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 115. I think the advice you have just given, Mr. Speaker, is very sound. I was going to tell the House of the privileges provided to Independent members by the Labour Government, in which the honourable member for Bundaberg was a tyrannical dictator. When I came into this House I was treated worse than an Afghan's dog. I was going to tell honourable members something about it, but I am very pleased to see the belated atonement and penance of the honourable member for Bundaberg, who is now concerned about the rights of private members. It reminds me of the World War I song, "When it strikes home, gone is the laughter."

Mr. Mann interjected.

Mr. AIKENS: When the honourable member who is now interjecting was Speaker of this House and I got the room that was allotted to me the first thing I had to do

was remove a sign which read, "Please adjust your dress before leaving."

I shall deal with this matter further during the Address-in-Reply debate.

[Sitting suspended from 1 to 2.15 p.m.]

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that His Excellency the Governor yesterday delivered to Parliament an Opening Speech of which, for greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy. I presume hon. members will take the Speech as read?

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Mr. LEE (Yeronga) (2.16 p.m.), who was received with Government "Hear, hears!", said: I move—

"That the following Address be presented to the Governor in reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency in opening this, the second session of the Thirty-seventh Parliament of Queensland:—

'May it please Your Excellency,—

We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislature of Queensland, in Parliament assembled, desire to assure Your Excellency of our continued loyalty and affection towards the Throne and Person of Our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to tender our thanks to Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present session.

The various measures to which Your Excellency has referred, and all other matters that may be brought before us, will receive our most careful consideration, and it shall be our earnest endeavour so to deal with them that our labours may tend to the advancement and prosperity of the State'."

I believe myself to be speaking for all hon. members, Mr. Speaker, when I thank His Excellency for the address with which he opened this session, and the manner in which he detailed the record of this Government and indicated some of its plans for the future progress of this State.

Queensland counts itself fortunate in having had the services of Sir Henry as Governor for more than six years, and his interest in every phase of this State's development has been an inspiration to us all. His friendly manner and his deep concern with all that happens here have combined to endear him to us all.

As the most recently elected member of this Parliament, representing the electorate of Yeronga, I am fully aware of the honour accorded my electorate—and me—in being invited to move this motion. I do trust, Mr. Speaker, that at all times I can play my part in maintaining the dignity and prestige of this Parliament.

My sincere endorsement is given to remarks by speakers to the motion of condolence on the death of Dr. H. Winston Noble, who served this State and the electors of Yeronga for so long and so well. His death at a comparatively early age was indeed a great loss to Queensland, and much of his work will continue on through the years as a magnificent memorial to him.

In accordance with time-honoured customs, Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the electors of Yeronga for placing their trust in me at the recent by-election. I can assure them that I shall do my best to merit that trust, and certainly I regard myself as the servant of all the electors in that area, not merely of those who voted for me as the endorsed Liberal candidate.

Perhaps at this stage I should mention one of the prime problems worrying the people in my electorate—the problem of fall-out, not in the atomic bomb sense, but from the Tennyson powerhouse. We are constantly assured that arresters have been installed to end this horrible nuisance, but every year something seems to go wrong which prevents the soot arresters from doing their job, and then the prevailing winds cover a wide area of adjoining suburbs with filthy black soot.

Something must be done about this menace to property and health. If this is primarily a matter of cost—and I am reliably informed a real remedy would cost in the vicinity of £250,000—then what of it? It must be done sooner or later, and whilst I remain the hon. member for Yeronga I assure the House that I shall fight to make sure it is done sooner, rather than later.

As I see it, the Tennyson powerhouse provides a service not only for Brisbane, but also for regions outside the metropolitan area. Why, then, should the people of one sector of Brisbane have to put up with all the nuisance when so many others share the benefits? I cannot see any moral or practical reason why the people of Yeronga should have to put up any longer with sooty homes, grimy gardens, and a health hazard. If there is a cure—and it would be difficult to convince me that there is not—then let us have it as quickly as possible and not in five, six or seven years' time.

Now, Mr. Speaker, from soot to traffic—another city problem—which will then lead me to the problem of main roads, on which I have some strong and, perhaps in some quarters, unwelcome views.

As most hon. members know, we now have about 500,000 motor-cars in Queensland, and it is important to recognise that this means one car to every three persons in the State. We can say quite conservatively, because of the large number of vehicles used for business purposes in the metropolitan area, that some 200,000 of these are in Brisbane. Perhaps the number

is greater. I accept that it would rise and fall with the transients, but I would not think it falls below that mark.

Now, if we took 200,000 cars and placed them end to end they would reach from Brisbane to Maryborough and back again, a distance of about 400 miles. It is a picture to produce nightmares, is it not? Thousands of these cars park daily in car-parks and city streets, many thousands more stay at home in garages, but the real traffic problem involves the moving vehicles.

In the past 12 months about 36,000 new vehicles came onto the roads in this State, and we must assume that at least 12,000 of that number came onto the streets of Brisbane. Where will this multiplication of a problem end? I would like to be able to give a solution and say happily that we need so many more underpasses, overpasses and tunnels, or more parking lots in the city area. But the ultimate solution does not lie only in absorbing parts of the city area to solve a problem which must necessarily be increased with greater numbers of cars and no growth in the available moving space for all these vehicles.

If we put up a 15-storey building in the city we might be able to provide parking space for the cars that will belong to the people directly concerned with that building, but what are we to do with the cars whilst they are on the streets? We have to face the fact that peak-hour traffic is our greatest problem and it does not matter where the cars come from; already they are the cause of bottle-necks, traffic jams, and the driver-frustration that causes accidents.

One has only to leave an office in the city on Friday afternoon to go to the Gold Coast, the North Coast, or anywhere else, to realise what a difference a few minutes make in getting out of the city.

If a person leaves at 5 o'clock it will take an hour and a half, or two hours, to get to the Gold Coast, but in that distance of 50 miles he can cut up to half an hour off his time, and greatly ease the strain on his nerves, by leaving the city at, say, 15 minutes to 5.

This situation will not get any better—on the contrary, it will get worse—if we continue to smother the city with cars that are parked all day somewhere in the busy area, and that all suddenly become mobile at 5 p.m.

Our city roads were built for the horse-and-buggy era, and so were those in almost every major city in the world. In some of the great cities, the authorities have taken over large areas—in Los Angeles about two-thirds of the city—trying to solve this problem with underpasses, bypasses, turnpikes, freeways, and fly-overs. But they would readily admit that they have not been successful.

I suggest that we should give strong consideration to every phase of the possibilities of fringe parking. My view is that parking areas in the city will not be of any great benefit to the traffic growth which we can reasonably expect each year.

Through traffic obviously must be diverted around the city as planned, and cars which now remain stationary in the city all day will have to park ultimately in fringe areas. If we are to plan for the future, fringe areas are the only places to build off-street parking stations.

A series of parking stations around the city could be used as terminals for public transport, and could prove of great benefit to city traffic in the years ahead. They could be financed by money from city parking meters which should be available during the day for purposes of business. None of us wants to see any further restrictions placed on people such as housewives, who already have their shopping problems.

A record sum (£693,000) was made available by the Main Roads Department for road works in Brisbane last financial year. This included more than £374,000 which was spent by the department itself on main roads in the city. The balance of £319,000 was allocated to the Brisbane City Council, not £71,000 as Lord Mayor Jones was reported to have claimed in last Sunday's Press.

In the past seven years there has been great development of roads in and out of Brisbane—the Pacific Highway, the Bruce Highway, and the Western Highway. More and more industry is being attracted to Queensland, and Brisbane is growing at an accelerating rate.

Early last month work began on the General Motors-Holden's Pty. Ltd. plant at Acacia Ridge. It probably is not generally appreciated that it would be easier for employees at this new plant to go to work from, say, Beaudesert, than from the north side of Brisbane. In my opinion, we should look very carefully at the possibilities which such a plant as this offers for population decentralisation, and as an aid to metropolitan traffic problems.

In the growing maze of traffic coming in and out of Brisbane, Fairfield Road, in my electorate, gives rise to much concern. It is one of the worst traffic arteries in the city area at present. Let us face the fact that it will get far worse with the opening of the new fruit and vegetable markets. In many parts of this busy highway there are not even footpaths, and the unfortunate pedestrian has more problems than he should have in an area so close to the inner city.

Another of the most dangerous traffic places in Brisbane is the junction of Fairfield, Ipswich, and Sherwood Roads. It is imperative that this menace be eliminated as quickly as possible. This section is also subject to regular flash flooding, and is a real blot on

the road system of a city as large as Brisbane. I want to see a fly-over built there immediately to cope with the ever-increasing demands of traffic along this major arterial road out of Brisbane to Ipswich and the Darling Downs.

I also believe that it will become essential on major highways to have more pedestrian underpasses on the same lines as the one in Main Street, Kangaroo Point, to help the pedestrian in his struggle to save life and limb in the rising tide of traffic. The roads out of Brisbane create a pedestrian hazard in almost every suburb of the city. Our planning must aim to eliminate the pedestrian crossing at road level, because this can be a negative approach to the traffic problems of the future and is even now a severe handicap to the free movement of vehicles. Even at our main city intersections we should seriously consider some form of pedestrian crossings other than at traffic level. If we can get the pedestrian off street-level crossings, it will be of great benefit to him and will improve the traffic flow to a very great degree.

With the increase in traffic on our roads, one major concern to us all is the increasing number of traffic accidents. Though speed from various causes is a prime factor in the high accident rate, we must pass considerable responsibility to the frustration that our present inadequate roads provoke and the resultant human element.

I do feel that greater restriction should be placed on the issuing of licences in the first instance. We have a situation in which a licence is issued after a few short driving lessons, and the holder is then in exactly the same category as a person who has held a licence for 20 or 30 years. I mention this because so many of our young people are losing their lives or being maimed each year in traffic accidents. A solution could be a graduation from the learner's phase to a second phase, during which time the driver must carry some identification on the car that he is driving. There is no doubt that at the present time the learner's "L" on a car has a warning effect on other road users, and a second-phase identification would have much the same effect. It would also possibly have a psychological effect on the driver himself. I am concerned that there is too much confidence and too little experience issued with a driving licence.

I now have a comment on roads in general, and, in particular, on the part played by our Main Roads Department. The present Government has done a lot for the roads of this State, and possibly one of its greatest achievements is the completion of a bitumen highway—certainly not a two-carriage highway, but bitumen nevertheless—from the New South Wales border to Mossman in North Queensland.

Most people accept the fact that a road is being built or that a new road is needed here or there, or that widening of some

section of an existing highway is essential. Few people, however, stop to consider the cost of roadworks. In a State as large as ours, road work is a constant and enlarging strain on financial resources. It is my understanding that the Government plans an expenditure on our roads and highways of more than £120,000,000 in the next five years. This is a nice round figure, and it works out quite impressively at more than £2,000,000 each month for the next five years, or £100,000 for each working day.

But, Mr. Speaker, what do we get in terms of road construction for £2,000,000? In my experience—and this is a field where, perhaps unlike quite a few others, I have had considerable experience—we would be fortunate to get 60 miles of new roads, and even this figure would depend on where we were building, the availability of gravel or metal, the type of country, the necessity for bridges and culverts, and other factors. In any consideration of these heavy costs, Mr. Speaker, there must be taken into consideration the enormous costs of modern machinery and its quick depreciation under certain working conditions.

As honourable members may know, I relinquished my contracting interests more than four years ago, but after more than 20 years in this field I do know something of road-building problems. In its relatively brief term of office, the Government has improved the specifications and standards of road works. Much better foundations are now required, and more attention is paid to the compaction of fills. More earthworks are constructed to provide better grades with improved vision. This improvement in basic standards of road building was much overdue. The thickness of gravel or metals is greater and the quality much higher. All this naturally adds to the initial cost, but it pays off in the long run because maintenance costs are lower over the years.

Under the long-standing policy of Labour administrations, specifications were not of such high standard, and though it was possible to build a fair mileage of roads, we are now experiencing the aftermath of this short-sighted policy in the need for costly repairs and maintenance.

I recently made a trip through the Rockhampton, Burnett, and Brisbane Valley areas, and I saw roads being replaced because the originals were laid down with bad compaction, clay foundations, and inferior gravels, which, because of incorrect grades, left knolls and dangerous curves.

The Government is spending throughout the State large sums of money building bridges in areas where previous road construction was made over the cheapest and easiest places. When constructed, narrow bridges were built over the easiest part of a gully or creek, out of alignment to the road, and without any consideration for traffic hazards. This is now being corrected by straightening the road and building

bridges in alignment, but, of course, with the consequent high costs for short construction strips.

I hope the people of Queensland realise why the present Government has to spend so much more on roads with this straightening, building of new bridges, and the excavation of cuttings through hilly country—simply because its predecessors did the job “on the cheap.”

I believe that all this is absolutely essential for safety reasons in the present motor age. These higher-quality constructions cost more, but any road job must be of a high standard so that we get better value for our money. The Minister for Mines and Main Roads must be given full credit for the fact that present-day roads will last much longer than the poorer-quality roads built up to five or 10 years ago.

Having given some indication of the problems of our roads, now let us look at the problems of road contracting, which is full of pitfalls. A D.9 Caterpillar tractor—or another make of equivalent size—fully equipped costs about £40,000, which is more than the cost of an average factory, and a balanced road-making plant costs well in excess of £150,000. This is a very heavy capital investment and, like any other business so capitalised, if a road-contracting firm does not get continuing work it goes bankrupt and closes down.

In 10,000 hours of work, say, over 4½ years, this D.9 under reasonable conditions would cost its original price of approximately £40,000 in maintenance. Under adverse conditions—that is, in bad country—it would cost twice as much.

In the building of roads in a State the size of Queensland, it is essential that contracting firms be in a position to build up an efficient plant and an efficient work force. There is no comparison between the cost of day labour and an economically-run, efficient contracting firm.

When the present Government came into office it was barely possible to get enough contractors to do the work because, with so little prospect of getting work, they could not afford to buy plant.

When one outlays such large capital sums there must be some assurance of continuity of work. A contractor will train his work force and he will be able to build up his plant if there is no fear of a sudden change in policy, resulting in his plant suddenly coming to a standstill. Work done by the contractor is more economical from the Government or local-authority point of view, because no contractor can afford to make a mistake in his operations. He has tendered at a fixed price and any mistake with his machines, or inefficiency in his work force, is a charge against his own business. As is the case with day labour, it does not come from the Government's pocket.

I can recall several years ago inspecting a job site with a view to tendering. I was taken to the site by the shire engineer and generally was shown where the gravels, etc. could be obtained. Later in the day we visited a job being done by day labour. I noticed a cutting that had a large quantity of rock showing and asked the engineer what they did about keeping to the original price or estimate. He had no hesitation in telling me that they had not kept to the original price. They ran out of money and had to call for an extra £12,000 from the Main Roads Department; when they found this was not enough they sent for another £10,000.

A little further down we came upon three men playing cards during ordinary working hours. I said, “It's a wonder you don't sack them.” the engineer said, “I will as soon as the football season is over, but I can't afford to sack them now because they are good footballers, and with them in the district team we should win the premiership.”

I do not mean that all day labourers are good footballers, in fact, most of them are very good workers. I also am not saying that there is no inefficiency by contractors, but because of their fixed price they can afford it less than day labour can. If the contractor has confidence that there will be a continuous flow of work he will be efficient. Because of competition he must be efficient to survive. There must be a steady flow of contract work from both Government and local-authority sources if the vast Queensland contracting industry is to be kept stable and efficient.

In my electorate of Yeronga there are over 3,000 employees paid by contracting firms, and there are many thousands more all over the State. I want to see them all in employment—secure employment that will ensure there is a trained work force for the satisfactory and economic development of this State for the great years of progress that lie ahead.

It is reasonable to say that this Government has so instilled confidence in industry that over the past few years there has been a great build-up of trained labour and plant in the construction industry generally. The capital investment in such construction firms is enormous, and I reiterate, Mr. Speaker, that it is essential that we realise the value of their operations.

I deplore the continuing emphasis being placed by the Main Roads Department on day labour. I know that many road contractors feel that there has not been any essential change in policy since this Government took office. They point to the fact that in a 100-mile radius of Brisbane there is probably not one job going to tender; it is all being done by the Main Roads Department with day labour. If there is, certainly it is one which consists mainly of rock, or swampy country, or both, which entails high risks.

I have actually seen in this close area a road being built by day labour, of, say, 8 to 10 miles in which there was a hard rock section of about one mile. The Main Roads Department has called tenders for this hard rock section, keeping the easy construction for day labour, and not giving the contractor the chance to tender for the whole job. Consequently, his price per mile must be higher. These instances are used as a yardstick to assert that contract work is not cheaper than day labour.

The contractors point out that this area is the easiest part for road building, with the highest prospect for profit. The contractors can find plenty of work in the remote areas where the going is really tough, where it is virtually impossible to find local labour or to hold imported labour, and where an estimate that is the basis of a tender can be so far astray because of the labour position and conditions which simply could not be foreseen.

In this respect, I make a plea not only for the private road contractor, but also for the principle of free enterprise, a principle to which, as a Liberal member of this Parliament, I am proud to subscribe. Do not for one moment imagine I am one-sided in this view. My personal experience indicates that there should be some classification of contractors, with particulars listed of their plant, so that a reasonable estimate can be made of their capacity to carry out a particular job. In the past few weeks, whilst travelling in rural areas, I saw plants which, to say the least, were quite inadequate. They were owned by contractors and by local authorities, and I say flatly that, using such plants, it would be impossible to keep within reasonable costs and time schedules.

Please do not misconstrue this as opposition to the small man. In fact, I am one of his greatest supporters because I started contracting as a one-man show. If any man has some guarantee of continuity of opportunity for work, he will iron out his own problems. I am not advocating that all day labour should cease, but I cannot accept the present situation of 80 per cent. day labour and 20 per cent. contract work. It is urgent that we get full value for the money we are spending on roads, and an allocation of one-half of the work to the contractors—not one-fifth as at present—would stabilise the contracting industry. This would not cause unemployment, as men presently employed by the Main Roads Department and local authorities would be readily employed by contracting firms.

I am very happy to see that the Government is now adopting the policy of building roads of minimum pavement width of 16 feet or more. Many earlier roads were built with a 12-ft. pavement width and although this achieved more construction it was not economical because of higher maintenance costs. It also contributed to accidents, broken windscreens, and higher insurance costs. The

false economy of the 12-ft pavement is shown in the quick wearing of the shoulders, high maintenance costs, and the fact that widening, which must be done ultimately for a variety of reasons, costs just as much as the original construction.

Beef roads are another matter. The 12-ft. strips in that instance are satisfactory because of the lesser traffic usage (although of heavier type) than we find on highways such as the Condamine and the main Northern Highway.

I should like to thank hon. members for the patient hearing they have given me. If I appear to have been critical of one section of the Government's administrative policy in regard to the construction of roads it is because I have an unshakable conviction about the role that private enterprise should play in our society.

I do not wish to be regarded as criticising any particular person in regard to traffic, main roads, or local authorities. In the field of traffic, I have merely put forward some suggestions on the problem as I see them. In road construction, I have offered observations based on a long and close experience in the contracting industry. As to the Tennyson powerhouse fall-out, I really do not mind whom I offend in criticising it. I feel so strongly about it that I will never apologise for raising the subject, either in this House or elsewhere.

In conclusion, I again thank the electors of Yeronga for their confidence in me at the June by-election. I repeat that I shall do my humble best to represent them all ably, irrespective of their particular interests or political affiliations.

Mr. CORY (Warwick) (2.55 p.m.): Mr. Speaker, I am extremely pleased and deem it a great honour, to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply so ably moved by the hon. member for Yeronga.

I want to support fully, and am privileged as a member of this Parliament to be associated with, his reference to our continued loyalty towards the Throne and Person of our Most Gracious Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II.

I wish also to support the hon. member in his message of thanks to His Excellency for the manner in which he was pleased to open this present session.

We are proud of our Sovereign, and of her representative in our State, and we are indeed thankful for His Excellency's energetic and informed endeavours on behalf of all Queensland. We are indeed delighted with his obvious interest in all our affairs.

I wish to convey also, Mr. Speaker, sincere thanks to the Premier and his Government for the manner in which they have honoured me in asking me to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the speech of His Excellency.

It is, though, with a tinge of sadness that it is my lot to be present today. It was the untimely passing of one who had so much yet to do that brought it about.

Now let me refer to the very great responsibility I have, firstly, in following one of such character and ability as my friend, and your colleague, the late Hon. Otto Madsen. His endeavours on behalf of the Warwick electorate, and indeed Queensland, are well known to us all, and I can say without fear of contradiction that all of us who knew him are the richer for his counsel and friendship. He was indeed a great Queenslander.

My second great responsibility is to the electors of Warwick who have honoured me the way they have. I thank them for their confidence. I am very mindful of my responsibility, and I pledge my earnest endeavours in the interests of those whom I am privileged to represent.

It is also sad that our late Minister for Health is not with us today. Dr. Noble was a good man, a kind man, and one who laid the foundation for so much that was on the threshold of fulfilment.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I extend my congratulations to the Hon. S. D. Tooth, Minister for Health, on attaining Cabinet rank. We look forward with confidence to a job well done by him.

I congratulate also the new hon. member for Yeronga, Mr. Lee. He, as with me, no doubt, is like the man with a wheelbarrow—it is all in front. However, my congratulations are extended to him and we can look forward with confidence to a fruitful relationship in the future.

His Excellency yesterday referred to the increase in expenditure on industrial expansion throughout Queensland, from £100,000,000 to £126,000,000 in the last 12 months, showing an increase in tempo in this direction, as well as an increase in the production of minerals in the first quarter of the current year, indicating greater confidence in Queensland by investors.

Reference was also made to progress in irrigation development by the strategic placing of large water storages throughout the State and expansion of the use made of the Farm Water Supplies Assistance Act, under which technical advice and financial assistance are made available. This assistance is very much appreciated, and is something that continues to grow in the minds of producers who are in a position to make use of the service provided.

Couple this to increased expenditure in the fields of roadmaking, education, and health, and we have a picture of a very practical compromise between expenditure on development, on the one hand, and, on the other, efficient services and higher standards for our community.

I feel that reference must also be made to the part that the increased revenue of the Railway Department is playing in making more money available for the development of Queensland and the provision of increased services for its population.

I am privileged to represent secondary industry and business and educational interests as well as primary producers. There are in my area heavy alluvial flats, agricultural land, sandy, granite, and trap-rock grazing country, each with its own set of circumstances and hence its own problems.

We are faced with the problem of losing too many of our population, mainly our young people, to the cities. We must become increasingly realistic in our endeavours to foster decentralisation. It is not right that any industry should be compelled to start in a particular area, but it does appear that more could be done at government level to equalise the profit-making opportunities of country and city areas. This is an ever-increasing problem to both our primary industries and our inland manufacturing industries, assistance with freight rates being one obvious line of attack.

It is well to remember that although our State's economy is based on primary products, and a large credit balance of payment can be achieved with them, much is produced at well under bank rate of interest. With the high cost of land and machinery, many farmers and graziers are living on depreciation, not profits, from the capital that they have invested in their enterprise, and yet, with what they produce, they are the backbone of our economy.

I am referring in particular to the rural industries of the Darling Downs, where it is unfortunate that land is valued in accordance with sales in the particular area and not on the earning capacity of the land in question. To my mind, land cannot be worth more than what can be made off it. Because someone not dependent on this particular land pays more for it, I do not think that all should be valued and taxed accordingly. The entire living of many of these people has to come from the land, and it is not fair that for valuation purposes their land should be compared with that of someone else who has come in for other reasons.

Compare this with the high cost of production in farming areas, both dairying and fattening, where the farmer has the annual cost of cultivation to produce a fodder crop, which is in the vicinity of £3 10s. an acre to establish a crop of oats. That is an annual cost that goes on every year. Compare this with the permanent pastures of the South and elsewhere, where the cost of establishing a pasture is spread over several seasons. On the Downs there is this annual cost of cultivating a fodder crop, which is the greatest single element in the cost structure of farmers in that area.

In grazing areas on the Darling Downs we have, as yet, no satisfactory winter pasture, except under irrigation, to compare with the red and white subterranean clovers of the South or the exciting and very promising tropical legumes of the coastal areas. Our winters are too dry for southern pastures and too cold for northern ones, so we can get no suitable introduced species to combine with our natural summer grasses, which are quite satisfactory for six months of the year but inadequate for the other six months.

Because we have no introduced species for these grazing areas, stocking rates have to be low; but the cost of ownership is increasing and an individual's earning capacity is limited by this low stocking rate and he has to bear the burden of high costs year after year. To assist in this cost of production problem, much more research into suitable introduced species, preferably legumes, is essential. I should like to commend the work being done by officers of the Department of Primary Industries in this direction. They are a dedicated body of men who are doing everything possible to overcome the problem and develop species that are suitable. However, their resources at present do not appear to be sufficient to enable them to go as far as they would like or certainly as far as we would like.

A further reason why more effort should be put into pasture research is the need to counter the gradual depletion of soil fertility. Firstly, we must take all possible steps to retain our soils. Again the officers of the Department of Primary Industries are doing a very good job, but they can be only as efficient as the use that is made of them. Their services are readily available and free, and their influence is spreading. It is to be hoped that more and more people will make use of their services.

Having taken all possible steps to retain our soils, we should then do everything possible to maintain their productivity. More and more of our farm lands that have been cultivated for years are becoming deficient in nitrogen, and we must realise that the wealth of our rural districts is in direct proportion to the productivity of the soils in those particular districts. If we retain the soil and the fertility of the soil, we will retain the productivity of the land. If we do not, a greater and greater area will be needed for a person to make a living, and there will be fewer and fewer people on the land. I think all honourable members will agree that this is completely contrary to what we are trying to achieve.

We have heard a great deal about bauxite deposits in North Queensland, an alumina plant at Gladstone, brisgalow belts, oil-bearing deposits, and oil refineries. Neither their magnitude nor their importance to the economy of Queensland can be denied. But let us not, in the light of all this, neglect the areas and the productivity that have brought us to the stage when we are in a

position to make use of this great new potential. Let us not neglect the areas that have been improved for 50 or 60 years, because there are cities, towns, secondary industries, and a large population in addition to primary producers dependent entirely on their productivity.

I have the privilege of representing an area such as this, and it is vital that we retain the productivity of our soils. It is with this in mind that I say, "Let us do everything within our resources to get a suitable introduced legume, or, alternatively, artificial fertilisers at a reasonable cost." We must have these to introduce nitrogen to our farm lands and build them up, and at the same time retain their production through the feed value of the growth or increased grain quality and yield.

I should like to stress the importance of increasing the quality of the grain we produce. With increasing improvement in the quality from time to time our markets will become more and more selective and it is not the volume we produce that will be of main importance but the quality of the product. Should we continue without the introduction of nitrogen to the farm lands of the Downs we will soon be producing a commodity so lacking in proteins that it will not be acceptable to the millers. It is therefore of vital importance that we produce an article that is marketable at all times. In the grazing areas adjacent to these farm lands we have sandy and clay soils that are both phosphorus and nitrogen deficient. Both of these can be introduced by artificial fertilisers but the response achieved by our natural grasses is not nearly sufficient to make such application economic. So here again an introduced species of legume that will give sufficient response to applications of phosphate to make the economics right and at the same time, by virtue of being a legume, build up the nitrogen in the soil to cope with the growth of our natural grasses in the summer, is necessary. We must have the introduced species that will be vigorous enough to make it economic to build up phosphate and in turn give us sufficient increase in carrying capacity to make it an economic proposition. At the present time our only legume that is anywhere near this possibility is lucerne but it falls down on the very important phase that it is a summer legume, not a winter one. It is a winter legume that we are striving for in order to assist us over the protein-starved months each winter and early spring—and, depending on how soon the spring breaks, not always only in the early part of spring. Should we be able to get a suitable plant to increase our protein in winter, a remarkable transformation will take place in our present depleted pastures. There is no doubt whatever that the carrying capacity of our grazing areas that have now been improved and cleared for 50 or 60 years is gradually decreasing.

Referring now to secondary industries that have grown up in Warwick and other similar areas, these are of incalculable value as a source of employment as well as a ready market for rural production, but the age-old problem of inland industries comes in here, especially regarding freights. This is particularly so with the milling and grain-processing industries, and because of these difficulties they have not been able to increase their production and their enterprise to the extent that they can operate on huge turnovers and small profits. There is a limit to their expansion while they have to cope with the problem of being inland industries. It is important, though, that these industries remain active; it is important to the producer and it is vital to the business and commercial man in our inland towns.

It is true that a processing industry must either be at the source of the market or at the source of supply, but we have in Warwick two flour mills with provender mill departments which are doing a wonderful job as industries in Warwick and at the same time giving a very valuable supply of stock feeds over a large area, as are other similar mills on the Darling Downs, at Dalby and Pittsworth.

These mills were placed strategically, being at the source of supply, but they are being denied this right in regard to sorghum, a major component of stock feeds, as virtually all the Downs crop was sold to interstate operators. Owing to the Sorghum Board's operations Queensland buyers were unable to compete on the open market, and as the board was not getting sufficient supplies from the Downs it could not give our mills their requirements, and they had to purchase them from New South Wales. So we find ourselves in the unfortunate position where the New South Wales buyers can purchase under our very nose the commodity that our local industries have been built to process. Again I stress the importance of these industries and their expansion. I only hope that this position can be resolved at an early date so that our local manufacturers will be able at least to compete with interstate buyers for our own product and not have to go south for the commodity they require, thus ensuring continuity of production. It is vital that they maintain their even rate of production because they are a vital source of stock food. At the same time it is essential that they expand in order that further employment can be provided in the area. I take time to mention this at length because we regard the present position very seriously.

Our timber mills, dairy factories and meatworks in Killarney and Warwick form a nucleus of employment. With the completion of the Leslie Dam, with a storage capacity of 87,000 acre-feet, further expansion can be expected. Indeed, we feel that it is in sight. I appeal to Cabinet that Stage II be completed immediately Stage I is finished. By giving us this storage, with Warwick at the junction of the north, south,

east and west road and rail services, plus adequate electric power and, I stress, with very competitive coal supplies from Mt. Colliery mine near Tannymorel being available, the stage is being set for the industrial development of the Warwick area. With this development we will have industries that will be able to make still better use of the resources and production of the area. Some may say that this is being parochial, but how can any scheme that is going to make use of an installation that is costing the Queensland taxpayers £2,000,000 be called parochial and not one of State-wide importance? I commend the decision to build the dam, but do not let us stop there. Let us make the best possible economic use of the water to be stored by the dam.

Having now established, or being in the process of establishing, these strategic water resources throughout the State, let us consider a far less dramatic form of development, one that would not achieve very great publicity but one that would bring into production many hundreds of acres of some of the richest country in Queensland. I refer to the development of a scheme for the construction of smaller weirs and dams in the upper reaches of many of our streams, to serve areas that have no possible chance of being served by any of the bigger schemes. I make particular mention of the possibility of constructing a series of small weirs in the upper reaches of small streams such as Glengallan Creek, Freestone Creek, Swan Creek, Emu Creek and the headwaters of the Condamine River itself in the Glengallan Shire, which would in themselves be small constructions but which would be of invaluable benefit to farmers owning the rich alluvial land downstream. The object of these constructions would be to control the flow to the extent that water would be available for 12 months of the year. This would lower the cost of production and many farmers would find a new field of production. They could produce in times of drought and it is then that profits can be made from such an enterprise.

These areas cannot be surpassed for richness or potential, but unless the stream flow can be controlled and can be depended upon—and at the moment when it is needed most it is not available—there is no chance of making full use of the potential of the land, and the areas will suffer in production. I ask that surveys be made to prove the economics of such schemes and the benefit to the farmers and the district in general.

Let us make greater efforts to bridge the gap between city and country profit-making opportunities with freight concessions of major importance and so, in some practical way, assist in the theory of decentralisation and make better use of the resources we have to offer inland. In that way we can give the commercial world, which has done so much to improve its premises in recent years in cities like Warwick, the stimulus it deserves.

Those of us who live along the New South Wales border must also face the difficulties resulting from southern producers being able to undersell our local product because of the variance in transport tax chargeable on an interstate movement compared with an intrastate movement. This must be watched, especially with stock fodder in times of drought such as is being experienced in many parts today, because it is important that the fodder reaches its destination as quickly as possible. New South Wales hay has been bought by Queensland consumers because they can buy it cheaper and have it delivered at a lower rate than the Downs product. This could kill the incentive of the local growers, and Queensland is losing to another State money that could be very gainfully spent here.

The farmer, the grazier, the manufacturer, and the commercial and business houses in my area, coupled with our road and rail transport systems are anxious to get on with the job. They will not let us down if we can only give them the support they deserve in their endeavours.

Mr. Sherrington: Are there any railways there?

Mr. CORY: The railways are there all right. We also have a very sound educational programme. At present we have six secondary schools, with another one in the course of construction. In these schools we have educational facilities second to none. We must do everything possible to increase the job opportunities in the area by developing our industries so that when the young people leave school we do not lose them to other areas. We must increase the production of our land as well as the volume of our industries.

I again thank the Premier for the privilege of seconding the adoption of the Address in Reply, and I again sincerely join with the hon. member for Yeronga in thanking His Excellency for his Speech.

I should like also to thank you, Mr. Speaker, the members of this Parliament, the staff at Parliament House, and officers of the various departments with whom I have come in contact, for the way I have been received as a new member of this Parliament.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Duggan, adjourned.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

“That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 11 a.m. tomorrow.”

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 3.27 p.m.