

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 31 AUGUST 1966**

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### WEDNESDAY, 31 AUGUST, 1966

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

#### QUESTIONS

##### NUMBER OF DAIRY FARMERS

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

How many dairy farmers were operating in Queensland at June 30 in 1957, 1960, 1962, 1964 and 1966?

*Answer:—*

“The number of dairy farmers operating in Queensland in 1957, 1960, 1962, 1964 and 1966 were as follows:—

Year	Dairy farmers
1957 .. .. .	19,885
1960 .. .. .	17,547
1962 .. .. .	15,973
1964 .. .. .	14,610
1966 .. .. .	12,805

During these five yearly periods total milk production has declined but production per farmer increased as a result of the adoption of improved practices. The following table illustrates the position:—

Year	Production per farmer (gal.)
1957 .. .. .	12,690
1960 .. .. .	14,393
1962 .. .. .	15,014
1964 .. .. .	16,384
1966 .. .. .	16,556”

NEW PARCELS OFFICE, TOWNSVILLE  
RAILWAY STATION

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

Has any firm decision yet been made to erect a new parcels office at the Townsville railway station and, if so, where will it be erected, when will construction commence and what provision will be made for easy external public access and adequate storage and office accommodation within the building?

*Answer:—*

“Provision has been made on the current financial year’s Estimates for a new parcels office to be erected at Townsville railway station. The new office will be erected on the site of the present railway refreshment rooms, which rooms will be located on the platform area under the new administrative block. The plan provides for easy external public access and adequate storage and office accommodation within the new parcels office building. It is anticipated tenders will be invited for the construction of the building within the next two months.”

SMALL-BOAT HARBOUR, CAIRNS

**Mr. R. Jones**, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

(1) Has a feasibility survey been considered and evaluated and has any definite decision been reached in the matter of providing a safe all-weather basin and boat harbour for all types of small craft at Cairns?

(2) If so, will the work plan be carried out in stages or as one large project in conjunction with harbour improvements to the Cairns channel?

(3) When will the work commence?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 3) “A preliminary survey for a boat harbour at Cairns prepared by Consulting Engineers commissioned by the Department has been considered and evaluated but the proposals were not acceptable. A further survey has been made and a report by the Engineers is in the final stages of preparation.”

KINGSTHORPE—HADEN ROAD

**Mr. Diplock**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Mines,—

(1) At what stage is the preparatory work in connection with the formation and bituminising of the Boodua—Goombungee section of the Kingsthorpe—Haden Road?

(2) When is it anticipated that this project will be released?

*Answers:—*

(1) “The design is in hand.”

(2) “January, 1967.”

QUALIFICATIONS OF TEACHERS OF FRENCH  
IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a statement, attributed to Professor L. J. H. Teakle, University of Queensland, in *The Courier-Mail* of August 23, that surveys had shown that twenty per centum of those teaching Matriculation French in Queensland had no University qualifications in the subject?

(2) What is the percentage of such teachers who lack University qualifications and, if there are any, why are they permitted to teach the subject?

*Answers:—*

(1) “Yes. This statement may be correct in so far as all Queensland Secondary Schools—both State and Independent—are concerned. I have no way of checking that. But as far as it applies to State Secondary Schools in Queensland, it is not correct.”

(2) “In Queensland State Secondary Schools, 97·5 per cent. of teachers of Matriculation French possess University qualifications in French, and 2·5 per cent. do not. The total number of State Secondary School teachers of French at Matriculation—i.e. Senior and Sub-Senior level, is 158. Of these 34 have three units of French in their University studies; 55 have two units of French; 65 have one unit of French; and four have no units of French. However, three of these four have Arts Degrees, and all four are permitted to teach French because they are experienced and competent teachers of French.”

FLOOD-PREVENTION WORK, PIONEER  
RIVER

**Mr. Graham**, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

Apart from the works that have already been completed by the Pioneer River Trust, what other form of flood-prevention work is to be undertaken in an endeavour to overcome the flooding problems associated with the River?

*Answer:—*

“I suggest the Honourable Member address the Question to the appropriate Minister.”

TICK-PREVENTION MEASURES,  
TOOGOOLOWAH DISTRICT

Mr. O'Donnell, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Primary Industries,—

In view of the report in *The Courier-Mail* of August 30, relative to the dip-resistant tick outbreak in the Toogoolawah district—

(1) Have twelve cattlemen been waiting eighteen months for compensation for cattle lost to the dip-resistant tick and, if so, why?

(2) How many surveys of the cattle quarantine measures now in force have been made since their inception and what have been the findings of these surveys?

(3) Is there any compensation to the graziers when immunised stock have died after treatment against redwater, particularly when the blood for immunisation was obtained from Yeerongpilly?

(4) What is the departmental attitude towards graziers keeping bleeders on their properties?

(5) How effective are tick prevention measures as far as the State of Queensland is concerned?

(6) If the Answer to Question (5) indicates beneficial results, has there been any reduction in the area of infestation?

Answers:—

(1) "No. Some financial loss has been claimed by certain owners as a result of the necessity to allow cattle off affected farms only if going for immediate slaughter. These claims are being investigated by officers of my Department."

(2) "A survey aimed at detecting the whereabouts of dip-resistant ticks has been going on since early in 1964. Such ticks have been found in parts of the Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone and Brisbane Valley areas."

(3) "No. Blood for tick fever immunization is supplied by the Department on an all care but no responsibility basis."

(4) "The Departmental attitude is to recommend against the practice as there is abundant evidence that the use of a standardized blood vaccine as now issued by my Department is safer and more effective."

(5) "Tick prevention measures are regarded as quite effective except in places where dip-resistant ticks are present."

(6) "There has been no reduction in the area of infestation because it is generally regarded as undesirable to attempt to eradicate the cattle tick in areas where reinfestation cannot be prevented. The exception is when new

strains of ticks with multi-resistance to dipping fluids are found. In this situation my Department assists by providing special dipping preparations and blood vaccine for protection against tick fever."

SAFFLOWER SEED PRODUCTION

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

With reference to the production of safflower—

(1) What has been the total production in Queensland for each year of the five-year period ended December 31, 1965?

(2) What area has been planted in 1966 and what are the main districts in which planting has occurred?

(3) What acreage has been planted in the Central Highlands in each year of the last six years and what has the production been in each year of the five-year period ended December 31, 1965?

(4) What was the average price per ton of (a) seed paid to the primary producer and (b) safflower seed oil in each year of the same five-year period?

(5) What is the future of vegetable seed oil, particularly safflower oil, in the production of paint and margarine?

(6) What firms in Queensland are engaged in the processing of safflower seed oil?

(7) Has the Government assisted these firms in any way and, if so, how?

Answers:—

(1) "Queensland's Annual production of safflower seed for the five years ended December 31, 1965, is as follows—

	Tons
1961 .. .. .	1,530
1962 .. .. .	1,607
1963 .. .. .	4,913
1964 .. .. .	11,491
1965 .. .. .	5,000(a)"

(Source: Commonwealth Statistician unless otherwise stated)

(a) Estimate—subject to revision.

(2) "Following late planting rain in the Central Queensland Highlands in early August, 1966, it is expected that total Queensland plantings will amount to approximately 60,000 acres. This consists of 40,000 acres on the Central Queensland Highlands, 14,000 acres in the Dawson-Callide Valley and 6,000 acres on the Darling Downs."

(3) "Area and production of safflower seed in the Central Queensland Highlands during the 6 years ended December 31, 1965—

	Area acres	Production bushels
1960	0	0
1961	78	444 (8 tons)
1962	374	3,030 (54 tons)
1963	4,790	56,928 (1,020 tons)
1964	26,089	313,281 (5,600 tons)
1965	50,000 (a)	150,000 (2,680 tons), (a)

Source: Commonwealth Statistician

(a) Estimated by Marketing Services Branch—Department of Primary Industries.

(4) "(a) Contract prices paid for the bulk of Queensland grown safflower seed for the 5 years ended December 31, 1965, are—1961, \$90 per long ton delivered Sydney; 1962, \$90 per long ton delivered Sydney; 1963, \$90 per long ton delivered Brisbane; 1964, \$100 per long ton delivered Sydney; 1965, \$95 per long ton delivered Sydney. Returns to grower depend on freight costs from farms to point of delivery. Current rail freights for bulk safflower seed from the various production areas to Brisbane and Sydney are—Emerald to Brisbane, \$17.02 per ton in truck loads; Emerald to Sydney, \$23.86 per ton in truck loads; Biloela to Brisbane, \$15.75 per ton in truck loads; Biloela to Sydney, \$22.55; Pittsworth to Brisbane, \$6.85; Pittsworth to Sydney, \$13.08. (b) In 1965 refined safflower seed oil was sold at \$1.55 per gallon (\$375.00 per ton) ex-works, Brisbane in the case of one processor. Information is not available for previous years or from other processors."

(5) "The use of vegetable oils, particularly linseed oil in paint manufacture is decreasing. There is a high degree of substitutability between safflower seed and soya bean oils in paint manufacture and the future of safflower seed oil in paint manufacture will depend on its price relative to that of other oils. The future of the use of safflower seed oil in margarine manufacture in Australia will depend on its price relative to other vegetable and animal oils, and also on the level of margarine manufacture."

(6) "Oil Crushers—Meggitt Ltd., Northgate; Oil Crushers Pty. Ltd., Dalby; and The Cotton Marketing Board, Whinstanes."

(7) "No current financial assistance is being given to these firms by the Queensland Government. However, from time to time, Government departments assist in investigations into various aspects of oil-seed processing and into market prospects for the end products."

#### FINES AND ORDERS AGAINST INDUSTRIAL UNIONS

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

(1) How many Unions were either fined or had orders issued against them for offences under the State Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act since August, 1957, to the present time?

(2) How many such fines and orders were made in a corresponding period prior to August, 1957?

*Answers:—*

(1) "The number of Unions on which fines were imposed was fifteen and the number of orders in the nature of restrictive injunctions issued was fifty-six."

(2) "Five and twenty-two respectively."

#### TRAFFIC LIGHTS, OLD CLEVELAND ROAD—CREEK ROAD INTERSECTION

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

In view of his written reply to me, dated March 1, 1966, and as the scheme to widen Old Cleveland Road from Belmont tram terminus to Creek Road is well under way by his Department, will the traffic lights requested for this dangerous intersection be installed in this financial year?

*Answer:—*

"Yes."

#### NEW STATE SCHOOL, SOUTH TOowoomba

**Mr. P. Wood**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

When does his Department intend to proceed with the construction of a new primary school planned for South Toowoomba on land reserved for that purpose adjacent to Ravenscourt Street?

*Answer:—*

"Establishment of a Primary School on the School Reserve adjacent to Ravenscourt Street, Toowoomba, is not proposed for either the 1967 or 1968 school years. No indication can be given, at present, as to when a school might be established on this Reserve. The site has been secured against the future education needs of the area, which are surveyed annually."

#### FINES FOR BREACHES OF STATE TRANSPORT ACT

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

(1) How much money in fines through breaches of the State Transport Act has the Government collected since the inception of the Act?

(2) How many inspectors are employed in policing the Act?

(3) Has the Government any intention of building another weighbridge on the near North Coast Road or Bruce Highway?

*Answers:—*

(1) "The fines imposed for breaches of *The State Transport Acts, 1960 to 1965*" from the date of inception of the Acts to July 31, 1966, totalled \$181,220.42. It is not possible to state the amount of fines actually collected without a complete analysis of the records of the Courts throughout the State in which the fines were imposed."

(2) "Thirty-eight Police Officers and twelve civilian inspectors are employed by the Department of Transport in policing the Acts administered by the Department."

(3) "With the approaching completion of the first section of the Burpengary-Beerburum link on the Bruce Highway, the erection of a Weighbridge at or near Burpengary to replace existing checking and weighing facilities in operation there is under consideration."

#### FINANCIAL RELIEF TO DESERTED WIVES

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

(1) What was the individual amount provided for immediate relief for destitute deserted wives with children in the year 1960-61 and what is the amount provided or available at present?

(2) Has there been any change in the same period in amounts paid to individuals or married couples temporarily destitute through unforeseen circumstances or misfortune?

*Answers:—*

(1) "If the Honourable Member cares to study the last Annual Report of the then Director, State Children Department, he will find the information he is seeking. There has been no change."

(2) "No."

#### USE OF WATER FROM TINAROO FALLS DAM

**Mr. Wallis-Smith**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Local Government,—

In view of the refusal of the Irrigation Commission to release water into Gulf rivers from Tinaroo Falls Dam—

(1) Is it because of the low level of the water in the Dam?

(2) If so, why was he advised that there was ample water for both irrigation purposes and hydro needs at Kuranda?

(3) Will he review the position and consider the construction of Flaggy Creek dam, which would provide for hydro works and allow water to be used for further irrigation and stock along the Gulf rivers?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Yes."

(2) "(a) The use of Tinaroo Falls storage has enabled a capital expenditure of some \$10,000,000 on Flaggy Creek Dam to be deferred thus substantially reducing the financial burden on and cost of electricity to northern electricity consumers. (b) Advice was that ample supply would be available for 16 per cent. more irrigation supply than was used in 1965/66 plus hydro-electric requirement under conditions of stream flow that occurred in all years from 1911 to 1959 except 1915-16. Under these conditions some reduction in output from Barron Falls would occur in the second year. (c) The present volume in storage in Tinaroo Falls dam of 205,000 ac. ft. is 20 per cent. more than was released from the storage for all purposes during 1965-66. A review by the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission of the likely position for 1967 indicates at this stage that with 1915-16 conditions of flow from now, until the end of December, 1967, output from Barron Falls could be maintained at 77 per cent. of full output throughout 1967. A normal wet season in 1966-67 would enable full output from the Station throughout 1967."

(3) "The desirability of construction of Flaggy Creek dam is a matter for consideration of my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Industrial Development. However, it is understood that this and other possible arrangements of power generation are under continuing review by the Northern Electric Authority and State Electricity Commission. With the commissioning of the Collinsville station in 1968 it appears that it will be more economical to reduce operating hours and hence water requirements at Barron Falls for a number of years before building Flaggy Creek dam. Further expansion of irrigation in the Mareeba area is dependent more on factors other than the availability of water including availability of tobacco quotas and economics of other production on the soils in the area. There is no significant irrigation requirement of Gulf streams at present outside the Mareeba Dimbulah Irrigation Area. Commitment of assured supply of stored water from Tinaroo Falls dam to supply for stock along the Walsh and Mitchell rivers would not be sound economically due to excessive losses. Landholders could provide individual stock facilities at much less cost."

GOVERNMENT DAY-LABOUR AND  
CONTRACT WORK

**Mr. Houston**, pursuant to notice, asked  
The Minister for Works,—

(1) What work apart from maintenance is at present being carried out by the Works Department workforce, where are the works situated and what is the estimated value of each?

(2) What work is at present being carried out by private contractors on behalf of the State Government, where are the works situated and what is the contract value of each?

*Answer:—*

(1 and 2) "The Department of Works has, for the current financial year, a construction programme in excess of \$20,000,000. In carrying out the works programme, the Department maintains a balance between projects undertaken by the construction employees of the Department and those undertaken by contractors on behalf of the Government, having due regard to the needs of the various client departments in centres throughout the State, availability of the necessary labour and funds allocated for particular projects. It is not possible to give a detailed reply to the Question in the form presented because of the numerous projects involved, the complexity of the task and the time required for staff to extract costs. While some works are undertaken completely by Departmental employees and others completely by contractors, many of the building projects include specialist services, such as air conditioning, of necessity undertaken by contract. In addition, the Department finds it advantageous to have carried out by contractors some of the normal trade work such as installation of electrical services for specific reasons related to a particular area or job peculiarities. There are, as a result many projects undertaken in part by Departmental construction employees with a small or large part carried out by contractors, depending on the nature of the work involved."

POLLUTION OF BRISBANE RIVER AND  
MORETON BAY BEACHES

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

(1) What is the quantity of untreated sewage and nightsoil effluent poured daily into the Brisbane River from the Luggage Point disposal plant?

(2) Further to the Answer to my Question on September 9, 1964, relative to the investigation of possible pollution of the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay beaches, will he now submit the final report from his departmental officers?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Untreated sewage discharging daily at Luggage Point 15-17,000,000 gallons per day. Untreated nightsoil effluent discharging daily at Luggage Point 15,200 gallons per day."

(2) "The final joint report of officers of the Brisbane City Council and the State Health Department has been completed and a copy will be made available to the Honourable Member if he so desires."

PAPER

The following paper was laid on the table:—

Order in Council under the Forestry Acts, 1959 to 1964.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACTS  
AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

**Hon. J. D. HERBERT** (Sherwood—  
Minister for Labour and Tourism): I move—

"That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Weights and Measures Acts, 1951 to 1965, in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

Debate resumed from 30 August (see p. 351) on Mr. E. G. W. Wood's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

**Mr. LEE** (Yeronga) (11.28 a.m.): I join with the mover and the seconder of the motion in expressing loyalty to the Throne, and in congratulating Sir Alan and Lady Mansfield on Sir Alan's appointment as Governor of this State. His Excellency brings a wealth of experience to this high office, and it is fitting that a Queenslander was chosen. I am sure that in this appointment both Sir Alan and Lady Mansfield will bring credit to themselves and to Queensland.

I record my thanks to the people of Yeronga for their support in the recent election, and assure them that I shall continue to foster their interests at all times. The increased Liberal vote in Yeronga emphasised the growing confidence the people have in the Government, and must have been a great disappointment to the Opposition, particularly its Leader, who optimistically nominated Yeronga as one of the 16 seats that the A.L.P. would win from the Government. Hope certainly does spring eternal.

I record my thanks to the Southern Electric Authority of Queensland for spending approximately \$550,000 on the Tennyson

Power House. Whilst this has not completely solved the soot problem, at least it is something that has been long overdue and I wish to record my thanks for it. I understand that when the Swanbank Power House is commissioned, the soot nuisance in my area will be further alleviated.

In my electorate, I am concerned at the delay in calling tenders this year for work on the construction of the Rocklea overpass. It was stated earlier this year that tenders were to be called in July, but I now understand that there is to be a delay of 12 months in this project. This is one of the city's urgently required traffic works, and any delay merely adds to the growing transport problems of Brisbane, particularly on the roads from the city to the South-west.

I was told by the former Minister for Main Roads, the late Hon. E. Evans, and the present Minister that work on the project would proceed this financial year. This was also announced in the Press by the Commissioner of Main Roads last March. In all good faith, I spoke of this highly important project in my last election campaign. I told the people of my electorate that the work would proceed this year, yet each year the scheme seems to remain in a pigeon-hole.

Almost daily in the wet season news items in the Press draw attention to vehicles being marooned in the lake, known locally as "Lake Rocklea", that forms under the railway bridge. If Canberra had had the same natural facilities for its lake, I am sure the nation would have been saved millions of dollars. All I can say is that it is a pity it did not, as the Rocklea overpass may now have been completed.

This intersection, particularly during the wet season, is not capable of taking the number of cars that grind through it daily. I should like the Minister to accompany me on my numerous visits to witness the traffic chaos that exists at this spot between 7 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. and at the 5 p.m. peak period. If he did so, I am sure he would whip the file out of its pigeon-hole and proceed hurriedly with the project. It may be thought that I am placing too much emphasis on this fly-over. It must be remembered that this is not an inner-city intersection, and people in cars do not expect to grind to a halt and have to wait for long periods 6½ miles from the G.P.O. As I have said before, this is the main route to the Darling Downs, Western Queensland, and Sydney.

**Mr. Melloy:** Why don't you widen Fairfield Road?

**Mr. LEE:** That is the responsibility of the Brisbane City Council; it has nothing to do with the Government. An alignment plan was prepared 30 years ago, but the council has done absolutely nothing about it.

Whilst I appreciate that financial considerations may be involved in the decision to delay this work, I should like an assurance that it will not be held up for any longer

than is absolutely necessary; certainly for no longer than 12 months. I am very concerned that tenders have not already been called in terms of the announcement by the Main Roads Department early this year.

I have spoken in this House on many previous occasions on the relative merits of day labour and contract work, and I now wish to point out again many of the anomalies that exist.

**Mr. R. Jones:** They do exist, do they?

**Mr. LEE:** Yes, they do exist. I do not deny that. The road and bridge works in my electorate are being done by day labour; but I am sure, from my own observations, that the taxpayers would have had to pay out less money if the work had been done by contract.

To support what I have just said, I mention the case in which a private company was awarded the contract for the pre-stressed concrete beams for the bridge work and had to lodge a guarantee that it would have them finished by 9 May—3½ months ago. The beams are still in the company's yard; delivery has not been taken of them. The company was told that they had to be finished by 9 May because they were needed urgently for the bridges. The project must be behind schedule, and time in the contracting industry costs money, as I know only too well.

No doubt it will be said that a contractor may be just as far behind schedule. However, it does not cost the taxpayer more money if he is, because the extra wages come out of his pocket.

**Mr. Low:** There is a penalty on him, too.

**Mr. LEE:** I was about to say that. Secondly, if he goes over time the Main Roads Department has a penalty clause under which it can reimburse itself for any loss in overseers' wages paid by the department.

**Mr. Bennett:** They always wriggle out of that penalty. Don't try to put that one over!

**Mr. LEE:** If the hon. member for South Brisbane listens, he may learn something.

I should like to make it clear from the outset that I do not think all day-labour foremen and overseers are inefficient; far from it. I state here and now that Mr. Gray, the overseer of the Oxley-Rocklea road project, is a very capable man; he could obtain a position with any road contracting firm in Queensland. For the benefit of hon. members on the opposite side of the House who say that I am a free-enterprise man who wants all contract work, let me say that I believe that day labour has an important part to play in the smaller construction jobs.

**Mr. Melloy:** Contractors only want the plums. They only want the cream.

**Mr. LEE:** I will deal with that point later, too.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! Hon. members on my left have kept up a constant barrage of interjections against the hon. member for Yeronga while he has been making his speech. I draw their attention to the Standing Orders, which rule that a member must not be interrupted when he is making a speech. The next hon. member who interjects will be dealt with under Standing Order 123A; I will not have any hesitation in doing that.

**Mr. LEE:** I will go as far as saying that I would strongly oppose any move that would bring about all contract work; but when contractors who represent the free-enterprise community receive only about 14 per cent. of all the work offering, I am sure they are getting an unfair deal.

The Brisbane City Council is being given Main Roads work under day labour, but it lets most of its own jobs out on contract. It is obvious that the Lord Mayor is aware of the advantages to be gained by letting the bulk of the council's work out to contractors.

**Mr. Sherrington:** You know that is not true.

**Mr. LEE:** It is true. He is letting the bulk of his own work out on contract and using the council's labour force on Government jobs, such as the work on the eastern approach of the Rocklea overpass and the Stable Swamp Creek bridge. These are some of the jobs that could be let out to contractors. I have been asked why this is so. My reply is that I believe it is cheaper to do the work by contract than by day labour.

I propose once again to urge a fairer allocation of Main Roads work to the contracting industry of this State. Over the past year approximately 14 per cent. of the Government's road work was allocated to contractors and, as usual, this includes the problem jobs particularly in relation to labour availability. Rock jobs, swampy jobs and other jobs of that type are very difficult. Once again we have seen capital investment in plant and equipment by local authorities, utilising money that could, and should, have been spent on actual road construction. This is resulting in continual pressure by local authorities for work to be done by day labour in order to keep plant in operation.

**Mr. Melloy:** Who wrote this?

**Mr. LEE:** I have been in the contracting industry all my life and I think I have a fair knowledge of it—a much better knowledge than the hon. member has.

I believe that all shires should be made to have a plant reserve fund. I understand that most of this plant is bought out of Commonwealth Aid funds and that in their annual budgets local authorities make no provision for depreciation or replacement of plant. I

am told that on some occasions the plant is not even charged on to a construction job. How unrealistic can anyone get! Take, for example, a D8 tractor. Hon. gentlemen on my right would not even understand what a D8 tractor is, but a reasonable depreciation rate on such a tractor is \$8.00 a working hour, plus maintenance, which would be at least another \$8.00 an hour. It is not much wonder, then, that the shires say they can build a road cheaper than private enterprise can. Who couldn't, when all these direct charges are taken from the ratepayers' and taxpayers' pockets? No business could continue to function under these conditions, yet contractors are expected to tender against this unfair competition.

I say here and now that I could not care less who builds the roads, but as a member of this Parliament I believe it is my duty to see that the limited finance available is spent in the best possible way to ensure that the people of Queensland get more miles of road for their money. I know that under the contract system this will happen because a contractor buys his equipment from his own capital and not out of Commonwealth Aid funds. Therefore, the people must get more roads for the money available.

I strongly urge the Minister for Local Government to ensure that a plant reserve fund is provided for by all shires, and also that it is realistic with a true depreciation value for plant.

**Mr. Bennett:** Do you want to run the Public Service now?

**Mr. LEE:** No.

I repeat what I have said before in this House: I firmly believe that day labour has a part in roadworks, particularly on maintenance work, but it should not be allocated more than 50 per cent. of the over-all work available. I remember the hon. member for Barcoo suggesting that I wanted a 100 per cent. contract system. For the record I have repeated that I do not want this; I am looking only for an equal share. Never will I accept the proportion of approximately 86 per cent. which is allocated at the present time, and which shows every sign of increasing if public funds can be utilised, as they are at present, in the enormous build-up of local authority plant and equipment.

It has been said to me on many occasions that if the work is let to contract it will not be possible to find work for the local labour force. All I can say to that is, "Rubbish! Complete and utter rubbish!"

**Mr. Melloy:** Country Party members do not agree with you.

**Mr. LEE:** That could be so.

Any contractor is happy to use local labour rather than import men, if for no other reason than that it is cheaper, as probably he has no living-out allowances, fares, etc., to meet. The most any contractor would take to a job is one or two skilled personnel.

Contracting is a major industry in this State. In my own electorate contractors employ 3,000 people. It needs no expert to estimate the number of people they would employ throughout the State.

I said earlier that only 14 per cent. of last year's work was allocated to contract. This percentage included the majority of the beef roads in the Outback. Take the area within a 100-mile radius of Brisbane, where I claim that not 2 per cent. of the work is let to contract. The bulk of it is being done by day labour. The Main Roads Department and the shires are picking the eyes out of it; they are taking the plums. They are taking the cream of the work and forcing the contractor to go into the Far West, where it is almost impossible to obtain labour because of today's excellent labour opportunities.

**Mr. Bennett:** He does not have to go there if he does not want to.

**Mr. LEE:** He has to go there or he does not get a job; he would not even get the present percentage. Had the hon. member been listening he would have heard me say that the bulk of the 14 per cent. that is being let to contract is in the Far West, where the labour position is almost impossible. You do not get the Main Roads Department going out there.

It is brought up time and time again to the Minister and to me that because this work in the Far West is costly day-labour work is cheaper. Again I say, "Rubbish!" Put them both on an equal footing and contract work will win hands down every time.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I warn hon. members on my left that I will take action very soon if they continue to interject. I refer particularly to the hon. members for Norman, Nudgee and Belmont.

**Mr. LEE:** I should now like to bring to the attention of the House the increasing prevalence of the re-calling of public tenders by certain Government departments. This is reducing the tender system to a farce; it can only be called an auction or barter system. For the sake of stability in a large industry I urge the Government to give more consideration to the re-calling of tenders under the same plans and specifications. Most departmental estimates are made up from an office desk, whereas the contractor has to study the conditions of the project and tender a price at which the job can be carried out. Unlike an estimator, he is not obliged to carry out the work at his estimate when it is below the tendered price.

Never do I want to take away the principal's right to refuse to accept the lowest tender, or any tender, but I ask that not so much faith be put in an estimate. After all, it is only an estimate, not the tendered price, and in most cases it has to be lodged with a percentage of the tendered price in

cash, as is the case with a Commonwealth Bank job, where a tenderer has to lodge \$500,000 for the privilege of tendering.

**Mr. Walsh:** You get a lot of shoddy work.

**Mr. LEE:** That is incorrect. A departmental engineer supervises the work.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! Will the hon. member please address the Chair and not be led astray by interjectors.

**Mr. LEE:** Since I have been in this House I have been a member of the Main Roads committee, but I find that in this new Parliament I have been removed from it. I am at a loss to understand this as I have been connected with road construction work for most of my life. I am certain that I have a much greater practical knowledge—and I emphasise "practical" knowledge—than anyone else in this House and could make some useful and constructive contributions to the committee.

**Mr. Thackeray:** Like the typewritten speech you are reading.

**Mr. LEE:** At least it contains some facts.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I have already warned hon. members. If hon. members interject once more, I give a last warning that I will take action under Standing Order 123A.

**Mr. LEE:** I am very concerned to see that this committee comprises so many local-authority officials and, to the best of my knowledge, most of them are Country Party members. There is no Liberal Party representation. Although I am a Liberal, I believe that I have great knowledge that I could pass on to the committee and from which it would benefit. I hope this is not indicative of a further build-up in shire plant, with more support for day labour. I must also say that, if this is so, I will continue to criticise what I consider to be a very unfair attitude adopted by the Main Roads Department towards the contracting industry and to the free-enterprise system, for which this Government should stand.

I should like to bring to the attention of this House, particularly the Minister for Local Government, what I consider to be a shocking anomaly—it does not spell out what the clause was meant to convey—in clause 2, part ii, chapter 8, of the Brisbane City Council ordinances. Recently Mr. Justice Mack ruled that it is not legal and binding, and is an offence, if a contract of sale is made which is subject to the consent of the Brisbane City Council for a plan of subdivision. I refer to the "Real Estate Journal" of August 1966, at page 14, where the case of *Re: Classified Pre-Mixed Concrete Pty. Ltd., plaintiff v. Oil Tool Sales Pty. Ltd., defendant*, under the heading "Sales of Subdivisional Land Prior to Approval by Brisbane City Council" is referred to.

This journal reads—

"The above case was decided in Brisbane by the Chief Justice in April, 1966.

"The Plaintiff (the Purchaser under Contract of Sale) was suing the Defendant, the Vendor, for specific performance of a Contract for the sale of land that required subdivisional approval by the Brisbane City Council. The Defendant set up its defence (among other things) that the Contract of Sale was prohibited by Clause 2 of Chapter 8 of the Brisbane City Council Ordinances.

"Both Counsel agreed that the whole case turned on this point, so that the only question to be determined was whether the relevant Contract of Sale containing the provision that the sale was subject to the consent of the Brisbane City Council to a plan of subdivision, was valid.

"Clause 2 of the relevant Ordinances provides that 'A person shall not subdivide land otherwise than in accordance with an approval granted by the Board'. Subdivision is defined in the Ordinances as referring to a division of land into parts and includes a sale, conveyance, transfer or a Contract of Sale rendering different parts immediately available for separate disposition.

"The Chief Justice, after reference to similar provisions in Council Ordinances in other States and to Judgment of the Judges of the High Court, held that the relevant Contract of Sale was a division of land by sale and was therefore invalid and the making of the Contract of Sale was an offence against the Ordinances. The reasoning for the decision is as follows:—

Selling includes making a Contract of Sale, and this is so whether the sale is absolute or conditional, for a conditional Contract of Sale is none the less a sale of land and therefore selling it. Once this point is reached, the case becomes clear, for the Act prohibits the mere making of the Contract, and the making of the Contract 'subject to the provisions' of the Act 'being complied with' cannot save it.

Therefore, the sale of subdivisional land conditional upon the consent of the Brisbane City Council being obtained is none the less a sale and is invalid. The Vendor therefore, under the relevant Ordinances, commits an offence. The position could no doubt be remedied by a provision in the Ordinances to the effect that a Contract for the sale of subdivisional land expressed to be subject to the approval of the Brisbane City Council shall not be deemed to be a subdivision of land within the meaning of the Ordinances."

That case was heard under the old ordinances. But this situation is perpetuated under the ordinances promulgated in

December, 1965, Chapter 8, Part IV, dealing with the subdivision of land. I hope that the Minister realises what this means to the real estate industry. Take, for example, the case of land for subdivision. Under the new Town Plan a person knows that the land can be subdivided, but no-one knows what condition, legal or illegal, the Council will place upon the purchaser. From what I have been told the conditions demanded by the Council are mostly illegal, in spite of the most recent City of Brisbane Town Planning Act. Time does not permit me to go into this matter in more detail at the moment but I should like to have the opportunity to do so at a later date, probably in the Budget debate.

**Mr. ADAIR (Cook) (12 noon):** On behalf of the electors of Cook, I wish to associate myself with the expressions of loyalty to the Throne already made by previous speakers, and also to extend my congratulations to Sir Alan Mansfield and Lady Mansfield on Sir Alan's assuming the office of Governor of this State. I congratulate you, too, Mr. Speaker, on being re-elected to your high office.

I take this opportunity to thank those supporters who assisted me at polling booths on election day. As an independent, I suppose I had the best organisation of all members of this Parliament. I did not approach anyone in the three years between elections. It was not till a fortnight before election day that I inserted an advertisement in "The Cairns Post", and this resulted in 80 supporters being willing to assist me at polling booths on election day. That was the only time that I made any request for assistance, and I am happy to be able to claim that, throughout the length and breadth of my electorate, I received greater support at the election than any other member of this House.

I also wish to thank the returning officer at Mareeba, Mr. Ashfield, who is a magistrate, for the efficient manner in which he conducted the polling throughout the electorate. Never have I encountered a more efficient returning officer.

Naturally I am pleased to have won at the recent election. I claim that my victory was the best that I have had in my political career. It was the sixth election that I have contested, and on this occasion there were 3,000 new voters. As all hon. members know, at this election Torres Strait Islanders and Aborigines had the right to vote. It was a very hotly contested election. The Australian Labour Party threw in everything it had in an attempt to defeat me, and I am pleased to be able to say that I was successful. The Leader of the Opposition even wrote a personal letter to Mr. Tanu Nona, the representative of the people of the Western Islands of Torres Strait, asking him for support, and requesting him to see that those under his control in the Western Islands voted for the A.L.P. candidate. I know

Mr. Tanu Nona, and Mr. Jim Mosby and Mr. George Mye, who are the representatives of the Central Islands and Eastern Islands, very well, but although at various times I have done much for them and the people they represent, I have never asked them to influence their people to vote for me.

In writing a personal letter to Mr. Tanu Nona, I believe that the Leader of the Opposition did not do the right thing. I believe that the people on these islands should be able to vote as they wish and should not be influenced by men such as Tanu Nona, Jim Mosby, and George Mye, who represent them.

Much has been said over the radio and in the newspapers in condemnation of the Government's action in leasing land in Cape York Peninsula to Americans. I claim that it is a good thing and that the American interests are taking over property in Cape York to develop it.

**Mr. Armstrong:** Would the people who are opposed to it know what they are talking about?

**Mr. ADAIR:** No. Probably they have never been through the area.

Let me tell hon. members what I have seen going on there. One company has Laura Station, and it has carted 800 tons of fertiliser by truck over some of the worst roads in the State. Aerial spraying has been used to distribute the fertiliser over the area, and, in addition, tons of Townsville lucerne seed—it is claimed to be the only grass that is a success in the area—have been sprayed over the area. Thousands of dollars are being spent on fencing the property, whereas never before have any fences been built in the area; home building also is going on.

I claim that until now graziers in the Cape York Peninsula have lived under tougher conditions than have graziers in any other part of the world. I have been on these properties on several occasions, and I know that in the wet season people on them are isolated for five months of the year. Their goods are unloaded at Marina Plains, and road access is impossible once the wet season begins, usually about late November or early December. Groceries and goods have to be stored before the beginning of the wet season. On some stations I have seen bags of flour full of weevils and grubs. The flour has had to be put through a sieve to remove the grubs and weevils, and then used to make bread.

As I said, people in the area endure many hardships. Until the "Wewak" began its "Sea Beef" service, pregnant women had to be flown out of the area long before they were due to give birth to a child. There are virtually no roads there, so they could not rely on road transport even though everyone in the area has a four-wheel-drive vehicle. They could be sure of getting out only if they travelled by air.

I believe that the people who are taking over these properties must have been given some assurance, either by the State Government in Queensland or the Federal Government, that beef roads were to be built in the area before they spent large sums of money on purchasing land. Without such an assurance, I cannot imagine anyone paying the prices they have paid for properties. A grazier I know up there, Stan Watkin, sold out recently for \$240,000. He never imagined, even in his wildest dreams, that he would ever get that kind of money for his property.

The Americans are paying high prices for land and I am very pleased to see the people who have lived in these conditions now getting something for their endeavours, something in return for the work they have done as pioneers. I do not think anybody has pioneered more than these people, and they are now getting some reward for their work in this very remote part of the country.

From Batavia Downs, at the top of Cape York Peninsula, it takes up to 12 or 14 weeks to drive cattle to the saleyards in Mareeba, and they can only be driven down in the peak period of the year when water and grass are available for them. The cattle are never driven more than eight or nine miles a day.

One can imagine the difficulties encountered by the people who live there in getting necessary goods into the area. I think it costs about £24 to £25 to get a ton of flour, or whatever they may need, into Princess Charlotte Bay and then onto the properties in Cape York Peninsula. One can imagine the hardships these people have endured over the years, and I am very pleased that these American interests have taken over.

I have been informed by officials of the Department of Lands that the Americans have simply taken over the leases of the properties without any special concessions. When the leases are about to expire they will be granted extra terms of lease such as any other person would get. If they can carry on in Cape York Peninsula and spend such large sums of money on its development, it will be the making of that area and will give it a new lease of life.

I know of graziers in the area—they have told me so—who are "in" to Dalgety and New Zealand Loan Ltd. and other firms for large sums. I know of two graziers who had to leave their properties because they had to sell their breeders to get the money to pay off their debts to these firms, and I know for a fact that at Queerah meatworks nearly every second cow that was killed from these properties was in calf. These people just cannot carry on under present-day conditions, although some of the original settlers—Mrs. Costello and others—are still in the area trying to do the best they can.

I am told that the Duda family, an American family, have taken over Batavia Downs, Bertielough Holding, Templemore

Holding, York Downs, Mission River Holding, Watson River and Occupation License. Batavia Downs has an area of 449 square miles; Bertielough Holding over 500 square miles; Templemore Holding 544 square miles, York Downs 1197 square miles; Mission River Holding 440 square miles; Watson River Holding 459 square miles; and Occupation License 115 square miles. The Duda family control all this property. I have been informed that they control nearly 9,000 square miles.

The holdings of other companies are Silver Plains, Lakefield, Laura, Kalpower and Meluna, the total area of which would represent over one-third of the Peninsula. I heard on the radio at home the other day that over £500,000 would be spent annually in developing five of these properties.

Until now there have been no fences in the area. I have had requests from graziers up there that I approach the Minister about bringing down legislation to provide that before mustering could be carried on in the area three months' notice would have to be given. As will be realised, with no fences there would be a lot of clean-skin "dodging" going on. That applies to any area where there are no fences. However, from now on it looks as if the new companies will be fencing most of the area.

Aborigines at Bamaga have asked me to take up with the Minister the matter of their being given the right to kill clean-skins running adjacent to Bamaga so that they can live off them. That indicates how many clean-skins are running in the area. When a certain grazier took over a property in the area he gave 450 clean-skin heifers in repayment to the person who put him on to the property. Hon. members can imagine what goes on up there! There are clean-skins running around that in fact nobody owns. For several years an old fellow named Keppel has had a property up there on which I have seen 12-year-old bulls that have never been earmarked or branded. With 2,000 square miles of property, there was no way in the world he could handle it with the few Aboriginal stockmen he employed.

I believe that with these Americans taking over properties the Peninsula will have an opportunity to go ahead. I have nothing against the old graziers up there, but they have never had the money to develop their properties and have found it hard to exist on them. With the money that the new people coming in have available to spend on the properties, the turn-off of cattle from the Peninsula will double within four or five years.

I am told by stock inspectors that some of the best country in the State is on the west coast of Cape York Peninsula. I hope that is right. I believe that the Peninsula will get a new lease of life. It is up to the Government, with whatever Federal help it can get, to see that an adequate road is built through to the top of Cape York

Peninsula to give these people an opportunity to get their cattle out, which they have not got now.

Previous speakers have dealt with the sugar industry. The low price of sugar on the world free market is causing a real slump in North Queensland. Farmers who have been in the industry for years claim that the present low price is under cost of production. A large percentage of the farmers are "in" to the banks and owe money to fertiliser companies, oil companies, and machinery companies.

I visited a number of cane-farmers in the Mossman area and they showed me their accounts with grocery firms and other local firms. There is no way in the world that they can carry on if something is not done to assist the industry in its present plight. The farmers and the business men are suffering, and I was informed by the manager of a sugar mill that whereas normally permanent mill-hands are employed in the slack season the mill will not be able to give them employment this year. Hundreds of men who would normally be working in the slack season will be unemployed.

**Mr. Armstrong:** And they will be drawing social service payments.

**Mr. ADAIR:** That is so, and there is no chance of their getting work elsewhere. I do not wish to name the mill, but those are the facts.

The Queensland sugar industry is important not only to the cane-farmers and the mills, but also to the large number of men employed in the industry, the economy of the State and business people throughout the sugar-growing areas. The situation calls for immediate action by the Queensland Government, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government, to stabilise the industry, or to devise some means of helping it. No determined effort has ever been made to do this. Only a few years ago the farmers were getting up to £7 a ton for their cane, but even with peak prices no-one thought about stabilising the industry. If this had been done when good prices were paid for sugar the farmers would not be in their present plight.

It is too late to say what was not done and what should have been done. The industry is too important to be ignored, as so many workers and farmers depend on the survival of the industry. I cannot visualise a substitute for the sugar industry. Some people have suggested cattle fattening as an alternative, but cattle must be bought to stock the properties and in many cases this is impossible as the farmers are broke.

The solution lies with this Government and the Commonwealth Government. The home-consumption price of sugar has not been increased since 1960. I do not think there is a worker in the sugar industry who would be opposed to a rise in the home-consumption

price. I have talked to several representatives of trade unions on the matter, and they all agree that, in the industry's present plight, they would not object to an increase in the home-consumption price as long as it was reasonable.

**Mr. Aikens:** Industry leaders are afraid that if they increase the price of sugar too much people will turn to substitutes, just as they did with butter.

**Mr. ADAIR:** There are substitutes which are used in place of sugar, and many people, for reasons of diet, do not use sugar.

I repeat that it is essential for this Government to take action—even if the Commonwealth Government has to make an outright grant of \$20,000,000 or \$40,000,000—as something must be done before it is too late.

If, in the coming season, the farmers do not get an increased price for their sugar, several of them will have to walk off their properties. That will be a catastrophe.

**Mr. Aikens:** The Federal Government subsidised the price of wheat bought by Red China. Why can't it subsidise the price of sugar?

**Mr. ADAIR:** There would be no difficulty if the Federal Government paid an outright grant to help this industry in its present predicament. For the money the Federal Government has taken out of this industry, and for what it means to Australia, the Federal Government should do what it can to keep the industry alive.

The majority of new farmers have not even a sporting chance of existing because of the small loans granted to them by the Agricultural Bank. It is impossible for new farmers, with only \$16,000, to clear, cultivate, and put under cane 50 or 60 acres of thick scrub country. I know new farmers who have had \$6,000 or \$8,000 capital. First they have had to buy land, say 100 acres, at \$100 an acre, which is a reasonable price. I know that some land has been sold at \$400 an acre. The Government has allowed them \$16,000 to put the land under cane. They have been given assignments of 50 to 60 acres. It costs \$240 an acre to bulldoze the land and clear it, and then cultivate it ready for planting. After doing all this work, I know one person left with only \$500 to build his living quarters, \$500 for fertiliser, \$500 for cane plants, and \$500 for wages. The Agricultural Bank does not allow anything for machinery. The farmers have to buy machinery with money they can borrow elsewhere. They need tractors, rippers, ploughs, planting machines, etc. Without outside financial aid they would not have a chance of existing.

**Mr. Aikens:** Some of them have to get members of their family to cut the cane.

**Mr. ADAIR:** That is quite right. These people are not loafing; they are working seven days a week, from daylight to dark,

getting their crops in and taking them off. Owing to the wet season in the Babinda, Innisfail and Silkwood areas, farmers are experiencing difficulty in harvesting the cane. I recently saw a farmer using three tractors, one hooked onto the other, because of the sloppy conditions in the paddocks in which he was working.

These people cannot possibly exist under present conditions. I know of one fellow who had 180 tons of 50-tons-to-the-acre cane cut from his farm. It was 8s. under the mill average, for which he was penalised 2s. a ton. From his return from the cane the Agricultural Bank deducted 23 per cent., and, after meeting the other expenses of getting the cane to the mill, he received \$120 for 180 tons. When he went to pay his grocery bill, he did not even have sufficient for that.

I contend that the £8,000 granted by the Agricultural Bank to these pioneers who go on to the land and have to clear it, prepare it, and put it under crop, is insufficient. I see that the Minister for Primary Industries is in the House now, and I suggest to him that the lowest advance in these circumstances should be £10,000. As I have already said, many will have to walk off their properties unless they are granted some repayment concessions by the Agricultural Bank, as under present conditions most of them have no chance of paying off the principal. The advances were made repayable over 21 years, and I put it to the Minister that it would not be difficult for the bank to give concessions to these farmers. At present, the amounts due to the bank are deducted from the payments made by the mill. All that the Agricultural Bank has to do is shorten, by perhaps two, three, or four years, the term over which repayments have to be made. This would then make the period of repayment 17 or 18 years and give relief to the farmers for three or four years. I appeal to the Minister to take some steps to save these people who are working and slaving in the industry. I ask him to give them a chance while the price of sugar is so low.

**Mr. Aikens:** They could let them pay only the interest for a while and leave repayment of the capital till later.

**Mr. ADAIR:** Yes, or the term could be reduced from 21 years to 17 or 18 years. If they cannot pay it off in that time, they would be better off if they left their properties.

**Mr. Aikens:** You mean that the term should be lengthened.

**Mr. ADAIR:** That could be done, too; lengthen the time and reduce the repayments. These farmers have no possible chance of paying anything off the principal. Interest alone amounts to approximately \$800 yearly, and that is more than they can meet. I appeal to the Minister to try to help these farmers who are slaving seven days a week from

daylight till after dark, and who have to live under conditions that no human being should be asked to tolerate.

The heavy wet season in areas such as those round Innisfail, Silkwood, Tully, and other towns farther up the coast, raises difficulties equal to or worse than those resulting from drought in cattle-raising areas. There is very little chance of cane being dragged out of paddocks during the wet season, and farmers have no chance of getting plant cane in for the following season. The Treasurer is in the House. He is the man who has control of the purse strings, and he could, and should, assist the cane-farmers.

One hears much talk of decentralisation, and I believe that there is more decentralisation in Queensland than there is in any other State in the Commonwealth. However, there is a small town in the Peninsula—Cooktown—that I think the Government has completely forgotten about when planning the development of the State.

**Mr. Aikens:** It was discovered recently by the Minister for Labour and Tourism, wasn't it?

**Mr. ADAIR:** Yes, he discovered it recently, and he said it was a wonderful place—a good tourist resort, and so on.

Over the years, the Country-Liberal Government and former Labour Governments have not done very much for Cooktown. Its school has been there since the town was first built; the police station is very old and has had only a few repairs effected to it on odd occasions. To my knowledge not one new building has been built by the Government in Cooktown in the last 14 years. Governments have ignored the town and said, in effect, "Let the people there carry on as best they can."

I have approached the Minister for Local Government and Conservation on several occasions relative to the administration of the Cook Shire, but it seems that the administrator is responsible only to Cabinet and it is not possible for me to approach an individual Minister with any representations or requests that I wish to make in regard to Thursday Island or Cooktown. There is no water supply scheme for Cooktown, and in the dry season, round about September-October-November, water is carted in tanks from council wells to hotels, stores and private homes. The administrator has not made any attempt to implement a town water supply scheme, although the wells have permanent water in them and it would not be difficult to use them for such a scheme. As I have said, the only approach I can make is to the administrator. If I take the matter up with the Minister for Local Government and Conservation, he tells me that it is no business of his; that the area is under an administrator, and that is all there is to it. If I took the matter up with the Treasurer, I would receive a similar answer from him. The administrator is appointed

by Cabinet, and he has told the people of Cooktown that he is answerable only to Cabinet.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. SULLIVAN** (Condamine) (12.39 p.m.): In entering the debate on the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, I am pleased to reaffirm my loyalty and the loyalty of the people of the Condamine electorate to Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

I, as other members have done, take the opportunity to congratulate Sir Alan Mansfield on his appointment to the high office of Governor of this State. In doing so, I join with my colleague the hon. member for Albert, who not only congratulated Sir Alan but thanked him for accepting this very high office. Most members have indicated their pleasure, and the people of Queensland generally are indeed pleased, that this high office has been given to a Queenslander. Sir Alan has become extremely well known in this State for what he has done for Queensland and Queenslanders. No doubt this appointment will give him an opportunity to do very much more.

I suppose we are all apt to forget quickly; it is part of human nature. But I should like to mention the excellent work done by our previous Governor, Sir Henry Abel Smith, and his lady during Sir Henry's term of office in Queensland. I believe that he has gone down in history as one of the greatest Governors this State has ever had. No doubt since his return to England he has been, and will remain, a great ambassador for Queensland. In Sir Henry's successor I think we have a man who will do equally as good a job.

With a general election not far behind us, it is pleasing to know that the people of Queensland acted wisely in returning a Country-Liberal Government to office. I believe this was due to the fact that this Government, in its nine years of office, has done such a magnificent job and has, to use a term used so often, seen unprecedented development in this State. The people, in acting wisely as they did, have ensured that this development will continue.

I think we must offer our personal congratulations to the Premier, Frank Nicklin. Their is no doubt that he, together with his Government, played a great part in assisting individual members to retain their seats.

**Mr. Aikens:** Do you think the people voted for your party, or against the Moscow-controlled Labour Party?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** I think it was a combination of the two. The people are very appreciative of what this Government is doing, and they are not satisfied with—and do not trust—the Socialist Party.

Certain members on this side have been challenged to say certain things outside this House. I will tell hon. members now that

I have already said them outside the House, during the election campaign. I said that the Socialist Party, constituted as it is today and willing to be dictated to by certain people who have not been elected by the general public, would not be fit to govern in either the State or the Federal sphere. I said that outside, and I make no secret of it.

**Mr. Aikens:** Did you hear Whitby speak on Station 4KQ on Sunday night?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** No; I have better things to do.

**Mr. Aikens:** If ever I heard a Communist speak, he was one.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** I congratulate the Leader of the Liberal Party, Mr. Chalk, on his elevation to that position during the latter period of the last Parliament. We in the Country Party and the Liberal Party have great faith in the coalition Government led by Mr. Nicklin and Mr. Chalk.

**Mr. Davies:** What is your feeling about three-cornered contests?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** I will come to that later. I will make my speech. If the hon. member wants to make his, he may do so later.

There is no doubt that the people of Queensland fully realise—I am sure Opposition members do, too—that the Government has been through a very hard time because of unfavourable weather conditions. It is pleasing to know that at this moment the Premier is in Toowoomba opening the grain-growers' annual conference at a time when the growers will be jubilant because of the recent rains. The indications are that Queensland could have a record wheat and barley crop this season. It is very pleasing for a man who has led the Government and endured so much to know that he can be with the people associated with this industry who have endured hard times—perhaps not as hard as it has been for the grazier, the dairyman and the cane-grower—at a time when they are much happier in their industry.

The election brought a number of new faces to Parliament House, and I take the opportunity to congratulate new hon. members on both sides. Having sat back here and listened to their contributions, I believe that this Assembly has profited from the election of the new members on both sides. In moving and seconding the motion under debate the hon. members for Logan and Hawthorne made very good contributions. So far we have had a very interesting debate, and some worth-while suggestions have been put before the Chamber.

I join with other hon. members in congratulating the hon. member for Ipswich West, the first female member we have had in the Assembly for 34 years. I regret that in some small way I have to come to grips with her so early in her political life. A couple of weeks ago she was reported in

“The Courier-Mail” as having referred to herself as the member for all the women of Queensland. I, for one, take exception to that because I believe I am the member for the women in the Condamine electorate. I believe that the women in the Condamine electorate are very appreciative of the service I give to them, and I believe that could be said of all other hon. members—that they serve their women constituents as well as their male constituents. Although I appreciate the hon. member's thoughts in this regard in that she is the only female member, let me go on record as saying that the women in my electorate are looked after just as well as any other women.

I must thank the electors of Condamine for the confidence they have reposed in me in re-electing me. It is pleasing to be able to go to the people at each election and be returned with an increased majority. I always approach my responsibility to my electors on a non-party basis. Once I am elected I believe I am here to represent all the people. This I have done, and I believe that this is indicated by the fact that my majority has been increased on each occasion. I express my appreciation to all, and particularly to those who assisted me. No doubt at the next election—God willing—a similar result will be obtained.

**Mr. Aikens:** Do you think you will be running for the same seat, or will there be a redistribution?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** I think I will be running for the same seat. I believe that the people of Queensland are very satisfied with the present distribution. Why change horses in mid-stream?

My speech in this debate will be divided. Tomorrow morning I intend to dwell on a matter which concerns every member of Parliament because primary industry, which has played a big part in the development of this State, is in jeopardy. I refer particularly to the dairying industry. Because of the unscrupulous methods of advertising of a margarine manufacturer, I wish to deal extensively with this subject tomorrow. I have a few observations to make on other matters this morning.

Firstly, I propose to come to grips with one or two comments by hon. members opposite, particularly one remark by the hon. member for Rockhampton North by way of interjection. When the hon. member for Warwick was speaking the other afternoon the hon. member for Rockhampton North implied that the people associated with the dairying industry were very inefficient. I do not agree with that for one moment, and I had hoped that the hon. member would be in the Chamber so that he would have an opportunity to deny it. By way of interjection he also asked the hon. member for Warwick if he believed that dairymen should obtain cost of production for their product. I believe that they should receive cost of production.

I should like to ask the hon. member for Rockhampton North if he would agree to an increase of 1s. a lb. in the price of butter to the consumer and witness his reaction. This seems to be the only way for dairy farmers to get cost of production. Butter is one of the commodities taken into account in fixing the basic wage, and I have always advocated that the price of butter should rise in line with price increases for other commodities. However, if the price of butter was increased by 1s. a lb. buyer resistance would be created. Some years ago the industry was not prepared to increase the price gradually. If that had been done and the retailer was paying about 60c a lb. for butter, I do not think dairymen would have any trouble getting cost of production.

**Mr. Aikens:** Do you think the dairying industry is organised on an efficient, economic basis?

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** The industry is fairly well organised. I will dwell further on that point tomorrow.

Two or three days ago some hon. members opposite bristled because the hon. member for Gregory made an attack on certain of them over the fact that their party politics and policies allowed them to come into contact with people who might be contaminated with Communism. I am not accusing any member of this Assembly—or any other individual for that matter—of being a Communist, but when hon. members opposite jump to their feet and object to these statements I remember what happened when the Cabinet met in Ayr prior to the last election. I am referring to an attempt by the hon. member for Townsville North to interfere with our constitutional form of government in virtually threatening to break up the Cabinet meeting when his request for a deputation was refused.

**Mr. TUCKER:** I rise to a point of order. That remark is completely untrue and is offensive to me. I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr. Davies:** You are a practical man. Will you tell us why you have to stoop to this sort of thing?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the hon. member for Maryborough that a point of order has been taken. I will be pleased if he will refrain from interrupting the proceedings. A point of order has been taken on a statement made by the hon. member for Condamine.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** As the remark is offensive to the hon. member for Townsville North, I withdraw it.

The incident to which I refer was reported in the Press at the time.

The Premier refused to meet a deputation that the hon. member for Townsville North had arranged to discuss northern development,

and at which he hoped to muster 10 A.L.P. members from north of the Tropic of Capricorn.

I mention this matter only because Opposition members say that their policies forbid them from associating with anybody who has anything to do with Communism. But it was reported in the Press that when Cabinet was meeting on that occasion the hon. member for Townsville North was in the streets of Ayr with about 20 unionists from Townsville and North Queensland, many of them self-confessed Communists. If he was not, I give him the opportunity to deny it. But these are the things reported in the Press and they are what the public is talking about.

**Mr. TUCKER:** I rise to a point of order. If the hon. member for Condamine wants my denial on that point I say it is completely untrue, and I ask him to withdraw it. I was not associating with them; I was with members of my own party.

**Mr. SULLIVAN:** The hon. member made no denial at the time. These are the things that were talked about during the election campaign. Because it had been reported in the Press, people in the southern part of Queensland, where the hon. member is unknown, said to me, "This hon. member is a very ambitious fellow whose aim is to take over leadership from Mr. Duggan." He is now in the front bench on that side of the House. The hon. member for Bulimba is there only temporarily. People are saying he is not there to remain, and that the Leader of the Opposition will be gradually moved out and replaced by the hon. member for Townsville North. The people are asking, "Is this man who was prepared to associate with self-confessed Communists in the North the one who will be Premier if, by some freak accident, the Labour Party is elected to office?"

I bring this matter to the attention of the Labour Party. I am not politically biased. We had good Labour Governments in the past under the leadership of Mr. Forgan Smith and Mr. E. M. Hanlon. But when members of the Labour Party are prepared to accept control from the Trades Hall, where people act in an un-Queensland-like manner, the people of Queensland should know.

There was something similar at the Brisbane Cricket Ground when a mass meeting was held to protest against price rises. The Leader of the Opposition addressed the meeting on that occasion. He expected that 20,000 people would be there, but there were only 4,000. The hon. member for Balonne had a photograph here recently showing the Leader of the Opposition with a couple of gentlemen who have been classed as Communist sympathisers. If members of the Labour Party claim that they are not permitted to associate with these people they should honour that policy.

I bring these things to the notice of the House in the hope that we can clean up the Communist menace. Our troops are in Vietnam fighting this evil. We have no room for any part of it in this country.

(Leave to continue speech tomorrow granted.)

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.