

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**TUESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 1966**

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## TUESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER, 1966

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

### MEMBER SWORN

HONOURABLE W. E. KNOX

Hon. William Edward Knox, having taken the oath of allegiance and subscribed the roll, took his seat as member for the electoral district of Nundah.

### QUESTIONS

#### COPIES OF BUSINESS PAPER FOR GALLERY VISITORS

Mr. P. Wood, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

Will he make available to adult visitors in the public gallery of the House during Question Time copies of the Business Paper, which includes Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day?

*Answer:—*

“Depending on the number, available copies of the Business Paper are given, on request, to any Honourable Member who has adult guests in the public gallery. There is difficulty in assessing the number of copies required for any one morning and consequently, to avoid waste, the practice has its limits. However, the Honourable the Speaker assures me that, under normal circumstances, sufficient copies are available for the purpose.”

#### SUBJECTS, PHYSICAL EDUCATION DIPLOMA COURSE

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

(1) Is there a University course for a Diploma of Physical Education and, if so, what studies does the course embrace?

(2) Is it one of the requisites for the diploma that the student must play Rugby Union football and, if so, why are other football codes discriminated against?

*Answers:—*

(1) “Yes. The subjects of the three years of study are—First Year—History, Principles, and Methods of Physical Education; Anatomy, Part I; Hygiene; Biology; Physical Skills and Techniques, Part I; Teaching Practice, Part I. Second Year—Tests and Measurements in Physical Education; Anatomy, Part II; General Psychology; Physiology, Part I; Voice Production; Physical Skills and Techniques, Part II; Teaching Practice, Part II. Third Year—Organisation and Administration of Physical Education;

Theory and Practice of Physical Education; Body Mechanics; Physiology, Part II; Education; Physical Skills and Techniques, Part III; Teaching Practice, Part III.”

(2) “No. That the students must play Rugby Union football is not one of the requisites of the Diploma course. Students are instructed in football, in physical skills, and in the three years of the course are given instruction in Rugby (both Union and League), Australian Rules and Soccer.”

#### CONCESSIONAL ELECTRICITY TARIFFS FOR PENSIONERS

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

(1) Is any avenue available through the State Electricity Commission to enable tariff concessions being made available to users of electricity who are pensioners?

(2) If no such avenue exists either through this means or through legislation, will he consider the problem with a view to assisting them?

*Answers:—*

(1) “The Honourable Member’s Question was answered on Tuesday, September 28, 1965, in reply to his almost identical Question on the same subject. It was pointed out then that no avenue existed for such concessions.”

(2) “It is not intended to alter the present practice which avoids discrimination between consumers using electricity for the same purpose. The record shows that there has been noteworthy stability in electricity charges over many years in spite of increases in costs and charges for goods and other services. It is considered that such stability is the best form of assistance which can be given to all electricity consumers.”

#### Q.H.I. INDUSTRIES PTY. LTD., NU TREND HOMES CONSTRUCTION CO., BUTICOTE CONSTRUCTION CO.

Mr. Campbell for Mr. Ramsden, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Justice,—

(1) What are the names and addresses of the directors, together with the business addresses of the following companies, (a) Q.H.I. Industries Pty. Ltd., (b) Nu Trend Homes Construction Co., and (c) Buticote Construction Co.?

(2) Are any of these companies subsidiaries of any of the others mentioned and, if so, which ones?

(3) In which State is each company registered?

Answers:—

(1) "Q.H.I. Industries Pty. Ltd. was incorporated in Queensland on January 29, 1965. According to the latest Annual Return the directors are—Anthony Henry Lanzi, Pullenvale Road, Kenmore, and Verleigh May Lanzi, Pullenvale Road, Kenmore. The business address of the Company is Room 19, Mayfair Arcade, Adelaide Street, Brisbane. Nu Trend Homes Construction Company is a registered business name. The corporation in relation to which this business name is registered has been notified as carrying on business at Room 19, 1st Floor, Mayfair Arcade, Adelaide Street, Brisbane and is Q.H.I. Industries Pty. Ltd. Buticote Construction Company is also a registered business name. The corporation in relation to which this business name is registered has been notified as carrying on business at 55 Peel Street, South Brisbane, and is also Q.H.I. Industries Pty. Ltd."

(2) "See (1)."

(3) "Returns lodged at the Office of the Registrar of Companies and Commercial Acts, Brisbane do not disclose whether the company and business names are registered in other States."

WHEAT PRODUCTION, CENTRAL  
QUEENSLAND HIGHLANDS

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

What were the production figures for wheat in the Central Queensland Highlands for each year of the period 1960-65 with particular reference to (a) area under crop, (b) harvest in bushels and tons and (c) gross value to the producers?

Answer:—

"The production acreage, production and value figures for wheat in the Central Queensland Highlands for the period 1960 to 1965 were as follows:—

WHEAT PRODUCTION  
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND HIGHLANDS

Year	Area	Production		Gross Value to Producer
		bushels	tons	
1960	26,458	248,775	6,664	\$ 320,920
1961	28,904	190,851	5,112	265,283
1962	59,577	839,250	22,480	1,132,988
1963	61,624	704,055	18,859	971,596
1964	71,079	531,312	14,232	733,211 (e)
1965	62,000 (e)	882,000 (e)	23,625 (e)	1,217,160 (e)"

(e) Estimated.

RAILWAY STAFF ARRANGEMENTS, AYR

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

Does the Railway Department propose to reduce or rearrange its Ayr staff in the near future and, if so, will he advise the House as fully as possible on the matter?

Answer:—

"Investigation is being made into the matter of the staff at all depots including Ayr consequent upon the Department's programme of dieselisation. In the event of a decision being made at any of the depots, the unions and the staff concerned will be advised."

MITCHELL RIVER MISSION  
ADMINISTRATION

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

As a staff shortage exists at Mitchell River Mission and as it will be further aggravated by resignations, will he ensure that the Mission administration functions efficiently?

Answer:—

"When an aboriginal community is sponsored by a religious group the Government confers virtual autonomy on the Church in its administration and this situation presently exists in relation to the Mitchell River community. Although negotiations are in progress for transfer of material administration, this has not yet been effected and consequently it would be an intrusion for me to intervene in staff administration, particularly as no approach has been made by His Lordship the Bishop of Carpentaria regarding any situation such as the Honourable Member indicates in his Question, nor has a position serious enough to warrant such intervention become apparent. I have confidence that His Lordship will take whatever action is necessary."

SECONDARY DEPARTMENT FOR MT.  
GARNET STATE SCHOOL

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

As the present level of tin mining in the Mt. Garnet area has been guaranteed for the next twenty years and as the farming

community on the Herbert River in the Innot Hot Springs area has increased, will he consider the establishment of a secondary department at Mt. Garnet State School?

*Answer:—*

"At present secondary students from the Mt. Garnet area travel by licensed bus to Ravenshoe, a distance of 30 miles, fares being paid by the Education Department. At Ravenshoe a full range of secondary facilities is available to senior level. The transport of secondary students from Mt. Garnet to Ravenshoe is considered to be satisfactory at present and could continue next year since the enrolment at present in grade 7 at Mt. Garnet is only 13. The matter will be re-examined in 1967 with a view to assessing the feasibility of establishing a secondary department at Mt. Garnet from the beginning of 1968."

#### HOSTEL FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN, NORMANTON

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

Has there been any decision on the establishment of a hostel for school children at Normanton? If so, when will it be built?

*Answer:—*

"The Carpentaria Shire Council proposes to provide a hostel at Normanton for school children at a cost of about \$20,000. It is intended to finance this proposal—Debenture Loan, \$10,000; Treasury Subsidy, \$10,000. Approval has been given by the Under Treasurer to the Shire Council to enter into negotiations to borrow, during the current financial year, the sum of \$10,000 for this purpose. This approval and approval for Treasury subsidy is subject to the council furnishing advice to the Department of Education that the proposed hostel will be open to any child in the area seeking accommodation in order to attend school."

#### CO-ORDINATED BUS AND RAIL SERVICE, GEEBUNG-ZILLMERE-BRISBANE

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

What action, if any, has been taken for the provision of a co-ordinated bus and rail service from Geebung and Zillmere to Brisbane?

*Answer:—*

"The local bus service in the Zillmere and Geebung areas already provides for residents of those areas a measure of co-ordination on a timetable basis either with the railway or the tramway. However, as announced in the policy speech delivered by the Deputy Premier before the last State election, the question of improvement of co-ordination between bus, tram and rail services in the metropolitan area is under consideration."

#### OUTPATIENT DAY HOSPITAL

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

Has the proposal for the establishment of out-patients' day hospital facilities at the Brisbane Children's Hospital been abandoned? If not, what is the present situation of the Children's Hospital Foundation and what activities of the foundation can be anticipated in the immediate future?

*Answer:—*

"The provision of an Outpatient Day Hospital was, I understand, one of the original objects of the Children's Hospital Foundation. Subsequent advice indicated that the total sum subscribed to the Foundation fell far short of the figure anticipated and it was therefore not possible to proceed with the original plans. Conferences have been held on a number of occasions with officers of the Foundation on the most effective way in which the sums subscribed could be used and thought is being given to the possibility of incorporating a project at the Department of Child Health and its ancillary ward, in association with extensions and developments which are presently under consideration by the University."

#### ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES BY OFFICERS OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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

What procedure is adopted in his Department on the granting of leave with pay and/or expenses to officers wishing to attend workshops and conferences within the broad field of their subject interests, and what is the procedure concerning the same matters in subject interests not immediately or exactly applicable to work upon which they are engaged in the Department?

*Answer:—*

“When an officer attends a conference or similar function in his official capacity and by direction of the Department, he is regarded as being on duty and his expenses are paid. Any application for leave to attend conferences or similar functions is treated on its merits. If leave is granted, the practice is to grant it without pay, or as a charge against annual recreation leave. Though exceptions have been made on occasions, it is not the practice to grant leave to enable officers to attend conferences in subject matters not applicable to the work upon which they are engaged.”

#### DEPOSITS ON PURCHASES OF HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSES

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

(1) What is the number of deposits presently lodged on dwellings and how much stands to the credit of would-be purchasers on (a) contracts for homes through the Housing Commission throughout Queensland on which building has not yet commenced, (b) homes already built and for sale by the Commission, and (c) land owned by the Commission?

(2) Does this money accrue interest and, if so, how much?

(3) In the event of the sale not being proceeded with, what percentage of the deposit is returned to those concerned?

*Answers:—*

(1) “In respect of prospective purchasers who have not yet occupied their houses and exclusive of the preliminary deposit of \$20 lodged with each formal application to purchase a dwelling on Commission land, (a) 19, \$25,160; (b) 52, \$57,854; (c) 2, \$2,886.”

(2) “Yes, at Savings Bank rates and on Savings Bank conditions.”

(3) “The full deposit with accrued interest would be refunded less \$5 of the preliminary deposit. In the case of an applicant who selects a Commission building site and arranges for the Commission to prepare plans and specifications to suit such site for a design of house chosen by the applicant, a portion or the whole as may be appropriate, of the charge for such plan service would be retained by the Commission.”

#### NEW MATHEMATICS SYLLABUS IN NORTH QUEENSLAND STATE SCHOOLS

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

(1) Regarding the new mathematics syllabus, known as the P.I.M., in primary

schools, what methods were used to introduce the new system to the teachers and children in the northern district and what staff was primarily involved in the introduction?

(2) Have all teachers now received direct instruction through seminars or other means or do they still have to rely on what they can draw from head teachers?

*Answers:—*

(1) “At the beginning of 1966 the publication *Program in Mathematics* was distributed to all primary schools on the understanding that schools wishing to implement it in 1966 were free to do so, but that its introduction on a State-wide basis would not occur until 1967. In the larger centres throughout the State, including the northern district, District Inspectors towards the end of 1965 organised one-day seminars during school time. Teachers who proposed to implement the new approach to mathematics in 1966 were invited to these seminars. Throughout this year all District Inspectors have been organising further seminars in their districts in order to assist teachers in their preparation for the State-wide introduction of the syllabus in 1967. District Inspectors have themselves been briefed on aspects of the new syllabus at special seminars on two occasions. A preliminary seminar for them was held in 1965 and a residential seminar for District Inspectors and Regional Directors was held this year at Tallebudgera National Fitness Camp. Considerable time at this seminar was devoted to consideration of the new mathematics program. Furthermore, several workshops on mathematics have been held in Brisbane during school vacations and teachers who applied to attend and were selected were granted free return rail travel. It is planned to hold a series of in-service training courses during the first week of the forthcoming Christmas vacation at both Townsville and Brisbane. One of the courses to be offered will be designed to assist primary teachers in implementing the new mathematics program. The school staffs primarily involved in the voluntary introduction of the *Program in Mathematics* in 1966 were teachers of infants' classes.”

(2) “Opportunity to attend seminars has been provided for all teachers directly concerned with the implementation of the new syllabus in the first instance. As the program is progressively implemented through succeeding grades it is planned that opportunities will be given teachers of those grades to attend seminars.”

SURGICAL AND MATERNITY WARD BLOCKS,  
CAIRNS BASE HOSPITAL

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

(1) Have design plans and specifications in relation to the proposed new surgical and maternity blocks, Cairns Base Hospital, yet been approved? If not, what stage has the proposal reached?

(2) Has the resumption of Gatton Street for this project been authorized?

(3) Has authority for tenders been approved?

(4) When is it anticipated that work will commence?

*Answer:—*

(1 to 4) "The proposal of the Cairns Hospitals Board for the construction of a multi-storey ward block for surgical and maternity patients is to be examined by my Department's Hospital Buildings Advisory Committee at its next meeting. Plans and specifications have not yet been prepared. The Land Administration Commission is attending to the necessary procedures for the closure of portion of Gatton Street and its inclusion in the Hospital Reserve. It has advised that the survey has been completed and the plans examined, and when a clearance has been received from the Cairns City Council regarding compensation payable, the way will be clear to the gazetting of the closure of portion of Gatton Street."

AGRICULTURAL BANK ADVANCES TO NEW  
ASSIGNEES IN SUGAR INDUSTRY

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

(1) How many applications were received by the Agricultural Bank during the years 1963, 1964 and 1965 from new assignees in the cane-growing industry?

(2) What was the total amount advanced?

(3) How many of them have (a) failed to meet their immediate obligation to the Bank or (b) sought or been granted relief?

*Answers:—*

(1) "The Bank's records are not designed to supply the information sought but a survey made indicates that at least 150 new assignees have applied for and been granted loans from the Agricultural Bank in the period mentioned."

(2) "The survey also indicates that amounts advanced during the period totalled in the vicinity of \$2,500,000 from Bank and Farm Water Supply funds."

(3) "Transactions between the Bank and its customers are confidential."

CANE ASSIGNMENTS CANCELLED

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

How many cane farmers have surrendered their cane assignments during the years 1964, 1965 and 1966?

*Answer:—*

"New assignments cancelled by the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board are—

Year	Number	Acres
1964	5	287
1965	15	857
1966	8	456
Total	28	1,600

However, of these new assignments cancelled by the Board 12 replacement assignments have been granted totalling 686 acres. Some of the new assignments cancelled have been due to non-compliance with the conditions attaching to the provisional grant, for example proof of title to land. Whatever the reasons for the cancellations by the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board the net figure of 16 assignments totalling 914 acres is very small in relation to 1,260 new assignments granted totalling 73,289 acres. In the period under review no previous assignments have been cancelled, but 4 growers applied for cancellation or reduction of their increased assignments the area involved being 72 acres."

DISALLOWANCE OF QUESTION

**Mr. DAVIES** (Maryborough) proceeding to give notice of a question—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member is seeking an expression of opinion. The question is disallowed.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

The State Electricity Commission Acts, 1937 to 1965.

The Southern Electric Authority of Queensland Acts, 1952 to 1964.

The Water Acts, 1926 to 1964.

The City of Brisbane Market Acts, 1960 to 1962.

The Dairy Products Stabilisation Acts, 1933 to 1957.

The Meat Industry Act of 1965.

The Milk Supply Acts, 1952 to 1961.

The Co-operative Housing Societies Acts, 1958 to 1964.

The State Housing Acts, 1945 to 1965.

Regulations under—

The Agricultural Standards Acts, 1952 to 1963.

The Fruit and Vegetables Acts, 1947 to 1959.

The Meat Industry Act of 1965.

The Poultry Industry Acts, 1946 to 1965.

The Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1965.

The Health Acts, 1937 to 1964.

The Hospitals Acts, 1936 to 1964.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**Mr. PILBEAM** (Rockhampton South) (11.35 a.m.), by leave:

On Thursday morning last, during my temporary absence from the Chamber, the hon. member for Rockhampton North, during his speech in the Address-in-Reply debate, had this to say—

“Recently I asked a question of the Minister for Health about the Benevolent Home in Rockhampton, where 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.”

I presume the hon. member was referring to the Federal Liberal candidate for Capricornia, because there will not be a Federal Liberal member for that seat until the end of this year.

The hon. member’s remark is objectionable to me and I refute it as being completely untrue. Neither I nor the endorsed Liberal candidate for Capricornia, Mr. McKendry, has ever been connected in any way with the Benevolent Home, Rockhampton, nor has either of us ever been charged with its control or management.

The only connection I have with this home is as president of a public appeal launched this year to mark 100 years of outstanding service to the Rockhampton community by the Benevolent Home by raising funds to rebuild it. Mr. McKendry is the hon. secretary of this appeal, which is administered by a public body of citizens and is not connected in any way, either financially or administratively, with the Benevolent Home itself.

My concern and the concern of other reputable people in Rockhampton is that slurs cast by the hon. member, who has never interested himself in any way in the welfare of aged people in Rockhampton, could adversely affect the success of this necessary and worthy appeal.

#### POLICE (PHOTOGRAPHS) BILL

##### INITIATION

**Hon. J. C. A. PIZZEY** (Isis—Minister for Education): I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill

to regulate the procurement of photographs taken for evidentiary purposes for the use of the Police Force of the State of Queensland.”

Motion agreed to.

#### PRIMARY PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION AND MARKETING ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

##### INITIATION

**Hon. J. A. ROW** (Hinchinbrook—Minister for Primary Industries): I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1965, in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

#### AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS DISTRIBUTION CONTROL BILL

##### INITIATION

**Hon. J. A. ROW** (Hinchinbrook—Minister for Primary Industries): I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to control the distribution of agricultural chemicals from aircraft and from ground equipment, and for other purposes.”

Motion agreed to.

#### CEMETERY TRUSTEES (DECLARATORY) BILL

##### INITIATION

**Hon. S. D. TOOTH** (Ashgrove—Minister for Health): I move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to declare the law affecting certain rights and duties of trustees of cemeteries, and for other purposes.”

Motion agreed to.

#### VOTING AT STATE ELECTIONS

##### ORDER FOR RETURN

**Mr. AIKENS** (Townsville South): I move—

“That there be laid upon the table of the House a return, in the usual form, giving details of the voting at the last State elections.”

Motion agreed to.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

##### RESUMPTION OF DEBATE—SEVENTH ALLOTTED DAY

Debate resumed from 1 September (see p. 404) on Mr. E. G. W. Wood's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

**Mr. HODGES** (Gympie) (11.40 a.m.): In entering this debate on the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, I should like to throw a pebble into the placid waters of administration in an endeavour to cause a little ripple that may focus attention on one or two points that I shall raise during my speech. As this is the last day for debating this motion, and as quite a few other hon. members wish to avail themselves of the opportunity to speak, I will confine my remarks to these one or two points to enable them to do so.

The first matter concerns the supplying of milk to the metropolitan area of Brisbane. The Brisbane Milk Board has the responsibility of organising regular supplies of milk for consumption in the metropolitan area. Because of the attractive price paid there is a very strong demand from many producers to supply this market. The market is regulated by the Brisbane Milk Board by means of quotas for direct suppliers and also by quotas for factory suppliers—those who supply the factories which have access to the Brisbane milk market.

It appears to me that sometimes the authorities put more effort into refusing quotas to producers than in endeavouring to expand or extend quotas to other producers or producing areas in the State. I repeat that there is a very strong demand by a large section of the dairying industry to obtain a fair share of the fresh-milk market for the metropolitan area, because it is a very lucrative market indeed.

Milk produced for the butter-fat market is worth about 18c a gallon, or, with 4·4 per cent. butter-fat, is worth 5s. 3d. a lb. butter-fat. The price of milk produced for the metropolitan market is 43c a gallon, so, in other words, at a 4 per cent. test, that gallon of milk is worth 10s. 5d. a lb. butter-fat. This explains the marked difference between the price paid for milk produced for butter production and the price paid for milk produced for consumption—5s. 3d. as against 10s. 5d. or, in other words, 18c a gallon against 43c a gallon. The 43c a gallon is based on cost of production, which is obtained by various ways and means on a diversity of ascertained costs and a diversity of resultant prices.

**Mr. Bennett:** What do you think about the quota system for margarine?

**Mr. HODGES:** I might get on to that subject before I finish.

The supply of milk to the metropolitan area is confined to 475 direct suppliers, that is, direct suppliers to the wholesale vendors in Brisbane. It is also supplied by 14 factories, which have 2,001 suppliers, and those factories are also on a quota for the metropolitan market.

I am deeply conscious of the arguments advanced by the liquid milk producers in support of the higher prices; I know that they can substantiate their claims for a

higher price. This is where the anomaly enters the field of milk production in this State. To maintain these quotas, which I feel in many cases are unnecessarily high, a great financial burden is placed on producers to maintain their quotas, especially during the months of May, June and July.

I contend that there is no need to have a metropolitan milk supply in this manner. The quantity required in the Brisbane area could be obtained by other methods, which would eventually eliminate the unnecessary high costs imposed upon producers of liquid milk for this area. The high price paid for liquid milk is a great disservice to the dairying industry in general because it creates a feeling of injustice in other sections of the industry, especially that section which does not share in the lucrative whole-milk-for-consumption market. It inflicts further hardships on the remainder of the industry because that section of the industry can pay higher prices for stock. The greatest and most important factor in my opinion is that the milk-producing section of the industry restricts consumption of milk, and, by doing that, adds an extra volume of butter to the export market, which deflates the price paid to the Queensland butter-fat producer.

**Mr. Tucker:** How do you mean it restricts consumption?

**Mr. HODGES:** I shall come to that shortly.

In my opinion the price is a little too high, which is quite wrong. These producers are already receiving and enjoying for a portion of their production a higher price than the butter-producer receives, and, in addition, they gain the advantage of having the surplus above their quota required for the warm-milk market manufactured into butter which participates in the Commonwealth bounty. This is an injustice and warrants the attention of the authorities. It needs complete investigation to ascertain what action can be taken to rectify the position. If necessary, action should be taken to establish an equalisation scheme between the warm-milk producers and the butter-fat producers, or to change the constitution to prevent this surplus milk participating in the Commonwealth bounty.

The milk-producing section of the industry can, in no small way, help the butter-fat producers in the industry. By a highly intensified campaign of advertising and promotion it could, by increasing the consumption of milk in the area governed by the Brisbane Milk Board, take from the export market quite a considerable tonnage of butter. The price paid to butter-fat producers is more or less governed by the tonnage exported, which always attracts a price lower than the home-market price, which comes in for equalisation, and which reduces the price to the butter-fat producer in this State.

Last year's report of the Brisbane Milk Board shows that approximately 20,000,000 gallons of milk was sold in the area governed by the board. That represents a little more than half a pint a day per head in the board's area.

**Mr. Pizey:** Does that include school milk?

**Mr. HODGES:** That I cannot say. The figure I mentioned was obtained from the annual report of the Brisbane Milk Board, and in that portion of it no reference was made to milk distributed to schools.

If an intensive promotion campaign increased the sales of milk to one pint per head instead of a little more than half a pint, an additional 12,000,000 gallons of milk would be required, which in turn would remove approximately 2,500 tons of butter from the export market. I feel that by means of such sales promotion the milk producers in this State could help the butter-fat producers to quite a considerable extent. The producers of liquid milk could reduce the quantity of butter exported, and this would increase the average returns to the butter-fat producers. Reduced prices would encourage a greater consumption of milk by families.

**Mr. Melloy:** Do you think there is a consumer market for skim milk?

**Mr. HODGES:** I do not know; I have not gone into that question. I feel that a price reduction would stimulate the demand for milk, and that, in turn, would reduce still further the surplus butter to be exported. The butter-fat producer would thus be assisted quite considerably.

This would also eventually eliminate the unnecessarily high quotas and would, in turn, relieve the producer of the necessity to buy large quantities of feed to maintain his quota during those months of the year, especially May, June, and July, when the price of feed is exceptionally high.

It is also quite strange that the price of milk for consumption is more than twice the price of milk used for the production of butter. On the other hand, it also seems strange that a butter producer, who invests from \$40,000 to \$60,000 in his property, is paid 18c a gallon for milk that he produces for the manufacture of butter, and a milk vendor, who picks up bottles of milk from a depot and delivers them from door to door and has invested in his business approximately \$4,000, is paid approximately 17c a gallon.

I may be wrong in what I suggest, as it is merely my personal opinion. The supply of milk to the Brisbane Milk Board area is not governed by franchise in any way at all. Permits are granted by the board to an organisation or organisations to distribute the milk in the areas defined. I believe that this system could well be investigated with the object of enabling other organisations

to enter the field and create competition within this area, even if it means enlarging the area to include Redcliffe and Ipswich to make supplying the Brisbane market a more attractive proposition. Every consideration should be given to allowing another organisation to enter the field; this would materially assist butter-fat producers in Queensland.

**Mr. Hanlon:** Do you mean taking a slice of the area, or just competing generally in the area?

**Mr. HODGES:** The area could be divided, if necessary, into districts north and south of the river. As the hon. member knows, the population of the Brisbane metropolitan area is increasing steadily year by year, and if the districts of Ipswich and Redcliffe were included in the area governed by the Brisbane Milk Board, as I have suggested, it would be capable of maintaining another organisation for the distribution of milk.

The direct suppliers of milk to the wholesale vendors in the area controlled by the Brisbane Milk Board could be eliminated, too. All milk could then be supplied to the market on the basis of a contract with the co-operative factories within a certain radius.

Let me sum up in this way the point that I have endeavoured to make: if butter-fat producers can exist and farm economically on a price of 18c a gallon, surely they can supply milk to the metropolitan market at a price much lower than the 42c a gallon now fixed.

**Mr. Tucker:** Do you regard as valuable the skim milk that is extracted to leave the butter-fat?

**Mr. HODGES:** It is valuable to producers who are raising pigs and calves or are engaging in the production of other sidelines.

**Mr. Tucker:** Should not that fact be taken into consideration, also?

**Mr. HODGES:** It is taken into consideration, yes.

As there are injustices at present, I believe that the policy now prevailing relative to the production, supply and distribution of milk in the Brisbane metropolitan area should be reviewed.

Milk production is more or less controlled by the Minister for Primary Industries, and I remind hon. members that last year I referred to his department and said I did not think that the best results were being achieved with the officers engaged in its administration. In repeating that statement, I have no intention of reflecting on the integrity or ability of any officer in the Department of Primary Industries, but I do believe that producers could obtain far greater benefit from the services provided if the department was reorganised. In my opinion, it is heavily overburdened with the Acts it has to administer. In many instances

they are unnecessary; in other instances the department could well be relieved of its duty to administer them.

The Premier recently announced a scheme that has been promoted by him and by the Government for the establishment of pastures with a view to assisting the dairying industry in Queensland, and there have been a number of Press statements relative to it. Such a scheme can be made to succeed only with the advice and assistance of officers of the Department of Primary Industries, particularly the research officers. These highly skilled, trained men in the research section are restricted in their activities and are unable to implement their ideas because they have so many administrative duties to perform. The State has been deprived of the services of many qualified officers because they have to leave the field of research if they wish to gain promotion in the Public Service. If an officer does not take such a job when it is available he more or less misses out on promotion. In order to preserve the status of such an officer, there should be created within the Department of Primary Industries a sub-department of research so that these men of skills can be freed from the burdens of administration and the duty of supervising the Acts administered by the department.

I also feel that a further look should be taken at the possibility of dividing this department into regions throughout the State so that we can obtain full benefit from the highly skilled and trained men engaged by it. Without being parochial, I should like to draw attention to a matter that I have mentioned previously. I should like to compare my own district of Gympie and Wide Bay with the Atherton Tablelands district, which contains approximately 600 dairies and 300 maize-growers with a production of about \$2,000,000 from the dairying industry and \$800,000 from maize production. This area is very small compared with the Gympie-Wide Bay area but it is serviced by a Director of Tropical Agriculture, two agrostologists and two field assistants, one research entomologist, two entomologists, and three cadets, eight agronomists, one research agronomist, three plant breeders, one agricultural economist, four experimentalists in agriculture and two assistants, two senior advisers in agriculture, four assistant advisers, four assistant advisers in soil conservation, and four agricultural chemists with three cadets.

That is a tremendous staff in an area that is much smaller than the Gympie-Wide Bay area and with a much lower value of production. When one considers the extent of dairying in the Gympie district we have a very meagre field of highly trained men in comparison with those available in the Atherton Tablelands district.

Without even increasing the staff employed by the Department of Primary Industries, we could deploy some of these men from the

northern section of the State into the south-eastern section and obtain much better results at a much faster rate than at the moment. Therefore, I make the plea that consideration be given to a review of the administration of this department with a view to establishing regions and creating a complete research section within the department.

As I said in my opening remarks, I wish to be brief to enable other hon. members to participate in this debate today before it concludes. There are two other points I should like to mention briefly. The first, which I shall enlarge upon later in the session, is that I feel that the primary producers in this State, and those in the dairying industry in particular, are being hampered in several ways by administration. One way in which they could be relieved of extra cost would be to remove groundsel bush from the noxious-weeds list. Admittedly the control of this weed rests mainly with the local authorities, but many a producer has been hampered by inspections and the extra cost involved in eradicating this bush from his property. I contend that the progressive farmer will keep his property free of groundsel. In any event, groundsel does not do great harm to the property of the farmer who is not quite so progressive or who has not the finance to keep his land free of it.

On the other hand, we do not officially recognise what I regard to be two worse pests which are damaging properties to a far greater degree than groundsel. I refer to bracken fern and bladey grass. To assist dairy-farmers and primary producers generally groundsel should be removed from the list of noxious plants, the eradication of which, under the control of the local authority, is a big imposition on the man on the land.

Finally, I refer to an animal which I believe is rapidly becoming a menace to property-owners in the Mary Valley and Brisbane Valley areas. I have in mind the deer—an importation from overseas—which at the present time is protected. Apart from the fact that it is protected, it is a very hard animal to track and kill because it lives and breeds in the forestry areas. It is becoming very hard to keep these animals off properties because, firstly, they are protected and, secondly, they are breeding so rapidly and their mortality rate is so low. It should be recognised that in the very near future this animal is likely to cause tremendous destruction to the pastures and grazing land in the Brisbane Valley and Mary Valley areas. I feel that an open season should be declared for its destruction.

I realise that certain sections of the community believe that we should not permit the slaughter of this rather graceful beast. However, some properties in the Brisbane Valley area have had to be isolated, at great cost and with much heartache to their

owners, because ticks on their property have become immune to the various dips. At the same time deer, which could be hosts for the ticks, are being allowed to breed in the area. We will never eliminate the tick while we allow the deer to breed in such numbers. I make an appeal to those in authority to declare the deer as an animal of destruction that could be a hazard to properties in the Brisbane Valley and Mary Valley areas so that steps can be taken to destroy it before it becomes a greater menace than it is today.

**Mr. GRAHAM** (Mackay) (12.10 p.m.): I am in complete agreement with the expressions of loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen that have been voiced by hon. members during this debate. Naturally I would wish to associate the electors of Mackay with those expressions. Down through the years the people of Queensland have shown a deep affection for their monarch.

Today, because of our association with the British Commonwealth, we are living in a great democracy. Having served for some 23 years in this Assembly I have had the privilege, as have other hon. members, of listening to many valuable contributions to these debates as they afford to those who wish to use their time usefully—and I might say intelligently—an opportunity to express an opinion on matters affecting their own electorates and the State in general.

During the course of this debate we have had contributions from new hon. members on both sides of the House and it may be truthfully said that they have excelled themselves. The Labour Party appreciates the work done over the years by Governments of the day—both the Labour Government, which occupied the Treasury benches for many years, and the Nicklin Government, during its relatively short term of office. We on this side have many differences with the present Government over its management of the State, and it has been interesting to hear some of the speeches from the other side of the House.

I intend to make a brief reference to the contributions made by the hon. members for Redcliffe, Condamine and Gregory. I cannot understand why they should be so concerned about the administration of the A.L.P. If we look back in retrospect we see that down through the years the A.L.P. has had very strong associations with the Government of this State. We of the A.L.P. believe that in the interests of democracy and of the State the Labour Party is able to make the best contribution to the affairs of the State so that the State and its people may prosper.

Again, I cannot understand why intelligent men—which they claim to be—should waste their time in this Assembly by interesting themselves in the affairs of another political organisation. What is it to do with the hon. members for Gregory, Redcliffe and Condamine if certain things have happened,

or are happening, in the Labour Party? Is it any concern of mine what happens in the Liberal Party or the Country Party? I have sufficient to do minding my own business and looking after the interests of the party of which I am happy to be a member. Consequently, when hon. members opposite use this House to become character assassins, and to malign and criticise members of the A.L.P., I am forced to wonder.

Admittedly, this is not the first time that members of the Government have criticised members of the A.L.P. If these people who want to malign members of the A.L.P. have the courage of their convictions and can prove their assertions, why do they use the four walls of this Chamber to make their assertions? Why have they not the courage to go out onto the highways and byways and make the allegations that they make within the four walls of this Chamber?

**Mr. Sullivan:** I will have you know that everything I said in the House I have said outside. I mentioned that the other day.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** The hon. member did, and I understand he said certain things that he did not want to be quoted on.

The attack being made on the A.L.P. was designed by the Country Party in conference, or at meetings. The members who made the attacks were specially selected by the Country Party to make them because they were the members of least standing in the party. Nobody of character would accept such a responsibility. But those hon. members accepted the responsibility of becoming the mud-slingers and mud-rakers in the hope that they would ingratiate themselves with the Premier and eventually be rewarded by being moved into the front benches.

I quote this statement by a prominent churchman—

“The Constitution gave no guarantee of personal freedom in a situation in which freedom of thought and expression were in jeopardy.

“A fear-laden, coercive atmosphere has invaded post-war world society.

“Smear techniques, guilt by association, character destruction all appear too often in public and political life.

“What kind of a society is it where a Prime Minister brands all peace meetings as Communist-inspired, a Cabinet Minister describes those who dissent from Government policy as a fifth column and back-benchers name people as Communists?”

**Mr. Campbell:** Who said that?

**Mr. GRAHAM:** The Rev. Alan Walker.

Is that not what happened in this Chamber? Did not the hon. member for Gregory say that certain members of the A.L.P. are Communists? Was he not supported by the hon. member for Condamine and the hon. member for Redcliffe? Over the years the A.L.P. has been very careful as to whom it admits to membership. I am confident that those

who have been admitted to membership of the A.L.P. are true to the ideals of the party. The opinion has been expressed by certain hon. members opposite that the signing of a pledge means nothing. Maybe it means nothing to people who treat the truth with some disdain, but those who have joined the A.L.P. are true to their pledge. Can we accept statements of men like the hon. member for Redcliffe, or the hon. member for Gregory.

The hon. member for Redcliffe, because of his insincerity and indifference, has been in so many political parties that he is known in his electorate as "Rainbow Jim". In 1961 he was a member of two parties; he was an Independent, and also a member of the Liberal Party. He was thrown out of the Liberal Party and then he joined the Country Party. He then got out of the Country Party and again became an Independent. Then he got back into the Country Party. Yet that type of individual has the temerity to stand up and smear decent and honourable members of the Australian Labour Party. I would not be so much concerned if what he said reflected only on the individuals named. But most of those men are decent citizens with wives and children.

When muck is being thrown round so liberally, some of it must adhere to the dependants of those at whom it is aimed. I understand that, with the exception of the hon. member for Gregory, these members have wives and children, and I wonder what their attitude would be if we made against them some of the accusations that they make against members of the Australian Labour Party. It is no credit to the Country Party that this sort of thing is allowed to go on.

This has, of course, come out of the conference room. There is a purpose behind these attacks. They are being made because it is well known that on more than one occasion a Federal election has been won by conditioning the public mind by associating the Australian Labour Party with Communism. There will be a Federal election within a few months, so it is necessary for the Country Party to try to influence the public mind and produce results favourable to it at the election. I say to those gentlemen, "Shame on you!" They have, by their attacks on the A.L.P., fallen very considerably in the respect held for them by decent men in this Chamber. If what they say is true and they have the courage of their convictions, let them go out and make their charges on the highways and byways where they can be questioned on their sincerity. They are today using the four walls of this Chamber in an endeavour to malign decent people.

Let me now return to matters of more importance in the Address-in-Reply debate. In today's issue of the "Telegraph" a West Mackay Anglican rector, Rev. Dr. A. Haines, suggests that a mass meeting of citizens be

held to protest against discrimination by government agencies against Mackay. On the matter of housing, I associate myself with those remarks. Over the years, I have repeatedly requested that some consideration be given to housing requirements in the electorate of Mackay. I am glad that the Minister for Housing is at present on the front bench. Time and time again he has cleverly sidestepped the issue. I think the Mackay electorate has deliberately been discriminated against in order to give preference to the adjoining electorate of Whitsunday. There has been ample opportunity for the Minister and the Government to give some consideration to the housing needs of the people of Mackay, and to obtain land in the Mackay municipality. The Government has concentrated on the Whitsunday area of North Mackay, thereby forcing people to live in the electorate of Whitsunday although they would prefer to live in Mackay.

Over the years the Queensland Housing Commission and the Minister have absolutely refused to spend a penny on new buildings in Mackay. In fact, there has been a refusal to spend any money even on maintaining the Housing Commission homes that are there. Approximately 12 months ago I approached the Housing Commission concerning housing in Mackay and was informed that some money was to be spent on maintenance. Some has been spent in this way, because, to prevent some houses falling down from complete neglect, they had to be repaired and repainted.

The statement by Rev. Haines draws attention to the concern felt by the electors of Mackay. I think it refers particularly to two things; first, the Mackay aerodrome, and, second, the provision of television in Mackay. They are matters that come within Federal jurisdiction and I do not want to comment on them.

I turn now to the sugar industry. Not under any circumstances do I claim to be an authority on this industry; in fact, my limited knowledge of it makes me somewhat hesitant to speak about it. Down through the years I have heard the sugar industry discussed by politicians, by people engaged in it, and by rank-and-file workers; it has been discussed by Governments. Today the industry is said to be in a parlous state, but I do not believe that a crisis has arisen. Because of the fall in the export price many people associated with the sugar industry are feeling the pinch very severely, but I am rather surprised that some hon. members in this Chamber think that the only solution to the industry's present predicament is to increase the price of sugar for home consumption.

I am in complete agreement with the efforts being made by the Government to assist the sugar industry, and I am not unmindful of the difficulties and problems being faced by new growers; but I will oppose strongly any effort by this or any other Government to ask the consuming

public to bear the burden of the industry's present predicament. My mind goes back to the time about two or three years ago when the industry was receiving perhaps its best return ever, when the price of export sugar rose to astronomical heights, and when cane-farmers were rubbing their hands with glee and reaping rich rewards for their efforts by taking full advantage of the high prices. In 1963 the price of sugar was £105 (stg.) a ton. Admittedly it has now dropped to £26 a ton, which is why I say that I am in accord with the Government's efforts to assist the industry to overcome its difficulties. However, I have no recollection of anyone in the sugar industry in 1963 saying, "Because we are receiving £105 a ton for our sugar, we should reduce the home consumption price by  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a lb. or 1d. a lb."

Many people in the industry are complaining today. The hon. member for Mirani made a speech in this debate outlining the pathetic state of the industry. I put this question to him: does he agree with me that it is only the new growers, those who had to pay very high prices for their farms in recent years, who are really suffering? When export prices rose, farm values increased to unprecedented heights, and, unfortunately, some people bought into the industry at a time when farm prices were at their peak. Despite the fact that export prices have fallen, it is interesting to note that some sugar mills, including co-operative mills, are still able to show profits on the year's operations.

**Mr. Newbery:** Which ones?

**Mr. GRAHAM:** I could name some in the Mackay area that have shown profits, according to their balance sheets, for 1964, 1965 and 1966. Despite all its difficulties, the North Eton mill showed a profit of \$160,000 at 30 June, 1966, and Racecourse showed a profit of \$415,000 at June, 1965. Farleigh's profit at 30 June, 1965, was \$28,000, although at June 1964, it showed a profit of \$347,000.

I know the predicament the mills are in because of their huge commitments in mill expansion, but this expansion took place with the approbation of the Government. The committee of inquiry was responsible for recommending expansion within the industry, and I come back to the point I made when I said that I am not an authority on sugar. Many of those associated with the committee of inquiry were not authorities on the subject, either. Some who gave evidence at the inquiry and suggested that the present was an opportune time to expand the industry are now clamouring for the Government to carry the burden.

The Minister for Primary Industries gave me some figures this morning which showed the acreage put under cultivation to meet the expansion that was recommended, but now, in 1966, because of the fall in export prices the industry is clamouring for the Government to carry the burden. I am not against

the Government carrying the burden but I am opposed, as I said, to the burden being passed on to the consuming public. I was surprised to hear the hon. member for Cook, who professes to be a Labour man, and the hon. member for Mulgrave advocating an increase in the home-consumption price.

**Mr. Armstrong:** How do you suggest the industry overtake the increases in wages and costs that have been placed upon it, and everything else that goes with the present position?

**Mr. GRAHAM:** I suggest that although the overseas price of sugar has dropped and in some cases the value of sugar properties has decreased, the industry is still resilient. I do not agree with the hon. member for Mirani coming cap in hand to the Government for a "few bob" when the industry as a whole really does not need it.

I say to the Government that if there are people in the industry who need assistance by all means give it to them, but let them carry their own responsibilities with regard to repayments, etc.

The Federal Minister for Primary Industries, Mr. Adermann, when opening the Sugar Research Bureau in Mackay recently, said he was quite confident that the industry is only suffering a temporary set-back. So I appeal to the Government not to be cajoled into forcing the Federal Government to approve an increase in the home-consumption price of sugar. I do not think it is justified.

I have here a cutting from a local newspaper showing that the Millaquin Sugar Co. Ltd. earned a group net profit of \$520,000 for the year ended 30 June last, compared with \$725,000 in 1965 and \$852,000 in 1964. Those figures reveal just how poor the sugar industry is, or is alleged to be, and just how difficult are the times it is going through. I admit that some sections of the industry are facing difficulties because of the expansion, but I leave it at that.

I should like now to mention the great "John Herbert safari" that went to the great northern land, that made this trip into the great wilds of Queensland. One could liken this great epic to the marvellous performances of such men as Burke and Wills, Leichhardt and Kennedy who ventured into the great northland to open up this wonderful country. Those explorers went north, willingly accepting great privations and undertaking great responsibilities so that those areas could be populated. On this occasion John Herbert, with a party of volunteers, ventured forth to the North so that they could let the people know that it is possible to travel from Brisbane to Cooktown in five days. Thousands of people have been going to Cooktown in five days for the last 10 years.

**Mr. Aikens:** I could do it on my bike.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** You could walk it.

John Herbert undertook this great responsibility, and so off they went. With a great spirit of adventure he organised a safari. Included in the party was a "Courier-Mail" reporter. It is only natural that "The Courier-Mail" would send a representative. Probably no organisation has given greater support to the Country Party and the Liberal Party than "The Courier-Mail". If this trip to the North was going to be of some benefit to either of those parties, naturally "The Courier-Mail" would want a representative there.

Away the safari went. Their planning was such that they would not have to travel too far in one day because they had to be wined, dined and feted at every port of call. This wining, dining and feting went on until they reached Mackay. For some unknown reason, when they got to Mackay there was no wining, dining or feting for them. The Minister became very annoyed about that, so much so that the following report appeared in "The Daily Mercury" of 20 July—

"Mackay was the only centre to date where the Brisbane-Cooktown motor safari had stopped and had not been accorded a civic reception or public meeting.

"Head of the safari—Minister for Labour and Tourism (Mr. Herbert)—said this last night."

What a shocking indictment of the public of Mackay that they did not give the Minister and his friends a civic welcome!

The Minister accused the Mackay City Council of by-passing the safari and said that it would be to Mackay's disadvantage. Fortunately we have in Mackay a man, His Worship the Mayor, who is a member of the Australian Labour Party. He resented the Minister's statement and in "The Daily Mercury" of 21 July, replied at length to the Minister, saying, in part—

"From the foregoing it may readily be seen that the statements attributed to the Minister, if correctly reported, are entirely untrue."

The Minister could not even tell the truth about it; he had to tell lies.

So off the safari went to the North. The Minister said that by the time he got to Cooktown there were about 5,000 cars following him. Nobody believed that statement. I understand that when they got to Cooktown they could not even find the hotel where they were to stay. They had to ask someone for directions.

**Mr. Houston:** How did they get from Mackay to Proserpine?

**Mr. GRAHAM:** That is another story. They had to fly out to the islands. They had to be wined and dined by some of their friends on Hayman Island and other islands.

In reply to a question that I asked, the Minister said the cost of the safari was only \$1,300. That is not a large sum when the

Government is spending \$60,000,000 or \$70,000,000. No-one can tell me that a party of eight, I think, could travel from Brisbane to Cooktown in the luxurious vehicles provided by the Government, and that the Government could pay all the air fares, board and lodging expenses, and so on, —

**Mr. Thackeray:** And the cost of police escorts, too.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** Yes, and the band to welcome them when they returned to Brisbane. No-one can tell me that all this cost only \$1,300. In my opinion, as the Government is having extreme difficulty in raising the necessary finance to undertake Government works, this jaunt to the Northland was completely unjustified.

The electorate of Mackay is seriously affected by periodic floods. For years the city of Mackay has suffered flooding which has been a cause of great concern to the electors. Over the years the problem has been getting worse, due apparently to factors which no-one as yet seems to understand. The Government formed the Pioneer River Trust and the Upper Cattle Creek Trust to investigate the problem. Certain works were undertaken by the trust to obviate flooding. In 1958 the western portion of Mackay was seriously flooded, and within recent months the Pioneer River Trust completed a levee bank in Nebo Road and on Cemetery Road areas to prevent the flooding of that area. In my opinion, the problem will not be overcome until something is done in the lower regions of the river in which the flooding occurs, namely, the Cremorne area.

The Mackay Hinterland Development League has been very active on the problems of flooding. It has unceasingly tackled them and has been in consultation with Dr. Mackay of the university to try to find a solution. Recently it decided to call a meeting of Parliamentarians, representatives and others to discuss the question of flooding. An invitation was extended to me, to the hon. members for Mirani and to the Minister for Mines and Main Roads, Mr. Camm, to attend a meeting to discuss flooding in the Pioneer River. I declined the invitation because I felt then, as I do now, that no good purpose could be achieved by my attending such a meeting as my opinion would be no better than any other layman's; it would be of very little value. If the Pioneer River Trust cannot solve this problem, I cannot for the life of me see how I, as a layman, can help.

The Pioneer River Trust has full autonomy but the Mackay Hinterland Development League has a different opinion. It believes that the Pioneer River Trust has no power to move Government departments to do anything to improve the position and it indicated this as far back as 1962. That statement was made by the secretary of the Mackay Hinterland Development League.

Until the Pioneer River Trust undertakes the major works necessary, Mackay will have this problem of flooding to contend with. The Railway Department is at fault for the flooding in the Lawson Street area, and the Mackay City Council and the Railway Department are to blame for the flooding in the O'Keefe Street area. Both of those areas are subject to flooding resulting from the pondage of water by the railway line. But nobody will accept responsibility for it. The Railway Department has consistently evaded its responsibility in the Lawson Street area, yet it is entirely responsible for it because it removed the three-span bridge and replaced it with a 2-ft. culvert in a natural waterway, and as a result, every time there is flooding, 2 to 3 feet of water lies in the Lawson Street area. Fortunately it is only a periodic disability and because of the cost involved nobody will accept responsibility for it.

The flooding in the Cremorne area is aggravated to a large extent by the railway line which crosses from the Pioneer River to the harbour. This line from the pioneer River to Barnes Creek has not one single culvert. Consequently, in times of excessive rainfall and flooding, the water is ponded on the northern side. The Mackay Hinterland Development League suggested moving the railway bridge further downstream. I cannot understand how people could make such a stupid suggestion. To move the railway bridge would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. It it were moved half a mile downstream, a bridge 10 times as long would be required. The league wants to discuss the problem with Dr. Mackay. If it makes suggestions like that, God help Mackay in its flooding problems. Flooding could be obviated by removing the retaining wall above the Sydney Street bridge, and by removing Cullen Island, above the bridge.

But these are matters for engineers. There are many engineers in Mackay, and their knowledge could be made available to the River Trust. Why the Trust does not call on that knowledge, or convene a conference of authorities who could give informed opinions on the problem, is beyond me. Until these things are done, and until the Trust accepts its full responsibilities, Mackay will have to suffer as it has suffered over the years.

We have had contributions from many hon. members on the road carnage that is taking place each day, and on how we should overcome it, and why we should overcome it. Theories have been advanced as to what are the causes associated with the terrific accident rate that is occurring on our roads. Like every other citizen, I am vitally concerned about this matter. As a motorist, I am also concerned with the dangers of driving today caused by the present congestion on our roadways. Because of congestion it is becoming more difficult every day to

drive a motor-car, especially in built-up areas. I am concerned more about the position in Mackay than that in Brisbane.

(Time expired).

**Mr. CHINCHEN** (Mt. Gravatt) (12.50 p.m.): I wish to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I feel that both these gentlemen have worthwhile contributions to make in this House, and I congratulate them on their election.

I also wish to associate myself and the people of my electorate with expressions of loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen, and I congratulate the Governor, Sir Alan Mansfield, and Lady Mansfield, on the work they are doing in this State. I am very pleased indeed to see one of our local sons receive this important appointment, and I know full well that Sir Alan and Lady Mansfield will serve the State with great honour.

There are many new members in the House, and to them I offer my congratulations. I know the difficulty associated with settling in in this rather unusual atmosphere. I hope they will be able to do this without much trouble, and I feel sure that they will contribute well to the work of the House and will have fruitful careers.

**Mr. Davies:** Do you intend to support the Liberal Party in its efforts to wipe out free hospitalisation in Queensland?

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** We all know during our contributions in this House that from time to time the hon. member for Maryborough keeps popping in with his little chirps here and there. No doubt he feels he is being effective; to me, he sounds rather juvenile. He has his opportunity to make his contribution, and I inform him that his interjections have little or no effect.

**Mr. Davies:** Just answer that question and I will be satisfied.

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** I am quite happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.

I should like to thank the people of the Mt. Gravatt electorate for the confidence they have placed in me. All that I can say to them is that I shall continue to serve them as I have for the last three years. I can offer no more than that. I give my full time to this work, both in the House and in my electorate. I feel that I have done all that has been asked of me, and I can assure those who have placed their faith in me that I shall continue to work in their interests and in the interests of the State.

In particular, although I do not usually name specific people, I should like to place on record my thanks to my campaign director, Mr. Kel Honan, a young man who has now carried out this task on two occasions. I should also like to thank my

campaign committee, which was a small but active one. I have also many others to thank for their assistance. There are literally hundreds of people, whom, if I knew them, I would thank. Whilst I do not know them all, they had sufficient faith in me to work for me, and I take this opportunity to thank them and assure them that I shall be doing my best on their behalf.

Mt. Gravatt has recently been much in the news. It is a fast-growing area so placed that it is destined to be of much greater importance in the city of Brisbane than perhaps it is now. The new university, which will be developed on a site in this area in the very near future, will contribute greatly to the expansion of that part of Brisbane on the south side of the river. The Minister for Health has made it known that the next major hospital will be built in this area. That is most appropriate, because Mt. Gravatt is becoming the capital of the south side of the river.

In addition, I am working in the hope that the next teachers' training college will be established somewhere in this area. I feel that Mt. Gravatt is a most appropriate place for it, because if established close to a university it is obvious that facilities of the university, such as the library, will play an important part in the training of teachers. I am also hoping that a site for a new technical college will be found in this area. I disagree with the speaker on the other side of the House who seems to think that technical colleges have to be situated in industrial areas. This is not necessary, as the students attend technical colleges during the day. They should therefore be established close to areas of maximum population density. Mt. Gravatt is an area that I feel would be ideal for a technical college. I am hopeful that the Department of Education will endeavour to seek a site there that is suitable for a technical college.

I am sorry that the Leader of the Opposition is not in the Chamber. I was rather surprised to hear a certain tone of bewilderment in his contribution to the debate. He said that he did not know what motivated people in their voting and that he did not know how one could forecast what would take place. As I said, he mentioned these matters in a tone of bewilderment. But he was the man who told us before the recent election that his party would gain 16 seats, perhaps 20.

**Mr. Thackeray** interjected.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr. Hooper): Order! The hon. member for Rockhampton North knows the rule that interjections must not be made from a seat other than his own.

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** The Leader of the Opposition tried to gloss over the statement that he made on no foundation. The hon. gentleman is a professional politician who does not know his work in that field, but he stood in this House and said that he knew

two years ago what was going to happen to the sugar industry. A committee of experts appointed by the Government carried out an investigation and made certain recommendations. The Leader of the Opposition said, "These people did not know what was going to happen, but I did. I could foresee it." This is the gentleman who, in his own profession, could not forecast what was going to happen in a State election.

**Mr. Aikens:** He knew he was wrong. That forecast was merely beating the air.

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** There is no question about that. As the hon. member for Townsville South has said, the Leader of the Opposition knew he was just beating the air.

He said he did not know what motivated the people to vote as they did. I will mention one or two fundamental things that I thought he would have known but obviously does not. The majority of people today are looking for sincerity (that is important), integrity in public affairs (that is very important), and also for honesty of purpose. I mention those things because they are fundamental, and the people in the ranks of the A.L.P. seem to have ignored them. That is the basic difference between hon. members on this side of the House and hon. members opposite. On this side of the House we are sincere, we have integrity, and we have honesty of purpose. These things cannot be put on like a cloak; they are inherent; and they are inherent in hon. members on this side of the House. On the other side of the House we see political opportunism.

I am not convinced that sincerity was displayed on the Gold Coast when a conference of the A.L.P. adopted State aid to private schools as part of the party's platform and policy. It was a very remarkable decision. The delegates went down there knowing full well that the strength of the party was in opposition to State aid, but, partly by accident and partly by a little bit of opportunism, the conference came out in favour of State aid. That does not impress anybody; it does not show sincerity of purpose. That is what the Leader of the Opposition has to learn. Sincerity, integrity and honesty of purpose were products of the old Labour Party; they are not products of the Labour Party today.

**Mr. Bromley:** You are a raving rat-bag.

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** I do not think that is really parliamentary language.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Am I to understand that the hon. member for Norman referred to the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt as a "rat-bag"?

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I said he was a raving rat-bag.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the hon. member for Norman to withdraw that remark.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I will not withdraw it, because I honestly believe he is,—

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. BROMLEY:** — if he is going to go on like that.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! If the hon. member for Norman refuses to withdraw the remark, I shall have no alternative but to deal with him. I ask him again, and I appeal to him, to withdraw the remark.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** Why should I withdraw the remark when he is talking like that about men in the Australian Labour Party?

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I make a final appeal to the hon. member for Norman to withdraw the remark.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** No.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I refuse to withdraw it.

#### NAMING OF MEMBER

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have no alternative but to name the hon. member for refusing to obey the direction of the Chair.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I am sorry I said it, but I refuse to withdraw it.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Hon. J. C. A. PIZZHEY** (Isis—Minister for Education) (12.59 p.m.): I appeal to the hon. member for Norman to obey the orders of this House. The Standing Orders have evolved over the years for the benefit of the good business and orderly management of the affairs of the House. In Mr. Deputy Speaker's opinion, the language that the hon. member used is unparliamentary. I do not think any Parliament can afford to have an hon. member defying Mr. Speaker's ruling. I appeal to the hon. member for Norman to accept this final opportunity of withdrawing his remark and conforming to the orders of the House.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** In deference to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do withdraw the remark; but normally I would not withdraw it, because we have had too much of this sort of thing from Government members.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I understand that the hon. member for Norman has withdrawn the remark. Is that his intention?

**Mr. BROMLEY:** Yes.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Very well.

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

## ADDRESS IN REPLY

### RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** Prior to the luncheon recess I had made the point that in my opinion people today are looking for certain qualities in their political parties and in their members of Parliament, and I mentioned the attributes of sincerity, integrity and honesty of purpose. It was at this stage that the hon. member for Norman indicated his lack of self-control and dignity.

There was another subject that I wished to raise; it is the quality of courage. I mention this because I think people today expect their representatives in public affairs to be able to express their points of view. Of course, this can be done in many fields. It can be done in Caucus or in this House. Time and again members on this side of the House stand up and speak on certain matters on behalf of their electors and we hear interjections from the other side to this effect: "Has this been cleared in Caucus?" They do not realise, of course, that on this side, although we work within our policy we have the right to stand up and speak on what we feel is required by our electorates. That is the difference between members on this side of the House and those on the other side. The fundamental difference is that we listen to people at the grass roots of our electorates; we hear their problems. Our party policy is then developed from that and we come in here willing to work from the grass roots and to express the points of view obtained there; we do not have to listen to "his master's voice" on the top of the "hill". We have the ability and the right to speak on behalf of the people we represent.

**Mr. Sullivan:** The hon. member for Mackay, for instance, would not know of the problems existing in his electorate; he only visits his electorate twice a year.

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** I am afraid I would not know that, but I accept what the hon. member says.

This particular debate is one in which we are allowed a free rein; it is an opportunity, not given to us on many occasions, when we can deal with parochial matters. The hon. member for Belmont raised the matter of transport as it affects his electorate and mine. My name having been brought into the matter, I feel that I should clarify the position from my point of view.

This is a question of transport for people from outlying districts into the city. The Brisbane City Council decided that it would like to run a bus from Newnham Road into the city, and I should like to make it quite clear that at no stage have I ever opposed this. I am in full agreement with any new or additional bus runs and, of course, the hon. member for Belmont completely agrees. What disturbed me was that, because of this,

it appeared that the feeder service operated by the Mt. Gravatt Bus Service, owned by Mr. Howatson, would be considerably reduced. That is the reason that I came into this matter.

The question was one that affected the people, and as many hundreds of people, both in my electorate and in the Belmont electorate, were going to be affected by a serious reduction in feeder services because of the introduction of the new city service, I took an interest in the matter. On investigation, and by a series of questions in this House, I was able to determine that the Brisbane City Council had decided to run along Newnham Road and Cavendish Road, and through Holland Park to Greenslopes, and would join the bus route going to Greenslopes Hospital. By doing this the council would be cutting across Howatson's Holland Park route, which it intended to buy. In buying that route it intended to pay £13,000, which did not include any buses. Mr. Howatson had to vacate that route. It meant a drastic reduction in the other feeder services.

**Mr. Newton:** Who made the reduction?

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** This was required by the Brisbane City Council as part of the deal. The council paid £13,000 to him and prepared new time-tables which Mr. Howatson would have to follow, so that most of the people would have to travel on the new City Council bus run.

**Mr. Newton:** The Commissioner for Transport did not indicate that.

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** Mr. Howatson told me the story himself. It was part of the deal. The council wanted a reduction in his services, and that is all there was to it.

We must remember that private bus operators in this city are at a great disadvantage. Under the relevant Act the local authority has prior rights. Of its own decision it apparently can move in and replace the private operator.

**Mr. Newton:** That is not correct. It is subject to ratification by the Commissioner for Transport.

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** That is true.

**Mr. Newton:** Well, don't try to pull the wool over our eyes.

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** The Commissioner for Transport must take into consideration the section of the Act which provides that the local authority has prior rights. We know that the Brisbane City Council took over the Nundah bus run, and shortly after that there was a reduction in that time-table.

I should like to indicate the effect of the proposed reduction in services. The following is a summary of daily departures from the Mt. Gravatt bus terminus under present and proposed time tables:—

Route	Present Time-table	Proposed Time-table
Upper Mt. Gravatt—Eight Mile Plains—Slack's Creek—Rochedale area—		
Monday to Friday .. ..	32	23
Saturday .. ..	23	11
Mt. Petrie—		
Monday to Friday .. ..	6	4
Saturday .. ..	4	2
Mt. Gravatt East—		
Monday to Friday .. ..	26	7
Saturday .. ..	17	5
Mt. Gravatt South—		
Monday to Friday .. ..	21	5
Saturday .. ..	15	5
Public holidays (All routes) ..	35	Nil
Sundays (All routes)— (Including Christmas Day, Anzac Day and Good Friday) ..	16	Nil
Special school services .. ..	20	18
Totals .. ..	215	80

This proposal by the Council reached the stage of being in the hands of the Commissioner for Transport. I must say that Mr. Kropp is a very approachable gentleman who will listen to any reasonable submission. The effect of the new run was that a number of areas were to have reduced services and, in addition, increased fares. The increased fares did not seem to worry people over-much but—

**Mr. Newton:** Oh, no! Perhaps they did not worry you, but—

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** On the submissions made to me that was not the major question. What caused the concern was the reduction in the feeder services.

People buy homes in a certain area knowing that there are certain transport services to convey them to their place of business, their place of work, their sporting activities, libraries, and so on. It is rather strange that in fast-growing areas bus services should be reduced to such an extent. At the time nobody knew whether it was necessary to reduce the runs to this extent, but I was quite sure that it was not necessary. No doubt the presentation to the Commissioner for Transport was made in a very arbitrary manner. The matter was ventilated in the local Press, and I must thank both newspapers for the action they took in bringing this matter to the notice of the public.

Representations were made to the hon. member for Belmont and me and, naturally, we interested ourselves in this matter because it was so serious, affecting hundreds of people as it did. I made submissions to the Commissioner, who listened very attentively. He said he would give the matter consideration, and I had further discussions with him. I pointed out to him that nobody

had mentioned anything about the curtailment of the proposed service. Many people believed, and I agreed with them, that this new service should continue along Cavendish Road, and into the city. That is the most logical route. The proposed route turns off Cavendish Road before the Cavendish Road High School and takes 15 turns through the closely settled areas of Holland Park and Greenslopes until it reaches the Greenslopes Hospital. The council officials thought that this service was the most economical means of doing the job. I do not blame them for thinking that, but the direct route along Cavendish Road would certainly be a better one from the public's point of view.

Nobody objected to the new service, but there were objections to the reduction in feeder services. Ultimately I suggested to the Commissioner, "Why not be a little more scientific in the matter and conduct a survey so that the travel habits of the people may be known?" This is an entirely new departure, and I thank the Commissioner for accepting it.

**Mr. Newton:** It has been advocated previously in this House by me.

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** It may have been advocated previously, but on this occasion it was done. I am very pleased that it was done. About 10,470 questionnaires were distributed in the affected districts. I was rather surprised at the response; we received 2,378 replies. When it is remembered that many people are not interested in public transport, and that lots of people do not like filling in forms of any type—and naturally there was no compulsion with this one—it is surprising that 2,378 forms were returned. They should give some indication of the travel requirements in this area.

Maybe nothing will come of this—we do not know—but I understand that the Commissioner has been working on the returns and I feel that something worth while may flow from it. I do not want to stop the new service; I want to see more services provided. I do not wish to see a reduction in present services unless it is warranted. It will be easily understood that when the new service is initiated there may have to be some reduction in the feeder services to Mt. Gravatt if that is indicated.

**Mr. Newton:** No reduction may be necessary.

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** Maybe not, but it may have to be rationalised to some extent.

No precipitate action has been taken and the Commissioner is now taking a common-sense view of the matter. I think we may get a service that will greatly benefit the people in the Mt. Gravatt and Belmont electorates. The delay has been well worth while, for when services are drastically reduced it is very difficult to have them reinstated. I think this matter has been successfully handled and, although there have

been a number of interjections by the hon. member for Belmont, I am sure that his thoughts and mine run parallel in this instance.

We know full well that the Brisbane City Council is abused for many things but I express my thanks to the council for the introduction of express bus services. This was an excellent move and it has proved itself. Everybody in the area appreciates this innovation.

**Mr. Walsh:** What does the hon. member for Belmont think of it?

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** Undoubtedly he would agree with it.

I suggest that the Council consider running buses direct from Upper Mt. Gravatt to the city. If they were not filled at Upper Mt. Gravatt they could be filled at Mt. Gravatt and could then travel express to the city. For many years Upper Mt. Gravatt people have suffered the disadvantage of having to change transport at the tram terminus. They still have to change, even with the express buses. I suggest that the City Council consider providing an express bus service from Upper Mt. Gravatt.

**Mr. Newton:** A very good suggestion.

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** I thank the hon. member for Belmont for agreeing with me.

I should like now to give a quick explanation of what took place with regard to the Mt. Gravatt library. At this moment no decision has been made, but it looks as if it is now being approached in a common-sense way. On 30 March the Minister for Education mentioned to me casually in conversation that Executive Council had approved a subsidy to enable the library to be built at Mt. Gravatt.

**Mr. Newton:** How do you know that?

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** I have just explained in very clear words that the Minister for Education mentioned it to me casually in conversation.

As I desired more information I rang Mr. Stapleton, State Librarian, the next day. He said that he did not think the project would go ahead, that he was not sure, and that he would let me know. He rang me that night and suggested I ring Mr. Slaughter, the Town Clerk. The next morning, 1 April, I rang Mr. Slaughter, who told me, "We won't be going ahead with the Mt. Gravatt library. We are using that money in Ashgrove." I said, "But the subsidy has been granted to Mt. Gravatt." He said, "Yes, but we have changed our minds. We may eventually build one at Upper Mt. Gravatt—I don't know—but we won't be building one at Mt. Gravatt." I mentioned this to the Minister, who said, "The subsidy can't be transferred, but the council can build the library where it wishes." The people of Mt. Gravatt were naturally disturbed about the position.

Two years before that, the Lord Mayor had said that a library would be built at Mt. Gravatt. As land was purchased for that purpose, and as a plan was available and a subsidy had been granted by Executive Council, the people in this populous and busy area were disturbed. The Lord Mayor realised that there was a great deal of consternation over the matter, so he called a meeting in his office. It was attended by the hon. member for Belmont, the two local aldermen, people who were interested in the Upper Mt. Gravatt drive-in shopping centre, Alderman Greenfield, other people, and me.

The Lord Mayor opened the meeting by saying, "There are two things I should like to say: one is that I have no idea when we will obtain this land because it may be too expensive to build on at Mt. Gravatt and the second thing is that it is totally unsuitable." It was pointed out to him that the land had been purchased by the council some time previously and that it was in its possession for library purposes. I pointed out to him that in "The Courier-Mail" of 17 June he was quoted in these words—

"The Lord Mayor (Alderman Clem Jones) said other sites for a library had been under consideration for some time, but the land being resumed was ideal, and the safest from a traffic point of view."

The discussion continued. The Lord Mayor indicated that he thought progress would take place, and that perhaps Mt. Gravatt would not be as busy as it then was. Because of the offer of land and a building at the drive-in shopping centre, he also thought that that perhaps should influence their thinking, and maybe there would be another one at Holland Park at a later stage. Both the hon. member for Belmont and I expressed the opinion that Mt. Gravatt was the correct site for a library, and we gave our reasons for that belief.

The Lord Mayor put forward the opinion that a mobile library, known as a "bookmobile," would be the answer for Mt. Gravatt. This was a little disturbing. Obviously bookmobiles serve a purpose in outlying areas, but they cannot take the place of static libraries. Before we left, the Lord Mayor had indicated that the matter had been resolved because a bookmobile would be quite suitable for the area. At the conclusion of the meeting I expressed the opinion that this would not be acceptable and would not serve the purpose.

Public indignation was expressed in various ways, including the columns of the Press. A library committee was formed and a public meeting was held. The Lord Mayor arrived late at the meeting and gave his thoughts on what should take place at Mt. Gravatt. They were based fundamentally on the use of a bookmobile, which he said would carry 9,000 books. That is impossible, as the

largest one built carries 3,500, the average being 2,500 to 3,000. It is interesting to note that four or five days later the Lord Mayor announced the provision of two libraries, one at Ashgrove and the other at Nundah.

The people were not happy at this meeting, and questions were asked that the Lord Mayor answered as well as he could. He appeared to leave the meeting with the thought that a bookmobile was all that could be expected at Mt. Gravatt. At this meeting, which was attended by approximately 500 people, the following motion was carried, with only four voting against it—

"That this meeting deplores the decision of the Brisbane City Council to refuse its earlier decision to establish a static library at Creek Road, Mt. Gravatt, and calls upon the Council to adhere to its promise and proceed immediately with a permanent library on the site as planned by the Council, and approved by the Library Board and the State Government."

Following the passing of that motion, the Lord Mayor received a deputation from the Mt. Gravatt Library Committee, and he suggested that a committee be formed to investigate the whole matter. I am sorry that he did not give a more forthright answer to the problem, but it appeared that the door was still open. It was to be a committee of six, including two representatives of the Mt. Gravatt Library Committee. Although even that would have been a fairly stiff proposition, it finished up as a committee of nine, including two members of the Mt. Gravatt Library Committee. I do not know the members of the committee—I assume them to be persons of considerable standing—but the representation, with seven appointed by the Lord Mayor and two by the library committee, seems to be a little one-sided.

The committee has held one meeting and it decided to look around the area and see what could be done about the matter. The Lord Mayor suggested to local businessmen that, if they were interested in a library, they could provide the money to establish it. That is completely unfair, because that has not been asked of businessmen in any other district. What has happened at Upper Mt. Gravatt is that a business firm decided in its own interests, to establish a library because it will help to attract people to the drive-in shopping centre.

This has upset the whole planning by the council, because Mt. Gravatt was the logical centre. I feel that the library at Upper Mt. Gravatt should be accepted as it is something for nothing, but I do not consider that the over-all planning for a library at Mt. Gravatt should be disturbed. After all, 8,000 children pass through this area each day. It is a very important centre and is the logical place for a library. The land is available now.

It is rather strange that the decision should be made to provide a bookmobile for Mt. Gravatt when it has never been suggested that a bookmobile should be provided for Ashgrove or any other suburb. It is a rather unfortunate situation for the people of Mt. Gravatt, and they still feel very strongly about it.

**Mr. Campbell:** Why did they transfer the money to Ashgrove?

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** Alderman Crawford said in the City Council that it was a question, perhaps, of favouritism for the alderman in that area.

**Mr. Houston:** He had no proof of that.

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** The alderman in that ward is a man whom the Lord Mayor is obviously endeavouring to support. He is one of the bright boys; perhaps this might help him. I think it may have the reverse effect, because I am sure that the people of Ashgrove will not be very happy when they know that this is only a political move to assist a certain alderman.

**Opposition Members interjected.**

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Hooper):** Order!

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** As I said earlier, people are looking for sincerity and integrity in public affairs today. What has occurred in this case is further evidence that the council is making decisions on grounds that do not justify them and that it is acting to suit itself. This situation is a product of the monolithic structure that we have in this city. A certain area does not necessarily get justice. One man, with a stroke of the pen, makes decisions which affect thousands of people. It makes one wonder whether this great octopus, the Brisbane City Council, is worth while.

One of the problems in this city is that people have no community meeting place. Areas such as Mt. Gravatt should not have only a library; they should have a civic centre, too. A few months ago I was in Sydney and had to catch a train at Pennant Hills. I was surprised to see there a magnificent civic centre incorporating a library. People in large areas of population should have centres of that sort so that they can engage in dramatic or orchestral activities, cultural work, and other things of that sort. Activities such as that cannot be undertaken under the present system. If the people cannot be given libraries containing 20,000 or 30,000 books, what hope have they of getting civic centres? Everyone now has to go to the centre of the city. The control is centralised, so they are forced to go there. One sees house, house, house, a little shopping centre, and nothing else. People should be able to get together and discuss their interests, become members of committees, and draw up programmes. Civic centres would enable them to join in community work. They are denied that opportunity under the present set-up of the city of Brisbane.

**Mr. Houston:** That is rubbish.

**Mr. Campbell:** Of course it isn't.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** I wished to mention a number of other matters, but my time is running out. In the few moments left to me, I will direct my remarks to only one other matter.

I am one of the many people who think that greater use should be made of the brain-power existing outside Parliament and outside the Brisbane City Council. All hon. members know the excellent work that has been done by citizens as members of parents and citizens' associations, Boy Scouts' committees, and so on. However, I believe that major bodies such as the Brisbane Development Association, which have been battering their heads against a brick wall as far as the Brisbane City Council is concerned, are making a wonderful contribution to the development of the city.

**Mr. Houston interjected.**

**Mr. CHINCHEN:** I am one of those who are humble enough to realise that Parliament has not a monopoly of the brains in this State. I will say the same about the Brisbane City Council and the Public Service. These, in fact are very worth while, but let us not restrict our thinking. Let outside thinking be made use of.

The Australian Institute of Management recently held a seminar and produced a format for the development of this State, and these views must be considered because I believe these people will make a worth-while contribution to the State's development.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. BYRNE (Mourilyan) (2.45 p.m.):** I desire to pay my respects to His Excellency the Governor, Sir Alan Mansfield, and to thank him for the opening speech that he delivered to Parliament. I know him to be an excellent gentleman. I have known of his work for many years. He is a wonderful Queenslander, and I wish him a long life and prosperity in the position that he holds. I hope that his efforts will continue in the interests of Queensland in particular and Australia in general.

I have a kindly reference to make to Sir Henry Abel Smith, who was Governor for very many years, and also to his good wife. They are excellent advocates for Queensland and I wish them well.

I congratulate the mover and the seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply on their speeches. Their contributions were worth while, and we on this side of the House, as usual, do the right thing by complimenting them.

I am also pleased to see that the Minister for Transport is back in office after his illness. People who expend their efforts for the good of this State fall ill from time to time, and the least we can do is to express our pleasure when they recover and return to work.

I am very pleased today to see that the Minister for Health is in the Chamber, because I want to speak on a subject that deals with speech therapy. It is a subject with which I am only partially acquainted, but I have had the opportunity of discussing it with the Minister. There are 26 final students at the university this year and these speech therapists, on passing their examinations and obtaining their degrees, will be available for employment in provincial areas as well as in the metropolitan area.

I do not know whether positions have been created for them, but from discussions I have had with the Minister it appears that they will be employed from time to time as opportunities occur. Some of these people have already been approached and, in the event of positions not being available in Queensland, they will probably obtain employment in other States.

These diplomates have proved to be of a very high standard and have shown considerable skill and promise. It would be unfortunate if they were lost to the State of Queensland which, after all, has had to provide the money for their education through the university. I strongly recommend that consideration be given to this important subject by the Minister for Health and the Minister for Education.

Speech therapy has the imprimatur of Sir Fred Schonell, Vice Chancellor of the Queensland University, Sir Kenneth Fraser, Professor Rendle Short, Dr. Basil Stafford and Dr. Ken Green. At the present time there is only a diploma course, but next year there will be a degree course. Over the period of the course, cost of tuition and books to the parents of these young people runs into something like \$4,000. They are dedicated to their jobs and we want to see that their services are available to Queensland first of all; if not, then obviously they will have to go to other States.

The need for these speech therapists, for the treatment of both children and adults, is widespread. I instance a case in which the hon. member for Gregory, Mr. Rae, and I had occasion recently to go to certain places and make certain inquiries about a woman who was paralysed; she had suffered a stroke. The speech therapist at the Princess Alexandra Hospital was endeavouring to get through to this patient. How wonderful it would have been if the patient had been able to convey her requirements to the doctors and staff, but unfortunately in this case the speech therapist was unable to get across to the patient.

How necessary it is that we promote and improve upon speech therapy. In Parliament we are very happy that we are able to make speeches, but we must recognise that there are many unfortunate people who find it very difficult to convey their thoughts to others by speech. Many children suffer from a speech impediment which, if not corrected, remains with them in adulthood. I feel very strongly about this matter. If we could

correct in the early stages the speech of children who suffer from such an impediment, what a great thing it would be for Queensland. Of course, some would say that this is not a subject of paramount importance, but I believe it is.

As members of Parliament travel around their electorates and speak to parents, they must realise that there are many children who need this sort of attention, but they cannot get it because of the cost to transport the child and its parent to the city, and the other costs in the city while the child is receiving attention. I know that the Minister is sympathetic. I know that the costs of running hospitals in Queensland are rising every year. It is getting exceedingly difficult for the Minister to find sufficient money to carry out all the tasks that are so necessary, but I appeal to him and say that if through speech therapy we can give young people full use of their faculty of speech, cost is a secondary consideration.

Speech therapists should be employed in clinics, hospitals, and homes for the aged. I have been associated with a number of speech therapists and from my experience I can say that they are dedicated to their job. Doctors will confirm this. The other States are doing more than Queensland is in the field of speech therapy, and overseas countries are doing more than Australia is doing. In Queensland we have to rise to the occasion and say, "These are the jobs that we want done", and then get on and do them. I make this very strong plea to the Minister for Health, and to his colleague, the Minister for Education, who has speech correctionists under his control. They, too, are doing an excellent job.

There are many people in the country who need this sort of attention. Apart from Townsville and Rockhampton, very few facilities are available in any place outside Brisbane. We all know the trials that beset parents with a child who is unable to communicate properly with others.

This is a matter that the Queensland Government can do something about. I am sure that the Minister will recognise the importance of this subject, as do the specialist therapists in Queensland. These people are trained in Queensland and their parents provide the money to put them through the university. It costs a good deal of money before they eventually qualify. Recently, speech therapists have had to go to New South Wales to improve their qualifications. As very few speech therapists are employed in Queensland, further employment opportunity is available. At the Princess Alexandra Hospital there is only one specialist therapist in the geriatric ward, and at the Royal Brisbane Hospital there is only a university teaching clinic and a part-time therapist.

I am trying to convey to the Minister, to the best of my ability, that in the long run this subject must receive his attention, and I

am certain that he will do all he possibly can to retain in Queensland these people who have devoted their lives to this facet of medicine.

The Lands portfolio is one of the most important in the Ministry today, and this afternoon I have a few remarks to make about the Department of Lands. In the Tully district 4,000 acres of land are being thrown open. When I spoke previously about the opening up of Government land I indicated that the time was not far distant when further inroads would be made into our Crown lands in what is perhaps the most productive area in the whole of Australia, namely, the Tully River lands. On this occasion the Minister is calling applications from persons capable of carrying on tea plantations in the Tully area.

This land, comprising 4,000 acres, is described as 2,500 acres of arable land, 200 acres of forest land and 1,900 acres of scrub grazing land. The Minister will have to agree to any subleasing or share-farming that takes place, and a permit will be necessary for the destruction of any standing timber. These are points taken from the Minister's pamphlet dealing with the matter. It also asks what amount the applicant will be prepared to pay for the fee simple in the land. In other words the Minister is asking applicants, "How much are you prepared to pay?" Another condition states that when the successful applicant complies with the developmental conditions the land will be available in fee simple.

Although this is a large area of land the Minister is the sole person to determine the suitable applicant. He has to select him from the other applicants on how much he is prepared to pay in lease rental in the first place, and what he is prepared to pay in fee simple to freehold it. If it is along the lines of the King Ranch land it will bring 9d. an acre for the lease and £1 an acre for the right to freehold. If that is what is to happen on this occasion, in my opinion it should not be permitted. I know the Minister for Labour and Tourism to be a most honourable man. I have had several discussions with him, and I know that he wants the best use made of this land. But I cannot understand why somebody, at this particular stage, should want 4,000 acres for tea-planting. We do not know much about tea-growing.

**Mr. Aikens:** We know we can grow it, but it is a difficult crop to harvest.

**Mr. BYRNE:** That is true. We can grow it very well. Shortly I shall refer to some matters to show that we do not know sufficient about tea-growing to be able to carry on this industry in an economic way.

The Minister today may not be the Minister tomorrow. If the Minister today has the right to grant freehold, he may not have that right in 12 years' time. He may not even be here. We know that his view is the general propagation and benefit of Queensland. We respect him for that. But

we do not know that the man who follows him will not say, "Yes, we will give you freehold of this country for next to nothing." It takes 12 years to grow these trees. What will happen in 12 years' time? Who are the parties promoting this scheme? In the event of their being successful applicants, will they have the right to transfer their interests to somebody else who will use the land for grazing, for which it is obviously intended?

I shall now quote some interesting passages from "The Bulletin" of 6 August, 1966. The whole article is very pertinent and straight to the point. It is unfortunate that time does not permit me to read it all, so I shall quote extracts for the information of hon. members. The article reads—

"Applications setting out details of plans for development and offering an annual rental or fee-simple for the land must be submitted by September 6. This would seem to leave little time for gathering information and sounding the prospects of a tea industry in Australia. It is to be hoped that Mr. Fletcher's call does not engender a mood of haste and lead to the creation of yet another agricultural venture that the taxpayer will ultimately be required to underwrite.

"The Queensland Department of Primary Industries would not appear to be in a position to offer more than sketchy information to prospective tea-planters."

The whole of this article is pertinent to the point I am making, and I recommend that all hon. members read it.

Further down it reads—

"Last year 6,000 acres in Ceylon were replanted with these 'golden bushes' as they are being called. It is estimated that when all the tea gardens in Ceylon are replanted with these new selections, Ceylon alone will produce more tea than the world currently consumes. In the marketing chaos that this situation will cause, an infant industry in Queensland could hardly be expected to grow to maturity without persistent financial assistance.

"Quality, the other vital aspect, it is now unanimously agreed, is determined primarily by the harvester. If she plucks just two leaves and their terminal bud, the tea processed from this material is of high enough quality to command the respect of the market. But if she plucks three leaves and the bud, quality is too poor to attract bidders."

If this industry is established in Queensland I hope it is successful, but we will be trying to grow tea economically in competition with Ceylon. The article states that Ceylon can supply the world with a first-class product.

If the successful applicants cannot make a success of growing tea, they should have no priority in obtaining the land to the

exclusion of others who might want to use it for other purposes. That is the point that I am making. Growing tea will be a difficult job, and I hope that those who try it are successful. However, I do not want them to be able to go to the Minister and say, "We cannot make a success of growing tea. Give us the land for grazing, and on the same terms and conditions that you gave 57,000 acres to King Ranch."

I am of the opinion that the Minister has been "sold" the idea of growing tea. I do not know too much about it, nor do I think that many others do, either.

**Mr. Hughes:** Didn't the C.S.I.R.O. do some work on it?

**Mr. BYRNE:** They have not produced any tea. First-class tea has been produced at South Johnstone. The difficulty is, however, that it is not known what the position will be in 12 years' time. I stress the point that if those growing tea cannot make a success of it, they should receive no priority to the land by way of lease or acquisition in fee simple.

**Mr. Aikens:** Very good tea was produced at the Innisfail experimental farm.

**Mr. BYRNE:** I quite agree, but the economics of tea-growing produce difficulties. I know the Minister will do the right thing, but neither I nor anyone else knows what will happen in 12 years' time. I want to see this land protected and not transferred for some other purpose to the persons who have attempted tea-growing. After all, this land is not very far from King Ranch and other land presently being acquired for grazing purposes. There is close to it quite a lot of land that should have been opened for grazing years ago.

Land made available by the Crown for sugar-cane growing is in some cases bringing a price of about £50 an acre. I have seen some very poor land, which I would not think was worth £20 or even £10 an acre, for which the Government has received £50 an acre. It annoys me that some have received first-class land for virtually nothing whilst young cane-farmers have to pay £50 an acre for it.

Recently some land has been made available not far from Tully. At the moment there is no township there. What do hon. members think was the price of a quarter of an acre of that land? The Minister wants \$600 to \$800 for it. I wish he had charged the King Ranch people on that scale. No matter what confidence we may have in the Minister, I feel, although I hope that I am wrong, that the growing of tea will not be an economic proposition. I hope that those who undertake it will carry it on successfully, and I have no objection to their obtaining the land as long as the Government receives a reasonable return for it.

Applications for the land close today, and I ask the Minister to be exceedingly careful to see that each applicant is capable of doing what he says he will do. I hope he will also see that the Crown receives from the successful applicants fair value for the land.

**Mr. Hughes:** When you consider how much any organisation will have to put into the development of these areas and what it will mean to our economy, we would almost be better off giving them the land.

**Mr. Mann:** That is what you want to do—give it to them.

**Mr. BYRNE:** Let me put it this way: there would be a very big difference between what people would do if the land were put up for auction and what they would do if the Government gave it to them. However, time does not allow me to go into that question now.

The sugar industry has many facets; I have dealt with a number of them previously. The industry is now facing a year of record low overseas prices and this, in turn, makes it difficult for the mills, and particularly for the farmers, to continue producing economically. From time to time there have been many optimistic reports from the Premier of Queensland and his Ministers and also from the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister of Australia. None of these optimistic reports has been borne out by experience. No doubt it was the intention of those gentlemen to bolster up the industry as much as possible and show that there are good times ahead. But what is the position? There is no chance of an international sugar agreement. Australia is left high and dry and people in the sugar industry do not know where they are.

Anyone who said tomorrow that the price of sugar will be increased from its present low level to a figure that will show a reasonable return would be only guessing. Those engaged in the industry are confused and bewildered. They do not know whether to buy or to sell. They certainly would like to sell at the prices they could have got some years ago, but they do not know what to do today. During my campaign for the last election people said to me, "My property was worth so much. It is not worth half that today, and my bank manager will not give me any more money." Young men who took up cane assignments and put all their earnings into them are faced with a very difficult task. People are going to the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board and seeking permission to sell to the landholder next door, possibly making his holding much larger, and financial institutions are doing their utmost to see that a transfer is effected. In other words, they are trying to get out of the obligation to help the young fellow.

The position of the mills is difficult, there is no doubt about that. Sugar processing is a profitable undertaking, but the huge amount of investment that has taken place and the

tremendous amount of interest mills have to pay make it exceedingly tough for them. For instance, the mill at Tully owes somewhere around £3,000,000 and the interest on that sum has to come out of profits. The amount left for distribution today is nil. In other words, growers in my area have to pay something between 6s. 3d. and 6s. 9d. a ton to meet the obligations of the mill to the banks and others. They have to accept less than the award rate. Other mills are in a similar position.

However, the young farmer is the man in a difficult position today, not because he cannot produce the cane but because of the overhead debts he has incurred. These are so great that, with the low price prevailing for cane he finds it difficult to carry on. The Government should keep these young fellows on the farms by introducing a moratorium protecting them against the threat from creditors and others that unless they pay up, out they go.

**Mr. Aikens:** Do you believe that an increase in the home-consumption price of sugar is the solution?

**Mr. BYRNE:** That is a subject that could be debated one way or another. What should be done, I think, is very aptly expressed in an excellent article in the A.S.P.A. journal of August 1966. The troubles in the sugar industry are set out very clearly in that article, and I commend it to members.

First of all, there is a feeling in the industry that we are being forced by the C.S.R. Co. Ltd. to go along with this tremendous expansion. Of course, no-one can prove that but the mills did carry out the wish that they should expand, all the time knowing that the international situation was such that there was always the danger of what has happened would happen.

John McEwen, Deputy Prime Minister, realised in 1961 that that was the position; he has been exerting all his efforts in the international sugar agreement field. He thought he would bring Japan into line but he failed. Where are the growers today? They are up in the air; they do not know what is going to happen to many of them. One suggestion is that the Australian people should pay more for sugar. That may be well and good, but is it the answer? I do not think so.

I will shortly quote from this article in the A.S.P.A. journal to show what I think is the trouble. Sugar stocks are like any other stocks; they are capable of being manipulated on the overseas market, and there is no doubt that, from time to time, they are being manipulated by various concerns.

Where does sugar from the Communist bloc and Cuba go? What is happening to it? I believe that we in Queensland have been too lax in playing a prominent part in sugar negotiations. I have said that previously. We should exert ourselves by saying, "This is our industry; so many mills are involved

that we want some special advice on particular matters which at present we do not get." We have the organisations; they are quite good and they are doing excellent work, but what is happening in the overseas market? What is happening in the European economic market? Those are the things that will have to be faced.

The other day the Premier had a conference on sugar industry matters. That is a very good step, but, after all, how far will it take us? We have also been too fond of delegating our powers to somebody else. The Commonwealth delegates its powers to Queensland and, in turn, we delegate ours to the C.S.R., the Sugar Board, and so forth. Similarly, members of this House rely upon somebody else to tell us where we are going. That position should be corrected. When the sugar industry comes up for consideration we need our best political brains. We need political activities as well as ordinary commercial activities. Ned Hanlon proved that; Forgan Smith proved it; and we profited by it. Admittedly the Prime Minister knows that we are in for a tough time; he has said that publicly. But what will be the position if Britain enters the European Common Market? What is likely to happen to our export sugar?

Let me quote extracts from what I think is the best article I have read on the sugar position. The first one says—

"Late last month Ministers of the Six member countries of the European Economic Community reached agreement on a common farm policy for the Six. The new farm policy includes market regulations and unified prices for sugar."

It lists production quotas for France (including overseas departments), West Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and Belgium.

It continues—

"It would appear that the establishment of production quotas in excess of consumption could lead to production surpluses within the E.E.C. with consequent exports to world markets. In the light of current surpluses of sugar on world markets and the need to maintain market access for traditional exporters of sugar, it is disturbing that the E.E.C. countries, who were until recently net importers, have introduced a Regulation designed to ensure self sufficiency, coupled with considerable subsidized exports of sugar in normal years."

It is a political situation today. If these people can produce sugar for the purpose of exporting it, and subsidise it through their funds, we must give some consideration to using political methods to ensure that we can match them in their activities.

Just listen to this—

"The Commonwealth Sugar Agreement has a currency of eight years with prices and quotas negotiated for 1966, 1967 and 1968. Still, if the United Kingdom does

negotiate entry into the E.E.C., the production surpluses of beet sugar, which are the aim of the current E.E.C. Sugar Regulations, may well cause considerable restriction on imports from traditional suppliers, including Australia."

If Britain joins the European Common Market, apart from her obligation under the agreement to take our sugar, just where does Australia go in regard to its exports? The position is a very serious one, and I would not hazard a guess that there will be very much improvement in the near future. However, I confidently hope and expect that as time goes on the world cannot go on producing sugar at an uneconomical price.

**Mr. WALSH (Bundaberg)** (3.24 p.m.): I will not weary the House by over-emphasising my loyalty to the Crown. Having taken the oath of allegiance, I do not think there is any further requirement on my part in that direction. Even though we might have been here for a long time, a reaffirmation of our loyalty seems to have become part of the pattern over the years. I suppose that we must accept it as being one of the traditions in this debate on the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

I offer my congratulations—these, too, will be limited—to the hon. member for Logan for the manner in which he handled his subject in moving the motion. I think he indicated that apart from representing the people in his electorate, he represents a variety of industries, particularly rural industries. I have no doubt that as he gains experience in this House he will be able to take part in many debates that are of interest to the industries that he represents, not only in his electorate, but throughout the State.

To the other youthful member, the hon. member for Hawthorne, who appears to be one of the political accidents of this House, due, of course, to the internal strife within the A.L.P., let me offer my congratulations. Unlike the hon. member for Logan, he represents people rather than specific industries. I was rather interested in the matters that he dealt with in his maiden speech. He tackled matters that in many ways were current, topical and important to the State. I was particularly interested in the way in which he handled traffic matters. I am sure he left impressions on the minds of many of the more experienced members of this House, impressions that will give them food for thought as to how some of those matters may be approached in the future. I do not propose to go into detail on the specific matters he mentioned. I think most of us who sat here and listened to him attentively will no doubt look up his speech again to satisfy ourselves that he dealt with the matters in a very intelligent way.

I must warn the hon. member for Hawthorne (the Minister for Education and Acting Premier will be interested in this) that he should not be deceived by the very attentive hearing he was given when he made

his first speech in this House. He will find, as time goes by that a few "wrong 'uns" will be bowled up to him, and a few googlies, as well as a few body-liners. He will find, too, that it is very much easier to be stumped in this field than it is in the vast open fields at the Woolloongabba Cricket Ground. I say these things because I have a recollection of the hon. member for Hawthorne in the days when I went across to Langlands Park 20 years ago and saw him batting for Eastern Suburbs.

**Mr. Pilbeam:** He must have been a schoolboy.

**Mr. WALSH:** He was quite young. He is not old now. He is quite a good addition to this Assembly. I have recollections of him as a cricket player, and I point out to him that ever so many difficult balls are bowled in this House. It is for him to learn how to bat and to see whether he can stand up to the bowling.

If I may, I will add a word concerning the hon. member for Toowong—and, having regard to his politics, he would not say that I am doing this out of any brotherly feeling for him. I was not here to listen to his speech but at least I did him the honour of reading it. I was somewhat impressed with the way he approached the matters he dealt with. Quite frankly—and I do not wish him to misunderstand me, because the bricks could come in future years—I think that, throughout his speech there was much logic in what he said. No doubt he will be long enough in this House, representing as he does the Toowong electorate, to learn that these days there are not too many people here who listen to logic nor, for that matter, are there too many outside with responsibility in the political and industrial worlds who want to listen to logic. If there were, I think the political scene would be very much different from what it is in this House today.

However, in making an assessment of the speech of the hon. member for Toowong, I felt that the points he made were looking forward into the future; they were in the nature of dreams to come. Later on, if the hon. member for Toowong expands some of the specific problems he dealt with, I shall listen to him carefully.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without congratulating His Excellency Sir Alan Mansfield and Lady Mansfield. No-one realises more than Sir Alan the difficult task he has in filling the position which was so ably occupied by Sir Henry Abel Smith and Lady May. I congratulate him because he is a son of the sunny State of Queensland. He is only the second native-born Governor in over 100 years of self-government in this State.

Sir Alan is well known throughout Queensland because of the various positions he has occupied, particularly as Chairman of the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board. In that

position he met many more members of the community in the travels and hearings of that Board than he would as a Supreme Court judge. I hope that his term as Governor will be as successful as that of his predecessor, and I look forward to seeing him and his good lady on future occasions in the important electorate that I represent.

Before I move to the main theme of my speech today I shall refer to some of the comments made by Government members. The hon. member for Gregory seemed to disturb members of the Australian Labour Party and, to a certain extent, the front-benchers on the Government side, by referring to the intrusion into the Australian Labour Party of the elements of Communism. As a relative newcomer, he did not handle his brief as well as more experienced members would have. But I can recall when other members of the Australian Labour Party and I consistently launched attacks on the Communist Party and its attempts to wipe out the Labour movement.

**Mr. Aikens:** They do not do it today.

**Mr. WALSH:** I take it the hon. member means that the A.L.P. do not do it, not the Communist Party. I thought the hon. member may have meant that the Communists have a hand in it. The hon. member for Gregory mentioned Whitby, Chalmers, Waters, Vickers, and others.

**Mr. Houston:** They were in the A.L.P. in your time.

**Mr. WALSH:** I beg your pardon!

**Mr. Houston:** My word.

**Mr. WALSH:** If the hon. member can keep up with me on Labour history I will have a go with him any time he likes. Whitby was always suspect in the Labour Government and the Labour Party in my time. Who is the man in this House who can say that Chalmers was never associated with the Communist Party, nor his wife, who went out among so many friends saying, "We are working under cover for the Communist Party"?

**Mr. Houston:** He was a candidate in 1956.

**Mr. WALSH:** Of course he was. What happened after 1955? If the hon. member for Bulimba wants to get into this discussion, I shall save some things for the debate on the Financial Statement. I have too little time now to go into every detail.

**Mr. Houston:** It doesn't worry me.

**Mr. WALSH:** I know Mrs. Chalmers, and I know that Mr. Waters was, as I have said before, refused admission to the Labour-in-Politics Convention at Mackay in 1956, when the conference was dominated not by the political wing but by the industrial wing. Mr. Vickers would have the courage (there is another word that people use sometimes) to admit that he was a Communist; he would not want to go behind doors and say he was not.

**Mr. Davies:** He is not a member of the A.L.P. now.

**Mr. WALSH:** I have been careful in choosing my words. It cannot be denied that he stood as a Communist, nor can it be denied that he has organised for the Communist Party.

**Mrs. Jordan:** I, too, say he is not a member.

**Mr. WALSH:** I was glad to have that interjection from the hon. member for Maryborough. Here is a man who was accepted by the A.L.P. and became a member of its controlling body, and within three years we are told that he is no longer a member of the A.L.P.

Is it any wonder that the vast body of Labour supporters are becoming confused on this issue? I know of another case that I do not want to name in which a woman who occupied a position as treasurer in a Communist Party branch became prominent in the A.L.P. Mrs. Chalmers would not deny her part in this matter. Why should anyone get upset because the hon. member for Gregory made the suggestion that he did the other day? As I have said, he did not know how to handle his brief.

The hon. member for Gregory also expressed his resentment at the suggestion that an elector should be disadvantaged in applying for a position because he made representations through his member to a Minister or department. Quite frankly, all hon. members have to deal with many of these cases, particularly concerning people in the Railway Department. I should hate to think that what the hon. member for Gregory suggested was a general practice. I do not think it is. However, having had a look at some of the appointments made since the Government has been in power, I have in some cases come to the conclusion reached by the hon. member for Gregory. There are some people occupying not so much ministerial as official positions who feel some resentment at an elector's seeking to have representations made through a member, although among departmental heads I think they would be few and far between. I should say that in what I might call the old brigade of departmental heads, none would stoop to that practice. That has been my experience, anyway.

Let us be frank about it and agree that in cases where a Minister transfers his responsibility to heads of sections, he himself may become the "bunny" in many of these cases. There are those who like to play the role of the bureaucrat, even to the extent, if I may say so, of insisting that there should be a place-card for them or a chair reserved for them if they are invited to a public or social function. I hope that the Minister for Education is taking note of what I am saying, because I might have more to say about it later on.

Before getting on to my general theme, I draw attention to a practice that seems to have grown up in this Chamber in recent years. If I may be pardoned for pinpointing the particular place, over in the corner on my left there is far too much reading of speeches. I know that ordinary hon. members do not wish to object, and I know that Mr. Speaker, in his tolerant way, wishes to give as much liberty as possible to members of this Assembly in dealing with the subject on which they are speaking.

**Mr. Bennett:** They could not speak at all unless they read them.

**Mr. WALSH:** I do not know whether the hon. member's statement is correct. The remarks I am making do not apply to new hon. members, because that practice has always been accepted as far as they are concerned. But there are hon. members in this House who are quite well qualified to deal with their subjects but who insist on having their speeches typed out and then reading them. That is not in keeping with the general traditions and practices of this Assembly.

In itself, that is bad enough; but when the stage is reached that one goes to the typing room to which members are expected to resort when looking after the requirements of their constituents and finds work of this type cluttering up the office and preventing useful work from being done, something should be done about it. So I hope that hon. members will relieve Mr. Speaker of the responsibility of taking action in the matter by taking action themselves.

**Mr. Aikens:** Are you suggesting that members use the secretarial rooms to get their speeches typed?

**Mr. WALSH:** The hon. member for Townsville South knows full well what I am talking about. Since the debate has been resumed this afternoon, the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt has set a good example. He knew what he wanted to say, and he dealt with his subject effectively. It is ever so much better for members of the "Hansard" staff when speeches are made in this way instead of having an hon. member mumbling down into his desk, so let us have some regard for the difficulties of the people who have to take the record of the debates in this House.

I shall deal now with what the Leader of the Opposition said in his post mortem on the recent election. In support of his assertion that the A.L.P. had improved its vote, he quoted the total votes recorded by the respective parties in elections going back to 1938. To my way of thinking, calculating the result of an election on the total number of valid votes recorded in the respective electorates and then relating them to the over-all vote is not a sound practice. Let me give hon. members an example of why I think it is not. In 1938 three seats were uncontested—two Labour seats, with an

enrolment of 14,000, and a Country Party seat, with an enrolment of 8,841—and almost 23,000 votes were not counted. In 1941 there were five uncontested seats:—four Labour, with 38,599 votes, and one Country Party, with 10,102 votes, a total of 48,701 votes.

In 1944 six Labour seats and one Country Party seat were uncontested. The total enrolment in the six Labour seats was 58,561 and in the Country Party seat it was 11,696, a total of 70,257. How can one get the picture in the way it is being calculated now?

Going back to 1950, I had not the figures because I did not have the record before me at the time. However, in 1956 one Labour seat was uncontested—it happened to be Bundaberg—and there were also three Country-Liberal Party seats. In the Labour seat there were 11,569 on the roll and in the three Country-Liberal Party seats there were 51,181, a total of 62,750. I leave those thoughts with hon. members.

There should be a more correct way of calculating these results than the method of counting the votes cast in actual electorates contested. I remind the Leader of the Opposition that it is numbers in this House that count if there is to be a Labour Government, not percentages. We are not interested in percentages.

In the year of the "great convulsion" to which the Leader of the Opposition referred in his speech, 1957—that is his expression, not mine—the A.L.P. came back with 20 seats, having lost 29. At present it holds 26 seats, a gain of six since 1957. It still shows a loss of 23 over the period since 1956.

Now, let us see how the seats were distributed in 1956 and 1957. In 1956 the A.L.P. held 17 out of 24 seats in the metropolitan area. In 1957 it held six out of 24. In the south-eastern zone, in 1956 it held 14 out of 28; in 1957, seven out of 28. In the northern zone in 1956 it held nine out of 13; in 1957, five out of 13. In the western zone, in 1956 it held nine out of 10 whereas today it holds two out of 10.

Prior to the redistribution the total number of seats held by Labour in country areas was 32 out of 51. That was in 1956. In 1957 it held 14 out of 51. Since the redistribution, in 1960 Labour held 12 out of 28 in the metropolitan area and 13 out of 50 in the country areas. In 1963 it held 12 out of 28 in the metropolitan area and 14 out of 50 in the country areas. In 1966 it held 11 out of 28 in the metropolitan area and, in the country areas, 15 out of 50. The number of seats was increased from 75 to 78 prior to the 1960 election, and over all the A.L.P. has gained one seat in the country and five in the metropolitan area.

These are the tests I want the Leader of the Opposition to apply, not percentages. Nine years have passed and the results have

been as I have shown. What are the reasons for this? The Government parties remain in approximately the same position if we accept the percentage figures used by him, namely, 43·64 in 1957 and 43·73 in 1966. So it can be said that the Government parties have made no great impact on the electors in nine years.

Let us be frank about this, too: the policy presented by the A.L.P. was certainly attractive enough, judged from the electioneering point of view. Even the Government parties will concede that. I say that there would not be a person in this House who was honest with himself who would not agree that he expected a number of defeats—anything up to, say, five—of Government members. In my own electorate I did not speak against the Labour Party, and I did not speak for it. I simply concentrated on the lack of leadership within the party. I referred to the A.L.P. as a “leaderless legion”.

I cannot be held up to ridicule for having attacked the Labour Party. I have never done that throughout my whole political experience. My assessment of the election campaign was that the Government parties were on the defensive because of unemployment, price increases, drought, discontent in rural industries due to decreased farm incomes, the backwash from the campaign against the conscription of Australians for service in Vietnam, and the internal discontent within their own parties. Who is going to deny that? Yet the A.L.P. made no great impact, compared with the result in 1963 when its percentage of votes, as given by the Leader of the Opposition, was 43·16. It received only 43·25 per cent. in 1966.

What, then, is the answer to all this? I have sat patiently here for nine years and, I might say, have restrained myself to a great extent from making an open attack on the leadership of the party. I am forced to the conclusion now that the Leader of the Opposition himself supplied the answer five years ago when he was reported in “The Courier-Mail” of 13 October, 1961, as follows:—

“Mr. Duggan deplored that Australia did not have a Labour Government and said that the fact was that Labour had been unable to sell the people the assurance that it could be trusted.

“There must be some stocktaking of the position, politically and industrially. There was as much apathy in the industrial movement as the political.”

I have quoted that before, and I read what I said at the time—

“I could not agree more and I have said it over and over again from the platform outside that, as the hon. member for Carnarvon” (that is the late Mr. Hilton) “rightly said, if he or any other hon. member of this Assembly who is not part and parcel of the official A.L.P. quotes these

statements, he is charged with being on the side of somebody opposed to Labour and so on.”

I have reached the conclusion that just as any sporting team must be inspired by its captain when it takes the field, so must there be a captain to inspire a political party. Whether it be a football team, a cricket team, a tennis team, or a team in any other form of sport, if it takes the field as a rabble without leadership it cannot hope to succeed.

**Mr. Hughes:** What about the coach at the Trades Hall?

**Mr. WALSH:** Sometimes I think it would not be a bad thing if someone gave the hon. member for Kurilpa a bit of a lead in the right place.

I do not think anyone will disagree when I say that politics are no different—a captain or a leader is required. Leadership and mateship are the essential requirements if Labour is to regain control of the Government benches.

In fairness to the great mass of workers in industry, Mr. Duggan should vacate his position and enable the political and industrial Labour movement to be reconstructed. In 1957 the seat of Gregory was lost. After being held by Labour for 56 continuous years it was handed over to the enemies of the Labour Party. When I refer to my friend the hon. member for Gregory, in that way, I refer to him in the political sense as being one of the enemies of the Labour Party. Since then, inroads have been made into all the western seats, even in Flinders, which also had a fine Labour record. How could any anti-Labour man hold Flinders or Gregory unless he was getting a very substantial working-class vote in those areas? Whatever has happened for the vote to be wooed from Labour in these areas, I think it is time somebody sat up and had a good look at the position.

I have already pointed out how the seats were distributed over a number of years, but here is the shocking thing to my mind: the area of the State that had the record of sending 10 out of the first 17 Labour men to this Parliament in a block—in 1893, I think—is now represented by only two A.L.P. men in this House. The balance is held by anti-Labour members.

I think the hon. member for Townsville North had something to say about his position. He is a very lucky man. If the preferences had been counted, it is hard to say which way he would have gone. Would anyone in Labour's heyday have accepted the position that exists in Townsville today? Of the 28,000 valid votes cast in the two Townsville electorates in the 1966 elections, 16,000 were polled against the A.L.P. candidates. The figures should be very much in the reverse.

Labour must look within its own ranks for the solution to its problems. My conviction is that more vigorous and virile leadership is required within the Labour movement, both in this House and outside.

**Mr. Aikens:** Don't you think the leadership—

**Mr. WALSH:** I have no time to answer the hon. member's questions.

A leader with his foot in two or more camps is not acceptable to the electorate, irrespective of party. I do not care whether it is Bob Menzies, Harold Holt, Frank Nicklin, or anybody else. A leader of a political party who has his foot in two or more camps is certainly not acceptable to the great body of people outside. Wherever I go, and whoever argues with me, I believe I should put forward the point of view of the genuine Labour movement. Even in a seat like my own Bundaberg electorate, with such a great Labour history behind it going back to 1912, when it first became a single seat, many of the people who were lifelong supporters of the A.L.P. in the West and elsewhere—and some of them went through all the threats from the pastoralists and the bosses in the West in upholding the traditions of trade unionism and Labour principles—are openly saying that they could not go back to Labour as it is now constituted.

**Mr. Thackeray:** What happened to you in Mirani in 1947?

**Mr. WALSH:** I represented a "cocky" electorate, and the hon. member knows what happened to me. I had the guts to stand against Artie Fadden. The Labour Party has never given me anything on a platter.

Outside this House there is a growing feeling that the Leader of the Opposition has no desire to launch an all-out attack on this Government. In the political game I am as good a judge as anybody else in this Chamber, I think sometimes I should be taking the lead because of the failure of the Leader of the Opposition to do these things. There is any amount of scope for him to do them. If certain things I have in my mind at the moment are not brought forward by the Leader of the Opposition, I will have to do it.

**Mr. Houston:** What is holding you back?

**Mr. WALSH:** The Leader of the Opposition has gone around and complained to various people who have given me certain particulars and certain briefs because apparently they have no faith in him. As the Government follows a policy of recommending knight-hoods for political has-beens, I suggest it consider recommending some honour to the Leader of the Opposition in recognition of his services to the coalition Government; in particular, the part played by him in what he described as the "great convulsion" in 1957. I hope the Acting Premier will bear that in mind when the Government is throwing out these honours.

Instead of finding fault with hon. members on the Government side, the Leader of the Opposition should look at himself as the one man in this State who could have prevented the catastrophe, or disaster in 1957, and nobody knows that better than the hon. member for Rockhampton North. The Leader of the Opposition knows it would be far better to get all of those people back into the A.L.P. than have all the riff-raff that the party has picked up. I have said before that if we had to show our tickets like railway passengers, I wonder how many members of the A.L.P. could produce a ticket going back before 1955.

**Mr. Houston:** Tell us why you left the Q.L.P.?

**Mr. WALSH:** I am sorry I did not bring my ticket with me today. I was a member of the Q.L.P. in 1919 when there was no such thing as the A.L.P. If the hon. member for Bulimba looks up the tickets in the Q.C.E. office he will see it there.

However, I offer my criticism sincerely because I have been here for a number of years just sitting back watching how the game was played. In the last nine years the Government has increased its support by only a fraction of 1 per cent. of the total electors.

**Mr. Hanson** interjected.

**Mr. WALSH:** The hon. member for Port Curtis talks about gerrymandering. There is no better example of gerrymandering than exists in the metropolitan area. I suggest that when the Liberal section of the coalition thinks about cutting down the Country Party it should study the figures I have quoted here this afternoon. I am sure the members of that party will be quite interested when they realise that when the political debacle comes it will be the metropolitan area where the slaughter takes place.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. DAVIES (Maryborough) (4.5 p.m.):** I join with other hon. members in once again expressing my loyalty to the Crown. I take this opportunity of congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, on your election to that high office. I realise the trying struggle that you went through among members of your own party, and you are now—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! I trust that the hon. member is not trying to embarrass the Chair.

**Mr. DAVIES:** Not at all.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I should like very much to be impartial in this matter. However, whilst the hon. member continues to cast aspersions such as this, I cannot be impartial. I am the occupant of this chair and, as such, I am non-party-political. The hon. member has little to do if he persists in bringing up matters that are based on hearsay, and I resent it.

**Mr. DAVIES:** I intended to stress your impartiality, Mr. Speaker; that is what I was leading up to. I look forward to your coming three years in office and realise that no-one else in the Government parties is more fitted for the position than you are.

I intended to devote all of my time to education and the problems associated with the extension of education facilities throughout not only Queensland but Australia. But because of certain recent developments I shall refer to two matters before proceeding to the main theme of my speech. Whilst I point out that a Labour Government would have achieved more in this field than this Government has, we appreciate what has been done and point out to the many critics in Queensland, particularly teachers, that they must look further afield than this State if they wish to seek a cure-all for the many faults in the education set-up in Queensland.

Later I intend to develop the argument and remind the teaching profession of the State, and the public generally, of the necessity to change the Commonwealth Government on 26 November, because it is only by so doing that money will be made available to do what is desirable in this State in the education field.

I have two topics on which I feel I must touch, the first being the malicious and wicked character-assassination campaign being carried out, to their everlasting shame, by members of the Country Party. There are in this country many foreign influences that are most undesirable. There is the Communist Party which, under Country Party control in the Commonwealth Government, is a legal body in this country. There is the Fascist influence and the New Guard influence. We have the evil influence of McCarthism, and also the influence of many company directors through whose mismanagement of companies ordinary people in the State and Commonwealth who invested money lost their life savings.

It is clearly evident that the members of the Country Party have allowed themselves to be used. Liberal headquarters on Wickham Terrace have demanded their pound of flesh. Without the money that flowed from the funds of the Liberal Party in the South to the Country Party in this State, the Premier's party would not have been able to fight the last State election. These attacks on the Labour Party are definitely what might be called the pay-off. It is quite evident from the campaign fought by the Government that money must have been available to both Government parties in unlimited quantity.

This form of attack is not new; it is as old as the Australian Labour Party. In the early nineties Gatling guns were brought out against union leaders in western industrial troubles. Leaders of the workers were regarded as a danger and a menace to the community. As we go through the history

of the A.L.P. we find that during the Boer War the Labour Party was regarded as being pro-Boer. Later we come to the time of the Fisher Government. People in the Country Party say, "Where are the leaders today like the good old leaders?" When Andrew Fisher was a Labour organiser, he was blacklisted in the mining fields of Gympie. I know this only too well. Then, as Prime Minister of the country, he was accused of having a desire to break marriage ties, destroy religion, and introduce free love. All these charges were made against him.

In the First World War the Australian Labour Party was accused of being pro-Kaiser, and the Australian people had put before them statements about German submarines murdering women and children, and about babies being boiled to produce fat for Germany. It was also supposed to be linked with the I.W.W. and its monstrous deeds. Contrary to the criticism of its vicious opponents, the Labour Party has always adopted democratic methods when endeavouring to gain control of Parliament and to introduce legislation for the whole of the people of this State. Then came the blessed word, so far as opponents of the A.L.P. were concerned, "Bolshevism"—the Bolshevik revolution of 1918.

During the Second World War the Liberals squabbled and quarrelled over the huge profits that were to be made by private interests, and their Government collapsed. They handed over the Government of Australia, in its dire hour of peril, to the Australian Labour Party. Were members of the A.L.P. susceptible to foreign influences when the interests of the nation were at stake? I ask hon. members to remember what was done to John Curtin and the efforts that were made to besmirch his good name, and how he rose, triumphant above them all, to be the country's greatest national leader.

Members of the Australian Labour Party Executive in this State have had their reputations assailed savagely. These men were elected democratically. In fact the speaker who preceded me in this debate, the hon. member for Bundaberg, has indicated, in talks prior to 1957 they were elected by the most democratic forms of election. I have here a copy of a long speech by him stating how the Labour Party works and dealing with false accusations about its being associated with the Reds. I point out that the A.L.P. had the same constitution and the same system and used the same methods in the days to which the hon. member for Bundaberg was referring as it has now.

As I said, the men who have had their reputations assailed were elected democratically. They represent a great party that has given wonderful service to Australia for more than half a century, which today represents about half the people in this country, and

which has consistently represented about half the people. I claim that the men who have been attacked are good, loyal Australians. They have their homes and their families in this country and they will do as much as, or possibly more than, men such as the hon. member for Gregory, Mr. Rae, the hon. member for Condamine, Mr. Sullivan, and the hon. member for Redcliffe, Mr. Houghton, who have attacked them, to protect this country. They are executive officers of a great organisation and have never been guilty of robbing innocent shareholders, as have many Liberal directors of disreputable companies that have collapsed in recent years under Liberal Governments. Trust funds have disappeared, excessive profiteering has occurred, and workers have been compelled to put shoddy material into articles to be sold to the public, but members of the A.L.P. Executive have not been responsible for this.

These executive officers of the A.L.P., outside of their political and union activities, have set a good standard as members of sporting clubs and other worthy organisations and in their family life, and it ill-behoves the Government to allow some of its members to stoop to gutter level. A former Premier of this State once referred to a person as being so low that he could walk under the belly of a snake without bending his head. If hon. members opposite persist in this form of muck-raking, this description might well be applied to them.

Early in 1962, at Orange—I may have referred to this happening some years ago—Hon. John McEwen, the Leader of the Australian Country Party, publicly rebuked the Prime Minister of Australia and Liberals generally and dissociated himself from this form of attack—the smearing attack. He said he did not believe in election campaign tactics designed to create fear and hatred of the Australian Labour Party. This man, who has performed many services for Australia, has proved himself worthy of acting as Prime Minister whilst the Prime Minister was out of Australia, but was not permitted to become Prime Minister because he is a member of the Country Party. What a shocking state of affairs is it when the Country Party tolerates this!

John McEwen, referring to campaign tactics designed to create fear and hatred of the Australian Labour Party, said—

“Such tactics would tend to divide the Australian people instead of uniting them.”

He avoided making an attack on the Leader of the Opposition, and said—

“We are not here to try to get your votes by vilifying any other political party. We want to make Australia stronger and greater and we do not want to divide Australians, one against the other.

“We are here to say that we believe that our party and our Government has the best policies for Australia. Our policies have given this country——”

He continued—

“We want this country to be strong and we want it to be united. I am not here to ask you to hate and fear some other party in Australia, but to ask you to believe in the policies of our Government. The only group we hate and fear are the Communists. We hate and fear them at home and abroad because we want Australia to be safe and to remain free. That is the only group I denounce and which my party denounces, although I differ with Mr. Calwell on many things.”

This smear campaign should be foreign to the Australian way of life. I will not refer at length to the hon. member for Redcliffe, because I feel that he made himself completely foolish in his speech on Thursday afternoon and showed the House that he has no understanding of the set-up of the trade union movement and the A.L.P. political organisation. He is not conscious of the difference between the trade union organisation and the political party. The Premier is in charge of the Government in this House and it is up to him to make a statement supporting the one made by the Hon. John McEwen. He should indicate that he desires the debates here to be on a high plane. For instance, the hon. member for Condamine could get up in this House and give us an understanding of the parts of the country and industries he represents instead of speaking in the manner he did the other day. It is up to the Premier to decide whether he wants the debates on a high plane or down to the muck-raking level, with members on both sides hunting in cupboards from which to drag ugly skeletons, imaginary or otherwise. The responsibility is on the Premier to call a halt and insist on decency in debate.

The other matter on which I wish to speak is the bombshell which appeared in the newspapers over the week-end in regard to the first public step taken towards the destruction of our free hospitals system in this State. It is rather surprising that this should get publicity. Whether or not there was a leakage I am not aware, but I have in my possession information of which not many people are aware, namely, the personnel of the Liberal Party State Council. I will refrain from going through the names, particularly in view of my appeal to the Premier to stop this muck-raking and this hunting in cupboards for skeletons.

There will still be time after I finish and before 5.30 p.m. for some responsible member of the Liberal Party to rise and deny the truth of this statement, and to give the House a complete assurance that the Government has no intention whatever of departing from the free hospitals system we have in Queensland. It is one of the most

Christian-like aspects of social services in this State that people can go to a public hospital for free treatment.

Unfortunately, in some places in the State pressures have been exerted on age pensioners to provide the cost of their conveyance from outside centres to Brisbane for urgent medical treatment. I am not going to dwell on that matter at the present time because I have had certain correspondence with the Minister for Health. I am hoping that he will act in regard to what has been done by a certain hospital board in endeavouring to force pensioners, when compelled to travel to Brisbane by ambulance, rather than by aeroplane or train, to pay bills of £10, £12, or £15 that have been presented to them. Some of them have had to borrow money to make the payment, and the hospital board has refused to make a refund to them. I hope that the Minister will do the right thing and bring the board into line before the Liberals succeed in breaking down the free hospitals system.

I am glad that the hon. member for Greenslopes, Mr. Hooper, is not in the chair at the present time because I would not want to embarrass him. According to this newspaper article that hon. member said—

“When we came into power we pledged that we would keep the free hospitals scheme. We must try to give to the people what the party promised.”

Mr. Porter, the new member for Toowong, said—

“I don't think the free hospitals scheme is a political issue any more.”

I think that is a scandalous statement. The inference is that they were adhering to the free hospitals scheme only until they succeeded in hoodwinking the people.

Then there is this strange character at Redcliffe—Dr. P. Mareudy—who criticised the free hospitals scheme and said that 30 to 40 per cent. of the out-patients went to public hospitals for no reason at all. What a slanderous and disgusting reference to people who go to the out-patient's department. He said—

“They come for a bandage, a pimple, or a cough they've had for a few days. They aren't prepared to go to the chemist across the road.”

This is a man who I believe is one of the biggest gainers from age pensioners; he encourages them to come back to his surgery time after time for no reason at all. He merely gives them a bottle of water with a little bit of colouring in it.

The Minister for Justice would know something about what these people do. This man has been making a tremendous amount of money out of aged pensioners, yet he has the impudence to insult these people in this way. I should like to see him waiting in the queues of people seeking help and assistance outside the Maryborough hospital.

Before the debate finishes it might be appropriate for the Minister for Health to rise in his place and speak on this subject. According to this newspaper report the Minister said that he thought every political party should review its policy from time to time. That is all very well, but he continued—

“I think Dr. Mareudy must be psychic, because in respect of out-patients he must have been reading my mind.”

**Government Members interjected.**

**Mr. DAVIES:** This is not a facetious matter at all. It is an insult to the ordinary people of the State who are seeking medical help. I have seen what happens in the southern States—the high charges that are made and the inability to obtain hospital beds. Surely every other State would love to be in the position we are in!

We are penalised by the Commonwealth Government, which has used every method possible to try to force this Government to destroy the free hospitals system. I could quote from many speeches to prove that statement. Time will not permit me to do so this afternoon, but I will during the Budget debate and the debate on the Education Estimates. This problem is linked with the matter of money available for education in this State.

We then have a statement by Dr. Mareudy that the State Government is spending \$40,000,000 a year on free hospitals. At least the Minister replied and told Mareudy that he did not know what he was talking about. One would not think that such a man would make an untrue statement, but we do not know what sort of an argument took place. The doctor is then quoted as saying—

“An Australian can afford a few quid for cigarettes, beer and the T.A.B., and I think he should pay something towards hospital treatment.

“Our free hospital scheme is being over-indulged.”

The people of Queensland will realise at last that the warnings given by the A.L.P. over the years were well-founded and that the danger light is showing. Unless several members of the Country Party take a stand, the free hospitals system will be quickly white-anted.

In the short time at my disposal I have one or two comments to make about certain problems arising in education. The other day the hon. member for Clayfield delivered quite a peroration on education, but what did it mean? It meant nothing because he would not face up to the major problem, namely, the shortage of money to do the things that are wanted by the teaching profession and the directors of education throughout the Commonwealth. That is what it boils down to. We must have more money from the Commonwealth for the various States but we will not get it from the Commonwealth Government, as I will

show, if I have enough time to develop my argument. It is not a question of what is being done and what has been done. The question is, "Are we doing enough?" Certainly we are not! In this country education should be given top priority but we have to admit overwhelmingly that not enough is being done, particularly in comparison with other countries. But evidently Government members are satisfied. We have heard interjections from them and we know the sentiments of the Liberal group at the back of the Chamber. They are perfectly satisfied with what is being done and with the money that is made available by the Commonwealth. The painting of a school building, the addition of a new wing, the building of a new high school, the extension of a school transport run, or the granting of \$34 over a period of five years towards the heavy cost of textbooks convinces many that all is well with education in our country. But to those with a knowledge of the education development that is taking place in other countries and an understanding of the urgent necessity for an awakening of public interest in education so that Governments may be stirred into action there can be only one answer; that is, "All is not well."

There is a crisis—and a grave one—in educational development in this nation. The Minister for Education no doubt has the most worrying portfolio in Cabinet. There seems to be little doubt that he is not receiving support from the rest of Cabinet. It is current talk that prominent Liberals have stated that too much is being spent on education in this State.

In the Commonwealth Parliament we have a tragic approach to education, as is evidenced in a statement by Dr. Forbes when he was Minister for Health in the Commonwealth Parliament. In the State sphere the Minister is giving of his best to remedy our education problems but he is hampered right and left by certain members of the Cabinet. In addition, there is the failure of the Commonwealth Government to make the necessary money available. Recently, when an A.L.P. resolution was submitted in the House of Representatives seeking to draw public attention to "the critical shortage of qualified teachers and classroom accommodation", and criticising the Commonwealth Government, Dr. Forbes indicated his attitude. With the Federal elections in the offing, I should like the outside critics and the public to take notice of this.

Dr. Forbes described the Opposition as "The representatives in this House of a militant and highly organised pressure group." He was referring to the teachers, the educational directors, and the education ministers outside the Commonwealth Government. He refused to recognise an urgent need or that insufficient effort was being made to meet the need. He denied that there was a crisis in education in Australia, accusing those who held otherwise of

crying crisis and howling calamity "like a mob of screaming urchins trying to climb aboard a band wagon."

That is the opinion of a leading spokesman for the Commonwealth Government in the House of Representatives. He said, "Our education system has been progressively improving as fast as, if not faster than, that of any other country in the world." He went on to give his reasons for coming to such a conclusion. He said there was hardly a centre in his large country electorate in which a brand-new school had not been built in the previous five years. That bears out what I said on this matter in my opening remarks.

Although there has been an annual increase in spending by the nation, the States are failing to satisfy the demand for classrooms and teachers to meet the urgent needs of educational development in this country. The tragic part of the whole business is that the Commonwealth Government refuses to recognise the existence of a crisis and an urgent need, that we are not making the progress that other nations recognise is so necessary for the development of their country.

Education is not some luxury or mere time-filling pursuit indulged in by the idle rich. It is a process essential to living and the development of living in a society. Education is necessary for our continued existence as a people; it is necessary to levels far in advance of primary standard, and for the multitude rather than the few. Adult educational facilities in all States, such as National Fitness and other avenues of development—even the Art Gallery promised seven years ago by this Government—are hindered and hampered by lack of finance. Education is a vital factor in national progress.

Unless more effective action can be taken for the future than has been possible in the past, Australia's man-power will be relatively less and less adequately qualified to meet the increasing demands of modern times. Such a state of affairs would weaken Australia's position in a competitive society of nations.

While we drift along—and we are drifting as a nation—in a state of lethargy with an almost static approach to the problem and an evident unawareness of the dangers of neglect, we aggravate and intensify difficulties which are becoming insurmountable. We have been told to "Populate or perish." It is even more pertinent to say, "Educate or perish". It has been said that "Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe," and "Education is a national problem. There is only one subject matter for education and this is life in all its manifestations."

The education of our people from kindergarten through all stages of life presents the greatest challenge of our age. In our country education must be given its rightful place as the top priority in our scale of State and

national priorities. As money is always available for wars and defence, so it must be for education, because an uneducated nation could not defend itself adequately. The more educated and the more enlightened a people, the greater the chance of solving world problems without war. The greatest crime against the people of a nation is to restrict educational progress under the plea of shortage of funds. This has been done for too long.

If our country is to keep pace with the great studies in scientific and technological development in other parts of the world, we must bestir ourselves. We cannot afford to neglect any aspect of education. We must give every opportunity to every individual—the brilliant, the backward, the average, those requiring special services, and the adult, to make the fullest use of their particular abilities and interests for both their own and the national interest. The training and education of an individual or group of individuals must never be allowed to depend upon the public collection box. Each individual is the responsibility of a community as a whole.

The discontent among teachers, the threat of a strike, and the pressing claims of Ministers for Education and their officers on the Commonwealth Government are further indications that education is becoming more and more a public issue as the realisation grows that on the education of the people of a country depends that country's survival; that the needs of an increasingly technological world require much more education for an increasing proportion of society; and that there must be a constant effort to develop in all a capacity to learn throughout life.

Education is not a static condition. It has been said that it is a growing and developing process with changes and reforms to meet some real social need. There appears to be no limit to its ever-increasing demands. The argument that to meet these essential demands other social services must suffer cannot be tolerated in this young and virile country. There should be complete agreement with the claim that investment in education is an investment in human beings and that such investment is not only for an economic return in national development but is the moral obligation of the nation to its citizens.

That we are failing dismally to measure up to our responsibilities is shown by the percentages of gross national product spent on education. Among the great nations, Australia ranks eleventh in this expenditure. I shall not spend time giving the figures in detail; what I shall say is that it is most disturbing to find such great differences between the percentages of gross national income spent on education in the various States of Australia. The figures from various sources differ slightly, but the general picture is much the same. The situation is worsening, for Queensland expenditure, which has

been approximately 20 per cent. below the Australian average, is now 40s. 8d. further behind the average expenditure of the other States than it was a decade ago. This situation needs to be speedily rectified, as this disparity is bad and is a further indication that a crisis does exist in this country. According to the Australian News and Information Bulletin, Facts and Figures No. 83, Tasmania has the highest rate of expenditure of 384s. 5d. a head on education, with Queensland last with 256s. 11d. a head.

In recent times various statements have been made in this State on behalf of the Queensland Teachers' Union. No-one would regard that organisation as being radical. It has at all times refused to affiliate with any political party. Today there is no doubt that teachers are incensed and that there is in the teaching profession a degree of unrest that has never been seen in this State before. I wonder what criticism there would be from Government members if they were in Opposition and we were in power and the Teachers' Union criticised us!

I suggest that hon. members opposite study the various complaints mentioned by Mr. Gavin Semple, a high-school principal and president of the Queensland Teachers' Union in the last issue of the Queensland Teachers' Journal. Everyone knows what they are. Hundreds of classes, in both primary and secondary schools, have enrolments of over 35, and the teaching service is over 1,000 teachers short. I shall later point out from the evidence that I have collected that this position is found in all States, and the blame for it lies on the Commonwealth Government. The arch-villain in the whole thing has been the former Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, whose name will go down in the records of this country as the one who did most to retard the development of education in Australia. I have evidence that I intend to place before the House in a later debate proving that he said there was nothing to stop him doing whatever he wanted to do in certain aspects of education in the various States.

The Labour Party has demanded over the years that there should be a complete inquiry into all aspects of education in Australia. There is no chance of it coming at this stage. Leaders of the Federal Government have made statements to this effect: "Make the Queensland railways and the New South railways pay and those States will have extra money."; "Let Queensland do away with free hospitals and it will have extra money." In spite of this, when the Federal election is held later this year members of the Queensland Government will say to the people of this State, "We are getting a satisfactory deal from the present Commonwealth Government. We have no complaint about it."

If their protests are to be effective, the teachers will have to take positive action. There is a very sensible paragraph in Mr. Sample's statement, which says—

"We, the Queensland Teachers' Union, must do our share, by positive (and not negative) action, to persuade Federal politicians that they must insist on more Federal Aid for Education, and we must do this between now and 26th November."

The teachers are entitled to their own views on the question of a strike. The children will have a holiday, of course; but if there was a flood they would be away, and if a royal personage visited the State they would be away for a day. The most effective action teachers could take would be to say, "Give us some Australian Labour Party's 'How-to-Vote' cards, and let us distribute them at the entrance to polling booths on 26 November next." Even if we do not do it later, we will do it this time. We will demonstrate our sincerity by showing that we want to do something for education." If they want to do it not for any personal selfish reasons, let them come out into the open and prove it. Let them do as the people of Dawson did and say, "We will have a representative, at least for three years, of the A.L.P." In 1961 the people of Queensland rocked the Government to its foundations, and the need for action now is urgent because the position is so tragic.

**Mr. Pizzey:** You will tell them, of course, that they will have to bear higher taxation in the process?

**Mr. DAVIES:** The Minister can tell them that, I will be on the Federal platform, too. The Minister for Education realises as well as I do that the efforts of the Commonwealth Government in this direction have been very poor. Education should have top priority, and it is difficult to understand the Commonwealth Government's approach to the problem.

Teachers generally should take positive action. What their president says is quite clear. It is obvious what he means when he says—

" . . . positive action to persuade Federal politicians that they must insist on more Federal Aid for Education, and we must do this between now and 26th November."

He means that they should vote for the Australian Labour Party and help restore the prosperity of this country so that positive action can be taken to raise this country from 8th or 11th place on the world list to a place of pride and satisfaction. If they do that, they will know that at least they have done something positive for Australia.

Motion—That the Address in Reply be adopted (Mr. E. G. W. Wood)—agreed to.

## SUPPLY

### CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEE

**Hon. J. C. A. PIZZHEY** (Isis—Minister for Education): I move—

"That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty."

Motion agreed to.

## WAYS AND MEANS

### CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEE

**Hon. J. C. A. PIZZHEY** (Isis—Minister for Education): I move—

"That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of Ways and Means for raising the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty."

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 4.45 p.m.