

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 1966

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

QUESTIONS

STRENGTH OF POLICE FORCE

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

(1) Following the announced promotions, what is the strength of the Police Force in terms of (a) commissioned officers, (b) non-commissioned officers, (c) senior constables, (d) first-class constables and (e) other ranks?

(2) How many (a) senior constables and (b) first-class constables resigned during the years 1963-64, 1964-65 and 1965-66?

Answers:—

(1) "The strength of the Police Force as at the present time, and future strength when recently announced promotions are effective are as follows:—

—	Present Strength	Strength when Promotions Effective
(a) Commissioned officers	77	77
(b) Non-commissioned officers	741	804
(c) Senior constables	711	650
(d) First-class constables	501	512
(e) Other ranks (constables)	812	799
	2,842	2,842

In relation to (e), a number of additional constables will be sworn in at the end of September, 1966."

(2) "1963-64—20 senior constables and 17 first-class constables; 1964-65—22 senior constables and 36 first-class constables; 1965-66—22 senior constables and 13 first-class constables."

FLOOD-PREVENTION WORK, PIONEER RIVER

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

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:—

"The Pioneer River Improvement Trust was formed to take over responsibility amongst other things for flood mitigation in the Pioneer River in the Mackay Area. As the Trust is an autonomous body, the Question should be more correctly addressed to it. However, it is known that certain work has been carried out and further work is under investigation. The work already completed by Pioneer River Improvement Trust—the construction of a levee bank at West Mackay—will prevent an overbank flow at Shakespeare Street, which caused flooding in 1958, in any flood comparable with or a little higher than the 1958 flood. No other flood prevention work is actually in progress but the Trust has before it, for consideration at its meeting on September 30, 1966, a report by its engineers on 'A Long Range Scheme for River Training of the Tidal Section of the Pioneer River'."

BOAT-LAUNCHING RAMPS, LOWER REACHES OF BRISBANE RIVER

Mr. Melloy, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

In view of the increased public interest in boating and the overcrowding of boat-launching facilities in the city and upper reaches of the Brisbane River and the absence of any facilities on the north bank below Breakfast Creek, will he consider the provision of adequate boat ramps on the north bank of the river in the vicinity of Pinkenba and Myrtletown?

Answer:—

"My colleagues the Honourable the Minister for Transport and the Honourable Member for Merthyr have made strong representations for the provision of boat launching facilities on the northern bank of the Brisbane River. As a result of those representations, construction of a boat launching ramp at Bulwer will be commenced during the current financial year."

DEVELOPMENT OF SERPENTINE AREA

Mr. Melloy, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) Has the Government any established plan for the development of the Serpentine area for industrial and/or residential purposes?

(2) Has there been any consideration of these aspects of the area in relation to the proposal to build a bridge in the lower reaches of the river?

(3) What action is contemplated regarding resumptions of privately-owned land in the Pinkenba, Myrtletown, and lower Nudgee areas?

(4) Have any estimates been made of the approximate cost of resumptions of property involved in (a) the approaches to the new bridge and (b) the development of the Serpentine area? If so, what are the figures?

(5) Have any negotiations taken place with the Brisbane City Council regarding the development of the Serpentine lands?

(6) As these matters are of utmost urgency in Brisbane's development, what immediate action is intended?

Answers:—

(1) "The Government has approved, in principle, a plan by the Brisbane City Council to invite proposals for the development of an area of some 5,325 acres north of the proposed floodway."

(2) "These aspects were known and taken into consideration in the feasibility study undertaken in relation to the proposed cross river facility."

(3) "This is a matter for consideration by the Brisbane City Council."

(4) "(a) Yes; \$380,000.00; (b) This is a matter for consideration by the Brisbane City Council."

(5) "On March 14, 1966, the Brisbane City Council was informed of the Government's desire that urgent action be taken for a full investigation of the zoning needs of lands on the north and south sides of the river, with particular attention to the part which should be reserved for industry of significance in port development."

(6) "See Answer to (5)."

REPLACING OF DESTROYED CLASSROOMS, BOONDALL STATE SCHOOL

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

(1) What action is being taken to replace classrooms at Boondall State School recently destroyed by fire?

(2) How many temporary buildings will be used?

Answers:—

(1) "The Under Secretary, Department of Works, is being requested to prepare plans and estimate of cost for the provision of additional accommodation to replace that recently lost by fire."

(2) "Temporary classroom accommodation as indicated hereunder has been provided for use until permanent accommodation can be constructed:—Two prefabricated classrooms; Two temporary classrooms, under the new wing of classrooms."

BINS FOR TRANSPORT OF CHOPPER- HARVESTED CANE

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

(1) Did a deputation representing local sugar-growers' organisations meet him when in Ayr attending a Cabinet meeting last April and request that action be taken urgently to give the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board authority to order sugar-mill managements to supply bins to cane-growers for the transport of cane harvested by chopper harvesters from farms to mills?

(2) If so, what action, if any, has he taken in this important and urgent matter?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "The Central Sugar Cane Prices Board has power to determine questions relating to the transport of cane in a current season. The question of extending the Board's powers to enable it to make such determinations with respect to future seasons is under examination. The harvesting of sugar-cane by mechanical means is still in a developmental era and involves not only issues of cane quality, capital investment and the like, but also matter such as control and organisation within the industry and the variability of the work forces available. It is evident that some extension of the Board's powers is necessary to meet the changing methods of harvesting and the necessary steps will be taken in this regard shortly."

STATE SCHOOLS FOR WEIPA

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

Has he received a petition signed by forty-five parents of Weipa school children requesting that the Education Department build one primary school at Weipa for the education of all children in the area instead of proposing to build two schools—one for white and the other for aboriginal children? If so, will their request be granted?

Answer:—

"I have not yet received the petition referred to. The Honourable Member is informed, however, that the question of providing suitable education facilities at Weipa has recently been investigated by Senior Officers of the Education Department and the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs in consultation with the Aboriginal Council of the Weipa Community. In accordance with Departmental policy to provide suitable education facilities in those centres with sufficient children of school age, it has been decided to provide two primary schools within the Weipa complex—one at Weipa North and the other at Weipa South, a distance of ten miles apart. There is no intention that

one school will be for white pupils only and the other for aboriginal children. Both schools will serve the children living in the separate areas irrespective of race or color. The same conditions of enrolment will obtain at Weipa schools as in any other State school in Queensland. In considering the overall position at Weipa, my advisers have taken into account the expected growth in child population both at Weipa North and at Weipa South."

ROAD TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT NYANDA CROSSING, BEAUDESERT ROAD

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

In view of the ever increasing volume of traffic on Beaudesert Road and the congestion, particularly at peak periods, when railway gates are closed at the Nyanda railway crossing, are plans in hand to eliminate this bottleneck and, if so, when will work commence?

Answer:—

"The Department has no proposals at present under consideration."

HOSPITAL AND DENTAL CLINIC FOR INALA AREA

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

(1) Has any finality been reached concerning the survey of hospital requirements in the metropolitan area, as previously indicated by him, and will a community hospital for the Inala area be provided?

(2) In view of the inadequacy of the Inala dental clinic, has consideration been given to its enlargement?

Answers:—

(1) "The need for the provision of additional hospital accommodation, including new hospitals, in the metropolitan and other areas of the State is constantly under consideration by my Department, in the light of changing circumstances. Enquiries are presently proceeding in regard to the acquisition of suitable land in the metropolitan area for hospital purposes in the Mt. Gravatt, Inala, Wynnum and Zillmere districts so that sites will be available when they are needed. A decision has already been reached that the Mt. Gravatt-Sunnybank district will have priority in the establishment of the next General Hospital in the metropolitan area. This proposed hospital would be a Teaching Hospital, of possibly 400 beds."

(2) "The Inala Dental Clinic was opened in March 1963 with one dentist. Internal modifications were made to the building and a second dentist took up duty in January this year. A dentist resigned and ceased duty last Friday and endeavours are being made to obtain a successor. If these efforts are unsuccessful the South

Brisbane Dental Hospital will make available one of its dentists on the 26th of this month. There is no proposal at the present time to enlarge the Inala Clinic, and before considering any such proposal due cognisance would have to be taken of the availability of dentists and the need for their services in dental hospitals and clinics throughout the State. At the present time, dentists are not readily available to fill all positions in existing dental clinics."

NEW GERIATRIC WARD, TOWNSVILLE GENERAL HOSPITAL

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

(1) Has he been informed that patients have been transferred from the geriatric ward, Townsville General Hospital, to the main hospital building and that this transfer was made because of the obsolescence and fire hazard of the old ward?

(2) If so, how many patients were accommodated in the old ward and how many are at present accommodated in the main hospital building?

(3) In view of the overall accommodation problem at the hospital, when will the construction of the new geriatric ward begin?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "On the occasion of my first visit to Townsville as Minister I was concerned at the condition of the building which is the subject of the Honourable Member's Question, and at possible risks involved in its continued occupancy. I sought advice on the matter. Consequent upon reports received and other developments connected therewith, I felt that the building should be vacated and asked the Board to give urgent consideration to such action. The building was vacated on 23rd of last month. I am grateful to the Board and to the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Scott-Young, for their ready co-operation in resolving a somewhat difficult problem. This building contained the isolation ward in addition to the geriatric ward. All the patients, being 28 from the geriatric ward and 12 children from the isolation ward, have been transferred to the main hospital building. Due to the need to have beds available for acute patients it may not be possible to continue to accommodate all the aged chronic patients in the main acute hospital and it will probably become necessary for arrangements to be made for suitable cases to be transferred to Eventide or elsewhere. Sketch plans have been prepared and are being discussed by the Board with its architects for a new ward block to provide accommodation for 50 geriatric patients, 60 children general patients and 81 psychiatric patients. The architect has advised that it would be unrealistic at this stage to give a definite

date for the commencement of the construction of the new ward block. The Honourable Member will be aware that the preparation of working drawings, specifications and bills of quantities for projects of this magnitude is always a protracted operation and it will be some months before these are completed for the new ward block at Townsville."

OPERATIONS OF CLEAN AIR ACT

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

(1) What are the present declared areas of the State under the regulations of "*The Clean Air Act of 1964*"?

(2) Have there been any additions to declared areas in recent months or are there any areas likely to be declared shortly under the said regulations?

(3) What powers are given to the Director of Air Pollution Control to enforce clean air regulations on large undertakings under construction but outside declared areas?

(4) Did he recently notice in Southern press statements that air pollution by pyro-benzol involves a danger of cancer?

(5) Has his Department any evidence to the effect that certain petroliferous and other fumes, possibly present in our atmosphere, were carcinogenic? If so, what remedial action was taken by his Department?

Answers:—

(1) "The present proclaimed areas are the Local Authority areas of Brisbane and Ipswich."

(2) "No. New areas will be proclaimed when laboratory accommodation and staff is available. A building has been purchased and approval has been given for the necessary alterations to be carried out by the Works Department to provide laboratory and offices. Applications have been called for an air pollution control engineer."

(3) "The Director acts as a consultant in undeclared areas. For example, the Director has visited Gladstone to have discussions with Queensland Alumina Company in regard to air pollution control measures for the new alumina refinery. As a result of these discussions, positive guidance was sought and given to the Company on matters presenting difficulties in the air pollution field. The ready co-operation of the Company in efforts to diminish air pollution is appreciated."

(4 and 5) "I regret I did not see the statement referred to as my officers can find no substance called pyro-benzol in chemical dictionaries or the *Brussels*

Nomenclature which lists known organic chemicals. An organic chemical named 3,4 benzpyrene which is found in petroliferous fumes and cigarette smoke is thought to be carcinogenic and it is probably this or a related compound which is being referred to. The remedial action which is being taken in Queensland is the same as that taken in other parts of the world, that is, the promulgation of legislation to control air pollution and the establishment of scientific staff to investigate and advise upon problems of air pollution in general."

TOBACCO GROWING AREAS, DIMBULAH AND INGHAM DISTRICTS

Mr. Wallis-Smith, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Primary Industries,—

(1) Has a survey been carried out to establish the area which will grow tobacco this year in the Dimbulah and Ingham areas? If so, is the area an increase or decrease on last year's crop?

(2) Will the area sown be sufficient to produce the quota for these districts?

Answers:—

(1) "Planting is still in progress in the Mareeba-Dimbulah and Ingham areas and consequently the final acreage is not yet known. A detailed acreage survey will be carried out soon after planting is completed."

(2) "It is too early as yet to say whether the acreage finally planted will be sufficient to meet the Mareeba Floor quota but growers who have not yet planted sufficient acreage to meet their quotas would be well advised to do so."

WEEKLY VISITS BY DOCTOR TO MT. GARNET

Mr. Wallis-Smith, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

Further to his statement that visits by the doctor to Mt. Garnet have been increased from fortnightly to weekly visits, has this in fact been implemented? If not, when will Mt. Garnet residents get the new service?

Answer:—

"The chairman of the Atherton Hospitals Board has advised that the Board has been unable to implement its resolution to provide weekly visits by the doctor to Mt. Garnet due to the Herberton medical superintendent's being on leave during July and badly damaging his car on his return. The medical superintendents of Atherton and Herberton Hospitals desire to discuss further with the Board at its next meeting on September 15 the reorganisation necessary to enable the weekly visits to be made. In the interim the fortnightly visits are being maintained."

DRAINAGE, BONES KNOB AREA

Mr. Wallis-Smith, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

As there is an urgent need for the enlargement of the present drains under the Tolga-Kairi railway line to link up the large waterways in the soil conservation scheme near Tolga, when will the work commence?

Answer:—

"As advised the Honourable Member on August 11 in reply to a similar Question, financial responsibility for the additional drainage devolves upon an Authority other than the Railway Department. The work will be undertaken by the Railway Department immediately the Departments concerned with the soil conservation and drainage scheme give the necessary approval."

PUBLIC TRAFFIC LECTURES

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

In view of his oft-repeated statement that the system of traffic lectures was assisting in minimising traffic accidents and helping to improve the standard of driving, why did he decide to abolish the system?

Answer:—

"On the commencement of the Traffic Offence Notice system in August, 1965, traffic lectures to offenders were abandoned, in order that a traffic offender who received a Traffic Offence Notice 'on the spot' would not be placed at any disadvantage when compared with the traffic offender who previously did not receive such a Notice 'on the spot', but was reported for the particular breach committed by him so that the matter could be adjudicated upon by a Police Officer holding the position of District Superintendent of Traffic. Whilst it is believed that traffic lectures to offenders did have the effect of improving driving behaviour, it is also true that, whilst in the year ended June, 1960 some 18,029 traffic accidents were reported, it is also true that in the year ended June 1965 28,073 traffic accidents were reported."

QUEENSLAND PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL ON AUTOMATION IN LIBRARIES

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

(1) Is he aware that officers of the Queensland Public Library were not granted leave to attend a residential school on automation in libraries held in August at the University of New England and that officers who attended did so at their own expense and by taking part of their recreation leave?

(2) As automatic processes are already employed by libraries in other Australian States, and that the Public Library of Queensland did not officially send officers to this and other such schools, will he arrange to have officers sent to them so that they may be able to acquaint themselves with automated processes in the event of their installation in this State in the future?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes. The officers attending the residential school were not selected by the Library Board of Queensland, and attended the school entirely of their own volition."

(2) "An officer of the Library Board of Queensland attended a demonstration of automation when the Government first took a practical interest in the process. Moreover there are other ways of studying automation in libraries than attending residential schools. In view of the limited scope for automation in a State reference library compared with the high costs involved, it is thought that automation in the Public Library of Queensland is at least some years off. Needless to say the Library Board is watching the position very closely, and should the scope of automation in State Reference Libraries be extended in the future, selected officers would be trained. Automatic processes are not generally employed by libraries in the other States, nor, in fact, are they used to any extent in overseas libraries, and I quote from a talk given by the Fisher Librarian, University of Sydney, to the April meeting of the New South Wales Branch of the Library Association of Australia, following his recent investigations in the United States into automation in library service. He said, '... In no library did I find any really sophisticated automation for information retrieval of the kind envisaged in the Library of Congress automation report. No American university library that I saw was conducting any of its reference service or even its internal searching operations by way of an actual dialogue with a computer memory.'"

INSTRUCTION OF ELECTRICAL APPRENTICES BY CORRESPONDENCE

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

With reference to first-year electrical apprentices receiving instruction from the Technical Correspondence School,—

(1) How many instruction papers per subject should have been received by the apprentices to date?

(2) How many have they received?

(3) Is there any delay in the correction of returned test answers sent in by them?

(4) If all papers have not been received or all corrections not attended to, what is the reason?

Answers:—

(1) "The first year Electrical Apprenticeship Course contains four subjects, each with eighteen correspondence papers. Normally papers to No. 17 would have been despatched to each student by this time."

(2) "Papers to No. 10 have been forwarded to each student and papers 11, 12, 13 and 14 are awaiting drafting work and will then be processed and forwarded in the next few weeks. It is anticipated that papers to 15, 16 and 17 will be forwarded to the students to allow sufficient time for them to study them for the annual examinations."

(3) "No, except for two hundred papers from first year electrical apprentices which came in for correction during the vacation. These will all be returned to the students by early next week. Prior to the August vacation there was no backlog in the correction of papers for first year electrical correspondence apprentices."

(4) "Both teaching staff and production staff have, for some time, been placed on overtime so as to reduce the backlog that has existed in the Correspondence School. The backlog has been due mainly to the lack of staff in the various sections. It was not possible to fill all the vacancies on the teaching side that were advertised in 1965. Furthermore, it was not possible to fill the vacancies that were created by female staff leaving to be married."

NORTHERN ROAD SAFARI BY MINISTER FOR LABOUR AND TOURISM

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

Further to his Answer to my Question on August 10 in which I sought information on the cost involved in the Northern Road safari that was undertaken by himself and others, as all members of the safari have now returned, will he provide an answer to part 4 of my Question?

Answer:—

"The cost of accommodation, meals and incidental expenditure, including the expenses of the two officers required to bring two vehicles back to Brisbane, was \$717.60. Such costs for the actual safari averaged \$10.04 per person per day, which cannot be considered unreasonable. The other costs were in regard to motor car expenses and air travel for five of the party back to Brisbane which brought the overall total to \$1,318.60. *The Courier-Mail* thought so much of the project that it not only provided its own vehicle but also met all of the expenses for the trip

of the photographer and reporter who accompanied the party. Proof of the manner in which the press acknowledged the value to the tourist industry in Central and North Queensland of this undertaking is contained in numerous provincial and metropolitan press reports. The recognition by provincial centres with the exception of the civic fathers in the centre represented by the Honourable Member, of the worth of this project touristwise was also further confirmation of the value of this journey. The objective of the safari was attained and it proved conclusively that the family car can travel in comfort and safety from Brisbane to Cooktown and return at an overall cost in respect of petrol of \$50.00. As already advised the Honourable Member, the interest in this safari was such, that by the time the party departed from Cooktown on the return journey touring motorists were already arriving in that town."

STORAGE OF TUNA AND EDIBLE SHARK AT TOWNSVILLE FISH BOARD

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

(1) Would the present storage space at the Townsville Fish Board be adequate should a tuna or edible shark industry be established in Townsville?

(2) At what degree fahrenheit is edible shark usually stored?

(3) Is it possible to hold the Townsville rooms economically at this temperature and, if not, why not?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "Edible shark may be stored for short periods at 28 degrees fahrenheit. For extended periods of up to six months a temperature of +5 to +10 degrees fahrenheit is required. For periods of over six months a temperature of -10 degrees fahrenheit is necessary. All the rooms at the Townsville Fish Market can hold all of the temperatures economically with the exception of -10 degrees fahrenheit in respect of which at the present time one room only can operate economically. I am informed that the North Queensland Fish Board is very much aware of views presently being expressed concerning the establishment of a tuna or edible shark industry based on Townsville. However, it is not known at this stage if such an industry is economically feasible. Obviously, it would not be economically sound to have large areas of storage space constructed which would not be used for substantial periods of the year in the hope that a new section of the fishing industry, the economics of which at present are not known, might be established. Should it be considered by the Board that additional space is required for any new fish product which may be found in the Townsville

area, I am informed that the Board will give every consideration to the extension of the present facilities."

CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY
AT CAIRNS

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

Further to his Answer to my Question on October 20, 1965, that stage 1, Bruce Highway, Aumuller Street to Draper Street, construction of the four-lane highway at Cairns was planned to commence later in that financial year, and stage 2, Cook Highway, Florence Street to Grove Street, in 1966-67, what is the reason for the delay, and on what dates is the work now planned to commence?

Answer:—

"Delay has been caused by technical problems. Bruce Highway, Aumuller Street to Draper Street is planned to commence later this financial year. Cook Highway, Florence Street to Grove Street is planned to be built in 1967-68."

MAIL TRAIN DELAYS AT ROCKHAMPTON

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

(1) How many times have mail trains been delayed at Rockhampton on account of ticket staff shortage?

(2) What action does he intend to take to overcome mail train delays?

Answers:—

(1) "There have been no delays to mail trains at Rockhampton due to ticket office staff. The delays which occurred in the departure of the Rockhampton-Brisbane Mail Train on August 12, 16 and 27 were due to passengers arriving at Rockhampton Station just prior to the scheduled departure time and the necessity to issue tickets. Consideration was extended to these passengers by delaying the departure of the trains."

(2) "The staff attached to the ticket office at Rockhampton is adequate to meet normal circumstances and no action with regard to increasing staff is required."

ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING,
ROCKHAMPTON RAILWAY OFFICES

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

When will the electronic process dating machine be installed at Rockhampton?

Answer:—

"No decision has yet been made as to when electronic data processing will be introduced at Rockhampton."

NEWSPAPER-READING FACILITIES AT
PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

(1) Why is it necessary for local subscribers and interstate visitors wishing to read local and interstate newspapers to travel to a building in lower Ann Street instead of as previously the Public Library in William Street?

(2) Will he consider having this public service again made available in William Street?

Answers:—

(1) "It is not correct to state that enquirers at the Public Library of Queensland have to go to a building in Ann Street to read newspapers. They are asked to give from twelve to twenty-four hours' notice. The newspapers are brought from the repository in Ann Street to the Public Library in William Street where they may be consulted in the main reading room. *Couriers* up to 1900, however, may be consulted in the Oxley Memorial Library without prior notice."

(2) "The service is at present available in William Street."

PAPERS

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

Reports—

Commissioner of Land Tax for the year 1965-66.

Parole Board for the year 1965-66.

Anzac Day Trust for the year 1965-66.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE—SIXTH ALLOTTED
DAY

Debate resumed from 31 August (see p. 367) on Mr. E. G. W. Wood's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. SULLIVAN (Condamine) (11.35 a.m.): When I resumed my seat yesterday just before the adjournment of the House, I heard an interjection from the Leader of the Opposition that what I had said during this debate was not what he would expect from a Country Party member. I refer also to an interjection by the hon. member for Maryborough in which he said, "You are a practical man; will you tell us why you have to stoop to this sort of thing?"

In saying what I said yesterday, and in bringing certain things to the notice of the House, I do not believe that I stooped to anything. Whether I am a Country Party member or not, I believe that I have a responsibility to bring these things to the notice of this Chamber.

Mr. Aikens: Do you think you are trying to elevate the thinking of members of this Chamber?

Mr. SULLIVAN: Possibly I am.

I said yesterday that during the second part of my speech I wished to deal with what I consider to be the problems confronting the dairying industry, but I believe that what I said yesterday should be made known to the people of Queensland and that this is the place where they ought to be told. So I make no apologies, either to the Leader of the Opposition or to the hon. member for Maryborough, for what I said. By my very nature I am a peace-loving man and it hurts me to have to bring these things to the notice of the House. However, while I remain here I will measure up to my responsibilities in this regard.

While on this matter, I draw attention to what has happened in recent weeks to a man whom we all respect and who until recently, has been Deputy Leader of the Opposition since I was elected to this Chamber. As a result of the ruthlessness of those who control the Australian Labour Party—the Socialists—this man, because of a statement he made in support of State aid for private schools—something which a few weeks later the Australian Labour Party agreed to and wrote into its platform—had his head chopped off and was relegated to the back benches of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition should thank me for alerting him to the dangers that may be hanging over his head. The hon. member for Townsville North has been stated, very truly, to be an ambitious man and, when the authorities on the "Hill" decide that Mr. Duggan is no longer the man for them, Mr. Tucker will replace him.

Mr. TUCKER: I rise to a point of order. Those remarks are offensive to me and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member for Townsville North says that the remarks of the hon. member for Condamine are offensive to him and asks for their withdrawal.

Mr. SULLIVAN: If the words are offensive to the hon. member for Townsville North, I say that he must be very thin-skinned.

Mr. Duggan interjected.

Mr. SULLIVAN: These are the facts, and I think it is good that the people of Queensland should know of them.

Mr. TUCKER: I rise to a point of order. I asked that the remarks be withdrawn, but the hon. member did not withdraw them.

Mr. SULLIVAN: I did withdraw. But in fairness, I should say that the only remark I did not withdraw was that the hon. member is ambitious.

In his speech the other day the hon. member for Toowoong said that the people of Australia are at war with the motor-car. I entirely agree with him. I do not want to speak on that subject at this stage, but in a subsequent debate I will take the opportunity to put some views of my own before the Chamber. We are at war with the Communists in Vietnam, and some of our young men are fighting that war.

A section of the Australian community has another war on its hands. I refer to the people associated with the dairying industry, and it is on that matter that I want to make some observations this morning.

We can lay a lot of the blame at the feet of the A.L.P. in both the Federal and State spheres for the position in which the dairying industry finds itself today.

In 1952, when the "Produce and Deliver" Bill went through this Parliament, the Labour Party showed no concern for the dairymen. The legislation covering the manufacture of margarine, which followed the same pattern in every State where a Labour Government was in office has not controlled the quotas for the manufacture of margarine. These manufacturers have been producing 6,000 tons a year in excess of their quotas—6,000 tons which the Australian dairy farmers have been denied on the home-consumption market.

My colleague the hon. member for South Coast is a State councillor to the Queensland Dairymen's Organisation, and in his maiden speech he gave a very comprehensive report and quoted figures in defending the case for the maintenance of quotas on the manufacture of margarine.

Mr. Aikens interjected.

Mr. SULLIVAN: If margarine were made entirely of Australian materials we might not have an argument, but about 80 per cent. of the ingredients are imported.

Mr. Walsh: From where?

Mr. SULLIVAN: Outside countries. The total manufacture of margarine is something in the vicinity of 32,500 tons a year, but only slightly in excess of 6,000 tons of that total is made up of vegetable oils produced in Australia.

Mr. Murray: You would agree with the 1960 report, that if it were made of Australian materials—

Mr. SULLIVAN: If it were made of Australian materials there could be no objection. As it is, these vegetable oils are being imported and enjoy tariff subsidies. In the case of safflower, the subsidy from tariff is 33½ per cent. and in the case of cotton-seed oil it is 40 per cent. The tariff on edible peanut oil works out at about 70 per cent.

We in the dairying industry have been criticised by those who say that an industry that cannot stand on its own feet and has to be subsidised should go to the wall. Compared with the percentages I have given, the subsidy on the total dairy production is 14½ per cent. No industry likes to be subsidised. The dairying industry would like to be in a position to stand on its own feet, but the subsidy given to it is not nearly as large as that given to the linseed and vegetable oil commodities used in the manufacture of margarine.

Mr. Murray: There is shortly to be a Tariff Board inquiry into the whole of this industry.

Mr. SULLIVAN: That is so.

The hon. member for South Coast told us that over 600,000 people are directly associated with the dairying industry in Australia. It also creates employment for about 98,000 people in manufacturing pursuits in the industry and its total production is worth \$417,000,000.

I ask hon. members to compare those figures with the figures for margarine. The margarine industry employs about 14,000 people and the total tonnage manufactured represents \$34.8 million. When an industry has played such a vital part in the development of this nation as has the dairying industry, it must be protected.

I come now to the scurrilous advertising by Marrickville Holdings Ltd. in an attempt to win markets from butter.

An Honourable Member: What is "scurrilous"?

Mr. SULLIVAN: If the hon. member were to read some of the advertising he would see that some of the assertions contained in it are not true; they are complete lies—nothing but lies. The "Mrs. Jones" who appears on the front of one of the pamphlets that have been distributed must have many sleepless nights if she has a conscience.

The 10 minutes left to me do not give me time to deal with this propaganda adequately. We read about Communists brainwashing people, but this advertising is designed to brainwash the people of Australia. It refers to heart disease and many other medical matters. Medical opinion is divided on this matter. Many medical men have not made up their minds whether butter is better than margarine for those with heart disease, or whether butter or margarine is better generally for the promotion of health.

Mr. Cory: It is true that the margarine industry is not prepared to accept its responsibilities on the export market.

Mr. SULLIVAN: That is so. The dairying industry has exported about 40,000 tons of butter annually over the last few years.

I ask hon. members to imagine what effect this campaign has had on butter consumption. The most unfair part of it is that the margarine manufacturers are exceeding their quota by 6,000 tons. That represents 6,000 tons of butter on the home market, which is the best market.

Mr. Murray: We do not export cotton that is grown here; we are not doing anything about a quota on imports in respect to its inroads into wool consumption. One might ask on principle whether we should not preserve this type of competition.

Mr. SULLIVAN: At present we have to import cotton.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I trust that the hon. member will occasionally consider the Chair.

Mr. SULLIVAN: I have no objection to the production of margarine on the quota basis. There are people in the lower-income bracket, I suppose, who have to eat margarine, and there are many brands of it. I am told, however, that Marrickville brand margarine is only about 1d. or 2d. a lb. cheaper than butter.

Another regrettable aspect of this matter is that the leading eating places in Brisbane—and in other towns for that matter—use margarine, that they buy much cheaper than butter. This would be all right if it was for the people in the lower-income bracket.

However, if the owners of eating-houses whose prices for meals are exorbitant are using margarine, I believe they are being disloyal to an industry which has done so much in the development of this State. It has been claimed that since the last increase in Parliamentary salaries we are paid too much. Anybody in this Chamber who is guilty of eating margarine is a traitor to the dairying industry. Admittedly there are dairymen who eat margarine. I have been guilty of buying margarine only once. I bought it yesterday to demonstrate a point. If dairymen cannot be loyal to their own industry by eating their own product, they cannot expect much sympathy.

Mr. Cory: No Australian has been denied the right to purchase margarine under the quota system.

Mr. SULLIVAN: That is so. The people can get all the margarine they want, yet the companies want to increase their quotas.

The other day the hon. member for Port Curtis spoke about the dairying industry. He condemned the Federal Government for reducing the subsidy. Before the Liberal-Country Party Government came into office in the Federal sphere the policy of the Labour Government was to gradually decrease and eventually do away with any subsidy to the dairying industry. The Minister for Primary Industry, Mr. Adermann, has gone on record many times as saying that with the increase in margarine

production, the dairying industry should be given protection and assistance. The subsidy was levelled out at £13,500,000 and there it has stayed. If the Labour Government had remained in office for another five or six years the subsidy would have been reduced to nothing.

I said that I had bought a packet of margarine to demonstrate a point. To me, "margarine" is a dirty word. There is no place for it in my home. I now ask my colleague the hon. member for South Coast, who is a member of the State Council of the Queensland Dairymen's Organisation to take this packet and give it to the hon. member for Port Curtis, on behalf of the A.L.P., who allowed the margarine manufacturers to produce over their quotas and to undermine the Queensland dairying industry. I am giving it to the hon. member for Port Curtis because margarine has no place on this side of the Chamber.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba) (11.54 a.m.): On behalf of the electors of Bulimba and myself, I pledge loyalty to the Throne. I do not think this can be done too often. There are times when Australians tend to forget that we are still part of the British Commonwealth. We tend to Americanise ourselves in our outlook, and there is no doubt we rely on America's assistance in many ways. But we are still part of the British Commonwealth. As Australian citizens it is in our interests, and in fact we can be proud, to be associated with the British way of life and the British Throne. I therefore have no hesitation in once again pledging loyalty to the Crown.

I also wish to congratulate Sir Alan and Lady Mansfield on Sir Alan's elevation to the very important office of Governor of this State. Naturally we are very pleased to see an Australian, particularly a local man, appointed to this position. Sir Alan has done, and I believe will continue to do, much good for this State.

After all, the position of Governor is very important. A community is judged, particularly by visitors, on its high officials, and whether this country remains part of the British Commonwealth depends to a large extent on public reaction to the way in which Governors carry out their duties. Sir Alan and Lady Mansfield have, of course, a very hard task before them in following in the footsteps of Sir Henry Abel Smith and Lady May, whom we also wish well in their retirement.

Much has been said in this House on many matters during the last few days, and I wish to deal with two or three that I believe are of major importance to Queensland and also one or two that are of importance to my electorate. My first reference is to the distribution of electoral boundaries. Various things have been said on both sides of the House about the effect on the recent election of the last redistribution. Certainly we have our views on that

point. I do not think, however, that it could be argued that another redistribution is not due.

As all hon. members know, the last redistribution was made in 1958, and was effective from the 1960 State election. The previous distribution was in 1949, and it took effect from the 1950 election. There was a period of 10 years between those two redistributions, and by the time the 1969 election takes place a similar period will have passed. Time alone, however, should not be the sole consideration in whether a redistribution should be made. As the Premier said when introducing the Bill that provided for the 1958 redistribution, it was necessary then because in so many electorates the number of voters exceeded the quota, and in so many others the number fell below it. The pattern of redistribution was certainly changed.

It is true, of course, that at the 1958 redistribution the number of seats was increased from 75 to 78; the number of country electorates was decreased by one, and metropolitan seats were increased by four.

Mr. Aikens: If you were a member of the Country Party, would you be in favour of a redistribution?

Mr. HOUSTON: Irrespective of the party to which I belonged, I would still believe that a redistribution was necessary. Whether the Country Party thinks a redistribution would be politically wise is another matter. I am advocating what is just for the State and all the people in it, without any thought of political considerations. After all, Parliament is merely the representation of the people of the State. As the entire 1,500,000 people could not argue what is best for the State, we have our democratic system under which members are elected to represent them. It is therefore necessary to have electoral boundaries and, of course, I have no quarrel with that principle.

The hon. member for Aspley endeavoured to argue that the last distribution was so much better and more just than were previous ones, and he tried to base his case on the number of electors in the various electorates prior to the last redistribution. What he did not say was that electorates are gerrymandered not on the number of electors in them but on the way in which the boundaries are drawn.

In the metropolitan area, for instance, one finds instances in which the boundary comes up a street for a certain distance and then, for some unknown reason, departs from a straight line to cut out, or cut in, a certain number of electors. That is gerrymandering. I know how my electorate of Bulimba was gerrymandered so that the Government could win the Hawthorne seat, which was an A.L.P. seat until the election in May this year. Areas that have no community of interest with other sections of the Bulimba electorate are included in it; other areas that

have a firm community of interest, both in personnel and communications, are excluded from it. The majority of people in those areas supported me strongly before the redistribution.

Let me revert to what the hon. member for Aspley said about the 1958 redistribution. He said that the earlier redistribution was wrong because the Mt. Gravatt electorate had very many more voters than did a certain country electorate. I point out that a redistribution should be judged on the number at the time, not on what will happen in the future. Experience might prove that the assessment was incorrect, but the distribution made at the time cannot be open to criticism.

Mr. Walsh: You allow for an increase of up to 20 per cent.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is true. I have no doubt that that is correct as a general principle, because people come and go in areas according to local conditions.

The hon. member for Aspley gave an election figure of 29,000 voters for the Mt. Gravatt seat in the 1950 election. That is incorrect, because the official figures for that election show that it had a total enrolment of 14,113. There was nothing unjust about that; as a matter of fact, it was some hundreds fewer than the average quota and much lower than the maximum. Because Labour Governments opened large areas of land in the Mt. Gravatt area and because housing estates were developed there—

Mr. Smith: Due to Mr. Chester, wasn't it, not the Labour Party?

Mr. HOUSTON: I ask the hon. member for Windsor not to mention Mr. Chester. I could deal with Mr. Chester in a separate speech. I wish to use my time in this debate, if I can, for the advancement of Queensland, not to go over past history. The fact is that the area did develop and the number of people on the roll increased considerably, but it is quite wrong to use that as an argument. The present position is the most important thing.

As a result of the 1958 redistribution, there were 78 seats—28 in the metropolitan area, 38 in the country, and 12 in the provincial cities—and, as I said earlier, there was an allowance of 20 per cent. above and below. The quota for metropolitan seats was 11,383 electors, and 16 seats were below the quota and 12 above it. In country areas, where the quota was 8,467, there were 19 above and 19 below. In provincial cities, because four of the seats were cut in half and the total was half that of the two sectors, there were four below, four above, and four equal to the quota.

What is the position today? In the metropolitan area, only nine electorates are below the quota and 19 are above it. It ranges from 12 per cent. below quota in the electorate of Norman to 61 per cent. above quota in the electorate of Salisbury. To show the

same comparison in actual figures, because figures were used on the introduction of the Bill in 1958—this will give any hon. member who wishes to check the opportunity to do so—in the Mt. Coot-tha electorate at the present time the number of electors enrolled exceeds the quota by 3,982, or 35 per cent.; in Mt. Gravatt the excess is 4,985, or 44 per cent. above quota; Salisbury has 6,951, or 61 per cent. above quota; Belmont 5,212, or 45 per cent.; Nudgee 3,079 or 27 per cent.; Sherwood, 2,395, or 20 per cent.; Aspley 6,380, or 57 per cent.; Wynnum 2,452, or 21 per cent.; and Wavell, 3,956 or 35 per cent. Those are only the electorates that are more than 20 per cent. above quota. There are several others in Brisbane very close to 20 per cent. above, and by the time two years have passed these will probably be well over quota.

Of course, there has been a slight decrease in the number of electors in some metropolitan electorates, but they are still well within the quota. The problem in Brisbane has been caused by the increase in the number of people living in the city, but, whatever the cause, the fact that nine out of the 28 metropolitan electorates are well above the quota indicates that a redistribution of those seats is necessary. It might be argued that the metropolitan area constitutes a zone on its own and that there should be a redistribution within that field only. I do not think that could be justified, as I will demonstrate by quoting some of the figures pertaining to country electorates.

Thirty-eight electorates have a quota of only 8,467. At the present time the electorate of Cook has 3,823, or 45 per cent. above the quota; the electorate of Murrumba has 5,048, or 59 per cent. above; Cooroora has 1,817, or 21 per cent. above; Logan has 3,802, or 43 per cent. above; Landsborough 1,918, or 22 per cent. above; South Coast 4,976, or 58 per cent. above; Albert 3,680, or 43 per cent. above; and Redcliffe 4,369, or 51 per cent. above. So there again, electorate after electorate in country areas contains well above its quota of electors.

Of course, some electorates have fallen in numbers. The largest fall has been in Mulgrave, which had dropped 16 per cent., to 7,092, at the last election. It could be said with some justification that the larger electorates throughout the State should have the smaller number of electors so that each person could be given fair representation by allowing the member to get around the electorate. I am not arguing for or against that at this stage, because the present figures do not follow that pattern at all. For instance, the Cook electorate, with an area of nearly 50,000 square miles, has one of the largest enrolments. I know that is because Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders have now been included in the roll, but the point is that these people are ordinary citizens entitled to a vote and to the same representation as anybody else.

Mr. Hanlon: They were entitled to representation, even before they were on the roll.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is true, and I am sure the hon. member for Cook carried out those duties, just as the hon. member for Tablelands, and others who have large numbers of these people in their electorates, also did.

There is no justification for leaving the situation as it is. Mulgrave, the electorate which has dropped the most in numbers, has one of the smallest areas. There can be no justification for allowing the present position to continue when we have a little pocket-handkerchief area like Mulgrave where the voting population has dropped while the numbers of voters in others around it are increasing. How ridiculous it is to have on the one hand the hon. member for Cook travelling over such a vast area under very difficult conditions, and the small electorate of Mulgrave on the other.

Mr. Aikens: The hon. member for Cook got the biggest bashing in allowances under the Done Report.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is a matter for the hon. member to argue.

There are similar problems in the 12 provincial cities, although they are not quite so pronounced. Anyone who seriously considers the State's future must realise that Townsville, Gladstone and Rockhampton, for instance, must progress very quickly in the very near future. It is reasonable to assume that by 1969 there will be a big increase in the number of people in those cities. Even today, with 2,946 voters above, Townsville South is 22 per cent. above quota. Townsville North is 16 per cent. above quota, with 2,165 voters above, and Ipswich East is 21 per cent. above quota, with 2,498 above. In every other instance the numbers above the quota are starting to get very close to the 20-per-cent. mark.

In all three sections of the electoral system we have a loss of relativity between electorates within the zones, between electorates outside the zones and of one electorate with another. Therefore, I believe we have a strong case to urge the Premier to get on with the job of setting up the necessary machinery for a redistribution of electoral boundaries. I know it has been clearly stated that the Country Party would not like to have a redistribution because it fears that the Liberal Party will take a more active interest in three-cornered contests. Naturally, following a redistribution, no member could claim immunity by saying that any particular electorate was his. We all know that at the first opportunity the Liberal Party will endeavour to relegate the Country Party to the position of playing second fiddle.

I think it was the Leader of the Opposition who said the other day that the man the Liberal Party has brought to Queensland as its secretary is a past-master at doing away

altogether with the Country Party. I believe that is one reason why he has been brought to this State. In an interview on television a few months ago the President of the Young Liberals was asked what his attitude would be if, by some chance, the Liberal Party received sufficient votes to win more than 40 seats.

Mr. Davies: He is the chap who had afternoon tea with the Communists?

Mr. HOUSTON: He is the fellow who was mentioned by the hon. member for Belmont.

When he was asked that question, he said quite openly, "Once we have the numbers we will govern in our own right and put the Country Party as part of the Opposition."

In the interests of democracy and of this State, there is no justification for the Country Party's refusing a redistribution. If a party cannot rule and govern in its own right with the support of the people, it should not have the audacity to declare itself a governing party.

Mr. Aikens: Do you suggest that the Country Party should commit political suicide?

Mr. HOUSTON: No. I suggest that the Country Party should be an honourable party and do the right thing by those whom it represents. Whether it can or not, time alone will tell.

I have devoted a few minutes of my time to putting these facts before the House. I see that the Minister for Primary Industries is in the Assembly and I am sure that he will convey the various points I have raised to the Premier.

The terrible toll of the road is another matter of very great importance. Several hon. members have referred to it, but I believe that this subject should be canvassed by many of us. Numerous people in various walks of life have offered opinions and advice on how to overcome the carnage on the roads. To my mind the three main factors are—

(1) A lack of skill on the part of drivers;

(2) The deplorable condition of some of the vehicles that are allowed to use the roads; and last but not least,

(3) The condition of many of our roads.

When I refer to the condition of the roads I do not necessarily mean that they are full of potholes; I am referring to their general structure and layout.

Dealing first with the skill of the driver, the important thing is a driver's ability to judge a safe speed under varying driving conditions. It is often said that it is quite safe to drive a modern motor-car at 70 miles an hour. That may be so under ideal driving conditions, but it is certainly not safe to drive a car at high speed on wet roads with bad visibility, as happened yesterday

afternoon when I was going home. A fool in a car flashed around my vehicle at such a high speed as to make it extremely dangerous for anyone coming in the opposite direction. Fortunately for him, and perhaps for me too, there was no car coming towards us. Driving in such a manner under the existing conditions was absolute foolhardiness.

The hon. member for Sandgate has frequently referred to drink-driving. To my mind it is not simply a matter of having a drink but of knowing when and how to drink. It is not a matter of whether or not a driver has a drink, but certainly a driver should not drink when he is responsible for controlling a vehicle. It is a matter of preserving a balance between the two things.

And last but not least is a knowledge of the rules of the road.

Mr. Walsh: A motorist who is continually taking headache powders can be a danger on the road, too.

Mr. HOUSTON: The fact that he is taking so many powders indicates that, from a nervous point of view, he is not a suitable person to be in control of a vehicle. When I refer to drink I am covering drugs and the other things, too.

I asked a question a few days ago about the number of people presenting themselves for driving-licence tests and the percentage of failures. With modern training one would think that more people would pass the test, but they do not. This indicates that the testing officers are endeavouring to ensure that only those who are completely competent are given a licence. But when a person, irrespective of age or sex, receives a licence and still does foolish things, we must wonder whether there is something wrong with the method of testing. Perhaps we should look at that or perhaps test the candidate's ability to judge speed or his knowledge of good braking and steering, and the mechanical condition of his vehicle.

One of the greatest killers on the road is speed. How many people realise that at 25 miles an hour, which we consider to be slow these days, a car is travelling 36½ ft. a second, that at 50 miles an hour it is travelling at 73½ ft. a second, and that at 75 miles an hour it is travelling at 110 ft. a second? On many of our roads, particularly those in country areas where there are no cuttings and the road follows the old cattle tracks and goes over hills or through gullies, at a distance of 110 feet it is difficult for a driver to see what is around a corner or over a rise.

The testing officers may have to consider some way of guaranteeing that drivers-to-be know something about stopping distances. Prospective drivers are asked the rules of the road, for instance, how far to stop behind a tram or how far to park from a corner, but how many would know in what distance a car travelling at 40 miles an hour can be stopped on a dry road, and also on a wet

road? How many of them know how to get out of a skid? Yet these are the things that cause accidents. A good deal has been said about provisional licenses and other things. But they are only minor matters. The important consideration is to ensure that a driver can get out of difficulties. Once a driver knows that, he will not get into a great deal of trouble.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen: When you are flying a plane you must know how to get out of a stall.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is so. These things are done only for safety reasons, yet candidates are not asked these important questions.

Some time ago a motor firm in Brisbane offered to make cars available at schools for the training of young people in driving. I regret that the Minister for Education rejected the offer. This would be one way of ensuring that young people are given a thorough knowledge of how to drive a motor vehicle safely.

It is not my suggestion that every student in a high school should be taught to drive, because many of them, on leaving school, are still too young to obtain a driver's licence.

There are many skilled drivers among teachers and, if other commitments make teachers unavailable, there are members of school committees who could teach young people how to handle a car and avoid getting into difficulties on the road. In addition they could explain the mechanical principles of a motor-car so that the students would understand its steering, braking, and general maintenance. As part of their training they could also be shown the effects of force and speed and the damage that they can cause. I believe that by using vehicles for school instruction young people could be shown that motor-cars are things to be handled not in any manner at all but, in the interests of all, in the correct way.

I know that many people devote much of their time in schools to fostering sport and various other activities. I feel that there are also many who would give of their time in ensuring that young, educated people do not become corpses on the road. I therefore urge the Minister for Education to reconsider his decision not to accept the offer of motor vehicles for this type of training.

Before I conclude, there is another matter with which I wish to deal. It concerns used-car yards and the sale of vehicles commonly referred to as "bombs". In an endeavour to obtain accurate information on this matter I asked a question on it, and I should like to have the relevant figures recorded in "Hansard". There are over 200 secondhand-car yards in Brisbane alone, yet in January only nine yards were visited by inspectors. Of 87 vehicles inspected—fewer than 10 from each yard—15 were

found to be unsafe and 33 required minor repairs. In other words, more than half the number of vehicles inspected required some attention. In February only 12 used-car yards were visited and 116 vehicles inspected. That represents fewer than 10 vehicles from each yard. Twenty-one were found to be unsafe and 42 required minor repairs. In March 15 yards were visited and 118 vehicles, or fewer than eight from each yard, were inspected. Ten were found to be unsafe and 47 required minor repairs. In April 10 yards were visited and 91 vehicles inspected, or approximately nine from each yard. Nineteen were unsafe and 28 required minor repairs. In May eight yards were visited and 79 vehicles, fewer than 10 from each yard, were inspected. Twelve were unsafe and 36 required minor repairs. In June 11 yards were visited and 80 vehicles inspected, or fewer than eight from each yard. Eleven were unsafe and 28 required minor repairs. Surely those figures show two things—first, not enough yards are being visited, and, second, not enough vehicles in the yards are being inspected.

I have here numerous newspaper cuttings condemning the types of vehicles going on to the roads from secondhand-car yards. Let it not be forgotten that most people who buy these cars are buying either their first or second vehicles. When one gets on a little in years, one tries to buy from the range of new cars. This means that secondhand vehicles are, in the main, in the hands of the least experienced drivers. One newspaper cutting from as far back as 1960 reads, "The Government is considering the introduction of compulsory testing of all used cars before sale." Another heading, in 1964, reads, "Cabinet to speed up action on road toll." Others, in 1965, read, "Death-trap cars still being sold;" "Many cars in yards 'found unsafe';" and "Green papaw helps disguise unsafe cars."

There are articles in the Press week after week, year after year, but no positive action is taken. It would pay the Government to make sure that all used-car yards, not just eight or nine a month, are inspected regularly, even if it means appointing many more people to do the job. The proprietors of used-car yards who were not playing the game would very quickly mend their ways. This would benefit the Government in two ways: firstly, not so many people would be needed to carry out inspections; secondly, the carnage on the roads would be reduced and police could be used on other work.

Several hon. members opposite had something to say about members of the Australian Labour Party and those who support them. Whatever is done in the Australian Labour Party is done in a democratic way, according to the rules of the party, and that practice will be followed in the future. Members of the A.L.P. do not need advice from the Government or anyone else on how to run their own affairs.

The hon. member for Condamine, who preceded me in this debate, spoke about butter and said, "I wish I had more time. I would quote more facts and figures; I could present a better case." Yet the hon. member wasted 20 minutes of his time in talking the greatest lot of tripe I have heard since I have been a member of this Assembly. Members elected to this House are supposed to represent their constituents, to fight for what they believe is right and to carry out the duties of a member of Parliament. I am sure that, in a democracy, the duties of members of Parliament do not include character assassination of citizens or the smearing of the good name and reputation of other hon. members. I suggest to the hon. member for Condamine and any other hon. members opposite who wish to bring personalities and what goes on within the Labour Party into this debate that they should get up on a public platform and do it. If they do, I will be pleased to debate any subject with them.

Mr. THACKERAY (Rockhampton North) (12.33 p.m.): I thank the hon. member for Redcliffe for allowing me to speak before the debate is adjourned for lunch. I am very grateful to him.

At the outset, I place on record my thanks to the electors of Rockhampton North, who once again returned me with a very big majority. In fact, my vote increases at each election, but the vote for the Liberal Party decreases. I place on record, also, my appreciation of the work of my campaign director, Mr. Norm. Dunshore, and my campaign committee and of the various trade unions and business houses that supported the campaign financially. I am sure they were as pleased with the result as I was. My thanks go, too, to the Q.C.E. for once again endorsing me as the Australian Labour Party candidate for Rockhampton North.

I offer my congratulations to the three new members of the Opposition, the hon. member for Ipswich East, Mrs. Jordan, the hon. member for Wynnum, Mr. Harris, and the hon. member for Toowoomba East, Mr. Peter Wood. They will all be acquisitions to this House.

It is very interesting to note that the Australian Labour Party, under its rules and constitution, allows both females and males to contest elections. The Liberal Party does not seem to do the same. At one time I thought that Mrs. Gabby Horan would be in this Chamber representing the seat of Chatsworth, but the old, old story was repeated. She was guillotined because she was attacking the Government on price control. The "big chief" of the Liberal Party, Mr. Porter, is now the hon. member for Toowong, and I say to him and to other new members on the Government side that I hope their stay in the House will be very short.

This debate has produced a couple of new muck-rakers on the Government side. Most of the old muck-rakers have gone into Cabinet and are not so active now. Two Country Party members, the hon. member for Gregory and the hon. member for Condamine, have now picked up the mantle. The other day the hon. member for Gregory attacked the Australian Labour Party and various members of it. I think he is a bit sorry that he did so. He named certain members of the Labour Party as Communists; if he runs into one of those gentlemen in George Street he will get a "bunch of fives" very quickly. He also shed crocodile tears about the A.W.U. Why did he not support that great union in 1955, when he was employed by various pastoral companies to tour areas in the West to recruit scab labour in an effort to break the strike? We all know that the hon. member for Gregory is an absentee landlord. I am sure he would be much more usefully employed looking after his fly-blown sheep and doing a bit of crutching, or spending his time at the Brisbane Exhibition, than he is making the type of speech in this Parliament that he did.

As to the hon. member for Condamine, a few years ago he attended a Downlands College Old Boys' ball. He went along as proud as a peacock with his chest blown out. Everyone was shaking his hand and saying, "Good on you, Sully, you are the first Downlands old boy who has ever entered Parliament." The Brothers gave him a great wrap-up, and when speaking in reply the hon. member said, "I want to tell you good people here tonight how much I am in favour of State aid, but do not publish my remarks because I have some friends outside who might not like it." He wanted a large slice of the cake from the Downlands old boys, but at the same time he still wanted to keep on-side with the Protestants. I warn those two hon. gentlemen not to dwell on these subjects too much.

I want to deal now with the shortage of loan moneys allocated to Rockhampton this year. This shortage exceeds \$2,000,000. With the decentralisation taking place in Central Queensland, this Government will have to seriously consider increasing the loan allocation to the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board. It has been found necessary to bring the old power-house up to greater efficiency, and this has caused a big drain on the board's funds.

Speaking of C.R.E.B. brings another matter to my mind, that is, the Berserker Heights Estate in North Rockhampton. This estate is in my area and there has been much public controversy about it. Protest meetings have been held at Park Avenue about the sewerage of this estate. I think something over 200 allotments are involved. The Mayor of Rockhampton went to one of these meetings and promised that he would submit a plan to the council—and publish it in "The Morning Bulletin"—informing the people of

Park Avenue and other areas of North Rockhampton that are not seweraged just when the sewerage scheme would come into operation.

Berserker Heights Estate is one of the greatest rackets ever worked on the people. There has been much speculation about what went on and what did not go on. The people who have bought the land will have no chance of getting electricity from the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board. Marsh & Duthie, the sole agents in Rockhampton for selling the land, have been telling the people untruths about the supply of electricity, because no power is available to the estate. Mr. Marsh was asked to guarantee \$6,000 towards the cost of electricity in this area, but he has refused to give such a guarantee. He is now overseas on another world trip. One home has been built on the estate, but the people who live in it are sitting around by candle-light at night-time because they have been misled by these land developers. Something should be done about it immediately. C.R.E.B. have not the finance to extend into this area. A low-voltage line, which supplies the new reservoir, goes past the estate, but it cannot be used to supply domestic consumers. My colleague the hon. member for Port Curtis tells me that they are using carbide lamps. After all, this is 1966. Marsh & Duthie are to blame for misleading the people.

Recently I asked a question of the Minister for Health about the Benevolent Home in Rockhampton, where it is alleged that there has been some "tickling" of the inmates' trust account. The Mayor of Rockhampton is associated with this home, as is also the Federal Liberal member for Capricornia. They are saying that a new home is needed, or extensions to the existing home. Fair enough; I agree with all that. But what has happened? An inspector of the Department of Health visited the home six months ago. The Minister said that the Rockhampton Benevolent Society's own auditors should go through the trust account. Today the books of the Benevolent Home are in the hands of the C.I.B. in Rockhampton.

I say quite openly that there are political repercussions in this matter. One person involved is well known to many people in Rockhampton. Her political affiliations are well known to the Liberal Party. It is a rotten thing to "touch" the money of old people. Here these people are, in their old age—some of them senile—with their little bit of savings in a trust account. It is a terrible thing for anyone to deliberately "touch" their savings. If somebody has been systematically "tickling the peter" week by week, something should be done about it. Nothing has been done, although this investigation started six months ago.

Even though the books are in the hands of the C.I.B., what has been done about it? Nothing. The Mayor of Rockhampton, the hon. member for Rockhampton South,

should get on the stump and tell the truth about it. Why does not the Liberal candidate for Capricornia make a statement about it? Indeed, a lot of other things have been said about the home. These are the sort of things that are happening in Rockhampton.

This is the place to raise these matters. The Government gives \$2,000 a year to this benevolent home and it should investigate this matter. But it says the home is outside its control. I will bet my last dollar that something will be done about it next week, and I will bet a "quid" that there will be a move to get the books back from the C.I.B. to make an alteration with a biro somewhere so that they will appear to be all right. But it is too late now, because everyone knows about it. The people of Rockhampton support this home, but for political reasons and because of the persons involved, everything will be hushed up; nothing more will be said about it. Some action should be taken in this matter.

Recently an announcement was made by the State Treasurer forecasting increases in various State taxes. One of the avenues suggested for the raising of additional revenue was an increase in liquor licence fees. The fee is already 6 per cent. and there is a rumour that it may be increased to 6 2/3rd per cent. An examination of the liquor industry discloses that in 1964-65 hotel proprietors contributed \$3,000,000 in licence fees. It also reveals that the hotels constitute the third largest industry in Queensland. The hotel owners cannot afford an increase in fees. Many of them have made arrangements with the Licensing Commission to pay their licence fees in instalments because they cannot afford to pay them in a lump sum. People in the country are harder hit than those living in Brisbane.

In Rockhampton and the western and north-western towns, hotels have to pay the licence fee of 6 per cent. not on the Brisbane prices, on which they should pay, but on the price paid on delivery to the hotels in the various areas. In Rockhampton they pay licence fees on the freight charges, on the commission paid to the country representatives, and on the handling cost.

The Government is getting money from the people—from you and me—who go to the hotels for a beer. It is getting money under false pretences; it is "touching" the people because the licence fee is paid on freight, commission, handling costs, and so on.

The Government is suffering from alcoholic constipation. That is the only way to describe it. It cannot "pass a pub." The good old worker is flogged left and right. The hotel proprietors' profits today are not as large as they were years ago; the little perks have been taken away by the breweries. They have discontinued the 2½ per cent. discount for cash, and when there was a recent increase in the price of spirits hotel proprietors were told not to pass

the increase on to the public but to carry it themselves. Every time there is an increase in licence fees the good old worker "cops" it.

The Government says it is a Country Party Government. Why don't its members do something for the poor old battler instead of running over to the Bellevue Hotel—

Mr. Aikens: Or the Brisbane Club.

Mr. THACKERAY: Yes. They slip over to the Bellevue to have caviar and champagne but they do nothing for the good old worker, who is flat out to afford half a dozen beers a week. Every time the Government pushes something on to the hotel industry, it pushes something out of the worker's pocket.

Something should be done about licence fees. Freight and commission charges should not be considered in fixing the licence fee; it should be calculated on the wholesale price in Brisbane. In that way the price of beer could be reduced, or alternatively, the next increase in the basic wage could be absorbed because of the additional money which the hotel proprietors would get, and which the Government would lose.

Years ago the Australian Labour Party intended to build a new railway station at Rockhampton. The cement blocks are still there. The former Minister for Transport, now Treasurer, announced that a move would be made in 1965-66 to build a new station. He said the Government intended to spend \$600,000 on it. So far, all that the Government has done is to resume 22 houses, some of which have been sublet, and force people to find other homes. The compensation offered by the Government was too small, and some people had to appeal to the court for relief. The position is still the same. Every time I make inquiries about the new station I am told that plans have to be sent to Brisbane to be checked and then returned to Rockhampton. The way things are going the idea will be scrapped and the new station will never be built, because the Minister for Transport will require a good deal of money for the Moura-Gladstone line. The Government promised the new railway station in 1963 simply to keep the hon. member for Rockhampton South safe.

Southern railway departments are using containerisation in the transportation of goods. Eventually the Queensland Railway Department must use this method as it is the most modern and sensible way of handling goods. But with containerisation there will be a severe cutback in the clerical and goods section staffs. Containers holding 15 or 20 tons are brought in, picked up by a crane, and unloaded in a warehouse somewhere else. This problem will not be confined to Rockhampton; railway employees all over the State will be faced with retrenchment.

The Rockhampton Workshops Federation is worried about this position because

there is a master plan in either the Commissioner's office or the Minister's office dealing with the requirements of the Rockhampton Railway Workshops for the next five years. Some of the men have just had long service leave. If they knew the exact position they could leave and obtain employment immediately in outside industry because there is a shortage of skilled tradesmen. But they are staying on in the hope that they will not be retrenched. This position will arise at other places, such as Mt. Morgan. When the line from Moura to Gladstone is completed, 25 sets of men will become redundant. There is a staff surplus in Rockhampton, and in the western and northern areas, where double-header trains, using two diesel-electric locomotives linked together, are hauling 2,000 to 3,000 tons, and railway employees are in an insecure position.

Recently, when applications were invited at Rockhampton for positions as porters, only one was received. When I joined the Railway Department in 1947, 150 sat for the examination for appointment as cleaner. Today the department is fortunate to receive half a dozen applications, because lads will not enter a service where there is insecurity and where conditions are poor.

I have received complaints from the union about the accommodation available for porters. Lads of 15 and 16 are being sent to small sidings where they do not even have kerosene lamps. They are given old iron beds, sometimes with mattresses with holes in them. There are no stoves, no pillows, and no mosquito nets, and there they have to stay for three or four weeks. One lad was sent to a place outside Mt. Larcom of which, apart from the sandflies, he was the only inhabitant. He resigned. He said, "I'm not going to 'cop' this. I thought we were living in 1966. I thought I had taken a job where the conditions were good and where I could plan a future."

With the coming installation of an electronic data processing machine at Rockhampton, the position of the clerks has, for the first time, become precarious. This step could well mean a reduction in the strength of the clerical section. Today clerks are being forced, which they have never been before, to go away on transfer. Previously the only ones required to do this were those in the running section and the locomotive section. I know of two or three clerks who have recently been sent to Gladstone. One seems to have been singled out for special treatment; after having been on two or three other transfers, because he has a knowledge of rostering he has now been sent, without any allowance, to Gladstone, where accommodation is quite shocking. Because of their precarious position and the conditions being forced upon them, clerks are now openly speaking of strike action.

I shall conclude on that note and allow the hon. member for Redcliffe to begin his

speech immediately after lunch. I thank the hon. member very much for allowing me to speak before him.

(Sitting suspended from 1 to 2.15 p.m.)

Mr. HOUGHTON (Redcliffe) (2.15 p.m.): I reaffirm my loyalty and the loyalty of the electors of Redcliffe to Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and, on behalf of my constituents, I express happiness and satisfaction at the appointment of Sir Alan Mansfield as Governor of Queensland. It is a great honour to be the representative of the Crown, but Sir Alan has already demonstrated to the people of this State that he has the ability, keenness and enthusiasm to fit him well for his high office. I wish him and Lady Mansfield every happiness in the years that lie ahead, and I am sure that every person in Queensland joins me in that wish.

I also offer hearty congratulations to the mover and the seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, both of whom did an excellent job. I have appreciated the contributions made to the debate by hon. members on this side of the House, particularly the new members, and also the contributions made by new members on the Opposition benches. It is evident that the presence of the new members in this Chamber will be of value to the State as a whole.

I offer my heartiest congratulations to Mrs. Jordan, the hon. member for Ipswich West, the second lady to be elected to this Assembly. As she has been associated with local government, I am sure she will make a valuable contribution to the debates, and I wish her well.

Mr. Davies: Are you going to express any opinions on three-cornered contests?

Mr. HOUGHTON: I have already done that, publicly and otherwise.

Mr. Davies: Why not in the House?

Mr. HOUGHTON: When the opportunity offers, I will be quite prepared to do that. Let me say only that I hope the hon. member for Maryborough will learn how foolish it is for him to be part of an organisation that is foreign to the Australian way of life and make no further comment at this stage.

I offer my thanks to the electors of Redcliffe, who have sent me here for a third term as their representative. They have shown their confidence in me, and I shall endeavour to reward them by my representation of them in this Parliament. I wish to thank particularly Mr. Stanley Balmer, the President of the Country Party branch, my campaign director, Mr. Doug Gray, and Paul Mapp, the President of the Young Country Party, and members of the Young Country Party. Never before was my campaign so easy, and never before was I returned with a majority as large as the one that I gained at the recent election.

All sorts of submissions have been made during this debate. We have heard accusations and allegations, innuendoes, and character assassinations.

Before the luncheon recess we heard a speech from the hon. member for Rockhampton North. After hearing that speech, I am quite sure he would undoubtedly be a very good publicity officer for Wirths Circus. His remark that somebody would give my colleague the hon. member for Gregory, Mr. Wally Rae, a "bunch of fives" was amusing. I hope Wally retaliates at some time.

I feel that the statements made by the hon. member for Gregory in this House concerning the Australian Labour Party have been hailed throughout the State and have established him as the Davey Crockett of Queensland. He has, without fear of contradiction, been prepared to stand up and say what he thinks about where the A.L.P. is going in this State, and I would say that his contribution has already made its influence felt in the minds of most people in Queensland. I intend this afternoon to support some of those statements and to bring evidence to show what is really occurring today in some political parties.

I am not here as a character assassin but to tell the House the facts, and I am prepared to table documents to support any statements I make.

We all know that in 1946 Harold Laski, the then Chairman of the British Labour Party, issued a pamphlet entitled "The Secret Battalions." It was issued primarily to warn the people of the infiltration of the Communist Party into the Labour movement.

At that time, the Hon. E. M. Hanlon was Labour Premier of Queensland, and I think everyone will agree that he was an able and honourable man who did an excellent job for this State. It is very gratifying to see that his son now represents the Labour Party in this House, but it must be very disturbing to him, as a supporter of the A.L.P. to see what is happening in the Labour Party today. We have already seen what has happened in the last few months to the hon. member for Kedron, who is still receiving medical attention for the stab in the back he received when he was relegated to the back benches. Mr. "Johnno" Mann, the hon. member for Brisbane, and Mr. Jack Dufficy, the hon. member for Warrego, have also been relegated to the back benches and I suppose it will not be long before they are standing on their tiptoes hoping to get a glimpse of what is going on inside.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. HOUGHTON: This is the sort of thing that stings them! They don't like the truth! I have risen to support my colleague the hon. member for Gregory.

When the Hon. E. M. Hanlon was leader of the Labour Party and Premier of this State he circulated the document I have referred to throughout his party. He thought

that by its distribution he might achieve what the leader of the British A.L.P., Mr. Morrison, achieved in keeping the Communists out of his party. Never before in the history of Australia had an effort been made to keep the Communists out of the Australian Labour Party. Never since that time has a similar move been made here to keep Communists out of the Australian Labour Party, and that is why I say hon. members opposite are failing the people of Queensland whom they represent.

The greatest enemy of the worker today is the Australian Labour Party as it is presently constituted, because its members are simply puppets who dance to the tune called at the Trades Hall, whether it be wise or unwise, right or wrong.

Let me mention Mr. Egerton. I am not saying that he is a Communist, nor am I saying that anybody on the other side of the Chamber is a Communist, but there are fellow-travellers of those who are known to be Communists. That is where the weakness lies.

Mr. Newton: Where did you get this brief?

Mr. HOUGHTON: I got this from the Trades Hall, of which the hon. member is a member. I will even produce the minutes. Some hon. members opposite are very vociferous. If they like I will table these minutes from the Trades Hall.

Opposition Members: Table them.

Mr. HOUGHTON: I am quite prepared to.

Mr. Davies: You don't even know where the Trades Hall is.

Mr. HOUGHTON: I wouldn't want to.

Mr. Egerton, the President of the Queensland Trades and Labour Council, was first elected to that position at a meeting of the Trades and Labour Council of Queensland held on Wednesday, 10 July, 1957. The minutes of that meeting, a photostat copy of which I am quite prepared to table, under the heading of "Correspondence", refer to a letter received from the then President, Mr. G. M. Dawson, who is a member of the Communist Party—

"Intimating that in order that the leadership of the Council could be more widely represented by various trends within the Labour movement, he had decided not to accept nomination for the position of President when nominations are taken at the meeting on 10 July, 1957, as he stressed that this would be in the best interests of the trade unions at this period of history."

The minutes go on to show that only one nomination for the office of president was received, that of Mr. J. Egerton representing the Boilermakers' Society.

Indeed, of the 46 positions filled at that meeting, in not one case, was a ballot required. This is subsequently mentioned in the minutes in these terms—

"The President then declared nominations closed and said that as there was no contest for any positions, all those who had nominated would be declared elected at the Annual Meeting on 24 July, 1957."

Mr. Egerton, after his nomination as president was unopposed is quoted in the minutes as making the following comments—

"Delegate Egerton then thanked delegates for the fact that he was unopposed for the important position of President, and stated that during his life he had had two great ambitions; the first of these was to be President of the Labour Council, but under no circumstances would he ever consider achieving that in opposition to Delegate Dawson. His second great ambition was to see a position where all positions in the Labour Council elections were unopposed and that had been achieved tonight. This indicated the extremely high degree of unity amongst the Trade Unions and their members, when the leaders of the main ideas on Council could work out such important proposals as this and bring them to Council and have them unanimously endorsed."

"He hoped that he would be able to fill the position with the same high degree of ability as Delegate Dawson had done."

This is strictly the psychological working of the people who have taken control of a political organisation that represented so much for the people of this State and the Commonwealth. It is a clear indication of what is happening.

Having thus been elected to the position of President of the Trades and Labour Council by prearrangement with Communist Party members, Mr. Egerton now maintains his position under a similar arrangement of "sharing the leadership." That this arrangement applies is clear from the complete lack of opposition for any vacancy in the Trades Hall executive positions. As Trades Hall president, surely Mr. Egerton would be the obvious Queensland delegate to the A.C.T.U. Interstate Executive yet, under "share the leadership" we find it is given to none other than the renowned Communist, Mr. Alex Macdonald. In every other State in Australia there is intense competition for a similar position. Why isn't there any in Queensland?

Mr. Houston: Why don't you make up your own speech?

Mr. HOUGHTON: This is the part that stings the hon. member.

Let it be remembered, too, and never let it be forgotten, that the A.L.P. members have a majority at the Trades Hall yet the A.L.P. members decide that a Communist shall represent them, for the State, on the

A.C.T.U. Hon. members opposite have the opportunity; they know it as well as I do. If the hon. member raises his voice he will be out at Oodnadatta or Birdsville; there will be no endorsement for him; that has already been stated in the A.L.P. organisation.

Let us turn now to Mr. Waters, who has gone on public record as advocating affiliation of the Communist Party of Australia with the A.L.P. This he did in a signed letter, which I produce.

Mr. Houston: Table it.

Mr. HOUGHTON: I will table it. I am not here for a personal character assassination; I am here for the benefit of the people of Queensland. These things will continue until the A.L.P. takes control of its own organisation.

This is what Mr. Waters said in his letter—

"It is my firm conviction that the Australian Labour movement will gain in strength and virility by the affiliation of the Communist Party to the A.L.P."

Mr. Davies: Who said that?

Mr. HOUGHTON: As I said before, Mr. Waters. I am quite prepared to table this for the hon. member's benefit.

It continues—

"... a United Labour movement will be the surest guarantee of a better life. Those who ignore the unity in the Labour movement will run the risk of being bypassed by history."

Yours etc.,

F. J. Waters,

Albion Street, Warwick."

At no subsequent time has Mr. Waters given any evidence of a change of thought. I say clearly that he has not.

Waters is a man who, in the A.L.P.'s better days, was expelled from the Labour Party. Not only was he himself expelled, but those who were associated with him were expelled too. He attempted to attend the Mackay Labour in Politics Convention in 1956, but even as late as that point in time he was debarred from attending as an observer. He was re-admitted to the A.L.P. in 1957. And so it goes on.

Mr. Houston: Read the lot.

Mr. HOUGHTON: All right, if it interests hon. members opposite I shall. I did not want to be too harsh on them, because they will shed crocodile tears before I finish.

Three years later Waters was still to be found publicly leading Communist activities in this State. On 15 March, 1960, he was chairman of the inaugural meeting of the Queensland Peace Committee, and as chairman he shared the platform with Communist Alex. Macdonald, who was one of the principal speakers. He was doing all this, notwithstanding the denunciation of Peace Committees by the 1951 Federal Conference of the Australian Labour Party,

which described the Australian Peace Council as a "subsidiary of the Communist Party." Since then Mr. Waters has attended International Communist Peace gatherings, and is one of the sponsors of the latest shot in the Communist peace campaign, the "Queensland Conference, South-East Asia and Australia" to be held in Brisbane at the end of September this year.

Mr. Houston: Are you going along?

Mr. HOUGHTON: There is no way in the world I will be there. I do not want an invitation.

Let us now have a look at Mr. Whitby. Mr. Whitby's most current claim to fame is that he is one of the 14-man executive and the three-man secretariat of the Queensland Conference, South-East Asia and Australia, to be held in Brisbane on 30 September, and 1 and 2 October. Fellow members of the executive include Mr. Alex. Macdonald, Mr. J. Henderson, Dr. H. Silverstone, and Mr. J. Sherrington. I am pleased to say that the last-named gentleman is not to be associated with the hon. member for Salisbury, Mr. D. J. Sherrington.

Mr. Sherrington: Don't try to hang anything on me.

Mr. HOUGHTON: If the cap fits, wear it.

Those men whom I have named are all members of the Communist Party. This particular organisation includes in its published list of sponsors no fewer than 24 known members of the Communist Party.

Further evidence of the Communist link with this organisation is found in the "Guardian" of 3 August, 1966, which provided advance information on the coming conference. Mr. Whitby has a substantial record of co-operation with Communist-front organisations.

These are the things that we have to be mindful of in this State. The A.L.P. has the audacity to say that it will have no truck with the Communists. I firmly believe that there are people in its organisation who will have no truck with Communists. But they have not the courage of their convictions, because they know that their ears will be lopped from their heads, that they will be relegated to the back benches, and even put outside the organisation.

Mr. Aikens: Come unto me all ye who are thrown out of the A.L.P.

Mr. HOUGHTON: I can appreciate the situation that confronts them. They know the situation that faced the hon. member for Townsville South. He was not even given the opportunity to go to the Q.C.E. The powers-that-be "diced" him.

Mr. Tucker: You can have him.

Mr. HOUGHTON: If your organisation had more members of his calibre it would be much better. At least he has the intestinal

fortitude to get up and say what members of the Labour Party are not game to say because they are hamstrung by the Trades Hall group. I know this stings. Never mind, they will be able to go home tonight.

I have in my hand a photograph of Mr. Whitby wearing the armband of an organiser in a Communist-sponsored Peace march in April, 1964. Also participating in this march were known Communist Party members, including Mrs. Bacon, Tom Millar, John Vaggers, Jack Hanson, Lyle McMillan, Geoff. Wills, Max Robinson, Cyril Boland, C. Weigel, Ivy Scott and Doreen Shanahan.

Mr. Sherrington: What about Flash Gordon?

Mr. HOUGHTON: I would not be surprised if hon. members opposite would take him in, too, if they could lead him up the garden path. It is little short of an open scandal that Mr. Whitby, one of the State Labour Party delegates to the Federal Executive of the Australian Labour Party, should be responsible for the proscription of the Defend Australia Committee. It is interesting, too, that Mr. Benson, M.P., who is also a member of that committee, has been relegated to the back bench and thrown out.

Mr. Sherrington: Make up your mind which way he is going.

Mr. HOUGHTON: He was thrown out. He was relegated to the back bench, just as hon. members opposite "killed" the hon. member for Kedron and other people. Hon. members opposite know as well as I do that they are not allowed to express their opinions.

Mr. Bromley: No wonder Mr. Speaker leaves the Chair so often during filth like this.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I remind the hon. member for Norman that he may interject only from his own seat in the Chamber.

Mr. HOUGHTON: I am quite prepared to back up my statements with facts and photographs to show that what I have said is nothing but the truth. That is what concerns hon. members opposite and really upsets and stings them.

Now let us look at Mr. Vickers. Before 1952 he was a well-known Communist and also that party's full-time organiser in North Queensland. During this period he stood as a Communist candidate at the Bowen Shire Council election.

Mrs. Jordan: He is not even a member of the A.L.P.

Mr. HOUGHTON: He resigned from the Communist Party and finished up in the Ipswich area. At this time he was secretary of the Miners' Union. In 1960 he attended a meeting of the Central Council of the Miners' Union. The minutes, which were published in the issue of 27 February, 1960, of "Common Cause," the journal of the Miners' Union, show that he moved or

seconded every major Communist Party resolution. One motion that he moved read—

"The Central Council, after reading correspondence from the National Council of the Eureka Youth League on the prosecution of three young members who participated in the recent World Youth Festival, directs the Central Executive to forward the protests required to the appropriate authorities."

That motion was carried.

Thus we find Mr. Vickers still advocating support for the Eureka Youth League, which he, of all people, would know was an out-and-out Communist organisation. As I have said before, these are the people with whom the members of the A.L.P. claim they have no truck.

I shall now deal with Mr. Frank Nolan. He slipped back into the A.L.P. after the "Gair Must Go" campaign succeeded, and when the Australian Railways Union reaffiliated in 1957. Two years later he made a pilgrimage to Russia, followed in 1961 by a visit to Hungary to attend a conference organised by the Communist World Federation of Trades Unions. His article on his overseas visit, which appeared in the issue of "The Railway Advocate" of 15 October, is 100 per cent. Communist-line propaganda.

The mention of propaganda brings something else to my mind. I think any fair-minded Queenslander who listened to the radio programme on 4KQ last Sunday night would readily agree that what Mr. Whitby said was nothing but Communist propaganda.

Mr. Duggan: When was this?

Mr. HOUGHTON: Last Sunday night.

Nolan is, and has been for years, an active "Peace" partisan on behalf of the Communist Party. An issue of "Peace Light", describing a Queensland Peace Committee rally in Brisbane Centenary Park, said this—

"Led by Frank Nolan, Vice-President of the Labour Council, speakers gave Trade Union, Pacifists, Christian and Peace Committee viewpoints and was enthusiastically received by the audience."

Nolan and his fellow A.L.P. members of the executive of the Trades and Labour Council have never at any time endeavoured to displace known Communists from important position on the council. We have seen A.L.P. members—who are in the majority on the council executive—using their voting majority to elect Communists to disputes committees, to represent the Trades and Labour Council before the Industrial Commission, and, most importantly, regularly to elect Alex Macdonald as a Queensland delegate to the interstate executive of the A.C.T.U. Surely these facts—they are undisputed—are enough to demonstrate to every thinking person the complete subservience of top-line Labour

leaders, and I should say that the members of the A.L.P. are fully aware of their responsibilities.

Again, in 1960 and 1963 Mr. Chard's name appeared on the same "How to Vote" ticket as G. M. Dawson's for the Building Workers Industrial Union elections. As I said earlier, photographs were also used in their campaign. Mr. Chalmers was the marshall for the Communist Peace Front marches. In spite of all this, hon. members opposite have the audacity to say that they have no affinity and no association with the Communist Party or the supporters of Communism.

Reference was made by another hon. member to my own electorate. To give hon. members an idea of the thinking within the Australian Labour Party, I will read a letter that was circulated to churches of various denominations on the Redcliffe Peninsula by the Redcliffe Electorate Executive Committee of the Australian Labour Party. It emanated from 1 Weaver Street, Clontarf Beach, and said—

"Reverend Sir,

"On September 24th, 5,000 copies of 'The Redcliffe Spokesman' the official organ of the Redcliffe E.E.C. will be distributed throughout the Peninsula.

"It is intended that further issues will be made every three months thereafter, primarily to comment on International, National and Local events. The paper will contain certain regular features one of which will be a column written by each of the main Religious orders in turn.

"However, in the inaugural issue we are inviting each of the orders to contribute approximately 100 words as an introduction. We hope that you will avail yourself of this opportunity to reach so many Redcliffe Residents. Copy should be in my hands not later than August 31st.

Yours faithfully,

A. F. Pannell,

Sec. Editorial Board."

One was not sent to "Rev. Houghton"; I had to get this by devious means from people who will not support the Communist doctrine. For the information of hon. members, I point out that Mr. Pannell is a member of the Boilermakers' Society. I do not know what position he holds in that organisation, but he was associated with the recent strike in Gladstone.

Mr. Houston: It is very obvious that you do not know anything.

Mr. HOUGHTON: Mr. Pannell resides in Redcliffe. He is a member of the Boilermakers' Society and was associated with the strike in Gladstone about a fortnight ago. Deny that if you can!

Mr. Newton: As a union official, he has every right to protect the rights of his members. Where is democracy going?

Mr. R. Jones: You will throw out all the unions in Queensland.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HOUGHTON: Now I come to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Jack Duggan.

Mr. DUGGAN: I rise to a point of order. Before the hon. member continues, I point out that he has announced his intention to table the documents from which he is reading. He has not done so. Under the provisions of Standing Order No. 298, which reads, "A document read or cited by a Member may be ordered to be laid upon the Table," he can be ordered to do so. I therefore move—

"That the hon. member for Redcliffe be ordered to lay the documents upon the table."

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member for Redcliffe has another five minutes to speak, and he may table the documents within that time.

Mr. HOUGHTON: I have every intention of tabling the documents, as I said.

Turning now to the Leader of the Opposition, in the "Telegraph" of Tuesday, 20 March, there appeared a photograph of Mr. Duggan, together with another photograph in connection with a strike that was being held. The photograph shows Mr. Duggan on the platform with a well-known Communist from the Trades Hall.

I am not saying that the Leader of the Opposition, or anybody else in this House, is a Communist. All I am saying is that the people who control the destinies of the workers today are responsible for seeing that they cleanse their ranks. Even the hon. member for Bulimba said that he was not concerned about what anybody said about any particular person—that he was concerned only with Queensland. Likewise, I am not concerned with any particular facet of the Labour Party's organisation; I am concerned only with Queensland, and all I am saying is that I want to make the people of Queensland aware of their responsibilities and of what could happen to them. Surely the result of the last election was a clear indication that they now have some idea. The Leader of the Opposition, before the election, said that Labour would gain 20 seats, in which were included my electorate of Redcliffe and that of the Speaker. It must have been a bitter disappointment to him that never before had we been so well received as we were at the last election.

People who come from distant lands and who know well the stigma attaching to Communism, and who have suffered the pains that can result from this doctrine, will not subscribe to the once-great A.L.P. This is because of the people who have the power to control the organisation. Until the Labour Party gets rid of this scourge, which is

doing an injustice not only to the A.L.P. but to the State of Queensland, its standing in the community will not improve.

As my time has almost expired, I now have much pleasure in tabling, for the benefit and perusal of hon. members, the documents from which I have read.

(Whereupon the hon. member laid the documents on the table.)

Mr. INCH (Burke) (2.54 p.m.): As other members have done, on behalf of my electors I reaffirm our loyalty to Queen Elizabeth II and I congratulate the Governor, Sir Alan Mansfield, on his appointment to that high office. I also take the opportunity of extending to the electors of Burke my sincere thanks and appreciation for returning me to this Parliament as their representative. I assure them that at all times I will endeavour to do my best to give them the representation they require.

I also extend thanks to the members of the various A.L.P. branches within the electorate and to members of the affiliated unions, who assisted me in no small measure during my campaign. As a result of the assistance I received from them, I was returned with an excellent over-all majority.

At this stage I take time out to commiserate with Country Party members of the Government who wasted their time travelling so far for nothing when they visited the towns of Cloncurry and Mt. Isa in my electorate.

Mr. DUGGAN: I rise to a point of order to seek clarification. I do not want to interrupt the hon. member for Burke, but the hon. member for Redcliffe, who just resumed his seat, said that he was quoting from certain documents which were authenticated. I asked whether, in accordance with the relevant Standing Order, they might be tabled. The hon. member subsequently tabled certain documents. I want to direct your attention to those documents, Mr. Speaker, and seek your guidance. From what I can observe they are merely a collection of notes. They bear no authority whatever. They cannot be classified as official documents. I should like to know your ruling as to what category they are in. They are spurious documents. Apart from minutes of a Trades Hall meeting, which are quite indistinguishable, they are not official documents. They are merely notes in the handwriting of the hon. member or somebody else, or typewritten notes without any official identification on them. They are spurious documents.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I do not know that the hon. member for Redcliffe said they were official documents. He quoted only one letter, as I recollect, which he said he would table. The Leader of the Opposition moved that all the documents be tabled, but the hon. member for Redcliffe, on my recollection, quoted from one letter and said, "I

will table this letter." Whether the documents are official or otherwise, I think they were tabled at the request of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. DUGGAN: They are all spurious.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. INCH: As I was saying, I take time out to commiserate with Country Party members of the Government who wasted their time travelling so far for nothing when they visited the towns of Cloncurry and Mt. Isa to assist the Country Party candidate in the campaign against me in the last election. While I commiserate with them in that respect, I cannot forgive them for the stupid mistake they made in trying to pull the wool over the eyes of the electors of those towns, or for the insult to the electors' intelligence that was particularly offered by the Country Party member for Condamine when he endeavoured to tell people in those towns that he was not there for the purpose of trying to wrest the seat away from the local member, Alex Inch, but only to assist his good friend Bill Presley. I do not think I have ever heard such hog-wash in my life.

I seriously doubt that any Labour member participating in an election campaign against a Country Party or Liberal Party member would go into his electorate and endeavour to insult the intelligence of the electors in that electorate by telling them that he was not there for the express purpose of endeavouring to wrest the seat away from the Country Party or Liberal Party member. I do not intend to pursue that matter any further, because I am more interested in what goes on in my electorate and what should be done there in the future.

Quite a lot has been said in the past about the need for further development and closer settlement of the northern and western areas of this State, the need for new industries, and the expansion of existing ones. I have no doubt that over the next few months, in view of the fact that the Federal elections are in the offing, there will be a great play on words on this subject by Federal Government members and those who aspire to become members of that Parliament. While these matters are of vital concern to the residents of those areas, and to the industries already established there, it should also be of paramount interest and importance to this State, and to the nation as a whole, and should not merely be used as a subject by Governments and parliamentarians to woo the votes of the electors during election time.

Despite the fact that this vast portion of the State is sparsely populated and contains little secondary industry in comparison to the southern States, it still contributes in large measure to our economy, both State and Federal, but unfortunately, other than through lip service there has been very little recognition of this factor or of the needs of

the people who have done so much for the development of these areas. As time goes by, it becomes apparent that the only time these areas captivate the interest and attention of politicians, especially those in the Federal sphere of Government, is when elections are to be held or when they come on their periodic junketings to the North and the West to escape from the cold wintry winds of the southern States.

Regardless of the somewhat listless attitude and tardy approach by Governments over the years to the problems involved in the development of these portions of the State, and the paucity of financial assistance that has been made available for their development, established industries and the people resident within these parts of the State continue to develop the areas and increase the wealth that is to be obtained through the exploitation of the widespread mineral deposits and the production of beef cattle and wool. Let there be no misunderstanding about the development that has taken place in these areas over the years, for it has been mainly through the tenacity of purpose and the resourcefulness of the people that the development of North and Western Queensland has reached its present stage. No Government, State or Federal, can rightfully claim that it has given the utmost financial or technical assistance towards the development of these areas which, as I have already mentioned, contribute so much towards our economy.

Due recognition must be given to the part that has been played, and continues to be pursued, by mining interests in the development of these areas, and, as a result of the development and expansion that is taking place in the mining industry today throughout North and North-western Queensland, we can look forward with confidence to a continuance of, and no doubt a big increase in, the contribution at present being made by this industry alone. However, while recognition is made of the importance of the part that these big companies are playing in the development of North Australia and the outlying areas of the far north and west of Queensland, we must also remember and take into account the willingness of those workers and their families who are prepared to migrate to that part of the State and take up employment with these mining interests, and so subscribe in this way to the development and closer settlement of these isolated areas.

A tribute must also be paid to the gougers and prospectors who have played their part, and still continue to do so, in the exploration for mineral deposits in these isolated parts of the State. It can be truthfully said that up to the present they have been mainly responsible for the unearthing of those minerals which have led to the development of our major mining fields, and at times, as a result of their activities, they have also been responsible for the discovery of minerals which were considered to be a rarity. An

example of this is to be found in the recent discovery by two young Mt. Isa men of a mineral called bentonite, which is used in oil drilling and also in the pelletising of iron-ore. This find has been given some prominence in a newspaper report appearing in the "Mount Isa Mail" of 5 July last. For the information of hon. members, I shall read some extracts from the article. It reads—

"Rare mineral find by two Isa men.

"Two young Mount Isa men have found a mineral lode that could give a new look to drilling and smelting operations in Australia—particularly in the north.

"The mineral, bentonite, is now being imported from the United States for use in oil drilling, and pelletising iron ore in Western Australia.

"Until now it was not known whether the rare mineral was available in Australia.

"Months ago Frank Fox and Darrell Whitehall were working a copper show only 300 yards from the MIM lease, when they made their find.

"They discovered, too, that the mineral had strange properties. It swelled when wet.

"So when a second year geology student from the University of Queensland visited Mount Isa last year during his Christmas vacation, they asked him to take a sample back for analysis.

"The reply came: 'It is high quality bentonite. It is used in oil drilling muds and as a binder and plasticiser in moulding sands for foundries.

IMPORTED

"With the pelletising of iron ore in Western Australia, we (the nation) will need a lot of it, as all the bentonite now used in Australia is imported from America'.

"Esso Exploration (now drilling for oil in conjunction with BHP in the Bass Strait) has shown interest in the find.

"The two battlers, Frank and Darrell, although on the biggest find of their lives, would need more money to properly develop the site."

Quite apart from its value to the oil interests in their drilling operations and the savings that could be effected through not having to import this mineral from America, should the dimensions of this lode be large enough to attract its development by large-scale mining interests it could well play an important part in any future development and exploitation of the immense iron-ore deposits at Constance Range. The exploiting of that ore deposit is highly desirable, not only because of the contribution it would make to our economy, but also for its importance to our industries. It would also have the effect of hastening the further development and closer settlement of another isolated area of the North-west.

I have cited this one instance of a rare mineral discovery to illustrate the worth of the small gougers and prospectors in the mining industry, and the importance of their contribution in relation to the development of isolated areas of the State as a result of these discoveries. Over latter years, however, their activities have been seriously curtailed through the grants to big mining companies, by the Department of Mines, of authorities to prospect over large areas of mineral-bearing country.

These authorities to prospect give an exclusive right to the companies to prospect in these areas over a certain length of time, which can be extended at the discretion of the Minister, but which are usually limited to a period of three years and contain a proviso that a portion of the area granted must be relinquished each year. While it is appreciated that conditions are laid down by the department which call for the expenditure of a large sum of money on prospecting the area held under the A.T.P.—expenditure which would be beyond the capacity of the small prospector—it is also realised that there could be several companies exercising A.T.P.'s over areas adjacent to each other, with the result that the small prospector is excluded entirely from an area that could encompass hundreds of square miles of country.

As I stated previously, it has been mainly through the activities of the prospectors that many of the mineral deposits in this State have been discovered, and eventually exploited by the big mining concerns, and despite the fact that these companies are expending many thousands of dollars in their large-scale search for minerals—and it must be admitted that in some instances they have been successful in their efforts—I still retain my confidence and belief in the fact that the small prospectors will still be the ones that will be mainly instrumental in the discovery of further major fields.

I am afraid that much of their incentive in this direction could, and will, be destroyed if large tracts of country continue to be given to mining concerns under authorities to prospect. Even if those authorities have tenures of only three years, they still limit for that period the area of search open to prospectors. As the financial resources of prospectors are in most cases limited, they can ill-afford to sit around marking time waiting for authorities over certain areas to expire, and even then there is nothing to say that applications by other companies for further authorities would not be granted over the same areas. A considerable period of time could therefore elapse before these areas were thrown open to prospectors. This may seem unlikely, but it is nevertheless a possibility.

I appreciate that it is no doubt desirable that concentrated and exhaustive tests on mineral-bearing areas be carried out and that companies, because of their financial resources, man-power, and equipment, are

best able to perform them on a large scale. I am still of the opinion, however, that the areas over which authorities to prospect are given are, in most cases, too large. They therefore restrict the activities of numerous small prospectors. I ask the Minister for Mines to examine thoroughly all aspects of the matter as they affect prospectors and make every effort to formulate some policy or method that will ensure that prospectors are provided with every reasonable opportunity to prospect mineral-bearing areas.

Although I appreciate the part played by the mining industry in the development of the State, especially that portion of it in my electorate, I also recognise and appreciate the contribution made by the wool and beef-cattle industries which has helped immeasurably to bring the northern and western areas of the State to their present stage of development. As I have said before in this Assembly, there are instances where the best possible use has not been made of the land to obtain its full productive capacity, especially on large properties held by grazing companies under the control of absentee landholders who are not concerned with the development of the State or the national interest involved.

The number and quality of beasts turned off the properties could be greatly increased in normal seasons if the properties were improved, as they can be, through the provision of adequate water storage facilities. With the introduction, under the guidance and advice of officers of the Department of Primary Industries and the C.S.I.R.O., of new and improved pastures, good fencing, modern ideas and methods in cattle husbandry, which will minimise stock losses in time of drought, some of the profits resulting therefrom could be ploughed back in the implementation of a scheme of fodder conservation.

I am afraid, however, that large companies are concerned solely with plundering the land year after year to obtain the best profit result for the lowest expenditure on their herds and properties. In contrast to this is the fine example set by the numerous small graziers who are settled on what are considered to be living areas. These people are following an occupation to which they are naturally suited because of the thorough and practical knowledge they have obtained through long association with the industry. Unlike absentee shareholders of large properties, their action in settling on small properties is not motivated purely and simply by a desire for quick profit through the prostitution of the properties they acquire. They are activated by a desire to eventually have properties of their own of which they can be justly proud, and which, from their financial returns, will allow them to raise and educate their families in some degree of security.

Their way has not been easy for, with limited capital at their command, they have been at times hard pressed to withstand the ravages of periodic droughts. Only through hard work and perseverance, good husbandry of stock and their good sense in returning a portion of the profits made in good seasons towards the further improvement of their properties, have they been able to weather hard times.

I consider that the basis of the so-called "living areas" in this part of the State has been completely outmoded by the effect on primary producers of the rising costs of production. This is evident not only in the field of station management but also in the provision of food, clothing and education for their families. Therefore, there should be an adjustment to the "living area" concept in many instances to compensate for the reduced return. Obviously, such adjustments can be accomplished only by granting additional areas, which could be obtained from adjacent large pastoral holdings by excision, or after the expiration of leases.

As a further means of encouraging the more rapid development and closer settlement of the northern and western areas of the State, Governments must increase their financial assistance to local authorities to enable these bodies to carry out the necessary works within their shires, and also make more finance available for the construction of good arterial and secondary roads.

Development roads also play an important part in the development of isolated areas, and it is regrettable that in some instances, because of the lack of finance for their maintenance, roads of this kind have been allowed to deteriorate to a stage where they are virtually impassable. One such road that comes readily to mind is situated in the Burke Shire, which embraces a big portion of the Gulf country. It is the road from Burketown to Wollongorang. It is but one example of how roads in various shires in the Outback are allowed to deteriorate, not through any wilful neglect on the part of the shire councils, but simply because the councils are starved of the finance necessary to carry out the maintenance work required on all the roads within their boundaries.

To give some indication of just how bad this road is and its effect upon the people whom it is supposed to serve, I will quote some extracts from a document that I received recently. It contains the opinions of a number of people who are forced to use this road, and it must be noted that these people, in the main, accept road conditions that the average town-dweller would consider atrocious if he had to traverse them. I do not intend to give the names of the people who have contributed these opinions, but I may mention various places in the shire in which they work.

A businessman who travels extensively throughout the shire has this to say—

"On 25 July, 1966, I travelled the road from Burketown to Wollgorang.

"In my experience it would be the worst road in North-West Queensland. I was dry bogged several times as well as causing a lot of damage to my vehicle.

"I feel it would be appreciated by myself and all other users of the road if this matter could be looked into as soon as possible."

The next opinion comes from Westmorelands Station—

"The road in parts between here and Wollgorang is almost untrafficable, except for a 4-wheel-drive vehicle and even then you have the differential dragging for yards. It's about time something is done to this neglected part of the Shire."

This is the next one—

"A previous Wollgorang Mail Contractor, I now live in retirement near Wollgorang, I have not been to Burketown for two years now as trying to drive there in my vehicle is out of the question because of the state of the road in places. I feel sure that some Government relief would be available if a true picture of the state of the road is placed before the right people. It certainly needs attention without delay."

The next one is from Wentworth Station—

"The road between the Gregory River and the Border is sadly neglected and to put it mildly is a disgrace. Why can't we, who are living in the more or less back country and helping to support the Burke Shire be given a little consideration? If my or our word is doubted regarding the conditions of the road, why not one of the councillors come out and have a look? Yes, it is a dreadful road, the worst I have ever seen, bar none."

Last but not least is one from Doomadgee Mission, and it must be remembered that this mission is doing a great deal for the needs of Aborigines in that area.

Mr. Davies: They are doing a magnificent job.

Mr. INCH: There is no doubt about that; they are doing a very fine job.

I will mention the name of the writer of this letter. It is Mr. A. J. Hockey, who is Superintendent of Doomadgee Mission. He says—

"After living fifteen years in this area and endeavouring to assist over four hundred and fifty people with all their needs at Doomadgee, it would be appreciated if some consideration be given to a decent crossing on the Western approach to the Gregory River and an inspection be carried out on the road from the Gregory River to the Border.

"The cost of repairs on vehicles and time involved to carry hundreds of tons of foodstuffs and other goods is something which we have gladly accepted, but to have a neglected road like this in the Shire is only because it has not been taken into account and takes away from all the other good work done."

Mr. Davies: Forty miles of it is not a road, but a dirt track.

Mr. INCH: That is correct.

They are the expressions of opinion and it will be seen that running through those opinions is the desire that something be done to this road. The writers ask that the matter be brought to the attention of the responsible people. I have done this on previous occasions, when I drew the attention of the Assembly to the state of this road and made a plea to the Government to grant financial assistance to the Burke Shire Council for the repair of this road. However, it seems that my request has gone unheeded.

The needs of the people who are playing their part in the development of the area serviced by this road appear to be of little concern to the Government, but I again urge the Government to make the necessary finance available to assist the Burke Shire Council to carry out the required improvement to this road and thereby show in a very practical way that it does have the interests of these people at heart and that it is willing to co-operate with them in their efforts to develop the area. Roads are a vital means of communication to the people in the outlying areas of the State, and they must be maintained and kept in a good state of repair.

Amongst other facilities which will play an important part in the further development of the North and the West, and to which earnest attention must be given, are the provision of fully staffed hospitals with accommodation adequate to meet the demands of rapidly expanding communities, homes for purchase and rental to meet the needs of the people, and, last but not least, the provision of schools fully staffed by trained teachers and not by a hotch-potch of a few trained staff members, part-time and casual teachers, and others who, though they may have had the advantage of a sound and advanced education and may be well versed in the subjects contained in the curriculum, would still lack the ability to impart this knowledge because they have not been sufficiently trained to do so.

It is one thing to be able to absorb and retain knowledge of many and varied subjects as imparted by persons who are well trained in the profession of teaching, but it is an entirely different matter for a person, no matter how well educated he may be, to pass on to others the knowledge he has acquired unless he has been well trained in the art of capturing the interest of the pupil and has the ability to transmit his knowledge clearly and efficiently so that the pupil absorbs

his teaching in a minimum of time and without recourse to repetitive and constant illustrations on the part of the tutor.

I fail to see where the scheme, which the Minister proposes to embark upon, to recruit persons into the profession in an effort to overcome, or minimise, the shortage of teachers, will benefit the department, the State, the student, or industry, unless these persons are subjected to an extensive and intensive period of training prior to taking up duties as teachers. The engagement of qualified part-time and casual teachers for a few days each week, or for a few hours each day, will not solve the problem of overcrowded classrooms and understaffed schools.

In fact, I believe that such a scheme will eventually lead to the gradual breakdown and deterioration of educational standards in this State, particularly if this scheme is introduced into the primary schools, for it is at the primary schools that the children, in their formative years, receive the foundation of a good, sound tuition which enables them in later years to proceed to secondary and tertiary education.

Any breakdown or deterioration in the present educational foundation and standards must in the future reflect itself in either a decrease in the number of students attaining the required pass to enable them to proceed to the higher fields of education or, in the alternative, a lowering of the standard of education.

Either way, it will eventually result in a drastic curtailment of our professional needs and the requirements of industry in general. In other words, there will be a reduction in the number and quality of the professional men and women graduating from our universities each year who would be called upon to play a major and important part in the future development of this State and its industries, and in the welfare of the people.

While I appreciate the fact that the part-time and casual teachers whom the department proposes to employ under this scheme will be qualified personnel—and no doubt the majority of them will be sincere in their efforts to foster the education of the students—I am apprehensive that there will be some who will see in the implementation of this scheme a golden opportunity to augment the family purse with a minimum of effort and interest on their part in the educational welfare of the students under their care. I will agree that this type will be few and far between but somewhere along the line in some school or other it will occur, and as a result some students will falter and fall behind because of this lack of interest on the part of the tutor.

Eventually these pupils would no doubt come under the care of a sincere and dedicated full-time teacher who would exert every effort in an endeavour to assist them to bridge the gap between their then standard of education and what they would have

attained had they received the benefit of tutelage under a full-time teacher, but it could well be that the efforts of the teacher in this regard would be hampered because of a large number of students in the class, which would tend to prevent the teacher from paying special attention to the individual student. I query the wisdom of introducing such a scheme and I am dubious of its success.

Teaching, as a profession, is a full-time job, one in which the full-time teacher is continuously being trained in up-to-the-minute standards of education and in the method of imparting this education. It is not an occupation which one can pursue for a period of time, then lay it aside for several years or more, and later take up again for two or three days a week, or a couple of hours a day, and still retain the necessary standard of proficiency.

The proposal outlined by the Minister is only skirting the edge of the issues involved; it is dallying with a problem that has its inception in the discontent that is rife amongst the tutorial staff of this State, right down from the university to the primary-school level, and until such time as better working conditions are provided and salaries are increased, especially those in the lower brackets, this State will continue to suffer a chronic shortage of teaching staffs.

These are only two of the issues involved; there are many others which no doubt will be dealt with in due course by a number of my colleagues who, because of their past association with the teaching profession, will be in a position to deal with them in a more effective manner. However, I felt constrained to voice my disquiet in this matter for, like every other hon. member on this side of the House, I have no desire to see any weakening of the educational structure in this State.

Before concluding, I should like to say that I was rather amused at the attack made this morning on hon. members on this side by the hon. member for Condamine in relation to what might be termed "The Eric Lloyd episode". I would point out to the hon. member for Condamine that his own party is no lily-white when it comes to this sort of thing. I draw his attention to the fact that only a few years ago the Government did more or less the same thing to the hon. member for Fassifern, when the Country Party executive and other members of his own party in the Government stabbed him in the back, put the skids under him and relegated him to the back bench. It ill behoves the hon. member for Condamine to come here with a "holier-than-thou" attitude and to have a go at members of the A.L.P. about some episode that may have occurred in recent times. I advise the hon. member for Condamine to clean up his own house before he starts to clean the A.L.P.'s house. I also remind him of the old adage that people who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

There has been a lot of character assassination in this Assembly. Frankly speaking, I think it is a disgrace to Government members that they cannot participate in a debate of this nature without referring to such matters. I was always under the impression that this debate was intended mainly to give every hon. member of this Assembly an opportunity to speak about matters that affect his electorate and others that are of extreme importance to the State.

It is high time that all hon. members in this Assembly got down to fundamentals and cut out the character assassination, and conducted themselves in a proper way. They should do the best they possibly can to set a good example to the young children who visit this House and sit in the gallery trying to learn how the State is governed and how parliamentarians in this Assembly conduct themselves. I ask hon. members opposite to stop their character assassination and afford every assistance in fostering the interests of this State in every possible way.

Mr. PILBEAM (Rockhampton South) (3.32 p.m.): I rise to support the motion embodying the Address in Reply to His Excellency the Governor of Queensland, Sir Alan Mansfield, and to stress the continued loyalty of myself and the people in the electorate of Rockhampton South to the person of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. I congratulate Sir Alan on his elevation to this high office and wish him and Lady Mansfield a long, happy and successful term of office.

I join with my parliamentary colleagues in congratulating and welcoming the new members to this Chamber. I was interested to listen to their contributions and I congratulate them on their initial speeches.

Some three weeks ago, when speaking on the Appropriation Bill, I pursued the theme that much more money was needed to make possible the development of this State on the lines laid down by this progressive Queensland Government. Most of the speeches from both sides of the House have fully supported the theme I advanced in my comments on that occasion. There is not one Government department that is not clamouring for more money to carry out the development planned for it by its Minister. The Treasurer has given us a clear indication that he is fully aware of the gravity of the financial situation and he has taken steps to remedy it, not only by applying for more Federal money but also by investigating possible State avenues for increasing Queensland's income. I think in some respects there is an opportunity to do this.

I have said before, and I say again, that the situation is one of our own making. We are hoist with our own petard, because the reason we seek this tremendous increase in finance is the way this Government has pushed ahead with the State's development. It has pushed ahead with the development of the State faster than its ability to finance it.

Great advances in education, with emphasis on the tertiary breakthroughs which have been achieved at Townsville, Rockhampton, and Toowoomba, have strained the finances available under the heading of education almost to breaking point. It is true that grants have been made available by the Commonwealth Government, but it would be idle to say that those grants alone are sufficient to finance those three enterprises, and the State Government has to provide a large amount of finance to continue with these very worth-while projects.

I am sure everyone accepts that there is no more hard-working Minister in the State than the Minister for Education, and it is ironic that he is faced with possibly the greatest criticism because he has been so successful in his efforts to improve education in Queensland. Because of the success of his efforts he has had to find an amount of money the like of which was never found by any previous Government in this State. It is rather ironic that as a reward for the good work he has done he is facing great criticism at present. I think we should all feel some sympathy for a Minister who is placed in that position. It is fair to say that no allocation could be big enough for education. It is a subject which has no limit at all. It does not matter how great the allocation under this heading is. I am sure it could not be sufficient.

Mr. Davies: The present one is not sufficient.

Mr. PILBEAM: It is not sufficient, no.

Very considerable advances have been made on anything any previous Government has done and that is why we have this great need for money. It is fair enough to say in answer to the hon. member for Maryborough that Labour Governments in the past did not have this problem because they did not have a blueprint for development such as that put down in this State at present. They did not have a blueprint which required financing such as this one requires. They had the chance, and I suggest they now leave it to somebody who is doing a better job than they ever envisaged.

A very similar situation is being experienced in the field of water conservation, which is always a very expensive proposition. In the catchment areas of the Burnett, Burdekin and Fitzroy Rivers, a very great system of conservation is clearly indicated. I am pleased to know that the Government has departed from the policy of supporting the smaller schemes on farms and neglecting altogether those larger developmental schemes. In this change to the larger conservation schemes a large amount of extra finance is needed. For this reason, in this field much more money has to be sought, otherwise the development of this State will be retarded in this very important aspect.

It was very gratifying to read in Monday's newspaper the statement by the Prime Minister to the effect that the Commonwealth will

consult with the States in making available the services of the Snowy Mountains Authority and so make possible the continued use of some of the specialist skills of this authority. I agree wholeheartedly with this statement by Mr. Holt—

"The skills and experience of the Snowy Mountains Authority should, if the States decide to avail themselves of them, be capable of making a valuable contribution to something Australia very badly needs, power and water."

The Premier lost no time in indicating to the public that not only was he completely on side with the Commonwealth Government in this matter but that he had already submitted developmental proposals to the Commonwealth and made it known that he was anxious to use the skills of the Snowy Mountains Authority. In fact, arrangements have been made for personnel of the S.M.A. to study water conservation in the Bundaberg and Upper Dawson areas.

The Irrigation and Water Supply Commission has already presented to the Commonwealth Government plans to construct a major dam on the Nogoa River. This has the full support of the Government, and I venture to say that that project will proceed. The people of Rockhampton have played their part, particularly through the Research and Promotion Bureau, in pushing the project ahead. I think the hon. member for Barcoo spoke a little with tongue in cheek when he criticised the Premier for what he called his dilatoriness in presenting those plans to the Commonwealth Government. One would think that the Nogoa River had started to flow only in the last nine years. Actually it had been flowing for 40 years when the Australian Labour Party was in office, yet not one scheme for water conservation on the Nogoa River was presented during that period. Hon. members opposite had 40 years to do something about it, yet they did nothing. We have been the Government for nine years and we are doing something. Well inside 40 years this scheme, and other major projects to conserve water in the Fitzroy, Burdekin and Burnett basins, will be completed.

Mr. B. C. Johnson, the Cotton Marketing Board general manager, was reported in "The Courier-Mail" last Tuesday as saying that good results from an initial cotton crop had given strong support to Queensland's claim for water conservation on the Nogoa River for cotton and other crops. The crop was grown on the State Government's pilot farm near Emerald. This proves something that I think the people of Central Queensland are fully aware of. They are doing something in a way that will influence the thinking of those in Canberra. It has to be proved that water can be used economically as well as trapped economically, and I believe that availability of water will develop what I contend will be one of the great

industries of Australia, namely cotton growing. It has been sadly neglected in Queensland and I am sure that it will become one of Queensland's main industries in the very near future, under the administration and control of the Government. That is the only proviso that I attach to it.

Mr. Dewar: That's the only chance it has.

Mr. PILBEAM: Yes, that is the only chance it has.

Mr. Walsh: Do you really think the Federal Government will approve of it?

Mr. PILBEAM: I do.

Mr. Walsh: That is extraordinary, because they have already turned it down.

Mr. PILBEAM: They have once, but it has been resubmitted. Further information has been made available to the Federal Government, and I should say that it is a pretty poor State Government that, although it has been rejected once, does not try again. For the information of the hon. member for Bundaberg, I go on record as saying that I have faith in both Governments and that he will see these schemes completed in his lifetime.

Mr. Walsh: Then there must have been something wrong with their advisers in the first place.

Mr. PILBEAM: Every effort is being made to have the skills of the Snowy Mountains Authority made available to this State. What is just as important is that the money made available by the Commonwealth Government for work on the Snowy Mountains project should be similarly provided for work that is equally as feasible in this State. Money is as important as anything else to us.

Mr. Murray: Do you mean on a repayable basis, or as a straight-out grant?

Mr. PILBEAM: That can be argued later. The money has to be made available in some form or other. The theme of my discourse this afternoon is that more money must be made available for all aspects of State development.

There also is a burning need for more finance for the Main Roads Department if the State is to develop, and I do not think anyone will cavil at my statement that an adequate system of bitumen highways is the main key to decentralised development in Queensland. For far too long the Main Roads system has been starved because of a lack of money. I understand the difficulties of the situation and have every sympathy with the Minister.

Originally Queensland had a system of main roads based principally on the railway system; but over the years more main roads were added. The construction of the beef roads has to be financed, as has also the construction of developmental roads in the brigalow areas, and it is very easy to forget

the principal network of roads over the length and breadth of Queensland. Consideration will have to be given to constructing these roads without undue delay.

I have had it in mind for quite a while that some scheme should be brought into being to build a system of major highways out of the moneys that are now being paid by the Commonwealth Government to the State in roads grants. I understand that the State is not able to do this, but that it has indicated in the past that it is not willing to hand over to the Commonwealth Government the right to finance and administer a separate system of national highways. In my opinion, that argument should be reconsidered. In other countries there are national highways, and although I do not take very much notice of what the American Ambassador to Australia was reported to have said recently, I am sure there are big road-building firms in the world that would be prepared to lend substantial sums of money to this country if they were given the job of building main highways on, say, a five-year basis. If a system of national highways could be declared and financed by this means, the Commonwealth Government would not have to find any more money; it could allocate to this system the roads grants it is now making to local authorities.

I believe that an immediate upsurge of development would occur in Queensland with the completion of a system of bitumen highways. There would be the benefit of freedom from dust, and there would also be unseen benefits in the preservation of motor vehicles, a smaller loss of rubber, and so on. I would be very pleased to see some consideration given to a scheme such as that, because we have gone too far into the road age to suffer any longer the fact that in many instances main highways are constructed of gravel. This is a bitumen-road age, believe me.

There is also a great shortage of money in the field of local government, and this is very important. This year the various local authorities in Queensland have been given permission to raise \$52,800,000 to carry out necessary works. This, of course, includes \$17,800,000 for the various regional electricity boards. If the year was a normal one I would not be very apprehensive, even though this is a record figure. But anyone who is interested in local government knows that money is very tight this year, and for the first time in my term of office as Mayor of Rockhampton I have doubts whether the Rockhampton City Council can raise its allocation. It will be very unfortunate for the city of Rockhampton if it cannot.

Other local authorities have similar experiences. Never once in the 14 years that I have been mayor have I failed to raise every penny of the loan allocation. This year is a vital year for the city of Rockhampton, because not only have we to raise a record amount of over \$1,000,000 but we have also to finance the project of putting the

barrage across the river. The whole industrial future of Rockhampton depends on the completion of this great project. If I find the position is complicated not only by reason of the fact that we are allowed to borrow money only at 5½ per cent. but that, in addition, many of the old friends of local authorities have deserted us in favour of securities that carry 7 and 8 per cent. interest, it is going to make the position that much worse. The latest body to cause misgivings is the State Government Insurance Office. I am very disappointed that this office has got out of the gilt-edged field and is financing projects that I do not consider it has any obligation to finance.

Mr. Walsh: Why?

Mr. PILBEAM: Because they are not in the gilt-edged field. It is financing hotels and things such as that.

Mr. Walsh: In other words, you say that its policy-holders are not entitled to the same return as are the policy-holders of other companies?

Mr. PILBEAM: That is an argument. It has the right to make the greatest use of its money to obtain the greatest benefit for its policy-holders. On the other hand, it says to local authorities, "If you take out your superannuation schemes with us and give us all your business, we will support you." For the first time, I find that that field of support is not there and it is unfortunate at a time when local authorities are so much in need of money, in many cases for development works for the State.

It is distressing to me to know also that in many cases the local authority is asked to provide capital to finance works that will benefit large industries coming into the area. Of course, there is an undertaking that these industries will underwrite the project, but the initial work has to be done by the local authority and money has to be provided for that. To make the position even more ironical, we find that the financial houses are lending money to these enterprises at high rates of interest. Enterprises that originally brought money from overseas now go onto the Australian market and we find that people who normally lend money to us at 5½ per cent. are now lending it to these people at 7 and 8 per cent. We cannot get the money to do the works that must be put into being if these enterprises are to go ahead. I could give many instances of that but I suppose one of the best today would be Gladstone.

I was pleased to hear the Treasurer say that he will approach these enterprises and ask them to make a greater capital contribution in the future, because it is not fair to local authorities to ask them to borrow money at 5½ per cent. interest in competition with these people who are offering 7 and 8 per cent. for works that the local authority is doing in co-operation with these enterprises and that are just as much a part of the enterprise as their own particular works.

This is something that must be looked at. The part that upsets me is not so much the money that is made available to local authorities for work done on day labour, although it is bad enough that we have to pay men off, but what will happen when a local authority contracts to repay, say, \$3,000,000 or \$4,000,000 in a period of three or four years and cannot raise the money. That is what is concerning me. I should not like to envisage local authorities falling down in regard to any contracts into which they have entered, especially these vital projects that are going on at present in Queensland.

We get much the same position in the case of allocations to regional boards. The ironic situation here again is that they are being granted record allocations. The regional board at Rockhampton will borrow a record amount of \$8,000,000, but most of that sum will be absorbed in two or three projects—the Callide power station and transmission lines to Gladstone, Blackwater and Moura. In effect, all the money is devoted to generation and transmission. Distribution is just not on the programme. A sum of \$1,000,000 was set down for reticulation throughout the area—some of it would have been spent in Rockhampton—but now it appears that there is to be little or no money available.

Mr. Dewar: You recognise that we cannot have distribution without transmission?

Mr. PILBEAM: Yes, but we have the transmission in these areas of explosive development, and in areas such as Rockhampton where there is steady development it appears now that there is no allocation even to advance the normal electric light services in new suburbs. We are co-operating with the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board in installing an adequate system of street lighting in Rockhampton. We have been arguing this for four or five years, but we now find that the local electricity board has not the money to put up its share. Furthermore, we find that to finance the distribution in Rockhampton it is contemplated that there should be a 10-per-cent. increase in the cost of domestic power. I do not mind sacrifices if everyone shares in them, but if householders are going to have to pay 10 per cent. more while the bigger industries are enjoying reductions in power costs I must say that I feel a little bit off-side on that one.

The situation of the local authorities is not a good one. We have a record allocation of money but we still have a tough task in raising the amounts allocated. This is the first time I have said that.

More money is needed in every Government department. I do not have time to go through them all, but not one Government department has adequate money.

Mr. Walsh: The Government is broke. I told you that two years ago.

Mr. PILBEAM: Let us say it is broke because we have spent a tremendous amount more in development than any previous Government has spent. We have pushed development beyond the capacity to pay for it. We leave hon. members opposite who are interjecting to decide whether that is a good thing or not.

A great deal of value has been placed by hon. members opposite on the fact that Dr. Patterson is now representing the people of Central Queensland in the Federal Parliament. I have the utmost respect for Dr. Patterson's ability, but he is making some very peculiar statements at the present time. Commonwealth "Hansard" for Wednesday, 17 August, 1966, reports Dr. Patterson as moving the following amendment during the course of the debate on the Queensland Beef Cattle Roads Agreement Bill—

"At the end of proposed section 4A add 'subject to that Agreement being amended to provide for the inclusion of the Oxford Downs-Nebo-Baker's Creek Road in the works programme'."

That road is already a highway. This would introduce an entirely new principle into the construction of beef roads. As yet no beef roads money has been spent on highways. In the vicinity of that road is another one to which Dr. Patterson referred—Oxford Downs to Sarina via the Bruce Highway. It is almost parallel to this one and is almost completed. With regard to the road that he wants to be made a beef road, I should not think it would be doing a good service to the 200 or 300 people in the area to de-register the road as a highway, because a highway is constructed at no cost to the people in the area whereas a beef road entails a contribution by those in the area.

Mr. Walsh: From whom?

Mr. PILBEAM: From the ratepayers in the area.

Mr. Walsh: To the beef roads?

Mr. PILBEAM: Yes. The shire in the area makes a contribution.

Mr. Murray: Is that the daily Commonwealth "Hansard" you are quoting from?

Mr. PILBEAM: Yes.

Dr. Patterson referred also to the Dingo-Mount Flora Road. He cavilled at the action of this Government and said that the southern part of the road should not be constructed first in preference to the part nearer Mackay. Anyone who knows anything about cattle in that area knows that he is barking up the wrong tree. Far more cattle would be supplied from areas near the southern part of the road to the rail-head at Duaringa, so he is a little off the track there.

I am concerned because Dr. Patterson has not advocated the construction of one road which would benefit the beef roads of Central Queensland. The Windorah-Yaraka Road

in Central Queensland is the only road that would help the meatworks in Central Queensland, and he put it at the bottom of the list. We were told that he resigned and joined the Labour Party because of his frustrating experiences in that Ministers would not take any notice of his representations. That being the case, I was astounded to read in "The Australian" of Friday, 26 August, 1966, a statement attributed to Dr. Patterson under the headline "Ministers under officials' spell." The article reads—

"The structure of the Public Service and its influence on Government policy was criticised during the Budget debate in the House of Representatives yesterday."

The article then says—

"Dr. Rex Patterson (A.L.P. Qld) formerly a senior public servant said: 'Senior public service officials exert too much influence over their ministers, particularly if the ministers are apathetic.'"

One would think that there were two Dr. Pattersons. It will be interesting for the people to read that he is running on both sides of the fence. It has taken him a long time to find out what every schoolboy suspects—that the fish always bite better on the other side of the creek.

It is very evident that we must have more money to develop Queensland. A great deal of work has been done by this Government in financing problems which should aid the development of Queensland. There are three ways in which we can ease the financial stringency. First, we can cut down development. I do not agree with that. I was astounded to read in yesterday's "Telegraph" a statement by the Minister for Air, Mr. Howson, in which he said, "The State Governments will have to restrain some of their development projects, however desirable or essential they might appear to be." I cannot agree with that as a solution to the financial situation.

The second solution that I would like to see adopted—and I have advanced this before—is the provision of more money. I do not put the whole obligation for this on the State Government. There is an obligation on the Federal Government to recognise the development that is taking place in Queensland by providing more money, and there is an obligation on the State Government to investigate the sources from which it can derive more money within the State. I do not think anyone would cavil at providing more money provided the burden is shared equally so that we can increase road construction, which is so vital to this State. I am sure that the electors would recoil in horror at the third alternative, namely, that we should restore a Labour Government similar to those of the past, when no development was allowed for or planned for and consequently no extra finance had to be provided.

This is an age of the second pioneering stage in Queensland. In the early days people pioneered with brains, muscles and courage. The same personal elements are required in this second pioneering stage of the State. But we must realise also that money now is a vital necessity. That is why I should like the Government to pursue every avenue possible to provide more money to help the two forms of government, namely, local government and State Government, develop this wonderful country of ours.

Mr. SMITH (Windsor) (4.6 p.m.): Like preceding speakers, I reaffirm the loyalty of the constituents whom I have the honour to represent in this House.

I wish to join in the congratulations that have been expressed to the Speaker of this House, the new members in the House, and those office-bearers who have been once again accorded the dignity of the offices they hold.

Mr. Davies: What do your constituents think of your moustache?

Mr. SMITH: My constituents are satisfied with me, otherwise I would not be here now.

Mr. Bennett: Is it growing, or is it stuck on?

Mr. SMITH: I am glad we have the hon. member for South Brisbane with us today.

Mr. Walsh: He has paid you the courtesy of coming here to hear you.

Mr. SMITH: I appreciate that. During my speech on the Appropriation Bill I referred the hon. member to an article in the Australian Law Journal. I noticed that in his speech the other night he quoted extensively from that article.

The hon. member for South Brisbane also accorded me full credit for the inception of the recording of evidence in our courts, for which I also thank him.

Mr. Davies: Did you read what he said about you?

Mr. SMITH: Yes. But he was wrong, as he is so often. He is also wrong when he criticises the setting down of divorce cases, for the grounds given by him.

Mr. Bennett: You do not practise in that field.

Mr. SMITH: I do.

I now wish to speak about law reform, a subject which I touched upon in my earlier address when I directed the attention of the hon. member for South Brisbane to the article in the Australian Law Journal to which I have just referred.

I have with me today the report of the Law Reform Commission of New South Wales. This report contains some of the remarks of the chairman of that commission,

the Hon. Mr. Justice J. K. Manning. Speaking of the workings of the Law Reform Commission of New South Wales, His Honour said—

“ . . . since the Commission had commenced its work all its members had become most painfully conscious of the immensity of the task which lay before them. He and his fellow members of the Commission were filled with a burning desire to eliminate anachronisms and the inconsistencies that were to be found in the law as it was recorded today, and to so reform the laws as to make them simple and logical and expressed in terms which would be readily understood by every member of the community.”

His Honour went on to say—

“To succeed in its task the Commission would need not only the assistance and the help of both branches of the profession, of the law faculties, of all the organisations and institutions which have an interest in the various subject matters which the Commission would be required to deal with, but also the assistance and help of every citizen in the community.”

The constituent members of the Commission in New South Wales are His Honour Mr. Justice J. K. Manning, Professor D. G. Benjafield, who was made available by the University of Sydney for one year, Mr. R. D. Conacher, a barrister, Mr. H. McD. Scott, former Senior Assistant Crown Solicitor, and Mr. R. E. Walker, recently retired Prothonotary of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. These men form the personnel of the commission and, as Mr. Justice Manning said, they are “painfully conscious of the immensity of the task which lay before them”. If the task in New South Wales is immense, it is no less so in this State.

We have, on the other hand, inconsistencies which unfortunately have been allowed to persist. One that comes very readily to mind is the 1963 amendment to the Real Property Act under which minors are allowed to hold land. A new section 111A was inserted, which reads—

“Persons of eighteen years of age may deal with land. Notwithstanding any Act or rule or practice of law, any person of the age of eighteen years but under the age of twenty-one years may acquire, transfer, mortgage, or otherwise deal with any estate or interest in any lands under the provisions of this Act to the same extent and as fully and effectually in law as if he were of the age of twenty-one years, and every transfer, mortgage or document evidencing any other dealing with an estate or interest in any land under the provisions of this Act whereto such person is a party shall be legally binding upon such person and enforceable by and against him accordingly.”

If that stood alone it would be very satisfactory, but under the provisions of the Supreme Court Rules and the Trustees and Executors Act a minor who is a beneficiary in an estate cannot give a release to the executor till he reaches the age of 21. If there is land in the estate, and if the minor wants to deal with the land (he may be the sole beneficiary, or the land may be the sole asset of the estate), by virtue of the provisions of the Trustees and Executors Act he cannot release the executor till he turns 21.

Mr. Walsh: In other words, he has the right to hold it but not to transfer it?

Mr. SMITH: Under the Real Property Act he can transfer it, but, if he is 18 years of age, for three years the transaction is to some extent frustrated. Although the Real Property Act gives him in a property transaction, all the rights of an adult, the executor may well be apprehensive of his position. I am not so concerned with the minor or the person to whom he transfers it as I am with the executor, who is put in a difficult and embarrassing position.

Mr. Bennett: How would the executor be put in an embarrassing position?

Mr. SMITH: If the executor transfers land to the minor—and it appears that a minor could give a trustee an effective discharge or receipt for the land—it would then seem that, if the minor deals with the land after that transfer, the trustee, who may also be the executor, cannot be released by the minor till he reaches the age of 21.

Mr. Bennett: Just the same, how is that embarrassing?

Mr. SMITH: By virtue of the provisions of the Act the executor is still held, although the entire estate may have been dissipated.

Mr. Walsh: It is worth looking into.

Mr. SMITH: I instance the conflict in the terms of these Acts to show that there is need for consideration of the effect of amendments not only on the Act that is amended but on all other Acts that bear upon it.

Mr. Bennett: Do you agree that we should have a legally qualified Attorney-General?

Mr. SMITH: Yes, I agree with that.

Mr. Hughes: Which of these Acts is mainly relied upon in everyday dealings?

Mr. SMITH: That depends on the nature of the dealings. If it was merely a transfer of land, the Real Property Act would no doubt be quite effective. But if it involves some dealings relative to the Trustees and Executors Act, I am afraid—and very rightly so—that Act might be construed.

Mr. Bromley: I think that many of them do that.

Mr. SMITH: Many of them do. Many of our Acts are out of date; and some of the acts of members in this House should be looked into too.

We have just been listening to the hon. member for Rockhampton South dealing with expansion and other allied matters in Queensland, and there is indeed some need to consider the situation relating to subdivisions. You can well understand, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the opening of areas involves the subdivision of them. When a landowner has a large area of land that he desires to sell, he calls in a surveyor and seeks to subdivide it. Unfortunately, in this city it takes a very long time to get a subdivisional plan through. The local authority for the city can be very slow in this regard. It has to approve the plan in any event, whether it is in a long or a short time.

Mr. Bennett: Don't start playing politics. I thought you were engaging in a legal discussion on a high plane.

Mr. SMITH: I am indeed. If the hon. member can come up to it, he is entitled to listen to my argument.

The situation is that if the landowner who is proposing to subdivide enters into a contract of sale with a willing purchaser to sell him one of the blocks that will emerge from the subdivision, by reason of a recent decision given by the present Chief Justice in the case of *Classified Pre-mixed Concrete Pty. Ltd. v. Oil Tools Sales Pty. Ltd.*, the sale cannot be enforced if the contract of sale was signed before the approval was granted by the local authority.

Mr. Bennett: You are only putting up a case for Norm Lee. You are only putting up a case for one of your Liberal Party mates.

Mr. SMITH: I am endeavouring to keep this debate on a high plane. Unfortunately, the hon. member for South Brisbane seems to slip off that plane from time to time. If he knew anything about the length of time subdivisional approvals take, he would know that many a man who has a number of blocks to sell waits months for approval. During those months he gets the opportunity of selling them. But it seems fairly pointless today to enter into a contract of sale that says in its terms "subject to approval".

Mr. Bennett: Don't you agree that that protects the individual purchaser, the little man who is buying one block?

Mr. SMITH: I am not suggesting that he is a little man at all. I am talking about a willing buyer who comes along to buy the corner block that will be available if the subdivision is approved and signs a contract.

Mr. Hughes: Isn't the money held in trust till he gets his title?

Mr. SMITH: I am not worried about that. I am worried about a contract that both parties can enter into in good faith when the purchaser says, "Yes, I will buy that piece of land subject to the approval of the plan."

Mr. Bennett: Are you claiming that the the decision of the Chief Justice is wrong?

Mr. SMITH: I am claiming that the effect of the decision imposes great hardship on the people.

Mr. Bennett: I am sure it is good law, myself.

Mr. SMITH: I am sure the Chief Justice would be very gratified to know that.

Mr. Walsh: This applies to other local authorities as well as the Brisbane City Council.

Mr. SMITH: To every sale of land before subdivision is approved.

Mr. Bromley interjected.

Mr. SMITH: If the hon. member for Norman had read the decision, he might be able to comment on it. I am sure he has never seen it.

Mr. Bennett: I keep them well informed on this side.

Mr. SMITH: I am quite sure that the hon. member for South Brisbane has not seen the decision, either.

Mr. Bennett: I listened to Norm Lee read it out the other night when you were absent.

Mr. SMITH: I am sure he did not read it right through, because it is a very lengthy judgment. It is very gratifying to know that the hon. member for South Brisbane was here, even if it was only at night.

The submission that I make is this: that some investigation is warranted—it can easily be made, because the decision of the Chief Justice turns upon the wording of the Act and it is easy to amend the Act—to endeavour to secure the position of both the vendor and the purchaser in matters such as these.

Mr. Bromley: We need an all-party inquiry.

Mr. SMITH: We do not need an all-party inquiry. What we need is a law reform committee.

Mr. Walsh: Now that you have mentioned it, I am sure the Minister for Justice will look at it.

Mr. SMITH: I am sure he will.

Mr. Bennett: He will probably make me chairman of it.

Mr. SMITH: The other matter concerns the District Court, which hears a large number of actions concerning claims for damages by people involved in motor-car accidents. With many involving infants and minors, there is a hiatus. In the Supreme Court, when an infant plaintiff seeks damages and the other side is directed to come to terms and they arrive at a settlement acceptable to the infant's next friend—I use that term because an infant has to sue by his next friend—the action can be settled. The parties inform the court that the action has been settled and the Supreme Court can sanction the settlement. It is unfortunate for the parties concerned if the action is brought in the District Court, because the provisions of the District Court Act do not entitle a judge to sanction the settlement.

I am pointing out these individual and unrelated matters because I want them put on record.

Mr. Bennett: He can recommend the settlement to the Public Curator.

Mr. SMITH: With respect to that interjector, what I said was that a Supreme Court judge can sanction the settlement but a District Court judge cannot.

Mr. Bennett: He can recommend that it be settled.

Mr. SMITH: That is so, but that does not get you anywhere. You then have to go to the Public Curator, and he does not have to accept it.

Mr. Walsh: There is nothing binding about it.

Mr. SMITH: I am glad to see that on the other side there is one hon. member seized of the situation and who grasps things very quickly.

Mr. Bennett: I am merely pointing out that the judge can recommend it, and does so from time to time.

Mr. SMITH: That is irrelevant to what I am talking about. I am talking about sanction.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I trust hon. members will not treat this as the Supreme Court.

Mr. SMITH: Leaving the question of settlement for minors and infants, and passing to the question of building, here again we find some anomalies. These are not inconsistencies; they are more anomalies. In the ordinary way of life today the building unit has become very popular as a method of home construction, but it is excluded from any advances from our co-operative housing societies. This comes about because, in the Co-operative Housing Societies Act of 1958, which set in train quite a deal of building under the auspices

of the co-operative housing societies, we find that a dwelling-house is defined as a structure for human habitation by a single family unit. You, Mr. Speaker, will know that in and around Brisbane there are some extremely luxurious home units. No-one could suggest for one moment that they would be improper residences for any person, yet if a person sought to obtain finance from a co-operative housing society he would be debarred because it is not a structure for residence by one family unit.

Mr. Walsh: They should go to the banks.

Mr. Bennett: That was brought in before the strata title system was introduced, of course.

Mr. SMITH: I am coming on to the strata title system in a moment, but speaking about co-operative housing societies, I do not agree for one moment with the hon. member for Bundaberg who says they should go to the banks. If a person desires to buy through a co-operative housing society, he should be able to do it.

Mr. Walsh: What about the little people?

Mr. SMITH: The little people can live in home units.

Mr. Walsh: You said they were luxurious units.

Mr. SMITH: I said there are some luxurious units. There are others that are quite sound and desirable as well, and because the Act defines a dwelling-house as a structure for habitation by a single family unit, the prospective borrower is debarred.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I point out to the hon. member that there is notice on the Business Paper of legislation concerning housing. That matter will be debated at a later date. I do not want the hon. member to enlarge too much on that subject now, although I do not mind his skirting around it.

Mr. Bennett: Why don't you come around and see me privately at the Inns of Court rather than be embarrassed by Mr. Speaker?

Mr. SMITH: If anyone has been embarrassed by Mr. Speaker in the last six years, I bid fair to say that the hon. member for South Brisbane has been one of the most embarrassed.

In any event, what I have voiced now could well be considered during the debate later in this session.

Under the Building Units Titles Act of 1964 a "building units plan" is defined as—
"a plan which—

(a) . . .

(b) shows the whole or any part of the land comprised therein as being divided into two or more storeys, whether or not any such storey is divided into two or more units."

We can get what are commonly known as strata titles as long as there are two storeys or more. The anomaly I wish to draw attention to this afternoon is that this cannot be done in progressive stages. Under the Building Units Titles Act, I submit that it is a proper point of consideration to say whether or not building units could be built, say, eight on one floor, and a title given for those eight. You can build the same number of units, four to a floor, but if you put them all on the one floor you cannot sell them. If it is competent to go to two storeys and sell four on one floor and four on the other, there is nothing wrong with selling eight on the one floor, but you cannot do it.

Mr. Bennett interjected.

Mr. SMITH: The hon. member for South Brisbane is talking about "strata". There is nothing about "strata" in it. If he read the Building Units Titles Act he would find that it refers to "building units". I cannot see any reason why we should restrict it to multiple storeys.

Mr. Duggan: What is the practice in Sydney, where there are very big buildings with a large number of units?

Mr. SMITH: They do refer to "strata" down there. It means that you must have strata, one above the other.

Mr. Bennett: That is the concept of the Act.

Mr. SMITH: I am not denying that, but if we build the first floor this year, the second floor next year and the third floor the following year, this is not an unreasonable way to approach it.

The next matter I wish to deal with concerns garnishees. We have lived a long time with garnishees, and during that time we have repeatedly required the person seeking a garnishee to make application week by week, showing the means of the defaulter and obtaining the issue of a garnishee order each week. It seems to me to be quite possible to have a continuing order which would be effective until such time as the person on whom it was made recorded some change in circumstances. I think this would alleviate the congestion in courts and save time and trouble for the people concerned. This, again, is another matter that a permanent law reform committee could investigate.

I have cited just a few examples. There are many more, but I do not propose to go into them. I will devote the rest of my time to the much publicised alterations of our jury system.

Mr. Bromley: What about garnishee as it affects the Maintenance Act?

Mr. SMITH: I am talking about garnishee in general; I do not intend to deal with the specialised field of maintenance because some provision is already made.

On the matter of jury service, I was interested to read an article that appeared in the Press the other day. I do not know which of the editresses was responsible, but she said that in England, America, Victoria and Western Australia women have a right to serve on juries. I think it is only right that I should point out, not only to the author of that article and to those in this House, but to anyone who cares to read the proceedings, that a woman in England has not a complete right to jury service. She has to be a householder. It is very easy to say, "Women have the right." Of course they have the right, provided they own a house. They have the right here, too.

Mr. Bromley: What sort of a house?

Mr. SMITH: One with 15 windows or more, if that is of any use to the hon. member, or worth more than £20 a year.

Mr. Hughes: I suppose she would have the right if she owned it with her husband.

Mr. SMITH: I will read the English provision so that my colleagues can draw their own conclusions. Section 1 of the English Juries Act provides—

"Every man, except as hereinafter excepted, between the ages of twenty-one years and sixty years, residing in any county in England, who shall have in his own name or in trust for him, within the same county, ten pounds by the year, above reprises, in lands or tenements, whether of freehold, copyhold, or customary tenure . . ."

and so on. In essence, it has to be a piece of land that is worth more than £20 a year. It is therefore idle to say that women have a right to jury service in England. They have not, unless they comply with certain conditions. Here, in Queensland, women have a right to jury service simply by writing a letter to the Electoral Officer. The Press article is completely misleading, as it suggests that women in England have unlimited jury rights.

Secondly, to show how this right is not granted willy-nilly to people, let me refer the House to the case of *Perrins v. Pye*, heard in the King's Bench Division in 1947, reported in Volume 1 of the All England Law Reports at page 872. It is rather interesting to read the headnote, which says—

"In considering the qualification of a householder for jury service under s. 1 of the Juries Act, 1825, the rateable value taken into account in accordance with the section must be that of the house of which he is the holder. It is not permissible, where the householder also occupies another property, e.g., a shop, to aggregate the value of the two properties."

In this instance, the house-owner, a woman, had a house the net value of which was £19 a year and she had shop premises with a net value of £48 a year.

Lord Goddard, C. J. said—

"This Case raises a point which does not seem hitherto to have been the subject of a decision. The Juries Act, 1825, which sets out in s. 1 the qualifications for a common juror, provides that any person who—

... being a householder shall be rated or assessed to the poor rate or to the inhabited house duty in the county of Middlesex on a value of not less than £30 a year, or in any other county on a value of not less than £20, or who shall occupy a house containing not less than 15 windows, shall be qualified and shall be liable to serve on juries..."

The number of windows did not come into this case, but the value of land did. The values were £19 on the house and £48 annually in shops, so she was disqualified.

The reason of the Lord Chief Justice was—

"Therefore, it is clear that special jurors must be in the jurors book as householders occupying premises of the rateable value of £20 or £30..."

"In my opinion, the qualification specified in s. 1 of the Juries Act, 1825, must be the rateable value of the house of which the person concerned is the holder and, therefore, the justices came to a right decision in point of law and this appeal fails."

The justices in that case held that she was not entitled to jury service, so it is idle to say that women at large in England have jury service because they have not; nor for that matter do men, because they also have to be householders.

Mr. Melloy: There is no property qualifications for women in Queensland?

Mr. SMITH: In Queensland a woman is deemed fit if she registers with the Electoral Office, because she has simply to be an elector on the roll of any electorate. I agree with the grounds given by the hon. member for South Brisbane the other night.

The situation in Western Australia and in Victoria is that a woman is on the jury but she can "buy out". She simply writes and says, "I don't want to be on the jury." I do not consider that that is better than our present system. As I said the other night, as it is now our women are free of any responsibility unless they wish to assume it. But once they assume it they have it at large, and their duties and responsibilities are co-extensive with men. I suppose I should have made this point clear to the hon. member for Nudgee when he interjected.

The Queensland female who does indicate her willingness to serve can be excused from sitting on a case the evidence in which she finds distasteful. That is one of the advantages our women have today; they do not have to hear a case. They can put themselves on the list for jury service, and someone apparently has put abroad the notion that the mere fact of this amendment going to the House at a later stage will mean women appearing on juries.

Mr. Pizzev: How would she know beforehand what the evidence was?

Mr. SMITH: The way the proceedings are published it is a wonder she does not know the jury verdict beforehand.

The notion seems to be abroad that by some magical method this proposed amendment will ensure the appearance of female faces in the jury box. Let me say at once that all this amendment would do, if passed, would be to put women's names in the barrel for selection as one of the jury panel, and that is all.

Mr. Bennett: The proposal is to put them on the same standing as men, is it not?

Mr. SMITH: I do not know. The proposal is to remove a benefit that is presently held, namely, keeping right out of it if they want to. Western Australia was the pioneer in this matter. Section 5 (2) states that a woman qualified and liable to serve as a juror may cancel her liability to serve, and she does that by serving a written notice to that effect on the jury officer for the jury district in which she lives. It cannot be said that an Act that allows a woman to say, "No, I will not serve on juries" puts her in *pari passu* with men.

The point is that the measures that have been introduced in Western Australia, and copied in Victoria, allow women to cancel their liability. The great champions of equality can hardly say that women in those States are on equal terms with men. I should like to see what would happen to the male elector in any of our electorates who wrote to the jury officer and said, "I am cancelling my liability for jury service."

We are simply turning our provision round the other way. At present Queensland has a very enlightened method of allowing to serve those women who, by some adjustment of their thought processes, want to do so. As one who has listened to a wealth of evidence in the Criminal Court, quite frankly I cannot understand any reasonably adjusted female wanting to enter that court on many occasions.

Mr. Bennett: Why has the Attorney-General committed the Government to it?

Mr. SMITH: I do not for a moment object to women on juries, and I do not for a moment think that they are in any way more or less able to reach decisions than

are men. After all, there have been on juries many males whom I would have liked to throw out smartly.

Mr. Bennett: I seem to get on all right with them.

Mr. SMITH: Yes; I have noted the string of convictions obtained by the hon. member for South Brisbane.

Mr. Hughes: What do you think is the majority opinion of women on this?

Mr. SMITH: I have not the slightest doubt what it is. I am sure that by far the great majority of Queensland women, particularly those with young families and home responsibilities, would be horrified at the thought of being dragged up for jury service.

Mr. Ramsden: For once I agree with you.

Mr. SMITH: I am glad the hon. member has come out of his hole to say so.

Mr. Bennett: Don't you agree that it is a pity the Attorney-General did not confer with you and me before he committed the Government to this?

Mr. SMITH: I know the hon. member for South Brisbane is anxious for me to agree with him, but I shall not be dragged into that sort of agreement.

I have taken the trouble to show that the presence of women on juries in England cannot be taken as the be-all and end-all of the matter. I am quite keen to follow the legislative programme of Great Britain because I feel that it receives a great deal of consideration and is very sound. However, when it is seen that jurors must have property qualifications, I believe that it becomes no different from the position here, where they simply have to give written notification of their assent to serve.

Let us now go beyond that point.

Mr. Houston: This could be another Bill of Rights.

Mr. SMITH: The hon. member should do an elementary course in law.

Mr. Bennett: Do you think he is talking about Percy Wright?

Mr. SMITH: I am only waiting for the next time the hon. member for South Brisbane appears in the Land Court!

Let it be realised that in Victoria, where this Act is in force, it applies only in one court, that being in Geelong. It does not apply in Melbourne. It will be interesting to see how long it takes to reach Melbourne. I should say that many of the organisations seeking jury service for women are doing so on the ground of equality. That is reasonable enough, and I would not deny that.

Mr. Campbell: Complete equality.

Mr. SMITH: I am indebted to my colleague from Aspley for that interjection. He says, "Complete equality." I do not for a moment agree that women have complete equality in Victoria, nor do I agree that they have it in Western Australia. As I pointed out, they can simply write in and say, "I am cancelling my liability," so there is no equality there.

Mr. Duggan: From a Government point of view, I think you have won the argument but lost the verdict.

Mr. SMITH: Well, that is not uncommon.

Mr. Walsh: On a non-party basis, not six members would vote for it.

Mr. Houston: You are not suggesting that members of the Liberal Party are going to be stood over, are you?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. SMITH: We are faced with immense practical difficulties, to which I referred earlier. One is the question of accommodation. New courts are being built—I hope their completion will not be too long delayed—and if more luxurious accommodation can be provided for juries, such as that provided in the courts in Canberra, I will be very happy. But before we make a change that, in effect, will achieve nothing, I do counsel very grave deliberations and a very careful review of the ideals that have motivated any action in this direction.

I have made my stand in this matter quite clear, and I am taking each opportunity that offers to make it clearer, because I believe that, for some reason or other, people think we can put women into a jury box. When the Bill does come down—if ever it does—I will take some time in outlining the mechanics whereby 12 people get into the jury box. When one realises that there are sometimes four courts sitting in Brisbane and using the one jury panel and that objections are taken to jury service, the process of empanelling a jury can be very long-winded indeed. Even if women do not actually get onto a jury, they may well be hanging round, perhaps, till lunch-time and get home late. That will provoke a lot of ill-feeling and ill-will unnecessarily.

The solution is there—leave well alone. I commend to hon. members that if they are at all in doubt they should make some investigation and find out what the position really is. As I have told the House, in England women who wish to serve on a jury must have some property qualification, and an investigation will show how much equality women have in Queensland.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Hodges, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 4.48 p.m.