

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 23 AUGUST 1966

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

VACANCY IN SENATE OF COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to announce that I have informed His Excellency the Governor that Mr. William Clarence Heatley was, on 11 August, chosen to hold the place in the Senate of the Parliament of the Commonwealth rendered vacant through the death of Senator Robert Duncan Sherrington, and that the following letter has been received from His Excellency:—

“Government House,
“Brisbane, August 23, 1966.

“Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 11th August, 1966, informing me that on the 11th instant, Mr. William Clarence Heatley had been chosen to hold the place in the Senate of the Parliament of the Commonwealth rendered vacant through the death of Senator Robert Duncan Sherrington.

“I have the honour to be, Sir,

“Your most obedient Servant,

“ALAN J. MANSFIELD
“Governor.”

QUESTIONS

PRIVATE BUS SERVICES, BRISBANE

Mr. Newton, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

(1) What is the number of bus owners or companies in the metropolitan area that have applied to the Transport Department for an increase in fares since July 1, 1964, to June 30, 1966?

(2) What were the names of such services?

(3) What increases were sought for (a) weekly tickets and (b) ordinary fares?

(4) What was the number of applications received for new services and of these what was the number (a) approved, (b) rejected, and (c) pending?

Answers:—

(1) “Twelve.”

(2) “Black & White Safety Bus Line Pty. Ltd. and Blue & White Buses (Manly-Lota) Pty. Ltd. operating as ‘Bayside Bus Services’; Brisbane City Council; R. A. & M. C. Brooks trading as ‘Belmont Bus Service’; Bulimba-Gibson Island Bus Company Pty. Ltd.; M. J. Fitzgerald; A. F. Howatson trading as ‘F. J. Howatson & Son’; L. S. & C. M. G. McGrath;

R. G. J. Mitchell; A. J. Monaghan; Sunnybank Bus Service Pty. Ltd.; W. White.”

(3 and 4) “I lay upon the table a statement setting out the information asked for.”

Paper.—Whereupon Mr. Dewar laid upon the Table of the House the statement referred to.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Mr. R. Jones, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Mines,—

(1) How many fatal and non-fatal accidents occurred during the fiscal year 1965-66 in Queensland in (a) Brisbane, (b) provincial city areas, and (c) country areas?

(2) What were (a) the causes of these accidents, (b) the classifications of injured parties in relation to passenger, driver, pedestrian, &c., and (c) the age groups of the injured?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) “The statistics for the financial year 1965-66 are not yet available. However, I arranged for data for the period of nine months ended March 31, 1966, to be prepared for the information of the Honourable Member. As a large amount of detail is involved, I lay on the Table of the House a statement incorporating the relevant figures.”

Paper.—Whereupon Mr. Camm laid upon the Table of the House the statement referred to.

LINESMEN'S TRAINING SCHOOL

Mr. Sherrington, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Industrial Development,—

(1) When is it expected that the linesmen's training school will commence operation?

(2) What has been the reason for the delay in preparation of the correspondence course for linesmen which has been set down as a prerequisite of entry by tradesmen's assistants to this school?

(3) Is it proposed to make available any reports concerning progress made by the Electrical Industry Safety Advisory Committee?

Answers:—

(1) “It is expected that the linesmen's training school will be ready to commence early in 1967. An introductory course for foremen and leading hands is planned to acquaint them with the working methods and procedures to be taught at the school. The first intake of trainees is proposed for July, 1967.”

(2) “The revision of the linesmen's correspondence course is in the hands of a small group of engineers with special qualifications in this field appointed by

the Electrical Industry Safety Advisory Committee. It is progressing as quickly as possible having regard to the nature of the assignment and the other business responsibilities of the members of the group. In order that there will be no delay in the intake of trainees to the school, arrangements have been made for the commencement of the correspondence course using the existing syllabus. A changeover to the new syllabus will be made as soon as the revision is completed."

(3) "All organisations and authorities represented on the Electrical Industry Safety Advisory Committee are kept fully informed on all aspects of the activities of the committee. Public announcements of the kind issued in November, 1965, when the decision was made to proceed with the establishment of the linesmen's training school, will be made from time to time as considered necessary or desirable. In addition, progress in the committee's work will be reported on by the commission in future annual reports which are tabled in Parliament."

AMERICAN INTEREST IN PASTORAL LEASES, CAPE YORK PENINSULA

Mr. O'Donnell, pursuant to notice, asked
The Minister for Lands,—

With reference to the acquiring of cattle grazing land leases in the Cape York Peninsula by American-controlled syndicates—

- (1) How were the leases obtained?
- (2) How many properties were involved?
- (3) What would be the total area of the acquired leases?
- (4) Would the total area approximate half the grazing lands in the Peninsula?
- (5) What is the productive capacity of the area acquired?
- (6) If the American interests proceed with a full development programme, will a sub-division of the holdings at some future date permit individual members of the syndicates to acquire land under freehold tenure for the benefit of the syndicates?
- (7) Should the syndicates use floor space in existing abattoirs or establish an abattoir, will the price of Queensland beef on the American market be depressed?
- (8) Have any American individuals obtained leases in the area? If so, how many and by what means?

Answers:—

(1) "According to the records of my Department, Americans have acquired 20 pastoral leases in Cape York Peninsula. Nineteen of these were acquired by

private treaty and transfers of the lessees' interests therein have been registered in the books of the Department. One block, namely Sudley Holding, which formerly was part of York Downs Expired Holding, was made available at public competition and an American named C. S. Radebaugh was the successful applicant."

(2) "Twenty separate holdings have been acquired by American interests."

(3) "9,003 square miles."

(4) "The Peninsular comprises a total area of approximately 68,000 square miles according to calculations made by the Survey Office. This is the area north of the 17th parallel of south latitude which runs through Mareeba. The area of 9,003 square miles acquired by Americans is equivalent to approximately 1/7th of that total area."

(5) "The productive capacity of the lands in question is related to the extent of land development and improvements carried out by the respective lessees. At the present time these properties in the main are almost virgin country. In particular, they are largely unfenced, inadequately watered, and practically unimproved. In these circumstances, estimates of productive capacity can only be speculative in nature. Production in the main has been limited to store cattle of ordinary quality. Generally speaking, management techniques practised in the Peninsula area to date have been such as to make an estimation of productive capacity a difficult task and having regard to the problems facing producers in that area, this position is understandable. The new tenants intend carrying out a programme of fencing and the provision of watering facilities in fenced paddocks. It is also proposed to experiment with the introduction of new pastures. When this programme of development is completed, information will become available which will form a basis upon which estimates of productive capacity can be made with some degree of accuracy. However, at this stage, I hesitate to guess at the productive capacity of these lands and I might mislead the Honourable Member if I attempted to do so. Certainly the holdings do comprise areas of good quality land and the new tenants are of the opinion that with an expenditure which I understand will substantially exceed two million dollars they will get a reasonable return on investment. On the basis of the opinions of experienced producers in that area and experts in northern development, including C.S.I.R.O., we very confidently expect that the return for Queensland will be substantial."

(6) "The new tenants of the 20 pastoral leases are in exactly the same position as any other lessee of a pastoral lease

in this State. There is no provision in the Land Acts which will allow the conversion of a pastoral lease to freehold. The new lessees have not asked for nor have they been promised freehold tenure. When the leases expire, they will be subdivided for new settlement according to the principles laid down in the Land Acts."

(7) "In my opinion and in the context of world beef production, there is no risk of any depression in the American meat market arising from the full development of a great deal more of our State's lands than is involved in this present development in the Peninsula."

(8) "Of the 20 leases mentioned in Answer (1), eight of these were acquired by individual Americans. Of the eight holdings held by individuals, seven were acquired by private purchase; the other was acquired by Mr. Radebaugh, who was the successful applicant for Sudley block as set out in Answer (1). No special concessions that I am aware of have been extended to these Americans. If foreign investment of capital can be used to advantage, the Peninsula area is certainly an ideal place for this investment. We Queenslanders have not been able to handle the tough financial propositions such as are involved here. Tremendous capital is required to cope with a situation of remoteness, transport difficulties, labour problems and high costs of development. I am of the opinion that Queensland can only profit from the investment of this new capital both now and in the long term. The impetus gained from this influx of knowledge and capital can play an important part in northern development. I point out that up to date something in excess of two and one quarter million dollars has been used or is being used in the development of these properties by the Americans."

DISTRIBUTION OF FLUORIDE TABLETS BY PEAK DOWNS SHIRE COUNCIL

Mr. O'Donnell, pursuant to notice, asked
The Minister for Health,—

Why was the Peak Downs Shire Council advised that it would be illegal for that local authority to supply fluoride tablets for the benefit of residents of the shire?

Answer:—

"Sodium fluoride for human ingestion is a drug which, at present, may be sold only by chemists. This is the position in all mainland States. There is a proviso that storekeepers at a distance greater than ten miles from a chemist may be given a licence so that they may sell these tablets. Provision is being made for an amendment of the Regulations to permit Local Authorities to distribute fluoride tablets."

RICE-GROWING EXPERIMENTS, MILLAROO RESEARCH STATION

Mr. Coburn, pursuant to notice, asked The
Minister for Primary Industries,—

(1) What is the result in as much detail as possible of the rice-growing experiments that have been carried out at the Millaroo Experiment Station?

(2) Has his Department any plans for experimental rice growing on a normal farm production and large acreage basis?

(3) Should rice as a result of these experiments be grown in large quantities on the Lower Burdekin? Are there known assured satisfactory markets where the cereal could be readily disposed of?

Answers:—

(1) "Preliminary rice trials using the variety Prelude were undertaken on typical Oakey clay loam soil during the 1955-56 season. Further trials were undertaken on both Oakey and Barratta soil types in 1958-59 when five commercial rice varieties and six selected 'indica' strains from the Kimberley area were available for testing. In these trials yields of paddy rice ranged from 26.56 cwt. per acre. One ton of paddy gives approximately half a ton of polished rice. Diversification and intensification of the programme was slowed down by quarantine requirements on the movement of rice varieties from the Northern Territory to Queensland. In 1964 my Department introduced stocks of Bluebonnet 50 variety (a long-grain type) from the New South Wales Department of Agriculture, and in the 1964-65 season at Millaroo Research Station, both rice varietal and fertilizer trials were carried out. The highest yielding long-grain varieties gave 59 cwt. of paddy per acre as compared with 32 cwt. of paddy per acre for Bluebonnet, but the top yielding variety lodged badly. Yields were increased by nitrogenous fertilizer applications of up to 100 lb. nitrogen per acre. In the 1965-66 season, varietal and fertilizer trials were again carried out and bulk areas of rice were grown. The variety Bluebonnet 50 again performed well, giving 2.7 tons of paddy per acre, but it was outyielded by the long-grain varieties Sigadis and Emata Yin, both yielding 3.2 tons of paddy per acre. Both of these varieties lodged badly, however, and mechanical harvesting was difficult. Bulk areas of Bluebonnet 50, which harvested 2½ tons of paddy per acre over four acres, and Sigadis with 2½ tons of paddy per acre over half an acre were grown on the Barratta soils. On the Oakey soils Bluebonnet 50 yielded 2½ tons of paddy per acre over four acres. The variety Sigadis again lodged badly. The current rice experimental programme is concerned with introductions of varieties, varietal testing, time of planting and fertilizer studies."

(2) "For the past two years, areas of bulk and experimental rice have been grown on Millaroo Research Station to meet the requirements of the Departmental research programme. In 1965-66 approximately 11 acres of rice were sown, six acres of bulk rice on the Barratta soils and approximately five acres on the Oakey soils. Bulk yields of Bluebonnet and Sigadis approximated 2½-3 tons of paddy per acre, with overall yields from all rice plantings of approximately 2½ tons of paddy per acre. In the coming year the trials proposed for the Millaroo Research Station, including soil physical projects, will require rice plantings of 20 to 25 acres. Commercial practices are being studied on the bulk plantings and commercial plot production has been supervised on a soil type in the Dalbeg area. Further district plots may be established to determine crop production methods on soil types not present on the Millaroo Research Station."

(3) "These experiments indicate that rice growing is an industry with potential on the Lower Burdekin. The obvious barrier to any large scale industry is the amount of water available for irrigation and the initial costs of developing the heavy soils. In addition it is considered unwise for commercial rice production to be undertaken at present as further knowledge is required on water requirements, fertilizer usage, planting times and disease and insect control. The research programme is designed to delineate rice production problems and techniques as a prelude to the establishment of a rice growing industry. Rice is, however, a rotation crop, and grain and fodder crops of importance to the cattle industry are to be included in the research programme to determine satisfactory cropping systems for the region. 140,000 tons of paddy rice were produced in Australia in 1964. Annual domestic requirements are about 35,000 tons, and the remainder is exported, mainly as milled rice. Any increased production would therefore add to the export surplus. Export market prospects for rural products change from time to time. At present prospects for rice are quite good but this situation could change by the time any large scale production became established in Queensland. The rice marketing situation is being kept under constant review by the Marketing Division of my Department."

STANDARDS BRANCH OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, TOWNSVILLE

Mr. Tucker, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Primary Industries,—

In view of the increased need for supervision in North Queensland by the Standards Branch of the Primary Industries Department, will he consider stationing an officer of the branch in Townsville?

Answer:—

"The need for appointment of an officer of the Standards Branch in Townsville is realised but must be considered in relation to the question of expanding agricultural development and the consequent increasing demand on Departmental services throughout the State. I am mindful of the special claim which Townsville and adjacent localities have as a fast developing area but extension of services in this area must conform with planned expansion, the implementation of which is dependent on additional finance becoming available to permit recruitment, training and transfer of staff."

ALLOWANCES TO FOSTER PARENTS

Mr. Melloy, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Labour and Tourism,—

In view of the increased cost of maintaining children, particularly in relation to clothing, footwear and food, will he review the allowances and payments made to parents in care of foster children?

Answer:—

"This matter has been receiving active consideration long before the Honourable Member asked his Question. It is, of course, dependent upon Budgetary responsibilities in respect of the whole of the State, and these, including the allowances in question, are all presently under consideration in relation to the amount of finance which will be available for overall purposes."

CHARGES IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS

Mr. Melloy, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) Is a charge to be introduced for beds in public wards?

(2) Are charges for hospitalisation in intermediate wards to be increased?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The matters raised by the Honourable Member come within the ambit of Government policy. He will be aware that such matters are never discussed in reply to Questions."

MARKETING OF ICE CREAM

Mr. Melloy, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

In view of the recent upsurge in the sales of ice cream following the introduction of new packaging in the form of half-gallon cans, the subsequent sales competition between various manufacturers, the obvious variation of quality and constitution between the various products and the inclination on the part of manufacturers to claim special qualities of their product,

with use of such terms as "extra cream", will he have investigations made with regard to the ingredients used and the quality of the various brands being marketed and whether the words used on labels contravene the provisions of the Pure Foods Acts?

Answer:—

"Samples of ice cream marketed in the form of half-gallon cans are examined periodically by the Government Chemical Laboratory. All contained or exceeded the prescribed amount of milk fat but three brands were deficient in total food solids. The necessary action was taken to have this corrected and subsequent check samples indicated that the necessary measures had been taken by the manufacturers to fulfil the requirements of the Food and Drug Regulations. The words used on the labels do not contravene the provisions of the Food and Drug Regulations."

SEGREGATION OF YOUNG PRISONERS

Mr. Aikens, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an article in *The Courier-Mail* of August 5 last wherein Mr. Justice Hart, in fining a person named Pope \$100 for dangerous driving, is reported to have said, "Apparently there is no segregation in jails, and sending Pope to jail would only help to manufacture more criminals"?

(2) If so, are the remarks of Mr. Justice Hart, as reported, factual and, if not, what steps, if any, are taken in Queensland prisons to prevent young prisoners mixing with and possibly being corrupted by older and more experienced prisoners?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Every endeavour is made within the limits of accommodation and employment to keep young short-term prisoners away from the environment and association of long-term prisoners. The Government is fully aware of the accommodation problems existing in prisons today and to overcome them a substantial building programme within the limits of available resources is under way."

POLICE ACTION TO COMBAT ROAD TOLL

Mr. Bromley, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

(1) What are the details of the effects of the recent all-out endeavour by the Police Force to combat the ever-mounting road toll and will this method be continued?

(2) Is it intended that more "Q-cars" will be purchased to patrol the roads?

Answers:—

(1) "Recent variations of procedure in relation to traffic law enforcement have not been in force for a sufficient period to enable reliable statistics to be produced regarding the effects thereof, but information received indicates that a reduction of dangerous driving practices has recently become noticeable. The system will be continued."

(2) "There is no present intention to purchase more special traffic patrol cars."

IMPRISONMENT OF EDWARD RIVER MISSION ABORIGINES

Mr. Bromley, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

In view of the report that several Edward River aborigines, recently sentenced to five days' imprisonment, have been sent to Palm Island, will he indicate why this was necessary and when it is intended to return them to their homes?

Answer:—

"Transfer was considered necessary to ensure and promote the well-being of the entire Edward River community and the persons themselves. This decision was made only after personal consultation with the Aboriginal Councillors of the Edward River community by the Director, who visited there at the time. Return of the men will be determined in the light of future developments and is subject to regular review."

TOURIST OFFICER, ATHERTON

Mr. Davies for Mr. Wallis-Smith, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Labour and Tourism,—

In view of the upsurge of tourism in North Queensland and the importance of the Atherton Tableland in the tourist attractions, will he reconsider his previous decision and appoint a full-time tourist officer at Atherton?

Answer:—

"There has been a number of proposals, from time to time, for branches of the Tourist Bureau to be established in centres such as Atherton, but it has not been and still is not practicable to accede to these requests, as finance is just not available. The motives of the particular communities, which seek these facilities, are appreciated. However, I stress that the bulk of Queensland's tourist market is in the southern States of Australia. Consequently, it is to the advantage of all districts, including Cairns and the Atherton Tableland, that, consistent with the amount of funds which can be made available for tourist promotion and servicing purposes, concentration be fixed on the maintaining and, where possible, the extension of the activities of the branches in the southern States."

REMOVAL OF BASALT BOULDERS FROM
TOWN AREA, MT. SURPRISE

Mr. Davies for **Mr. Wallis-Smith**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Mines,—

(1) Is he aware that piles of large basalt boulders have been left beside the State school and the Police Station at Mt. Surprise?

(2) Have arrangements been made to move these boulders outside the town area as soon as possible?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Discussions are in hand with Etheridge Shire Council to determine a suitable area where boulders may be spread."

AGATE REMOVAL FROM AGATE CREEK

Mr. Davies for **Mr. Wallis-Smith**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Mines,—

Has he had any reports of removal of large quantities of agate from Agate Creek near Forsyth? If so, what action has he taken to enforce the regulations and protect this field from exploitation?

Answer:—

"Yes. On July 21, 1966, special regulations were promulgated to ensure that large scale mechanised mining of agate in Agate Creek would be stopped. Such were published in the *Government Gazette* of July 23, 1966."

SOOT NUISANCE, RACECOURSE MILL,
MACKAY

Mr. Graham, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

In view of the inconvenience and annoyance that the residents of West Mackay are experiencing due to soot and bagasse nuisance emanating from Racecourse Mill, will he have enquiries made with a view to having this nuisance abated?

Answer:—

"An investigation into air pollution, including pollution caused by sugar mills, is being carried out at Mackay by the Chief Engineer, Mackay City Council. This officer has been in consultation with the Director of Air Pollution Control, Mr. A. Gilpin, regarding these matters."

POLLUTION OF STREAMS, MACKAY
DISTRICT

Mr. Graham, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

As certain tidal creeks are still being polluted by effluent from sugar mills in the Mackay district, will he again investigate the position in an endeavour to overcome the problem?

Answer:—

"The problem of pollution of streams by effluent from sugar mills in the Mackay area has been under investigation by engineers of the Department of Local Government and officers of the Pioneer Shire Council. The disposal of mill effluents presents many difficulties. Mr. Henry, Chief Sewerage Engineer, Department of Local Government, is going overseas later this year and one of his studies will be the disposal and treatment of sugar mill wastes."

MINISTERIAL EXPENSES

RETURN TO ORDER

The following paper was laid on the table:—

Return to an Order made by the House on 9 August last, on the motion of Mr. Hanson, of expenses of Ministers for the period 1 July, 1965, to 30 June, 1966, inclusive, showing each separately and in detail.

PAPERS

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

Reports—

Police Superannuation Board for the year 1965-66.

Registrar of Co-operative Societies for the year 1965-66.

President of the Industrial Court of Queensland for the year 1965-66.

Under Secretary for Mines for the year 1965.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Order in Council under the Rural Training Schools Act of 1965.

Regulations under the Adoption of Children Acts, 1964 to 1965.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE—FIRST AND
SECOND ALLOTTED DAYS.

Debate resumed from 11 August (see p. 139) on Mr. E. G. W. Wood's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. TUCKER (Townsville North) (11.46 a.m.): At the outset I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on being re-elected to the high office of Speaker of this House. You have at all times been very fair, and I hope that you have another happy three years in that office. At the end of that period we will of course do our very best to see that you do not occupy it again.

On behalf of the people of Townsville North, I reaffirm our allegiance to the Crown. In the matter of loyalty the Townsville people are second to none.

We were very happy indeed to have our new Governor, Sir Alan Mansfield, and his good wife with us at our last Show in Townsville. In the short time that His Excellency has held office he has won the hearts of the people of the North with his pleasant and proper manner. It is good to see a Queenslander holding this office. We will welcome His Excellency whenever he is in Townsville or elsewhere in North Queensland. I congratulate him on his elevation to that high office and trust he will be spared to serve in it for a long time.

I thank those people in the electorate of Townsville North who returned me for my third term in the Parliament of Queensland. To those who will be reading this speech, I say that I will work as assiduously during the next three years as I have done in the past six years. I thank all members of the Australian Labour Party, particularly my campaign director and my committee, for the work they carried out on my behalf during the last election, and in addition, for their work on my behalf over the years that I have represented that area. I could not stay where I am without their assistance and their work in collecting funds on my behalf. I thank them for their wholehearted support. They have always been unselfish in their efforts. Although they do not stand to gain much for the hard work they do, they have always been there with their solid support for me.

I now wish to expose an untrue statement by the Liberal candidate in Townsville North after the last election—a person named Bonnett—who claimed that there had been a swing of 11 per cent. to the Liberal Party. That cry was taken up by the Press, not only in my area but in Brisbane and all over the State.

I do not know why he made that statement. Possibly it was to boost his own stocks, because he is now the endorsed Liberal candidate to contest the coming Federal election. Perhaps he did it in an endeavour to mislead the electors in the hope that some misguided people would say, "If there is a swing in this direction, let us get on the band wagon and vote for the Liberal Party at the Federal election."

Mr. Campbell: It cost you a few sleepless nights, though.

Mr. TUCKER: I shall quote figures to show how foolish that statement is, and how the hon. member for Aspley is capable of making some of the most stupid remarks ever heard in this House.

Mr. Bromley: That's why they call him "Cackleberry."

Mr. TUCKER: He looks like an ass and confirms it every time he opens his mouth.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member has made a disparaging remark against the hon. member for Aspley, and I ask him to withdraw it.

Mr. TUCKER: On your direction, Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member will withdraw without any qualification.

Mr. TUCKER: I withdraw the statement. It amazes me how the hon. member is keen to butt in on every occasion.

I wish to show, by cold, hard, truthful figures, how incorrect was Mr. Bonnett's remark, and how wrong was my interjector when he claimed that I had many sleepless nights over this matter. At the election in 1960, when there was first-past-the-post voting, I received 5,262 primary votes. On that occasion 12,136 valid votes were cast, and my percentage of them was 43.4. In 1963 I received 6,196 primary votes, and the valid votes cast totalled 12,797. My percentage of the valid votes rose to 48.4. That was the election at which preference voting was used for the first time, and I had to obtain some 200 D.L.P. preferences to win. In 1966 I received 6,862 primary votes, and on that occasion 13,676 valid votes were cast. My percentage of the valid votes rose to 50.2. For the first time I had an absolute majority, and no preference votes were counted.

Let us look quickly at the supposed gains made by the Liberal Party at the last election, and the supposed progress it has made during the time that I have been a member. In 1960 the Liberal Party candidate received 4,140 primary votes. As I have already said, 12,136 valid votes were then cast, and the percentage gained by the Liberal Party candidate on that occasion was 29.3. In 1966 the Liberal Party candidate received 4,919 primary votes of the 13,676 valid votes cast, or 29.2 per cent. Therefore, in six years the Liberal Party vote has been reduced by 0.1 per cent., not increased by 11 per cent. as the Liberal candidate claimed. If ever there was a mis-statement, that was one.

The Liberal Party has nothing to be happy about in Townsville, because in the last six years the vote for it, instead of increasing, has decreased slightly. This is in spite of the fact that in the last three years, and possibly before that, it has had a paid organiser in Townsville, namely, Mr. Bonnett himself, which I imagine has cost it thousands of dollars. Of course, I know that the Liberal Party now owes a substantial amount of money in respect of the last election campaign and has had to make arrangements to repay it bit by bit. I know, too, that Mr. Bonnett, about 15 weeks before the expected date of the Federal election, is making television appearances. I wonder who is paying for them, when the Liberal Party still owes money for the last election campaign.

I shall devote a considerable time this morning to the Northern Division of the Queensland Government Railways. Railway-men in North Queensland are now more apprehensive about the future than they have

ever been in their working lives. Despite the fact that over the years there has been quite a considerable excess of income over expenditure in the Northern Division, despite the fact that the Northern Division has virtually carried the other divisions in Queensland, opportunities for employment in that division continue to diminish. Railwaymen in Townsville—in fact, in the whole of the Northern Division—are looking to the future with fear. They are saying, “What is going to happen to my job in the next few weeks? What will happen to my family if I am transferred? What will happen to my home? How am I to sell if I am transferred from the place in which I have established myself?” These are the things they fear, and I shall show this morning, with figures made available by the various unions in the Northern Division, that their fears are well-founded.

I have here a letter addressed to the Northern District Secretary of the Australian Railways Union, and I presume—I think my presumption is correct—that it has been sent to the secretaries of many of the unions connected with the railways in the Northern Division. The implications of this letter are very serious; it is one of the most cold-blooded documents that I have read in a long time. It is dated 8 July, 1966, and says—

“Dear Sir,

“The Department’s programme of modernisation provides for the dieselisation of the Cairns District, commencing in March, 1967, and this will require the re-organisation of Depots and staff.

“There will be some reduction in staff at Mareeba, Innisfail and Cairns, and the employees so affected will be informed in writing.

“All employees concerned are being communicated with individually, and informed of the position, and the purpose of communicating with you is to afford your Union prior knowledge of the action to be taken by the Department, as well as to afford all employees who will be rendered surplus at Mareeba, Cairns and Innisfail, the opportunity between now and March, 1967, of seeking transfer to an advertised vacancy per medium of Weekly Notice, if they so desire, but they will not be required to take up in the new position until the dieselisation of the Cairns District is being introduced.

“If it be at the end of February, 1967, that there are employees surplus at Mareeba, Cairns or Innisfail, who have not been appointed to vacancies at other centres, the Commissioner will endeavour to have them placed in vacancies then existing at other places, if not in their classification then in some other position if they so desire; failing this, there will be no alternative for the Commissioner but to reluctantly dispense with their services.

“Should you desire any further information in respect of this matter, I will afford you the opportunity to raise the matter at an interview.

Yours faithfully,

C. W. Hutchison

General Manager.”

We all know, of course—it is public property now—that there are 64 men involved in the three centres mentioned in that letter: 26 at Mareeba, 24 at Cairns and 14 at Innisfail. I ask hon. members to take particular note of this passage in the letter—

“ . . . if not in their classification then in some other position, if they so desire; failing this, there will be no alternative for the Commissioner but to reluctantly dispense with their services.”

This refers to those 64 men, many with families and owning homes in the various centres, who will have to decide whether they are going to tear up their roots and lose money on their homes, taking other jobs elsewhere, either in their old classifications or in new ones which the general manager may decide. That is the crux of the matter on which I wish to speak this morning, namely, the fact that they will possibly lose money on their homes. Once railwaymen leave these small towns the prices of homes in those areas will fall alarmingly; they will sell on a depressed market and have to buy elsewhere on a buoyant market. If they stay where they are they face the possibility of being thrown out of the Railway Department, as the letter states very clearly. It is a brutal approach to the affairs of older men who have been in some of these areas for almost their lifetimes. If they do not leave or take some other vacancy, they face the possibility of being “turfed” out of the Railway Department. That is why I called this letter a cold-blooded approach to the matter.

Why was this done without prior consultation with the unions involved? The letter told the unions that something was going to happen, but within a matter of weeks it was public knowledge that 64 men involved, in Mareeba, Cairns and Innisfail, were to be pushed out of the railways or transferred to other centres. Why did not the department call in the representatives of the employees—the unions—and consult with them on this scheme? It seems to me that this letter was intended to soften the blow a little and to prevent the unions concerned from coming in and consulting with the department, which, in a couple of weeks, virtually presented them with a fait accompli.

I now pose the question: how did the department arrive at the redundancy figure of 64? Nobody seems to know. One of the reasonable requests that the unions made to the department—and through it to the Minister, I imagine—was that the time-tables for the projected new services

be given to them so that they could examine the figure of 64 that the general manager put forward. It is felt that what happened at Charters Towers and Hughenden could happen again in the North. The department found subsequently that it had been completely wrong about its man-power needs in those areas, where today men are being asked to work long hours. Some employees cannot be released for other jobs to which they have been transferred because the department now claims that it cannot do without them. If the department was wrong in its calculations concerning man-power needs in the Charters Towers and Hughenden areas, the unions feel that the figure of 64 in this instance may be another miscalculation.

I do not think it is much to ask that the department should make available to the unions the time-tables of the proposed new services. The unions might be able to point out certain salient facts so that some of these men can be kept in their own areas in the North.

I cannot see why there should not be a consultative committee. In its policy speech in 1957 the Government said that it would consult with the unions on such matters, but not once has it set up consultative committees or seen fit to consult with those who, in fact, represent the men in the North.

The unions are not against dieselisation—far from it. They realise that new methods have to be accepted. We must adopt a modern approach; we cannot lag behind while other States accept new methods and processes. Everybody must welcome something that will speed up railway services and enable them to work more easily and effectively—so that we can keep up with railway systems in other States and compete with other forms of transport. We are not opposed to dieselisation. However, when the introduction of dieselisation results in the ushering in of such things as long trains and men lose their jobs or are sent to other areas, with complete disregard for their welfare, is it any wonder that the unions are apprehensive about what is happening in the railways in North Queensland today? Surely they have reason to be apprehensive.

I have read the department's letter. I ask everybody listening to me to contrast the cold-blooded attitude of this Government towards the men who are being displaced with that of the Federal Government towards employees who were likely to be redundant. I obtained from the Federal member for Herbert, Mr. Harding, a copy of a booklet published by the Minister for Territories on 7 June, 1966. I am sorry to have to read such a lengthy article, but I think it is very relevant to the position that will obtain in the North when these 64 men are forced to seek work elsewhere.

The booklet is titled "The Future Security of Permanent Overseas Officers of the Public Service." On page 3, under the heading "The Scheme", this is what it says—

"Nature of Scheme:

"9. The underlying principle of the scheme is that if an eligible officer's services are terminated before his normal retirement age in circumstances in which the scheme will apply, he should be re-established in employment elsewhere, and unless he can be offered permanent 'Government' employment at a commencing salary no less than his basic Territory salary he should receive a cash payment. Thus all eligible officers will receive the 're-establishment' benefits referred to in the next paragraph and, in addition, provision for their re-employment will be made as described below.

"10. The benefits referred to in the preceding paragraph comprise a lump sum superannuation payment (or pension), a resettlement grant, leave necessary to give an officer at least three months' leave allowing for any credits he may have, fares for himself, wife and family, and the cost of removal of furniture and effects from the Territory to Australia.

"11. It is probable that eligible officers would in many if not most or all cases, wish to secure suitable alternative employment in which they could use their experience and training. In the majority of cases this experience and training might well be put to best use in some form of Government service, for example, in the Public Service of the Commonwealth or of a State, in a Commonwealth or State authority or in local government.

"12. Where permanent employment in a 'Government' service is offered to an eligible officer and the commencing salary attached to it is lower than his Papua and New Guinea salary, a cash payment in recognition of the reduction in salary will be made. In this connection, the basic assumption of the scheme is that the officer will be re-employed in Australia. Accordingly 'reduction in salary' refers to salary exclusive of special Territory allowances to standard salary plus any basic wage adjustments payable from time to time.

"13. The scheme proceeds from the assumption that there could be instances where employment in a 'Government' service could not be offered or where the circumstances of the officer would justify his regarding a particular offer of employment as unacceptable in his case. To allow for independent judgment of the reasonableness of such an offer provision is made for the matter to be judged by a tribunal appointed by the Minister to whom the officer in question may appeal.

"14. Where permanent employment in a 'Government' service cannot be offered, or where the tribunal judges that an offer of such employment (or, if more than one offer is made, each of them) is not a reasonable one, a cash payment will be made to the officer concerned. As well, in these circumstances, agencies of the Commonwealth Government, like the Commonwealth Employment Service, will give the officer concerned every possible help in finding other alternative employment.

"15. Where the tribunal judges that the offer is a reasonable one in all the circumstances, payments made to the officer under the scheme will be determined on the same basis as if the offer were accepted whether or not it is, in fact, accepted."

The Federal Government realises that circumstances over which it may have no control could make redundant certain of its public servants in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. It recognises that these public servants may have to accept lower salaries and be employed in other places. Recognising all this, it is prepared to do something about it in a very humane way. It is prepared to make re-settlement grants; it is prepared to do something about loss of salary and the loss that a man may sustain in disposing of his home. It has a very humane approach to the whole problem.

For the benefit of those who may not be able to obtain a copy of this booklet but who read "Hansard", I propose to give an illustration of the benefits to be afforded to public servants under such circumstances by the Federal Government. They are as follows:—

"The summary given below illustrates the extent of the overall benefits to which an eligible officer could be entitled if his services were terminated before normal retirement age in circumstances in which the scheme will apply. For the purposes of this illustration the case has been taken of a serving officer who is in receipt of a salary of \$4,694 per annum, married, with three dependent children, who has had more than 10 years' service and who has been contributing to the Superannuation Fund for almost all of his service.

(a) Benefits if the officer were offered alternative permanent government employment at a salary of \$3,694 per annum:

	\$
(i) Cash payment in respect of reduction in salary ..	7,350
(ii) Lump sum superannuation payment (or an actuarially calculated pension of \$490 per annum for life) ..	9,800
(iii) Resettlement grant ..	1,600
	18,750

(iv) The grant of such additional leave as may be necessary to make up leave credits to 3 months.

(v) Payment of the fares of the officer, his wife and family and the cost of removal of his furniture and effects up to two tons in weight from the Territory to Australia."

The second example given is a similar case to that of the railwaymen in the North because some of them have been told that if they do not take the jobs offered to them it is quite possible that the Government will dispense with their services. But the State Government does not say to them, "If we dispense with your services we will give you some money as a recompense." It simply says, "If we dispense with your services, that is just too bad." On the other hand, the following example shows what the Federal Government does for those who are not offered alternative permanent Government employment—

"(b) Benefits if the officer were not offered alternative permanent government employment:

	\$
(i) Cash payment in respect of loss in salary	19,104
(ii) Lump sum superannuation payment (or an actuarially calculated pension of \$490 per annum for life)	9,800
(iii) Resettlement grant ..	1,600
	30,504

(iv) The grant of such additional leave as may be necessary to make up leave credits to 3 months.

(v) Payment of the fares of the officer, his wife and family and the cost of removal of his furniture and effects up to two tons in weight from the Territory to Australia."

Mr. Davies: Do you think the Acting Minister will read this in "Hansard" or do you think you should send him a copy?

Mr. TUCKER: I hope he does read it, and I hope many union representatives read it because this is very important to the unions. What a humane approach the Federal Government is adopting to this problem.

Mr. Murray: We must vote for them, surely.

Mr. TUCKER: If the hon. member wants to be facetious, let him be. But I am not being facetious today. This is a very important matter. The hon. member himself should realise the plight of these older men—they could possibly be 55 years of age—who have lived in the northern part of Queensland for 30 years.

Mr. Murray: I recognise that the Federal Government is adopting a very humane approach.

Mr. TUCKER: That is right, and I hope that the hon. member will point that out to the Minister for Transport, because there is no humanity in the State Government. All it says to these employees is, "If you do not want to leave this area when we dieselise the railways, that is just too bad for you. We will terminate your services." On the other hand, in the particular instance I refer to, the Federal Government says, "If it is necessary for us to terminate your services we will give you over \$30,000 in compensation." That is a reasonable approach. A completely unreasonable approach is being adopted by the State Government towards these people, who are very important people so far as we are concerned.

I call on the Government today to introduce some compensation scheme similar to that of the Federal Government to assist those who may become redundant. Possibly the Government may not be sufficiently affluent to pay sums similar to those that I have mentioned, but surely if the case is a good one for recognition by the Federal Government, it should also be a good one for the attention of the State Government. I call on the Government to recognise this fact and do something for those who, having worked hard for most of their lives, now find themselves in this situation. Development should not be measured in terms of dollars earned or saved; it should be measured in terms of people and their future well-being. The Government should recognise that development does not necessarily mean merely saving \$100,000 by dieselisation.

West of Townsville this year there will be a decrease in the spending of railwaymen of approximately \$1,000,000 compared with, for example, 1961. In 1965, the depots at Richmond and Julia Creek were closed. In the days of steam locomotives approximately 10 "sets", each of a driver, fireman, and guard, were based in those towns. Their spending in each town would be approximately \$70,000 a year. In Charters Towers the running staff has been reduced by 15 "sets". The locomotive depot has been completely closed, and only one fitter and an assistant remain there to work on Westinghouse brake systems. Charters Towers has thus been deprived of approximately \$200,000 a year which would have been spent by displaced railwaymen.

Hughenden and Cloncurry have been similarly affected. Although tradesmen have been left in those areas, the running staff has decreased by 20 "sets" in each depot. This decrease, together with the loss of employees in the running shed, represents a loss of approximately \$260,000 a year to each town. It seems that there is no alternative to constant reductions. In the west and north of this State, there is no development at all; instead, activity is being cut back. When the Government speaks of development, it talks with tongue in cheek.

All this reduced activity must have a very serious effect on the railway workshops at Townsville. It is reliably reported that the power requirements in steam in the whole of the Northern Division after this year will be met by 15 steam engines distributed among Townsville, Bowen and Collinsville in the slack period, and 44 during the sugar season. Let this be compared with the 300 steam engines required two years ago in the same division. It can thus be seen that the section of the railway workshops in Townsville retained solely for the servicing of steam locomotives must be adversely affected. In the light of that information, is it any wonder that men are leaving to take more secure positions before the axe falls? As I gather information, and listen to statements by the Government and watch its actions, I become more and more concerned about the Townsville Railway Workshops and the future of the men who work there.

I point out that there will be some 220 diesel-electric locomotives in service in Queensland by the end of this year. If the Government adopted a policy of constructing and repairing all its diesel-electric locomotives, the provision of a second workshop for diesel-electric locomotives would be warranted. If it decides to complete the dieselisation of the Queensland Government Railways, I ask it to adopt a policy of constructing and repairing its diesel-electric locomotives and to erect in Townsville a workshop for this purpose. This would contribute to development and decentralisation, and it would also ensure the future of many hundreds of good tradesmen and their assistants in Townsville.

(Time expired.)

Mr. McKECHNIE (Carnarvon) (12.26 p.m.): In supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, I reaffirm the loyalty of my constituents in Carnarvon to Her Majesty the Queen, and wish her Queensland representative, Sir Alan Mansfield, and Lady Mansfield a pleasant and very successful term of office.

I congratulate the mover of the motion, Mr. Dick Wood, and the seconder, Mr. Bill Kaus, and I hope that their presence in this House will be of great benefit to Queensland. I also express that hope in regard to all other new hon. members on both sides of the House.

As this is the commencement of my second term in this Assembly, I should like to express my appreciation to the Premier, the various Ministers and their departmental officers, and private members, for the encouragement and assistance that I received during my first term, when I was in this Chamber after the 1963 election not only as a novice but also by the skin of my teeth. Then, with three candidates in Carnarvon, the seat was won with only 36 per cent. of the valid primary votes. On this occasion, with the same three parties represented at the election, my constituents gave me 57 per cent. of the valid primary votes, and, if the D.L.P. preferences had been allotted, the count

would have been 70 per cent. I sincerely thank them for their vote of confidence and again pledge my best endeavours on their behalf, as well as on behalf of Queensland and Australia.

In his Opening Speech, His Excellency drew attention to the record capital expenditure on electricity during 1965-66—\$46,000,000—and I know that even greater expansion is planned for this financial year. It is essential that reticulation be expedited. I know that the Minister in charge of electricity, Mr. Dewar, is aware of the needs of my area, and I appeal to him to make more funds available for reticulation of electricity in areas of the Granite Belt where cold-storage facilities are awaiting the arrival of power. Many people in fruit and grazing areas are awaiting anxiously the arrival of electricity for domestic purposes, too; some mining projects are also in need of electricity.

Good progress in the past and plans for greater expansion are no reasons for complacency, because a large area of country still awaits the reticulation of electricity. The portion of Southern Queensland to which I have referred is quite closely settled, and I know that many schemes have been planned by the Southern Electric Authority. However, additional finance and manpower could expedite their completion.

Going westwards, the southern part of Queensland is there served by the North-west County Council of New South Wales. Again much planning is proceeding, but more finance is required. The franchise held by the North-west County Council is due for review in 1970, and I ask the Minister to consider the construction of a major power-house somewhere in inland Southern Queensland, possibly having in mind future oil and gas discoveries and expansion in the area. The companies concerned are concentrating very hopefully in the area south-east of Moonie, where much research is being carried out. I really think that in the near future plans must be drawn up for a major power-house in inland Southern Queensland, not only to supply the country from Dalby south, out round St. George, and east towards Warwick and Stanthorpe, but also to take over, eventually, the whole area of Queensland now supplied by the North-west County Council of New South Wales.

I should like to turn now to what I consider to be the greatest problem facing us in Queensland today, that is, to increase and stabilise population and both primary and secondary industry in the inland areas of our State. Throughout the centuries civilisations have crumbled through their drifting towards the coast. We all know the stories of great civilisations crumbling through neglect of their inland areas in favour of, in some cases, the flesh-pots of the coast. I do not mean that literally in this case, but we do get instances where the inland areas are sacrificed for the benefit of areas near the coast where living is easier. We all know the story of the Phoenicians in Northern Africa, where the

population concentrated in coastal areas, and the same thing happened in Mesopotamia, where the city areas gradually swelled at the expense of inland areas.

The same thing applies to the Holy Land. We have evidence today that in their last final straining some of the people in the Holy Land, in the region of the Dead Sea—it might have been the Chaldes, I am not sure just who it was—endeavoured to survive by deliberately creating erosion of the hills so that the soil could be washed down onto the flats. They then irrigated those little pools of soil.

That may sound far-fetched but we are more or less doing the same thing west of Quilpie today. In fact, it was recommended that in certain of those low-lying hills, low banks should be put up across the shallow gullies to trap soil washed down from the hills and so give limited areas with less than a 12-inch rainfall the opportunity to benefit from the effect of a 20-inch rainfall. So it can be seen that we, rather in the same way as those ancient people, are trying to find solutions that may or may not be good for the country in the long run.

The drought that has extended over the last two years is by far the worst we have experienced since 1901. There is no doubt about that. We have had in the near-western areas other droughts of six months' or 12 months' duration that have crippled us, but since 1901 we have never had another drought that approached the severity of the present one. Some inland portions of the State have suffered their worst drought in history. The State as a whole has suffered but not as badly as the southern inland areas, which have really caught the brunt of this terrible drought.

We have been privileged in the last week—if I can call it that—to witness the horrible cost of the drought and to see just how dead some of that country has become. In the last fortnight, as most hon. members will know, the drought has broken. We are not quite sure whether it is completely broken, but it is well and truly dented and with a little more rain it will undoubtedly be ended. Assuming for the moment that the drought has broken—although I realise that there are odd pockets that still need more rain before one can say with absolute certainty that the drought is broken—it has disclosed the horrible cost. We have been privileged to see erosion that would perhaps ordinarily occur over a long period of time telescoped, as it were, into a short period.

I do not use the word "privileged" in its normal sense, but in the sense of "a horrible privilege". With the coming of the rain erosion has occurred. Fortunately it was light, gentle rain but it caused some erosion. First we had the dust erosion and then light erosion. Fortunately it was not bad erosion. However, one thing did

startle me after the rain cleared. On previous occasions after rain fell following a drought I was always greeted by the croaking of frogs and chirping of crickets. On this occasion I went outside the night after the rain cleared but there was not the response from the frogs and crickets that I had been accustomed to at such a time. The world outside was dead. On the first night there was only the odd frog, and on the second night I heard one cricket. The severity of the drought is indicated by the fact that it wiped out these small creatures.

We have to find more money to tackle our problems. Greater research is required. Previously it was never considered that contour banks were needed on gentle slopes. We will have to face the fact that in the brigalow country, where the land may fall only 20 to 50 feet in a mile, we need contour banks. That is something we did not realise until the country had become completely denuded of all vegetation and straw. When the rain came it washed bits of stick, manure, and so on, into our waterholes.

In the areas of which I speak we have had erosion other than soil erosion; we have had erosion of manpower. We have read in the newspapers recently about the Indians of Peru clamouring for assistance in the city of Lima. We think that is something that could not happen here. Although our problem is not so severe, or in quite that form, we have seen the erosion of manpower from the drought areas through the unavailability of work. Places such as St. George and Goondiwindi are good, solid towns, but because of the drought a certain percentage of the population has had to drift to the coastal areas.

The problem has been partly solved by providing drought assistance to local authorities. There is no doubt that the drought assistance to local authorities has done a wonderful job in helping to retain people who have wanted to stay in these inland areas. The problem is still present, and will be with us for a little longer, so we have to continue to assist these people to stay in the inland areas. Unfortunately, once people move from the inland to the coast they usually stay there. I am very happy about the drought relief assistance of this Government and the Federal Government, which has enabled hundreds of people to remain in inland areas; without that assistance they would have been forced to move to coastal areas.

Mr. Sherrington: In other words, you are easily pleased.

Mr. McKECHNIE: I appreciate sensible assistance. We would all like to do a little better than is humanly possible, but I am very happy that we have been able to assist these local authorities. That assistance

has helped to retain many men in drought-stricken inland areas. I hope that we can have a long-term plan for the future to prevent any further manpower losses.

Similarly, we have had erosion of liquid finance in districts which have suffered most. It has flowed to places such as the Lockyer Valley. I do not begrudge the money spent in the purchase of fodder. We are thankful that the facilities were available to produce the fodder so that we could buy it for the seriously affected areas. We paid a high price, but we do not begrudge the money. However, we do begrudge the fact that our liquid funds flowed from the western areas. Although they benefited the Lockyer area and other fodder-producing areas, we must find ways and means to retain finance in bad times in the actual drought area.

Livestock also flowed to places such as Dalby. Although Dalby is in an inland area, during the drought it was rather fortunate compared with the far southern parts of the State. We lost stock to the more affluent or better-watered parts of the State. We were happy that this outlet was available, but we were not happy about losing stock and having to sell our breeders, particularly our breeding cows. We were lucky in that a market was available and that a fair drought price was obtained. However, large numbers of stock have left these areas and the graziers have now to get money to bring stock back so that they may carry on. We were fortunate in having the better areas to take this stock, which otherwise would have died. We got our money's worth, but we must find ways and means to retain the stock in these areas. Unfortunately, many of them were slaughtered. It is regrettable that good breeding stock had to be slaughtered but it is far better that they were slaughtered than that they should die without any compensation for the owners. Here again, we were fortunate in that our abattoir capacity had been increased in the last few years. In fact, it has been claimed in some quarters that our abattoir capacity has been too great. But the drought has proved that abattoir capacity must be greater than our normal needs so that we may slaughter extra stock in time of drought and thus avoid most of our losses.

We have had a problem, too, with some landholders joining the exodus from the west. The strain on the small business people has been extremely great, but, they have done a wonderful job in assisting people in the drought areas.

I turn now to solutions of the problem. Research is one solution, and I am pleased to note that the Commonwealth Government has allotted extra money to the Minister for Primary Industries for use in research work. I am sure that research will help to solve the problem.

An Opposition Member: How much has the Commonwealth Government given?

Mr. McKECHNIE: The Commonwealth Government has made a grant to the States. I do not know what the proportion is, but I know that much of it may be used to solve drought problems. I look forward to some of it being spent in the traprock country, which has its peculiar problems in times of drought as well as in good seasons.

Land usage is another method by which the effects of drought may be minimised. In some areas it may be necessary, in certain paddocks, to stock only lightly with cattle. It is not always economic to do this, but I have paddocks which, until they recover, would be better stocked with cattle than with sheep. Light stocking of drought-affected country, although financially disastrous, is definitely advantageous for the land as it gives it an opportunity to recover.

I am thinking of the country, not of the individual, when I say that. Light stocking will give the country an opportunity to regenerate some of its small bushes and herbage, which are otherwise grubbed out. In certain cases like this the owner can run cattle in certain paddocks until they recover, because cattle do not eat out some of the desirable and necessary shrubs.

The same applies to cultivation in the inner areas and the brigalow areas. We must be careful not to over-cultivate. Cultivation is a very desirable and progressive step, but it must not be carried out in such large blocks that there are great areas without wind-breaks. I do not mean only timber; I mean grazing areas that will stop the dust rolling as it has done in some places during the past two years. We need contours on country where we never expected there would be a need for them. In country denuded of wind-breaks and timber, we face the prospect of building up stands of timber on certain higher spots and on the flat country so designed to break the sweep of the wind.

Another problem is costs. I refer to the ratio of primary income to increasing costs. This has prevented many men on the land from carrying out improvements that would counter many of these problems. By the time they pay all the normal running expenses, very often there is little left to carry out the much-desired adjustments that they realise are necessary.

Political representation comes into the category of reaching solutions. It is necessary in rural areas that the political representatives should not have too large an area to cover. It is physically impossible in some electorates to render the necessary service because the area is too great. I do not know how the hon. member for Gregory ever covers his electorate. My electorate, although large, is a flea bite compared with his, and I cannot cover it as adequately as I would desire. In country electorates a member has much more to do on behalf of his constituents than has a city member. A city member would seldom have more than three schools in his electorate, whereas a

country member could have 40 or more. Again, in most city electorates there is not one hospital, whereas in most country electorates there are from two to six hospitals. In addition, a city member has only one local authority, or even part of one local authority, whereas a country member could have six or more local authorities.

All of those bodies have their problems. They all take a certain amount of the member's time. It is necessary that he should be au fait with all the problems in his area. If in an electorate there are half-a-dozen local authorities, half-a-dozen hospitals, 40 schools, and three or four show societies, the member for that electorate has a full-time job dealing with those aspects alone.

It is absolutely necessary that our sparsely settled areas should have greater representation per capita than the closely settled areas, because it is necessary that those constituents have fair representation. In addition, in the closely settled areas the constituents have access to the various Federal departments, such as Repatriation and Social Services, and the State Government departments. In the sparsely populated areas it is more convenient for the constituent to approach his State member, and he goes to him also with problems that are the concern of the Federal member. The Federal member has an even greater area to cover than has the State member, so it becomes incumbent upon the State member to look after the Federal interests as well. Consequently, greater representation per capita is needed in country areas.

This was brought home to me the other night whilst watching Mr. Gough Whitlam interviewed on the television programme "Four Corners". He outlined three matters on which he expected the forthcoming Federal election to be fought. The first two were Vietnam and conscription, and the extent of buying into Australia by foreign interests. The third matter, which is the one in which I am interested in relation to decentralisation, was the need to look after suburbia generally. He did not mention country areas. With our growing cities and suburbs, he thought there should be greater development within the cities.

I think that is the wrong approach. Although cities should certainly be well looked after, I think we should work for decentralisation. I am not attacking Mr. Whitlam directly but the thinking of people like him generally. I am not applying that remark to the Australian Labour Party, either; I am applying it to those who think that the city should be developed at the expense of the country. I think we should look after rural areas and endeavour to make our policy of decentralisation work better.

Mr. Newton: Decentralisation is our policy.

Mr. McKECHNIE: Decentralisation is everybody's policy, but I am afraid that in many cases it receives only lip service. The

demands of the metropolis are too great to allow a policy of decentralisation to operate. I know that all parties claim that decentralisation is part of their policy. I am interested in seeing it work. I do not mean its application merely to little odds and ends; we have to get at the basic problems. Whilst research, balanced cultivation, and so on, which are more or less individual and departmental problems, are some of the solutions to these problems, the greatest answer lies in water conservation. There is no doubt that a greater proportion of national income has to be directed to water conservation.

Mr. Davies: Do you think your Government has made sufficient money available for water conservation?

Mr. McKECHNIE: I should like to answer that interjection if the hon. member will give me the opportunity to do so. He asks if I think the Government has made sufficient money available for water conservation. The Leslie Dam is now completed. When work is finished on the Coolmunda, Eungella, and Wuruma Dams, there will be an increase of 68 per cent. in water conservation in the last few years. That is not a bad job—indeed, it is a good job—but I agree with all hon. members that whatever is done in this field is never good enough. We need more and more water. The four dams that I have mentioned will conserve 360,000 acre-feet of water. In answer to the hon. member's question, I say that the Government has done a good job; but I am not satisfied, and never will be, in regard to water conservation.

The Government introduced the Farm Water Supplies Assistance Act and has done a wonderful job under it. I am very happy to say that the Granite Belt, in my electorate, is one of the shining examples of the proper use of farm water supplies. It leads the State at present in the number of dams, and more are being built. People now realise the advantage to be gained from harvesting water, and the Granite Belt is very well suited for this purpose. The development of dams of this type makes water available for small crops, vegetables, and fruit trees, and I commend my constituents in the Granite Belt for a job well done. Since the inception of the Farm Water Supplies Assistance Act, \$3,710,000 has been made available for the assistance of farmers.

In his Opening Speech, the Governor said that 281,000 acres of irrigated land in Queensland produced 10 per cent. of the value of all rural production. This means that less than one two-thousandth of the total area of the State is producing 10 per cent. of its income. If irrigation can be extended farther west, its benefits will be available in areas where the worst drought problems arise. Men will not have to go to the city; there will be a continuity of work in country areas. Instead of hay being bought in the Lockyer, it will be made in the West. In times of drought, men will produce fodder in the West and use it there. The

erosion of man-power will be prevented; money that now flows to areas in which fodder is produced, particularly the recognised coastal areas, will remain in the West. Breeding stock will be retained in western areas, and people will be ready to get back to almost full production immediately the drought ends, instead of being one-third or half stocked, as they are today.

If the finance is available now, stock are not. Many have been slaughtered. It is desirable that stock should not go back immediately, because the country should be given a little time to recover. However, even if stock are available and finance is available, some men believe that they are not in a position to service the debt. If they have managed to retain their breeding stock of sheep, they prefer to breed their way back out of trouble rather than go too deeply into debt. That is a good approach up to a point; but if they had not got into this position, things would have returned to normal much more quickly.

As I said earlier, irrigation will give the State a more stable community by retaining the work force, by retaining money, and by retaining breeding stock. It will assist decentralisation, too, because businessmen who open businesses in an irrigation area know that they are there to stay. One of the saddest things during the drought was to see men in small businesses that were doing well up to two years ago being forced to sell them and go elsewhere. If we can produce a stable community with a stable income by providing irrigation, businessmen of this sort will not face the possibility of having to move on.

Irrigation will solve the problem of retention of quality, too. The Japanese have complained about the quality of Australian wool, and I quite agree that the quality has not been good.

Mr. Rae: It is due to the drought.

Mr. McKECHNIE: It is entirely due to the drought. I thank the hon. member for his interjection.

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

Mr. McKECHNIE: Before lunch I was speaking of the advantages of irrigation and was in the process of explaining that the Japanese had complained that the quality of our wool had slipped considerably in the last two years, entirely due to drought. Irrigation is one means by which we could maintain the quality of this essential product and so keep good faith with our customers overseas. As wool is our chief export, it is essential that we maintain its quality in times of drought. The fact that wool from certain parts of the State was lightly grown and tender was a big disadvantage to the countries milling our wool, and they were justly entitled to complain. The only answer we had was that it was due to drought, but I believe that we must find ways and means of mitigating it, at least to some extent.

Mr. Davies: How would you do it?

Mr. McKECHNIE: By irrigation. Irrigation would assist in the averaging of incomes, which would be to the betterment of both the individual and the various Governments. So far as our railways are concerned, we would have less fodder to transport and this, of course, we are not carting at a profit in a time of drought. Consequently, there would be an indirect saving in that way.

The need for more water is aptly illustrated by the Leslie Dam, near Warwick. This dam is on Sandy Creek, a branch of the Condamine River. It is completed but has not yet been filled, yet its entire output is already bespoken by people downstream, in the Condamine area in particular. I noticed in the news the other day that the city of Toowoomba is hoping to tap that water. Personally, I do not think that would be feasible because all the water is needed for other than Toowoomba's use, and it would be better if the Toowoomba people built another dam in their own locality rather than tap this water, which is essential for irrigation. Leslie Dam has been completed only to the first stage, and there is ample need to proceed with the second stage immediately funds are available.

Similarly, the St. George Weir is fully committed, and a second weir in that area is very desirable. As hon. members know, the Darling River scheme has been mooted in the Federal House, and at a meeting I attended I was able to—

Mr. O'Donnell: Has the Federal Government heard of it yet?

Mr. McKECHNIE: Yes. It has been brought up in the Federal House. Mr. Ian Allen, member for Gwydir, introduced the Bill in connection with the Darling Rivers Project. At the meeting to which I have just referred I was privileged to speak on behalf of the Premier and state that Queensland supported the Darling Rivers Project, provided that the Border Rivers Scheme has No. 1 priority, and that Queensland's sovereignty be in no way impaired.

Taken over 65 years, in an average year 730,000 acre-feet of water flows past Goondiwindi, and that is sufficient water to irrigate 200,000 acres annually. In that area there is a 54-inch evaporation rate per annum. That water would directly irrigate 200,000 acres. Admittedly, all of it cannot be retained, but we should attempt to retain as much of it as possible.

The Premier of New South Wales, Mr. Askin, has written to our Premier and suggested that Queensland and New South Wales should make a joint approach to the Commonwealth for \$4,000,000 towards the cost of this scheme and that the two States should assume equal responsibility for the remaining \$9,000,000, approximately. The Commonwealth would therefore be paying almost one-third of the cost.

I look forward to further development, because the need is there. At the turn of the century Theodore Roosevelt, President of the U.S.A., set up a commission of inquiry to investigate the arid regions of that country. As my time has almost expired I will have to content myself by saying that as a result of that inquiry there has been wonderful development in the arid States by means of irrigation. Similar methods could be adopted here with grants from the Commonwealth Government followed by subsidies on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

I understand that in the U.S.A. various authorities such as the Tennessee Valley Authority are doing a wonderful job. The population in their areas has been increased out of all proportion to former numbers. The whole scheme of reclamation and water conservation has proved a very successful exercise. I believe that the same could be done here if the Federal Government would come to our aid. If we had the finance to push on with the job I am confident that we could build up a larger population and bring about greater production from primary industries throughout this land of ours.

Mr. HARRIS (Wynnum) (2.21 p.m.): First of all, I desire to associate myself and the people of the Wynnum electorate with the expressions of loyalty contained in the preamble to the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I know that the people in my area, as with all Queenslanders, would desire me on this important occasion to convey to Her Majesty a message of loyalty on their behalf.

I enter this Parliament at a time immediately succeeding the election of Sir Alan Mansfield as Governor of this State. In tendering to him and his good lady our best wishes for a fruitful and long term of office, I am reminded that recently we saw the departure of Sir Henry and Lady May Able Smith after a period of Governorship during which all those who had the privilege of knowing these people came to regard them as real Queenslanders. I have no doubt that the prestige and high standard set by Sir Henry and Lady May will be continued by the new Governor, who, over a great number of years, has distinguished himself in the field of law.

At this time I should also like to place on record my appreciation of the assistance given me during the recent State election campaign by my campaign director, Mr. Jack Comber, backed up by the untiring efforts of the branch members of the Australian Labour Party, who so unselfishly gave of their time and their efforts, and consequently the pressures of my campaign were greatly minimised. I shall not forget their loyalty, nor shall I cease to be conscious of the tremendous trust that has been placed in me by the electors of Wynnum. It is my intention over the ensuing years, at all times, to see to it that in electing me to this Assembly their confidence has not been misplaced.

I should be failing in my duty if I did not pay tribute to my predecessor, Mr. Bill Gunn, who, over the past 22 years, has dealt with the problems of the electors of this same electorate. I know that all hon. members will agree with me that Bill Gunn carried out his job with devotion and zeal, which earned him the respect, not only of those people who supported the Australian Labour Party, but of all the people who have been privileged to be associated with him. His name in the electorate of Wynnum is a byword. The numbers of people he has assisted, not only officially but personally, are legion. He served his country with distinction in the First World War as he served his electors as member for Wynnum. Ill-health over the past few years has caused his retirement from this Parliament. I am sure all hon. members will join with me in wishing him improvement in his health and many happy years in retirement. I know that I face a difficult task in filling the shoes of a man like Bill Gunn, and when my time comes to retire I hope it may be said of me that the standard set by Bill Gunn has been maintained.

I intend to devote the time allotted to me on this occasion to matters affecting the Wynnum electorate. Over the past few years the Wynnum, Hemmant and Lindum districts have undergone a remarkable change in character. From a mainly residential area we have seen it develop into an important industrial centre. The large industrial areas which have been established—and which we sincerely hope will continue to be established—will prove of great benefit to our district. The main benefit, of course, will come from the increased avenues of employment, the increased demand for land and consequently the erection of houses to support this development. But the big question is, just how long will it take for this development to take place in our area.

We in Wynnum are very grateful to the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Alderman Clem Jones, and his aldermen for providing our district with a sewerage system, together with many other necessary improvements, such as water channelling and the bitumen surfacing of roads. I should mention at this stage that during the last three years, under the reign of Clem Jones and his aldermen, the council has bituminised 15 miles of road surface and provided 15 miles of water channelling. Furthermore, many large drainage systems have been provided and many more are under construction. At present it is recognised that Wynnum has one of the most up-to-date and modern shopping centres in the metropolitan area. Its shops cater for all types of business and virtually for the needs of all people. We have attracted to our district such firms and departmental stores as Bayards, Heatley's department stores, Barry & Roberts, Woolworths-B.C.C. Food Stores, and so on. Furthermore, we have branches of all the savings banks and trading banks. Quite recently a building for the Commercial Bank

of Australia was completed in our main area. It is a very large, beautiful and modern brick building in the main shopping centre, capable of handling the financial interests of any business or industry that may come to our district, under the capable management of Mr. Reg Knight. This is something that people who are interested in coming to our area should take into consideration. I mention these matters merely to point out the progress taking place in my area, which allows us to encourage new people to come and reside in the district.

The first big industry to be established in the area was the Ampol oil refinery, which should give a big boost to the area in particular and the State of Queensland in general. I understand that when this refinery was first started it was expected that it would refine the entire output from the Moonie oilfield. However, time has proved that it is now on a quota basis, producing gasolene, dieselene, kerosene, etc. I understand that when further equipment is available it will then be in a position to produce lubricating oils. Following this interesting industry, one can see, in the very near future, many other industries starting up and using by-products from the oil to manufacture gas ammonia, fabrics, synthetic rubbers, plastics, petro coke, etc., which will bring employment to our district.

I have been informed that Nicholls Brothers, one of the oldest and largest ship-building businesses in the Wynnum area, is spending approximately \$100,000 to establish the first fibreglass boat-building business in the district. This company intends to build approximately 10 boats a week, ranging from 10-ft. runabouts to 25-ft. luxury cruisers, priced from approximately \$120 to \$7,000. Furthermore, it will continue to build boats of the type it has been building, that is, its luxury wooden-class cruisers from 25 ft. to 60 ft. So you can see, Mr. Speaker, what this will mean to our district and to the Queensland boating fraternity in general. Furthermore, this company will increase its staff from 12 to 40. What we are concerned about at Wynnum, and what the Australian Labour Party is concerned about generally, is being able to place people in employment and to make employment available for them.

For many years a number of public-spirited citizens have been advocating the opening up of the south bank of the Brisbane River. This is mainly for industrial purposes. It is very pleasing to know that the groundwork that these people have prepared is now bearing fruit. Recently a dredging contract was let for the reclamation of a section of land at the corner of Lytton Road and Pritchard Street. The contract is for 300,000 cubic yards of filling. When this project is completed a large area will still be left unreclaimed. I understand consideration will be given to this portion when money is available. The area set down for development is expected to cover the area bounded

by Lytton Road, Sandy Camp Road, Haynes Street, and Pritchard Street. In all, an area of approximately 450 acres will then be available for industrial purposes. That will be a very good asset for the Wynnum district.

We have all listened to many arguments about the exorbitant prices of products such as meat being due to the severe drought conditions which this State has experienced and is experiencing. While this may be true, I point out that over the years this State has enjoyed many lush and prosperous seasons. I shall deal now with the fishing industry. Let me point out to those hon. members who are not familiar with this industry that drought conditions are not confined only to country areas; they exist also in the fishing industry. During good seasons there was no corresponding reduction in prices. Speaking about the price of fish, you will recall, Mr. Speaker, that I asked the Minister for Labour and Tourism—

“Is he aware of the wide discrepancy between prices paid to fishermen and the retail price of fish and, if so, have any steps been taken to bring about a more equitable price structure?”

In answer to my question—in fact, he answered it from his Government’s point of view—the Minister said—

“The price paid to fishermen for fish is determined by auction, and the retail price of fish is, of course, also governed largely by such auction prices.”

Take for instance the average price of 6c a lb. paid to fishermen for mullet and the average price of 20c a lb. paid by the housewife. Why is there such a wide difference of 14c a lb.? How can these men, who go out in all weathers and suffer the trials and tribulations of storm and tempest, work day and night, and have their equipment smashed by sharks and turtles, be expected to keep their gear in good condition and their ships safe and sound when they receive such a small price for their haul?

I wish to inform the House that the real reason for the discrepancy between the price paid to the producer and that paid by the consumer has nothing to do with the system of auction sales. The real reason is the lifting of price control by the Country-Liberal Government. Day by day and week after week the price of fish has spiralled till it is quite beyond the reach of most housewives. If the Government is sincere in endeavouring to assist the industry, I suggest that the Fish Board’s handling charges be reduced from 11 per cent. to 10 per cent. I understand that an application for this reduction has now been made. Let us hope that it will be granted.

The Fish Board continues to send to the depot at Wynnum wooden trays which, when wet, weigh approximately 20 lb. empty, and which are, however one looks at it, most unhygienic and easily broken. I ask that aluminium trays be sent to this depot. For many years the Fish Board has been sending unhygienic boxes to various depots. In actual

fact, that is all that they are. They are wooden boxes which, when dry, weigh 15 lb. When fish are packed in them and they become wet, they increase in weight by 5 lb. If a fisherman makes a haul of 150 to 200 crates, one can imagine the unnecessary extra weight that he has to carry.

I understand that many thousands of aluminium trays were produced at one time for the carrying of prawns, and these trays provide one of the solutions to the problem. It is recognised that fish packed in wooden crates decay quicker than those packed in aluminium containers. Aluminium trays weigh 5 lb., whereas the wooden crates weigh 20 lb. when wet. If a man has to carry 200 crates each weighing an additional 20 lb. one can imagine how much unnecessary weight he has to hump about.

Incidentally, why is it that the Scarborough depot is not sent wooden trays? It receives only aluminium trays. Application after application has been made for them by the Wynnum depot, and I understand that they have not been supplied because somebody at the Fish Board claims that they cause too much noise at auctions. In my opinion, it would be preferable to have the noise that might be caused by the rattling of tins than unhygienic boxes. I respectfully request that the Fish Board, irrespective of who may be upset by noise at auctions, give consideration to the men who go out and battle to make a living by catching fish.

There is no need for me to tell the House that the fishing industry is the oldest industry in Wynnum. It employs approximately 50 men and, furthermore, supports 50 families. During the last six months the production of mullet alone was 538,000 lb. There are, in addition, many other species of fish marketed. Quite recently one of our fisherman who was out in the bay trawling caught 200 crates of fish. When full, each crate contains 40 lb of fish. On returning to the depot, he was advised by the manager that notification had been received from the Fish Board not to accept any more supplies of fish till further notice. The fisherman, of course, was not aware of this. He went to the depot and immediately had to leave, taking 200 cases of fresh fish to be dumped at the back of Green Island.

It is alleged that while this fish was being dumped, semi-trailers were carrying fish from New South Wales to the Brisbane Fish Board and leaving it there. It was packed in New South Wales cartons, delivered to the Fish Board, repacked into Queensland cartons, and then delivered to Government instrumentalities such as hospitals.

The Wynnum district is the second largest producer of fish in Queensland. It is producing 1,250,000 lb. of fish, with a money value of about \$250,000 to the Wynnum district alone. This industry must be preserved at all costs, even though the market may be flooded at present with cheap imported fillets of fish.

I wish now to discuss hospitals. The establishment of a public hospital at Wynnum is a subject that is near and dear to the hearts of virtually every person living in the Wynnum district. Let me go back a few years. Just prior to the split that allowed the present Government to control the Treasury benches, the Labour Party, realising the immense growth in population and industry that was likely to take place in the Wynnum district, gave No. 1 priority to the establishment of a hospital at Wynnum. After a long search, the advisers of the Government of the day reported that a piece of land with an area of 10½ acres, and suitable for the establishment of a hospital, was available on the corner of Wynnum Road and Old Lindum Road, and the Labour Government later purchased it for this purpose.

With the defeat of the Labour Government in 1957, it became the responsibility of the Country-Liberal Government to fulfil the promise given to the people of Wynnum by the Deputy Premier during the 1957 election campaign, when he promised that they would get a hospital during the first term of the incoming Country-Liberal Government. I hardly think it necessary to remind the Government that this is the year 1966 and that that promise has not yet been fulfilled. Furthermore, to forcibly illustrate this fact, I point out that my predecessor, Mr. Gunn, constantly brought this matter to the attention of the Government, even to the extent of presenting to it a petition containing 10,000 signatures requesting the Government to fulfil its 1957 election promise. This it has chosen to ignore completely.

In November, 1962, a public meeting was called, and it was attended by 75 interested citizens. A resolution was passed criticising the State Government's attitude to the establishment of a hospital in Wynnum. It was pointed out to the meeting that the Deputy Premier had promised a hospital to the district if the Country-Liberal Government won the 1957 election. It was pointed out, too, "If we had a hospital here, we could visit patients more often and more easily." It is very difficult to do this at present because of the cost of transport and the traffic problem. There are over 34,000 people in Wynnum and about 90,000 people in the district who need the services of a convenient hospital.

Now let us come to the time when bare facts are really brought to light. The present Minister for Health, Mr. Tooth, has said that there would not be any new hospital at Wynnum this year. I draw the attention of hon. members to an article published in the "Wynnum Herald", the local paper, on 24 February, 1965. It says—

"No New Hospital for Wynnum
This Year

"There is little chance of a new hospital being built in Wynnum district this year.

"As there was only a limited amount of finance available for the building of hospitals, the Minister for Health, Mr.

Tooth, told a Wynnum deputation his department had to consider who were the people throughout Queensland with the least accessibility to medical attention, and not the ones who had the inconvenience of travelling."

That could be very true, but in the case of Wynnum we do not think it is; we think we are entitled to this hospital, which has been promised to us.

Mr. Tooth goes on to tell the Committee for the Establishment of a Public Hospital for Wynnum and Surrounding Districts that he does not think there is any one in Wynnum who has not access to satisfactory medical services at a time of sickness or emergency. Mr. Tooth also says that Brisbane is developing rapidly and it is necessary to plan for new hospitals in areas where the department feels this development will take place in the next 10 years. Surely to goodness we must realise that development has already taken place not only in Wynnum but in the districts surrounding Wynnum and extending from Wynnum to Morningside. That area has developed tenfold during the past 10 years.

Not only do we read these contradictions, but almost exactly 12 months after this statement was made we saw another publication to the effect that a hospital would soon become a reality for the Wynnum district. The point I emphasise is that this publication is made 12 months later, when a State election is looming. It reads—

"Hospital to Soon Become a Reality?"

"Prospects of Wynnum district receiving its own hospital now appear brighter than they have for many years. The Labour Party has been battling to get a local hospital for more than a decade, and now the Liberals also are taking a keen interest."

That statement, as I say, was made prior to the election. After the election members of the Wynnum Establishing Committee called an annual general meeting and invited four or five very prominent Liberal Party members including a Federal member who had been a member of the committee for some time. After seeing the result of the State election these members discovered that they would be busy and would not be able to participate in any hospital activities. Prior to the State election they had plenty of time and plenty to say about what they would do about getting a hospital for Wynnum. I wonder what they will do in the future with a Federal election coming up?

Having applied for a hospital for Wynnum on so many occasions and having been refused the assistance which we would have expected from an anti-Labour Government—being told that there is no money available for hospital buildings—we were amazed to see published in "The Courier-Mail" of 30 July a statement to the effect that \$485,000 was to be spent on building a hospital at Caloundra. In one publication the Minister for Health distinctly states that any hospital under

800 to 1,000 beds is inefficient, that there are no training facilities for doctors, nurses, or anybody else, yet, right in the heart of the Premier's electorate, \$485,000 is to be spent on a hospital of 21 beds. The report reads—

“Mr. Nicklin said that the hospital would have 21 beds and outpatients and X-ray departments.

“Three beds would be maternity, and the others would be in the general section.”

In June this year 20 Wynnum women were awaiting their babies in the Royal Brisbane Hospital, yet here is a hospital going up for three maternity beds.

I appreciate what the Labour Party did towards the establishment of a hospital in the Wynnum district. I am very disappointed that the following Government did not see fit to carry on but I trust that, in the near future, we will have a hospital at Wynnum.

The development of such industries as I have previously mentioned, while giving impetus to industrial expansion in the district and greatly increased population in the area, brings problems as well as benefits. Some of the biggest problems which have arisen have been the expansion of communications, such as roads, transport facilities and housing.

I wish to refer now to the matter of transport facilities for the people living in Wynnum and the surrounding districts. It is a matter of concern to me and the people of my electorate to read in the Wilbur Smith Report a recommendation for the closure of the South Brisbane-Lota rail passenger service. I quote from the Wilbur Smith Report, which has been published for everyone to see—

“Passenger assignments were made for the 1981 suburban rail traffic on the existing network. The Sandgate, Petrie, Ferny Grove, Kuraby-Beenleigh, and Ipswich branches have daily patronage levels of 6,000 to 11,000 passengers and continuation of these is recommended. However, the Pinkenba and the Manly-Lota lines will not have enough patronage to warrant continuation of passenger services. Therefore, discontinuance of passenger service on these segments is recommended. Service on the existing trackage should be continued for goods movements and industrial developments.”

That is an amazing statement to make. We have always stressed—and I repeat it—that any proposal to close the rail system from South Brisbane to Lota must be resisted to the utmost, not only by the people of Wynnum but by all who are concerned with the transportation of the people. The Government has consistently shown a callous disregard for the needs of Queensland, and Brisbane in particular, by ruthlessly whittling away this essential service since it has occupied the Treasury benches in this State. This attitude is in direct contrast to that of the last State Labour Government which, in 1948, with the present Leader of the party, Mr. Duggan, as

Minister for Transport, commenced a programme, at an estimated cost of £11,000,000, for the extension and the complete electrification of the Brisbane metropolitan railway system. This programme, which included a plan to link the South Brisbane line with the city proper, was well under way when the present Government took office, but it promptly proceeded to scrap this plan upon which many hundreds of thousands of pounds had already been spent by the Labour Government. It is quite apparent that this Government's answer to losses incurred by the Railway Department over the years was to close down any line which was not showing a profit, with a total disregard for the fact that these were essential services for the needs of the people and the development of Brisbane and Queensland. This can be regarded only as a very short-sighted and retrograde policy.

It is interesting to note that cities such as Sydney and Melbourne are continually expanding and developing their railway systems, which between them carry about 1,000,000 passengers a day, compared with approximately 50,000 a day in Brisbane.

Again, let me draw attention to San Francisco, which is currently spending approximately \$200,000,000 on its metropolitan railways in an attempt to relieve traffic congestion by providing such a service as will induce more people to leave their cars at home and use the railways—a system of transport which can move more people quicker than any other known method.

It will no doubt be argued by the advocates for the closure of the South Brisbane-Lota line that the people of the district are not availing themselves of the present service. While this may be true, the lack of patronage has been caused by the failure of the Government to provide for the railways a fast, clean and efficient service catering for the needs of the people. While road traffic problems will always exist in growing cities, these could be nullified to a great extent by the provision of an up-to-date railway service as a major part of our transport system. Many people now using motor vehicles to take them to and from their places of employment would use trains if we had a railway system comparable with the systems of other major cities.

While it may be recognised that Wilbur Smith and Associates are experienced in the field of traffic planning, it is hard to regard as realistic this proposed closure of an essential public utility in view of the anticipated increase in population up to June, 1981, the period over which this report covers expected growth and transport requirements. It cannot be denied that passenger traffic on this line has decreased considerably over the past 15 years. However, this no doubt can be attributed not to any lack of desire to use rail travel as a popular means of transport, but rather to the failure of this Government to take the positive steps

necessary to develop and modernise our rail system and thus make it attractive to the public as a means of transport.

How does the Government propose to cope with the transporting of people who have decided to reside in this area if the South Brisbane-Lota passenger service is discontinued? May I also point out that if this tragedy should happen the survey has made no suggestion to widen the Wynnum Road from Wellington Road, Brisbane, to Manly. At present, traffic movement to and from Manly is critical owing to the fact that there is only a very narrow roadway. In the event of just one breakdown the entire traffic system comes to a complete standstill. With the closure of the rail passenger service to Lota many more buses and hundreds more cars would use the roads. We must not lose sight of the fact that many thousands of people from Murarrie, Cannon Hill, Morningside and Bulimba are using this rail service, and I fail to see why it should be discontinued and the industrial service continued.

It is my intention to follow closely the various debates. I trust that they will continue to be as interesting as I have found them since my election. As I become more accustomed to the procedures of the House and the facilities available to members to further their knowledge, I hope it will be possible for me to accept my fair share of the responsibility devolving on me as a member of the Opposition to engage in debate. I can only express the promise that these contributions will be offered in the sincere hope that they will be of benefit to the electors of Wynnum in particular and to Queensland generally.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, may I take this opportunity of congratulating you on being re-elected to your high and important office, and also of thanking you personally for the courtesy and assistance you have so readily extended to me. I assure you that it has made my settling-in period so very much easier.

Mr. PORTER (Toowong) (2.59 p.m.): It is with pleasure, but also with a great deal of humility that, as the representative of the Toowong electorate in this House, I associate myself with the traditional responses involved in speaking to an Address in Reply.

Few would dispute, Mr. Speaker, that we of today are privileged to live in a unique era of change. But then, of course, change is an inherent part of being; whilst anything lives—a creature, an organism, an organisation or a society—it must change to survive. The only alternatives are death and decay although I suppose in a real sense they are not alternatives but different manifestations of change. In today's circumstances the processes of change for people and societies are much more varied, more complex, and happen faster than at any previous period in our history.

This constant necessity to change and to adapt poses a problem for us all. Times of great change are times of great challenge. Nowhere will this challenge be more urgent and evident than in Chambers such as this, where members of a Parliament must perforce accept more than the ordinary citizen's share of responsibility for shaping the forces of change.

We are here, Mr. Speaker, as trustees for, and I suppose in a sense leaders of, the 1,500,000 Queenslanders in our 11,000,000 Australian population. We must advocate their essentially State interests, whilst at all times remembering that Queensland is part of the Australian Commonwealth.

History tells us that change is always resisted until its inevitability is accepted. We might well say there are two extremes of attitude here, both of which are to be avoided. One says: this is new, therefore it must be better. The other says: this is the old way, we know how it works, therefore it must be superior to any new-fangled idea. But we all know that there can never be any absolute status quo in anything.

The stupidest way of all of meeting change is to sweep anything difficult under the carpet, on the basis of what can't be seen can be ignored. But eventually you will get a lump over which you trip and fall flat on your face.

But there's little point in saying things with which I am sure all hon. members thoroughly agree. And, in any introduction to this House, brevity will be welcomed. So, I shall touch briefly on three matters that I hope to develop more extensively at later opportunities. These do not exhaust the repertoire, but they will do for the time being.

My first concern is the City of Brisbane. In my view, there is an urgent necessity to review the whole basis of local government: its responsibilities, its financing, and the place of a coherent pattern of town and country planning. In his maiden speech the hon. member for Logan, in moving this motion, made a strong and proper plea for the case of local authorities with a high development rate as they change in character from rural to urban. And out of this overall local government morass looms the tragic, ominous, massive, forbidding Greater Brisbane. Would anyone deny the contention that Greater Brisbane today is no more a local authority, in the accepted sense, than Queensland is properly a sovereign State?

Let us just look objectively for a moment at Greater Brisbane. A Labour Government created it in 1925 when still in the first flush of socialist endeavour, believing that centralisation was a panacea for all ills, and the bigger anything was the more efficient it must necessarily be. So 20 municipalities were telescoped to make a new city with a population of 223,000, which was then 28·2

per cent. of the State's total population. Even then most doubted the virtue of the move.

But what of today? Greater Brisbane now has a population around the 700,000 mark, or over 42 per cent. of the State's total. Another 20 years, perhaps less, and it will be on to the 1,000,000 mark and well over 50 per cent. of the State's total population.

Let this House pause for a moment and consider the political and economic implications of this: a so-called local authority representing more than half the State's people and headed by a mayor elected in all probability by more voters than the total number of votes cast for any political party in this Parliament.

Your Greater Brisbane will not then be—and isn't now—a local authority: it will be a city-State. Your Lord Mayor will not be a Council chairman; he will be a political prince. And consider what ransom he and his city-State will be able to extract from the remainder of Queensland.

I say quite flatly: Greater Brisbane must go. The concept, under our Australian circumstances and traditions of individuality, was always artificial. Today it is a potent peril.

Those averse to change will say that Greater Brisbane cannot be broken up; that it is too late. But, what man has joined together, man can put asunder. No-one suggests a return to precisely what existed before 1925, but the tempo of modern times and the unavoidable challenges of both today and tomorrow demand that we give urgent attention to a radical change in our local authority pattern, especially as it applies to Greater Brisbane.

Now for another matter of deep concern that touches each and every one of us. It has already received attention in this Address-in-Reply debate, but I want to deal with it, if briefly, on a much broader plane. It is something that constitutes a daily—even an hourly—threat of death and mutilation: a threat which makes no discrimination as regards sex or age. The smallest child, the most important citizen, all are grim grist to its mill.

The motor-car is perhaps the prime phenomenon of the 20th century. It is a means of transport essential to modern living, and it is also a status symbol essential to modern "face". But, in addition, the motor vehicle is also the great destroyer.

In the last 50 years medical and allied sciences have brought various dangerous diseases under control, but the motor vehicle's lethal power has proliferated. For instance, deaths from infectious and parasitic diseases in Australia are now fewer than 1,000 per annum, but deaths from traffic accidents are three times that figure.

The cost to our society in terms not only of anguish and grief but also in loss of valuable "man-years", as promising lives are

cut short, now runs at close on 60,000 per annum. This is a cost too colossal to translate into money terms.

Each month 250 people, the majority of them young men and women, are being killed on the roads. Each month a further 7,000 are being injured, many to remain life-long invalids. In the age groups most susceptible to the traffic toll, people are now being killed on the roads at a rate increasing three times as fast as the rate of population growth. Death and injury on the roads have reached epidemic proportions.

What is to be done? Much is being done, but is it enough? Clearly not, as any objective study of statistics quite clearly discloses. A comparison of our position and that of other heavily motorised communities—the United States or, nearer to home, New Zealand—shows us in a most unfavourable light.

In my view, we urgently require a totally new attitude of mind to halt this dreadful highway epidemic. And in Chambers such as this, and within Governments, is where the new attitude must begin.

What do I mean by that? Simply this: we must recognise that we are now involved in a total traffic war with survival as the stake, and nothing short of total mobilisation will suffice. Just as a community prepares for and accepts sacrifices involved in meeting an external threat, so we must meet this internal threat.

We are at war with the motor vehicle. The community must be jolted into recognising this. Fragmented moves and sporadic traffic action are useful in their way, of course, but will never be enough. Total action demands leadership which accepts that the needs of the whole community are always superior to the pleas of special groups.

Total action demands the fullest prosecution of the war on all fronts: better highways, effective driver education, safer vehicles and, above all, adequate laws that embody harshly deterrent penalties, plus fully mobilised traffic-law enforcement. And just as any war calls for a unified command, so a total war against the traffic toll requires that the present bewildering spread of functions—police, local government, main roads, hospitals, licensing authorities, and so on—be combined in one supreme authority for responsibility and research.

Bold, courageous action to win a war that at present we are losing must start here in this House. I am sure no hon. member would want to rest until something of real substance has been accomplished.

Mr. Duggan: Your plea for uniformity goes on to a national level?

Mr. PORTER: I will develop that point a little further later.

And now the third matter: one that calls for urgent and intelligent statesmanship if we are to emerge strong, safe and prosperous out of this difficult period of change and adaptation. We have in theory a Federal system in Australia, with power balanced between a central Government and sovereign State Governments. But the fact differs vastly from the theory, and always will whilst the present Commonwealth-States financial arrangements persist. As all know, we have a unitary system masquerading as a Federal system. This will become more apparent with every year that passes, because as Australia grows bigger, the larger become the Commonwealth's revenues and powers, and the more abject the dependence of the States and the more frantic their demands for maintenance and developmental funds.

This is a crazy situation. For a vast country whose survival depends on diverse and rapid development, our present pattern of Commonwealth-States relationships shows all the healthy bloom of a psychotic with compulsive suicidal tendencies. We are struggling with a system which makes each State an implacable rival of the others, and makes all States the permanent enemy of the Commonwealth. It is a system breeding all that is worst in the processes of government at various levels.

Again it will be said by those averse to change that here is a situation that cannot be altered; we cannot go back to the pre-1942 period before uniform taxation. I should hope nobody would expect this. But equally I would hope that nobody would regard the present patchwork as the attainable ultimate.

What can be done? I see no valid reason why Governments of the States and the Commonwealth cannot here and now devise a system whereby a larger measure of responsibility for raising their own revenues is returned to the States, through the Commonwealth retiring from one of the major fields of taxation.

To supplement the incomes of those States still awaiting intensive development there can be evolved a sensible Commonwealth-States grants and loan formula, so that a State such as ours does not inhibit necessary development by having to levy taxation in its fields at punitive rates.

There are no insoluble mathematical or economic problems involved here. Something has to be done anyhow within the next five years, when the present agreement expires. All that is needed are new attitudes from State and Federal leaders of all political parties, exhibiting a modicum of courage and vision, and setting long-term national and State growth against short-term selfish advantages.

I would hope I echo the sentiments of most in this House when I express a deep belief in the proper dispersal of power. For this, if for no other reason, I shall fight for the return of a Federal system. Power

dispersed is always power safely used. Power centralised, in whatever circumstances, must always be a threat to those democratic institutions whose preservation and enlargement we in this Chamber symbolise.

I come now to my conclusion, which is a kind of postscript to this brief introduction to three major topics. In this postscript I want to place on record what might be regarded as a personal political testimony.

In all that I have said today stress has been placed on the inexorable nature of change, which creates a number of social and economic problems. Equally I have stressed that change means challenge. But that is nothing to be alarmed at; indeed, rather the reverse. Man is a competitive animal, and given the right leadership he will respond to the stimulus of challenge.

It is no empty coincidence that the impelling political concepts of our times have been summed up in evocative phrases which, turning their back on the status quo, have called for dynamic answers to the challenge of change—"The great step forward . . ." "The new frontier . . ." and others. These concepts say of course things have changed, but let us not be frightened of what lies ahead. Rather, let us get with the change, and shape and direct it.

This is the frame of mind we must adopt. To ignore change is to go the way of the giant dinosaurs, who would not or could not meet evolutionary challenge. I am sure none of us here, either in our persons or in the organisations we represent, want to become fossils before our time. For change is inevitable; much of it is already here; much more is coming.

Let us glance at some of these aspects of change that have already transformed our scene, making us a community vastly different from what we were 20, 10 or even five years ago. For a start, Australians today know we are part of a South-east Asian world which is in ferment. We don't like this, but we reluctantly accept it. So external security becomes a—perhaps the—major political factor, where 10 years ago it would not have caused a ripple on the political pond.

Again, we are now potentially an affluent society and we take prosperity and stability for granted. The old class-war concepts on which most political action was predicated for the earlier part of this century are now as dead as the dodo.

Another vast element of change: we are now principally an urban society where once we were primarily rural, and scientific and technological development will accelerate this demographic change. Whether this is good or bad is beside the point; it is already happening, and nothing can stop it going further.

And still another aspect: we are a "young-ing" community, with our young people now better educated, more travelled, more widely

informed, and hence constituting in the political sense a much more sophisticated electorate than has ever existed before.

Today's community, with its particular attitudes and wants, is as different from yesterday's as chalk is from cheese, and tomorrow's will be different again. Politicians and parties who refuse to acknowledge this are doomed. The processes of extinction can be gradual, and may well be painful, but they will be inexorable.

All political parties in Australia are now caught up in the toils of change, and out of the consequential adjustments to this emerge some of the altering relationships between parties which have provided a kind of star attraction for the Press circus here over the past 18 months.

It is my view that there will be no quick or easy ending to the stresses and strains inherent in these changes, but they should be recognised only for what they are. Investing them with a sensational significance far beyond their true meaning can be utterly misleading.

As party organisations compete electorally with each other—and compete they must if democracy is to receive more than mere lip service—so parliamentary members are required to show the true mettle of their pasture.

Once elected, a member surely has the obligation to rise above whatever attitudes may have been engendered by his campaign battles. To whatever extent he fails in this rests the measure of his mediocrity. I am quite sure this will not be a measure needing to be applied to any hon. member here.

So I conclude much as I began, with the platitude that change is inevitable, and universal. Those who seek the seeming safety of a mythical status quo only make it more certain that they will be swept away when the tides of change reach flood.

I am well aware that those who advocate change that is unpopular in some quarters, or who seek dispersal of established power, cannot hope to be too popular. But in public life any man worth his salt must make a choice. And, because of this, I would not expect that any hon. member, whilst differing from a viewpoint expressed, would do other than agree that one must hold to cherished principles.

Perhaps I can best sum this up by paraphrasing a quotation much favoured by one of our newspapers: he who would sacrifice essential respect for a little temporary popularity deserves neither respect nor popularity.

When it comes to this kind of choice I know what I would want, every time. But, in this Chamber, as in other places, over the long haul we must all settle not for what we might want, but for what we have deserved.

Mr. DEAN (Sandgate) (3.25 p.m.): It is again my privilege to speak to His Excellency's Opening Speech, delivered on 3 August this year in the first session of the 38th Parliament. I express first my appreciation to the people of the Sandgate electorate for once again returning me as their representative, and with a record majority; indeed a sweeping majority. I thank my campaign director, Mr. Frank Doyle, and the members of the A.L.P. who gave me invaluable assistance. The great honour of being a representative of the people comes to only a few. In all humility I acknowledge my full appreciation of the opportunity of being allowed to serve as a representative for the State of Queensland.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the people of the Sandgate electorate I reaffirm our loyalty to Her Majesty and at the same time express my great satisfaction with Her Majesty's choice of Sir Alan Mansfield as her representative in Queensland. I state without hesitation, that Sir Alan is a very worthy successor to Sir Henry Abel Smith. I am sure that he will maintain the high standard set by State Governors in Queensland for many years. We have been very fortunate in Queensland in having Governors of high calibre and integrity who have set a high standard for the community on which the young people in particular could pattern their lives. I wish Sir Alan and Lady Mansfield a very happy term at Government House.

I congratulate the new hon. members and wish them success in representing the people of their respective electorates. I pay a special compliment and extend special congratulations to the hon. member for Ipswich West, Mrs. Jordan. It is not the privilege of many Parliaments to have lady members. I am sure every hon. member on this side and the majority of those on the other side will join with me in saying that it is refreshing to have in our midst a lady of her calibre. I am sure time will prove that she will serve well not only her electorate but also Queensland as a whole.

I compliment the two new members on the Government side who had the privilege of moving and seconding the Address in Reply. In their maiden speeches they referred to two important subjects, namely, assistance for the aged and invalid pensioners and road safety—subjects in which no doubt every hon. member in this House has at sometime expressed interest either as the main subject of a speech or by reference to them. I was particularly pleased to hear the very strong plea for a better deal for pensioners, many of whom are the great pioneers of the State. It was indeed very gratifying and refreshing to find that, at last, on the other side of the House, some concern was being expressed about the plight of pensioners today. For some time now I have felt that the State Governments of Australia will have to give more consideration to our pioneers, the

pensioners, because of the shameful and shocking neglect of them by the Commonwealth Government and their shabby treatment by that Government for many years. I have said on many occasions, and I repeat this afternoon with all the force at my command that the Commonwealth Government should be ashamed of the way in which it has treated the pensioners of Australia. I have often been invited to attend meetings of the Australian Pensioners' League, not only in my own electorate but in other electorates of Queensland. In the course of those meetings I have heard complaints of many hardships they suffer, ranging from the payment of exorbitant rents to inability to purchase sufficient food, which in many cases causes serious malnutrition. Many of these aged people are very sick and in need of special consideration and special economic assistance by way of an increase in pension to allow them to lead a decent life and get a little happiness to relieve their miserable existence—and many of them do lead a miserable existence at the present time. That is particularly so in the case of single pensioners who have only one income and find it very difficult to make ends meet economically. Married couples are a little better off, but not as good as they might be. To be fair and just to pensioners the Commonwealth Government should increase the pension rate so that it is much closer to the basic wage. That will have to be done if we are to relieve their present economic problem. The same conditions apply to civilian widows. Many of these unfortunate women are in straitened circumstances today because of the inadequate pension paid by the Commonwealth Government. They find it most difficult to provide even the daily necessities for their families. I have known many instances where the mother has had to deprive herself of some of the necessities of life so that her children can receive proper nourishment. I do not think it is right in a rich country like Australia that a woman should have to deprive herself in order to give her children adequate food.

In seconding the motion the hon. member for Hawthorne dealt with road safety. There can be no end in sight to the death rate on Queensland roads while a great number of people will not obey the traffic laws. Facts show that approximately nine out of every 10 road deaths occur mainly through human error. Recently the Queensland Road Safety Council exhibited a film at the Royal National Show. Although in many respects it was well documented, I feel that the theme of fear and horror which the film displayed is not the complete answer to the dreadful slaughter on Queensland roads. Road safety and road courtesy should be taught at an early age in all schools, and certainly in a more comprehensive way than at present. There should be broader methods of road-safety education at an early age and stronger measures to deal with persistent offenders on our roads. I feel that

it should be mandatory for such a film to be flashed on to every television screen during the popular viewing period. That would make a greater impact on people than showing the film once a year at the Royal Show.

How much longer will the Government maintain its attitude of indifference to the appalling slaughter on our roads? Its dithering and spineless methods have failed miserably. The Premier and his Government know only too well that one of the main, if not the main, killer on our roads at present is alcohol. Let us face it. At least 50 per cent. of serious road accidents in Queensland involve a drink-driver. Statistics prove it. We are advised that in Brisbane during the last quarter of 1964 drunken drivers and pedestrians were involved in 65.7 per cent. of the total number of fatal road accidents. At the Fourth Institute of Scientific Studies for the Prevention of Alcoholism, held at the University of Queensland, information was given that, of the 93 people killed in road accidents in Queensland during the last three months of 1964, 30 per cent. were killed by drink-drivers. I am becoming more and more convinced that heavier penalties provide one solution. All this talk of educating motorists in drinking and driving is, as far as I am concerned, a lot of sickening drivel. I have always contended that an effective deterrent to drunken driving on the highway is the imposition of solid penalties.

Queensland at present has many regulations, but they are not being enforced by magistrates. That is not only my opinion but the opinion of many other people. The laws and regulations of the State are at present not being enforced by the courts.

Mr. Smith: That is a grave statement to make.

Mr. DEAN: They are not being enforced effectively, to my mind. The majority of magistrates impose the minimum penalties for drunken driving, when in fact the penalties should be the maximum, or, in certain cases, between the minimum and the maximum.

Mr. Smith: Of course they are between the minimum and the maximum.

Mr. DEAN: I feel it is about time that our courts realised that more realistic penalties should be imposed for this very serious offence. Why do they appear to act in such a timid manner? What are they afraid of? Why has their courage failed? Sometime ago in this Parliament the minimum term of compulsory suspension of a driver's licence following conviction for drunken driving was increased from three months to six months, yet how many times do we see it imposed? Very few indeed. Magistrates also have a discretion to disqualify a person from driving, but, again, how many times do we see that power used? How many times do we see drivers disqualified?

Mr. Smith: There is no discretion; they must be disqualified. It is mandatory.

Mr. DEAN: Well, they do not do it.

Mr. Smith: That is where you are quite wrong. It is a mandatory disqualification.

Mr. DEAN: I can go only on what I read and what I hear when acting for victims who have been knocked down.

Mr. Smith: The driver must be disqualified.

Mr. DEAN: That is what the law says, but it is not carried out.

Mr. Smith: That is where you are wrong.

Mr. DEAN: I want to make it quite clear that I am not blaming the Commissioner of Police or his officers, because they are doing a good job; in many cases an excellent one. In the final analysis, however, the action to be taken is up to the magistrates, who should enforce the laws made by this Parliament. The situation has become very farcical indeed. I and many other people view with concern the attitude of certain magistrates to traffic offences. If magistrates feel that they need additional powers, let them come and ask for them, and we will then have to face up to our responsibilities.

I repeat what I have said on many occasions, not only here but in other places, that there should be more cancellation of drivers' licences. This would act as a very strong deterrent to drunken driving. I contend that the prospect of life-long cancellation would frighten many drivers into safer driving.

Mr. Smith: Are you talking of disqualification for life?

Mr. DEAN: Yes. I shall come to that in a moment.

Mr. Smith: The Act does not require that.

Mr. DEAN: If the Act does not require it, it is about time we saw that it did. I am not a legal man. I have very little legal knowledge; I am speaking as a layman. I repeat that the few cancellations that take place now are not a sufficient deterrent to drunken driving. If the knowledge that on his first conviction a person would lose his licence for years, if not for life, did not act as a deterrent to drunken driving, I do not know what would. Every drunk driver is a potential killer. Each time he drives under the influence of alcohol, he could kill someone. Why should he be given a second chance?

Mr. Smith: Every careless driver is a potential killer, too.

Mr. DEAN: I am talking about alcohol at the moment.

Mr. Smith: The other one is just as dangerous.

Mr. DEAN: The penalties imposed by some magistrates seem very strange. Light penalties are imposed where heavy penalties

seem to be called for. I have a report before me of a case in which a motorist was found asleep behind the steering wheel of a parked car. He was arrested, and the magistrate fined him £200 and suspended his licence for six months. If he had been actually driving the car he might have received a lower fine and a shorter suspension of licence. That is an example of the anomalies to which I am referring, and it shows the way in which magistrates interpret the law.

I am firmly convinced that the Government will have to give very serious consideration to providing more drastic penalties for drink-driving offences and, at the same time, advise magistrates to take a stronger line. Let us be frank: some of them will have to be told to study their law and impose more severe penalties. As a layman, I know little about the law and legal technicalities, but I believe that a better result may be obtained if the present law was enforced more firmly.

A very serious view should be taken of cases in which persons persist in committing an offence, and I have been advised that a second offender is liable for a fine of \$600 or imprisonment not exceeding 18 months, or both. How many times has that penalty been inflicted? I have not seen it inflicted once. Furthermore, according to information from a reliable source, if an offender has two previous convictions the court can order imprisonment without the option of a fine. How many times have magistrates done this? Very few.

I state quite categorically that there should be gaol without the option of a fine for a second offence. I have said it before; I am still of the same opinion. If a person is convicted of a second drink-driving charge, he should not have the option of paying a fine. I am well aware that that is a severe penalty, but the slaughter on Queensland roads is a serious matter, too.

What is the matter with the courts? Why are they taking such a lenient view of the great loss of human life on the highways of this State? Those lives are destroyed by certain irresponsible people who drive motor-cars. The hon. member for Windsor says that does not always apply. In some of them, admittedly, there is no mention of alcohol. I have some newspaper reports here, and one of them is headed "7 Killings: 4 Freed". These were cases of cold-blooded killing on the highway. I think that certain cases should be put on record. I refer to the case of Brisbane schoolboy, son of a well-known Toowoomba doctor, who was acquitted of a charge of manslaughter but found guilty of dangerous driving causing death. The Crown case was that he had used his father's car and driven round a curve on the Isle of Capri, Surfers Paradise, at 73 miles an hour. He was on his way to take up a drag race challenge with a mini-car. As a result of a collision between these two cars, three young men died. What happened to this young man? The judge fined

him \$400 and barred him from driving for three years. That is a very light penalty, to my mind.

Case No. 2 was at Tingalpa. A boy died as a result of being knocked down by a car while he was on a zebra crossing. The report on that case said that a Wynnum housewife was charged with having unlawfully killed the boy. The police case was that the car had struck the boy when he was moving on the zebra crossing in front of a stationary bus. After hearing evidence a Stipendiary Magistrate found there was not sufficient evidence to establish a prima-facie case and the complaint against the person was dismissed. Not sufficient evidence when the boy was on a zebra crossing!

The third case was a Southport case, a charge against a 19-year-old labourer. The police case was that he had hit a bicycle ridden by 12-year-old John Carl Dennis. The accused, a person named Veivers, did not stop and another motorist found the boy dying in the gutter. This is what happened: counsel contended that the evidence did not disclose any criminal negligence on the part of Veivers. He drove off and left a boy to die like a dog in the gutter. I should think one would not drive off and leave even an animal to die. Veivers was fined \$50—£25.

Mr. Smith: If you were fair to the courts you would appreciate that the person imposing the penalty has heard every aspect of the case; you have not.

Mr. DEAN: I am aware of that. But let me proceed. Let us look at case No. 4, which is the worst case of all; it is shocking. A mother came from Mt. Isa with her two children to have a holiday at Redcliffe; unfortunately, the poor mother could not take the two children home with her. She returned home without them. Listen to why she did so—

“Last December at Clontarf Trevor Rodney Low, 18, was the driver of a car which mounted a footpath, killed two young children and injured their mother.

“Evidence was given that Low had only a learner’s permit.

“A jury acquitted Low of manslaughter and dangerous driving.”

How could one explain that case? Are we going to view these as courts of law or courts of justice? I know the hon. member for Townsville South has made reference to this matter and I agree with him up to a point. If some technicality can be found, it does not seem to matter if lives are lost; so long as some technicality within the legal structure can be found to get the culprit off, that is all that seems to matter. All in all, seven young people died horrible deaths, four drivers were brought before the courts on killing charges and all four went scot-free. I ask the hon. member for Windsor if he thinks that is justice.

Mr. Smith: I would not presume to criticise unless I knew all the facts. You are criticising before you know them.

Mr. DEAN: In Tuesday’s “Telegraph” I read that 295 road deaths occurred in Queensland in 229 days. Surely the Government should take notice of this and analyse the causes. As I suggested before, we must show some realism in the matter; let us face it. Much of this slaughter is attributable—and I say it without fear of contradiction—to the Government’s action in liberalising the liquor laws of the State. Those are not my views only; they are also held by many people. Sunday drinking and increased teenage drinking have resulted from the Government’s past actions in amending the Liquor Act. The Government stands condemned in the eyes of many decent and responsible parents in the State because of its relaxation of the State’s liquor laws.

That brings me to another aspect of teenage drinking. Perhaps through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can pose a question to the hon. member for Windsor. If the teenager is penalised for consuming liquor on licensed premises, can he tell me why those who supplied the liquor to him are not penalised? Is it any wonder that from time to time we read in the newspapers about the exorbitant profits and ever-rising profits of the breweries and liquor interests generally? In “The Sunday Mail” of 12 June this year it was reported that the shares of Castlemaine Perkins Ltd., the big Fourx brewery, had jumped to \$6.01, and that for the year ended 31 July, 1965, the dividend was lifted to 17 per cent., compared with 16 per cent. in the previous year. Incidentally, this company last year recorded net earnings of \$2,157,922, which was a record. No wonder it was a record net earning. No wonder it is reported that the company could easily sustain a higher dividend rate. I wonder how high it will eventually go. The Milton brewery is reported to be working at capacity. This information indicates quite clearly that since the Government liberalised the liquor laws in this State the consumption of alcohol has increased considerably.

There is no doubt that the liquor barons and the liquor interests generally have a powerful influence over this Government. Last week at the Royal National Show I saw beer wagons forcibly ploughing their way through a picnic area so that supplies could be replenished at licensed bars. The drivers of these vehicles took no notice of anybody. They drove straight into the showgrounds, although I suppose they had permission to do so. Their action was in contrast to that of the drivers of the soft drink vehicles. They had to park near the gate and wheel in their goods on hand trolleys. They were not allowed to drive their vehicles right up to the soft drink bars to replenish supplies. The beer barons’ wagons ploughed through the picnic area where people were having their

lunch. That goes to show the power of the liquor interests in this State. They do just as they please.

The absence of any reference in the Governor's Opening Speech to the great work being performed by the co-ordinating committee on alcoholism in Queensland was rather significant.

In co-operation with the Queensland Temperance League and various church authorities this Government instrumentality is doing a very good job, especially in our schools. I pay the Director a compliment for the excellent work he is doing, but I am afraid that he is waging a losing battle because he is fighting the powerful interests of the liquor trade and record drinking of alcohol.

Increased teenage drinking is one of the great evils—if not the greatest—of our modern age. It would appear to me, and to many others, that its sponsors are being aided and abetted by a Government which is obsessed with the desire to obtain revenue at any cost, even to the degradation of Australian youth. As long as it obtains revenue it does not care whether it comes from the T.A.B. or anywhere else. I do not think many hon. members on the Government side can be very happy about that. Has the Queensland Government lost control of the dangerous teenage drinking situation to such an extent that it is about to amend the liquor laws to lower the permissible drinking age to 18 years? If so, I can only say, "Heaven help the youth of Queensland!" That is the only place to my mind, from which help can come. They will need some divine assistance to escape from the greedy clutches of the beer barons with their allied liquor interests.

Some years ago, when members of the present Government were in opposition, they made very strong and loud accusations against the then Government about alleged liquor slush funds being paid to certain people. I was not a member of the Government at the time; I was a listener in the gallery and I heard those loud accusations. Today, I am wondering whether it exists. Because of the way the Government bends to the will of the liquor interests, I am wondering if there is such a fund. I should like to know who is paying it and who is receiving it. I have heard many rumours. I do not believe in spreading them, but I have heard many rumours and perhaps there is some substance in them. If the Government is sincere in its desire to help the teenagers of this State, and to combat the scourge of alcoholism in our midst, why does it not take a firm stand on this issue? I think one means of doing so would be by legislation. It has been done in countries overseas. Blatant advertising of liquor is allowed not only in the Press and on the radio, but on TV. Why should we allow liquor advertisements to be flashed on the TV screen night after night, brainwashing everyone who sees them and especially the

young people. I am extremely sorry for the unfortunate teenager who finds himself snared and trapped by the evil of alcohol. I appeal to Government members to accept the responsibility that the people of Queensland have entrusted to them, to protect our youth so that each and every one has equal opportunity to become a first-class citizen, to enjoy a good, healthy life and, at the same time, to play his part in making Queensland the best State in the Commonwealth and Australia the best country in the world.

Having made those comments about this very serious subject, I should like to devote the rest of my time to another subject of some importance, one which was referred to recently in the Press and became a very widely discussed topic. I refer to the very important tourist industry. Some time ago we were told by the Minister for Tourism that the Bureau of Census and Statistics would soon start collating accurate statistics about the Queensland tourist industry. That is a very important step, because lack of accurate information is a feature of the present records. It is not, of course, the main weakness in our tourist industry. Many of the shortcomings—and I stress that there are many deplorable shortcomings in the Queensland tourist industry—can be rectified immediately without waiting for enormous lists of statistics. To create first-class tourist facilities we must have fully-trained staff officers, people who are temperamentally suited to cater for all kinds of tourists.

The tourist officer must have a pleasant personality and must be knowledgeable, tactful, and extremely courteous. In making that bold statement, I do not want to be misunderstood or be taken as making any slight attack on the officers of the Queensland Tourist Bureau. They are doing a wonderful job under difficult circumstances. From my own observations in travelling throughout Queensland I can say that those officers do a very good job under difficult conditions and with poor facilities. Tourist facilities generally in Queensland are of a very poor standard indeed and are in no way comparable with tourist facilities in the southern and western States of Australia. We do not give tourists a fair return for the money they expend merely by creating gimmicks and having half-clad over-painted girls to greet tourists who come to our beautiful city.

Floral decoration of railway platforms is very attractive, but what about some real and personal service to our good friend the tourist—to make his arrival at some of our North Queensland railway stations more comfortable and less hazardous—by providing a mobile platform stage or ramp similar in many respects to aircraft landing stages which are used for the various types of planes that carry tourists. Those stages enable the tourists to step onto the tarmac in comfort.

Another important factor is the quality of meals served at most of the railway refreshment rooms. They leave much to be desired.

The presentation of meals and the general appearance of the food is very poor and not appetising. Until we provide up-to-date facilities and good fresh food at the railway stations at which tourists are expected to call for refreshments, we are not being honest with the people who are influenced by our tourist publicity.

I consider also that the Government is far too timid in its approach to competition from private tourist organisations. In the development of the State's tourist services it lacks imagination and is not dynamic enough to accept the challenge of private agencies which appear to be gaining increased trade every day at the expense of the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau. On that point look at the main Tourist Bureau office situated in Adelaide Street, Brisbane, in the old Railway office. What a great place that is! Its atmosphere is cold and its furniture is dull. There is no retiring room for lady tourists who want to relax, have a shower or change their travelling clothes. The same can be said of conditions for male tourists. No facilities are available. I was shocked and disgusted when I learnt that one of the most necessary amenities, toilet facilities, was not provided for tourists at our main tourist centre. The tourist should be given such services as light refreshments and retiring lounges. Trained hostesses should be appointed to look after the interests of the tourists, and the centre should be open at week-ends.

The lack of imagination I referred to earlier prevails also in the Queensland tourist centres in the southern States. The offices in Sydney and Melbourne are of poor standard and do not do justice to this State. Queensland's image is a poor one if judged by the impression created by our facilities.

Without any doubt we have one of the most beautiful cities in Australia. On many occasions it has been referred to as a city nestling amongst hills. It is one of the most outstanding cities in the Commonwealth, to my mind.

I have always felt that the Government should encourage and work in closer co-operation with the Brisbane City Council to make the capital more interesting and attractive not only for tourists but also its citizens who pay the rates and charges of the city. For years I have stated that, for a city situated in a semi-tropical area, Brisbane lacks colour, simply because those who have been entrusted with the beautification of its parks and gardens have a poor sense of imagination.

(Time expired.)

Mr. HINZE (South Coast) (4.5 p.m.): I join with other hon. members and say, on behalf of the electors of South Coast, that we affirm our loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We also extend our congratulations to our newly-appointed Governor, Sir Alan Mansfield, and Lady Mansfield. Without detracting in any way

from the magnificent work of his predecessor, Sir Henry Abel Smith, and Lady May, I wish to say that I am particularly pleased with the appointment of Sir Alan. He is a Queenslander, and he has shown that he has the personal qualifications to carry out the duties of the most important office of Governor of this State.

I congratulate the Premier on successfully leading his team for the fourth time at a State election. He has indicated publicly that he intends to retire from political life within the next two years, and I wish to say that I am very pleased at being elected to represent the South Coast area for the remaining two years of the Premier's leadership of this State. I believe that when the history of Queensland is written the Premier will be recorded as one of our greatest statesmen and Premiers.

I wish to pay a tribute to my predecessor, Mr. Eric Gaven, who represented the South Coast electorate for 17 years. Although he was perhaps a little misunderstood at times, there is no doubt that he was very well liked in his electorate and I believe that he did everything possible to represent that seat faithfully and well. Mr. Gaven and his wife Belle have a beautiful property on the bank of the Nerang River, and I hope that they will live long to enjoy their retirement.

I wish to congratulate also my friend from local government circles, Alderman Vi Jordan, the hon. member for Ipswich West. I have known her for some considerable time in local government work. I know that she has been a good worker in this field, and she will be a great asset to this House. I am quite sure that she will put forward arguments particularly on behalf of the women of Queensland.

I also wish to thank my supporters and friends in the South Coast electorate, particularly my campaign director, Mr. Frank Skinner, who is well known throughout Queensland and a very staunch Country Party supporter.

I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your re-election as Speaker of this House, and I thank you for the courtesies that you have extended to me in the short period that I have been here.

I also wish to congratulate my friend and colleague the hon. member for Albert, Mr. Cec Carey.

Mr. Bromley: Who is he?

Mr. HINZE: He is the very intelligent gentleman on my left.

I particularly congratulate Mr. Carey because I saw him sit through eight days of what one of my friends calls purgatory but what I call trial.

I do not think it should have been necessary for a man who has represented his electorate so well for six years to contest an election against another member of the coalition parties. I hope that common sense will prevail and that we will not see much more

of this sort of thing in Queensland. Let me make it clear that I am not concerned about it personally. I had a five-cornered contest, not a three-cornered contest, in my electorate. However, I am concerned about the future of the State, and as I moved round my electorate a number of people said to me, "We are worried that there could be a political upset in the State because of these three-cornered contests." I hope that time will solve the problem and that the two great parties will be able to iron out their differences in the party room.

I have listened intently to the debates since I have been in this Chamber, and I shall refer today to two matters in particular. The Leader of the Opposition referred to the percentages shown at the last State election. He said that the Liberal Party won 20 seats with a percentage of 25.84 and that it contested 45 seats. I understand that the Labour Party won 26 seats of the 77 it contested, with 43.56 per cent. of the vote, and that the Country Party won 27 seats of the 37 it contested, with 19.15 per cent. of the vote. I am commenting on this only because I believe the figures are misleading. As I said, the Country Party contested only 37 seats. If it had contested 77, as did the A.L.P., that 19.15 per cent. would have been very much higher.

Mr. Houston: You wouldn't have got a vote in my electorate.

Mr. HINZE: That is the hon. member's opinion.

The Country Party has a national outlook. It is neither extreme right nor extreme left, and it has the ability to attract to its ranks specialists in the field of primary industries. It is very popular in this State because it provides what the people want—a middle-of-the-road party. I am proud to be a member of the Country Party and consider it a privilege to carry the Country Party colours in the South Coast electorate.

I refer, too, to the Appropriation Bill that the Treasurer introduced on 10 August. He said in his introductory speech that the difficulties in which we find ourselves are caused mainly by drought, and I wish to refer briefly to the significant part that primary industries play in the economy of the State. Every time a drought occurs the economy of Queensland suffers, so it is obvious that the State is still very dependent on its primary industries. The Treasurer went on to say that the building up of secondary industries and the tourist industry had helped to cushion the effect of these recent bad years of drought.

The tourist industry is of great importance to the South Coast electorate, which has within its boundaries the 20-mile strip of beach known as the Gold Coast. No other area in the State earns more dollars per square mile than the Gold Coast with its tourist, secondary and primary industries. So I say to the Treasurer in all sincerity, "If

you have a tight Budget this year, please don't kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. If it is necessary to tighten the belt, please don't recommend anything that will be detrimental to the economy of the South Coast electorate, for I emphasise again that we are earning more dollars for Queensland than is any other part of the State and we wish to go on increasing our earning capacity."

This brings me particularly to the tourist industry, a comparatively new industry for Queensland and one to which not enough attention is given either by the State or the Commonwealth Governments.

Hon. members may or may not know that the South Coast electorate is growing faster than any other area of the State, with an increase in permanent population of 7 per cent. Taking Australia as a whole, this is second only to the figure for Canberra which is 8 per cent. During school and Christmas holidays our population exceeds 100,000, all of whom, as hon. members know, have to be made content with goods and services. This tremendous growth of our tourist industry is partly based on our splendid climate, our surfing beaches and our hinterland attractions.

I feel that the success of the tourist industry in my electorate is also due mainly to a number of personalities and organisations to whom I intend to refer. We have recently conducted our annual winter bowls carnival, to which we attracted some 1,500 bowlers, and their wives, from all parts of Australia. They have had a wonderful time, made possible by the Gold Coast Winter Bowling Carnival Committee, whose chairman is Mr. Ray Duncan, and also by the fact that we have the most moderately priced high-class accommodation available anywhere in Australia. Our hotel and motel accommodation is recognised as being in world class and the entertainment provided, as all hon. gentlemen know, is terrific. The Gold Coast City Council is trying desperately to the limit of its loan allocations, to provide the services required, such as beach patrols on all of the 20 miles of surfing beaches, park and recreational facilities, water reticulation, sewerage extensions, and so on.

The neighbouring Albert Shire is doing a magnificent job in providing a network of roads to the mountain resorts. To assist our tourist industry and to help entertain the 3,000,000 visitors who enter the area annually, we have five Rotary Clubs, six Lions Clubs, three Apex Clubs, seven R.S.L. Clubs and 21 surf life-saving clubs.

The Gold Coast city is now regarded as the convention city of Australia. We have over 2,000 registered accommodation buildings, 18 tourist-class-accommodation hotels and 126 restaurants, cafes and tea-rooms, etc. We believe that we earn \$70,000,000 a year from the tourist trade alone.

I wish to refer particularly to the parts played by such identities as Alex Griffiths, who owns the bird sanctuary, Jack Evans, who owns the porpoise pool, David Fleay, who owns the fauna reserve, Keith Williams, who owns the ski garden and international motor-racing circuit, Con Van T'Hof, who owns the tulip farm, Mr. Peyton-Smith, who owns the Old English Garden at Springbrook, and the Pioneer House at Advancetown. Jack Evans has entertained over 500,000 visitors at his porpoise pool during the past year. The new seaquarium on The Spit is due to open next week and should be another tourist attraction. Jack Evans intends to commence building in the near future the world's biggest and best whale pool, and I understand that the glass viewing-windows alone will weigh 8 tons.

Alex Griffiths commenced his activities in the Currumbin area as a bee-keeper, less than 20 years ago. He now has 600,000 visitors sign the visitors' book each year. He estimates that some 2,000 lorikeets are fed at the same time and that it takes 70 loaves of bread and 140 lb. of honey each day to accomplish this purpose. He also has a 16-ton silo of grain especially for the water birds and other grain-eating birds.

David Fleay's work is well known to all Queenslanders in that he is trying desperately to preserve our own native animals and reptiles, and to record their life history. Over 80,000 visitors are attracted to his 65-acre sanctuary each year. More than 4,000 visitors attended the opening of the Tulip Farm at Springbrook last week, and went on to visit the Old English Garden, which is conducted by Mr. Peyton-Smith.

The proprietors of the Advancetown Hotel, the Misses Bruce and McLean, have developed a great tourist drawcard by building adjacent to their hotel a complete pioneer slab-house fully furnished with the type of furniture and crockery that our pioneers used before the turn of the century.

Keith Williams and his company deserve the highest commendation for the part they are playing in providing the facilities at the Surfers' Paradise Ski Gardens and the International Motor Racing Circuit. It is expected that within the next three years, the motor racing circuit will be regarded as the best in the world, attracting hundreds of thousands of overseas car-racing enthusiasts to our State.

I know that my reference to the tourist industry has been lengthy, but as the Gold Coast is the No. 1 tourist area in Australia I ask hon. members to bear with me if at times I get carried away with my enthusiasm for it.

In the secondary industry field the Associated Mineral Company this year won the "E for Export" award. This award is granted annually by the Chamber of Manufacturers for the purpose of promoting exports. Associated Minerals has a capital of \$1,500,000; it employs 550 persons and earns \$8,000,000 dollars a year in exporting rutile, zircon and ilmenite.

We have a locally owned and controlled ice-cream manufacturing company, Dairy King and Dairy Queen, which uses all the dairy production of the South Coast, and sells its products as far north as Cairns and as far west as Mt. Isa. This company is owned by the South Coast Co-operative Dairy Association. It has an annual turnover of more than \$2,000,000, and it has the franchise to bottle and pasteurise all the milk for the Gold Coast area.

Building approvals by the Gold Coast City Council and the Albert Shire Council exceed \$2,000,000 a month. By comparison, the building approval for the city of Lismore is \$2,000,000 a year. I understand that 25 per cent. of the building approvals in the State of Queensland are in these two areas of Gold Coast and Albert.

In the primary industries, we have the dairy industry with some 30,000 head of dairy cattle and 15,000 head of beef cattle, with the small crops and floral production to satisfy mainly the local demand.

I believe that I have said sufficient to indicate that the area is tremendously important as a dollar earner, and now I wish to refer to a number of matters that I believe are necessary to assure a continuation of its development.

The Gold Coast City Council has recently taken the necessary steps to increase its rates by an average of 66½ per cent. Although many ratepayers regard the rise as steep and unjustified, the simple facts are that somebody has to pay for services. In this case, however, the ratepayers are required to meet the cost of a permanent beach patrol, a public relations department to further the tourist industry, and of providing water reticulation and sewerage connections to service an expected 140,000 people. If these services were not provided there would be an outcry all over Australia.

But the point I am trying to make is that the ratepayer is expected to find the funds to provide the capital works to support an industry, the benefits of which extend throughout the rest of the State. Now, there is really not much wrong about that, as long as the State accepts my argument from time to time that we are entitled to a fair share of the loan funds, more funds for road works and hospitals, and the provision of schools and adequate police protection.

That brings me to the point that I cannot help but feel that we are not getting it across to our friends in Canberra that Queensland is the State with the greatest potential for development. I cannot go along with the idea that we should accuse the Queensland Labour Government in office in 1947-48 for our present problems; some 20 years have elapsed since then, and the whole facts of the matter are that our southern friends keep referring to northern development but are prepared to do precious little about it.

The Albert Shire Council, with its quickly-developing areas adjacent to the Gold Coast and Brisbane, has arrived at the stage where

the lack of loan funds is seriously curtailing future expansion. Out of a loan application this year of \$1.2 million it has approval to borrow only some \$200,000. This indicates that important works such as sewerage for Beenleigh and much-needed road works will have to be held up.

Surely if this State is to develop the way we want it to, and the way we know it can, we must have a blueprint for development; we must have a plan for some 15 to 20 years ahead. Surely we will have to convince our partners in Canberra that the treatment we are receiving—good as they may believe it to be—is just not good enough for Queensland.

The Treasurer referred in the Appropriation Bill debate to the drought and its effect on the State, but the question I ask is, "What are we doing about future droughts?" The facts are that apart from a couple of meetings we are doing nothing at all in regard to future droughts. We are very lucky that we have had good rains throughout Queensland over the past week, measuring an average of four inches throughout the State. But heavens above, surely we do not have to look to Providence always to get us out of trouble! There are six coastal streams south of this city—Logan, Albert, Coomera, Nerang, Tallebudgera and Currumbin—and the only expenditure on any of these is for the purpose of providing town water supplies.

No funds whatever have been spent on conserving waters for pastures for these coastal valleys, which incidentally are the most productive in the State. All they require is water and occasional fertilising, yet millions and millions of gallons of water run to the sea year after year and we wring our hands and blame the drought. It is a fact, as we know, that there is only a certain amount of funds to go around. If we take funds for irrigation they have to come from hospital expenditure, and if we give certain funds to the hospitals they have to come from road expenditure, and so on. We must convince our friends in Canberra of the need for northern development; we must get more money. I am not blaming the Treasurer; he is doing everything possible. The simple facts of the matter are that we are starved for loan funds for local government and irrigation work. We have possibly the most capable person in irrigation work in Australia in the person of Mr. Haigh, of the Department of Irrigation and Water Supply, but what he can do is limited by the amount of funds available to him.

Another matter receiving publicity is the death rate on the roads. There is no doubt in my mind that we are losing the battle of the roads. More than half of the hon. members who have spoken so far have referred to this matter. I must refer to it today because in last week's Press the statistician proved that most of the deaths are occurring in the Gold Coast and Albert Shire areas. Irrespective of the great amount of work the Main Roads Department is doing with its limited funds, we are not just keeping up with the traffic density.

Statistical reports reveal that traffic has the greatest density in the Albert Shire and Gold Coast areas, and that we are having the most accidents. Along with other causes such as negligence, alcohol, speeding—which the hon. member for Sandgate referred to a moment ago—"hogging" the centre of the road, road construction also has a bearing. Therefore, the construction of safer and faster roads is of paramount importance in this State.

We cannot go on losing life at the rate we have attained lately. Only last week four people lost their lives on roads within a radius of 30 or 40 miles of this city. Every three or four days we read of another fatal accident. Surely this is as bad as any war. I believe that 90 per cent. of Australians would approve an increase in income tax provided that all moneys from petrol tax and sales tax on tyres were used for road construction. There are a number of two-lane and four-lane sections on the Pacific Highway and Gold Coast Highway, and I believe there is some confusion as a result. Some interstate motorists find themselves in the wrong lane at times, so I believe that more adequate sign-posting is required.

I also believe that, as most road deaths appear to be the result of head-on collisions, it should be an offence attracting at least a \$100 fine to cross any double-line marking and the same type of fine should apply to road hogs, the types who drive along a 60-mile-an-hour highway at a steady 30 miles an hour with the driving-side wheel on the white line. I don't profess to be an authority on this problem, but as the member representing the area where the most accidents occur, I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that it really has me worried.

I wish to refer now to that part of the Premier's policy speech wherein he referred to a subsidy to assist the dairying industry. I support the proposal wholeheartedly and I commend the Premier and the Treasurer for accepting the recommendation of the Dairy Industry Advisory Committee in this regard. If ever an industry needed assistance it is the dairy industry. The number of dairymen in this State dropped from 20,000 in 1955-56 to 13,000 in 1965-66. No other industry has played a more important part in the decentralisation of this State. I believe that the assistance could not have come at a more appropriate time because it is now possible to secure a type of sub-tropical grass and legume seed that was not available in sufficient quantities until last year.

The C.S.I.R.O., the Department of Primary Industries and the seed propagationists deserve special mention for the part they are playing in the great pasture explosion story. To gain some idea of the value this programme could be to the State requires only a simple exercise. There are now 13,000 dairy farmers left in the State. If they take advantage of the Government offer to subsidise 20 acres a year for at least five years, which equals

100 acres a farm, there will be 13,000 multiplied by 100, which is 1,300,000 acres of new pasture, each acre capable of supporting one milking cow.

The present Queensland production per cow is disastrously low at 150 lb. of butter fat a year. If we multiply 1,300,000 by 150, we get 195,000,000 lb. of butter fat at 40c., which we divide by 5, and get £39,000,000, or \$78,000,000. Whilst I am not gullible enough to believe that this will actually occur, this could be the result for an outlay of \$1,500,000 annually.

I now refer to the insidious advertising campaign being conducted by Marrickville Margarine Pty. Ltd., a New South Wales company that has no respect whatsoever for Governments and very little respect for our courts, and is now trying to brainwash thousands of Australian housewives with a campaign of lies designed to protect its own vested interests.

I now wish to give the following facts on the Australian dairy industry:—

	Average over recent years Million gallons
Milk Production—	
Australia	1,500
Queensland	225
About two-thirds used for butter manufacture.	
Butter—	
	Average over recent years tons
Production—	
Australia	200,000
Queensland	33,000
Local Consumption — about	114,000 tons = 57%
Exports — about	86,000 tons = 43%
	\$ million
Value of Output, 1962-63—	
Butter factories	186
Cheese factories	45.8
Condensed and dried milk factories	53.2
Value of milk for direct human consumption	132
	417
All margarine factories	34.8

Footnote: A comparative figure for 1963-64 for the value of output for all dairy products would be approximately 450 million dollars.

Source: Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics.

	\$ million
Investment in factory land, building, plant and machinery as at June 30, 1963—	
Butter factories	40.2
Cheese factories	14.8
Condensed and dried milk factories	13.8
All dairy factories	Total 68.8
All margarine factories	7.2

Footnote: The value of total investments in the Australian dairy industry, including farm investment, has been estimated at between \$1,400 and \$1,600 million.

Source: Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics.

Persons employed and salaries and wages paid, 1962-63—

	Persons	Wages paid \$ million
Butter factories	6,504	14.2
All dairy factories	11,320	24.8
All margarine factories	1,400	3.6

Footnote: The comparative figure for 1963-64 in respect of people employed in all dairy factories was 11,510. In addition to this 97,900 people were employed in dairy farming according to the last census data.

Source: Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics.

Exports: In addition to providing employment and being responsible for the continuing development of areas all round the Commonwealth, the Australian dairy industry is an increasingly important export income-earner. Its products are sold in over eighty countries around the world and, at present, its export income exceeds well over \$100 million. Margarine, on the other hand, earns approximately \$0.1 million in export revenue. The overseas trading scene is by no means static, and highly successful efforts have been made in recent years to boost exports.

Shipments of butter to markets other than the United Kingdom are also expanding. For instance, in Peru, sales increased from 100 tons in 1960 to almost 2,000 tons in 1965.

General: If legislation is enacted which would reduce returns on the Australian market, the ability of the industry to compete on overseas markets would be seriously impaired. The home market is the solid basis upon which the prosperity of the dairy industry is built and from which it can reach out and purchase prosperity for Australia in the form of export income.

These are the facts; the facts about an industry which has developed as Australia has developed; the facts of an industry which supports directly or indirectly over 600,000 people and, in addition, contributes substantially to the welfare of many thousands of Australians engaged in the production of farm and factory requisites, and in the transport, handling, storage and sale of milk and manufactured dairy products.

They are the facts about an industry which is an increasingly important export income-earner and which supplies proteins and other vital materials, not only to the people of Australia, but to countries throughout the world where they are most needed.

They are the facts about an industry which is being subjected to heavily-financed attacks by private interests.

Some Comments on Edible Oils: The total Australian production of safflower, peanut, and cotton-seed oils amounted in 1964-65 to 6,300 tons. The total amount used for all purposes at the same time was 32,269 tons. Therefore, in spite of a boom in production, 80 per cent. of vegetable oil requirements were still imported in 1964-65.

As regards safflower oil, 2,366 tons were produced in 1965 (according to the Queensland Department of Primary Industries). Not all safflower oil is used for edible oils; some is suitable only for industrial purposes.

Statisticians may be interested in working out how the manufacturers of "Miracle" table margarine can say that their product is made of "100 per cent. Australian safflower oil", when their admitted production figures for poly-unsaturated table margarine are around 3,500 tons.

In fact, the whole tenor of this company's arguments is hard to follow, for in a recent advertisement and in literature mailed to members of Parliament, Marrickville Holdings Limited has claimed that it has encouraged the growth of the Australian vegetable oil seeds industry.

To begin with, let us make it clear that Australia has been producing safflower for many years and the product has a wide variety of uses. As regards Marrickville's encouragement of this industry, let us have a look at the words of their chief chemist. He was giving sworn evidence at the Tariff Board enquiry re safflower seed and soya beans, safflower oil and soya bean oil, held in Sydney on May 25, 1964. The transcript of proceedings (page 164) contains:—

" . . . To date the Australian production of safflower seed has been entirely taken up for inedible use and there has been and is no seed available for the production of edible safflower oil by this company. Analyses of samples of crude and refined products in Australia, which the company has obtained, has shown the oil to be unsuitable for use, or for reprocessing for ultimate use, in the production of the specialised poly-unsaturated table margarine . . ."

Those are hardly encouraging words at an inquiry vital to a young primary industry looking for new frontiers.

Who is paying the hundreds of thousands of dollars being spent by Marrickville Holdings (\$700,000 so far)? If it is out of current trading, then obviously their prices are too high or they are paying too little for their raw materials. There is no doubt that ultimately the housewives of Australia (the Mrs. Joneses) will pay for Marrickville's insidious campaign to destroy the Australian dairy industry.

I conclude by referring to yet another great Queensland primary industry that, through no fault of its own, is in serious trouble. I refer to the sugar industry. I know that the Premier and the Treasurer are very well informed on this industry and are doing everything possible on behalf of the State to render assistance. The sugar industry earns upward of \$120,000,000 in exports annually and it is vital to the economy of the State, and I trust the Commonwealth Government will see to it that the industry receives the assistance that it

deserves during the transition period until it is possible once again to secure the benefits of an international sugar agreement.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I trust that the hon. member is not going to develop his argument at length relative to the sugar industry. There is a motion on the Business Paper covering that subject, and the hon. member can deal with it at a later date.

Mr. HINZE: I merely point out, Mr. Speaker, that in my area 25 per cent. of the cane-farmers have had to seek outside employment in order to support their families. I understand that the overseas price of sugar today is £16/10/- a ton, which is less than half the cost of production. It is not possible to produce sugar anywhere in the world for that figure. It is not good enough in an industry that only three years ago was referred to as a glamour industry.

I wish to refer to a number of matters relating to the Department of Lands, but I hope to have an opportunity of doing so when we are discussing the report of the Committee of Inquiry (Land Valuations).

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and all hon. members for the courteous way that I have been received into this House.

Mr. BROMLEY (Norman) (4.42 p.m.): Once again I assert my allegiance and the allegiance of my constituents to Her Majesty the Queen. I congratulate Sir Alan Mansfield, a Queenslander, on his election to the high office of Governor. As we all know, he has a difficult task, but his very active interest in the Royal National Show that has just ended shows what a wonderful job he will do for the State.

I place on record my appreciation of the support of the electors of Norman, particularly those who are members of the A.L.P. It was said that I would not hold the seat, but with many hundreds fewer on the roll I more than doubled my absolute majority. Because of this, I pay a particular tribute to my campaign director, Mr. Hughes.

Government members who have spoken in this debate have mentioned the harmony that allegedly exists within the coalition Government; other hon. members have referred to the Liberal Party, which members of the Opposition think—I am sure it thinks so, too—wants to be the top-dog party. In "The Courier-Mail" of Saturday, 20 March this year, the new Liberal Party president and strongman, Dr. Hartwig, said—

"No political party could survive, let alone remain great, if its members sought to advance any other cause than their own party.

"Those who are not for the Liberal Party are either against it or not interested."

It is easy to see that the coalition Government is a marriage of convenience. The parties to it are falling out of bed at night, I understand.

Dr. Hartwig went on to say—

“Primarily they are for themselves. This is natural and proper, but it is no help to the spread of Liberalism.

“If we perpetuate this illusion by continued reference to the anti-Labour vote, this will not help us.”

He was referring, of course, to the Liberal Party.

I want to draw the attention of the House to what I consider unfair comment in “Hansard” No. 1 for this session where, pre-facing the moving of the Address in Reply by Mr. E. G. W. Wood, member for Logan, and its seconding by Mr. Kaus, member for Hawthorne, we see the words, “who was received with Government ‘Hear, hears.’” When we turn, in the same “Hansard”, to the maiden speech of Alderman Vi Jordan, member for Ipswich West, who was received with acclamation by all members of the House, and particularly by members on this side, we do not see it recorded that she was received with “Hear, hears”. I draw attention of the House to that point, as hon. members might consider it unfair. I believe that these matters should be recorded in proper perspective.

In my opinion, too much time is taken up by the Address-in-Reply debate; too many days are allotted to it. I believe the time could be cut to a certain extent and more days allocated to a similar type of debate throughout the year. Apart altogether from the fact that there are so many speakers, much time is taken up in making suggestions—many of them good—which are only pigeon-holed anyway. These suggestions could be brought to the notice of the House at different times during the year. If we are to cut down the time I suggest we could allow two members to speak at once, because no-one listens to what is being said, anyway.

I next wish to draw the attention of the House, if the attention of individual members has not already been drawn to it, to the miserable, parsimonious attitude of this Government in printing the electoral rolls. The Government talks about how it is saving money here and there, but when one looks at the printing of the present rolls, with the size cut by half—

Mr. Ramsden: It is economical.

Mr. BROMLEY: Don't tell me it is economical. I know differently because of the number of people who have received notice, by Form 17, from the State Electoral Officer of their alleged neglect to vote at the last election. I am not blaming the Government Printer, but I claim that it is impossible for any presiding officer to mark the rolls off as people vote. Looking at the lines allocated to names and numbers one sees that the position is not too bad at the top

of the page, but as one goes down the page the names and numbers are at least half a line out. In fact, on going through the rolls to make a check I noticed that it is impossible to go from number to name; it is necessary to count from the top of the page to ascertain if the name of the person who votes coincides with the number supposedly against that name.

If one compares this roll with the old roll as it used to be printed by the Labour Government, and was printed by this Government until about 1960 when the change was decided on, one can see that no presiding officer could make a mistake with the double-line spaces provided between names and numbers. The Government cannot claim that this is saving money when we consider the amount of work involved in the Electoral Office in sending out a Form 17 to all those who allegedly have not voted. I strongly appeal to the Government to revert to the style of printing used in the former rolls. For the benefit of new members who possibly have not seen one of the former rolls, I draw their attention to the double-line spaces and to the fact that there is no possible chance of a mistake being made.

In my opinion, the notices that are sent out to people following their alleged failure to vote are an indictment of the Government. Money is being wasted in this way. Form 17 makes no provision for a voter to indicate that he has in fact voted. The form is a straight-out accusation that the voter has failed to vote. Elderly people, particularly elderly widows, who receive these notices are very likely to panic because they know they have voted yet they cannot find an appropriate space where they can indicate that they have voted at such-and-such a place at such-and-such a time. The form should be altered to provide for the person who has in fact voted. If space could not be provided on the front of the form at least it should be provided on the back.

Since the election I have had at least 35 people either write to me or telephone me seeking my advice because they have received one of these forms. Some of them were very perturbed about it. The following are extracts from a letter that was addressed to the Principal Electoral Officer by one of them—

“Sir,

“In view of the distress you have caused my wife with your notice concerning her ‘failure to vote’ I feel that under the circumstances I have no alternative but to voice my protest.”

He went on to say that his wife in his company had voted at such-and-such a place at such-and-such a booth.

He continued—

“I fully appreciate that clerical errors do occur . . . but in this case I do not believe this error has occurred. Your

warning that my wife's name will be removed from the roll constitutes gross impertinence on your part."

I am not blaming the State Electoral Officer; the wording on the forms is wrong.

The letter concludes—

"In conclusion, I would like to point out that we are a law-abiding family and I personally find your totalitarian attitude to be in extremely bad taste."

Mr. Hooper: Don't you think that the returning officer is to blame?

Mr. BROMLEY: No. I do not believe that the returning officer has anything to do with the marking of the rolls at the polling booth. Nor do I blame the presiding officer. No doubt the hon. member has seen these rolls, and he must agree with me that something should be done about them. People are being upset about this sort of thing, and we should not be upsetting them.

I am here today to upset the Government about the nomination of the Liberal candidate for Norman. Everbody knows what a furore this caused in the Press and in political circles of all colours. In my opinion, in the opinion of Liberal supporters, including one Liberal member of Parliament who is in the legal profession, and in the opinion of 99 per cent. of barristers and solicitors at the Inns of Court, that nomination of the Liberal candidate for Norman was out of order. I do not believe in quoting a great deal of material, but because I believe that something should be done to prevent such an anomaly in future I think that what I have here should be included in "Hansard". I intend to quote it for the information of the Minister for Justice who, after the decision was given, publicly refused to give a reason for it or to clarify it. It was a decision of the department, not of the returning officer, who at all times has acted fairly, squarely and in good faith. If it had been my nomination containing the names of electors outside the electorate, I could bet my sweet life that it would be declared out of order.

Everyone knows Form 5; everyone knows that it has at the top, "We, the electors of"—whichever electorate it refers to—"do hereby nominate 'So-and-so' for the Office of Member of the Legislative Assembly for the said District." That is printed on the form. Everyone knows that there is no way in the world it could be misunderstood. I queried it fairly and squarely, but I was "wiped" and the nomination was allowed.

"Sunday Truth" of 8 May, 1966, said—

"The Queensland Justice Department appears to have made a major blunder in ruling that Liberal candidate Mr. Alan Shawcross is eligible to contest Norman seat at the May 28 election."

It is headed, "Nomination in Norman 'not valid'". Everyone will agree that that is so, because this written opinion was given

by a well-known barrister. The anomaly should be cleared up, and I believe that these facts should be recorded in "Hansard". I challenge anyone in this House with an ounce of nous to say whether, in his opinion, my ideas and those of this well-known barrister are correct. Unfortunately, the name of the well-known barrister is not given but I could give the names of other well-known barristers who fully agree with this statement and, as I said, there are members of the Liberal Party, too, who agree.

The well-known barrister said that the nomination of Mr. Shawcross was invalid. He went on to say that the nomination form was not signed by residents of the Norman electorate. How can any party endorse a person who has not enough sense to know that he must get people from his own electorate to nominate him? The article in "Sunday Truth" reads—

"The legal opinion obtained by 'Sunday Truth' states that the Elections Acts provide that in order that any person may be a candidate he shall be nominated by not less than six persons entitled to vote at the election."

It then goes on to explain why this is so. I have told the House what the form says. All hon. members know it; they have filled them in plenty of times.

It then says—

"It is appreciated that the form in the Regulations would not fetter the meaning of section 41 if its plain meaning was to the contrary effect. In the circumstances, however, a reference to Form 5 in the Regulations confirms the view I have taken above.

"I pass on to consider the effect of non-compliance with section 41 in this particular.

"Section 42 of the Acts provides that:—

(i) If the returning officer is satisfied that the provisions of this Act with respect to a nomination paper have been substantially complied with, he shall make and sign at the foot of the nomination paper a certificate in the prescribed form;

(ii) Such certificate shall not be construed to qualify any person to be a candidate or to sign a nomination paper who is not qualified to be a candidate or to sign the same, or to validate any signature thereto which is false or forged."

It then defines the meaning of the word "election".

I am having this recorded because I believe that during this session something should be done to clear the matter up. The Act should be amended so that there can be no possible argument in future. Our candidate for Aubigny had to go out to Dalby to get six nominations. He may as well have gone down to the Gold Coast

to get six bikini-clad girls to sign his nomination, but he had to make a special trip right out to Dalby. Everybody knows that is what he had to do in order to comply with the law, irrespective of what the Minister for Justice or the Justice Department says.

The definition of "election" reads—

“. . . the election of a member of the Assembly.”

The barrister mentioned says that that Assembly election must be the one in which the candidate is a nominee. He continues—

“The Acts are not concerned with elections which are held simultaneously in different districts. The Acts operate harmoniously whether the election is for a single district, whether by way of by-election, or postponed election or general election.”

He winds up by saying—

“Therefore, in the instant case, I am of the opinion, that a nomination not founded upon the nomination of six persons entitled to vote at the election for the district of which the candidate they propose is seeking election as a member is invalid and that this invalidity is not cured or remedied by the returning officer's certificate that section 41 has been complied with.”

Mr. Davies: Shame on the Government.

Mr. BROMLEY: Absolutely! It is a disgrace. The returning officer signed the nomination in good faith—he had to sign it, anyway—but the Government completely ignored my query.

Mr. Davies: The Government should resign.

Mr. BROMLEY: Yes, the Government should resign. We all agree there. But I believe one of the worst features of this incident was the omission of the Minister in failing to explain to the people, through the Press, why he allowed the nomination to stand. I was not worried about the outcome of the election.

Mr. Wallis-Smith: You were home and hosed.

Mr. BROMLEY: I was. I knew I was a certainty. What concerned me most was that the Minister for Justice would not come out into the open and tell the Press why the nomination was allowed. The department and the Minister, in a cowardly fashion, allowed the poor old returning officer to take the blame.

Dealing with technical breaches, I could mention a case in the electorate of the Premier. The Independent candidate sent his nomination in but failed to lodge a deposit.

Mr. Nicklin: He failed to lodge his nomination.

Mr. BROMLEY: I was speaking to a friend of this man in the Premier's electorate when I was there to speak on behalf of our candidate who opposed the Premier. I trust the Premier is not getting mixed up with the other nomination?

Mr. Nicklin: That is the only one I heard about.

Mr. BROMLEY: The man to whom I refer sent his nomination in. He did not have any cash with him. The returning officer said he would have to get the money. The candidate sent in a crossed cheque, which was not acceptable. It was only a technicality.

Mr. Ramsden: You always have to pay in cash.

Mr. BROMLEY: Well, a cheque may not be cash, but it was still only a technical breach.

Mr. Ramsden: You try to pay a fine by cheque and see how you go.

Mr. BROMLEY: Why doesn't the hon. member wake up? He is in his tunnel half the time. He probably would not be able to pay a fine by cheque because it would not be accepted anyway. However, I have now dealt with that subject very thoroughly.

I believe the Minister for Justice will take some notice and clear up this anomaly, otherwise all of us, except members of the Liberal Party, can be “got at” left, right, and centre. He will probably look at it, but whether he will do anything about it is a different matter. The Government and its Ministers are always going to look into things, but they do not do too much about them.

I now want to deal with drivers' licences. Of course, previous speakers have also said quite a lot about traffic matters. I have spoken to many learner-drivers who are being taught by driving instructors. I shall not mention the names of any firms. I have travelled in cars with some instructors and learners, and, by and large, I have found that the instructors know their subject pretty well. The surprising thing is the number of failures in driving tests. The hon. member for Bulimba recently asked a question on this matter; I was going to ask the same thing on the same day, but he asked his question first. The answer was that two out of five applicants fail driving tests.

I want to tell the House why some of them are failing. It is not through incompetence or insufficient training but because of the attitude of the testers. I shall quote a specific case. A fellow in my electorate applied for a driving licence. I listened to his answers to the questions put to him, and he knew what he was asked better than would probably 98 per cent. of the people in this House. When he went for his driving test the tester said, “How old are you?” He said, “Forty.” He then said, “I don't

think that has anything to do with it." The tester said, "I think it has. I think you are starting pretty late in life, going for a licence at 40."

Mr. Duggan: Life begins at 40.

Mr. BROMLEY: As a matter of fact, it will for this chap because he intends to get a licence so that he can take his girl-friend and his mother out. However, I do not want to be facetious. The tester said again, "I think you are a bit late going for a licence at 40." This tended to make the learner very nervous. Incidentally, I might mention, for the benefit of the hon. member for Sandgate, that this man is a complete teetotaler.

Mr. Dean: He should not be nervous.

Mr. BROMLEY: That is probably why he was nervous.

Five times the tester said that to him, and when they were in the car driving he again said, "I think 40 years of age is getting a bit late to be going for a licence."

I think that attitude is uncalled for and quite unnecessary. According to the tester this gentleman failed to get his licence, yet he is as good a driver as the Premier, although he has not been driving for as long. This sort of thing is unnecessary, and it seems to me that the age of an applicant is no business of the tester. His job is to ask questions and perhaps risk his life in going with him to test him.

Mr. Davies: Does this tester live in the city of Brisbane?

Mr. BROMLEY: Of course he does. He is a former policeman from Victoria. I believe that the matter should be brought to the attention of the House. Having spoken to some of the people who have applied for licences, I know what is happening.

I congratulate the Road Safety Council on its wonderful efforts to reduce the toll of the road. I gave notice this morning of a question directed to the Premier relative to the showing to hon. members of a Road Safety film, and I believe that it will be shown. In my opinion, the film is worth while.

For a long time I have said that the public should have brought sharply to its attention that things of this sort do happen. The Press should be given an accolade for headlines such as the one I have in my hand. The newspapers are giving full publicity to accidents, with big headlines and enlargements of photographs. Enlarged pictures could be placed on hoardings on main roads—horror pictures, if one likes to call them that—to let the people see them when they are driving along. As the hon. member for Maryborough interjects, advertisements of that sort would be much more desirable than those advocating speed and faster getaways. The pictures could be covered with reflectorised tape to make them show up in car headlights at night. In my opinion, the

Government should provide funds to enable horror films and pictures of road accidents to be shown wherever possible. Television stations could well show them instead of showing some of the stupid advertisements we see at present.

Mr. Dean: They could be shown in the beer lounges, too.

Mr. BROMLEY: Of course they could be shown in the beer lounges.

I am very happy that the Press is co-operating in an attempt to reduce the accident rate. As I said, the Road Safety Council is doing a very good job. I believe, too, that my constant hammering at this subject has brought results.

I referred earlier to drivers' licences and testing centres. I now voice my disapproval of the action of the Minister for Education in refusing the generous offer by General Motors-Holden's to provide, free of charge, cars in which young people at high school could be taught to drive. The company offered to provide 600 cars a year. A similar scheme is in operation in the United State of America, and although the percentage of accidents in that country may be higher than it is here, at least an attempt is being made to teach young people the importance of good driving.

I bring to the attention of the House what I think is a shocking indictment of the Government's money-hungry attitude to motorists. As I said earlier, it hits them right, left, and centre. I should mention first that the car involved in this incident at Southport belonged to the grandmother of the young man who was driving it. She died and left the car to her husband and her daughter, the mother of the 18-year-old lad who was driving it when he was pulled up for a vehicle inspection. According to the on-the-spot ticket that he received, the car had three smooth tyres. The lad lived in Brisbane and was at Southport on holidays from the Church of England Grammar School, so he had not seen much of the car. He received an on-the-spot ticket for \$6. Two days later his grandfather got a ticket through the post for \$6 for the same offence, and that same afternoon his mother received through the post another ticket for \$6—a total of \$18.

I think that is a shocking injustice and is absolutely disgraceful. I do not know whether it is lawful or whether a mistake has been made, but the boy has paid his \$6 and the grandfather has paid his. But the mother has said that she would sooner go to gaol than pay another \$6. She says it is an indictment on any democratic Government. I agree with her; I think it is, too. It is the sort of thing that one might expect in America or Russia, or similar places, but it is not the sort of democracy we expect in Australia when three people are fined for the one offence—a total of \$18—in connection with a car that was taken out for a short run. Incidentally, the tyres have since been

replaced, but I think it is a shocking incident and I intend to do something about it apart from simply bringing it up in this House. I do not know whether two of those fines will be waived. These people do not mind paying one fine because they realise that they should not have run a car on smooth tyres. If it is right to impose three fines in this case, then if a car was registered in eight or nine names and one person, whether a minor or an adult, was driving it, the Government could collect up to, say \$30 for the one offence.

Mr. Lee: How could a car be registered in eight or nine names?

Mr. BROMLEY: This car is registered in two names. If it can be registered in two names I cannot see why it should not be registered in 10 names. I am sure that the hon. member for Windsor, who has just entered the Chamber, will agree with me that this is an absolute disgrace. It certainly is not justice.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to speak at some length on the Wilbur Smith Report. I was going to congratulate you earlier on your re-election to the Speakership, but you left the chair. If you can persuade somebody in the Chamber to give me an extension of time in this debate I will congratulate you now.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the hon. member will have to leave that until some later date.

Mr. BROMLEY: I was wondering if there might be any chance of getting up again next Tuesday, because probably nobody will know I have spoken. As I said earlier, we could allow two members to speak at once as no notice is taken of suggestions anyway.

I shall have to deal with the Wilbur Smith Report at a later date, so I will content myself with once again castigating the Government for having such a tremendously long recess, from December until August. It is a shocking thing, and a denial of democracy.

Mr. Nicklin: Is that the longest recess Parliament has ever had?

Mr. BROMLEY: Why does the Premier have to live in the past? We are quite happy to sit longer.

Mr. Nicklin: You will be very happy next year, because we are sitting longer.

Mr. BROMLEY: We are happy about that. When we first met at the beginning of August we saw Ministers rising in their places and reading long lists of regulations, Orders in Council and that sort of thing; from memory, 88 were laid on the table. No-one can tell me that that is not government by regulation. Many of those matters, in my opinion, should have been discussed by Parliament. I venture to say that very few back-benchers on the Government side ever saw any of those regulations or knew what they were about. They were discussed by Cabinet and decided by Cabinet.

Mr. Mann: We are the Government, too, of course.

Mr. BROMLEY: Of course we are. We are here to do our best to govern in the interests of the people, not by regulation but, in my opinion, to legislate for the benefit of all the people. We are just as much entitled to have a say in the running of affairs as Government members, even if we are beaten on a division when we disagree with some of this Government's iniquitous legislation. If this is a State of justice for the people we are entitled to be able to meet here more often than we do to discuss the government of the State, and not merely read about it in the Press or look at it after papers have been laid on the table of the House.

Mr. Ramsden: If you are so dissatisfied, in respect of how many of those regulations are you moving for disallowance?

Mr. BROMLEY: We have not had a chance to read them; there are so many of them. I made it my business to get as many as I could under my arm, but I have not had an opportunity to go through them all because there are other things to do.

What the hon. member for Merthyr is suggesting does not excuse the Government for carrying on the government of this State by regulation. One of the main reasons why the Government did not call Parliament together earlier was that it knew we would have a chance of attacking it on its sorry record. Admittedly it was returned, but the Leader of the Opposition has already effectively disclosed the actual percentage figures and I do not intend to deal with them again.

(Time expired.)

Mr. RAE (Gregory) (5.22 p.m.): The people of the electorate of Gregory join with me in conveying loyalty to Her Majesty. We have at all times been very loyal people.

We have recognised over the years the usefulness and interest of His Excellency the Governor in the carrying out of his official duties. I should like to say how pleased I am that Sir Alan Mansfield is now our Governor. I feel quite sure that he and his good lady will do an excellent job for Queensland. Sir Alan is a wonderful son of this State, and has proved himself over the years to be a very able and learned man. As such, I am sure he will do a great deal to bring about closer liaison between the Crown and the people of Queensland.

I should like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your re-election to the Speakership. You have done a good job in the past and I am sure that you will do equally well in the future. As a result of the suggestions and ideas put forward by many hon. members, I trust your task may be made a little easier.

It would not be right if I did not pay a compliment to the newly elected member for Logan for the good job he did in moving

the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. He is a man who obviously knows his area and the problems associated with the efficient running of the State. I listened very keenly to his words and thought to myself, "Here is one person who is calm and who has considered wisely and well before making his statements, and one who is able to convey them in an excellent manner." I am sure that the people of Logan will have a very worthy successor to that most worthy hon. member, our friend the late Les Harrison.

I am confident also that the hon. member for Hawthorne, Mr. Kaus, the seconder of the Address in Reply, will do a very good job. He is a man of record, and I am sure that any man with a record, when it comes from the channel of war as his does, will be recognised by the people of Hawthorne as a real man to do a man-sized job.

Mr. Mann: He is lucky to be here.

Mr. RAE: As an introduction to what I have to say, let me say that the hon. member for Hawthorne would not be here today had it not been for certain alterations in thinking and certain things which are being thrust upon the Labour Party in this State by the Q.C.E.

An Opposition Member: Don't start on that.

Mr. RAE: I am starting on it because I am on safe ground. I am happy to do so because I have nothing to gain or lose by it, and I intend to devote a few minutes to how Bill Kaus got into Parliament. He got into Parliament because the Q.C.E. today is made up of men who, without doubt, would be so closely associated with the Communist platform and outlook that I feel I should mention it.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. RAE: Hon. members opposite do not like it. It is high time that the people of Queensland were alerted to what is going on in the midst of the Opposition when men like Egerton, Chard, Whitby, Conway, Waters, Chalmers and Vickers direct and control the thinking of every member of the Opposition. Members of the Opposition know it; they know full well that is a fact, whether they like it or not. They always say, "Give away the Communist thinking; give away this and that." Let me say that today the Opposition is out to wreck the A.W.U.; the Opposition is out to wreck the one union which it has found is a hindrance to the furtherance of the Communist plans. I would say that to a man like the hon. member for Barcoo, who somersaulted in a way that I have never before seen in my life—

Mr. O'DONNELL: I rise to a point of order. The remark of the hon. member for Gregory is offensive to me. It is a complete lie, and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member is incorrect in rising to a point of order and then saying, "It is a complete lie." That is an unparliamentary expression. The hon. member has also offended against the Standing Orders.

Mr. O'DONNELL: I change the expression to "untrue".

Mr. Melloy: You are sick again, Wally.

Mr. RAE: No; I am not sick again.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member for Barcoo has taken a point of order on the words used by the hon. member for Gregory. He says that they are offensive to him and asks that they be withdrawn.

Mr. RAE: I ask you, Mr. Speaker, what are the words that were offensive. I have not said anything to the hon. member for Barcoo that he would not know to be an actual fact.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The words used by the hon. member for Gregory were offensive to the hon. member for Barcoo. I have no idea what they were.

Mr. O'Donnell: I refer to the statement that I somersaulted.

Mr. RAE: I think I should clarify the air a little on the use of the word "somersault". The hon. member was put there by the A.W.U. It really thought he was going to do a good job. But what has he done? He has now swung over and is the front benches as a result of some obvious allegiance to the Q.C.E.

Mr. Duggan: You are in the front bench because you crawled to the Premier.

Mr. RAE: That is a lovely statement so far as I, as the hon. member for Gregory, am concerned.

We people in the West have long held the knowledge that the A.W.U. is a first-class union.

Mr. O'DONNELL: I rise to a point of order. The expression has not been withdrawn by the hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I have not heard the hon. member for Gregory withdraw the remark which the hon. member for Barcoo found offensive to him. Whenever an hon. member rises in his place and claims that certain words are offensive to him and asks that they be withdrawn, the hon. member who uttered them is duty bound to withdraw them.

Mr. RAE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I withdraw the remark. But let me say this: it is a pretty sickening state of affairs—

Mr. WALSH: I rise to a point of order. I am very interested in what might happen in the use of terms that are generally accepted in his Chamber. I should like you to rule whether any charge of somersaulting made

against an hon. member is really an offensive term in accordance with parliamentary practice?

Mr. SPEAKER: No. It is my opinion that the term is not unparliamentary, but if the hon. member is offended by it, I think that the other hon. member, in the parliamentary sense, should withdraw it.

Mr. RAE: I will withdraw it. But may I put it this way: if the hon. member for Barcoo can lie down with men such as Egerton, Chard, Whitby, Conway, Waters, Chalmers, and Vickers, I remind him that anyone who lies down with dogs is likely to pick up fleas. There is no way in the world that these people are not openly determined to beat the A.W.U. as a union in this State. You know because you are so close to being red that it does not mean a thing. I say they are Communists.

Mr. DUGGAN: I rise to a point of order. I am a member of the Q.C.E., and my party affiliations and loyalties prevent my associating with Communists. The hon. member for Gregory says that these men are communists—I invite him to make the accusation outside, but that is something outside your control at this stage—and it is offensive to me for anyone to assert that I am a member of a Communist body. I ask the hon. member either to substantiate his charge that they are Communists or to withdraw the reflection cast on me as a member of the Q.C.E.

Mr. SPEAKER: I did not hear the hon. member mention the Leader of the Opposition by name. If the Leader of the Opposition associates himself as he has done with the executive, and as the hon. member for Gregory has named the executive as Communists, the hon. member is again duty bound to withdraw the remark. The Leader of the Opposition has not been named as a Communist, and I do not know what point of order he is taking. It is purely and simply an assertion that has been made against certain members of the executive. I cannot allow the point of order.

Mr. NEWTON: I rise to a point of order. The hon. member for Gregory has accused me of being so close to being a member of the Communist Party that it does not matter. I ask that that remark be withdrawn. It is a reflection on my character and on me as a member of the A.L.P.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! If the hon. member did refer to the hon. member for Belmont as a Communist then I ask him to withdraw that statement.

Mr. RAE: I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I did not refer to the hon. member as a Communist. I would not refer to him as a Communist. He is the A.L.P. member for Belmont and I have never once suggested he was a Communist.

Mr. Newton: You did just then.

Mr. RAE: I did not.

I wish to make very clear to the people in the Gregory electorate what is happening within the A.L.P. ranks and to alert them to it. I say very clearly and openly that a handful of people are directing the affairs of the A.L.P. in a manner foreign to that which existed when the A.L.P. was a good party.

Once we had Chifley, McGirr, Forgan Smith, Gair, and other similar men. What do we have today? We have a band of men so closely tied to this rotten infiltrating line of thinking that all I can say is, "Shame on every one of you!" If ever there was an unhappy camp it is over there now, with one half wanting to go along and the other half willing to give their eye-teeth to be out of it. Do not lose sight of that. When I go to my area, or that of the hon. member for Barcoo, or any other district where the A.W.U. has played an important part in union matters, I shall clearly make known to the people that today the A.L.P. is a Left-wing organisation.

Mr. Duggan: I challenge you to make, in Barcoo or anywhere else, the statement that you made earlier about the composition of the Q.C.E.

Mr. RAE: I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that I shall make it when the time and place suit me, and quite openly. I am prepared to work hard in the interests of a union that some people are out to destroy. Shame on hon. members opposite for being associated with them and being so weak that they will not stand up and beat them at their own game! For the sake of their jobs, they go along with them in political connivance. They should get up and do something about it.

Mr. Mann interjected.

Mr. RAE: The hon. member for Brisbane will have his opportunity later to say whatever he wishes. I have no doubt that he will have a lot to say.

Mr. Mann: I have been a member since 1916.

Mr. RAE: That is very good.

I now wish to deal with something that has worried me for a long time. During the nine years that I have had the privilege of representing the electorate of Gregory, I have occasionally been requested to do things for some of my constituents. I have been approached along the lines of, "Can you do this?", or, "Can you help me here?", or, "I am in dire straits and I am seeking some help." In taking these matters up with various departments, I have found a disturbing state of affairs. Whenever a member of Parliament becomes concerned in any approach (whether it be, for example, an application for a position; something concerning the judiciary, solicitors, or barristers; school promotions; police officers;

public servants; or any other matter), there is an immediate clamp which in effect means, "You must at no time seek the aid of your member."

I think that is a terrible reflection on men to whom all have the right to go. It is shocking to have sitting in judgment in the Public Service, in the fields of health and medical services, transport, railways, and other branches, men who consider that because a person has had the nerve to seek the aid of his member he should be placed at the very end of the line. It is a serious state of affairs and a charge on democracy to deny people that right. After all, those who are today enjoying the privilege of determining whether this or that man, woman or child should or should not be considered for a position obtained their own offices as political appointees. They are usually the result of Cabinet conferences or discussions between senior officers and, once these people have obtained these positions, they zealously guard their privileges. It is very wrong that this should happen. Ministers have said to me, "You wrote to me about so-and-so. They should realise that once they use your name they are out."

Mr. Hanson: Has it happened to you?

Mr. RAE: It has happened to me. I only state facts and figures.

The hon. member for Windsor is a very able barrister. I spoke to him about this and he said, "It is a disgraceful state of affairs. It should not be tolerated for a minute." That is exactly what I say. If we are a responsible Government, surely we should see that many of these tall poppies receive a swift kick in the right quarter and that they amend their thinking. It is very wrong that a person should be denied aid or recognition merely because I write and request it for him and that he then should have to go through the usual channels. In my opinion, it is a humiliating set-up and I heartily disagree with it. I am making that very clear because it is a good point, and I bring it to the notice of Ministers and hon. members for that reason.

There is a land problem in Queensland, and I always speak on land matters because I think I know something about them; I have lived on the land all my life. Again I disagree with my friend the hon. member for Barcoo, who is doing a course in jackarooing by correspondence, as it were. He asks a question in this House and receives the answer to it, so he is really learning the hard way. I hope that eventually he will be endowed with sufficient knowledge to deal intelligently with land problems.

Mr. Smith: Don't offend him.

Mr. RAE: I would not do that for worlds. The point is that there is a real problem in the West today. The basic cause of it is that the eight years between 1948 and 1956 were very good years for the wool and cattle industries.

Mr. Graham: Labour Governments were in office.

Mr. RAE: I do not think they had much to do with it. In those years there was good rainfall and good prices, and world demand ensured that anybody on the land could do very well. Unfortunately, that position does not exist today.

I speak now of an area that I know—the Gregory electorate—and I shall refer to some points in the North and other points, such as Thargomindah, in the South. Both the hon. member for Warrego and the hon. member for Flinders know my country well. Parts of the Far West are still suffering great difficulties. Recently there has been very good rain from Winton through to Longreach, Blackall, Charleville, Tambo, and down to Cunnamulla, Dirranbandi, and St. George; all those areas have fared well. As a matter of fact, the rain went as far west as the Bulloo River, but it did not go beyond it to the desperate area—when I say "desperate" I am referring purely to seasonal conditions—taking in Eromanga, Jundah, Windorah, and just south of Stonehenge. People in that area are still battling on as they have done for about eight years, which is a fairly long time. For eight years men have been knocking down mulga with tractors in an endeavour to keep their sheep alive and get a "quid" for themselves. Generally, they have faced up magnificently to an almost overwhelmingly bad situation.

My whole argument revolves round the fact that we, as a responsible and qualified Government, should undertake prompt action if we are to help anybody. They have had a shocking time and I feel that there is only one thing we can do to help them at this moment. We can make available feed at the proper rates, which I will admit now has been provided by the Premier and his Cabinet, to a point. But if we are really to help them positively we must have a second look at the need for additional areas in that part of Queensland. There are many men there who have spent quite a number of years normally running from 7,000 to 9,000 sheep but who today have not one hoof on their properties—not a sheep. They are buying their beef in town; their sons are out working, driving tractors or doing something else, to keep them going with spending silver. A few of them, fortunately, might have a sufficiently interested banker or broker who will enable them to carry on until the season comes their way. It will come, but the point is that where they basically worked out an adequate area that was good enough after eight years with good seasons and good prices, time has clearly shown that that area is not sufficient. There is nothing worse than a State filled with peasant farmers. The only way to do it is to have people in a position to employ, to pay well, to educate children well, and to be useful.

Mr. Graham: What did they do during the eight good years? Did they accumulate?

Mr. RAE: No. I would say that taxation got most of it. If the hon. member had been there for the eight years, he might have spent a "quid", too.

Mr. Graham: You don't squeal about the good years.

Mr. RAE: Be fair. The hon. member knows very little about the West. I do not deny his knowledge of the cane areas, but let us be fair at all times. These men have had a terrific struggle over many years. The Minister for Lands is doing a good job. I am not going to crack him, nor am I going to knock Mr. Muir or anybody else. All these men have their difficulties. They have their advisers who are out to help wherever possible, but we would be much better pleased in my area if they would not mind asking me for my views on the Gregory electorate and, indeed, most parts of the West. I think it would do them a lot of good and be a great help to them. There would scarcely be a property that I do not know and when I see properties owned by companies receiving renewals of lease and getting away with all the benefits that only a large aggregation enjoys, while the fellow on a limited area is being pushed and shoved around, I feel it is just not good enough.

I do not like the way many of the larger companies direct and control their land. They have so many avenues of outlet. They have properties in the North, in the South, East and West and if they strike hard times on one property they can shift stock from here to there or from there to here. If you have properties in almost every good grazing area in the State you are bound to have at least one of them in good shape. But the poor fellow with 15,000 to 20,000 acres has nothing more than that. His neighbours might get 10 points of rain but he gets nothing.

All these things are important. If we are to do things it is so much wiser to do them on a big scale. Let us look after the person who is battling. That is the way I like to do it. The Minister for Lands has been getting his knuckles wrapped from all quarters but I am not doing that. He has a difficult task and he is doing a mighty job. I want to help and support him, as I do the entire Cabinet, but I wish they would ask the advice of a few of us, including the hon. members for Warrego and Flinders, because I feel that we could help them with their thinking instead of their being so cut and dried and determined in many of these matters.

There is a need today to take a very close look at the necessity for additional areas in the West. Many people out there will battle all their lives; they will live and die out there and nobody will care about them. They get an entirely wrong slant on grazing. It is time we had a very close look at this matter.

A man who interests me greatly is an eloquent and able speaker with an academic background. I refer to Dr. Patterson, who

possesses many qualifications which should equip him to make strong and useful utterances on behalf of this State in the Federal Parliament. I will not crack down on another politician without justification, but Dr. Patterson gets up and talks about millions here and millions there. I want to know where all these millions are coming from.

If ever anyone set out to win the electorate by indulging in flights of fancy and making the most of outlandish statements, Dr. Patterson would be the arch-connivener. Who is going to provide all these millions that Dr. Patterson speaks about? It is quite useless and stupid to make such statements. If the millions of dollars that he thinks should be spent in the Dawson electorate are to be forthcoming, then let us provide those millions for the State as a whole and let us spend them in the provincial and western areas where we could keep everybody happy. The way he is going on is all so far fetched. He wants huge water schemes; he wants the Nogoia scheme, the the Burdekin scheme, and this and that scheme.

Mr. Graham: Tell us what is wrong with what he suggests?

Mr. RAE: Everything is good, but we have not enough money. That is the point. Examine it closely and clearly. If we had that sort of money I could tell the Government what should be done with it. If all this money which he seems to think is to be provided by the Federal authorities were available, it should be channelled into roads, electricity, schools, hospitals and various other ways and means of making life interesting for people who live in the more remote parts of the State. It is quite ridiculous to suggest that we can carry out the schemes he envisages; the Nogoia plan, yes.

Mr. Davies: Do you agree with what Mr. McEwen said about him?

Mr. RAE: I am pointing out that a man like Dr. Patterson gets up in the Federal House and says so much about beef roads in Queensland when he would have as much knowledge of a beef road, its usefulness and what it was originally intended for, as I would of taking out his appendix. The man hasn't got a clue.

Mr. Hanson: You are talking rot.

Mr. RAE: I am not. It is a fact that the hon. member does not know; he associates himself with incorrect thinking.

Mr. Tucker: He left the Liberal Party; he was not biased.

Mr. RAE: He would have been.

I can say that this man, as a result of his election in Dawson, told the gullible voters up there—"We require a beef road from Nebo to Mackay." What absolute rot! It is here in the book; if hon. members opposite read the Federal papers they will see it. About as many cattle would be

turned out in that area as there are in a reasonable sort of a barbecue. If hon. members opposite really want to develop this State as we are developing it, if they urge, as I have urged, that we build roads, they will find that the cattle will come into the State. This can be done if roads are built from Windorah to Currawilla, and from Boullia to Winton and other places where cattle are grown and fattened, but certainly not from Nebo to Mackay.

If the Commonwealth authorities make funds available, I urge that they be left in the hands of the Minister for Mines and Main Roads and his advisers to apportion them to areas from which the State will receive the most benefit. I will add a small rider for those people who have never been west by saying that by taking a road from Urandangie to the Northern Territory border I could get another 12,000 head of cattle into this State—thousands of head of beef for the sake of 16 miles. Hon. members opposite could never match that.

I have not much time left so I will now proceed with the next matter to which I wish to refer—the Farm Water Supplies Assistance Scheme.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I propose to allow the hon. member to complete his final five minutes, irrespective of the hour.

Mr. RAE: I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

On behalf of the people in my area, I should like to point out the tremendous advantages derived from the Farm Water Supplies Assistance Scheme. In the past we have heard much about how badly we need water here and there. There is not a property-owner or worker in this land today who does not readily recognise the tremendous usefulness of the service that is available to every man on the land through this scheme. I recognised its benefits; I used it to put down a bore at a cost of £5,000 and I have 14 years to pay it off. That is a lot of money but initially I had only to raise £500, which is not a lot of money. I wish to emphasise to the people of Queensland the tremendous advantages of this scheme.

An Opposition Member: You have no money.

Mr. RAE: The money is not needed; that is the beauty of it—only 10 per cent.

This is the best scheme I know of because everyone can get so much from it. This is a particularly good provision for those in the West. No matter where they are they can benefit from it. It is a positive scheme. If ever a Government recognised the problems of the man on the land it has been demonstrated by this introduction, which has been carried out in complete honesty and in line with the initial undertaking. It is an ideal and practical solution for all landowners.

[*Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.15 p.m.*]

Mr. MELLOY (Nudgee) (7.15 p.m.): Firstly, on behalf of myself and the electorate of Nudgee, I extend an expression of loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

I also extend my congratulations to all new hon. members on both sides of the House, particularly those with whom I am directly interested, namely, members of the Opposition, and especially Mrs. Jordan, whose election to Parliament is an event. I also congratulate the hon. member for Wynnum, Mr. Harris, and the hon. member for Toowoomba East, Mr. Peter Woods, Both of those gentlemen and Mrs. Jordan have proved themselves as speakers and no doubt will be an acquisition to this Parliament.

Some of the matters with which I wish to deal this evening relate generally to the State and some relate particularly to my own electorate. It is becoming more evident every day that we have a traffic problem in the city that will not be overcome by any efforts of the Government up to date. Despite frequent traffic surveys there has been no move to institute restrictions that might ease the position in the inner city. Better use of our existing railway facilities might provide some amelioration of the problem. I suggest the introduction of a city railway circle such as that which operates in Sydney. The circle could comprise Roma Street, Central, Brunswick Street, Bowen Hills, Mayne Junction, Normanby, and back to Roma Street. A rail-motor service operating around that circle could provide adequate, fast, clean transport, could be run economically, and would attract the patronage of motorists who now drive to the city. Parking areas could be provided at Normanby and Mayne, and on a lesser scale, at Roma Street and Bowen Hills. By instituting this system we would relieve a great deal of the congestion that occurs in the city because motorists drive right into the city seeking parking space which is just not available. I realise that there is railway electrification in Sydney, but I believe that with diesel rail motors we could provide similar service and so ease the existing traffic confusion in the city.

I shall make passing reference to the mounting number of road fatalities not only in the city but throughout the State, and, as the hon. member for South Coast mentioned, predominantly in his electorate. I think that more drastic action has to be taken against drunken drivers. In this matter I agree with the hon. member for Sandgate. I believe that if the drunken driver is removed from the roads, traffic fatalities will be greatly reduced. In addition to depriving drunken drivers of their licences for a period, consideration might well be given to suspending the registrations of their cars. That might seem a little harsh, but it might be some deterrent if motorists knew that when their driving licenses were suspended their car registrations could also be suspended for a similar period. This

would remove the temptation to a person to use his vehicle, as happens frequently, when his licence has been suspended. I think this could be quite a deterrent to those who dangerously drive motor vehicles.

I now wish to deal with Sandgate Road and the proposed four-lane highway. Every day there is confusion on that road. Each evening from 4.30 p.m. there is complete chaos in the vicinity of the Virginia overbridge. Two lanes of traffic—one coming along Sandgate Road and the other coming along Toombul Road from the Hamilton industrial area—converge just beyond the Virginia overbridge. Recently I took the trouble to make a traffic count there, and between 4.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m. 1,623 vehicles passed a point on Sandgate Road at Virginia. At all times the traffic was travelling bumper to bumper, and on many occasions collisions between vehicles in the two converging lanes were narrowly avoided only by good driving.

For some years it has been proposed to establish a four-lane highway from Virginia to the Deagon racecourse, but we do not seem to be getting anywhere with it. I asked the Minister about it, and he blamed the Brisbane City Council for the delay. Apparently this matter can be banded from one party to the other in an effort to shelve the blame.

Mr. Camm: Have you asked the council who is responsible for it?

Mr. MELLOY: No. I asked the Parliament.

Mr. Camm: You asked me and I told you it was the council's responsibility. Have you asked the council?

Mr. MELLOY: No.

Mr. Camm: Well, you ask the council.

Mr. MELLOY: My concern is—

Mr. Camm: You are talking about its being banded from one party to the other. I am telling you to ask the council and see if they will bandy it back to me.

Mr. MELLOY: They will.

Mr. Camm: No, they won't. You try them.

Mr. MELLOY: But why has it gone on for so long?

Mr. Camm: You ask the council.

Mr. MELLOY: I think the Government should get cracking.

Mr. Camm: Why?

Mr. MELLOY: Because it is its responsibility, and it should not avoid its responsibility simply because somebody else does not think it is his job. It is the Government's job to get on to those who are delaying construction of the highway. Surely the Government would do that if it were concerned with the completion of the job. There was no messing about with the road to the Amoco refinery.

Mr. Camm: No trouble there.

Mr. MELLOY: No, because as soon as Amoco cracked the whip the Government jumped to it and saw that the job was done. Why is that not done now?

Mr. Camm: That road has nothing to do with the main road down there. This one has.

Mr. MELLOY: The Government provided the money and specified that it was to be used on that job and insisted that the work be done immediately. If the council is responsible for the delay, why does not the Government insist that the work be done? The Government is not prepared to do anything about Sandgate Road, and the confusion grows every day. The fact that the overbridge at Zillmere is not being proceeded with is not assisting, either. If it was completed, it would take a lot of traffic off the Sandgate Road. At present, people travelling from Redcliffe and Sandgate will not go via Zillmere simply because the gates across the railway line are closed so frequently. The Minister for Mines and Main Roads may remember that last year I pointed out in this Chamber that between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. the gates were closed for 26 minutes and traffic was delayed.

Mr. Camm: Whose responsibility is the overbridge?

Mr. MELLOY: It is another joint proposal between the Government and the Brisbane City Council. The Government is only now proceeding with resumptions. It could have carried out those resumptions long ago, but it did not do anything. The scheme must be proceeded with quickly if serious trouble is to be avoided on Sandgate Road in the near future.

I wish to deal next with several matters relating to the Department of Education. The first is the shortage of teachers. According to the secretary of the South Brisbane Secondary Teachers Branch of the Queensland Teachers' Union, Mr. Churven, there is a shortage of 1,000 teachers, composed of 254 in secondary schools and 570 in primary schools. I think it is generally recognised that there is a shortage of teachers, and the result is that classes are too large to enable the children to be taught properly. On some occasions teachers have to carry the burden of endeavouring to teach up to 50 children. There may not be many classes of 50, but there are sufficient to cause concern about the education that the children are receiving. The Department of Education should take quite a bit of notice of what the Queensland Teachers' Union has to say.

Mr. Pizzey: He is the one who said he would use the mailed fist. Did you see him on television? He said that if he could not get what he wanted, he would use the mailed fist.

Mr. MELLOY: I did not see him. I think greater use will have to be made of female teachers.

Mr. Pizzey: Which ones?

Mr. MELLOY: The married ones.

Mr. Pizzey: They are all used now. About 1,400 are used now.

Mr. MELLOY: I understand that many married female teachers are available. It has been suggested that there should be a pool of married female teachers to whom individual headmasters could appeal when teachers are absent because of illness. When a teacher has to take over two classes, there is usually confusion in the staff of a school. If it were possible to establish pools of married female teachers and attach them to particular schools, headmasters could get in touch with one of those teachers, with either the prior approval or subsequent approval of the department, and get her into his school within an hour when a regular teacher was absent.

Mr. Pizzey: He could ring Parliament House. There are three here.

Mr. MELLOY: He could do that, too. It is all very well for the Minister to be facetious, but he knows what confusion is caused in a school when a teacher is away and the staff has to be reshuffled. The children are the ones who suffer. If teachers are available who could attend the school within an hour, advantage should be taken of that. I have been given to understand by several school teachers in schools in my area that they could contact teachers within an hour and have them at their schools.

Mr. Pizzey: Not now.

Mr. MELLOY: That is only recently. I do not know how long it is since the Minister has checked the position.

I think this system should be adopted and I urge the Minister to institute it. A headmaster should be able to contact any available teacher and have him in the school inside of an hour instead of having to allot extra duties to an already fully-occupied teacher to make up for the deficiency in staff. In some cases one teacher has to look after 80 to 90 children when he has to look after two classes. A teacher cannot keep that up for a week; he gets a bit irritable and the pupils miss out on their education.

Another matter relating to the Education Department on which I wish to say a few words is that of opportunity schools. In this instance we have a class of child who requires very particular attention and I do not think we have sufficient opportunity schools in this State to look after them. The Minister by way of reply has said that we have eight in the metropolitan area and 11 in the rest of the State but I do not think that is enough. I do not think that these children can get the attention they require; they cannot get it at an ordinary primary school.

I have nothing but praise for the work being done in opportunity schools; they are doing a remarkable job. I have visited several of them and have seen the work done and the trouble taken by the teachers with these unfortunate children. They realise that they require extra attention. They have given it to them and the children are all the better for it.

I suggest that we should try to institute opportunity classes in schools. In schools of 300 to 400 pupils, or more, I think there would be sufficient of these children to warrant a class. I have had frequent requests for assistance from parents who have found it not only difficult but almost impossible to enroll their children at an opportunity school, because of the waiting lists and the lack of facilities. If we could find a means of establishing opportunity classes in sufficiently large schools—

Mr. Pizzey: You would not get the numbers.

Mr. MELLOY: In the larger schools—say, of 400 pupils—I think you would. You would only want about eight or 10 to establish a class. You could not have more; the teacher could not cater for more.

I think in the larger schools there would be sufficient children. In one school, at Cribb Island, they are in a most unfortunate position in regard to these children. They have them there and they cannot do anything for them. They cannot go to Breakfast Creek because it is fully enrolled. These children are suffering as a result. If schools like Nudgee had opportunity classes these children could be sent there.

I realise that the cost of building these schools is tremendous and that they cannot be built simultaneously everywhere where needed, but the Government could provide facilities for these children at existing schools. If these opportunity classes were established, I think they would be of tremendous help to the pupils and to their parents, to whom they are causing great concern.

Mr. Pizzey: You will only find 50 or 60 in a city of 20,000 to 30,000 people.

Mr. MELLOY: The Minister would have to be very selective if he found only 50 or 60. How many are there at Breakfast Creek, for instance?

Mr. Pizzey: That is a big area that probably taps 100,000 people.

Mr. MELLOY: I am referring mostly to the metropolitan area. I realise that it would be very difficult to establish opportunity schools in country areas. I referred earlier to schools of 300 to 400 and more pupils where there would be no difficulty in establishing classes of eight or ten students. This would provide a badly needed service in the community.

The development of this State is a matter that has been spoken of at great length by various hon. members opposite. Why this

Government boasts of its efforts in the development of Queensland, particularly its industrial development, I do not know. All the evidence from economists, specialists and industrialists is to the contrary. Every industrialist or economist who comes to Queensland tells the people that Queensland is lagging behind every other State in its industrial development, not only in volume but proportionately. Apparently this Government fails to see the writing on the wall. The means it has adopted to try to catch up have become quite laughable. I have referred in previous speeches to the number of advisory committees and bodies appointed by this Government to assist it in its administration of the State. Recently "The Courier-Mail" published a further suggestion by economists and Government officials that another advisory committee be formed in Queensland to advise the Government on the industrial development of the State.

What happened when the previous committees were appointed? Back in 1959 Mr. Morris took a team to England and the Continent. His party, which included Mr. Leon Trout, Mr. William Gunn and specialists in various industries, went overseas to try to attract industries to this State, and on their return they were to advise the Government on how to provide for Queensland's industrial progress. Where have we gone since then? We are still in the same boat. Now we have yet another suggestion for the setting-up of an advisory committee to tell the Government what to do. Where does it all lead? The Government does not seem to know what to do. Either it does not seem to be able to take the advice of the committees it sets up, or the committees it sets up are incapable of giving the correct advice to the Government. I am picking out only a few committees that were set up; there were other smaller bodies set up by the Government to assist it, all with the same result. In 1960 the Government engaged the services of Economist Intelligence Unit Ltd. to make an economic survey of the State. What was the result of that? We have heard nothing of it. All these things are added evidence that the Government is quite incapable of knowing what to do. If it were not for the minerals at Mt. Isa, the uranium at Mary Kathleen, the oil industry and the bauxite deposits we would be completely down the drain. There is no doubt that the industrial development that has taken place in this State has been purely the result of fortuitous circumstances in that we have had the natural resources. There has been no planned industrial development in Queensland to the extent that there has been in the southern States. As a matter of fact Queensland has slipped further and further behind in industrial development.

Industrial production is another matter. I have referred to Queensland's natural resources that have come to the rescue and saved this State from complete economic collapse.

In 1962 the State Industrial Advisory Committee was established comprising Mr. Fisher of Mount Isa Mines and many other leading industrialists. What has been the result? Apparently none, because, if it was effective and advice was given and acted upon, it would not be necessary to have the State body that has been referred to. Unless the State Government has the ability to support these people and to encourage industrial enterprises by providing facilities that will attract them to Queensland, we will slip further and further behind the southern States. The Minister for Industrial Development has the best job in the world. I do not know what he does, but all he seems to do is to set himself up as another prophet, and his predictions never come true.

Mr. Sherrington: He is a dead loss.

Mr. MELLOY: He is indeed. His job is a sinecure but he can present a better front than most of the other Ministers, and if we did not know him we would believe him. The other day he tried to justify the existence of his job but he failed miserably in that he did not give any indication of the State's progress in industrial development. I will not proceed any further with my speech at present but I have several matters I wish to raise during the debate on the Estimates.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT (Chatsworth) (7.42 p.m.): This first session of the 38th Parliament of Queensland comes together in a time demanding of its members dedication to the high ideals of this institution, realisation of the problems that beset our State and nation, and a firm resolve to apply ourselves to our great responsibilities. That the problems are immense and their solution not simply found would be a proposition contested by none. As a nation we live in perilous times. It is one of the ironies of contemporary history that while we enjoy expanding living standards and increasing prosperity we have at the same time to justify our occupancy of this continent in the eyes of the world. It is this fact that demands a real sense of urgency in our programmes of development and immigration. Externally we are committed to an engagement that some choose to describe as "a dirty, unwinnable war." The Vietnam war is of course dirty, as all wars are dirty, but to say that it is unwinnable and therefore, by suggestion, that it should not be contested is a case with which I will have no truck. In a demonstration of both courage and maturity we have entered this war firm in the knowledge that it represents the confrontation of aggressive Communist forces and that the only way to halt aggression is to meet it full on, to fight it, and to halt it, and to establish that never again will aggression win by default. The Vietnam and Korean wars have established that the lessons of the 30's have been learned. If I may interpose on this theme it should

be to acknowledge the fact that I know that issues of this kind are not normally ventilated in this place. I am conscious of the sphere of our responsibility and I will not try to seek undue privilege. But what I refuse to do is to be silent on the larger issues. There is, I know, a temptation in State politics to sail one's craft upon the tranquil backwaters and hope that the storms of national consequence will pass by. In terms of trying to preserve one's own political hide and to perpetuate oneself here for continuing terms I suppose it is a reasonable form of insurance. But as far as the State and as far as the nation are concerned probably the hide is not worth much anyway. For my part my entry into State Parliament will represent not a diminution of interest in national affairs but an increase in my interest, and if anything to the contrary is expected of me I say I will not long be in this place, nor will I want to be.

In the narrower confines of the State of Queensland a Government whose record is not unimpressive is faced with demands for extension and improvement in almost every aspect of its administration. Financial problems, and their aggravation by the drought, are of course the root cause of much concern and I want to refer to these a little later. But many problems of this day are attributable not to drought, and not to hardship or depressed standards, but rather to the very affluence in society that all Governments have sought to create. It is an interesting proposition, and I want to develop it a little.

If one does any reading at all upon the political history of this country since Federation, and indeed before Federation, one learns that many great political battles were fought to win our present standards. The shearers' strike in the 1890's in fact led to the birth of the Australian Labour Party and its role in many of those battles has been a distinguished one. The genesis of the problems of State lay in social demands for housing, wage justice, improved working conditions, and more humane social services. These were the issues on which Parliaments pondered and these were the issues on which elections were fought.

To suggest that these issues are still not significant would be to suggest that the Utopian State is here, and of course it is not. But to suggest they command the same emphasis would also be not true. Our people are substantially housed, reasonably paid, and enjoy improved conditions. The theoreticians these days argue about the welfare state only in terms of degree.

The vocal demands on Government come from a society that asks for measures commensurate with its affluence. Let me give some examples. Few issues these days are more pressing than education. Smaller classes, more teachers, raised pay, higher qualifications, and improved facilities at all levels are some of the demands. But the

change in emphasis is unmistakable. No longer is the cry for basic education only; rather is it for the highest forms of education to an ever-increasing number. There is obviously the private money available to pay for higher education, and as their right the young people demand this higher form of education. The demand of course is fortified by the knowledge that in this age that we are now entering the uneducated and the unskilled will not only be unemployed but will be unemployed.

The increased requirements of the Health Department spring not from the need for basic health facilities which have long been with us but rather from the ever-improved sophistications in diagnosis and treatment.

Demands for homes these days are for outright ownership and not merely for rental. Road development and transport facilities are expected to be of a high order not only for communication and commerce, but also to cater for those who are able to now travel extensively for pleasure. That a Cabinet Minister now carries the portfolio for tourism is surely the most tangible evidence of the changed circumstances in which we live.

If a proposition is to be developed from this theme, it is this: the divisions that existed between the "haves" and the "have-nots" have been bridged. There are today few class distinctions in our society, and the inequalities have been substantially eliminated. Ours is essentially an affluent society and, as such, it looks to governments to further improve and build upon the firm foundations that have been laid. That there are sections of our society that do not enjoy even reasonable standards cannot be denied, and I for one will not deny it. That they are smaller in number is the greater reason why their problems should be listened to with sympathy and understanding.

On the first day of this Parliament we were reminded of the traditions surrounding the office of Speaker. We congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your re-election to this high office. When A. G. Cameron was elected Speaker in the Federal House after the 1949 Federal election he told the House, "It is to be expected that the House will find me, as King Charles I found Montrose, a rather proud servant." Proud he was always, but a servant, too, as dedicated to the institution of Parliament as any man could be. He commended to the House a reading from the ninth chapter of the Book of Judges. I commend that passage to those hon. members who have recourse to the Bible on occasions other than their triennial swearing in. It makes useful reading.

Not only the office of Speaker but indeed the institution of Parliament itself is steeped in tradition. It is a warming experience to enter this place, to witness and be part of the ceremonies, and to know that one fills a role of worth and performs a task of value. The Parliamentary system as we know it, of which we are a part, constitutes one of the great bastions of democratic processes in the

world today. A member should never be less than proud, less than honoured, less than dedicated to this institution. When he ceases to value and cherish this institution, he ceases to serve it.

But to uphold the principles of Parliament does not mean that one should not on occasions be critical of some of its processes. To those who challenge the temerity of a newcomer to sit in judgment on that of which he has only recently become a part, my answer is this: whilst one is still new to this place, particularly if he has had an association with the organisational side of politics, as I have had since my late teens, he can have an objectivity on these matters that might be lost to longer-term incumbents. Therefore, quite deliberately, and knowing the risk of criticism that I run, I choose to say some things on this, my first opportunity.

This House came together on 2 August after a recess of some eight months. The reasons for this extensive break are well known. Successive Labour Governments in election years abandoned the March session to frustrate Opposition criticism on election eve. After one foray in March, 1960, when the Labour Party, by then in Opposition, in a few days posed some 170 questions to the new Government, the new Government followed the lead of its predecessors, and prior to the last two State elections recesses of this length have been the order.

In terms of pure political manoeuvring, it has some advantage. In the immediate pre-election period it avoids the possible embarrassment of probing questions, and deprives the Opposition of a forum from which to attack the Government.

There are, however, consequences, in my book at least, that are to be deplored. Firstly, it frustrates the proper function of an opposition. It should be realised always that an opposition is not some noisy, meddlesome but unavoidable accoutrement of government, but rather an integral part of the parliamentary process, deserving of every consideration, every courtesy, and every reasonable opportunity to present its point of view. Voltaire's edict—"I disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."—has the same ring of truth today that it had two centuries ago. Secondly, Parliament itself plays a less effective role in the State's administration. It is the role of Parliament itself to legislate, to probe, to question, to ventilate. A parliament that does not convene at regular intervals to discharge its responsibilities is not keeping faith with its masters, the people. Thirdly, for an over-long period of time it produces an administration not by Parliament but by Cabinet and by a public service. One does not reflect, nor does one seek to reflect, upon the capacity either of the cabinet or of the public service. This State has been well served by a competent and dedicated public service; but we should never be a party to any move that abrogates, even for

the time being, functions that belong to Parliament alone. For my part, the significance of Parliament itself far transcends any small advantage the Government of the day obtains by lengthy recesses.

With the procedures of the House, I satisfy myself with these comments. We need some mechanics by which private members' motions and Bills can be debated in fact. We need regular grievance-day debates; we need adjournment debates. An improved form of committee systems would enable private members to do a better job and play a more effective role. As to our form of questioning, Mr. Speaker—I say this with respect—I content myself simply with this comment: that questions without notice are the champagne of politics; in Queensland we content ourselves with flat lemonade.

In the speech delivered to this House by our esteemed Governor, and, indeed, later in the Treasurer's introductory speech on the Appropriation Bill, financial problems and the effects of the drought rated high mention. Comments on the recent Federal Budget suggest that the State Treasurer's Budget, soon to be presented, will impose increased imposts upon us all. The crux of the question undoubtedly is the availability of funds, either by direct taxation or by Federal disbursements. Sooner or later the six States and the Commonwealth will have to decide that the Federation must be made to work or else the drift to a unitary system be accepted, accelerated, and formalised.

We live at the moment in some form of twilight world that contains little of the essence of federation that our founding fathers sought to preserve in the Constitution. There seems to be little awareness or little concern with our sovereignty. From Cabinet Minister to humble back-bencher, the sickening catchcry seems to be, "The Federal Government will have to find the money." Every State seems to accept the role of mendicant happily and cares little for the erosion of its own powers. With the surrender of our separate taxing powers in 1942 went also our self-respect and self-pride. How true were Deakin's words when speaking on the Constitution in 1902, when he said, "It left them legally free but financially bound to the chariot wheels of the central Government."

When someone stands up here and advocates some measure to the State Treasurer of the day and indicates at the same time how the money can be found within the bounds of this State, I say that a breath of fresh air will blow through this Chamber.

The story of the loss of our taxing powers and our own rights stands re-telling. Up to 1942 the six States levied and collected their own taxes. Five of them concurrently collected taxes for the Commonwealth. Although the States surrendered their major borrowing rights to the Loan Council in 1924—this move was formalised by the Financial Agreement of 1927—they maintained their separate

powers. Special grants, as provided by section 96 of the Commonwealth Constitution succoured those States who became claimants. In 1942 to finance its increasing war expenditure the Commonwealth Government passed four Acts that, in effect, squeezed the States out of the fields of company and income taxation. The Acts withstood a High Court challenge and in 1946 Mr. Chifley placed the scheme on a permanent statutory footing. That then survived a further High Court challenge in 1957.

At a conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers in July, 1952, the then Prime Minister, R. G. Menzies, initiated a report from Commonwealth and State Treasury officers on the resumption of income tax powers by the States. The report was discussed at a further meeting of Commonwealth and State Ministers in February, 1953. For those who advocate the return of taxing powers the report does not make bright reading. Although the problem of one return to cover two taxes is not insurmountable, other problems are very real. To get agreement among the States on the implications of a "residence" basis compared with an "origin-of-income" basis is no small task. Most sobering is the final sentence of the report on the legal problems connected with the establishment of a uniform assessment law. I quote it—

"On the whole therefore our conclusion is that only by means of a constitutional alteration could a uniform assessment code be legally entrenched beyond question against the possibility of unilateral action."

There is little argument to the proposition that taxing powers are fundamental to the sovereignty of Government. I fortify this contention by quoting extracts from speeches from two former giants from this Parliament. The present hon. member for Bundaberg whilst State Treasurer in 1956 said this—

"At the present time the Commonwealth is virtually the sole adjudicator upon the States' main sources of revenue, the tax reimbursement and the special financial grants and loan finance. This dominance of the Commonwealth allows too great an influence on the domestic policies of the States."

The former Premier, Hon. V. C. Gair, at the conference I have referred to, when speaking to the Prime Minister said—

"I agree with your statement that the levying of taxation by the States is an indispensable element of sovereign Government."

We are now committed to an agreement with the Commonwealth that still has four years to run. Until this expires I assume that our hands are tied but I do believe that there is much need, not only by this State, but by all States, for some inward looking. Somehow the dignity and self-respect of State legislatures must be regained. Either we become sovereign in fact or we surrender our remaining powers in fact.

Finally on this point may I be permitted this observation: it seems accepted these days that fact-finding committees be comprised of parliamentarians or public servants. Crisp tells us that at the 1897-98 convention that prepared the draft of our Constitution the following professions were represented, namely, 24 lawyers, 7 journalists, 8 euphemistically described as other professions, 13 pastoralists, one farmer, 12 from commerce, industry and finance, a trade-union official and a small shop-keeper. Is it too much to ask that a new convention, similarly representative, look not only at our taxing problems but at the whole question of our federation in the light of twentieth-century experience? True, a parliamentary committee made recommendations on constitutional reform a few years ago. The Commonwealth's propensity to call for reports from specialist committees is matched only by its reluctance to act upon their findings. If we believe in the principles of federation then surely the thoughts of a wider section of our community would be valuable. It is not unreasonable to suggest that there are men and women in our community today who are equally dedicated and equally talented and who could, with the same wisdom, look at the problems of the federation in this day and age.

Finally, I want to make some reference to drought. Ours is a nation of extremes, and flood and drought are part of our accepted lot. Although we accept drought in cycles it is folly that we should accept it without provision or anticipation. Although seven major droughts have afflicted the greater mass of our continent little evidence is to hand to suggest that there is continuing planning either by Governments or by primary producers. The most recent drought, by its terrible impact, has sparked a new interest in forms of alleviation. It is a problem that should be tackled resolutely before the lush seasons again dim memories.

The role of government is not an easy one—it is less easy for a Government of our particular complexion—for what Governments must try to do is to achieve a fine balance. On the one hand the Government must be aware of the value of primary production to our economy. It must do everything possible to encourage industries, and by every reasonable form of assistance help them to buffer the vagaries of weather. It owes this to itself and to the country man. On the other hand—and this is important—it must not over-protect the primary producer; it must not bolster him if he himself is improvident or inefficient. In return for every form of co-operation it must expect evidence of efficiency on the part of the primary producer. To put it bluntly I say that the Government owes as much responsibility to the primary producer as it owes to businessmen, investors, entrepreneurs or industrialists. Any worth-while venture has some risk in it. If we want to take all of the risks out of any

venture we should hand the administration to the socialists who are more wedded to the "cradle-to-the-grave" concept than we are.

How then is the balance to be achieved? I suggest in two ways: firstly, the development of major projects obviously beyond the ability of individual enterprise; secondly, a form of healthy co-operation with the primary producer, helping him to help himself.

His Excellency's Opening Speech indicated that investigations are in hand. He said—

"Commonwealth agencies are collaborating with State Departments in the investigation of land and water resources and the potentialities for development in the Burdekin River basin, the Gulf Area, and the Peninsula-Mitchell River-Palmer region."

The report of the Drought Mitigation Committee pointed out—

"Five other schemes investigated (St. George, Dawson Valley, Bowen/Broken, Burdekin and Upper Herbert Rivers) could provide over 500,000 acres of irrigation, subject to agricultural land use problems being solved in some of these areas. The Emerald Irrigation Project under investigation is ideally sited to serve a large pastoral area and production of lucerne hay could develop there."

In a speech made on 24 March, 1966, the Federal Member for Gwydir, Mr. Ian Allen, moved this resolution in the House—

"That the Commonwealth should establish a planning and constructing authority in association with the States to regulate the flow of all major river systems in Australia including the Darling River and its tributaries in Queensland and New South Wales."

This, particularly, was a valuable speech, and I commend its reading to all who are interested in this drought problem.

What I seek to establish in citing these three quite unrelated sources is that there is plenty of scope and plenty of expert advice available to the Government in the development of major projects for drought alleviation. What, then, of my proposition that the primary producers be helped to help themselves? There is, of course, the expert advice and assistance of the State department. There are the Farm Water Supplies Assistance Act and the Rural Water Supply Scheme that have rendered valuable assistance. Freight rebates have of course been helpful. But, what we look for is long-term planning so that the effects of the drought, be they five, 10 or 20 years away, can be cushioned. Again, the Drought Mitigation Report gives answers. Its recommendations on encouragement of on-property and off-property storage of fodder are feasible and realistic, and lay down a commendable spirit of co-operation between all bodies—livestock and farming industries, the relevant marketing and other

boards and the Commonwealth and State Governments. The need for drought relief has been equated by the president of the Canberra branch of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science to any measures for external defence. I think few would argue with his contention. One should, of course, congratulate the authors of the drought mitigation committee for an outstanding report. We now look to the Government to implement those recommendations that are obviously feasible.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me say that a Parliament that does not by its creativeness and its application make some contribution to the continuing greatness of this State will not distinguish itself nor will it be long remembered. Let us hope that the life of this 38th Parliament sees wise law enacted and that proper administration creates continuing prosperity for the citizens of this Queen State of the Commonwealth.

Mr. P. WOOD (Toowoomba East) (8.12 p.m.): I wish to associate myself and the electors I represent with the sentiments of loyalty expressed in the motion before the House. On my own behalf, and again on behalf of the electorate I represent, I wish to offer my congratulations to His Excellency Sir Alan Mansfield on his appointment as Governor of Queensland. I join with other hon. members who have expressed their pleasure that our new Governor is a Queensland. I also wish to offer my congratulations to the other new members in the House, in particular to the hon. member for Ipswich West. It is no credit to any of the political parties represented here that the hon. member for Ipswich West is the first woman member in this Assembly for over 30 years, and only the second woman member in the history of this House. I hope that in three years' time she will be joined here by more of her sex.

I wish to take advantage of this opportunity to pay a tribute to those who were responsible for my election to this Assembly. Most hon. members on both sides of the House are in much the same position as I, namely, that their presence here is not due solely to their own efforts. I thank those good people in Toowoomba who worked so hard and so long to ensure the election of an A.L.P. member in Toowoomba East. I am also very conscious of the fact that in 1946 my father was elected as the representative of another Toowoomba East electorate which was rather different from the one I represent. I thank the hon. members on both sides of the House who have spoken to me in kind terms with reference to my father and the work he did in this Assembly.

In this my first contribution to the debate I want to speak on problems that relate to my own electorate and town, namely, Toowoomba. Many of the problems associated with Toowoomba are common to other parts of the State, so in a sense I will not be entirely parochial in the remarks I make.

Toowoomba is at a distinct geographic disadvantage when compared with the Brisbane area and the ports between Brisbane and Cairns. All hon. members in this House support the principle of decentralisation, but it is not always sufficient merely to offer support. We have to do a great deal more than that. Toowoomba, being removed from the metropolitan area which is the chief market area in Queensland, has the disadvantage of extra costs of all manufactured articles from that area and from the wider area of the Darling Downs.

It has not been able to develop and grow at the same rate as has the Brisbane area. Its problem is rather like that of other provincial cities. The Queensland Year Book indicates that in the 10 years 1955-65 the population of Brisbane increased by 23 per cent. In the same period the population of Toowoomba increased by 16 per cent., that of Rockhampton by 18 per cent., and that of Warwick by 7 per cent. Of all the provincial cities and towns I looked up only Townsville could keep pace with the development and growth of Brisbane. Its population increased by 25 per cent. in the same 10-year period. I think perhaps that Mt. Isa and Gladstone would be able to match that development but outside those cities I doubt if any other provincial city could match the development and spread of Brisbane.

Toowoomba lacks the industrial basis that Brisbane has or that Townsville is developing. Prior to the last election the Premier visited Toowoomba and addressed the local Chamber of Commerce with considerable pride on the industrial development taking place in Queensland. This was on 30 March. The figures he quoted indicated that the sum of \$1,200,000,000 was being spent throughout Queensland on industrial development. I do not presume that a great proportion of this will be spent in Toowoomba or on the Darling Downs. But if we are to have balanced industrial development, a good proportion of it, or a reasonable proportion of it, should be spent there. When speaking to the Chamber of Commerce the Premier went on to give figures to show the industrial development in Toowoomba. The figures he gave showed that something to the order of \$1,300,000 was to be spent in Toowoomba and on the Darling Downs on industrial development. That is approximately one-thousandth of the total sum being spent on industrial development throughout Queensland. I said before that I do not expect that a half, a quarter, or even a tenth of the money being spent on industrial development in Queensland will be spent in Toowoomba or on the Darling Downs. But I do not think it is unreasonable for me to suggest that if one-thousandth of the amount being spent on industrial development in Queensland is being spent in Toowoomba and on the Darling Downs there is an imbalance somewhere and it is an imbalance that should be righted. It points even more strongly to the need for industrial development not only

in Toowoomba and on the Darling Downs but also in every other provincial and rural area of Queensland.

Decentralisation is a practical and reasonable thing. In Toowoomba, what is, I think, the largest private company in Australia has shown that decentralisation can work. I refer to the Toowoomba Foundry, and I pay a tribute to that company for the expansion at present being carried out. This foundry, which manufactures Southern Cross products, started in a very small way and has now grown into a very large organisation. It is proof that decentralisation can work.

Hon. members opposite, being avowed supporters of private enterprise, will recognise the reluctance of businessmen to place themselves at a financial disadvantage with their competitors. I am sure that hon. members opposite would be the last to expect private industry to establish itself in Toowoomba if it means that it would be placed at a severe disadvantage with competitors in Brisbane or Sydney. If it is more profitable for an industry to establish itself in Brisbane than in Toowoomba, Rockhampton, or any provincial area, that is what it will do.

Some measures are being taken by local authorities throughout Queensland to encourage industry to their areas. I pay a tribute here to the Toowoomba Development Board, which is one of many such organisations doing their best to encourage a measure of decentralisation by bringing industry to provincial and rural areas. They are, however, hampered by the economics of establishing industries away from metropolitan areas. All the goodwill in the world, all the courtesy, smiles and handshakes that development boards can produce, will achieve little if it is uneconomic for an industry to go to Toowoomba or anywhere else.

Development boards must be able to offer positive financial incentives to private companies if they are to be induced to go to decentralised areas. As far as I am aware, no such financial incentives to private enterprise, sufficient to encourage movement to provincial cities, exist. Their provision is a Government responsibility, and three Governments are involved in offering them. I can say here little of the role of the Federal Government except that perhaps tax rebates could apply for a certain period. The State Government can do much by providing rail freight concessions to industries establishing themselves away from the metropolitan area. Rebates could be offered on the carriage of goods from provincial centres to the metropolitan area, and in the opposite direction. There is a precedent for offering such freight rebates to industries in need of them, as for many years Governments in Queensland have applied freight rebates to stock fodder being moved to drought-stricken areas where the grazing industry has need of it.

The Railway Department has played a vital role in decentralisation in Queensland. Indeed, I do not think that any organisation

has done more for decentralisation in this State than has the Queensland Railway Department, nor have any workers in Queensland done more for the same cause than the railwaymen throughout the State. Wherever one travels in Queensland one comes upon small settlements, and sometimes larger settlements, which have sprung up solely because railwaymen have had to work there. As all hon. members know, railwaymen have been called upon to serve in very unpleasant surroundings on some occasions; sometimes their accommodation has been deplorable; and I think we should all pay tribute to these men who have done so much towards the decentralisation of industry throughout Queensland.

Dealing with transport costs, I point out that, although I suggest that freight rebates could be made to private industry, existing industries should not be penalised. It cannot be expected that a new industry being established in Toowoomba, say, will receive freight rebates when its competitors who are there already do not receive them. I suggest that all industries in provincial or rural areas should be offered a positive financial incentive through the Queensland Government Railways to enable them to compete on equal terms with industries in the metropolitan area. Local authorities should be in a position to offer rate rebates to new industries, perhaps for five years to cover the period of their establishment. I am told that local authorities cannot offer such rate rebates, under existing legislation. Perhaps that legislation might be changed.

I have spoken at some length on the place of private enterprise in decentralising industries and resources throughout the State; but I have not yet spoken on another important aspect of decentralisation—the enterprises of the State itself, the socialist enterprises run by the Queensland Government. I hope hon. members opposite do not blush when I use the horrible word "socialist". The fact is there.

The biggest enterprise or industry operated by the State Government is the Railway Department, and that department should be expanding its activities. However, I am afraid that the contrary is the case. Let me take as an example the Willowburn workshops in Toowoomba, in which one section, the carriage-building section, has recently been eliminated. I asked the Minister in charge of the Railway Department how many workers in the Willowburn workshops had resigned to find other employment as the result of uncertainty about their future in the workshops. I am sorry that he did not understand my question, because the answer I received was not related to the question that I asked. However, I understand that about 20 employees at Willowburn have resigned to seek other employment since the reorganisation some months ago. Not all of them are being replaced; only in some instances have

replacements been made. There is a serious decline in the morale of the men in the Willowburn workshops. I have spoken to numbers of them and they are very uncertain about their future there. They believe that now is the time to get out and find alternative employment, before they are told that their section has been eliminated and they have to take a reduction in grade or go to another part of the State. I know that the position is more serious in Warwick than it is in Toowoomba, but it is serious in Toowoomba.

I believe that the activities of railway workshops should be extended instead of reduced. There is much the State Government could do to encourage decentralisation by expanding these workshops. I know that there are probably sound economic reasons why the decentralisation of workshops should not occur; but there are also sound economic reasons why they should remain where they are. I suggest that diesel electric locomotives should be built in the workshops of the Railway Department, if not completely, then in part. I suggest, also, that at least replacement parts for diesel electric locomotives should be part of the work of various sections of the railway workshops. Other work that could be done by the staff of railway workshops would be the manufacture, either wholly or in part, of air-conditioned coaches and rail-motor units. They could also manufacture steel coaches and wagons and refrigerator units for refrigerated wagons. The Government at present has called tenders for a large number of such wagons. I hope that a good proportion of the work involved in this will go to the railway workshops of the Transport Department.

I have said something about decentralisation. I think this is important to Queensland. We are fortunate that, of all the States of Australia we are the most decentralised. A certain measure of centralisation is inevitable; not only is it inevitable but it is necessary that centralisation, to some degree, take place. With modern technology the drift from the land to the cities and towns will continue and it is in the interests of the man on the land that he uses modern machinery to carry out his work. It will be more economic for him. The task of the Government is to minimise such centralisation and the aim of the Government should be to build moderately sized cities instead of one large city.

I have heard several members today—and I have heard members in this Chamber on previous occasions—make reference to the problems of Brisbane and of how the difficulties of over-growth are imposing a tremendous financial burden on the Brisbane City Council and on the State Government.

It is economic for the Government and for all taxpayers that decentralisation become more of a reality than it presently is. I cannot bring to mind at the moment exactly how much it would cost to implement in full and immediately the Wilbur Smith plan but

it is a very large sum and it is necessary because of the over-growth of the metropolitan area. I know the Brisbane City Council is faced with a grave problem because of the over-growth of the metropolitan area.

I think the Brisbane City Council, however, in past years, has done an excellent job of development with the resources it had available. We should not leave our policy of decentralisation as a "crossed-fingers" policy; decentralisation does not just happen and the Government itself has an important role in it. We have Government departments perhaps pulling in different directions. The Co-ordinator of Public Works and the Department of Industrial Development could perhaps be examples of this.

The Government should set up machinery to find out those areas that are ripe for industrial development and with all the incentives available should attempt to bring about as quickly as possible whatever development is possible; then the development of such an area will take place of its own momentum. But I do not think the machinery exists at the moment for establishing priorities for decentralisation.

I want to speak briefly on the problems that local authorities face in providing water for their towns and cities. Water development provides local authorities with perhaps their biggest headache and their biggest expense.

The Toowoomba City Council is at present developing the Perseverance Dam project to provide the water needs of Toowoomba for the next 20 years. This dam has attracted for development a 32.9 per cent. subsidy and I am sure the city council is grateful at least for that amount of subsidy; but for the present supply of water to Toowoomba Cobby Creek Dam was built just before the war, and the then Labour Government paid on that construction a 50 per cent. subsidy. The avenues for local authorities to raise revenue are very limited, and they have a difficult enough time as it is to raise the necessary funds to do what they have to do. It is a pity that subsidies on such important work as the development of water resources cannot be at least 50 per cent.

I wish to make a few comments about the Institute of Technology that is at present being built in Toowoomba. We welcome the building of the new institute and are thankful that Toowoomba has been selected as the site for such an institute. We welcome the tertiary courses that are going to be provided there, particularly the Diploma of Science which looks like being a very worthwhile diploma course for students to undertake. However, I am afraid that there is going to be a duplication of facilities in Toowoomba. At present we have a fine technical college up there which offers a wide range of courses with a fine range of facilities. I feel that some of the courses that are going to be offered at the Institute of Technology could just as easily be provided at the present

technical college. Some of the sub-tertiary courses for engineering certificates, industrial chemistry, management, commerce and building certificates in part-time sub-tertiary courses could be provided at the existing technical college. I think it is a mistake for the Government to build the Institute of Technology without making it a full tertiary institute. At present it is going to be part-tertiary and part sub-tertiary, and I feel it is a mistake. I know the Minister is going to have great problems over the staffing. I do not know where he is going to get teachers from. Probably he will have to rob the high schools of graduate teachers, and these schools are already very short of graduate teachers. The proposed institute in Toowoomba will come under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education. I think that the Victorian idea, where they come under an entirely separate authority, should be followed in Queensland.

I took the opportunity recently to have a look at the site of the new institute to be constructed in Toowoomba. We are told that the institute will be opened to take students in six months' time, which is the beginning of the next year. Having had a look at the site I think it would be indeed a grave mistake for the Government to attempt to open it then because at its present stage of construction it would be impossible to have it successfully opened at the beginning of next year. I was there last week-end and all that exists of the Toowoomba Institute of Technology is the steel framework of one building. Unless all the necessary facilities are provided for the institute, and all the necessary materials and machinery are installed, it would be a mistake to open it. If the Government decides to press ahead and open it then the institute in its present situation 3 miles from town will remain unused, and the students enrolled at the institute will attend the present technical college and overcrowd its facilities.

At the present stage of the work, and with the time remaining, it is impossible to have the institute prepared and finished so as to take in new students. I have spoken briefly about the staffing of the new college. The staff will comprise teachers from the Department of Education; they will not have all the privileges that other teachers have; they will have only 15 days' vacation a year, they will have a full load of teaching periods, which is clearly undesirable for an institute at the tertiary level and they will have no study leave and no sabbatical leave. I feel that the lecturers who will be appointed to the institute will become most dissatisfied with conditions and that will serve no useful purpose for the institute or the students.

I have listened with interest to the comments of other hon. members concerning the routine in this House. As a new member I would not presume to suggest how this House could be better managed. I listened with interest to the comments about questions without notice. I do not wish to make any

suggestions but I will repeat the experiences I had when in London. On many occasions I took advantage of the opportunity to go to the House of Commons to sit in the gallery and listen to debates. I was fortunate to make the acquaintance of a number of members of the House of Commons and they are interested in the proceedings and methods employed in the Legislative Assembly in Queensland. I told them that no questions without notice were permitted. In the House of Commons the practice is that, at the discretion of Mr. Speaker, a member may ask a question without notice. But then, once leave has been given, and at the further discretion of Mr. Speaker, any member in the House may ask supplementary questions of the Minister who has just answered a question, provided, of course, that the supplementary question relates to the question that preceded it. This sets Ministers in the British House of Commons a very severe test of the knowledge of their departments and of the work they are doing in their departments. When I told the members of the House of Commons that we in Queensland did not allow questions without notice, and that supplementary questions were unheard of, they did not make any comment—they merely laughed. Perhaps they may have had some justification for that.

I wish to make a further comment about my experiences in London in the House of Commons. I said that on many occasions I went to the gallery and listened to the debates. In common with other visitors to the gallery I was provided with a guide to the House and the Chamber which explained what was what. This was most useful to new visitors in the gallery. I was also provided with a copy of the notices of motion and orders of the day so that as a visitor in the gallery I was able to read the questions that were being answered. I understand that visitors in our gallery are not allowed to hold papers. I do not know the reason for this and I do not question it, but I suggest that for the benefit of those listeners who do come to our gallery they be provided with the same notices of motion and orders of the day which hon. members get so that they may follow more intelligently the debates, the questions and the activities that they are seeking to follow in the House. I leave that suggestion for consideration at a later time.

I listened with interest to the speeches of other new hon. members and to the hon. members who have had more time in the House than I. I must say that in relation to the speech of the hon. member for Gregory I listened more with surprise than anything else. I thank hon. members on this side of the House, and some hon. members on the other side of the House, for the generous advice I have received. It has been most useful and I thank all hon. members for it. I hope that on other occasions I will have the opportunity to make some small contribution to the debates in this House.

Mr. SHERRINGTON (Salisbury) (8.45 p.m.): May I say at this stage, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that your presence tonight as Deputy Speaker lends a certain amount of lustre to this Assembly.

As I rise to speak at this stage of the debate tonight, it seems that this session of Parliament will follow the pattern set in past years. To justify the House being scheduled to meet until 10 p.m. today, it has become necessary for two members of the Opposition to keep the debate alive. As my colleague the hon. member for Barcoo has just prompted me, the odds are seven to four in favour of the Opposition. Having listened to the contributions of several of the new Government members, I think there is probably some justification for the older members of the Government disappearing. It was evident from their searching contributions that the new members are beginning to wonder just what their older colleagues have been doing during the life of this Government.

It is a pleasing duty on behalf of the electors of Salisbury to associate myself and them with the various expressions of loyalty contained in the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

We all regret the termination of governorship of Sir Henry Abel Smith. Every person who had the privilege of attending the farewell at the airport felt that Sir Henry had a feeling of regret that he was leaving our shores. We now have as Governor of our State a very distinguished Queenslander. We all applaud the fact that our new Governor is a Queenslander who has distinguished himself in the field of law.

As is customary at this time, particularly as it is the first opportunity one has to speak in the life of a new Parliament, I thank the many loyal supporters associated with me in the Salisbury election campaign. It is always heart-warming to a member, in the midst of everyday life, to find that there are so many people who are dedicated to the Australian Labour Party and who give unselfishly of their time and energy, not on the basis of electing someone to the House, but on the basis of electing to this House a representative who will put into words and actions the hopes and aspirations of all who belong to the Australian Labour Party.

I compliment the members of the Department of Works who, during the recent recess, dismantled the unsafe portion of Parliament House, and for the tremendous job they have done in those few short days.

Just prior to the recent adjournment, Mr. Speaker called an urgent meeting of members of the Parliamentary Buildings Committee. On the advice of an official of the Department of Works, it was decided to call in workmen to remove the superstructure of Parliament House that had become dangerous. I think that all hon. members who had any knowledge of the problem as it existed would

appreciate fully the manner in which these workmen have gone about their task. I want to pay a compliment to their efficiency.

During the Address-in-Reply debate, it is customary for many members to work the proverbial parish pump in the interests of their electorates. That is their right and bounden duty. In my case, however, if I did so I would have so much to deal with that I would possibly keep the House here all night.

Mr. Smith: How would you keep us here all night?

Mr. SHERRINGTON: It would not do some hon. members opposite any harm to do some listening; they certainly have not done any talking today.

Mr. Smith: I said, "How would you keep us here all night?"

Mr. SHERRINGTON: It is not my desire on this occasion to engage in this type of rhetoric; rather, I wish to speak on broader issues. I do not think any responsible member of Parliament, and certainly no person who gives thought to the future of this State, could be other than disturbed at the result of the recent meeting of the Loan Council. There is no doubt that progress in this State will be hamstrung by the inadequate loan moneys that are being made available. Already the Treasurer has expressed concern at the commitments into which the Government will have to enter to keep the economy flowing, and already he has let it be known that he is seeking additional avenues of taxation. I think we are all particularly concerned at the Premier's statement that he would "go it alone" and would not join with other States in trying to obtain a better deal for Queensland.

I am certain that an analytical study of the results of the recent State election will show that the state of the Parliament is not a true reflection of the wishes of the people, and that the result of the election was not a serious rejection of the policy of the Labour Party. I think it should be realised that the Government, aided by gerrymandered electoral boundaries and preferential voting, was fortunate to be able to hang on to office only by the skin of its teeth.

The figures have been quoted before; I do not intend to weary the House by repeating them. I merely say that there is no cause for pessimism about the future of the Australian Labour Party in Queensland. It will take more than a defeat at a State election to convince me and my colleagues that any of the issues on which the Labour Party fought the election were wrong. Already the case has been strengthened for such things as price control, consumer protection, and an overhaul of the arbitration system in this State.

Recently there has been a slump in world copper prices, but in Queensland the price of copper has been increased. Although many people may think that this is not important,

I suggest that they consider the effects that an increased copper price will have on the day-to-day life of the community. Copper is put to many uses, particularly in the manufacture of household electrical appliances, and sooner or later the impact of the higher prices will be felt.

I think it can fairly be said that the return of this Government offers very little comfort to the wage-earner in Queensland. I say that because the Government has not given any indication that it will follow a course other than annual reviews of the basic wage, and I have yet to be convinced that the voters realised fully what the return of the present Government would mean in this respect. Of course, the Government's attitude has always been "Why worry about the basic wage?" because very few people today are living on the basic wage. The important point is that the basic wage is a vital part of the wage structure in the State and all wages spring from it, with the addition of margins for skill.

It seems that since 1961, when a former Minister for Labour and Industry, Mr. Morris, brought down a Bill to amend the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, no longer is the Industrial Commission a court of justice, no longer is it a vehicle of conciliation; rather has it developed into an arena where the parties interested in wage claims merely slog it out. It is passing strange, I think, that although members of the Government, particularly at election time, claim that there is increased prosperity in Queensland and that the State is advancing day by day, each and every time claims for wage increases come before the Industrial Commission the argument put forward by employer organisations is based upon industry's inability to pay. When I hear this type of thing, particularly in the midst of this so-called prosperity, I am reminded of what Mr. Justice Higgins once said, namely, that an industry that cannot pay good wages should not be in business.

It would appear from the attitude of the Crown advocate on behalf of this Government in all basic wage claims since 1961 that in the midst of all this prosperity the Government has outlined a case for the rejection of wage increases on the basis of its inability to pay. The Crown itself has used this approach, and that is one of the reasons why the Crown advocate has consistently advocated before the Industrial Commission the "scrubbing" of the automatic quarterly cost-of-living adjustments and the introduction of an annual review of the basic wage.

As late as August last year the Crown advocate persisted in the attitude that for budgetary considerations and because the State Government determined its budgets on a yearly basis, it was desirable that there should be none other than annual reviews of the basic wage. This led, of course, to the Industrial Commission's bringing down a judgment to the effect that it would not review the basic wage until July of this year:

yet, in the light of events that occurred in the few months preceding the State election, the Crown, through its advocate, performed a complete somersault. When it was decided that the Commission would sit to determine whether it was desirable to review the basic wage earlier, the Crown advocate said that the Crown at this time would welcome a review of the basic wage. That attitude was adopted purely for the political considerations involved, because at that time the Government was fearful about its election chances. It was stirred out of its complacency by stop-work meetings of unions protesting against the injustice of a frozen wage whilst prices were allowed to rise unchecked. Because of that, we suddenly saw this complete somersault by the Crown, through its advocate, saying it would welcome a review of the basic wage at that time.

Today we are still confronted with the position that the practice of the Industrial Commission will be to review the basic wage on an annual basis. I am amazed at the high-handed attitude of the Commission in laying down this policy. It refused to review the basic wage unless the cost-of-living index showed that an increase of 4s. a week was warranted. That was one reason why there was disruption and discontent throughout the industry in Queensland prior to the State election, when the Commission refused a review because in its opinion the rise in the cost of living did not warrant at least a 4s. increase in the basic wage.

I was appalled at an article which appeared in the last issue of "The Sunday Mail". The article originated in Sydney and appeared under the heading of "Aust. 'nation of cheats,' victims claim." This is what it said—

"Is Australia becoming a nation of cheats? 'Yes,' said many shopkeepers, Government officials, business men, and bank officers last week."

I am appalled at this attitude, which is adopted by the so-called leaders in our community. I wonder what they are contributing towards the image of Australians overseas when they label fellow-Australians as a race of cheats. There is ample evidence that far from our being a nation of cheats we have become a nation of the cheated. The very people who have peddled this idea that the average Australian is dishonest and does not meet his financial obligations are victims of their own rotten sales promotion system, which is now blowing up in their faces. Far too often do we hear of people becoming the victims of slick, fast-talking salesmen whose employers stipulate that they must return to the firm at least \$2,000 a month in business. Such salesmen are selling articles on no deposit to people who cannot afford them. The result is that people over-commit themselves financially. That sort of practice is growing steadily. Unhappily it has been growing at a faster rate since the advent of this State Government.

There is ample evidence of undesirable practices being indulged in by commerce and industry, but what is this Government doing about it? In Sweden it has become necessary to introduce labelling legislation to overcome the use of misleading names and various types of advertising on labels. England has done the same thing, and America has been forced to introduce legislation to prevent false packaging. For the last six years I have been repeatedly asking the Minister for Justice of the day what is being done about the introduction of uniform packaging legislation. After six years we are still at the stage in this State where nothing has been done to prevent many of these undesirable trade practices, despite the fact that many other countries have found it necessary to take action along those lines.

About 18 months ago the Minister for Labour and Industry expressed amazement at the trade practices that were going on, yet I and other hon. members on this side had repeatedly brought them to notice. The more I see of these things the more I am convinced that legislation must be enacted to curb what is going on.

I wish to draw to the attention of the House an incident that occurred during the parliamentary recess concerning the sale of electrical goods; it is an incident of which I have a personal knowledge. A person entered an electrical goods shop and asked the price of a General Electric Americana refrigerator. It is here in the handwriting of the salesman; it is an indictment of these undesirable practices in the retailing of electrical goods. When this person entered the store to buy the refrigerator he was quoted a price of £310. When he indicated that he was in a position to pay cash, with some flash of genius and a few quick strokes of the pen the salesman said, "If you can pay cash we will give you £143 discount. All you have to pay for this £310 refrigerator is £167." The next day the prospective buyer took his wife to see the refrigerator because, like all good husbands, he was probably loath to buy one without getting her opinion. He went to the same store but a different salesman attended to him. He asked the price of the same refrigerator and was again quoted £310. When he told the new salesman that he was prepared to pay cash for it, with the same stroke of genius and the same quick calculation the salesman worked out that as the customer was able to pay cash he would do him a great favour and let him have it for £180. With another day and another salesman, the price of the refrigerator rose by £13.

The Government has sat idly by and seen these practices carried out, but has done absolutely nothing to prevent them. The time is fast approaching when, because the State Treasurer is being forced to seek additional taxation revenue—which, after all, will be passed on to the wage-earners of the State—and because these practices are continuing unchecked in the community with the

couldn't-care-less attitude of the Government, the people of the State will realise that they made a great mistake in re-electing the present Government.

One has only to look at the unethical trade practices to see what the Queensland Retail Traders' Association think of their mates in the industry. Some time ago—as a matter of fact, it was in April 1966—the Queensland Retail Traders' Association, according to their magazine "The Retailer", approached the Attorney-General and asked him to give his views on certain aspects of the Sale of Goods Act of 1896, which is currently under review by all States. I hope they have better luck than I did with the Minister. I recall an occasion when I arranged an interview with him on behalf of a person who seemed to have been the victim of a miscarriage of justice. After I had explained the problem to him he told the lady that he would look into the matter. She next heard about it six months after, when the police arrived on the scene and wanted to arrest her for failure to pay a fine. These people approached the Minister only in April, so I suppose they could not hope to get a reply yet.

I want to continue in a more serious vein. There is no doubt that the Retail Traders' Association have not a very high opinion of some of the current trade practices in the sale of commodities in this State. They bitterly attacked the so-called limit of so many articles per customer. In a photostat copy of their magazine that I have here they say quite frankly that this type of merchandising should be disallowed. They go on to explain this principle of limiting so many articles to a customer. They say that this is—

“... part of a pattern of trading known as Variable Price Merchandising. This system of trading requires that a trader promote a number of 'below-cost' specials as loss leaders to build up customer traffic.”

Then the article continues. It pulls no punches when it says—

“To offset the losses on these specials it is an invariable practice to increase prices of other shelf lines in the store so that an overall predetermined profit will be made.”

Just to slip another one into the kidneys of this system, the Queensland Retail Traders' Association then says—

“We believe that this system of trading is deceitful.”

I could not agree more heartily.

The article continues—

“On the one hand it creates a low-price 'image' while on the other hand it increases the price to consumers of wide range of lines. For example an average self-service store carries between 2,000 and 3,000 lines of merchandise. The gross profit margin on the great bulk of these lines is increased slightly to offset the losses on the four to

six below cost specials which are highlighted in Press advertisements and are generally restricted to 'two-to-a-customer'.”

The article then says that this Government should bring in a no limit law because—

“By bringing in a 'no limit' law the control over the quantity of 'below cost' specials sold will be taken from the chains or groups, so that it will be virtually impossible for the stores to merchandise below-cost specials.”

Then, in bold type, the article says—

“We believe that, as a result, overall food prices will fall.”

It would appear that there is ample justification for what has been said in that article by the Queensland Retail Traders' Association.

Every Wednesday the "Telegraph" contains advertisements inserted by the chain-store groups. I do not know on what day "The Courier-Mail" features these so-called specials. It does the heart good to see the deceit that is being practised in the advertisements in this newspaper. I made a study of them over a period. On 23 March, Woolworths advertised Colgates economy-size tooth-paste at 2/6d., save 9d.; Woolworth-B.C.C. advertised Colgates economy-size tooth-paste at 2/6d., save 6d.; Manahans went a bit better and offered the same size tooth-paste at 2/8d., save 17 cents.

Right through the paper there are these discrepancies in prices to such an extent that no longer is the housewife able to determine the true price of an article. In my book this is nothing but fraudulent deception of the public.

While this Government has been in office and while it has championed the cause of private industry it has shut its eyes blindly to this sort of thing that is going on in the community. I have no doubt that when the community realises just how it is being taken for a ride with the cost of living, it will desire the Government to stir itself out of its complacency and do something to curb these undesirable practices. I should not say that they are springing up; rather are they flourishing under the careful cultivation of the Government.

I said that I wished to speak on issues broader than things that concern only my electorate. With that in mind, I wish to deal with the decentralisation of technical colleges, which I think is very necessary. Particularly in capital cities, with all their traffic problems, it is very desirable, for efficient education, that technical colleges, like other forms of secondary education, be decentralised and taken to the suburbs. In this matter, as in many others, it is hard to understand policy decisions of the Government, and I am wondering where we are going in the decentralisation of technical colleges.

When this proposal was first mooted, I imagined that technical colleges would have been established as close as possible to the

various industrial centres that are developing in the city. One would naturally think that that would be the logical thing to do, because it would enable apprentices to reach the college in a very short time after ceasing work.

Mr. Pizzey: They do not go from industrial sites to the college; they go from their homes to the college.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: Very well. If the Minister wants it that way, they go from their homes to the college.

Mr. Pizzey: It is where their homes are, not the industries.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I advise the Minister not to come in too far on this matter, because I shall show quite clearly that the decision to establish a technical college at Yeronga was political.

Mr. Chinchin: Ignorance talking to experience.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: The hon. member for Mt. Gravatt, in common with other members on his side of the House, never rises and makes any constructive suggestions; he relies on interjections to keep his seat warm.

Mr. Pizzey: They have no relationship to any industries because the apprentices go from their homes to the colleges for their training and then return home again.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I am glad the Minister made that remark because it means that all the apprentices employed in one of the largest industrial establishments in Brisbane, which is the old Rocklea munitions area, who travel to places such as Kuraby will have to return to Yeronga to attend classes when the technical college is completed. If the Minister had shown any acumen, he would have seen that these colleges were established where they could best be used instead of being placed according to political expediency.

Mr. Pizzey: We took a survey of all the homes of apprentices, and that is where they are located. You are working on entirely wrong premises.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: It is a source of amazement to me that the first technical college is to be far removed from any major industrial centre.

(Time expired.)

Debate, on motion of Mr. Lickiss, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 9.26 p.m.