

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 1967

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

QUESTIONS

**CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH SCHOOL AT
MIDDLE RIDGE, TOOWOOMBA**

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

(1) When will construction work begin at Middle Ridge State High School, Toowoomba?

(2) Will the work be carried out by his Department?

Answers:—

(1) "Site works for the new high school at Middle Ridge, Toowoomba, have already been started and erection of the buildings is scheduled to commence by the end of the third week in October."

(2) "Yes."

**LAND FOR UNIVERSITY COLLEGE,
TOOWOOMBA**

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

(1) What land is owned in Toowoomba by his Department for future use for a university college?

(2) If his Department has no land reserved for the purpose, will he acquire an adequate area for it?

Answers:—

(1) "None."

(2) "No. In its report on Tertiary Education in Australia the Martin Committee recommended the establishment of a tertiary college in Toowoomba and the Government proceeded to establish the Darling Downs Institute of Technology."

QUEENSLAND REPRESENTATION AT
OVERSEAS SUGAR CONFERENCES

Mr. R. Jones, pursuant to notice, asked
The Premier,—

(1) In view of the two sugar conferences to be held overseas in the near future, will his Government's advisers and/or the representatives of the Queensland Cane Growers' Organisation be attending?

(2) If not, what is the basis of representation for Australia at (a) the Commonwealth Countries sugar agreement November conference with the British Government in London and (b) the International Export groups October conference at Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations Conference of Trade and Development?

(3) As the conferences are preparatory to the effective full-scale U.N.C.T.A.D. conference to be held in either Geneva or Rome on April 17, 1968, to establish an agreement giving stability to the controlled supply and free world market price of sugar, what is the composition of the Queensland delegation and will representatives of Queensland canegrowers be included?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "See Answer to (1)."

(3) "It is too early at this stage to give particulars of the composition of the Queensland delegation. At previous conferences the Australian Cane Growers' Association has been represented and it is extremely unlikely that there will be any departure from this practice."

FACILITIES FOR SICK CHILDREN IN FAR
NORTH QUEENSLAND SCHOOLS

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a report in *The Courier-Mail* of September 27 describing "School needs in Far North" and the investigations by the northernmost branch of the Queensland Teachers Union, revealing inadequacies?

(2) Have complaints been received by his Department relating to the thirteen schools there having inadequate provision for sick children and fourteen schools

without health rooms or having sick children placed on school verandahs? If not, in which of the twenty-six schools investigated do the conditions exist?

(3) If the report is confirmed, will he ensure that early action is taken to remedy the situation in these schools?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2 and 3) "The Department is not aware of the names of the schools referred to."

AIR TRAFFIC TO NORTH QUEENSLAND

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

(1) In view of the substantial growth of air passenger transport in recent years, are the airlines endeavouring to cope with the additional traffic and, if so, why have Viscounts recently replaced Electras on some flights to North Queensland?

(2) What steps have been and will be taken to improve the service and when will the DC9 service be inaugurated?

(3) Why has the use of DC9 Aircraft on this run been deferred on at least two occasions?

Answer:—

"The several matters raised in each of the three Questions are outside the scope of my Ministerial control. The Honourable Member should direct his Questions to the appropriate Commonwealth Minister."

ROAD-SEALING WORK IN CENTRAL
QUEENSLAND

Mr. N. T. E. Hewitt, pursuant to notice,
asked The Minister for Mines,—

(1) What was the mileage of roads sealed on the following sections of road prior to June 30, 1957, (a) Rockhampton—Emerald, (b) Emerald—Springsure, (c) Springsure—Rolleston, (d) Rolleston—Moura and (e) Moura—Biloela?

(2) What mileage of sealed roads now exists over each of these sections and what works are at present in progress on them?

Answers:—

(1) "Mileage of roads sealed prior to June 30, 1957—(a) Rockhampton—Emerald, 80 miles; (b) Emerald—Springsure, 3 miles; (c) Springsure—Rolleston, nil; (d) Rolleston—Moura, nil; (e) Moura—Biloela, 3 miles."

(2) "Mileage now sealed—(a) Rockhampton—Emerald, 177 (full length); (b) Emerald—Springsure, 40 (full length); (c) Springsure—Rolleston, 1.6; (d) Rolleston—Moura, 84; (e) Moura—Biloela, 41 (full length). Further work is in progress on the Springsure—Rolleston road where tenders have just closed for 2.4 miles of construction."

SUBSIDIES TO SCHOOLS

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

What amount has been paid to State primary and high schools by way of subsidy (a) on school ground improvement, (b) on sporting equipment, (c) on teaching requirements and (d) for any other purposes, in the years ended June 30, 1965, 1966 and 1967?

Answer:—

"(a) 1965, \$288,055; 1966, \$255,528; 1967, \$384,308. (b) Nil. (c) 1965, \$87,811; 1966, \$97,658; 1967, \$102,570. (d) 1965, \$5,286; 1966, \$6,628; 1967, \$6,327."

WATER CHARGES TO FARMERS OUTSIDE BENEFITED AREAS, BURDEKIN RIVER

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

Have canegrowers, whose farms are outside the benefited areas declared under the Water Acts as Water Areas under the control of either the North or the South Burdekin Water Board, been notified or will they be notified by the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission that they will be charged for water pumped from the Burdekin River, something they have done without charge for generations? If so, what is the justification for the action?

Answer:—

"It is a fact that licensees on the Burdekin River outside the benefited areas declared as Water Areas under the control of the North or South Burdekin Water Boards have been and will be notified as their licences come up for renewal that after about March 31, 1968, they will be charged for water pumped from that section of the river in which flow is regulated from Eungella Dam. The justification for this action is the provision of a regulated flow and an assured supply of water from Eungella Dam. The charge will be based on the cost of operation of Eungella Dam and distribution of water."

SALE OF LIQUOR TO COLOURED PERSONS

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

Are hotel licensees permitted by law to refuse bar service to people simply because of the colour of their skin? If not, what redress is afforded to any coloured person so refused?

Answer:—

"While under *"The Liquor Acts, 1912 to 1965"*, a licensed victualler is required to keep his licensed premises open for the sale of liquor on certain days between certain times, there is no statutory requirement that he sell liquor to all persons who come to his bar and offer to purchase liquor. On the other hand, there are statutory prohibitions on his selling liquor to certain persons including, among others, persons in a state of intoxication or who are habitual drunkards, or who are apparently under the age of twenty-one years. Further offences are committed by a licensed victualler if he suffers or permits on his licensed premises, prostitutes, thieves, or persons of notoriously bad character, or drunken or disorderly persons. While conduct and not colour is recognised by these statutes as the criterion for admission to these bars, nevertheless the licensed victualler is fixed with the responsibility of properly conducting his licensed premises and his licence may be forfeited for a number of reasons, including, among others that his licensed premises have been conducted in an improper manner and that drunkenness has been permitted on his licensed premises. The licensed victualler in refusing bar service would be guided by the particular circumstances and a person rightly refused would have no redress."

LAUNCH HIRERS CONTRACTING OUT OF CIVIL LIABILITIES

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

Has he been advised that launch owners plying for hire from the Queensland mainland to off-shore islands are issuing tickets to enable them to "contract out" of any liability for death or injury to passengers, even where such death or injury is caused by the gross negligence of the launch owner or his employees and agents? If so, what action, if any, does he propose to take to afford passengers reasonable legal protection for death or injury resulting from such negligence?

Answer:—

"One case has been brought to my notice by the Honourable Member and I am having the matter investigated."

APPLICATION TO STATE AWARDS OF
RULING WAGE INCREASE

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

(1) Regarding the award increase of \$1.00 granted by the State Industrial Commission from July 3, what action is being taken to classify it as an increase in the basic wage rate?

(2) Has consideration been given to the protection of the minimum standards set down as comprising the "Basic Wage" in Section 13 of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act in the circumstances?

(3) With the introduction of the concept of the "Total Wage" by the Commonwealth Commission and the consequent application to State Awards of the increase as a general ruling increase and not a basic wage increase, what action, if any, is contemplated to ensure that the traditional concept of the basic wage inherent in the State Act under successive Governments is not superseded?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "The Honourable Member is referred to the Judgments, dated June 30, 1967, and July 7, 1967, of the Full Bench of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, which is an independent Industrial Tribunal."

MAREEBA HIGH SCHOOL

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

(1) In view of the urgent need for a home science block to be added to Mareeba High School, when will the work be undertaken?

(2) Will he consider bituminising the parade ground in order to eliminate bogginess in the wet season?

Answers:—

(1) "It was not possible to allocate a sufficiently high priority to the provision of home science accommodation on the Mareeba State High School site to permit the project to be included in the Loan Works Programme for the 1967-68 financial year. This work will be undertaken, however, as soon as the necessary funds can be allocated."

(2) "As it is alleged that the parade ground becomes boggy during wet weather, action will be taken to request the Department of Works to re-examine this matter and to give further consideration to providing a bitumen surface thereto in relation to funds available for works of this nature."

FINANCIAL AID FOR DEVELOPMENT
OF KARUMBA

Mr. Wallis-Smith, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

As the establishment of a prawn industry at Karumba is a distinct possibility and as there is an urgent need for an adequate water supply, an all-weather road from Normanton and improved harbour facilities, will he consider providing assistance to the Carpentaria Shire and the Harbours and Marine Department to have the facilities established?

Answer:—

"An approach has already been made by the State to the Commonwealth for financial assistance in providing community services at Karumba to cater for the prawn fishery and processing plant, and their reply is now awaited."

RECONSTRUCTION OF "EVENTIDE,"
SANDGATE

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

As there is an ever-increasing demand on "Eventide," Sandgate, because of the inability of private convalescent homes to cope with applications from sick and aged people, and as plans have been completed for some considerable time, when will the new "Eventide" be constructed?

Answer:—

"The applications received for admission to 'Eventide', Sandgate, are not numerous enough to justify the construction of additional buildings. Aged persons whose applications are in order are admitted without undue delay, and, in case of real emergency, immediate admission can be arranged. While there is no present intention to undertake new construction at 'Eventide', Sandgate, the policy of modernising and improving the existing buildings, which has been successfully pursued over the past years, continues."

EXTENSION OF ANTI-SMOKING
CAMPAIGN

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

Has his attention been drawn to the report by Dr. Luther L. Terry, formerly United States Surgeon-General, in *The Courier-Mail* of September 26, headed "Death Illness Smoking Link" which stated that cigarette smoking is associated with one-third of all deaths among men between thirty-five and sixty years of age and that women who smoke cigarettes show a significantly higher death rate over those who have never smoked regularly? If so, will he intensify the present anti-smoking campaign in schools?

Answer:—

"Yes. The relation between cigarette smoking and disease has been given wide publicity through lectures by medical authorities, by the Press, and by the Queensland Health Education Council. The Queensland Health Education Council has placed smoking machines in secondary schools to demonstrate, visually, the amount of residual matter, carcinogenic in nature, which remains in the body after smoking. Lectures are also given by the teachers to indicate the effects of these residual tars and other products. The value of health education to children to make them aware of the hazards associated with cigarette smoking is appreciated and such education should be continuing. The Queensland Health Education Council proposes to increase the number of machines so that they can visit schools more frequently than once in three years as they do at present."

EFFECT ON HEALTH IN DOMESTIC USE OF DETERGENTS

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

In view of the widespread use of detergents in the washing of cooking utensils and domestic crockery, have his officers carried out any investigations into the possibility of a health hazard caused by the residue left on utensils after the use of detergents?

Answer:—

"Research has not been carried out into the use of detergents in the washing of cooking utensils and domestic crockery by officers of the Health Department as this has been adequately carried out overseas when these chemicals were developed. The results obtained have been published in current scientific journals. I have been advised no ill effects can be attributed to the ingestion of minute traces of ordinarily available detergents which remain on crockery after washing up and thereby subsequently get into food and drink. Whether this is aesthetically acceptable is however quite another question. Many people rinse kitchen utensils and table crockery after washing. The opinion is held that there is no cause for concern in regard to the use of detergents for household use when they are used as directed."

USE OF MARIHUANA

Mr. W. D. Hewitt, without notice, asked the Minister for Health,—

Is the Minister aware that the A.B.C. radio feature "A.M." this morning stated that only the Minister for Health in Victoria was prepared to comment on an alleged statement by Dr. Stella Dalton that marihuana is less harmful than tobacco?

In view of the widespread public concern regarding drug addiction, is the Minister prepared to comment now on this matter?

Answer:—

"The substance of the statements referred to by the hon. member has been reported to me. I have not been approached by the A.B.C. for comment and regret that the radio item may have implied a lack of concern by Queensland health authorities regarding the use of marihuana.

"This drug is a restricted drug which has been classified as a dangerous drug in Queensland and its use prohibited. One of the chief dangers arising from its use is that it can lead to addiction to even more undesirable and dangerous practices.

"I know Dr. Stella Dalton and the splendid work she is doing. I am sure that anything she may have said was not intended to encourage the use of marihuana, or to discourage the authorities in their endeavours to curb its use."

PAPERS

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

Balance Sheet of the Public Curator for the year 1966-67.

Report of the Commissioner for Transport for the year 1966-67.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Regulations under the Public Service Acts, 1922 to 1965.

Seventh Report of the Brisbane Market Trust, for the year 1966-67.

MILITANCY IN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

Debate resumed from 14 September (see p. 531) on Mr. Lickiss's motion—

"That this Parliament (a) recognises the right of the individual to protect his interests and to sell or hire his labour to his own advantage within the provisions of the law prescribed for such purposes, and this Parliament further accepts the premise that whilst the community has an obligation to the individual or a group of individuals so to protect their rights in accordance with such law, that community has an equal right to demand that those individuals accept their obligations in accordance with the common good; and (b) deplores the increasing tendency to forsake the legal provisions for settlement of industrial differences by outmoded militant action designed to suppress and intimidate the community and the individual."

Mr. R. JONES (Cairns) (11.22 a.m.): On 14 September, when this debate was adjourned, I drew the attention of the House to the fact that the Minister for Justice had deplored that A.L.P. members had not gone to Collinsville and participated in the strike. On the Minister's own admission, it was six weeks after the strike began on 6 June before he came into the issue as representative of the area. He told the House that he came into it on 17 July and, seven weeks later again, on 4 September, work was resumed. The Minister therefore condemns himself by standing aside, although he is the local member, whilst at the same time he castigates members of this party, the Australian Labour Party, for not involving themselves in the strike. His effectiveness as an intervener does not seem to be apparent from his remarks in this House. First of all, it took him six weeks to come into the dispute, and it was a further seven weeks before the strike was settled.

An interesting sidelight, of course, was the Minister's journey to the picket line. As a participant in the railway dispute in 1948, I was one of the strikers—one of those terrible men who stood up for their rights in that year. I was in the picket line, and I am quite sure that if the Minister for Transport, or any other Minister, had come along during that strike he would have caused us considerable amusement. Of course, we would have known that he was not there to intervene on our behalf. There would not have been any animosity towards him; we would have known very well the Government's attitude to strikers, but he would not have caused us any worry at all.

Of course, we know very well that the Minister for Justice had every right to go to Collinsville. In my opinion, he did the right thing; he waited until he was invited before he went, and I think when he did intervene it was purely on the basis that the dispute existed in his electorate. I admit that, in the interests of those involved, he took a direct interest in the matter from then on.

Mr. Ramsden: By this speech, are you supporting "Red Fred" Thompson, of the A.E.U.?

Mr. R. JONES: I will ignore that remark. It is typical of the attitude on the other side of the Chamber. For a former man of the cloth the hon. member for Merthyr exhibits no sign of charity in his soul towards these men who, as I said previously—the hon. member would have known if he had been in the House then—participated in this strike in their fight for conditions that, at different times, had been given by the Industrial Commission for exactly similar work at other sites.

Mr. Ramsden: If that is true, why did the A.W.U. grant union tickets to men to work on the job?

Mr. R. JONES: If the A.W.U. wishes to direct its members to work on a job site, that is entirely an internal matter for the union itself. I do not think this matter should become a political football in this Chamber.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. R. JONES: Hon. members opposite are more concerned with flogging a dead horse—

Mr. RAMSDEN: I rise to a point of order. I am not interested in flogging a dead horse. I am interested only in whether anyone has the right to flog a man into insensibility, as was done in Collinsville.

Mr. R. JONES: There is no mention of Collinsville in the motion, but apparently the Collinsville dispute has become the issue to be debated.

I do not disagree with the wording of the motion up to paragraph (b). Paragraph (a) states—

"That this Parliament recognises the right of the individual to protect his interests and to sell or hire his labour to his own advantage within the provisions of the law."

Up to that point I agree wholeheartedly with the wording of the motion. If we are going to debate the right to strike, I reserve the right to defend the right to strike of the people who were on the job. The A.W.U. was not involved in the strike. That is an internal matter for that union. We are merely debating the right of the individual to strike—the right of the individual to withdraw his labour if he deems it necessary to do so.

In the course of this debate we have wandered all over the world. In seconding the motion, the hon. member for Toowong said that in the United Kingdom and also in America the trade unions deliberately avoid association with political parties. I concede that as far as America is concerned. However, the Australian Labour Party has an inheritance from the trade unions. Our policy was born within the trade-union movement; we do not deny that.

Mr. Wallis-Smith: And we do not change our name.

Mr. R. JONES: We do not change our name.

I refute the allegation by the hon. member for Toowong that the British Labour Party has no association with the trade unions. The latest figures I have indicate that in 1965 5,601,982 trade unionists in 79 branches of trade unions were directly affiliated with the British Labour Party. In 21,146 socialist and co-operative societies a membership of 6,439,893 had an association with the British Labour Party. The membership in the British Labour Party of constituency and central parties, which in effect are equal to

our party branches, numbering 659 branches, totals 475,164 men and 341,601 women. Hon. members can judge from those figures the participation by trade unions in the British Labour Party, which the seconder of the motion said was non-existent.

Mr. P. Wood: In addition, British trade unions directly sponsor labour candidates for election to the House of Commons.

Mr. R. JONES: Hon. members have heard the interjection by the hon. member for Toowoomba East, who recently was in Britain at the time that an election was held.

The right to strike is inherent—the right of a man to withdraw his labour. It is bound up in the concept of democratic processes and majority rule. If it is held to be wrong, I want to know why it is wrong. I have participated in strike meetings. Generally speaking, the issues are rather hot, but there have been occasions when I have disagreed with the need for a strike and, as a union official, I have seen the rank and file carry a decision from the floor to go out on strike; I have been present when a decision has been made to engage in a strike that could not be won. As a sub-branch official, a voluntary official of a trade union, I have upheld the worker's right to strike, and I will continue to do so on the floor of this Assembly. As a trade unionist, I will not let someone else fight my battles in the trade-union field.

(Time expired.)

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (11.32 a.m.): We have just heard the hon. member for Cairns say that the Labour Party was founded on the trade-union movement, as indeed it was. When I was a lad I was privileged and proud to work alongside men—they were middle-aged men then; some of them were old men—who had suffered during the great strikes of 1891 and 1894, which brought the Labour Party into being and laid the foundations for trade unionism in Australia.

I was privileged as a boy of about 16 or 17 to hear the late Charles McDonald, who had been in this Parliament as a Labour man for many years, and who went into the Federal Parliament upon the foundation of Federation and later became Speaker in the Federal House under the Labour Party. I saw and heard him speaking from a horse-drawn lorry on a vacant allotment in Cloncurry. Addressing a huge crowd and shaking a tin box of matches, he said, "This is your weapon against the graziers; turn the 'red bull' loose in the paddocks." These men believed that the very essence of dinky-die trade unionism is to fight the employing exploiter, to fight all those who fatten and batten on the workers, and then take advantage of their disunity.

It is because I still believe in the old principles of Labour and unionism as laid down by those men that today I am regarded as an old-fashioned "square" by some of the power-drunk paranoics at the Brisbane Trades Hall who control the Labour Party today with a rod of iron. I have lived long enough—and I have built up a proud reputation as a trade unionist and a dinky-die Labour man—to see trade unionism sold out and prostituted not only by men at the Trades Hall but by men at Dunstan House. The real exploiters of the working class to-day are the trade-union leaders—or many of them. I believe that this Parliament should amend the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act to provide that all trade-union officials shall lodge with the Industrial Registrar detailed lists of the munificent salaries, allowances and perks that they have granted to themselves, and also to provide that each list shall be open to any member of the trade union concerned. The same provisions should apply, of course to the representatives of the various employer federations who appear before the Industrial Commission.

No-one knows how the workers today are being exploited by the very people who have the impudence to claim that they represent them. It is not only the employer who robs the workers. Fighting the bosses for better wages and working conditions has been virtually forgotten in the political power struggle that is taking place in Queensland between the Communist-dominated and controlled, power-drunk paranoics at the Trades Hall and the individuals of a similar type at Dunstan House. We all know that they sell industrial peace. The A.W.U. has been selling industrial peace for years. But the charge it makes on the employers for industrial peace is only "peanuts" compared with the charge that is being made by some of the boys at the Trades Hall, who work on a percentage of the total pay-roll.

When we hear, as has been glibly espoused here from time to time by members of the A.L.P., that there is no collaboration between the Communists and the Labour Party, let us consider the set-up of the trade-union movement in Queensland as exemplified by Trades Hall control. I do not know the exact number of delegates now, but there is, on the Trades and Labour Council, a great preponderance of delegates from so-called A.L.P.-controlled unions. Those men, if they wished, could take control of every official position at the Trades Hall, but they do not do it for the very obvious reason that the Communists demand and hold the most vital positions in the Trades Hall oligarchy. They demand the secretaryship, and that position is filled by Alex Macdonald. Most important of all, the Communists demand and hold the position of industrial advocate in the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. That position is held by Gerry Dawson who, if he wanted to, could be a very able advocate.

But every time Gerry Dawson opens his mouth, either inside or outside the Industrial Commission, he does so purely and simply as a proselytiser and a propagandist for the Communist Party. Over the years, because of this snide and tawdry agreement between the A.L.P. officials at the Trades Hall and the Communist officials at the Trades Hall, the workers of Queensland have been brainwashed into believing that only the Communists are interested in bettering their working conditions and increasing their wages.

I challenge the A.L.P. members on this side of the Chamber and the A.L.P., or so-called A.L.P., members who are union officials at the Trades Hall to show that they are genuinely anti-Communist and clean out every Communist who occupies an official position in the Trades Hall hierarchy or, should I say, hagiocracy. I know they will not do it because they are not game to. If they did, the Communists have told them—and they mean it; do not make any mistake about it—that the Communists will organise within the unions that are at present controlled by so-called A.L.P. officials and will be responsible for removing those so-called A.L.P. officials from office. Once they are removed from office they will lose their munificent salaries and allowances that they have granted themselves, their motor-cars, their perks, and above all, their almost annual trips overseas to the Iron Curtain countries as representatives or delegates to some spurious conference or other. When they go to Moscow they all stay—the A.L.P. officials and the Communist officials—at Friendship House. If they go to China they stay at the Peking equivalent of Moscow's Friendship House.

These so-called A.L.P. trade-union officials at the Trades Hall have sold the workers down the line. They have prostituted the positions to which they have appointed themselves. No-one can "kid" me that most of them are appointed by a clean ballot, because they are not. They have prostituted their positions by a spirit of job-consciousness and by hanging onto the extravagant salaries, conditions and opportunities for nest-feathering that they have made for themselves.

The hon. member for Cairns is a man for whom I have the highest regard. I know him well, and I do not suppose there is a better trade unionist in Queensland than he, unless it be myself. When we talk of scabs and renegades—and there has been quite a lot of mouthing of those terms in connection with Collinsville—let us try to discover who are the real scabs and renegades. Let me say in all seriousness that if a man who obeys the instructions of his union and goes to work on a job, notwithstanding the fact that the members of other unions have been instructed not to work, is a scab and a renegade, then we have scabs and renegades on the Labour benches of this Parliament, and we have

scabs and renegades occupying official positions at the Trades Hall. Like the hon. member for Cairns, I have been involved and interested in strikes. I was either on strike or on the picket lines in 1917, 1925, 1927, 1931 and 1948, and I know men who now occupy top union positions at the Trades Hall and others who are A.L.P. members of this Parliament who went to work when we were on strike.

As I say, I do not regard men who go to work under instructions from their union as scabs and renegades. The other great man in history said, "No man can serve two masters," and that is true. If people belong to a union that is weak or a tame-cat organisation, that is to be regretted. But if they belong to it and it instructs them to work, they have no alternative but to work.

Mr. Lickiss: That was before the battle of the unions.

Mr. AIKENS: Yes.

The unions in Queensland today are split as the result of an insensate and vicious power struggle over who is to control the A.L.P.—the boys at the Trades Hall or the boys at Dunstan House. During the strike at Collinsville, men went to work under orders from their union, which was the A.W.U. They were slandered and had a barrage of filthy abuse heaped on them. The word "Scab" was painted on their cars, and they were battered and bashed. Yet some hon. members, particularly the hon. member for Norman, said they were proud of what went on at Collinsville.

If the men at Collinsville wanted to attack somebody, why did they not attack the employer? Was any attack made on John Holland & Co. or its executives? Was any attack made on the subcontractors who locked the men out? Was any attack made on A.W.U. officials who ordered the men to go to work? Did Egerton, Townsend and the rest of their gang march from the Trades Hall to Elizabeth Street with tins of paint, bludgeons, bottles, and sticks and stones, and did they paint the word "Scab" all over the cars of A.W.U. officials? Did they go up the stairs and try to bash Edgar Williams and Goding and other A.W.U. officials? Not on your life! They played golf and bowls with them. They drank and fraternised with them, and they gave one another cheery salutations when they passed in the street. That was the attitude of Trades Hall officials to A.W.U. officials, who, we are told, were the villains in the piece. Only the workers were the suckers.

If the Trades Hall officials had done any of those things, I would have acknowledged that at least they were honest. If they had physically attacked the employers—the exploiters, as they claimed them to be—and the A.W.U. officials, whom they branded as the villains in the piece and who ordered their men to work, I would have seen their

point of view. But they cravenly soiled the Collinsville workers on to their fellow-workers.

Let us now look at it in retrospect. There are, of course, some good unionists on this side of the House. But some of them are of such a type that if the old "91-ers" or "94-ers" were alive today they would not vomit on them, nor would they vomit on some of the officials at the Trades Hall.

If I am to be called a Tory or a scab or a blackleg for saying these things about the Trades Hall gang, I am in good company, as I am in the company of perhaps the finest trade unionist and member of the Labour Party that Queensland ever produced, namely, the late Harry Harvey. He started as a humble cleaner at the Trades Hall. He became secretary of the Trades and Labour Council and was elevated to the bench of the then Industrial Court by a Labour Government. Yet at one of the conferences that he presided over during the strike at Mt. Isa he said to Egerton, "When I was in the Labour Party, shits like you wouldn't have been allowed within 100 yards of an A.L.P. meeting." Hon. members do not have to take my word for that; it is written in the records. If I am a renegade, a scab or a Tory for saying these things about Egerton and his crowd, I am in good company when I am in the company of the late Harry Harvey.

Let us consider the 1956 shearers' strike, when railwaymen were again made the suckers in the machinations of the Trades Hall gang, just as they were again made the suckers the other day in the most unpopular railway strike ever staged in this State. In 1956 the A.W.U. went into close collaboration with the Communists and the Trades Hall officials. When Alex Macdonald, the Communist secretary of the Trades and Labour Council, went to Sydney at the invitation of Tom Dougherty, the big boss of the A.W.U. in Australia, he had afternoon tea with him and, on behalf of the Brisbane Trades Hall, worked out with him the master plan for the conduct of the so-called shearers' strike in 1956.

In that agreement, made between Alex Macdonald, on behalf of the Trades Hall, and Tom Dougherty, on behalf of the A.W.U., it was agreed that, on those stations that were declared "black", members of the A.W.U., as long as they worked under the Pastoral Industry Award, as long as they were not actually engaged in the shearing industry, were to continue working; that A.W.U. truck drivers were to continue bringing stores and wool bales to the "black" stations; that A.W.U. truck drivers were to continue to cart wool from the "black" stations to the railway sidings, where the railwaymen were then to declare it "black" and refuse to load it.

Do you see, Mr. Speaker, how the railwaymen were played as suckers in 1956? Do you see how the Communists, the Trades

Hall and the A.W.U. agreed in 1956 that certain A.W.U. members would not be regarded as scabs and renegades if they continued working, although the A.W.U. and the Trades Hall had declared the stations "black"? Is it any wonder that the workers today are awakening to these things?

When there is talk of the power struggle that is going on between the power-drunk paranoids at the Trades Hall and the power-drunk megalomaniacs at Dunstan House, let us also consider what is happening in this House. We all know that there are two sections of the A.L.P. here. We all know of the pamphlets that have been issued and widely distributed by the A.W.U. section of the Parliamentary Labour Party against Trades Hall officials and that section of the Parliamentary Labour Party. We have all received a copy of the first pamphlet, "Scalp"; we have also received recently a second pamphlet headed "Who's who". I believe there is a third one headed "The Love Nest", which apparently refers to the Trades Hall, and in which there is a subheading "Concupiscent Clem", whoever that might be and whatever that adjective might mean—I have not had time to look up its meaning.

Mr. Lloyd interjected.

Mr. AIKENS: The hon. member for Kedron, who has interjected, is not in the Trades Hall section of the A.L.P., and he is quite open about it. Give him a blunt knife and the opportunity in a nice darkened doorway and he would gladly cut the throats of his political leader, the hon. member for Bulimba (Mr. Houston), and the hon. member for Townsville North (Mr. Tucker), who is the Deputy Leader of the party in this Chamber.

(Time expired.)

Mr. W. D. HEWITT (Chatsworth) (11.47 a.m.): I am very pleased indeed to associate myself with the motion moved by my colleague and friend the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha. In my opinion, he moved it in a singularly competent fashion, and he introduced it at a time when Queensland is facing mounting industrial turmoil.

The motion comes before the House at a time when we, as a responsible legislative body, should in fact re-establish some of our values and take the trouble to read out certain things that should be well understood. The motion moved by the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha contains two distinct propositions, and it is necessary to deal with both of them because, although the second undoubtedly attracts more attention, the first spells out certain rights of the individual that need to be commented upon.

The first part of the motion recognises the right of the individual to protect his interests. That is a broad sentiment with which I do not think anyone will quarrel. As the hon. member for Kurilpa rightly points out, it is a right to work; but it is a right that, in

different terminologies, is enshrined in the legislation of every progressive democratic assembly in the free world today. It is a right that has been fought over; it is a right that has been disputed over, and has lent itself to great disputation, through the years. Indeed, the aspiration to this right in the tumultuous 19th century created the great upheaval from which trade unionism was born. There was a great need for trade unionism in those days to protect that aspiration; to give voice to it.

As there was a need for trade unionism in those days, let me declare quite unambiguously that there is an equal need for trade unionism in this day and age. To those who try to say that people of my political beliefs are opposed to trade unions, I say that I give them the lie direct. I believe that trade unionism has a wonderful role, a very responsible role, to play in this day and age. I believe that it has, on the one hand, to fight for increasing rights and increasing benefits for the worker, and, on the other hand, to protect the rights that have been won. Let us have no argument about that. I defend as vigorously as anyone on the other side of the Chamber the necessity for trade unions in this day and age.

Although it is not spelt out in this motion, the motion can also be meant to interpret the right of the worker not only to preserve his rights and his interests, but to aspire to an improvement of them. Again I say that this attracts no argument from anyone on this side of the House. The aspirations to shorter hours, longer leave, higher pay, greater fringe benefits and early retirement are all things that must accrue to the worker as the direct result of improvements that this society sees day by day and year by year. A changing society must give all of those benefits to the working community as its bonus; and, may I say, those are the sympathies of the party that I support in this House.

Having said that, may I refer to the second part of the motion, because that is probably the meat of the argument round which most of our disputation seems to revolve. The second part deplores the increasing tendency to forsake the legal provisions for settlement of industrial differences by outmoded militant action designed to suppress and intimidate the community and the individual. There can be no doubt that such a tendency must be deplored, because there is all the evidence in the world that, at the moment, this tendency is accelerating in this State.

We do not deny for a moment—and I think this is the point that the hon. member for Kedron is trying to establish by interjection—that some of the processes are too slow. Some of the legal processes are possibly bogged down too much in legalism, and possibly some of the industrial laws are outdated and in need of review. This may be true, and it may not be true; but

there are still laws to be respected and observed and the clear choice is a simple one: either we respect the existing laws, although we may disagree with them, or we revert to the law of the jungle.

I say that in the Australian community there is no place for mob rule. We respect the law; we demand that it be respected as those of us who administer respect the rights of others to try to change those laws. There are legitimate ways in which people can aspire to change laws that attract their disagreement. Firstly, they can agitate—and they do. That is right and proper; they can form themselves into pressure groups, and in legitimate ways apply all the pressure they are capable of bringing to bear upon Governments of the day. I am a great believer in the efforts of pressure groups. There is a truism in politics that politicians respond to public opinion, and pressure groups stimulate public opinion. This is their right and their obligation to the cause that they champion.

The third way in which dissidents might aspire to change the law is by actually changing the Government, and the trade unions, of course, use the Labour Party as their vehicle in their aspiration to change the Government.

All these realms of legitimate agitation are available for use by pressure groups, and for those who aspire to a change of Government there is an orbit in which people can register their protests and still respect the law as it must be respected.

The simple fact of the matter is—I think this is the root cause of much of the industrial turmoil in this State today—that the militants in the trade unions realise in their hearts that they cannot win the Government with the vehicle they have elected to support. The responsible trade unionists, as distinct from the trade-union leaders, know that the Australian Labour Party in fact is no longer the workers' party, but that the party that I support is now the workers' party in this State.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: It is pleasing to see that the crabs are biting this morning. One hon. member opposite asked whether I am in the left wing of the Liberal Party. In reply, let me say that by my origin and my instincts I have everything in common with the working section of the community.

Let us look at this suggestion that the Liberal Party and my colleagues on this side represent the workers' party, because it is an interesting proposition. The trade unions, and through them the Australian Labour Party, put to us the proposition that they represent the workers and that the workers support them. Page 378 of the 1966 Queensland Year Book indicates that membership of employees' unions registered in Queensland at 31 December, 1965, totalled

312,488. The same authority indicates that the population of Queensland over the age of 21, which is another term for "voting age", at 30 June, 1965, was 942,840. By relating one figure to the other we find that the trade unionists in Queensland represent 33.14 per cent. of the voting population of this State.

If the trade unionists accepted the fact that the Australian Labour Party was their party—that it was the workers' party—those trade unionists representing in their own right 33.14 per cent. of the voting population, plus their wives and relatives, and plus the area of influence in which they move, would present a voting avalanche of such consequence that we would not only be defeated, we would be annihilated. I do not ask the House to accept my argument on this; I ask hon. members to accept the indisputable figures. Since 1949 the workers themselves have accepted politicians of my colour to represent their interests, and they have not been let down.

I put it to the House that the present wave of industrial unrest is probably attributable to the fact that the union leaders now see no hope of the party they support coming into office and giving voice to some of the sentiments they express. I think a lot of this can be sheeted home to the trade-union leaders, who are disillusioned and disappointed in their political wing.

One thing should be said on this point, and I will conclude on this note: these people should be warned that neither the patience of the people of Queensland nor the patience of the Government is infinite, and that in all things breaking points are finally reached.

Mr. NEWTON (Belmont) (12 noon): I move the following amendment:—

"Omit the words—

'(b) deploras the increasing tendency to forsake the legal provisions for settlement of industrial differences by out-moded militant action designed to suppress and intimidate the community and the individual'

and insert in lieu thereof the words—

'(b) deploras the failure of the Government to modernise the machinery of conciliation and arbitration and "The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act" to facilitate conciliation and industrial peace and respect between employer and employee rather than reliance on imposition of penal provisions even in circumstances where the Commission declares itself unable to deal with the cause of dispute itself.'

I feel, as do my colleagues, that the motion put before the House by the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha is far too limited in its approach to a very serious problem. The amendment is therefore necessary to

put the matter in its correct perspective because of recent developments involving the industrial laws of this State.

In introducing the motion, the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha gave his interpretation of the first part of it. We have heard from a number of Government members on this aspect of the motion. I say to the hon. members for Chatsworth, Toowong and Mt. Coot-tha that had they been in this House in 1961 when the legislation governing the industrial laws of this State was introduced, they would know a lot more about it than they have demonstrated.

The hon. member for Chatsworth has the hide—the audacity—to rise in this House and say that his party is sympathetic to the working people of this State. What utter rot! What utter nonsense!

Mr. Porter: The truth hurts.

Mr. NEWTON: The hon. member should be very careful. If he wants the truth I can drop it on him and his colleagues. They are hatchet men!

The hon. member for Chatsworth continued by pointing out the differences between the trade-union movement and those who are affiliated with the A.L.P. I suggest to him, as a member of the Liberal Party, that he should examine his party's association with the employers' organisations, which support his party every time an election comes round to defeat the very purposes that the Australian Labour Party is trying to achieve on behalf of the workers.

It is a matter of the interpretation of the motion. We agree with the principle as long as the motion is interpreted the correct way. And, in the interpretations of laws, that is what usually applies.

I shall now make clear the Opposition's interpretation of the first part of the motion. We agree with the principle that the individual—a trade unionist—should have the right to sell or hire his labour to his own advantage, provided it is not below the award rates of pay, which are only the minimum rates laid down under the laws of this State. Let us get that first point quite clear; that is our policy. Second, we agree also that the worker has the right to demand the maximum rate for his skill and knowledge of the calling in which he is engaged. Let us get No. 2 quite clear.

Mr. Porter: Who has denied that?

Mr. NEWTON: Who has denied it? Who is ducking all around it, all over the place, trying to cover up? We say specifically what we mean, and we are proud to do so on behalf of the workers of this State.

We believe also that a group of trade unionists, or of trade unions, should have the right to get the best possible rates and conditions for the members in any calling covered by the laws of this State, and that they should protect their rights, whether won by

direct negotiation or through the laws of the State. The unions are responsible for protecting their members' rights, and for getting the best possible conditions for them, either by compulsory conferences or through action in the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. The members of the Industrial Commission always inquire if any agreement has been reached on the matters to be dealt with either at a compulsory conference or by the Commission.

The trade-union movement, because of these various problems that confront it and because it cannot rely on the Press, has had to ensure that the community today is more informed than ever on matters concerning individual unionists and groups of unions, and in most cases the community is sympathetic towards the causes advanced by the people involved.

Mr. Porter: I don't know how you work that one out.

Mr. NEWTON: I would not expect the hon. member for Toowong to be able to work it out. He would be the last member in the Chamber to work it out, considering the people he represents. He does not have to rely on workers' votes to get here.

Mr. Porter: What about telling us about your amendment?

Mr. NEWTON: The amendment is necessary to put before the people of Queensland the real reasons for the industrial laws of this State being unjust, unreal, and unwarranted. Surely to goodness all of the people involved in industrial unrest cannot be wrong. This has happened in the past, and it will happen again in the future, unless the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1961, which was introduced by the present Government, is amended so that the problems that are outside the ambit of the Commission can be overcome. I have said before, and I say again, that the Act is nothing but a workers' discipline Act. Government members say that laws are required. They do not know the Act; they do not know the laws.

The following individuals and groups who are confronted with this problem cannot all be wrong:—

The Combined Railways Unions, Department of Works cleaners, Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board firemen, Collinsville Power House workers, Department of Works day-labour section workers, Members of the teaching profession, and University students who recently demonstrated for civil rights.

When we analyse the railway workers' problems, we find that the Industrial Commission stated, when the Government through its representatives asked for a restraining order, that it was unable to deal with the causes of the dispute even though the dispute had been brought to it. The Commission did

not say to the Commissioner for Railways, on behalf of the Government, "Take these problems back to the Minister and the officers concerned and endeavour to solve them." The problems confronting railway workers included redundancy, loss of jobs, reductions in classification, transfers, families being separated, and, worst of all, the loss of their own homes. All of those matters are outside the jurisdiction of the Industrial Commission.

Mr. Hanlon: The Commission hinted strongly that the Commissioner for Railways should do that, but the Government did not respond.

Mr. NEWTON: That is true. The Minister for Transport said that he met the unions, and the Press, which is the supporter of the present Government in this State, published an article. There has never been such utter nonsense. In the article, the Minister said that he agreed to certain things: firstly that the existing rate of pay would be retained for all permanent staff. A reduction in pay has never been heard of in any award known to the trade-union movement. If I was a carpenter on a job receiving a carpenter's award rate of pay and was asked by the employer to do work of an unskilled or only a semi-skilled nature, he would have to pay me the tradesman's rate of pay. Anyone with a knowledge of awards knows that that is correct.

The Minister went on to speak about free transport of the dismantled homes of railwaymen transferred to new localities. It is true that that offer was made, but no-one could possibly take advantage of it. Unless a home was prefabricated, it would cost a fortune to shift it in this way. It would have to be dismantled stick by stick, loaded on a wagon, and rebuilt at the other end of the journey. It was quite ridiculous to make such an offer. If the Minister had said, "We will transport your houses by road from Mt. Morgan to Gladstone," it would have been a different matter. Offering to transport them by rail is an example of the silly things that are happening now.

Whilst railwaymen are becoming redundant, railway workshops are being closed. Instead of creating employment and training apprentices, the Government is giving work to private enterprise and sending it outside the State. This is happening while men are being deprived by the Government of their bread and butter. Cleaners in one of the Government's most modern buildings have been dismissed, as the Government claims that the Department of Works cannot handle the cleaning of it. With the equipment available to them, the cleaners have never been given a chance to do the job. We know the job that cleaners of the Department of Works are able to do in this building, and, if it is good enough for Parliament House, it should be good enough for any other Government building. Government

cleaners could be gainfully employed instead of being displaced by people employed by private enterprise.

What was the position when firemen recently had their industrial trouble? The Industrial Commission merely told the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board to meet and consider the by-laws that the firemen were complaining about.

Mr. RAMSDEN: I rise to a point of order. I have been waiting for the hon. member to open his mouth and put his foot in it. In actual fact, the Industrial Commission did nothing of the sort. An agreement was made with the A.W.U., and it was subsequently refused by the firemen.

Mr. NEWTON: I can well imagine that that is the opinion of the hon. member, who is chairman of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board.

I now wish to deal with the position at Collinsville. John Holland & Co. Pty. Ltd. is a company that has never contracted to do a job in the metropolitan area or a large provincial city because it operates under snide agreements and snide methods. That is well known to me from my experience as a union official. When this company got the contract for the Collinsville job, I knew there would be problems because of its bad record as an employer in this State. This company, knowing quite well that it will require tradesmen, approaches a union of semi-skilled employees and draws up a snide agreement. Once having obtained that, it calls for tradesmen and tells those who apply for employment that they must join the union with which it has the industrial agreement. We told the House in 1961 that there should be no difference between a variation of an agreement and a variation of an award, irrespective of whether the variation concerns wages or conditions. We said that all parties affected should be informed. But the Government did not take any notice of what hon. members on this side of the House said, and it cannot expect anything but industrial unrest while it allows snide industrial agreements to be operated in Queensland.

What happens? The award is not adhered to; the lowest rates of wages and the lowest travelling allowances and country allowances are paid. The employer concerned always takes advantage of the lowest rates under the agreement that he enters into.

Mr. Lee: You would agree with Gerry Dawson at any time.

Mr. NEWTON: I do not have to agree with Gerry Dawson; he can speak for himself. I am speaking now on behalf of the Australian Labour Party and the workers of Queensland. I am stating a case for the party to which I belong, and for the unions that are affiliated with that party, in reply to the motion moved by the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha.

If the Government wants to do something about solving the problems facing the State, it should first attempt to make the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act work as it ought to be working instead of tying the hands of the Commission. What a shocking position the Commission is in! When the workers are given an increase of \$1 a week, the Commission does not know whether to call it an increase in the basic wage or an increase in margins.

(Time expired.)

Mr. WALLIS-SMITH (Tablelands) (12.17 p.m.): It is with much pleasure that I second the amendment so ably moved by the hon. member for Belmont. In doing so, I should like to draw the attention of the House to the great difference between the wording of the original motion and the wording of the amendment. In the motion moved by the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha, no reference is made to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act in either part (a) or part (b). It deals only with the rights of the individual and the rights of the community. The hon. member has endeavoured to side-track Parliament, which has made laws that it hopes will be implemented, from the real issue, which is that the present Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act is outmoded and out of tune with industrial conditions in this State. I think it is a very statesmanlike move by a member of the Opposition to draw the attention of the House to the urgent need for improvements in the existing Act.

Hon. members know full well that, when a log of claims is filed with the Industrial Commission, it is months—sometimes almost 12 months—before the application is heard. In the interim, of course, increases in the cost of living take effect immediately. Increases of that sort hurt both the individual and the community to which the mover of the motion referred. In fact, they upset the individual to the point that sometimes his whole family life is in jeopardy. People are put on this earth for the specific purpose of doing their work and earning security for themselves. If a person knows at the beginning of his life that he will have security for the remainder of his life, he is very fortunate. He will not go grey; he will not go bald; he will be very happy.

There are many pitfalls and obstacles under the present system, and many reasons are advanced why this and that cannot be acted upon immediately. This always reacts to the disadvantage of the worker, to the disadvantage of the masses of the community who are dependent on their weekly or fortnightly pay packet.

This is where the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act and many other instruments which control payments to workers fall far short of perfect. That is the real reason why the expression "outmoded" as used in the motion is not acceptable to the Opposition. We accept the laws that

are laid down in this Parliament—introduced from the Government side—but it is the law that is outmoded, not the action taken by the workers.

We heard this morning that approximately 33½ per cent. of Queensland's population are workers and that this shows a certain degree of favouritism for the Liberal Party. The hon. member for Belmont has already said that he has never heard such utter rot in his life; neither have I. It illustrates the working of the Liberal mind, which relies on percentages and figures to show itself up to advantage. We work on security, industrial peace and satisfaction, because that is what will produce the maximum for Queensland. If hon. members opposite do not want the maximum for this State they are in a different camp altogether from hon. members on this side.

Mr. Kaus interjected.

Mr. WALLIS-SMITH: The hon. member says they have never been better off in their life. That is simply because they are organised; and it is their organisation that hon. members opposite want to take away from them. Unless the fight is constant and continuous, the few advantages they have gained will soon be whittled away.

We admit that at times there is a certain amount of disparity as between one group and another. Hon. members of this Parliament use as an argument for increases in their remuneration that Public Service salaries creep ahead of those of parliamentarians. The worker, when he goes to court, is told that he has to wait a certain time before his claim can be heard and, when he eventually receives an increase, it is probably for about 5 per cent. or 10 per cent. of what he has sought and it dates from the next pay-day. When he sees other workers—I refer to them all as “workers” whether they are salaried men or not—getting retrospectively back to July, for example, he naturally feels upset. The different treatment meted out to various groups of workers is altogether wrong, and we believe that machinery should be established to deal quickly with any emergencies that arise in any part of the community, not simply for a certain section.

The amendment gives expression to our view that we deplore the failure of the Government to organise the State's industrial machinery which is so necessary for our economic future. I should say also that the mover of the motion submitted it on very narrow grounds. Neither his motion nor his argument was all-embracing. The motion is narrowly designed, obviously to meet the wishes of his party.

It is also very interesting to note that the hon. member and certain of his colleagues are looked upon as being somewhat distinct from the rest of their party. The hon. member for Chatsworth seemed to appreciate the fact that he will become known as a

left-wing Liberal. If that is so he had better look out, because people who read the newspapers will interpret “left-wing” just as they interpret the term as it is applied to anybody else. I think he would be wise to stick to his “ginger group”, which is a nice, cuddly little expression.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I trust that the hon. member will confine his remarks to the motion.

Mr. WALLIS-SMITH: The amendment proposes to insert the words “to facilitate conciliation and industrial peace and respect between employer and employee.” When a person has a satisfied worker or a satisfied customer he progresses. Once a person becomes dissatisfied with his job or his working conditions, or is upset in any way, there is trouble. In an industry with 20,000 or 30,000 employees it is very easy to understand how, because of the snowballing effect, things could get out of hand if it were not for the trade-union movement, which looks after the interests of the workers.

The same principles apply irrespective of whether hon. members opposite make this an argument against one union or against another. Some people can belong only to a certain union. Because of his calling a man may have to belong to a particular union, and that union safeguards his interests.

The machinery that the Government has instituted is the main reason for this amendment. The provisions of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act are what we are most interested in. That is the only way to bring to the notice of the people of Queensland the real cause of the continued and extended industrial unrest. At all times there is the possibility of unrest, but if there is no opportunity for both sides to thrash out problems at the conference table it is useless for hon. members to say, in the meaning of the words of the motion, that they deplore the action of the workers when they try to take the law into their own hands. That could never happen if the machinery was kept abreast of present-day conditions.

That is the whole object of the amendment. I do not know whether it will be acceptable to hon. members opposite, but I am willing to bet that they are very unhappy that it has been moved.

Mr. CHINCHEN (Mt. Gravatt) (12.29 p.m.): It is interesting to note that the hon. member for Belmont has been chosen as the instrument for moving the amendment.

Mr. Newton interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member for Belmont has had an opportunity to state his case. I ask him to remain quiet and not to interject on another hon. member when he is answering the case.

Mr. Newton interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I warn the hon. member for Belmont that if he continues to interject I will deal with him under Standing Order 123A.

Mr. CHINCHEN: To me, this is a particularly interesting amendment. The hon. member for Belmont has moved that the following words be omitted—

“deplores the increasing tendency to forsake the legal provisions for settlement of industrial differences . . .”,

and so on. I therefore take it that he means we agree with this. If the hon. members opposite were to remove the words “deplores the increasing tendency”, obviously it must be believed that they are in agreement with it. How frightful it is to think that hon. members on the other side of this House, in effect, applaud the increasing tendency to forsake the legal provisions for settlement of industrial differences for outmoded militant action which is designed to suppress and intimidate the community and the individual. Today members of the Opposition are saying exactly what was said at Collinsville: “If necessary, intimidate; if necessary, hit!” That is the whole point.

Mr. Newton: Of course it isn't, and you know it.

Mr. CHINCHEN: It was stressed in the original motion that intimidation of the community was to be deplored.

Mr. Newton interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I have warned the hon. member for Belmont once. I am now giving him a final warning.

Mr. Newton: If he continues picking on me I will keep it up.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! If the hon. member does keep it up, and if he continues to answer the Chair in that way—with disrespect—I will have no alternative but to order him from the Chamber.

Mr. Newton interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I am giving the hon. member for Belmont an opportunity to remain in the House and listen to the reply to his amendment. It is up to him whether he stays in or goes out.

Mr. CHINCHEN: Hon. members surely will agree that an amendment has been moved by the hon. member for Belmont and that I am replying to it. I think that is reasonable enough.

Mr. Newton: You are turning the screw; that is all you are trying to do.

Mr. CHINCHEN: The point I am making is a very important one. By deleting the words “deplores the increasing tendency”, and so on, the Opposition is saying, in effect,

“We applaud this.” It is rather disgusting that such an amendment should be moved in this House.

In the second part of the amendment there is a whole jumble of words. I know full well that it was not written by the hon. member for Belmont; he is only the instrument for delivering it in this House—and good luck to him—but I do not think he realised the significance of what he was doing.

Mr. Newton: You do not believe in employer-employee conciliation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member for Belmont is continuing to disobey my order not to interject. Under the provisions of Standing Order 123A., I ask him to retire from the Chamber.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! There can be no debate on a request by the Chair that an hon. member retire from the Chamber.

(The hon. member for Belmont withdrew from the Chamber.)

Mr. CHINCHEN: Now that there is a little less noise in the House I should like to return to the fundamentals in this matter. This amendment is simply a red herring that is being dragged across what was a wonderful motion, a motion that will be recognised as such by at least 90 per cent. of the people of this State, who are sick and tired of the industrial trouble that has been thrusting its head into our community affairs for too long.

When we examine what has happened we find that, in a very short time, the community has been inconvenienced by successive strikes, such as the Moura rail strike, strikes by truck drivers, tram and bus drivers, power-station operators, construction workers, factory workers, firemen, airline pilots and clerical workers. Of course, there is a reason for all these strikes. They are not due to the unionists themselves, who are merely the poor victims.

When we look back on unionism of the old days, I think all hon. members will agree that unionists in those days were magnificent men, of physical as well as moral courage. Going back to the 1820's and 1830's, these people were under the tyranny of their employers and they were bold and game enough to form themselves firstly into small groups and then into larger groups to look after their own welfare. That is the whole concept of unionism.

It was the unions that proposed and fought for conciliation and arbitration. The worker was the victim of the employer, and unionism was the way to overcome the problem. The employer and the workers have learnt from it. The unions now have conciliation and arbitration, which they wanted and for which they fought, and they still want it.

Fundamentally the unions are still the same, and they are democratic. But a new form of tyranny has arisen. It is being used by a few individuals. The strange thing is that these people all have something similar in their background. They all work in the same direction. They have taken great power unto themselves but accept no responsibility. Normally a person who takes power accepts responsibility, but these people take power that is not given to them by the unions and act without accepting any responsibility at all. I do not blame unionism or any union for this. Unions are wonderful and necessary organisations.

In an Australian Institute of Political Science publication entitled "Trade Unions in Australia", there appears the following:—

"The period from 1900 to 1914 may be divided and summarized as follows:

(1) Assisted by the new Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, trade unionism grew in size and influence. 'The system of arbitration adopted by the Act,' said Mr. Justice Higgins, 'is based on unionism. Indeed, without unions it is hard to conceive how arbitration could be worked.'

That is true. We need unionism and unions; but we need enlightened leadership because that is what is lacking, not because of the unions, but because of the presence of these people who have placed themselves in powerful positions.

Mr. R. Jones: They are elected.

Mr. CHINCHEN: I am glad to hear that interjection. Was Macdonald elected?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member for Cairns has seen an example of what happens to an hon. member who continues to interject.

Mr. CHINCHEN: Macdonald is not an elected union official; he was appointed. Communists hold the important positions by organisation and design. Macdonald is a Communist who was appointed to the most influential union position in the State. He was not elected. There are many people like Macdonald and Dawson who take power but do not accept responsibility. There was a recent incident concerning Mr. Nolan, chairman of the C.R.U.

Mr. R. Jones: He was elected.

Mr. CHINCHEN: I accept that. I do not claim that Mr. Nolan is a Communist—the others are self-confessed Communists—but it is rather significant that in 1959, at Kiev, he was made a member of the Young Pioneers of the Soviet Union. That is a Communist organisation. Furthermore, in a period of 15 years this man visited Communist countries three times. I am not saying he is a Communist. What I am saying is this: why is it that these few people—

Mr. R. Jones interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I have already warned the hon. member for Cairns about interjecting continuously. It is quite unruly and completely out of order. I warn him again that if he continues to interject. I shall have to deal with him under Standing Order 123A.

Mr. R. JONES: I rise to a point of order. The hon. member for Mt. Gravatt is making offensive remarks—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. R. JONES: . . . about a person for whom I have a great deal of respect.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member is disobeying the order of the Chair. When I am on my feet, I expect him to resume his seat. If the hon. member continues with his unruly conduct, I shall deal with him in no uncertain manner under Standing Order 123A.

Mr. CHINCHEN: Before the interruption by the hon. member for Cairns, I was making the point that, although unionism is a great and vital thing in this State, what has taken place in fairly recent times—

Mr. R. Jones interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I have warned the hon. member for Cairns twice. This is his final warning. If he continues to interject, I shall ask him to leave the Chamber.

Mr. CHINCHEN: I should like to repeat again what I pointed out earlier. Unionism is a wonderful thing. There is no question about that. It is a necessary part of our way of life in this country today. What is needed, however, is enlightened leadership—which there is in many cases. The unfortunate thing is that a handful of people have much greater power than they should have in the whole organisation. I am trying to find out what is common to those who have taken this power.

I refer to a book written by Mr. L. L. Sharkey, who is well known to hon. members opposite. He expressed certain thoughts and mentioned the I.W.W., which is also well known to hon. members on the other side of the House. Mr. Sharkey's points that I am about to read show the philosophy of those few people who have grabbed power without assuming any responsibility and who are in effect wrecking this State and unionism. He said—

"The I.W.W. first made its appearance in America in 1905 as an offshoot of the Socialist Labour Party. A branch was established in Adelaide in 1908 and another in Sydney in 1913."

He went on to say—

"A brief summary of the 'direct actionist' outlook of the I.W.W. can be paraphrased as follows:—

(a) Capitalism is heading towards automatic collapse.

(b) The task of the workers is to hasten this collapse by strikes, sabotage, slow working, etc.

(c) Craft unions are obsolete and must be scrapped in favour of new industrial unions.

(d) All forms of State power, including proletarian, are an abomination and must be abolished forthwith.

(e) The general strike is the highest form of the class struggle and in itself sufficient to bring an end to capitalism.

(f) The workers should prepare for the coming collapse of capitalism by building the foundations of the new society 'within the shell of the old'; i.e., the industrial unions, which form the organs of struggle in the present will blossom forth as production syndicates, organs of administration, in the future society."

That is the thinking of the four, five or six people in this State who are wielding so much power beyond that given to them by those whom they represent.

What I suggest is that unionists must attend their union meetings and make sure that their organisations are in the hands of the right people. That is necessary, although it is difficult to see it happening because of the tactics used at union meetings. I know it is difficult for decent people to take a stand in some leftist unions. There are, of course, many fine unionists, and there are many unions under good control. How, then, are these few people allowed to obtain so much power and talk their heads off, as Nolan did recently? He did not have the backing of the Combined Railway Unions when he said to the Minister for Transport, "Give us what we want or we will do nothing." He went on to say, "We will have an indefinite strike." It was he who said that, not his union. How can a Minister negotiate in an atmosphere such as that?

The whole situation is clarified by the amendment, which is designed purely to omit the following words from the motion:—

"(b) deplores the increasing tendency to forsake the legal provisions for settlement of industrial differences by outmoded militant action designed to suppress and intimidate the community and the individual."

The amendment indicates that hon. members opposite are in agreement with behaviour of that sort.

(Time expired.)

Mr. WHARTON (Burnett) (12.46 p.m.):
Mr. Speaker—

Mr. LLOYD: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I called the hon. member for Burnett.

Mr. LLOYD: I rise to a point of order. I thought it was arranged between the Opposition Whip and the Government Whip—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. LLOYD: I was on my feet about one minute before the hon. member for Burnett.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. LLOYD: It is a breach of the Whips' agreement. It is a use of machinery to suit the Government and gag the debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. WHARTON: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member for Burnett will please remain silent while I am on my feet.

Mr. Davies: Two Government speakers in succession!

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I inform the House that the list of speakers is provided for my guidance. I act in accordance with the number of hon. members who speak from each side of the House. In this instance, an amendment has been moved and seconded by members of the Opposition. There have been four speakers from my left and three from my right.

Mr. Lloyd: What about the original motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. WHARTON: I regret very much that I should have to join in such a rowdy debate, more especially as my good friend the hon. member for Kedron is prevented from speaking because I got the call. I am of a peace-loving nature, and I really regret that such a thing should have occurred.

Although I should not like to say, Mr. Speaker, that I disagree with your acceptance of the amendment moved by the hon. member for Belmont, I do not think it is really an amendment to the motion. An examination of the motion will show that it refers to "the increasing tendency to forsake the legal provisions for settlement of industrial differences by outmoded militant action designed to suppress and intimidate the community and the individual".

Mr. Davies: Are you speaking to the amendment?

Mr. WHARTON: Certainly. In my opinion, the amendment is not really a correct amendment in the light of the words of the motion.

I am very glad indeed that the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha moved the motion. Although I do not always agree with the hon. member or with his presentation of his case, I do commend him for the action he has taken on this occasion.

Mr. Hanlon: Do you think he is the outmoded militant in the Government Caucus?

Mr. WHARTON: I should say that a good many members on the opposite side of the House are outmoded in their thinking. We live in changing times, but unfortunately the A.L.P. has not geared itself to the changes that are taking place and the progress that is being made in this State following the introduction of automation. If the A.L.P. wishes to stay on side with the unions, it will have to modernise its thinking and its actions.

Mr. Murray: It is a generation behind.

Mr. WHARTON: I should say it is much farther behind than that. However, as I said earlier, I am of a peace-loving nature and I wish to continue living in that way.

I do not think very many hon. members in this House would have played as many roles as a worker as I have. Long before I became self-employed and entered Parliament, I worked in a grocery store, on main roads, in bakers' shops, and in many other jobs, and I am proud to have done so. The experience that I gained there taught me much that has stood me in good stead over the years. It was back in 1932 when I started on the hard road as an employee, and there was a Labour Government in office at that time. I deplore the conditions that workers had to suffer in those days, and the Labour Party is still going along in the same old fashion. I do not want to go back to 1932, and I am sure that none of the people whom I represent want to go back to those old depression days when Labour was in office.

I have a great respect for the worker, and for unionism as well. I believe in unionism because I think it is necessary. I want to say also that I have a high regard for the A.W.U. as a union. I think it is one union that can be held up as an example to many others.

Mr. Davies: Do you know what they say about you?

Mr. WHARTON: The hon. member has said many things about me but I did not believe any of them.

Having gained experience as a worker, I then became an employer in my own right and also a director of quite a number of companies with many employees.

Mr. O'Donnell: We know you are a mighty man. Get on with the motion.

Mr. WHARTON: It is nice to hear the hon. member say that. He has not made many intelligent interjections in this House, but I accept that one.

The general attitude of the worker today is that he does not wish to go on strike. A great many of them want to work, and I commend them. I deplore a tragedy such as we saw at Collinsville, where some people wanted to work but others would not let them. To stop them they used intimidation tactics such as, "We will do something to your house or your wife if you go to work."

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr. WHARTON: There is no need for any mention of intimidation. The tragedy at Collinsville was that some unionists were injured and intimidated by other unionists who were on strike. If we, as members of the public, did this kind of thing we would be brought before the court and probably gaoled, and what I do not like is that we as a Government condoned this sort of thing. We should not allow individuals to suffer in this way. We should not allow workers who want to work to suffer because others want to go on strike. I reiterate that many of the workers at Collinsville, and at other places as well, did not want to strike, and they did not need to.

In the many associations that I have, employer-employee relationships have been very good and we always seem to resolve our problems. In my opinion, the great progress made by working-class people today is the result of this Government's action.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. WHARTON: I have been a good sport all my life, and I want to be a good sport today and honour the arrangement with the Whip.

We have heard a great deal recently from people like Harry Bridges. In today's newspaper he is reported as saying that the unions should be more militant. I have already said that I believe in unionism. I believe in organisation, but we always see that we have the right people at the top. We ensure that we have reasonable, sensible and just men at the top. It is leaders of that type that we must have. That is where the unions have failed. In the unions, it is only a very small, but a very strong, section that has power. That is what is ruining unionism today. That is what is ruining the Australian Labour Party. It cannot get rid of this influence.

Harry Bridges said that the unions must be more militant. How much more militant do they want to be than they are today? What does it achieve? The workers lose wages and the community is turned against the unions and the Australian Labour Party generally. That is why the Australian Labour Party is continually drifting further

and further. It is domineered by the Communist element. If hon. members opposite get rid of that, they might get somewhere.

Mr. Melloy: You are not saying anything; you are simply filling in time.

Mr. WHARTON: Fair enough!

The newspaper article to which I have referred says—

"Labour supporters were startled last night to hear U.S. union leader, Harry Bridges, say he believed trades unionists received few benefits from their association with Labour parties.

"Mr. Bridges, 66, secretary of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union of America, was addressing a meeting in the Trades Hall Council Chamber.

"He said he believed unions had to do certain things to get the Labour parties into power and then to do other things to keep them there.

"He thought unionists in the U.S. were in a better position by not having to deal with a Labour Party."

An Opposition Member: Who said that?

Mr. WHARTON: Harry Bridges.

If we allow Communists to dominate any movement there is no future for us in this great country of ours. This was proved in America. The Communist Party educates its disciples, who then infiltrate into the trade-union movement and create disruption in industry, which does not make for the common good of the community.

Progress in this State will not be halted while we have the present Government in power. We are progressing every day. Automation is real progress. As long as the worker is safeguarded, it is production that matters. As a Government, we are very proud to see that the worker receives a just wage for his labour. He is entitled to good conditions. That is the sort of attitude that has brought this Government into power and will keep it there. We believe in a policy of live and let live. We must have a balance. After all, the working man is the best consumer and he must receive a just return for his labour so that he can buy what is produced. We will continually foster this principle.

Wherever we can, we encourage the establishment of new industries. Only this week we passed legislation covering the establishment of a new industry in Brisbane. We are pursuing a policy that provides full employment for the workers. That is why this Government is attracting the support of the working people. Why should they not support us if they are fully employed and well paid?

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

In accordance with Sessional Order, the House proceeded with Government business.

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL TABLES

Hon. G. W. W. CHALK (Lockyer—Treasurer) presented the tables relating to the Treasurer's Financial Statement for the year 1967-68.

Ordered to be printed.

ESTIMATES-IN-CHIEF, 1967-68

Mr. SPEAKER read a message from His Excellency the Governor forwarding the Estimates of the probable Ways and Means and Expenditure of the Government of Queensland for the year ending 30 June, 1968.

Estimates ordered to be printed, and referred to Committee of Supply.

SUPPLY

OPENING OF COMMITTEE—FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(The Chairman of Committees, Mr. Hooper, Greenslopes, in the chair)

Hon. G. W. W. CHALK (Lockyer—Treasurer) (2.18 p.m.), who was received with Government "Hear, hears!", said—

MR. HOOPER,

When I introduced my first budget at this time last year, useful winter and early spring rains over much of the State had given promise of an early break in the drought. It is now a matter of history that the promise of those early rains materialised and that, during 1966-67, the drought was broken over much of the State. Indeed, in some areas, extraordinary rains of cyclonic intensity gave rise to much untoward damage although they have assured an excellent season in such localities.

In contrast, the grim hand of drought still lies heavily on some of the remoter grazing areas of the State whilst in many of the areas in which relief rains have fallen, primary producers face the formidable task of post-drought rehabilitation. Added to this is the further problem that the world price for sugar is still causing grave anxiety and is reflected in the financial position of that industry. In addition, lower wool prices at the August sales were a blow to wool-growers following the severe effects of drought.

However, it is pleasing to note the improved trend at the last sales. It is also pleasing to note that other primary industry has enjoyed a much better season, the highlight of which was a record winter grain crop. Moreover, the State forged ahead during the year with intensive mining and industrial development.

Looking at the State's financial position, I am happy to say that the year 1966-67 saw the first signs of relief from

the financial pressures generated by the drought which have plagued the State's finances with increasing intensity for the last three years.

FINANCIAL RESULTS 1966-67

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND

Transactions in the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the year 1966-67 resulted in a surplus of \$257,559. Receipts for the year totalled \$323,780,792 whilst expenditure amounted to \$323,523,233.

Revenue for the year included an amount of \$4,888,000 being a recoupment by the Commonwealth Government of extraordinary drought relief expenditure incurred by the State during the year. It also included \$2,750,000 Special Assistance made available by the Commonwealth Government to compensate for loss of revenue occasioned by the drought.

As the Committee is aware, last year's budget was framed in the light of continuing adverse effect on our revenues occasioned by drought. With improved seasonal conditions, revenue under certain headings exceeded anticipations. However, Railway receipts, even though they rose to an all time record figure of \$85,383,993, fell short of the budget estimate by \$2,716,007.

Items of revenue which recorded the best recovery from drought affected levels were Succession and Probate Duty and Land Rents. For Succession and Probate Duty, an improving economy was instrumental in raising the level of duty paid to \$12,008,197 or \$1,308,197 in excess of the budget estimate. This excess was assisted by some arrears in assessments being overcome during the year. With Land Rents, generally improved conditions in much of the rural sector meant that a large proportion of rentals on which deferrals had previously been allowed were paid during 1966-67 together with rentals for the current year. These payments helped raise the level of Land Revenue to \$10,701,344, some \$1,267,344 in excess of the budget figure.

Other major variations from estimate occurred under Stamp Duties, which at \$17,292,394 exceeded the estimate by \$542,394 and Mining receipts where a shortfall of \$176,731 was recorded. The increase under Stamp Duties revenue was recorded under all headings and reflected generally improved economic conditions. Mining receipts at \$2,883,269 showed an improvement of \$1,176,957 on the 1965-66 level but oil revenues fell short of the higher estimate set for them.

I am pleased to report that the accumulated deficit of \$7,098,562 in the Consolidated Revenue Fund at 1st July, 1966, was reduced to \$4,309,867 at 30th June, 1967. The reduction was possible from three main

sources. In the first place, as I have already pointed out, some Crown Rents deferred in 1965-66 because of drought conditions were paid in 1966-67. We gained \$780,009 from this source and this sum was used in reduction of the accumulated deficit to which it had contributed. Again, at the Premiers' Conference held in February, 1967, the States won increases in the level of the Financial Assistance Grant for 1966-67 which was not foreseen when the budget was presented to the House in September, 1966. The increases for Queensland totalled \$1,751,127 and occurred under two broad headings. The sum of \$991,926 arose from a variation in the dates used in calculating the wages component in the formula under the scheme and \$759,201 arose as Queensland's share of a special grant in relief of the financial difficulties of the States generally in 1966-67. The last factor helping to reduce the deficit was, of course, the surplus of \$257,559 for the year.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! This morning the hon. member for Belmont was ordered by Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 123A, to retire from the Chamber. That order applies for the whole of the day. I therefore ask the hon. member to retire from the Chamber.

Mr. Newton: With due respect—

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. Newton: I was asked to leave the Chamber, which I did. I have now returned. No time limit was placed on it.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member for Belmont knows as well as I do that he was asked to retire from the Chamber under the provisions of Standing Order 123A, and that excludes him from the Chamber for the remainder of the sitting day. I now ask him to retire from the Chamber.

(The hon. member for Belmont withdrew from the Chamber.)

Mr. CHALK: I feel that Honourable Members will share my very real pleasure of seeing a reduction made in the accumulated deficit without recourse to loan funds with consequent loss of capital work opportunity and abnormally high Sinking Fund costs.

Expenditure at \$323,523,233 was short of the budget provision for the year by \$1,313,193. However, excluding provision for drought relief which was fully recouped from the Commonwealth Government and excluding expenditure applied in reduction of the accumulated deficit, the Committee will note that expenditure then was \$316,104,097 compared with a budget provision of \$315,586,426—an excess of only \$517,671. Having in mind the basic wage and award variations approved since the 1966-67 budget was brought down and which collectively cost the Consolidated Revenue Fund over

\$1½ million more than provided, it is evident that Departments have continued to exercise strict control over expenditure. I again express my appreciation to the executive officers of these Departments for their co-operation in adhering to a budget which of necessity could not contain all the provision sought by them.

Table B1 in the Tables shows the manner in which expenditure in 1966-67 varied from the budget.

TRUST AND SPECIAL FUNDS

Receipts of the Trust and Special Funds for the year totalled \$321,055,247 compared with \$289,627,349 in 1965-66. Expenditure through the Funds also rose to \$315,191,140 which was \$26,489,874 in excess of that for the previous year.

The continuing high level of expenditure during 1966-67 is an indication of the increased activity in many developmental works and services financed through the Trust Funds. Funds which recorded the greatest increases in expenditure during the year were Main Roads Fund which rose by \$6,863,551, Moura Railway Project Fund by \$4,471,945, Agricultural Bank Fund by \$2,341,352, Queensland Housing Commission Fund by \$1,125,657, Electricity Development Fund by \$1,041,141, Hospital Administration Trust Fund by \$3,399,543, Commonwealth Petroleum Products Subsidies Fund by

\$2,134,955 and Commonwealth Poultry Industry Assistance Fund by \$1,734,608. Funds recording substantial decreases in the level of expenditure as compared with 1965-66 were Drought Relief Fund \$1,023,526, Harbour Dues Fund \$2,220,714 and Sugar Bulk Handling Facilities Special Fund \$1,568,955.

The decline in expenditure in the Drought Relief Fund was welcome. It reflected the improved seasonal conditions experienced generally throughout the State. The expenditure through the Harbour Dues Fund and the Sugar Bulk Handling Facilities Special Fund declined as work on major Harbour Facilities at Weipa and extensions to the sugar bulk loading project at Lucinda Point neared completion.

Details of receipts and payments of the Trust and Special Funds are set out in the relevant Tables.

LOAN FUND

Loan Fund expenditure for the year 1966-67 totalled \$81,099,904 compared with a Budget provision of \$80,510,000. The Budget provided for new loan raisings of \$72,510,000 to be supplemented by loan repayments estimated at \$8 million. In actual fact loan repayments exceeded the estimate by \$578,774 and this factor made possible the greater expenditure.

The major items of expenditure from Loan Fund in 1966-67 were—

	\$	\$
Government Buildings		17,041,986
Works under the control of the Co-ordinator-General of Public Works—		
Moura Railway Project	10,950,000	
Weipa Housing, Power, etc.	2,049,000	
Universities	1,771,000	
Other	1,107,000	
	<hr/>	15,877,000
Loans and Subsidies to Local Bodies		13,733,938
Railways		14,201,801
Irrigation and Water Supply		6,627,000
Forestry		4,685,711
Electricity Development		3,641,000

CASH BALANCES AND INVESTMENTS

The total cash and investments available at 30th June, 1967, amounted to a net \$44,403,623 as follows:—

	\$
Trust and Special Fund balances	48,609,647
Loan Fund balance	103,843
	<hr/>
	\$48,713,490
Less Consolidated Revenue Fund deficit	4,309,867
	<hr/>
	\$44,403,623

Maximum opportunity was again taken to invest temporarily surplus cash in Short Term Money Market operations. Due to improved seasonal conditions the daily cash position was comparatively more buoyant throughout the year. In addition, interest rates were again negotiated at high levels. The result for the year from these Short Term investments was an interest return of \$1,097,276, an increase of \$225,242 over earnings from this source in 1965-66.

The total interest credited to Consolidated Revenue Fund in 1966-67 from all investments of cash balances available to the Treasurer amounted to \$2,883,585. Interest allowed on the balances of various Trust and

Special Funds amounted to \$1,479,571 leaving a net return to Consolidated Revenue Fund of \$1,404,014.

PUBLIC DEBT

The gross public debt of Queensland increased by \$75,136,811 during 1966-67 to a total of \$1,011,661,944.

The increase of \$75,136,811 resulted from—

	\$
New Loan raisings for Works	72,510,000
Discount on new loan raisings for Works ..	75,839
Cost of conversions from mint par rates of exchange of repatriated loans	11,662,766
Discount on Australian loans redeemed ..	52,298
Premium on Special Bonds	76,397
	<hr/>
	\$84,377,300
Less redemptions from National Debt Sinking Fund	9,240,489
	<hr/>
Net increase in debt	\$75,136,811

The proceeds of cash loans, including loans raised under the Commonwealth Savings Bank Agreement Act, totalled \$123,754,491. Loans for new works (including discount) absorbed \$72,585,839, the redemption of matured loans required \$51,092,255 and \$76,397 was required to meet the cost of premiums due to holders of special bonds maturing during the year.

As I stated in my budget speech last year Queensland had debt amounting to \$109,287,122 maturing in 1966-67. \$73,867,673 of this debt was domiciled in Australia and \$35,419,449, at mint par rates of exchange, was domiciled overseas.

\$65,404,560 of the Australian debt maturing was converted to new securities, \$5,464,430 was redeemed from cash raisings and \$2,998,683 was redeemed by the National Debt Commission.

Of the \$35,419,449 overseas debt maturing in 1966-67, the National Debt Commission redeemed \$3,572,688 and \$31,846,761 was redeemed by the Commonwealth from cash raisings. Members will recall that in last year's Financial Statement I advised that the Commonwealth Government had agreed to refinance State debt maturing overseas, where a satisfactory conversion could not be arranged in the country in which the debt was domiciled. Because of the high interest rates required to be paid on loans converted overseas, the refinancing of this debt in Australia

was of considerable benefit to the States. The arrangement was for the debt on maturity to be repatriated to Australia and for the States to be issued Commonwealth Securities in its stead. In conformity with these arrangements, securities totalling \$43,509,527 were issued to Queensland for the \$31,846,761 debt repatriated by the Commonwealth. The difference between the face value of repatriated debt and the securities issued reflects the differential in exchange between Australia and the countries involved. Queensland now has no overseas loans maturing until 1969-70.

Last year I also commented on the additional cost arising from the conversion of low interest rate loans to current higher rates. In 1966-67 approximately \$61 million of securities due for redemption were at rates less than 4 per cent. and were converted to securities with rates ranging between 4½ per cent. and 5½ per cent. As these old loans disappear, future conversions will not mean such a heavy rate of increase in the interest bill each year and should result in the yearly increase in interest costs being limited mainly to funds raised for new works.

The cost of the conversion of low interest rate securities is best illustrated in the average rate of interest payable by the State on the gross public debt. Whilst there has been no appreciable increase in rates of interest offered subscribers to new Commonwealth Loans, the average rate of interest payable on the State's debt has risen in the past three years from 4·28 per cent. to 4·71 per cent. The increase has been caused primarily by the conversion of low interest rate loans to the higher rates now existing.

The cost of servicing the public debt of the State in 1966-67 was \$54,506,890, an increase of \$4,003,014 over 1965-66. Allowing for interest earned on moneys advanced from Loan Fund, the cost of this servicing required 12·60 per cent. of all revenue available to the State in 1966-67.

SINKING FUND

During the year the National Debt Commission redeemed securities on behalf of the State to the face value of \$9,240,489 at a cost of \$10,944,770, the higher cost being due to the adverse rate of exchange on overseas redemptions.

MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN LOAN COUNCIL—JUNE 1967

At a meeting of the Australian Loan Council held on 28th and 29th June, 1967, a flat increase of almost 5 per cent. was approved for the Governmental Works and Housing programme of each State. Thus our allocation rose from \$81,570,000 in 1966-67 to \$85,620,000 in 1967-68. From this allocation we have allotted \$9,060,000 to raisings under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement—the same amount as last year.

In the field of approved debenture raising by semi-governmental bodies, the allocation approved by the Australian Loan Council rose from \$52.8 million in 1966-67 to \$60 million in 1967-68, an increase of 13.6 per cent.

The total of the State's combined Governmental Works and Housing programme and semi-Governmental programme increased by 8.4 per cent. compared with a six-State average increase of 8.2 per cent.

One most useful decision of the meeting was the agreement to lift the permissible maximum amount of borrowing by any of the smaller local bodies from \$200,000 to \$300,000. This will materially aid Local Authorities and other public bodies in this State by enabling them to enjoy a higher level of capital works programme without recourse to debenture allocation.

I believe there is one comment which I should make on the level of increase in the Governmental Works and Housing programmes of the States. Whilst the increase of almost 5 per cent. was the maximum increase which the Commonwealth Government was prepared to underwrite, the same frugal treatment is not apparent in the Commonwealth Government's own capital requirements provided in its budget for 1967-68. In a year in which that Government set out to limit expenditure in the public sector, it has budgeted for an increase of 9.3 per cent. in its own capital requirements apart from defence. If this is a fair indication of the degree of necessary restriction in capital expenditure, it seems obvious that the States were unduly limited in holding the increase in their Governmental Works and Housing programmes to about 5 per cent. I am yet to be persuaded that the capital needs of the States are any less pressing or important than those of the Commonwealth and greater equality in the relative treatment of the two arms of Government is obviously desirable in the interests of federation.

BLACKWATER RAILWAY PROJECT

In 1965, the Government granted a special coal mining lease to the Utah Construction and Mining Co. for the development of coal resources at Blackwater in Central Queensland for export purposes.

The first consignments of coal from the mine to Gladstone for export to Japan are expected to commence in November of this year. Coal is scheduled to move at the rate of 0.7 million tons in 1968, 1.5 million tons in 1969 and 2.4 million tons in 1970 and subsequent years.

For the Queensland Government Railways to cope with traffic of this magnitude, it is essential that the section of the Central Queensland Railway between Rangal and Port Curtis Junction be strengthened and that additional rolling stock be purchased.

It is estimated that some \$10 million will be required for these purposes over the next three years. This figure covers \$2,605,000 for rehabilitation of the line, \$4,550,000 for the purchase of 350 aluminium coal wagons of 48-ton load capacity and \$3,080,000 for the purchase of sixteen 90-ton diesel locomotives.

The Utah Construction and Mining Company has agreed to provide \$5 million as a security deposit to guarantee the extended use of the Central Railway by the Company for the contracted tonnages. The Company has also agreed to allow the Commissioner for Railways to use the sum so deposited in meeting part of the capital cost involved. This deposit will be refunded during the course of the contract if the specified tonnages are railed. Failure by the Company to freight such agreed tonnages each year will mean the forfeiture of the deposit to the Crown either in part or in whole.

I am firmly of the opinion that Queensland industry will be capable of supplying all of the rolling-stock and locomotives and the whole operation will be of great worth not only to Government revenues but to the continued development of Central Queensland and to industry and tradesmen throughout the State. I should mention that, in addition to the security deposit of \$5 million, the Company's investment in the project will be of the order of \$20 million.

MOURA-GLADSTONE RAILWAY PROJECT

This year will see the completion of the Moura-Gladstone Railway Project. In accordance with the terms of "*The Thiess Peabody Mitsui Coal Pty. Ltd. Agreements Acts, 1962 to 1965*," the line is to be operational from 1st April, 1968. Not only will this enable the carrying of an increased volume of coal from the Moura field to the new wharf and loading facilities at Barney's Point, Gladstone, but in addition it will free the Central Queensland line for the haulage of coal from the Blackwater field.

In 1966-67, a total of 1,706,320 tons of coal from Moura was hauled over the existing route via Port Curtis Junction. With the opening of the line from Moura, the rate will increase to 3 million tons a year, and by 1971 should reach 5 million tons per annum.

Net expenditure on the project to 30th June, 1967, amounted to \$18,958,911. The sum of \$8,541,000 has been allowed for expenditure in this year's Estimates to complete the work.

GLADSTONE DEVELOPMENT

The approved programme of works for the purposes of the Alumina Treatment Plant at Gladstone provided for special expenditure of \$8 million spread over the three years ended 30th June, 1967. The amount was

required to be found by the State from the debenture programme and its other capital resources to cover the cost of the construction of a causeway and bridge linking South Trees Island to the mainland, provision for extra housing, provision of a major water supply scheme and the construction of a wharf on South Trees Island. Subsequently the Queensland Alumina Company agreed to meet the full cost of the wharf.

Earlier this year the Company intimated to the Government that it intended to increase the capacity of the alumina smelter from 0.6 million tons to 0.9 million tons per annum. This, of course, automatically meant an increase in associated facilities such as housing and water supply. As a result of the saving to the Government by the Company bearing the full cost of the wharf on South Trees Island, the Government was able to agree to provide the cost of 30 additional houses and an extension of the water supply scheme. These additional works do not raise the Government's overall liability but are financed from within the existing commitment of \$8 million. It is anticipated that \$760,700 will be provided in 1967-68 to discharge the full undertakings of the Government in this regard.

With the Alumina Treatment Plant now in commission and the Company having already decided to lift the capacity of the plant, it is well known that further substantial increases in capacity are already envisaged. I believe that Gladstone is a first-rate example of the economic development and growth which is following in the wake of so much of the development fostered and made possible by this Government. The investment of \$8 million is paying a handsome dividend. Not only will the investment be fully serviced; Gladstone has seen a mushrooming of other development following in the wake of the original \$8 million expenditure.

WEIPA DEVELOPMENT

Pursuant to an Agreement entered into between the Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty. Ltd. and the Corporation of the Treasurer in 1965, the Government took over control of Weipa Harbour and agreed to meet the cost of harbour works \$7,893,580, navigational works \$240,000 and township facilities \$3,170,000—a total cost of \$11,303,580. The Commonwealth Government assisted in financing certain of the harbour works by making available a repayable grant of \$3,270,000. This amount has now been paid in full by the Commonwealth. Final payments against the State Government's commitment will be made this year.

The Government is also providing for normal community facilities for health, education and law enforcement at an estimated cost of \$529,000. To 30th June, 1967, \$94,040 had been spent in this regard and the balance of \$434,960 is provided for in this year's Estimates.

The township of Weipa now provides comfortable living conditions for 370 people and is planned for an eventual population of 1,250 persons. It is a thriving economic community in what is one of the loneliest and most remote areas in Australia and I believe that every Queenslander has good reason to feel proud of what has been achieved in this area.

An important factor which I should mention is that both C.S.I.R.O. and the Company are conducting experiments in the locality with a view to finding the best use for land in this vast area.

BEEF CATTLE ROADS

The Commonwealth Government has been providing financial assistance since 1961 for the construction of a network of beef cattle roads.

The Queensland Grant (Beef Cattle Roads) Act 1961 provided for the sum of \$10 million to be spent during the five-year period from 1st July, 1961. A further Act in 1962 superseded the 1961 legislation and increased the \$10 million to \$16.6 million. The increase of \$6.6 million allowed for the cost of the bitumen sealing of the roads and this cost is repayable to the Commonwealth Government with interest. Repayments commence in December this year and extend over fifteen years.

At the conclusion of this Agreement in June 1966 and pending consideration of a future programme of beef roads, the Commonwealth Government provided further financial assistance during 1966-67 to the extent of \$3.9 million, one half repayable with interest and the other half by way of non-repayable grant. Therefore from the inception of the scheme until 30th June, 1967, \$20.5 million has been provided by the Commonwealth, \$11,950,000 as a non-repayable grant and \$8,550,000 as a repayable grant with interest. A total of 707 miles of roads has been built and sealed to service the cattle industry in the northern, western and south-western areas of the State and 92 miles are at present under construction.

At the present time, the two Governments are examining a proposal for a comprehensive extension of the scheme. It is expected that the amount provided under the extended scheme will be well in excess of that provided under the old scheme. It will prove of further considerable value to the beef cattle industry and the Queensland economy generally. Expenditure of \$4.5 million has been provided for the year 1967-68 under the proposed extension to the scheme.

BRIGALOW LAND DEVELOPMENT

Progress in the implementation of the Fitzroy Basin Land Development Scheme has been excellent. In Areas I and II of the Scheme, 119 blocks comprising 1,319,639

acres have been made available for selection and for sale. It is anticipated that the full development of Areas I and II will allow for the establishment of 140 new blocks covering a total acreage of some 1.5 million acres.

The Government is greatly encouraged in the implementation and management of this major land development scheme by the favourable attitude that has been taken by the Commonwealth Government. This was particularly illustrated by the Commonwealth Government agreeing during 1966-67 to increase its loan commitment from the original \$14.5 million to \$23 million. This will permit the extension of the Scheme to Area III, which incorporates the Mackenzie/Isaacs Rivers Region. The opening up of this area will eventually provide for a further 130 new blocks covering an area of between one and a-half and two million acres.

When the general plan of development becomes fully operative and effective, approximately 270 new blocks with a total acreage of some three to three and a-half million acres will have been brought into production. The present timetable calls for gradual development and release of blocks and for the completion of the whole scheme in 1975.

To 30th June, 1967, a total of \$8,943,713 had been expended from the Fitzroy Brigalow Land Development Trust Fund on this scheme. The anticipated capital expenditure this year is \$3.5 million.

WILBUR SMITH TRAFFIC PLAN

The Government has committed itself to the implementation of a modified version of Stage I of works recommended under the Brisbane Transportation Study Report. Until now, expenditure has been confined to design works, ground and aerial surveys and resumption of properties for freeways and expressways. In addition, the Government is participating with the Brisbane City Council, on a 50 per cent. basis, in the cost of replacement of the Victoria Bridge.

Financial transactions are recorded through the "Urban Roads Construction Fund". During the year 1966-67, expenditure on design works, resumptions and the like for freeways and expressways amounted to \$328,712 whilst the amount spent by the Government on Victoria Bridge was \$403,525. Heavy resumption costs will have to be met this year and with construction expected to commence on both the Riverside and Story Bridge Expressways, a considerable lift in expenditure is proposed. A provision of \$4,750,000 is allowed in this year's Estimates for expenditure on expressways and \$1,007,000 for the Government's share of cost of the new Victoria Bridge.

The latest estimate of cost associated with the freeways and expressways in Stage I is \$33,553,000 and this cost will be met wholly by the Government. In addition, our commitments to meet half the cost of the Victoria Bridge replacement and to contribute towards the cost of certain other works to be undertaken by Brisbane City Council will involve the Government in a further estimated cost of approximately \$4 million. This will bring the Government's total expenditure commitment on Stage I to about \$37.5 million. It is anticipated that all works associated with Stage I will be completed by June, 1973.

COMMONWEALTH-STATES FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Commonwealth Government holds the purse strings of Government in Australia. This position arises from two broad causes. The first is the system of uniform taxation and the second is the constitutional right of the Commonwealth Government, to the exclusion of the States, to the real growth revenues of Government. Hence the future of Federation depends more and more on the financial policy of the Commonwealth Government towards the States.

The six States fall into three distinct groups. At the one extreme there are the old settled and highly developed States of New South Wales and Victoria. At the other extreme are the claimant States of Western Australia and Tasmania. Between the two extremes lie the States of Queensland and South Australia.

Whilst every State is experiencing serious financial problems, Queensland suffers some very real disadvantages compared with each of the other States. In the field of State taxation, both New South Wales and Victoria have a much higher taxable capacity than Queensland. In other words, if identical rates of State taxation were levied in all three States, the overall collection per capita in New South Wales and Victoria would be some 25 per cent. higher than in Queensland. The reasons for this are obvious and the position is well recognised in all Commonwealth-State financial relations.

Again, both New South Wales and Victoria have railway systems which have earned substantial operating surpluses. These surpluses can be used to meet part of the cost of interest on the capital debt of the railways. But for this, these States would have to meet the whole of the debt servicing costs from the Consolidated Revenue Fund as is the position in Queensland. Neither of these States has the long track distances or low density traffic inescapable in a highly decentralised and huge geographical area like Queensland. Hence Queensland must depend on its Consolidated Revenue Fund to aid railway costs to a much greater degree than New South Wales or Victoria.

Western Australia and Tasmania, both claimant States, can aspire to standards of service comparable to those in the standard States of New South Wales and Victoria, for supplementary grants paid to them are based on the standards of New South Wales and Victoria with suitable loadings for the disabilities of the claimant States. South Australia has the advantage of a much higher per capita payment in Financial Assistance Grants built into its financial structure from the times when it was a claimant State.

When the present Financial Assistance Grants Scheme was settled in 1965, Queensland made a real step forward when, for the first time, the Commonwealth Government recognised the principle that Queensland's per capita revenue needs should be equated to those of South Australia. In the financial year 1964-65, South Australia was receiving \$74.54 per capita in Financial Assistance grants and Queensland \$62.60 per capita. In the financial year 1966-67, the respective figures under the then formula were \$85.28 and \$74.49. To bring Queensland's annual per capita grant up to that of South Australia would have required an immediate increase of over \$18 million per annum in our Financial Assistance grant in 1966-67. In fact, our annual grant is the subject of a special increase of \$2 million per annum only.

Now, if as a State we are going to lift our expenditure to a level comparable with other States and rapidly overcome some of our financial disabilities, the Government is faced with two broad alternatives. The first is, of course, a much quicker rate of increase in the level of our Financial Assistance grant so that we reach the per capita level of South Australia at a much earlier date. In the alternative, the State could raise the level of its own local taxation to provide extra expenditure effort.

If the State were to attempt to raise the level of its own taxation to bridge the gap of \$18 million in its resources compared with those of South Australia, it would face a quite impossible task. To raise such a sum in local taxation this year would require an overall increase of at least one-third in the taxation rates for such items as state transport tax, licensing fees, land tax, stamp duty, probate and succession duty, betting and totalisator taxes and so on. In the alternative, a substantial increase could be made in rail fares and freights and a lesser increase in the taxation rates.

I want to say that the Government has no intention whatever of implementing such a course of action. I am not prepared to accept that, in a federation, one State should be required to lift its level of local taxation well beyond the Australian average. In any case, Queensland could not afford to pitch its rates of local taxation at much higher levels than those in other States. The resultant hardship to local taxpayers would be apparent. In addition, such a course of

action would react against the very development and economic growth which the State is encouraging and wherein it is making such real progress.

I believe that it will be apparent to all thinking citizens that the only real means by which Queensland can make any substantial improvement in the level of its expenditure comparable with other States is for the Commonwealth Government to escalate the rate of improvement in Queensland's Financial Assistance grant. It is clear that the Commonwealth Government was correct in the principle it applied in 1965 in equating our level of grant to that of South Australia; my real point of criticism is that events show that the rate at which the new principle is being applied is too slow in relation to the needs which have emerged and are emerging. It is wrong—indeed, it is a danger to the whole Federal system—that one State should have to maintain lower budget standards in certain matters because its particular financial difficulties are not fully appreciated and met.

It is evident that any State desiring to improve its relative financial position faces the utmost difficulty. It is understandable that the States which do relatively better under the existing scheme are loath to surrender their present advantage. More and more the States are in the hands of the Commonwealth Government and are dependent on the good offices of that Government in improving their position. I believe that basic rethinking in Commonwealth-State relations is overdue. The subject is so complex and there are so many conflicting interests that it might be impossible to obtain a full and unbiased view solely at a political level. It was for this reason that the Premier and I have put it very strongly on more than one occasion that a body, such as the Commonwealth Grants Commission, should be commissioned to make an independent study of this problem with a view to suggesting lines of action. Unfortunately the suggestion has not attracted the support of the other States. I believe that the Commission could undertake an independent and informed review and report back to the Premiers' Conference. A final decision must be taken at the political level; but a better informed decision is likely with independent expert advice.

It seems to me that the Financial Assistance grants scheme should be completely reviewed and Commonwealth-State financial relations should be refashioned to introduce the following new principles:—

- (1) The States should have a definite growth revenue as of right which would provide their basic needs. I feel that this might well be achieved by the recognition of the States' right to a fixed percentage of income tax collections, customs, excise and other growth revenues of the Commonwealth distributed between the States on some agreed basis. Population would

be one basic factor in distributing the revenue between the States—but it should not be the only factor; and

(2) Financial Assistance grants should be paid only to States with particular disabilities. The level of such grants should be fixed having regard only to the special disabilities of the lesser developed States arising from such causes as lower taxable capacity in the field of State taxation, sparsity of population, degree of decentralisation, size of area and other special causes giving rise to comparative financial disability. The needs for and levels of these special grants should be reported upon annually by the Commonwealth Grants Commission. It would follow that, if any State failed to keep its rates of local taxation at the fair average level of other States, it could not expect grants to recoup such loss of revenue.

I see nothing revolutionary in these proposals and I believe they are founded on sound principles. In terms of the Commonwealth Constitution, the surplus revenues of the Commonwealth are payable to the States and I believe that my proposal fully recognises this basic constitutional right of the States and places them in the position of having a proper and definite growth revenue.

Unless something of this nature is done and action taken to ensure that each State can achieve reasonable equality of expenditure having regard to local need and circumstances, the grossest inequalities can and will occur. It is a matter of grave public concern that, whilst the principle of equating our per capita level of grant with that of South Australia is fully recognised, the present rate of improvement in our grant would require thirteen years to elapse before the objective of equality is achieved.

EDUCATION

It is against this background that I would like to make a few remarks on our expenditure effort in the field of education.

Tables published by the Commonwealth Statistician and showing expenditure per capita on education in the various States require to be carefully studied. It is true that Queensland does not provide educational facilities at the same per capita expenditure level as those in other States. Indeed the last time the Queensland figure was above the national average was in 1940-41. How could any Government hold to the national average against the background of Commonwealth-States financial arrangements which I have outlined? However, I would point out that the real difference between educational standards in Queensland and the other States is not as significant as the figures of money expenditures would suggest.

Financial comparisons between States are always difficult and expenditure on education is no exception. The comparison between certain States is further affected by such factors as the proportion of children being educated in State schools. For example, in South Australia the proportion of children attending denominational schools is considerably lower than in Queensland. Thus, relatively more of the South Australian children need to be catered for by State expenditure. Thus the same rate of expenditure per child attending State schools would mean a higher expenditure in that State per head of population.

It is not easy to completely sort out the differences between individual States, but an examination has been made of the relative position in New South Wales and in Queensland to determine what are the reasons for the gap between these two States. I have chosen New South Wales for comparative purposes for a particular reason. New South Wales and Victoria are the standard States and New South Wales has a higher per capita expenditure figure than Victoria.

On the figures of net expenditure on education during 1965-66, as published by the Commonwealth Statistician, New South Wales spent \$45.07 per capita compared with Queensland's figure of \$31.46. The per capita difference was \$13.61.

A first difference of \$4.43 per capita arises under such headings as University, Technical and the like.

The major item of education expenditure is recorded under the heading of "Education Department and Schools". This is the group that covers State primary and secondary schools and accounts for about 80 per cent. of education expenditure recorded by the Statistician. For this group the per capita figures are \$35.41 in New South Wales and \$26.23 in Queensland, a difference of \$9.18.

It is estimated that we would need approximately a further 1,700 teachers in our primary and secondary schools to reduce our pupil/teacher ratio to the New South Wales level. In addition, we would need over 800 additional trainees to equal the New South Wales rate of training. The cost of the provision of these teachers and trainees plus further clerical and administrative staff would be approximately \$7.6 million per annum, or about \$4.57 per head of population. This accounts for about half the difference between the net expenditure per capita in Queensland and New South Wales.

The next matter to examine is the rate of remuneration of teachers. Now, while I realise that the scale of teachers' salaries in the long run could have a significant effect upon the quality of the teaching services, nevertheless it must be admitted that if we divert any available funds into merely providing higher remuneration to existing teachers, then we do not immediately improve

the quantum of education being provided in this State. This is a factor often overlooked in comparing money expenditures in the different States rather than the actual volume or level of the service provided.

Honourable Members will realise that this is an area in which rough comparisons only are possible, but my officers have done the best they could to make some intelligent estimates of the comparable situation in the two States. I am advised that the difference in salary scales in the two States would account for approximately \$3 per capita, or about one-third of the gap between the two States.

In New South Wales, female teachers are paid the same rate as males, whereas in Queensland the rate is 90 per cent. of the male rate. This position will, of course, soon alter under the recent judgment of the Industrial Commission. Again, in New South Wales the staffing arrangements provide for more classified promotional positions, which would add to expenditure but not immediately to the quantum of service provided. These two items are estimated to account for \$2.30 per capita.

Actually, this more than accounts for the difference between New South Wales and Queensland, under the statistical heading of "Education Department and Schools", but exact agreement could hardly be expected in view of the nature of the estimates.

Summing up then, our investigations under the particular heading have shown that shortages of teachers, trainees, clerical staff, administrative staff and materials provided for schools account for about half of the difference between the two States and this gives an indication of the true difference in quantum of service provided. The remaining half of the gap between the two States is a money difference due to salary scales and so on, which would not immediately affect the quantum of education service.

Let me state that the Government is not unappreciative of the need to improve salary conditions especially for more senior teachers with some years of service. We face the same problem in respect of many of the executive positions in the Public Service generally where our rates of salary do not compare favourably with those paid to officers holding comparable positions in other States. This Government has made tremendous improvements in the relative conditions of both teachers and public servants in its ten-year term of office not only in salaries and conditions but also in the field of superannuation. We will continue to make improvements to the limit of the resources available to us.

However, I must remind the Committee of one simple fact. No Government can spend more than is available. As our financial position relative to other States improves, so

our performance in the field of education and elsewhere will improve. I ask the Committee to note that in both budgets introduced by me the increased amounts allocated for education have been substantially in excess of the average increases for all Departments. But, unless the Commonwealth Government adopts a more sympathetic approach to our needs and we see a more rapid growth in the rate of improvement in our share of the Financial Assistance grants, higher expenditure in the field of education will be achieved by a gradual process over the years rather than in one dramatic step.

Having said this—and I believe the Committee will accept that I have attempted to state the position fairly and put the issues on the line—I do not want to leave any impression that this Government has neglected education. Indeed, the forceful speech by the Honourable the Minister for Education during the Address-in-Reply debate removed any doubt on this score. I ask the Committee to note the following salient points:—

- In 1956-57, capital expenditure on education from State resources totalled \$3,696,938 equivalent to 8.4 per cent. of the Works and Housing allocation for that year. In 1966-67, the comparable figure was \$11,359,233 or 13.9 per cent. of the allocation.
- Revenue expenditure of the Education Department has increased from \$22,621,000 in 1956-57 to \$63,138,000 in 1966-67—an increase of 179 per cent. In the same period the total expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund increased by 90 per cent. In other words we have escalated the rate of improvement in educational expenditure at twice the rate which our resources have allowed for ordinary expenditure.
- Because of the transfer of Grade 8 from primary to secondary schools, the number of primary students today is approximately the same as it was 10 years ago. By contrast, the number of primary school teachers has increased by approximately 1,000.
- Secondary enrolments have increased 400 per cent. in the last 10 years. Our revenue resources have increased by only 90 per cent.
- Ten years ago there were 36 State High Schools and 33 Secondary Departments attached to Primary Schools. Today there are 96 State High Schools and 68 Secondary Departments. Moreover, many of the High Schools existing 10 years ago have been greatly extended and some completely replaced.
- We have made great advances in the provision of benefits to students.

- School transport services 10 years ago were costing a little over \$0.5 million. Today they cost approximately \$3 million per annum. We have widened the scope of service considerably and extended it to secondary students.
- Text-book allowances have been provided for students attending secondary schools.
- Away-from-home and remote-area allowances and scholarships have been introduced.
- Aid has been given to approved non-State secondary schools for students in attendance.
- Ten years ago Technical Colleges other than the one college in Brisbane were attached to State High Schools. Separate colleges under separate Principals have now been established in 8 provincial Cities. In addition, three suburban colleges have been established in Brisbane. More will follow.
- Teacher education facilities have been improved very substantially and, with the opening of new colleges at Mt. Gravatt and Townsville in 1969, the State will have a network of first-class buildings and provision for 3,700 trainees by the early 1970's.
- Giant strides have been and are being taken in the provision of Institutes of Technology. In the present triennium more than \$6 million will be spent on a building programme and already the Institutes have an enrolment of 700 full-time and 3,000 part-time students.

I could go on listing what the present Government has done. I say to the Committee that, with the limited resources at its disposal, the Government has done a magnificent job of work in this field. We can and will provide an ever improving record as our financial resources improve. There is no problem in the field of education which the Government cannot overcome with adequate financial resources.

ECONOMIC PROSPECTS FOR 1967-68

Preliminary estimates of output for the year 1966-67 indicate that the gross value of agricultural production was at a record level. However, the output of the pastoral industry, although showing some improvement over the previous year, was still well below the pre-drought level. When the rapidly increasing value of mining production is taken into consideration, the year 1966-67 showed a record level of total primary output, more than 6 per cent. above the previous highest level in 1963-64.

Although drought conditions still persist over large areas in the far west, north-west and southern border districts of the State, primary producers have fared better during the past year than was their fortune in the preceding two years. Over a large part of the State, pastures are in better condition than they have been for some years and the outlook for agricultural areas is reasonably satisfactory. Record acreage under winter grains gave promise of a large yield. However, seasonal conditions of the last few weeks have tempered this estimate.

It will take some time for the pastoral industry to fully recover from the losses experienced during the drought. Sheep numbers fell by nearly 25 per cent. from 31st March, 1964 to 31st March, 1966, compared with an estimated increase of 5 per cent. to 6 per cent. during the year ended 31st March, 1967. There has been only a very slight increase in cattle numbers during the last year—only 0.3 per cent. for the whole State compared with losses of almost 7 per cent. during the drought years. The improvement in Central Queensland was as high as 4.3 per cent. but this was offset by a fall in the number in North Queensland. Slaughtering of both sheep and cattle have been at a low level but the industry has been assisted to some extent by the continued high prices for the reduced quantities available. The quantity of wool sold during the year ended 30th June, 1967, was slightly in excess of the quantity for the previous year but, with the exception of that year, was the lowest since 1955-56. In this case, the price level has not provided any offset and the industry has therefore suffered to the full extent of the fall in production.

As already mentioned, the value of Queensland's mining output has risen dramatically during recent years. The Commonwealth Statistician has estimated the increase for 1966-67 over 1965-66 as nearly 40 per cent. and the increase over the five years to 1966-67 as more than 75 per cent. Higher prices account for portion of these increases, but the recent developments in oil, bauxite and export coal extraction have played a very important part. Production of the coal mining industry during the last financial year represents almost double the tonnage mined six years earlier, but greater advances will follow the completion of the two major rail projects now in hand.

The dependence of this State on seasonal conditions and on world prices has been brought strongly to notice over the last few years as a result of drought and low sugar prices. The heartening feature, however, has been that industrialisation, mining development and support by the Commonwealth and

State Governments for the sugar industry and for those suffering from drought have all tended to offset or minimise effects that could otherwise have been disastrous.

We, as a Government, have endeavoured to develop major industries that are less dependent upon seasonal conditions. We have seen the construction of oil refineries and the alumina plant, and have established the basis for a fertiliser and chemical industry. We have seen the development of a massive export coal industry which must open up possibilities of further development resulting from cheap coal at ports.

These new developments are not dependent upon the season and their production will add greater stability to our annual values of production. Long term contracts protect them from sudden changes in world prices.

In introducing the first Appropriation Bill earlier this year I gave a more detailed statement of movements in many of the economic indicators. Having regard to the overall position I believe that this year the State will see continued economic growth at a quickening rate. Seasonal difficulty in the grazing industry and pricing problems in the sugar industry are still a cause for concern, but improved seasonal conditions and continuing industrial and mining growth will both add substantially to the prosperity of the State and its people. Hence, in framing its budget for 1967-68, the Government has been faced with difficulties much less critical than those present during the past two financial years. I believe that the people of Queensland can look forward to 1967-68 with confidence—that, in balance, it will be a good year for the State and its people.

ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR 1967-68

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND

RECEIPTS

It is expected that receipts this year into the Consolidated Revenue Fund will aggregate \$344,787,970. The Commonwealth Government has again agreed to recoup expenditure incurred by the State on its drought relief measures. This recoupment is estimated at \$3,750,000. I am pleased to place on record the Government's appreciation of the recognition by the Commonwealth Government of our special needs in those areas still plagued by drought.

Exclusive of this recoupment figure, the estimate of Consolidated Revenue receipts is \$341,037,970, an increase of \$22,145,178 on last year's actual receipts. This, on its face, is not an unreasonable rate of escalation. However, the Committee must keep two factors in mind in assessing the rate of increase. Firstly, this is the first full year of

receipt of the increased rates and fees imposed in last year's budget. Secondly, last year's receipts were still severely affected by drought whereas, this year, the State can expect some weakening of this cause with important revenues expected to reflect the more buoyant economy. Hence the rate of escalation in revenues this year is at a rather higher level than one might expect in a normal year. For reasons which I shall later explain, it is fortunate that this is so.

Total revenue from State taxation is expected to increase by some \$5,639,860 mainly because of the reasons I have already stated. Complete overtaking of arrears of work in the assessment of Probate and Succession Duty and inspectorial work undertaken on a regular basis in the case of Stamp Duty, also will aid this improved performance.

In contrast, Land Revenue is expected to fall away almost \$1.5 million on last year's collections. The Committee will recollect that we experienced an abnormally high level of receipts last year when some previous deferments of rentals were met. However, land rents from the still drought-ravaged areas are expected to decline sharply this year because of the State's deliberate policy of deferring the payment of annual rentals in those areas.

Interest from Short Term and other investments and from projects financed from Loan Fund and capable of meeting their interest commitments, is expected to increase by \$1.2 million.

Railway receipts are estimated to improve \$4.6 million mainly from bulk handled long distance haulages of coal from Moura and Blackwater, coal to and minerals from Mt. Isa and the movement of the bumper wheat crop for export. Freight increases operative from 1st November, 1966, will also contribute to the increase.

EXPENDITURE

Turning now to the estimated expenditure out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, we find that last year's appropriation of \$315,586,426 exclusive of drought-relief payments, could move out some \$25,428,944, or 8.06 per cent., in utilising the improved revenues expected this year. However, fixed commitments eat heavily into these extra revenues. Award increases alone require a salary and wage provision of \$10.4 million in excess of last year's appropriation and a further \$4.4 million is required for interest on the Public Debt. These two items take \$14.8 million of the \$25.4 million leaving a net available increase in appropriations of only \$10.6 million. In other words, of a total increase of 8.06 per cent. only 3.37 per cent. is available after meeting two important increased fixed commitments.

In fixing expenditure levels for Departments I have again attempted to limit funds to minimum needs for services generally, thereby releasing the maximum possible for special requirements. The Committee will again see Education in the forefront of these special requirements. The appropriation of the Education Department for such purpose has been lifted from \$63,769,935 to \$71,030,525, an increase of \$7,260,590 or 11.39 per cent. compared with the average increase in all appropriations of 8.06 per cent. In addition to this, provision is made in Treasury contingencies under the heading "Increases under Public Service and Related Awards" for \$3.7 million expenditure in 1967-68. Some of this will, of course, flow to the teaching service in addition to the specific appropriations I have mentioned. Again, substantially increased provision is made in the votes of the Department of Works and Housing for large sums to be expended in the maintenance of educational buildings.

Special consideration has been given to University requirements where the endowment for the financial year has increased from \$8,950,690 in 1966-67 to \$10,610,000 or 18.54 per cent. Recent revision of the scale of academic salaries is the main cause of this large increase. Expenditure on Institutes of Technology is expected to almost double from \$893,690 in 1966-67 to \$1,716,000 in the coming year. Improved staffing in primary and secondary schools has been allowed to the extent of just on \$2 million. An increase of over 800 teachers in net staff strength is the aim for the year. Substantial provision has also been made for increased recruitment of trainees to the Teachers' Colleges from 1st January, 1968.

In the appropriation for Aboriginal and Island Affairs, additional provision has been included for the cost of running the three missions at Lockhart River, Edward River and Mitchell River which were taken over by the State on 1st May, 1967. Capital works at these communities, in the form of housing for aborigines and staff, new schools and water supply facilities, are expected to cost \$585,000 over the next two years. Provision has been made in this year's budget to commence this work.

A special additional grant has again been provided to augment the resources of the Stock Fund whose revenues are still seriously depleted by the fall off in stock numbers throughout the State as a consequence of the drought. The provision this year is \$422,000. A further \$140,030 has been set aside for credit to the Dairy Pasture Subsidy Fund which will allow an expenditure this year of \$750,000 on this Scheme.

Provision of \$550,000 is made towards the cost of the State's share of expenditure in relief of personal distress and restoration of damage to Local Government and other public body works which occurred both in

Northern and South-Eastern Queensland in the extraordinary cyclonic rains last financial year. This provision is in addition to the sum of \$625,000 made available in 1966-67. Provision is also made for the payment of \$0.7 million by the Commonwealth Government towards its share of liability.

One item of expenditure which leaves me far from happy is provision for the State's share of losses under the Agreement with New South Wales in respect of the operation, management and maintenance of the standard gauge Grafton-Kyogle-South Brisbane Railway. Losses under this Agreement, which dates back to 1924, are growing at an alarming rate. Our share of the losses this year is estimated at \$750,000. It was as low as \$21,995 in 1960-61. Discussions are at present being held between the Railway Commissioners of the two States with a view to remedying the position by amendment to the Agreement. It is obvious that the present position cannot be tolerated.

The continuing rapid increase in the number of children being fostered by the Department of Children's Services again requires special appropriation. The cost increases in this Department are causing me a deal of concern. The underlying reason for the increase is, of course, a social one; but it is a question of how long the State's limited resources can live with these increasing costs. I would draw the Committee's attention to the fact that foster children alone increased in number by 13 per cent. in 1966-67 following an 11.5 per cent. increase in 1965-66. The amount appropriated for this Department in 1965-66 was \$1,797,906—the amount provided this year is \$2,869,939.

I am pleased to inform the Committee that, after providing for these and other special needs, the budget for the year is virtually balanced without resort to further taxation increases. The estimate is for a nominal surplus of \$22,600 on the year's transactions. However, I must warn the Committee that, unless there is some drastic rethinking in the matter of Commonwealth-State financial relations, further revision of local taxation rates and charges will become unavoidable in future years.

TRUST AND SPECIAL FUNDS

The Trust and Special Funds cover a multitude of accounts that record the very wide diversity of activities which a State Government is called upon to carry out. The accounts range from purely Trust accounts in the form of Supreme Court Funds to the investment accounts of the various Super-annuation Funds. They include the State Insurance Fund, the accounts of service activities such as the Hospital Administration Fund and the accounts of the more spectacular Construction Funds. The total expenditure for the Trust and Special Funds is expected to increase from \$315,191,140 in

1966-67 to \$381,873,203 in the present year. This is a record year for expenditure in these Funds.

LOAN FUND

New Loan raisings in 1967-68 of \$76,560,000 together with estimated repayments of \$8.4 million permit of an expenditure this year of \$84,960,000. This compares with last year's appropriation of \$80,510,000. Some of the more important works for which provision is made will be set out later in this Statement.

GOVERNMENTAL WORKS PROGRAMME

The provision of \$84,960,000 from Loan Fund together with \$3,480,000 from Trust and Special Funds provides a Governmental Works Programme of \$88,440,000 compared with \$83,210,000 last year.

One of the biggest calls on the programme will be for Educational Buildings. The total estimated expenditure is \$20,968,898 which is \$4,242,921 more than was spent last year. For the Department of Works out of State Loan Fund, the sum of \$9,470,000 is provided for State Schools, Technical Colleges and High Schools; \$46,000 for minor University works; and \$74,000 for Teaching Hospital facilities in Brisbane Hospitals—a total of \$9,590,000. The sum of \$1,049,060 for Science Laboratories and Equipment in State Schools and \$803,384 for the same purpose in non-State Schools are provided to come from the Commonwealth Government. Also from the Commonwealth Government, provision is made for grants of \$1,581,000 for Teachers' Colleges, \$1,351,965 for Buildings and Equipment for Technical Training and \$1,162,000 on a \$ for \$ basis, for capital expenditures on Institutes of Technology projects. In all there is a total Commonwealth contribution for Science, Technical and Teacher Education of \$5,947,409 compared with an actual expenditure of \$3,841,535 in 1966-67. Provision is made in the appropriations for the Department of the Co-ordinator-General of Public Works for expenditure of \$475,000 from State funds for residential accommodation at the Queensland Agricultural College at Gatton, compared with \$376,169 spent last year. Provision is also made in the votes of that Department for expenditure on University capital works of \$4,377,626 and \$303,410 on Teaching Facilities in Brisbane Hospitals. This expenditure is financed broadly on a \$ for \$ basis by the Commonwealth and State Governments. Finally, from State Loan Funds, \$275,453 is provided for loans and subsidies to Grammar Schools.

Emphasis has also been placed on further modernisation of the Railway undertaking. The sum of \$13,757,000 has been allocated for capital works including \$7,203,000 for new rolling stock. In addition \$1,243,000 has been provided from Loan Fund towards

the rehabilitation of the line from Rangal to Port Curtis Junction to facilitate the shipment of coal from Blackwater to Gladstone and \$1.5 million from the Utah Development Company will provide funds for further rolling stock for the coal traffic. Expenditure on the new short line to Moura is expected to be \$8,541,000 which will complete the project. In all, total capital funds of \$25,041,000 will be available for Railways and the special railway projects to Moura and Blackwater.

A continuing expansion in expenditure on Main Roads permanent works has been provided with an allocation of \$33,330,322 for the year which is \$3,713,813 in excess of last year's expenditure.

The call on Loan Fund for subsidies to Local Authority works is increasing rapidly and an all-time record provision of \$15.1 million is made for Loans and Subsidies to Local Bodies.

An increased provision to \$7.1 million has been allowed for Irrigation and Water Supply works. The main projects for which funds have been allocated are Wuruma Dam \$1.8 million, Coolmunda Dam \$1.1 million, Blackwater Weir \$0.6 million, St. George Irrigation Area \$0.6 million, Lower Lockyer Valley Irrigation Project \$0.2 million and the Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Area \$0.2 million.

Funds are being provided for the Department of the Co-ordinator-General of Public Works for expenditure on Weipa Township Development \$1,270,000, New Victoria Bridge \$1,007,000 and Beach Erosion investigation \$0.2 million. The Department will also be expending \$4,681,036 on University buildings and Teaching Facilities in Brisbane Hospitals as previously mentioned.

\$4,430,000 from State Loan Fund has been set aside to assist the financing of the tremendous expansion in electricity development throughout the State. This provision of \$4,430,000, together with \$170,000 standing to the credit of Electricity Development Fund, will allow an expenditure of \$4.6 million this year on the Calcap and Collinsville projects and the Eungella Dam.

The provision of \$5.1 million for forestry capital works will be supplemented by \$496,000 from the Commonwealth Government under the Softwood Forestry Agreement whereby that Government is providing capital funds on a formula basis interest and redemption free for the first ten years. The total capital expenditure on forestry at \$5,596,000 will be an increase of 19.43 per cent. on last year's expenditure of \$4,685,711.

Funds available to the Queensland Housing Commission from other sources have been supplemented by an allocation of \$0.3 million from the State Loan Fund. The Commission's entitlement for civilian housing under the Commonwealth/State Housing

Agreement will be \$6,342,000 and, in addition, almost \$7.5 million is expected to be available from the Commonwealth Government for defence housing, mainly at the new Army base at Townsville. The Commission is also expected to spend at least \$2.5 million from funds available to it under the Commonwealth Savings Bank Agreement. All Governmental funds available for housing this year, including Home Builders' Account and funds available within the Commission for relending, are expected to total \$25,006,000 compared with an actual expenditure last year of \$17,734,000.

The total resources available to the Agricultural Bank will allow advances of \$14,694,221 to be made to borrowers this year compared with \$13,621,952 advanced last year.

SUMMARY

What are the main features of this year's budget? Let me summarise them as follows:—

- No increase in rates of State taxation, fares, freights or fees.
- Another record year for revenue expenditure on Education with an appropriation to the Department for educational purposes some 11.39 per cent. in excess of that for last year.
- \$2 million for an increase of staffs in primary and secondary schools which will allow for an increase of over 800 in teacher numbers.
- An intake of 1,745 teacher trainees from 1st January next—an increase of over 300 on that from 1st January last.
- A full year's provision for new and extended services announced during 1966-67. These include special senior remote-area scholarships, Junior remote-area allowances, increased tuition fees for secondary students and additional grants to independent schools.
- An endowment of \$10,610,000 for the University—an increase of 18.54 per cent. on that allowed in 1966-67.
- A doubling of expenditure on the operating costs of the Institutes of Technology.
- Additional expenditures associated with the takeover of the Mitchell River, Edward River and Lockhardt River Aboriginal Missions and for the provision of new housing and schools on these missions.
- New and expanded hospital services at Blackall, Southport, Gympie, Caloundra, Westwood, Dalby and Chermside.
- Continuation of the Dairy Pasture Subsidy Scheme with funds to the extent of \$750,000 available for this purpose.
- Continuation of the Drought Relief Scheme in some Western areas, with expenditure estimated at \$3,750,000.
- Provision of over \$2 million for the flood victims in North and South East Queensland and for the restoration of Governmental and Semi-Governmental assets in those areas.
- An increase of 25.37 per cent. in the educational buildings programme with works envisaged totalling almost \$21 million.
- New Primary Schools for Corfield, Vincent and Wheatvale. Major additions to be undertaken at Gladstone West, Scarborough, Woodridge, Watson Road at Acacia Ridge, Richlands East, Somerset Hills, Serviceton and Moorooka.
- New High Schools at Heatley in Townsville and Middle Ridge at Toowoomba. Major extensions for High Schools at Mt. Gravatt, Nashville, Sunnybank, Ipswich, Mirani and Mt. Isa.
- Work to commence on a new Plumbing, Welding, Electrical and Motor Mechanics Trades Block at Maryborough Technical College and new Workshops for Plumbing and Woodworking at Townsville.
- Construction works to continue on the Institute of Technology in Brisbane.
- Commencement of General Studies Blocks and residential accommodation at both Darling Downs and Capricornia Institutes of Technology.
- Work to commence on the new Teachers' Colleges at Mt. Gravatt and Townsville.
- A University capital works programme at Brisbane and Townsville totalling \$4,801,000.
- New Police Stations to be constructed at Acacia Ridge, Port Douglas, Goondiwindi, Walkerston and Yeppoon and construction of a new Police Station at Surfers Paradise to be commenced.
- Erection of new Court Houses at Mt. Isa, Cleveland, Biloela, Wondai and Caboolture.
- Construction of a new wing to commence at "Warilda" Children's Centre.
- First stage of a new Girls' Remand and Assessment Centre at Wilston.

- Work to commence on the following new public buildings:—

Warwick Government Offices—
Stage II
Mackay Government Offices
Rockhampton Primary Industries
Building

and work to continue on the New Courts of Law at Brisbane.

- Work to commence on the new Government Precinct Building in George Street.
- Almost 20 per cent. expansion in the Forestry programme with participation by the Commonwealth under the Softwood Forestry Agreement.
- Expenditure of \$25,006,000 by the Queensland Housing Commission compared with \$17,734,000 last year.
- A total Agricultural Bank lending programme of some \$14.7 million.
- A provision of an all-time record of \$15.1 million for Loans and Subsidies to Local Bodies.

In addition, from the overall funds under the control of the Government, provision has been made for the following further major development projects:—

- Electricity works including the major projects of Swanbank \$14,184,000, Collinsville Power Station \$6,328,000, Callide Power Station \$3,610,000 and Eungella Dam \$2.6 million.
- \$25,041,000 for Railway capital expenditure including the special projects of Moura and Blackwater lines.
- \$33,330,000 on Main Roads Permanent Works.
- \$7.1 million for Irrigation and Water Supply Works.
- \$5,757,000 for the new Victoria Bridge and Riverside Expressways in the implementation of Stage I of the Wilbur Smith Plan.
- \$2,121,000 for Weipa Harbour and Township Facilities.
- A further special expenditure of \$1,340,000 for Gladstone Town and Harbour Development.
- \$1,210,000 for the new shore-based pilot station at Mooloolaba.
- \$1,563,000 for the development of industrial lands in Brisbane and provincial centres.
- Facilities for container cargo and roll-on roll-off ships at Port Alma, Mackay and Cairns at a cost of \$537,900.

- \$480,000 towards the rehabilitation of Cairncross Dock.
- \$250,000 towards the cost of extending the swinging basin in Mourilyan Harbour for the sugar trade.

CONCLUSION

In concluding the presentation of this, my second budget, might I add that I am in a much happier position than at this time twelve months ago. Increases in local taxation were inevitable last year in order to ensure sufficient funds for the State's progress. I was faced with leaving local taxation rates as they were and producing a "stay-put" budget or adopting a course of raising taxation so that we could "push ahead". The Government decided to adopt my recommendations concerning some increases, and this decision has been proved correct by the results which I have outlined.

This year I am able to present a further "push ahead" budget—one for further progress and development—but, happily—this time—I have not had to increase local taxation.

It is a progressive budget for a progressive State. Despite the insufficiencies in Commonwealth-State financial relations so far as Queensland is concerned, I believe that the Committee will agree that the Government has marshalled its available resources to the very best advantage. It is clear that it has placed the weight of available resources in those avenues where they will do the most good and best serve the public interest. Our available resources are being spent wisely and well. They are being spent with a high sense of responsibility, and all Queenslanders have every reason to be pleased with what has been achieved.

The continued development and expansion of the State are the keynotes of this budget and under this progressive Government, Queensland will continue on the march to a brighter and better future.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. CHALK: It is with pleasure, Mr. Hooper, that I move—

"That there be granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1967-68, a sum not exceeding \$3,965 to defray the salary of Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Governor".

Progress reported.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

"That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until Tuesday, 10 October, 1967."

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 3.58 p.m.