

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 24 OCTOBER 1968

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

QUESTIONS

INDUSTRIAL ESTATES, DECEPTION BAY
AND NARANGBA AREAS

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

Has any land been gazetted for industrial use in the Deception Bay or the Narangba area? If so (a) what is the total acreage, (b) when will development commence and (c) what industries are likely to be set up in the areas?

Answer:—

“(a) An area of Crown land comprising approximately 1,000 acres, situated in the Caboolture Shire and located at the intersection of the main Bruce Highway and the Redcliffe/Deception Bay turnoff, has been placed under the administration of the Department of Industrial Development. (b) The Department’s consulting engineers in May last were commissioned to prepare a preliminary report on the overall development of the area for industrial purposes. Following an examination of this report the consultants, on October 17, 1968, were further commissioned to submit detailed plans for Stage 1 development of the site. (c) The area will be progressively developed according to demand and will cater for all types of industry.”

SUPPLY OF LIVER MEAL TO POULTRY
INDUSTRY

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

As many poultry farmers believe that liver meal which has been processed by the Metropolitan Public Abattoir Board is essential for the health of hens and the production of high-grade eggs, what is the reason for the alleged discontinuance of supply of the liver meal to the poultry industry?

Answer:—

“Liver meal was previously available cheaply as a residual by-product of slaughtering operations. In recent years the pet-food trade has sought increasing quantities of red meat at prices which, if applied to livers for use in liver meal, would place this meal beyond its economic value to poultry farmers. Alternative protein meals are readily available.”

FISH SUPPLY, TOWNSVILLE

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an article on page 4 of a report issued and freely circulated by the Townsville Branch of the National Council of Women, stating "Townsville, though a fishing port, has no processing plant for fish and Fish Board control means that Townsville housewives pay dearly for local fish, whose attractiveness has been diminished by cold storage"?

(2) If so, what does he propose to do to remedy this undesirable position?

Answers:—

(1) "I have read the report."

(2) "The bulk of the intake of fish at the Townsville market is mackerel which is stored in whole form except that it is headed and gutted. Where the fish is required to be held in cold storage for long periods the fish carcasses are glazed to improve their keeping qualities. Such is the effectiveness of the glazing process that the Townsville market manager asserts that some buyers have expressed a preference for glazed fish over fresh fish because of its better cutting qualities. A filleting room provided at the Townsville market by the North Queensland Fish Board is used regularly by producers of all types of fish. The market is provided with adequate quick-freezing facilities to freeze the filleted fish and the frozen product is of a high standard and readily acceptable to buyers. The Board is taking all possible steps to encourage fishermen to fillet and freeze fish on board their vessels, thus enabling them to deliver packs of frozen fillets to the market. A falling off of quality can, of course, occur after fish leaves the Board's market, sometimes because of inferior cold storage accommodation at retailers' premises or through lack of knowledge of how to handle the product. The Board's superintendent of markets and/or its full-time itinerant inspector makes regular visits to retail premises in Townsville for the purpose of promoting the sale of fish and demonstrating handling and cooking methods to retailers. The price that Townsville housewives pay for local fish is affected by the price paid to the producer for his product. The Board considers that the producer is entitled to a fair return for his product. The market manager at Townsville states that he is unaware of any complaints concerning unattractiveness of fish caused by cold storage while the fish was in the care of the Board. Buyers are aware that they may return to the market and receive credit for any frozen fish purchased which, on thawing out, proves to be in other than prime condition."

INSTALLATION OF STREAM FLOW MEASURING EQUIPMENT

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

(1) In view of the recent collapse of a new bridge on the Townsville—Mt. Isa railway, what data are made available to contractors concerning the run-off and stream flow of various rivers, creeks and streams in areas for which contracts are called?

(2) If the information is not available, will he seek the advice of the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission as to the feasibility of co-operating with the Commonwealth Government so that the automatic run-off and stream-flow measuring equipment may be installed at weather recording stations north of the Tropic of Capricorn and will he advise the House accordingly?

Answers:—

(1) "When the Railway Department designs bridge structures the design is based on the data available in respect of stream flow. Similar information is available to the contractor, if he so desires."

(2) "The measurement and collection of stream-flow data in the State is the responsibility of the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission which is also responsible for the installation of any necessary equipment. Where it is necessary, the Railway Department seeks the advice of the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission on such aspects before designs are commenced for bridges over major rivers and streams. For the information of the Honourable Member, I would mention that, as at June 30, 1968, the Irrigation Commission had 99 automatic stream height recorders installed in Queensland, north of the Tropic and in addition 31 daily read staff gauges. By 1974 it is planned to have the 31 staff gauges replaced by automatic recorders and an additional 197 automatic height recorders installed north of the Tropic. Stream gauges are always 'tied in' to rainfall gauges either operated by the Bureau of Meteorology or operated by landholders by arrangement with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission. The relationship between stream height and actual stream flow is established by intermittent measurements of stream velocity at gauging station sites, so that the continuous record of height can be converted to stream flow."

SEWERAGE SCHEME, SARINA SHIRE

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

(1) What were the total interest and redemption payments in loan commitments by the Sarina Shire Council for the years ended June 30, 1963 and 1968?

(2) Has the Shire commenced a sewerage construction scheme? If so, when, at what cost, and how is it financed?

(3) Was a petition lodged with over 700 signatures seeking a local poll prior to commencing the sewerage scheme? If so, when was it lodged and with what result?

(4) Was a decision made in 1964 by the Sarina Shire Council not to proceed with the sewerage scheme without having the proposals considered at a public meeting? If so, when was the public meeting held?

Answers:—

(1) "From information available to my Department as contained in copies of Council's Annual Budgets, it would appear that the interest and redemption payments in Loan commitments by the Sarina Shire Council for the years ending June 30, 1963 and June 30, 1968, were \$57,960.90 and \$109,678.62."

(2) "No."

(3) "Yes. The petition was presented on May 21, 1968. I am informed that the elected representatives of the electors of the area have by resolution decided to proceed with the construction of the sewerage scheme. The voting in the particular instance I understand was eight votes in favour and two against."

(4) "Statements are contained in correspondence attached to departmental files to the effect that such a decision was made by the then Council."

SECONDARY DEPARTMENTS IN STATE SCHOOLS

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

(1) How many secondary departments are there at present in Queensland with an enrolment in excess of 200 pupils who already have available to them a Senior standard of education?

(2) How many secondary departments have enrolments of 150 to 200 and, of these, are there any which already have Sub-Senior or Senior classes?

Answers:—

(1) "Two. Both have available education to Senior standard."

(2) "Six. Two have Sub-Senior or Senior classes; three of the others have transport to high schools."

MARKETING OF ULTRA-HEAT-TREATED MILK

Mr. O'Donnell, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) Why is Pauls Ice Cream & Milk Ltd., which operates the only Long-life Milk plant in Queensland, restricted to the export

field to market U.H.T. milk whilst similar milk from Victoria and Tasmania has access to the local market?

(2) Is the anomalous position of an industrial operator, undertaking export action of a product without a local market right for that product, unique in industrial history? If not, what other companies are similarly placed?

(3) Is he aware that Pauls Ice Cream & Milk Ltd. must resent being so unfavourably treated when it has indicated that it is prepared to pay the liquid milk price or a negotiated price to protect the pasteurised milk industry for milk used to supply the State market?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "The original application by Pauls Ice Cream & Milk Ltd. was for the purpose of manufacturing long-life milk for export. This was approved by the Government and an Order in Council was issued. Since that date an application has been made by the company for a permit to manufacture for local sale. This application is still under consideration. Since no decision has yet been made in respect of processing and sale of U.H.T. milk on the Queensland market, no anomaly has arisen."

ELECTRICAL TRADESMEN AND APPRENTICES, REDBANK RAILWAY WORKSHOPS

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

(1) How many electrical tradesmen were employed at Redbank Railway Workshops on March 31 and September 30, 1968, respectively?

(2) What was the average proportion of apprentices to tradesmen during the year ended June 30, 1968?

Answers:—

(1) "March 31, 1968, 25; September 30, 1968, 27."

(2) "The ratio of electrical apprentices to electrical tradesmen employed by the Commissioner for Railways during the year ended June 30, 1968, was 1 : 2.4."

REPORT ON OPERATIONS OF DENTAL SERVICE

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

Is an annual report by the Director of Dental Services to be presented to Parliament this year? If not, will he make available to Honourable Members in printed form details of the operation and administration with relevant and available statistics of the State's dental services?

Answer:—

"A report by the Director of Dental Services will be included in the Annual Report of the Director-General of Health and Medical Services for the year 1967-1968. Statistical information regarding dental operations on a State-wide basis will be available later this year on request."

SITE FOR PORT FACILITIES, GOONYELLA
COAL FIELD

Mr. Donald for Mr. Graham, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

In view of a statement attributed to the Minister for Mines and Main Roads whilst speaking at the opening of the new Alligator Creek school that further school buildings may have to be provided to meet educational needs in an area adjacent to Alligator Creek within the foreseeable future,—

(1) Does the statement indicate that a decision has been reached with regard to providing port facilities for the shipping of coal from the Goonyella coal field?

(2) In view of the concern of the Mackay Harbour Board, will he make known what site has been selected for the establishment of the facilities?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "As the Honourable Member is aware, an announcement will be made shortly by the company concerned as to the site selected for the establishment of port facilities for the shipping of coal from the Goonyella coal field. It is a well-known fact that Hay Point is one of the sites under consideration."

ALLEGED PASSING OF FORGED CURRENCY
BY POLICE OFFICERS

Mr. Donald for Mr. Bennett, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

Further to his Answer to my Question on September 17 regarding the alleged passing of forged currency by police officers in Queensland, when he stated that a departmental investigation was being conducted, is he now in a position to answer my Question?

Answer:—

"No. This matter is still under investigation."

TRANSFER OF DETECTIVE SENIOR
SERGEANT RYAN

Mr. Donald for Mr. Bennett, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) Why was Detective Senior Sergeant Ryan transferred from plain clothes duties to uniform duties after at least twenty years of service as a top-line detective?

(2) Has the Police Force more qualified detectives than can be used to advantage in the service? If so, why is there presently a record amount of unsolved crime?

(3) Will Detective Senior Sergeant Ryan be promoted? If so, why cannot he be left as a detective until the time of his promotion rather than mark time in a temporary job?

(4) Is the transfer encouraged by the successful precedent established in the case of Detective Donald Buchanan?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) "From a perusal of the records of the Police Department I can only conclude that the transfer of Detective Senior Sergeant J. J. Ryan was strictly in accordance with the relevant laws governing the transfer of police officers. In such circumstances, I do not consider it necessary to comment on the other matters raised by the Honourable Member."

ADJOURNMENT BY COURT OF CRIMINAL
APPEAL OF APPLICATION BY D. J. SMITH

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a statement in *The Courier-Mail* of October 18 that Mr. K. P. Spanner, Crown Prosecutor, advised the Court of Criminal Appeal that the Executive had ordered an investigation into cases investigated by ex-Detective Welldon, when a Police Officer, and that this investigation would go back roughly nine years?

(2) Did the Court of Criminal Appeal adjourn an application made by Douglas John Smith wherein Smith alleged Welldon had committed perjury to secure Smith's conviction?

(3) Did the Court of Criminal Appeal adjourn Smith's application until the results of the investigation were available?

(4) As the investigation is extending over a period of nine years and will take some time to complete, will it be necessary for Smith to languish in gaol until it is completed?

(5) Will he expedite the investigation in so far as it relates to Smith?

(6) What period of the sentence still remains to be served by Smith and is it possible that he will complete the full sentence before the investigations are completed?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Yes."

(3) "Yes."

(4 and 5) "The application for an extension of time to appeal is pending before the Court and is *sub judice*. However, every effort is being made to complete the investigation so far as Smith is concerned as expeditiously as possible."

(6) "Apart from such application and on the assumption that he obtained normal remissions Smith would be due for release in respect of this case on January 12 next."

ADDITIONAL VISIT BY X-RAY UNIT TO
TABLELANDS AND COOK ELECTORATES

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

In order to achieve a full coverage of people in far-distant areas with X-ray tests, will he consider another visit by the mobile X-ray unit before next wet season to isolated areas in Tablelands and Cook Electorates?

Answer:—

"The usual period between X-ray surveys is three years unless a previous survey revealed a higher than average incidence of tuberculosis. The incidence of the disease in remote areas of the Tablelands found in a survey conducted between October 1966 and June 1967 was normal. Due to a higher incidence at Gulf Missions, these were revisited in the first half of 1968. The incidence in other parts of the Cook electorate in a survey conducted between August 1966 and October 1966 was normal. For these reasons I am advised that another visit before the next wet season is not indicated."

PUBLIC RESERVE AND ACCOMMODATION
FOR VISITORS, WEIPA

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

Further to the Answer to my Question by the Minister for Lands on September 26, does any public domain exist and is there any accommodation available for the travelling public at Weipa? If not, will he consider the establishment of such an area, preferably on the seafront, which could be used by visitors and on which accommodation could be built?

Answer:—

"The first part of the Honourable Member's Question was answered by the Minister for Lands on September 26 last. The limited land held at Weipa by the Corporation of the Treasurer is vested in the Corporation for harbour purposes only and hence could not be used for other purposes. In view of the keen interest of the fishing industry generally in the possibility of Weipa as a location for shore-based processing works, the Government is at present investigating the setting aside of land for a fishing village at Weipa and the proper planning and development of such land and village. The Government feels that such planning should have full

regard to the establishment of a reasonable number of processing works and should make adequate provision for proper accommodation and amenities for those serving such an industry and their families. Discussions with the various interests involved in this matter are well advanced. Beyond that, I am not aware of a need for visitors generally."

APPOINTMENT OF POLICE OFFICERS,
ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

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

In view of the Acting Premier's Answer to my Question on October 23, will he consider the provision of police officers at all Aboriginal Communities which have been taken over by the Government? If not, why not?

Answer:—

"Yes."

NEW S.G.I.O. BUILDING, CAIRNS

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

(1) When is the new building presently being erected for the State Government Insurance Office on the corner of Shields Street and the Esplanade, Cairns, expected to be completed?

(2) What staff and tenants will it accommodate?

(3) Will ample staff and tenants' parking facilities be made available on site?

(4) What is its estimated cost?

Answers:—

(1) "March 26, 1969."

(2) "Initial accommodation is being provided for ample staff members. Tenancy areas have not yet been finalised, but at least two of the three floors of the building will be available to suitable tenants."

(3) "Limited parking facilities will be available."

(4) "\$550,000."

PAPERS

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

Reports—

Queensland Meat Industry Authority,
for the year 1967-68.

Queensland Housing Commission,
for the year 1967-68.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Order in Council under the Gas Acts, 1965
to 1967.

Statement and Balance Sheet of the Coal
Mine Workers' Pensions Fund, for
the year 1967-68.

LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF QUESTIONS

Mr. R. JONES (Cairns) proceeding to give notice of a fourth question—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member has already given notice of three questions.

SUPPLY

COMMITTEE—FINANCIAL STATEMENT— RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

(The Acting Chairman of Committees.

Mr. Smith, Windsor, in the chair)

Debate resumed from 22 October (see p. 881) on Mr. Chalk's motion—

"That there be granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1968-69, a sum not exceeding \$4,321 to defray the salary of Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Governor."

Mr. PILBEAM (Rockhampton South) (11.28 a.m.): In common with every other fair-minded member of this Chamber, I express my satisfaction with and appreciation of the 1968-69 Budget as presented by the Treasurer of this State. It is the blueprint that allows for a sound and assured future, with full development, for Queensland. It is the best medicine for the people of this State and, as is all good medicine, it has been sugar-coated, for all hon. members must acknowledge that it has been presented very attractively.

It would be idle to say that it provides finance to the degree that one would like to see; but with the limited finance available—and, of course, finance is always limited—it represents a sincere attempt to grapple with the money problems of this day and age.

Some of the new provisions give me great satisfaction. High on the list of the main features of the expenditure programme is listed the special efforts of the Government in the field of education, and I welcome the additional allocation of \$14,000,000-odd, representing an increase of almost 20 per cent., granted to the Department of Education.

I have advocated for years some financial recognition of the grand work carried on by the various religious bodies of this State in educating children, at both primary and secondary levels. It was accordingly most gratifying to me to read this passage in the Treasurer's Financial Statement—

"There will be a scheme of special financial assistance to approved non-State Primary Schools. At this level we will pay a student allowance of \$25 per annum. In addition, at secondary level we will increase the present annual allowance from \$15 to \$25. These payments will operate from the beginning of the 1969 school year and are estimated to cost \$1,700,000 in a full year and \$1,133,000 for the two terms in the financial year 1968-69.

The payments will be made directly to the schools at which the students are enrolled."

That makes for very good reading. The extra allowances for students and a special allocation of \$2,000,000 for the modernising of school furniture and fittings, the provision for 850 extra teachers in primary and secondary schools, and the projected increase in the number of teachers in training from 3,167 to 3,824, are most satisfying, as are all the extra allowances for the various facets of education.

It is extremely pleasing to see that the rural training school at Emerald will be inaugurated per medium of a special provision in this Budget, and the substantial increases granted for tertiary education facilities, including a 12½ per cent. increase in the university Vote, and a 45 per cent. increase, to \$2,500,000, for the institutes of technology. I have a particular interest in the latter item, because in Rockhampton we have the rapidly developing Capricornia Institute of Technology.

I am distressed to find that we have been unable to secure the necessary lecturers in civil engineering for the Rockhampton Institute, as is evidenced by a letter that I shall now read. It is addressed to Mr. K. F. Bickhoff, Engineering Department, Queensland Institute of Technology, Capricornia, and it reads—

"Dear Mr. Bickhoff,

"It is with much regret that I have to inform you, that, owing to a severe shortage of Lecturers in Civil Engineering, it will not be possible to continue with courses in Civil Engineering beyond the end of the second year.

"The decision to discontinue the attempt to offer full professional courses in Civil Engineering has been taken after many months of consideration in which every avenue has been explored to provide the necessary facilities.

"Discussions with the Principal of the Queensland Institute of Technology, Darling Downs (Toowoomba), have indicated that his staff would be able to accommodate a small number of additional Civil Engineering students for the third and fourth years.

"As Principal of this Institute, I, too, regret that you will not be able to continue and graduate with us, but we all feel that your future will be much more securely protected by continuation of your studies at an institution which has been fortunate to secure the necessary high standard of facilities."

The letter then goes on to wish Mr. Bickhoff success in the future.

This makes me very unhappy and I make it the subject of an urgent plea to the Minister and his department. I ask them to give it their immediate attention and

endeavour to obtain, by one means or another, the sorely needed lecturers in civil engineering for the institute at Rockhampton.

In case the reason is that not sufficiently high salaries are being offered, I ally this request to the passage in the Budget which reads as follows—

"It has been a matter of concern to me that in our Public Service, the teaching service and elsewhere, the salary scales of the more senior administrative, professional and technical officers have lagged substantially behind those in other States. As a result, we have been losing senior officers whose services we can ill afford to lose. I have thus recommended to the Government that it should consider ways and means to improve the salary scales of these officers and \$500,000 has been set aside for this purpose."

That statement gives me some assurance that this matter can and will be rectified.

I have direct evidence that other vacancies at the institute have not been filled because the salaries paid to those positions have not been sufficiently attractive. I refer particularly to the salaries of librarians, which have been set on the same scale as that applying to librarians in the State Public Service.

The paragraph that I have just read becomes very significant, as it appears necessary that officers in the State Public Service with technical degrees, university degrees or some professional qualifications should have their salaries revised. If they are not revised the Public Service may not be able to secure the staff that it needs, and it may lose the services of some of its present members. That has happened with members of the staff employed at the Capricornia Institute of Technology.

I said that I would quote an example, and the one I have chosen is that of librarian at the institute. The institute in December, 1966, advertised for a librarian and offered a salary in the range from \$3,232 to \$4,338 a year. Under subsequent variations of the award that salary range has been increased to \$4,600. This is equal to the salaries paid to State Public Service Librarians who recently obtained an increase of from \$22 to \$50 only per annum. Compare their position with that of municipal officers employed in Rockhampton. The librarian at the Rockhampton Municipal Library is employed at a salary of \$5,307, which includes an increase of \$464 awarded in the last variation. It must be obvious that the institute will not be able to secure the services of a librarian while the city council can pay librarians a salary that is approximately \$700 higher than that of the librarian employed at the institute. In recent months two librarians have been secured for the municipal library service, and a third is needed. The institute of technology has advertised for librarians but has not secured one. This situation highlights the necessity to revise

the salaries of professional officers employed in the State Public Service. As I have said, if a revision is not made, the State will lose the services of some of its professional officers.

I am hopeful that when the Treasurer's proposal is instituted it will apply not only to the top positions but right down the scale to include all librarians, engineers, accountants and architects as well, and will give them some recognition for the degrees that they have obtained. I hope that out of the \$500,000 mentioned by the Treasurer, these people can be paid salaries commensurate with the services that they are rendering to the State.

The Budget makes provision for the staffing and equipping of new teachers' colleges at Mt. Gravatt and in Townsville from the beginning of 1969. In the interests of the decentralised development of the State, I ask the Minister to give consideration to the provision of a teachers' college at Rockhampton at the earliest possible date. I know that one is contemplated for a later date, but I ask that the date be not too much later.

With the growth of the State's population and with the necessity for more advanced and more expensive degrees of education, allied with the size of our State, education is presenting a greater challenge. It requires the allocation of greater sums of money. It will never obtain sufficient money to satisfy its requirements, but we are striving to meet the challenge and are providing greater sums of money than those provided by any previous Government. We will continue to maintain this progressive improvement.

I now wish to refer to a matter that has been causing Central Queensland a great deal of concern. We in Central Queensland have become increasingly alarmed about the affairs of the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board. The explosion point has just about been reached. My council's representatives on the board are being subjected to abuse for trying to set the matter right by daring to carry back to us for consideration, in closed committee, representations that have been made before the board. The attitude that the board is above the consideration of the councils whose representatives form it, must be set right. At all times we must exercise our right to represent the interests of the people who elect us, and the welfare of my people is inseparable from this principle. We in Rockhampton patiently waited through a recent State Electricity Commission of Queensland-sponsored investigation, hoping that things would improve. However, not only has no improvement been effected, but a faster degeneration is occurring. Inefficiency is increasing at a faster rate than the number of the staff, which is now in excess of 700 and is still increasing. The people of Central Queensland have been asked to shoulder yet another financial responsibility in the form of a deficit of over \$1,000,000.

The Minister for Mines, Main Roads and Electricity will remember a speech that I made here last year in which I stressed the need to investigate this board's affairs. However, the subsequent investigation proved to be a complete fiasco. But what could be expected when the investigating panel consisted of a trio comprising the manager of the Townsville Regional Electricity Board, who, by all accounts, could have spent his time better in cleaning up his own back yard, the secretary of the S.E.C.Q., who has had no operating experience in a supply authority, and a chief engineer of the S.E.C.Q., who was formerly chief engineer under the manager who was chairman of the panel? Their methods were farcical and the results were abortive.

The climax in the affairs of the board came recently when it was decided to appoint a new manager in the place of the one who was retiring. Applications were called for, and about 45 were received. A subcommittee comprising the Commissioner of Electricity Supply, the chairman of the board and the chairman of a country shire was established, and it was told to consider the applications and make a submission to the full board at the June meeting. No subcommittee report was received at the June, July or August meetings of the board, but, at the September meeting, the subcommittee recommended that none of the applicants be appointed but that an officer of the C.R.E.B., who had not originally submitted an application, should be appointed as manager.

Naturally, the Rockhampton City Council representatives objected strongly to this, as did the representatives of the Gladstone Town Council. The Rockhampton City Council held a meeting in committee, without any publicity, to receive the report from its representatives on the board, and it complained to the Minister about this highly irregular method of appointing a manager. The chairman of the board, and, I understand, the Commissioner, too, resented the council's taking any interest in the affairs of C.R.E.B. They said quite plainly that we had no right to interest ourselves in the appointment of a manager as that was a matter within the prerogative of the board.

What sort of a set-up is it if the city council's representatives are to be taken for granted and used merely as rubber stamps, and denied the right to report back to the council on any matters that come before the C.R.E.B.? If that is to be the position, the sooner the Rockhampton City Council withdraws its representatives the better it will be. I understand that the Gladstone Town Council has expressed similar views.

That is only one example of what is happening within the C.R.E.B. The situation that is developing should be halted without delay. What use is it if the Treasurer goes overseas and secures finance to set up a large powerhouse in Central Queensland, and subsequently reduces the price of electricity, if a good deal of that advantage is to be frittered away by wasteful administrative methods?

My council and the large industries in Central Queensland are concerned, and we are asking for immediate action.

I ask that, for the time being, no manager be appointed to the C.R.E.B. and that an administrator from the Treasury be appointed for six months, say, from 1 January next year, with full powers of administration, to clean up the mess and to call applications from independent management consultants, preferably, for appointment of a new manager with a new management philosophy to lead to a new board free of the strangling machinations of the present bureaucracy.

Mr. Aikens: I do not know that the C.R.E.B. is in any bigger financial mess than is the T.R.E.B.

Mr. Thackeray: They have the highest charges in Queensland.

Mr. Aikens: This is a fight for men, not boys.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member will please address the Chair.

Mr. PILBEAM: Let us declare it a dead heat, Mr. Smith. I do not wish to make any claims above Townsville. That board might be just as wasteful as ours.

In the name of Central Queenslanders who still have untold faith in Central Queensland and who believe that a virile, efficient electricity board is essential to the fulfilment of their hopes, I ask that this course of action be taken to clean up the C.R.E.B.

On the more pleasant side, let me quote another clause from the Financial Statement that gives me great satisfaction. The Treasurer said—

"A special provision of \$94,365 has been made for cultural activities over and above the general level of assistance to such activities in past years. \$30,000 is provided for the work of the Elizabethan Theatre Trust in Queensland in 1968-69, and \$30,000 for the Queensland Ballet Company."

This is very good news to those who are interested in these highly important activities in this State. Although we realise that that is only a start and is not the finish of what will be done to develop this department, it is most disappointing to me to see the unjust allocations that have been made. I ask that I be allowed a little time to indicate the work that has been done by the various public bodies in Queensland. This will convince all hon. members that some better appreciation of the position, and a more equitable contribution to these bodies, should be made in the future.

In this field, we have a few fine organisations headed by many outstanding citizens. The Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust, with the Queen of England as its patron and an outstanding Queensland, Sir Fred Schonell, as its Queensland chairman, is

sorely in need of funds to fulfil the objects it has in mind. It was established in 1954 by launching an appeal for funds to establish a theatrical trust. A fund of £90,000 (\$180,000) was quickly raised from private persons and institutions throughout Australia. To this was added a grant of £30,000 (\$60,000) from the Commonwealth Government. The Trust is now subsidised by the Commonwealth Government, various State Governments, and all city councils. Incidentally, the Commonwealth Government initially gave a one-for-one subsidy; this was later increased to a two-for-one subsidy. Similarly, most State Governments and city councils have increased their contributions.

The objects of the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust are beyond reproach. They include the promotion of—

Drama, opera, ballet, and any other form of art in the theatre in Australia; the writing of plays, operas, ballets and other works; the training of producers, players, musicians, singers, dancers and other theatrical personnel; and the presentation of drama, opera, ballet, and any other art, by acting as surety for, and in any other way assisting, other bodies.

The Trust has carried out this work in an admirable way ever since its inception. For 14 years it has promoted opera, ballet and drama in every Australian State. In addition to seasons of opera, ballet and drama, it provides training in ballet and drama, and has encouraged Australian playwrights through presenting Australian plays.

Those who saw the Trust-produced play "Summer of the Seventeenth Doll" will appreciate what a wonderful presentation it was. It marked the first time that an Australian play, with an Australian cast, appeared in London. That play was performed all over Australia by amateur companies, and other Australian plays have been sponsored and produced by the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust. "The Doll" has also played in many countries other than Australia.

The Trust has given employment to many Australian actors, singers, dancers, producers and artists, and to musicians through the newly formed Elizabethan Trust Orchestra. Through the Arts Councils in the various States, it has from time to time sent on tour to country towns opera, ballet and the Young Elizabethan Players.

Although Brisbane does not have a theatre suitable for the production of drama, the Trust has, over the years, presented seasons in Brisbane at either Her Majesty's Theatre or the Rialto Theatre. The Young Elizabethan Players formed by the Trust tour Queensland presenting Shakespearian plays, very often those set for study for Queensland public examinations.

One of the Trust's other functions in the field of drama is to help local State theatres. It subsidises, for example, the National Theatre in Perth, the Adelaide Theatre and

the Adelaide Festival of Arts, the Old Tote Theatre in New South Wales, and also the Union Theatre in Melbourne. It is assisting "little theatres" in Brisbane and in towns outside Brisbane by arranging for adjudicators, and occasionally for people to advise on productions.

For the last seven years the Trust has been trying to establish a professional theatre in Brisbane. There is now a chance that, with sufficient funds, it will be possible to establish a professional theatre in Brisbane for four or five months of the year. This is a most important forward step. The Trust has played a large part in the designing of the theatre for the new State Government Insurance Office building, and it is hopeful that a professional theatre can be established there, provided that additional subsidy is given by the State Government.

Were it not for the Trust, there would be no professional opera or ballet in Australia. Over the years, the Elizabethan Trust Opera Company has given seasons in all capital cities. It therefore cannot be denied that the Trust is giving admirable service to the people of Australia and, in this particular instance, to the people of this State.

Since the Trust was first established, over 50 different operas have been performed in Brisbane, some of which have been sent on country tours. The Trust also gives performances for pupils of secondary schools and students at teachers' colleges. As I said before, to permit the Trust to function more effectively, the Elizabethan Trust Orchestra was formed in 1967.

The Australian Ballet Company has done a marvellous job for Australia; it has really advertised Australia in many overseas countries. In April of this year it returned from a highly successful tour of the countries of South-east Asia, in which it played to capacity houses in almost all centres. Its performances were highly acclaimed in all the countries visited. The company toured 14 cities and gave 44 performances. It has now established itself as an international company—a fact that is much to the credit of Australia in terms of cultural activities overseas. Those who have seen this company perform will support my contention that it is a great credit to this country and deserves the full financial support of Australia as a whole, including the Government of this State. Although I am pleased to see that an initial allocation of \$30,000 has been made to the Elizabethan Trust, it is certainly not enough. More finance is badly needed.

The Trust's other activities include the maintenance of two training schools. As I have already said, the Trust has given outstanding service in the fields of ballet and drama.

Mr. Porter: Do you think we could finance more cultural activities from T.A.B. returns?

Mr. PILBEAM: I do not care where the money comes from. I suppose this could be done either directly or indirectly. Something as outstanding as this certainly deserves financing. Bearing in mind all the activities that the Elizabethan Trust carries out for the benefit of Australia as a whole, and the States in particular, in my opinion its subsidy should be very much larger. In fact, if Brisbane is to have a professional theatre such as is the case in most other capital cities, that subsidy will have to be increased. Heaven help me! I am starting to support something in Brisbane. I must be slipping.

The Queensland Ballet Company has, I think, been treated very well in its allocation of \$30,000; I am not suggesting that it should be given any more. In fact, when I compare that allocation with the allocation made to the Elizabethan Trust, and when I see no mention made of the National Arts Council, I feel really sad. It is fair enough to give some recognition to the work of the Queensland Ballet Company, under its director, Mr. Charles Lisner. It has the patronage, of course, of His Excellency the Governor, and it has presented regular performances in Brisbane and has toured country towns, achieving such high artistic standards that the Artistic Director of the Australian Ballet Company, Miss Peggy van Praagh, recommended to the former Minister for Education that it should be subsidised, and I fully agree that it should be subsidised.

The Queensland Ballet Company has had its ups and down financially. In July, 1966, the company was forced to disband when its Director could no longer bear the financial burden without assistance, and for a time it looked as if it had gone under. However, the Government, recognising the great cultural asset that the ballet company had been to the State during its existence, granted a subsidy of \$7,500 in October, 1967, which gave the company a new lease of life. As a result, it is now going from strength to strength, and I think that, with the \$30,000 that has been granted to it, its future is assured.

It is the Arts Council of Australia, and in particular the Queensland Division, that is most in need of financial assistance, because its affairs are in a very parlous state indeed. If one considers the allocations that have been made in other directions, it becomes obvious, I think, that the time is long overdue for a considerable contribution to be made to this very worthy body.

In the first years of its existence it had no Queensland division. As a matter of fact, the first company to tour under the auspices of the Arts Council of Australia came direct from Sydney. After I had corresponded for about two years with the New South Wales division, it carried out a country tour of Queensland, coming as far north as Rockhampton.

It was only in 1961, when Dr. Gertrude Langer took office as president, that the Queensland Division had a real existence. At that time there was no State Government grant or other subsidy, no office, and no paid staff—in fact, it did not even own a typewriter. But since then, under Dr. Langer's efficient organisation, the council has gone from strength to strength and has reached full autonomy, even if it has not reached full financial independence.

In order to make a start somewhere. Dr. Langer, with the help of her voluntary committee, first concentrated her energies in Brisbane, arranging performances and exhibitions of arts, ending the first year of her presidency with a profit which permitted the engagement of a part-time secretary; but the affairs of the Arts Council were conducted from Dr. Langer's home.

In 1962 the first State Government grant of \$1,000 was received. In addition to new activities, the first vacation school of creative arts was held, the president acting as its honorary director and organiser, as she has at all subsequent schools.

In 1963 the activities of the council were much expanded, and the first major tour of Queensland was undertaken, namely, a tour by the Young Elizabethan Players, who came under its control. The Bank of New South Wales came to the assistance of this body and gave it a rent-free office in its Queen Street premises. Progress was made possible through the great financial success of the second vacation school and the fact that the Government doubled its allocation of \$1,000 and made it \$2,000.

At the beginning of 1964 the Arts Theatre of Australia, Queensland Division, was registered as a company. From then, all tours of Queensland were under its control and it assumed financial responsibility for them. Since then, the work has grown rapidly and the executive and staff are finding difficulty in keeping pace with the demand. Never at any time has it been able to provide adequate finance for the proper staffing of its office, or for capital outlay on vehicles and sundry equipment. Although it has been receiving increased Government grants over the past few years these were never in proportion to the expanding activities of the Arts Council. It would not have been able to grow at all had it not been assisted by other organisations. I refer to the assistance given by the Bank of New South Wales, which gave it free quarters in the old bank building and now gives it quarters in Roma Street on a half-rental basis. I think one of the oil companies also gave some small assistance, while "The Courier-Mail" purchased the sole vehicle that it has for going on tour.

At the moment, its financial situation is very serious. The Government has made it one grant of \$11,000 this year and it is making available another \$4,000 against losses on tours, which cannot be received until after 30 June. This is an unhappy state

of affairs for an organisation that has done so much good and has so much to offer. My plea here is that every possible assistance be given to the Arts Council of Australia and every effort made to enable it to carry on.

Mr. Porter: I think everybody will agree with you on this. But, to be fair to the Minister, has he not indicated his sympathy for an increased grant to the Arts Council?

Mr. PILBEAM: I think the Minister would agree with me on the need for a full appreciation of the needs of all these people, but to my knowledge the Arts Council has not been made a special grant.

Mr. Porter: I think the Minister has announced that he is giving it sympathetic consideration.

Mr. PILBEAM: I am sure he is.

I congratulate the recently appointed Director of Cultural Activities, Mr. A. J. Creedy, on his appointment and wish him every success. He has a big job ahead of him to correlate the activities of all the bodies I have mentioned and to see that proper financial and other arrangements are made relative to the productions and tours that each body fosters. Above everything else, he has to see that the grants made by the Government are shared between them on an equitable basis, in proportion to the work and the responsibilities that they assume. If the task is a difficult one, the rewards accruing to this State, if he completes it, will be great indeed. Man does not live by bread alone and, if the arts are to flourish in Queensland—all must certainly desire this—then it is up to us to see Mr. Creedy's work in its correct perspective and to make available the necessary finance to enable him to keep it going.

I have said I supported Brisbane theatres, and before leaving this subject I should like to refer to the work done by private theatre groups such as the Twelfth Night Theatre, under Joan Whalley's expert direction. These groups have done an outstanding service for the State, and there are other private theatre groups, including the Repertory and the Arts Theatre groups, which should be warmly commended for the work they are doing.

The Twelfth Night Theatre is engaged at the present time in a building operation. These people have opened an appeal for funds to help build their theatre. Although I do not exactly recommend that they should be given an allocation to subsidise all their work, as the other more important State-wide and national-wide bodies are, this State could well consider subsidising the building activities of these private theatre groups. They are doing excellent work in training actors and actresses and, as in the case of the Twelfth Night Theatre, already have most of the cast at the Living Room, where "The Drunkard" is being performed,

and the Mark Twain. I think it was the Mark Twain theatre that trained Rowena Wallace, Jeanette Delmondes and a few others.

These groups are doing an outstanding service and I think the least we can do is subsidise the theatres that they have to build to enable them to present their work. The reason why I am forced to back Brisbane in this instance is that in country centres most of these theatre-building activities are undertaken by the local councils. In Rockhampton the Little Theatre was built by the council, which allows its use at a nominal rental. In addition, the council has constructed its own air-conditioned municipal theatre. For projects such as that local authorities can obtain subsidies from the Government, but the private theatre groups in Brisbane cannot. On their behalf, I make a plea that they be placed on all fours with similar groups in country centres. I think hon. members will realise my sincerity in this matter, because a plea such as this is a complete change of face for me.

One matter that adversely affects future Budgets of this State and profoundly disturbs me is the recent decision of the Wheat Board to select Gladstone instead of Rockhampton-Port Alma as the grain-export outlet for Central Queensland. The people responsible for that decision appear to have totally disregarded basic facts, which in my opinion, if considered, make the board's decision totally incomprehensible.

Before I deal with the relative merits of the two ports, let me say that I am not out to "knock" Gladstone. I fully support all the development that has gone on at that port. I have gone on record in "Hansard" as supporting the direct railway line to Gladstone, and I have nothing but admiration for that town's development and its provision of facilities to allow extensive mineral exports. But it must be recognised that Gladstone is not the only port in Central Queensland. When the export of a new commodity is considered, thought should be given to whether or not it will fit into the industrial complex at Gladstone or can be better exported through a port that exports purely primary products, such as meat and salt.

Surely it cannot be said that Gladstone is a clean port. The very nature of its undertaking, with its massive coal export, means that it is not. Its industrial development, which has noxious characteristics, must be detrimental to the handling of a product for which cleanliness is absolutely essential. One such product is wheat. An alumina plant has been established at Gladstone; a sulphuric-acid plant is projected; fertiliser works are to be established; and a nickel smelter may be established. All these undertakings have noxious properties, whereas Port Alma has nothing of a noxious nature in its environs. Gladstone is a heavy industrialised port, and it will become more heavily industrialised; Port Alma handles only primary

products. Gladstone is a congested port, and will become even more congested; Port Alma is not congested.

Greater quantities of grain will be produced in the Central Highlands, behind Port Alma, than in the Dawson-Callide Valley, behind Gladstone. For the benefit of anyone who doubts that statement, I shall quote some figures published in "Queensland Country Life" of 17 October, 1968, in a statement made by an officer of the Department of Primary Industries relative to plantings of grain in Central Queensland in 1968. He said that plantings in the Central Highlands area totalled 200,000 acres, and, in the Dawson-Callide Valleys, 120,000 acres. Those figures apply only to wheat, and the figures for sorghum are much the same.

In a recent article in the Quarterly Survey of the Commonwealth Bureau of Agricultural Economics it was observed that at least another 500,000 acres of agricultural land were available in the Central Highlands area, and that a large proportion of it is in the northern section. With the clearing of Area III of the brigalow land scheme and the establishment of dams such as Maraboon, this comparison will favour even more the Central Highlands as compared with the Dawson and Callide Valleys.

Freight rates must favour Port Alma as against Gladstone, because most of the grain will have to travel an extra 35 miles past Bajool to Gladstone. If most of the grain has to travel an extra 35 miles it must cost somebody something extra, whether it be the Government, by way of concessions, or the grain-growers. The fact remains that if most of the grain has to travel an extra 35 miles it will cost the industry more to freight it to Gladstone rather than to Port Alma.

I come now to the matter of capital outlay. Bulk-loading facilities for exporting salt are already provided at Port Alma, and they have been offered to the Wheat Board. The decision means that the Government will be asked to provide an extra \$500,000 to build a bulk-loading utility at Gladstone when one already exists at Port Alma. I do not think any argument can justify that. Handling costs must be much cheaper at Port Alma than at Gladstone. Hon. members can work that out for themselves by a simple mathematical exercise. In order to assess bulk-loading handling costs, we naturally have to put on one side of the account interest and redemption charges on the bulk-loader, maintenance costs and handling costs. If we want to determine the cost per export-ton we divide those costs by the through-put.

The people who made this decision elected to use a conveyor that will handle only grain. I suppose that, in the initial years, that would mean dividing the total cost of handling by about 100,000 tons. If a decision was made to ship through Port Alma, 150,000 to 450,000 tons of salt could

be added to that 100,000 tons of grain. If we divide virtually the same total by 100,000 tons, and then divide it by 500,000 tons, it is elementary that there is a great difference, which of course favours the port with the greater through-put, namely, Port Alma.

Mr. Walsh: Is that why you threatened to stand as an Independent?

Mr. PILBEAM: I have not threatened anything yet.

If hon. members want confirmation of my submissions, I refer them to South Australia. I have here, for anyone's inspection, the Annual Report for 1966-67 of that State's Department of Marine and Harbours. South Australia is the only other State in Australia that exports both salt and grain.

Every port in South Australia handles salt and grain by the one conveyor. If it is economically advisable to do that in South Australia, what is wrong with applying the same procedure in Queensland? Can't we learn here? I emphasise that every port in South Australia takes advantage of this situation and to give some idea of what happens, I will instance a few of them. Port Adelaide takes advantage of the joint through-put. In 1966-67 it exported 85,000 tons of salt, 31,000 tons of wheat, 27,000 tons of barley and 3,000 tons of oats. Probably that was a drought year, when the wheat through-put was low, but it was combined with the salt exports, which, in a dry year, would rise. The previous year the balance went the other way; I suppose it was a wet year. The same situation prevails at Port Lincoln and at Port Thevanard, where 250,000 tons of gypsum was also put over the same conveyor belt so that it could be exported at an economic figure. Ardrossan followed the same pattern, with 68,000 tons of wheat and 45,000 tons of salt.

What makes this decision all the more incomprehensible is that the salt interests were so keen to cut their costs by getting grain over the bulk-loader at Port Alma that they offered the use of this utility without guarantee. Nothing can be got these days, unless the Government alters its policy, without a utility being fully underwritten. If the utility at Gladstone is to be fully underwritten, as I expect it will be, at least 100,000 tons of grain will have to go through that port every year. It will have to be underwritten to the extent of a guarantee of a through-put of at least 100,000 tons. That is a pretty low figure, and nobody could economically maintain a bulk-loader of this description with a through-put as low as 100,000 tons.

The use of the Port Alma utility has been offered without any guarantee. So that, in a drought year, if no grain at all goes through Port Alma it will cost nothing, whereas if nothing goes through Gladstone the handling of 100,000 tons of grain will have to be paid for. Do not forget that this is an area of the State that

is subject to periodic drought; that cannot be got around. We have no fixed and regular rainfall in this area and, when one port could have been entered without a guarantee, I cannot understand why the port where a guarantee is necessary should have been decided on.

In Port Alma there is a utility with a loading rate of 1,000 tons an hour and, with the substitution of a bigger belt, up to 1,800 tons an hour. If both these products were combined, there would be no way in the world that that larger utility could not be financed. That means that a deliberate election has been made to go into a port where the loading rate would be no more than 1,000 tons an hour when, as I said, by combining with another product at another port, a bulk-loader operating at 1,800 tons an hour would be available.

These two cargoes are completely compatible, and I cannot understand why a strenuous effort was not made to combine them. Not only does one not interfere with the other, it is also complementary to the other. This is why it is so important to get them onto the one belt. In a dry year there is a big salt yield and no grain, whereas in a wet year there is a big grain yield and a very low salt harvest. The wheat interests who operate most of the belts in South Australian ports are dead keen to get the salt interests with them. The salt interests at Port Alma were dead keen to get the wheat people with them. In fact, they wrote to the Government pointing out that they needed the through-put of wheat over the conveyor belt to make it more economic in its operation. All these arguments were ignored.

We have had all sorts of spurious suggestions thrown at us. One was that the depth of water at Port Alma was not satisfactory. Port Alma is probably the only developed port on the east coast of Queensland where unlimited depths can be provided. Any depth at all can be provided at Port Alma. The depth that can be provided is limited only by the capacity to dredge. With the plasticine-like mud in that port, dredging is not necessary. As a matter of fact, the original depth at Port Alma has been maintained, without any dredging at all, for more than a century.

We were told that we would have labour troubles at Port Alma. This is completely fallacious, because the operation is largely a push-button one, with very few men employed. The salt company has a number of employees there, and they are able to live at Port Alma and Bajool, and even Rockhampton, as no great distances are involved.

I cannot understand why it is considered desirable to have two bulk-loading facilities, virtually side by side, neither of which would be operating at more than 20 per cent. of its capacity. Surely the economic advantage of putting all products through

one port and one bulk-loader, which would then be operating at 40 per cent. of its capacity, is apparent to all.

Mr. Porter: Your case seems to be a very convincing one. You must have some idea why the decision was made the other way.

Mr. PILBEAM: It is hard to say why it happened. Gladstone, of course, is a fully developed port, whereas Port Alma is in the process of development and does not look much at present. Although, with completion of the work, we will have a very economic and viable port, a little vision is needed at present to see what will eventually emerge from the present construction work. No job looks good when it is only half finished—as this work is now—but it will not be long before it is completed.

I question the wisdom of this decision, which I say will cost the Government and the grain-growers a lot of money. It will have an adverse effect on the salt industry at Port Alma, and it will also probably cost other industries in Gladstone a lot of money because they will have to go to great lengths to protect the wheat from contamination. It is no good saying that the Government should have no right to interfere in these matters and that all decisions should be left to the growers. I can remember the proposal for a district abattoir at Rockhampton. If the decision had been left to the producers, there would now be such a works in Rockhampton and the loss to the local authorities could already have been about \$1,000,000. If the producers had made the decision on whether to establish a district abattoir at Rockhampton, I think all will recognise that there would have been a unanimous vote in favour of it. Such a decision would have been completely wrong, and would have cost a tremendous amount of money. To me, this shows that those who advocate some sort of planning authority to control the development of the State have something on their side.

I do not think that the handling of grain fits in with the industrial picture at Gladstone. It makes me wonder what cargoes will be handled at Port Alma if grain is denied to us. By the same token, however, I cannot accept that the loss of the grain trade means the end of Port Alma. The completion of the Fitzroy River barrage and the provision of unlimited supplies of water will attract new industries that will require an export outlet. It has been said that the port, being 38 miles from the city, is too far from it. If that is so, then the remedy does not lie in replacing it with a port which is 35 miles further away. I think it has to be recognised that there should be two export outlets for Central Queensland, and that more encouragement must be given to Port Alma, which, till now, has been financed by the City of Rockhampton. It cannot stand on its own against ports in which there has been heavy Government investment.

The people of Rockhampton are convinced that they made a wise decision in supporting Port Alma, and they would also support me fully in taking over the port and combining it, under one authority, with the City of Rockhampton. If we have to do that we will, because we see, even if the Government does not fully realise it, the advisability of developing the port. It has already made secure the jobs of many waterside workers and meatworkers, and last year \$38,000,000 worth of meat went through it. We have the certainty of exporting up to 450,000 tons of salt over the port, and other industries are in the offing. We will be in business, despite this decision.

Mr. DIPLOCK (Aubigny) (12.26 p.m.): I consider that I would be unfair if I denied that there are many pleasing sections in the Treasurer's Budget for 1968-69, and I congratulate him because of those sections. On the other hand, there are sections which, in my opinion, call for adverse criticism, and these particular sections have caused much concern amongst the people affected by them.

The Budget has been described in all sorts of ways. I have heard it said that it should have been called the "All that glitters is not gold" Budget. The Treasurer claims that modification of the freight on wheat will benefit growers considerably, but that is not the view of the General President of the Queensland Graingrowers Association, Mr. L. V. Price, who, in the "Queensland Grain-grower" of 9 October this year, said—

"Long-awaited freight relief shock
to most growers

"While any relief on grain freights is welcome, the long-awaited relief would have been a shock to most growers,

"I find it impossible to understand how any government could come to such an iniquitous decision.

"While all other sections of rural industry received an overall reduction as well as the removal of anomalies, 75 per cent. of wheat growers received no benefit at all.

"It seems that government thinking is that inner growers have gained a substantial reduction because of the introduction of individual freights.

"Even if this were true (which it is not) this is an industry decision that has nothing to do with the government, except that it was perhaps precipitated by the excessive 15 per cent. increase inflicted on the industry two years ago.

"I now believe that the industry has erred by not introducing individual freights many years ago. If the government had not had this protective screen, it would not have dared to impose these excessive charges or expose the outrageous anomalies to the public gaze.

"I trust growers realise that freights have only been deducted from their returns on

a pooled basis. The charges—*anomalies* and all—have been paid by the State Wheat Board on an individual basis.

"The situation would be now that the growers who had contributed this money over the years are the ones completely overlooked.

"I do not question the theory that growers on the long haul are entitled to a greater tapering of freights than those on the shorter hauls, but to deny the inner grower a share of any relief is to abrogate simple justice.

"This association put forward a submission to the Government that showed a graph acceptable to the industry. If the Government could not meet this proposal, I consider it should have at least been cognisant of the principle.

"The proposal in the State Budget appears to me to have been based purely on administrative convenience, and this surely is hardly good enough.

"The Government enjoys a monopoly on wheat haulage and this concept is an abuse of that monopoly.

"Growers to whom I have spoken from the most benefited areas are appalled at the decision, as well as growers directly affected, and I think State Council must act to see fair play for all members.

"The 'I'm all right, Jack' attitude would do nothing for the solidarity of this association, and we will need that solidarity in the years ahead more than ever before.

"To allow the imposition of this vicious sectional tax would be to condone a system from which none of us will have any immunity in the future."

I should say that that is a scathing criticism of the Treasurer's action relative to wheat freights.

The growers' council is on the horns of a dilemma inasmuch as it must maintain the solidarity of the association, and to claim more for one section than another would be likely to break that solidarity.

In its dedicated endeavour to stifle any opposition to the railways, the Government is gradually forcing road transport operators either to go off the road or to operate on an illegal basis. Services to Dalby have gradually deteriorated, and only last week another transport company closed down a section of its business. This leaves only one company carrying general goods from the capital city to Dalby. Its advertisement in "The Daily Herald" of the 15th instant will cause concern to many residents of the Dalby district. The advertisement should make interesting reading for a Government that claims to champion private enterprise. The advertisement, by the Dalby Carrying Coy. Pty. Ltd., reads—

"The only load we cannot carry—the State Transport and Maintenance Taxes. In seven years we have delivered, through our service, thousands of tons of urgent goods to and from Brisbane and Toowoomba to

Dalby district and throughout Queensland. Now we are sorry to have to tell you that as from the 18th October, 1968, we will be closing our Brisbane and Toowoomba depots, and discontinuing our general goods daily service . . . To our many customers we say thank you for your support. We took pleasure in running this service for you, but feel sure you would not wish us to continue to run at a loss. All other branches of our carrying business will continue as usual. We have the vehicles, plant, and above all, experience, to attend to all your carrying and transport requirements, including heavy loading (tractors, machinery, steel, cement, etc.), to and from anywhere in Australia, and solicit your continued patronage and support. Dalby Carrying Coy. Pty. Ltd."

As I say, that leaves only one transport company operating between Dalby and Brisbane.

In his Budget the Treasurer says—

"From what I have now outlined, I estimate that the rail freight concessions granted will benefit both primary and secondary industry to the extent of at least \$3,150,000 in a full year."

When the Acting Premier launched Export Week on the 14th of this month, stress was placed on the fact that manufactured goods must play an expanding part in our export earnings. It was also claimed that the Government would assist by making freight concessions. Whilst I believe that it is essential that the percentage of manufactured goods as an export-earner must increase, I cannot possibly believe that the Government is sincere when it claims that it is encouraging exporters or promoting decentralisation by sympathetic consideration of freight rates on manufactured goods. In fact, a comparison of the treatment handed out to manufacturers removed from the coast in this State, with that enjoyed by operators in other States should make the Government ashamed of itself, especially when it attempts to sell the idea that it is encouraging decentralisation. There is only one honest piece of advice to give to those interested in establishing a secondary industry removed from the coast, and that is—"Don't!"

When I was speaking on the Address in Reply, I said that during a tour of rural areas I had found many dissatisfied primary producers—and others, too—who previously were staunch Country Party and Liberal Party supporters. From the looks on some hon. members' faces, they obviously thought that this was a figment of my imagination. Perhaps they think differently now. A striking example of how a party can lose its supporters is to be found in the endorsement of the A.L.P. candidate for Aubigny at the next State election.

Mr. Houston: Who?

Mr. DIPLOCK: The A.L.P. candidate for Aubigny. He is Mr. David Wilson, who is a very respectable gentleman, and I have nothing at all against him. However, he

joined the Liberal Party when it formed a Branch in Dalby, and I have been reliably informed that he resigned from the Liberal Party only a fortnight prior to his endorsement as the A.L.P. candidate for Aubigny.

Mr. Houston: He woke up to the Liberal Party.

Mr. DIPLOCK: The hon. member should listen a little longer.

Evidently Mr. Wilson contemplated a change during the latter part of 1967, because during the Senate election he made himself very busy introducing and canvassing for the Country Party candidate, Senator Maunsell. They are very good friends, and I am sure that Senator Maunsell will be very much surprised at Mr. Wilson's latest move, and will be looking for the reason for it.

Mr. Hanlon: He might go over with him.

Mr. DIPLOCK: That is just what I said; the Country-Liberal Party is losing good, staunch and solid supporters—but its members will not have it that it is. As I said in the Address-in-Reply debate, the Government parties will have to make sure that there are not too many "Mr. Wilsons" among them.

Whilst one cannot forecast the changes likely to be made in the Liquor Act because the Minister is playing his cards very close to his chest—I should imagine that he would make a very good poker player—I would appeal to him not to introduce anything that the Government is not prepared to have policed in all parts of the State according to the law. I have no hesitation in saying that at the present time the powers that be have not the courage to insist upon the observance of the law in all parts of the State. If it is felt that the laws should not be enforced, then they should be amended. At the present time, whether or not the law is strictly enforced in a particular district seems to depend upon the attitude of the inspector in charge of police in it.

As I have said, I travelled through many areas during the recess, and I say without any fear of contradiction that in only a few of them in which Sunday drinking is permitted is the law enforced. I have no criticism to offer against the police officers who are insisting upon the strict observance of the law; in fact, I compliment them, because I consider that no-one, however high his position or rank is, has the right to agree to the modification of the law. If some people have that right, why have a law?

I stress that people in areas where the laws are being strictly policed have the right to feel that they are being unfairly treated. Very often this feeling causes local police officers to be looked upon by the drinking public with disfavour, when in fact they are only carrying out the instructions of their senior officers. From what I have been told

by some high-ranking officials, it appears that the law winks its eye at the law, provided no complaints are made. To my way of thinking, this is decidedly wrong. The Government should have the courage either to insist that the law is carried out universally instead of only in a particular district or to amend the law that it considers should not be enforced.

Whilst I have never been an advocate of Sunday trading in liquor, if people are to be allowed to drink at hotels on Sundays, I ask the Minister to remove some of the glaring anomalies that presently exist, particularly in hotels in the rural areas of the State. Those hotels are not to be compared with the larger hotels in the cities, much less with those in overseas countries. In some country districts, at certain times of the year Sunday is the only day for sport, and at other times it is a day on which work must proceed as it does on other days.

Whilst I have no intention of joining the throng of people who are endeavouring to put pressure on the Government in connection with its education programme by giving little or no credit for what has been done over the past year in an attempt, in my opinion, to create an image in the eyes of parents that the welfare of their children has been a matter of little or no consideration, I consider that the Government has been found wanting in some instances, inasmuch as it has not completed projects that have been commenced.

It is true that the Government cannot spend more on education than has been allotted for a particular year, and it is fair, too, that the completion of certain projects should be deferred in favour of more urgent necessities. But the time arrives when the deferred work should take preference over new projects in order to enable the unfinished project to function satisfactorily. It is pleasing to note the increased Vote for the present year, and I hope that the Minister will give consideration to the necessity of completing projects in this category when he is considering the priority of works for this year.

I claim that in my electorate there are two outstanding cases that merit consideration by the Minister. I refer to the replacement of the condemned school at Kingsthorpe and the provision of certain amenities at the Dalby South State School.

Referring to the building of a new school at Kingsthorpe, the Minister has advised that this matter is under way. I hope that the school can be completed in time for occupation at the commencement of the 1969 school year.

At the Dalby South State School the expected enrolment for 1969 is 470-plus. I shall not enumerate the many requirements at this school, as they were brought to the notice of the Premier when he visited it in his capacity as Minister for Works and Housing at that time. He realised the

necessity for such works and promised to give attention to the necessities pointed out to him by the head-teacher and a deputation of parents. There are one or two urgent requirements, however, that I have been asked to press for.

In the first place, there is no health room. When a child becomes ill, the only place where he can rest and be attended to is in front of the office. If a child is injured during the lunch period it is necessary to attend to him either in the office or in the staff room. When a child is bleeding freely he must be treated in the staff room, which is already overcrowded by teachers using the sink for cleaning and washing facilities. If a child required some privacy for treatment, the only place where it could be carried out would be in one of the toilet blocks.

Many children attending this school live in country areas and considerable delay sometimes occurs before parents can be contacted. The children should have a place where they can rest quietly under supervision, awaiting the arrival of their parents.

School medical inspections are carried out under difficulty. It is necessary to use either the staff room or the storeroom. Both of these are multi-purpose rooms, with many children being sent to them for equipment and supplies. Little privacy can be assured to the medical staff while carrying out their examinations. When the storeroom is being used as a medical centre, the lack of washing facilities is severely felt. Factories and other places of employment with populations much smaller than that of this school would not only have suitable medical and first-aid centres but would also have trained personnel to cope with sickness and accidents.

The need for library facilities in a school is now recognised. That a school of this size, with an enrolment of about 500 children, was planned without library facilities is a matter of great concern. That it has been allowed to operate for four years, and may continue to operate for several more years, means that one group of children will have passed through the school without having the opportunity to be taught how to use a library and its facilities. These children will be under a severe disadvantage when they go on to higher education without having learnt the techniques of research. The parents and citizens' association is anxious to have library facilities established, and has already established a fund of some \$440 to be used for library purposes when a room becomes available. A library room would help to relieve the conditions now applying to music instruction and television viewing. These activities are very restricted, as all classrooms are occupied by classes.

The provision of a lunch room has been promised in the building extensions. When these extensions appeared to be delayed, the parents and citizens' association requested that a lunch room be built under the existing wing.

A letter to that effect was written in November, 1967. Apart from acknowledgement of receipt of the letter, no reply has yet been received. The auxiliary has conducted a lunch service since the school was opened. This has been conducted from the staff room one day a week. This is at considerable inconvenience to the staff who, so far, have been willing to use the storeroom as a lunch room one day a week.

I accept the fact that demountable rooms serve a very useful purpose in establishing new schools where enrolment is uncertain, or in providing accommodation while additional permanent rooms are being built. The demountable rooms at this school have been in use for almost four years, and latest indications are that they could be in use for several more years.

The demountable rooms at this school have rather a sad history. The wall and ceiling of one room collapsed in a storm in November, 1965, and measures were taken to repair and strengthen the rooms. These rooms are close to the ground, and are therefore much hotter in summer and much colder in winter than the well-ventilated and heated permanent rooms. They contain no insulation whatsoever in their construction, and during dry summer spells the children using them are greatly troubled with dust and flies. During wet weather the ground under the buildings becomes a swamp, and, owing to the long drying-out period, the water under the rooms becomes stagnant and foul. These rooms have no electricity. Therefore, the grades using them are denied the use of many electrical aids, such as a slide projector, tape recorder, record player, etc., that are enjoyed by the other grades to supplement their instruction.

It is felt that the immediate need for Dalby South is an additional six new permanent classrooms, together with ancillary rooms for health, library and lunches, and additional toilets, so that this school can function as a school of its size should.

I hope that the Minister for Education will give earnest and favourable consideration to the matters to which I have referred.

Mr. BROMLEY (Norman) (12.49 p.m.): In my opinion, the Budget debate is the most important of all parliamentary debates. Firstly, I refer to the Treasurer's statement that this is "Queensland's march to progress" Budget. Although the Treasurer is not in the Chamber, I pose this question to him: a march to progress for whom? It certainly is not for Queenslanders as a whole. It may be as well to remember that this is Human Rights Year. In reading the Financial Statement and the Tables relating to it, I can find very few concessions for the real people of this State—the small people, the working people. They are not getting their share of human rights—and let us not forget that, as I said, this is Human Rights Year. During the last few years they have been consistently

slugged by the imposition of various taxes by the State Government, and by the Federal Government, too.

Let us make a quick analysis of some of the items in the Budget. First of all, there is no provision for equal pay in all its various phases. There is no provision for improving long service leave conditions. Workers are still subject to various penal clauses in the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. There is no provision for the establishment of standing committees on automation and redundancy in industry. There is no provision whatever for improving workers' compensation. There is no provision for standing committees on safety in industry. There is no provision for improvements in the conditions of apprentices, nor is there provision for the setting up of a consumers' protection council.

Mr. Newton: That's what you would expect from a businessman's Government.

Mr. BROMLEY: Of course it is. What I have mentioned are only a few of the things that I shall deal with. There is little increase in the grants for creches and kindergartens. Not enough money is being provided for the construction by the Queensland Housing Commission of rental homes for those requiring this type of accommodation, including those affected by resumptions under the Wilbur Smith traffic plan.

There is, of course, a substantial increase in the cost of living in this State. In fact, only yesterday it was announced that the increase in the cost of living in Queensland was higher than that of any other State.

Mr. Hanlon: And we have the lowest average income.

Mr. BROMLEY: As the hon. member for Baroona says, Queensland has the lowest average income, not only for males but for females also. Queensland is the State with the lowest wages in the Commonwealth.

One thing that pleases me is the improvement that is to be made in the police superannuation scheme. I have often said in this Chamber that, because of the state of the fund, there is room for improvement in that scheme, and I am now very happy to see that that is to be done.

In addition to the things that I have mentioned, there are other points with which I wish to deal. The "little" people continue to be adversely affected. First of all, I call on the Government to legislate for equal pay for work of equal value, as laid down by the International Labour Organisation conference and practised in many countries. In this matter, Australia is the most backward country of all.

Mr. Porter: Are you turning your back on arbitration?

Mr. BROMLEY: We must legislate for some things. I do not wish to be diverted, because there are so many things affecting the workers of this State that I wish to speak about.

No provision has been made for improving long service leave, and I propose to put before the Committee some suggestions relative to this subject. I have here a copy of the Long Service Leave Act of New South Wales. All hon. members are aware of the provisions that exist in Queensland for long service leave, and, although the New South Wales Act is not perfect, its provisions are an improvement on those contained in the Queensland Act. In my opinion, and in the opinion of the workers of Queensland, pro-rata long service leave should accrue after five years' service, as it does under the New South Wales Act, not after 10 years' service, as the Queensland Act now provides. I mention the New South Wales long service leave Act particularly, because I wrote to the Minister for Labour and Industry in that State, Honourable E. A. Willis, and he kindly sent me a copy of it, which I have studied.

The Australian Labour Party believes that long service leave is the right of every worker, whether his service has accrued with one employer or a number of employers, or in one industry or a number of industries. The Government has already enacted legislation based on some of the suggestions put forward by members of the Opposition, and I appeal to it to make provision as soon as possible for long service leave on an industry basis. It is very obvious to anyone who thinks about the question that in Queensland—and, of course, in other States—there are a number of itinerant workers and employees, especially in the building industry, who do not have the same right to long service leave as do other workers. For that reason, the Act must be changed.

An hon. member opposite interjected earlier that the Opposition wants to do away with the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, and I could speak about that at great length. However, there is an Act providing for long service leave, and it is the Government's responsibility to amend it. The problem must be considered on a very broad basis because of increasing automation and technological changes. Workers on construction jobs will not receive any of the long service leave benefits that other workers receive, and that knowledge causes physical and mental strain not only to them but also to their families. Although they work continuously for long periods, they still will not enjoy the long service leave that other workers in Queensland are enjoying under the present Act, and I again say that it should be amended.

It is true, as has been pointed out by the Australian Labour Party and the trade unions, that most tradesmen on construction jobs are employed in the building industry in only a fairly temporary capacity. Most of the jobs are completed within two or three years, and building trades employees do not get the benefit of long service leave because they have to change their jobs. They might have as many as 10 or 15

different jobs in one or two years, depending on how long the jobs last and when they cut out. In view of that, the relevant amendment to the New South Wales Act is in itself a gain, and it should be implemented in Queensland.

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

Mr. BROMLEY: Before lunch I was dealing with the improvements that are necessary to the long service leave legislation in Queensland, and I propose to put a plan before the Committee in this respect. The present Government and the employers contend that it is not possible to implement a scheme to finance long service leave in Queensland, but I feel that the plan that I shall propose is quite feasible. The worker in employment in Queensland, irrespective of his or her occupation, is covered by workers' compensation. Incidentally, the Queensland workers' compensation scheme is the worst of any of the State schemes, and I have here a conspectus of the workers' compensation payable in all States of Australia to prove that assertion.

To return to long service leave, it is compulsory for each employer, however big or small, to take out cover for workers' compensation purposes. There are 40,000 employers in Queensland, and no difficulty is found by the State Government Insurance Office in collecting premiums from those employers. The law states that they must pay, or else.

Surely it would be no difficulty for some central authority, backed up by the law, to get long service leave premiums from fewer than 2,000 building trades employers in Queensland—I dealt previously with the building industry—together with other types of employers. Many hon. members will recall the stamp-card system that was used to pay unemployment insurance before the introduction of Commonwealth unemployment benefits in 1945. I think that the hon. member for Baroona mentioned this in passing when he was speaking yesterday. Of course, everyone knows that a stamp-sheet system is widely used today for income-tax collection purposes. Administration of this system is very easy, and it is ludicrous for the Government or anybody else to argue otherwise.

As I say, the system would be applicable to all workers. Under this A.L.P. plan, as we might call it, moneys from the fund could be invested in gilt-edged securities. The interest derived therefrom would amount to a considerable sum and could be used in offsetting certain exigencies and expenses.

To prove further how this plan could be worked and operated, I contend that we could establish an organisation for long service leave, to be known as the long service leave authority. All employers—the taxation concept of "employer" would apply also in this instance—would be required to register with the long service leave authority, which would be entitled to print stamps and cards and issue them to registered

employers. The names of all employees would have to be entered on the employers' cards, and stamps to the necessary amount affixed each week or month. The card would be kept by the employer in a safe place and the long service leave authority could insure all the cards, at no cost to the worker.

Mr. Smith. It seems to be very cumbersome.

Mr. BROMLEY: It is not cumbersome at all, if the hon. member would listen. A charge would then have to be levied on the employer. The card, with the stamps affixed, would be handed to the worker on termination of his services and given by him to his next employer, who would then be responsible for their safety. At the end of 15 years or ten years, or even five years, or less, the employer would be required to give the worker the long service leave card, and he would then take it to the long service leave authority and obtain the money that was due to him.

Protection would be provided to a worker who leaves an industry because of illness or incapacity. At present, such a worker does not receive any long service leave. This is one scheme that would help to ensure that all workers are entitled to long service leave rights. Some minor and sundry problems would arise in this scheme, but they could be ironed out. An important feature of it would be the protection of a worker in the event of his employer becoming bankrupt. Some employees have come to see me about their difficulty in being granted long service leave, or payments due to them for other services, because of the financial difficulties of their employers. All these factors should be taken into consideration, but they should not present any difficulties.

I foreshadowed that I would speak about the lack of provision for the establishment of standing committees on automation. I have discussed this matter at length previously in this Chamber—last year I think I devoted about 40 minutes of my Budget speech to it—and other hon. members have also mentioned automation and technological change, and the worries associated with those developments. Of course, one of the problems associated with automation and technological change is redundancy in industry. As I have said, the Budget provides no protection to workers who become redundant in this era of change. This is a worrying feature to members of the Opposition, because at all times they have the care of the workers in their minds and are striving always to improve their conditions. Redundancy in industry is something the Government should look at. It should set up a committee to investigate this matter in all its facets.

I should like to see the establishment of a standing committee to further the interests of safety in industry. Recently I attended the Occupational Safety Convention in Rockhampton, at which many good resolutions

were passed. However, they will come to nought unless such a standing committee is set up to give consideration to the suggestions that were made by delegates attending that convention.

While I am on the subject of conventions and occupational safety, I mention bulletins that are published by the various States on this matter. I do not want to cast any aspersions on the people who are associated with the Division of Occupational Safety and the Department of Labour and Tourism, but I feel that the pamphlet that is issued by them on occupational safety fails to attract the notice of people to whom it is distributed. It contains some very good features, but I am sure that when it is delivered by post very often the people who receive it look at it, realise that it is only a pamphlet, and throw it in the rubbish bin—unless, of course, they are as conscientious as I am.

If we compare such a publication as this with those published in other States we realise that we are slipping behind in this field.

I show hon. members some of the magazines to which I refer. I have here one entitled "Safety", which was forwarded to me by the New South Wales department concerned with labour matters. It is a very interesting pamphlet and contains wonderful material. It would be of great assistance to employers and employees in the field of occupational safety.

Another publication that I have with me is "Australian Safety News". It, too, is a very good publication. It is a very thick publication containing much interesting material. Another publication that I have here is "Australian Family Safety".

Mr. Smith: That doesn't make it any good.

Mr. BROMLEY: Whether it makes it good or bad, the main thing is that these are the sort of publications that the average person will read, and from which he will gain some good. I am only making a brief comparison between the pamphlets issued in the other States and the one issued in Queensland. Surely we are entitled to make such criticism. Surely we are entitled to bring to the notice of Parliament some of these booklets which, possibly, the hon. member for Windsor, who is constantly trying to interject, has not read. Surely we are entitled to show them to the Committee. Surely we are entitled to ask for something better than our present pamphlets, for the benefit not only of those in this Chamber but of all citizens. Surely I can do that without being criticised by the hon. member for Windsor, who is interjecting only because he is not in the chair.

A Government Member: The Budget was well presented.

Mr. BROMLEY: On the outside cover only, the Budget was well presented. I have dealt with its contents to a certain extent, and I

will continue to do so to enumerate some of the matters which, in my opinion, are not so good.

The Budget contains absolutely no provision to improve the conditions of apprentices. Over the years there has been a slight improvement relative to matters that I have been pushing, such as day-time training. The hon. member for Belmont, and other hon. members, have joined with me in pushing day-time training for apprentices, but unfortunately the improvement has not gone far enough. The Opposition supports the adoption of a pool system of apprenticeship training under which all apprentices in selected industries could be indentured to the industries rather than to individual employers. That is important, because they could then get much wider experience, which would help them greatly. I recommend a complete overhaul of our apprentice training methods, in the light of today's concepts of automation, and so on.

I was happy the other day to hear the Minister for Labour and Tourism say that more apprentices are being trained. That is excellent. When considering apprentices, we must also take into account the school-leaving age. Theoretical and industrial training is now part of the school syllabus for Grades 8, 9 and 10. We should end the mediaeval terms of contract, with the attendant punishments that still apply to apprentices for minor misdemeanours that any young, spirited person could be involved in without deliberately doing anything wrong. Apprentices have no legal right to participate in any industrial dispute that could affect their livelihood, their job conditions, or their future. This is an important subject, and is one that we should discuss at greater length in this Parliament.

I mentioned earlier that one of the most important requirements in this State today is the setting up of a consumers' protection council. There is no provision for it in the Budget.

Mr. Porter: Why would it have to be in the Budget?

Mr. BROMLEY: Surely some mention of these things could be made in the Budget.

Mr. Porter: Are you anticipating that it would be a costly item?

Mr. BROMLEY: No, I am not. But some money would have to be allocated to set up a consumers' protection council. When I was in Victoria I had a look at the council there and found out how much it cost to set it up. Mr. Walsh, the Minister controlling the Department of Labour and Industry in Victoria, which now controls this council—it was previously controlled by the Attorney-General—sent me a copy of the relevant Act, together with copies of the various annual reports. Some of these reports would open

the eyes of hon. members and the people of Queensland. The functions and objectives of the council are set out as follows:—

“(a) To investigate any matter affecting the interests of consumers referred to it by the Minister;

(b) To make recommendations with respect to any matter calculated to protect the interests of consumers;

(c) To consult with manufacturers, retailers and advertisers relating to any matter affecting the interests of consumers; and

(d) At any time but at least once in every year to furnish to the Minister for submission to the Parliament a report on its activities and on any matter affecting the interests of consumers which it thinks should be brought to the notice of the Parliament.”

The objectives are equally important. They are not contained in the Act. They are set up by the consumers' protection council and the officials. There are five major objectives, namely—

“(a) To prevent objectionable sales practices;

(b) To prevent objectionable service practices;

(c) To prevent dishonest advertising;

(d) To assist consumers to know what they are buying; and

(e) To assist aggrieved consumers to obtain redress.”

I have here a copy of the latest report of the council available, and according to it, in the past 12 months 15.1 per cent. of the complaints dealt with by the council related to television and radio repairs, 8.1 per cent. to washing machine repairs, 9.9 (151 complaints) to shop sales and 15.8 per cent. (242 complaints) to home improvements and renovations.

Many organisations are endeavouring to gull members of the public into having their houses “clad”, to use the expression in this report, with a certain coating or paint, and members of the public should be warned to be careful in this regard.

Mr. P. Wood: These companies give a guarantee.

Mr. BROMLEY: They do. But the guarantee given, according to this council, is completely false in every direction. Perhaps it would be unfair if I mentioned names of these firms, although I think most of them would be well known.

Mr. Kaus: Not every company is like that.

Mr. BROMLEY: That is right, which is why I shall not name any of them. A representative of one company recently endeavoured to talk me into having my house clad with a material that I thought was very good. He selected my house because of its position on a corner and in a

good area. I do not want to mention names; all I want to do is tell the Committee some of the things that happen.

These people say, "We will do your house for this amount. We will give you a special price if you agree to have signs put up on your house and sell this cladding to other people." The most potent inducement is called "referral" selling. The householder is offered between \$25 and \$100 for every buyer whom he refers to the company. The company representative says, "If you will do this, you can have your house clad with this material and then, after you have sold so many other jobs, eventually you will not only have your house clad for nothing but you will make a profit as well."

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: Let me ask you this serious question: if you were satisfied with the product, would you be happy to recommend it?

Mr. BROMLEY: The interjector refers to "you". I take it he means me.

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: Well, anyone.

Mr. BROMLEY: I would be prepared to recommend privately, but not publicly, anything that I conscientiously thought was good. What I am saying now is that the Consumers' Protection Council has found out, through complaints by people throughout the State of Victoria, that the guarantees given by cladding firms are not what they appear to be. The report that I have with me shows that many companies, which are mentioned, have loopholes in their guarantees. For example, they specify that the guarantee does not cover damage resulting from the settling of the building, building movement, structural defects, movement of timbers, effervescence or mechanical or external causes, nor does it extend to any products used on external trim surfaces.

Mr. Miller: There is nothing left.

Mr. BROMLEY: That is right. In other words, the guarantee is not worth the paper it is printed on.

Mr. Hanlon: It is like the guarantee the Libs. gave the Country Party on preferential voting.

Mr. BROMLEY: Of course. It is not worth a tinker's damn.

In addition, these salesmen claim that the Building Research Division of C.S.I.R.O., the Commonwealth Department of Supply, the University of New South Wales and the War Service Homes Division have all recommended their product. This report states that each of these authorities denies that claim. It also said that fire insurance company spokesmen deny the claim that cladding reduces the fire risk and adds to the value of a home. Banks, too, have dissociated themselves from such claims. There are in this country financial institutions, with branches in all States, which do not give a

damn about the guarantee or the product; they are prepared to lend money to those who are talked into having this work done.

I turn now to matters that have been dealt with by other hon. members and matters that I have brought up in this Chamber on Grievance Days. First, I point out that various firms are still using £.s.d. currency instead of dollars and cents. That is happening in all States, particularly amongst motor-car firms. Secondly, I draw attention to the fact that a great many complaints have been received from people—mostly elderly people—about hearing aids that have been sold to them by door-to-door salesmen.

I appeal to the Government and to the Minister—in fact, I demand on behalf of the consumers in this State that this be done—to set up a consumer protection council to help protect people from themselves.

Mr. Porter: It is a very good approach. Unfortunately for the hon. member, I spoke about it several weeks ago. It is nice to see that he is following me.

Mr. BROMLEY: Praise from the hon. member is praise indeed. The hon. member for Toowong interjected and said that he spoke on this subject some weeks ago. I do not know whether he did; his remarks certainly did not receive any publicity. But the hon. member certainly did not say what I am going to say now in concluding my remarks on the need for a consumer protection council—

There was a young girl, just a bride,

Who sent her white dress to be dyed.

When she got it back,

Her bride's dress was black.

"But I wanted it yellow," she cried.

No matter what people order, they are not always sure of getting satisfaction.

There are many other serious matters that I could discuss, but I wish to deal now with some of the shocking agreements that are drawn up by landlords who do not give a tinker's damn about the people to whom they let their houses. I have here a copy of a tenancy agreement—I shall not read all of it—drawn up, I was told, by Blocksidge & Ferguson Ltd., a firm that has many convictions under the Act. It contains 18 clauses, virtually every one of which contravenes the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Acts, 1948 to 1961. To give the Committee some idea of what is being done to the tenants, one clause says—

"Landlord or representatives to be permitted to enter and inspect the premises and chattels let therewith once a month if so desired by . . . and to be informed when required by . . . of the full names of persons residing in premises."

In other words, the landlord may be informed by other persons.

Clause 10 is a "beauty". It says—

"It is expressly stated between the Landlord and Tenant that these premises shall

be excluded from operation of Part III of the 'Landlord and Tenant Acts of 1948-1957', and that the same shall not apply."

In other words, the poor old tenant is asked to sign a tenancy agreement that gives him no coverage. It lets the landlord completely off the hook relative to the provisions of the Act. In addition, under clause 11 no parties are to be held on the premises and there is to be no noise of any description after 11 p.m.

Clause 12 says—

"Tenant to pay on demand for professional costs and outlays incurred by the Landlord for the eviction if necessary of the tenant."

The tenant has to pay for this, that and the other thing. It is all set out.

The final clause that I want to deal with states that the tenant agrees that if he should fall into arrears he will vacate the premises on request. That is reasonable. But it then goes on to say—

"Should the tenant fail so to do, he may be removed from the premises by force, providing such force is not excessive."

Of course, some landlords do use brute force—or so I am told by some of the people who have come to me with these worries of this type.

My time is running out, but briefly I want to say that in this Financial Statement there appears to be no relief in sight for sporting clubs in the fees and taxes that they pay on "chook" raffles, in spite of the increased revenue that the Government is getting over the years from the T.A.B. bookmakers' turnover tax, and so on. The hon. member for Baroona mentioned the Government's receipts from the T.A.B., bookmakers' turnover tax, liquor licenses, stamp duty, probate duties, transport fees, etc. In spite of the size of those figures there is no relief for sporting organisations, who do a wonderful job for young people in Australia today. If I had my way, all the money collected from these sporting organisations by way of tax and licence fees for "chook" raffles and doubles would be set aside to finance a ministry of sport, which should be set up in this State. I have said this before, and I have been supported in what I said. Not only was I supported, but a plea has come from the very popular sporting editor of "The Courier-Mail", Mr. Harry Davis, who on several occasions has said the same thing.

If the money taken from these clubs in tax and fees was set aside, surely a ministry of sport could be set up. We could then train our young people properly, instead of sending them to the Olympic Games when they are only 12 or 13 years of age and burning them out, even though they are champions. We could train them to a standard so that they could go to the Olympic Games at the proper age. I congratulate those who have done so well, but I consider that our youngsters would kill the other competitors

if they were properly trained. Australia would really show the other nations how to win gold medals if we did not send our youngsters to the Olympic Games at the tender age of 12 or 13.

I have been actively connected with many sporting organisations, such as harrier clubs, and I have seen many young people burnt out through doing their absolute best, not only for their clubs, but, in the case of the Olympic Games, for their country. If a ministry of sport was set up we could do something about this.

In the short time left to me I wish to bring forward another suggestion. I am full of suggestions this afternoon, but I believe that every one of them has merit—it deserves mention and also some thought—and it behoves hon. members to take notice of them.

Mr. Aikens: Drop us a note about them.

Mr. BROMLEY: If I dropped the hon. member a note he would not be able to read it. However, I do not want to waste time on the hon. member for Townsville South, although I know he is a very capable speaker.

Mr. Aikens: And a good sport, too.

Mr. BROMLEY: I do not admit that, I believe in giving credit where credit is due. I could say some other things about him, but I do not want to do that at this stage.

I want to raise a matter that has been worrying me for a considerable time. I think you know, Mr. Dean, that I have been connected with events in the boxing sphere and have had quite a bit to do with this sport.

The Government should show more interest in professional and amateur boxing, and I appeal to it to establish a boxing commission in this State.

Mr. Aikens: You are thinking of Jack Houston's boy when you say that.

Mr. BROMLEY: I will hook you in a moment.

Last year I was in Melbourne, where I watched the "Rocky" Gattelari-Lionel Rose fight. After I saw it—incidentally it was the last fight that I watched—though it was not the last one that I participated in—I said to myself that at the first opportunity I would call in this Chamber for the establishment of a boxing commission. In that fight Gattelari suffered concussion, multiple bruises, a cut eye, and goodness knows what after-effects. I saw him again not long ago, and I can tell hon. members that his appearance worried me considerably.

Mr. P. Wood: Don't you think that boxing should be banned altogether?

Mr. BROMLEY: No, I do not think that boxing should be banned; it is a type of sport. I suggest something better than a complete ban on boxing; I suggest the establishment of a boxing commission.

I will tell hon. members how I think such a commission should work. I commenced this part of my speech by saying that just as many trainers as boxers are associated with the sport. I know that in the professional sphere, boxers are supposed to be examined by a Government or private doctor prior to engaging in a fight, but this rule does not apply to amateur boxers. Some overseas countries have boxing commissioners who have a responsible job to do. In Queensland, such a commission could be responsible for the qualification of trainers—and it is doubtful whether all trainers are qualified; it could ensure that all trainers and fighters are licensed and registered; it could ensure that boxers are not exploited, as some are, sometimes by trainers, but mainly by other people associated with the sport; it could ensure that fighters get a better deal all round; and, in addition, it could ensure that boxers are regularly examined by a team of Government medical practitioners. This aspect is very important, because, as the hon. member for Toowoomba East has implied, at times there is some brutality in boxing. If boxers were examined regularly they would be protected to a great extent from possible injuries that could affect a boxer not only on the day after a fight but also in his future life.

In my opinion, a medical examination of a fighter on the night of a bout is not sufficient. At the Festival Hall I have seen young fighters examined by a doctor before a fight, and I have seen them injured during the fight. Later on I have learned that, perhaps earlier in the week, a fighter has suffered an injury not associated at all with the fight. The medical examination on that night was only a brief one.

I know that there is a boxers and trainers' association. I have had dealings with it, and I receive copies of its magazine. However, I do not think that the association can operate completely in the interests of boxers, but it does its best. At present there is nothing at all to prevent a boxer from fighting every night. If a commission was set up it could make the trainer do the right thing and prevent him from letting any of his boxers fight every night. The commission could operate in a similar way to the Queensland Turf Club. If a trainer or a boxer was suspended in this State, that would automatically mean that his licence could be cancelled or that the boxer could be disqualified from fighting in other States. We have to think about the protection of the fighters.

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: Do you believe in a three-month lay-off after a knock-out?

Mr. BROMLEY: Yes. I have been trying to get round to this, but unfortunately my time is running out. If I got an extension of time I could deal with this subject in detail. I am greatly concerned about this, and I know that the hon. member for Chatsworth is, too.

Mr. Houston: You will go the full 15 rounds.

Mr. BROMLEY: Yes. I have been in 15 rounds before today.

I do not not know how many deaths have occurred in amateur and professional boxing but to my knowledge there have been some. It would be very interesting to know whether some of the shocking happenings in the boxing game have resulted in an early death for the boxer concerned. That is why I say that a boxing commission would have so much to do. It could determine if there was an early deterioration in a boxer's physical and mental condition—I think that answers the hon. member for Chatsworth—and it could study a boy and do everything necessary for his welfare.

I know that a boxer in the higher income bracket can apply for a term of five years in which to pay off his income tax, but a professional boxer's earning life is very short. If he is a champion, like Lionel Rose, his income is very high, but he may be burnt out early, as I pointed out in relation to our young athletes. Their peak of efficiency lasts for such a short time that I believe that their income should be spread over a certain number of years. For taxation purposes each year of a boxer's earnings in his fighting career could be spread over a period of three years, or five years. If a boxer fights in the top bracket for four years, and makes a lot of money, his tax could be assessed over a period of 12 years, or even 20 years.

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: You are suggesting a type of averaging provision such as primary producers enjoy?

Mr. BROMLEY: That is right, but I suggest a longer period than that which applies to primary producers, because sooner or later a boxer has to get out of the game. If he is not knocked out of it he has to get out of it. We should do something to assist boxers. Not only do they entertain people but they also represent Australia, both here and overseas. I should like more time to deal with the suggestion that a boxing commission should be established, because it is a very important matter. However, there are other very important matters relating to the Budget with which I wish to deal before my time expires.

I say in all sincerity that, whilst a slight increase for the Creche and Kindergarten Association is referred to in the Budget, I honestly do not think it is sufficient. The association has a great deal of responsibility in raising money. Even with the increase of \$250 a year referred to in the Budget, Queensland is still the worst-off State in Australia in per-capita expenditure on pre-school education.

I intend to deal with what happens overseas, and I have here some figures relating to facilities for pre-school training in various other countries. I have read that in Scotland pre-school facilities are made available free

of cost to all children. This is an important subject, because pre-school training is vital in the lives of our young people. Grave concern is being expressed throughout Queensland by people who are worried about the future of the Creche and Kindergarten Association. I suppose that most hon. members are married and have children, and some of them are young enough to have children of pre-school age. They should be worrying about these things and urging that something be done. Even with the increase announced in this Budget, the subsidy in this State is still the second lowest in Australia.

I shall not quote the figures that I have extracted from the Budget on this subject, but one of my worries concerns the Government's building grant of \$500. It is given only on the condition that this is matched by a similar grant of \$500 by the local council. No strings should attach to such a grant, because this schooling is part of the youngster's upbringing. Only 6,000 pre-school children in the three-to-five-year age group out of a State's pre-school population of approximately 95,000 are enrolled. Those are startling figures when they are considered, and they should give these responsible organisations food for thought.

Governments, both State and Federal, are spending millions of dollars on unnecessary projects, such as Vietnam, which I mention in passing, and the F.111. The F.111 is an important project, but millions of dollars have been spent, and perhaps wasted, on it. In addition, there is the money spent on mental illness—and money should be spent on it, of course—delinquency and backwardness in children, and on education. If no money is made available to guide pre-school children, what will happen when they grow up? The children in the pre-school age group are going through two of their most formative years. The A.L.P. has a policy to provide, for pre-school children, all the necessary facilities such as creche and kindergartens and pre-school education. This policy was enunciated at our last convention and we intend to carry it out, because it is simple to do.

I think this is of great importance. I repeat that only 6,000 out of a total of 95,000 in the three-to-five-year age group are concerned. It is tremendously important that we provide more and more facilities, buildings and teachers to ensure that these young people get a fair deal, that their parents are assisted in all aspects of pre-school education and, most important, that the training they receive in the formative years of their lives will be such that the prevalence of this so-called delinquency will be lessened. And I believe it will be. I do not believe that our young people are bad. I have found that all young people with whom I have come into contact in our high schools are well behaved.

I wish to refer briefly to life-savers. I have relatives, including a son-in-law and nephews, who are life-savers. These young men are not

getting the assistance they deserve, and I appeal to the Government to give them greater help. I have already asked some questions in the House on this subject, and I hope that some notice will be taken of this latest plea.

(Time expired.)

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (3.4 p.m.): This is an unrestricted debate. As this is the last sitting of this Parliament before the 1969 State election, I think that it devolves upon me, as a free-thinking individual, to give the people of Queensland some idea of the relative merits of the two major parties that will be contesting that election. I propose to deal, first of all, with the Australian Labour Party and its image in the eyes of the public. I say quite frankly and without equivocation that I doubt if the A.L.P. has ever had a worse public image in Queensland than it has at present. It is scraping the bottom of the barrel—

Mr. Newton interjected.

Mr. AIKENS: In view of the fact that the hon. member has always bitterly and vehemently attacked men whom he calls "subbies", he might explain why he, as a member of the Queensland Central Executive of the Australian Labour Party, endorsed a "subbie" to run against me at the next State election.

I proceed with my speech and say that the Labour Party is scraping the bottom of the barrel to get candidates for the election, and I want to deal briefly with some of those in my area. In the Burdekin electorate, which adjoins the electorate of Townsville South, the A.L.P. have actually nominated a fellow who lives in Brisbane and works at the University of Queensland. In order not to besmirch further the image of the Labour Party in the minds of the people, I understand that this fellow has had a haircut and a shave.

In the Flinders electorate, there is, of course, our friend Mr. Lloyd, from Mitchell River. I am not going to deal with him at any great length because we have already done that, but, in order to expose the sham and hypocrisy of the Labour Party in these matters, I want to clear up one point that was made by the hon. member for Tablelands when he stood up here and paraded Mr. Lloyd as the paragon of all virtues who worked at the Mitchell River Aboriginal Community as a teacher and laboured night and day, working his fingers to the bone for the princely sum of \$2 a day. That may be so. But what the hon. member for Tablelands did not say was that Mr. Lloyd also received free board and lodging for himself, his wife and all his children, which even at a country hotel, would amount to well over \$40 a week.

In the electorate of Townsville South the A.L.P. could not initially get anyone at all to run against me. Finally, they were contemplating bringing up that lecturer Wertheim from the Queensland University, the

fellow who took part in the unlawful demonstration in Roma Street and was imprisoned for three days in Boggo Road Gaol and received payment as a university lecturer for the time that he was there. He, I understand, would not agree to have a haircut and a shave, so the Labour Party "scrubbed" him and got a chap named Moon.

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: Did you say they "scrubbed" him?

Mr. AIKENS: They did not scrub him physically; I was speaking metaphorically.

Mr. Porter: Wasn't he the one who wrote the report on homosexuality?

Mr. AIKENS: I do not know whether he is a homosexual. If he is, I would not be surprised at his being a member of the A.L.P. We have a couple of them in Townsville. If he is one—and I do not know whether he is—that would not be peculiar to Wertheim.

The A.L.P. then got this fellow named Moon. I am not going to say anything about him personally. He came from Victoria, and he has not been long enough in the electorate to get his name on the 1968 electoral roll. So far as I am concerned, he may be a complete stranger, and he may be ready to "take a powder" back to Victoria after the election.

But what shocked the people of North Queensland more than anything else was the political skulduggery carried on by a couple of men at the Trades Hall—when they got a political fugitive from New South Wales named Newbury and shot him in and endorsed him as the Labour candidate for the Federal seat of Kennedy, in the belief that there was going to be a rushed Federal election.

I should like to tell the Committee something about this Mr. Newbury, because I think the people of North Queensland should know it. He came up here with a big splash. I am going to discount completely the story going round the corridors of this House that he paid \$10,000 to a certain person at the Trades Hall to receive the endorsement, and that there is a big argument—almost a fist fight—now going on over what should happen to the money. I am not going to deal with that, but he paraded the fact that he was going to North Queensland to take over a pastoral property, to become a genuine North Queensland, to engage in the production of beef, wool or something else, and add to the wealth of the State.

I shall tell the full story. Mr. Newbury, who owns or has a controlling interest in Arn Pty. Ltd., let it be known that he was going to buy the Yarrum pastoral holding, in the Gulf. What he did not tell the people was that he knew that the people who owned that pastoral holding had entered into a contract to sell to Granville Developments Pty. Ltd. I should

have said that Granville Developments Pty. Ltd. hold Yarrum now. They had agreed to sell to the Gulf Pastoral Company Pty. Ltd., and this is the property that Mr. Newbury, the political fugitive from New South Wales, said he was going to take over.

So the position has been reached now when, in order to try to justify himself, or, rather, to give himself a back way out, Mr. Newbury is writing articles to western newspapers, particularly the Mt. Isa "Mail", telling the people that the Government has frozen the land that he proposed to lease and develop. That is a plain, unvarnished untruth. I cannot say "lie", Mr. Carey, if I am to conform to parliamentary procedure. The real reason why he has not taken over the Yarrum pastoral holding is that he has taken out a writ against Granville Developments Pty. Ltd., and the matter is now before the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

If anybody wants to read about what is perhaps the most putrid piece of legal skulduggery in the pastoral world—and, goodness knows, we see a lot of it there—I invite him to read a document that I have here. It was given to me by a legal friend of mine, and it reveals all the putrid circumstances surrounding the desire of this A.L.P. candidate, Mr. Newbury, to take over Yarrum pastoral holding.

Naturally, the Department of Lands in Queensland has advised Mr. Newbury that it will not make any declaration on whether the lease will be transferred from Granville Developments Pty. Ltd., either to Gulf Pastoral Co. Pty. Ltd. or to Arn Pty. Ltd., until the case that Newbury has against Granville Developments Pty. Ltd. is settled in the Supreme Court of New South Wales. I think that is a very sensible attitude on the part of the Minister for Lands, although I am sure he does not know that I have this legal information on the matter.

That is the type of man that the Labour Party is getting from scraping the bottom of the barrel when it goes looking for candidates for the coming election.

Mr. Newton: You will have to move a vote of thanks to the Liberal Party for not putting up a candidate against you.

Mr. AIKENS: If my time does not run out I shall deal with the Liberal Party, let there be no mistake about that. Unlike the hon. member for Belmont and some of his fellow helots, I am not afraid of anybody. What is more, I do not have to ring up Mr. Egerton, Mr. Townsend, or someone else at the Trades Hall, and say, "Please sir, may I say this?" or, "May I say that?"; or, "May I vote this way?" or, "May I vote that way?" I am completely free and untrammelled and, what is more, I have the courage of my convictions.

When the Labour Party goes to the people at the next State election, I challenge it—
—I will continue to challenge it between now

and polling day—to go to the people on the real issues that confront them. The Labour Party has become known as a party of cant, humbug and hypocrisy; and perhaps its greatest act of hypocrisy—it is not fooling the people—is the slogan that it is chanting and that is being echoed by Mr. Whitlam and paraded by the Leader of the Labour Party in this State. The Trades Hall boys and the “Moscow mob” have banged the drum on the “one-vote, one value” issue. But will they go out and tell the people of North Queensland what that really means?

I will tell them—I am going to begin by telling them now—that in the beloved Brisbane of the Labour Party there is an area of 385 square miles, all told, in which there are 28 metropolitan seats, 15 of which have an area of less than five square miles each. In the whole of the metropolitan area of Brisbane, the 28 seats average only 13.7 square miles each. The eight provincial cities contain 12 electorates, the total area is 316 square miles, and the electorates average 26.3 square miles each. On the other hand, the 38 country seats average 17,534 square miles each. In Gregory alone there is an area of 159,000 square miles, which is larger than the State of Victoria and five times the area of Scotland.

The hon. member for Flinders has 61,730 square miles to look after. In my own electorate, which has an area of 51 square miles, there are 17,000 electors. Surely no-one would compare the work done by the hon. member for Gregory or the hon. member for Flinders with the work that I do in my electorate. Although I give my electorate 24 hours' service, seven days a week, no-one could compare the work I have to do with the work that is done by the hon. member for Gregory and the hon. member for Flinders.

Mr. Houston: We asked for a redistribution.

Mr. AIKENS: I know all the backing and filling that goes on. Hon. members of the Opposition cannot “kid” the people. The A.L.P. wants to combine Gregory and Flinders, and thus have one electorate with an area of 220,000—nearly a quarter of a million—square miles and give it to one member. Even then, that huge area of western and north-western Queensland will still have only 15,000 electors, which is fewer than I have in mine. Could anyone possibly compare for one brief moment the relatively easy work that I do in my electorate not only with the tremendously impossible job that the hon. member for Gregory and the hon. member for Flinders have now, but with the absolutely impossible job they would have if one of them had to look after a quarter of a million square miles?

Mr. Wallis-Smith: Have you the phone on to your house?

Mr. AIKENS: I have not got a phone. I do not have to have one. I have been a member of this Parliament for 25 years, and if I thought for one split second that a phone in my home would improve the service I give the people, I would have one.

Mr. Wallis-Smith: You don't want it.

Mr. AIKENS: We will let the electors of Townsville South be the judge of that at the next election. As a matter of fact, that is the catchery that the Labour Party demonstrators used to put to me when I was on the platform in the old days. Another of their practices was for the half-drunken A.L.P. members who used to come along—and some of them bore a striking facial resemblance to the hon. member for Tablelands—to squeal out at the top of their voices, “What about your illegitimate children?” I used to say, “How many have I got this election?” When all is said and done, these little cheap, smart cracks have been put to the people of Townsville South, and formerly Mundingburra, for 25 years, and they have treated them with the contempt they deserve.

Mr. Wallis-Smith: You put it to the Government this morning as a question.

Mr. AIKENS: What?

Mr. Wallis-Smith: You asked for facilities in your area so that people didn't have to go to Stokes Street, yet you won't put a phone in your home.

Mr. AIKENS: Is the hon. member sure that he injured only his neck the other day, that he did not injure his head? I really think that if he has a brain in that cranium of his, it has been affected.

I now want to give hon. members some idea of the relative value of northern Queensland compared to this south-eastern corner of the State which is so beloved of members of the Labour Party. A comment on the most recent report of the Bureau of Census and Statistics for 1966-67, had this astonishing thing to say—

“The value of production for a worker in North Queensland was more than \$1,200 higher than in any other part of the State, according to figures released recently by the Bureau of Census and Statistics for the year 1967.”

If we take a map of Queensland and draw a line from the mouth of the Pioneer River, at Mackay, straight across to the Northern Territory border, up through the Gulf of Carpentaria, around Cape York almost to the boundary of New Guinea, and bring it down again to the mouth of the Pioneer River, we will embrace within that line nearly one-third of the area of Queensland, and yet that area, according to the Bureau of Census and Statistics, produces three-fifths of the wealth of this State, and most of it is valuable export wealth. In the whole of that tremendous area, even at the present time, there are only 13 Parliamentary seats,

five of them held by the A.L.P. and the other eight by members of other parties. After the next election the A.L.P. will be very fortunate to hold three of them. They are certain to lose Tablelands and Townsville North.

Mr. Porter: You cannot be serious in those figures.

Mr. AIKENS: Bunk!

Mr. Porter: You leave out the value of tertiary industry.

Mr. AIKENS: The hon. member for Toowong should argue with the Bureau of Census and Statistics, not with me. I merely took the figures out of the official record. I know that the hon. member for Toowong, being one of the very subdued "ginger group"—they are remarkably subdued of late—is in the same corner as the A.L.P.; he stands for one vote, one value. In that stand, he and the hon. member for Bulimba are blood brothers, and the arguments that I am going to use against the A.L.P. could and should apply with equal force to the hon. member for Toowong.

The A.L.P. proposes by its policy of "one vote, one value" to reduce the 13 North Queensland seats, in which is produced a tremendous amount of wealth and in which the workers produce \$1,200 worth per annum more than workers in other parts of the State, to nine seats, and the four seats that it wants to cut out of North Queensland will be created in its beloved Brisbane, which will then have a total of 32 seats. That is the sort of thing that I will tell the people of North Queensland. I have already told it to them in the columns of the Press and over television. When I tell them on the radio, we will not be able to see some members of the A.L.P. for dust. Even now, since the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia, we cannot see them. Have hon. members noticed how the prominent pro-Communists or, shall we say, the useful idiots of the Communist Party within the Labour Party have fallen into a sudden silence since the Communist invasion of Czechoslovakia? Prior to the invasion they were marching down the streets of Brisbane, side-by-side with dedicated and prominent Communists and all the rat-bags at the university. But now they have all gone up into the nearest funk-hole. As a matter of fact, the other day I saw a prominent political member of the A.L.P. pulling another bloke out of a funk-hole so that he could get into it himself and hide from the wrath of the people.

I shall tell the people in North Queensland, in plain, unvarnished, untrammelled terms, that it is the belief of the A.L.P.—and this cannot be denied—that all the "hippies", female impersonators, homosexuals, and all the queer characters who congregate in their hundreds and thousands in Brisbane and on the South Coast, are equal to if not better than the useful and decent people of North Queensland. The

A.L.P. cannot get away from that. It believes in numbers alone. Recently one of these peculiar creatures was married in the Registrar-General's Office in his "love-in" suit, his floral suit, and what-have-you. According to the Leader of the Opposition, he is just as good as any grazier, miner, shearer, cane-cutter, railway worker, meat-worker or wharfie in North Queensland.

Mr. Porter: So he is.

Mr. AIKENS: They are the type of people who count, according to the A.L.P. That party and the hon. member for Toowong believe that only numbers count; the value of the people does not count at all.

Mr. Porter: What do you propose?

Mr. AIKENS: I propose that the boundaries of each electorate should be assessed and marked on the value of the wealth produced within that electorate and on the calibre of the people within it. If electoral boundaries are set up on that basis then one North Queensland elector will be equivalent to at least four electors in Brisbane. I stand on that, and I advocate that principle.

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: On that basis, you would disfranchise solicitors, barristers, doctors and judges.

Mr. AIKENS: No.

Mr. Porter: I think you are an electoral "hippie". It is a very "way-out" idea.

Mr. AIKENS: I think the hon. member for Toowong is an electoral dill, so to that extent he and I are on equal ground.

I challenge the Australian Labour Party to go out and tell the people of North Queensland, without any backing and filling, that the "hippies", the female impersonators, the "queers" down at the fig tree at Eagle Street, the queer characters who congregate at the South Coast, and all the peculiar characters who can be found in the posh lounges of hotels around Brisbane, are as good as the decent, hard-working, useful people in North Queensland. I challenge the A.L.P. to have the guts to go out and tell the people that.

Mr. Porter: Why not take it a step further and do as Hitler did—not only disfranchise them but also eliminate them? Is that the thought?

Mr. AIKENS: If I were a Hitler, if I were a local dictator, one of the first people I would consider eliminating would be the hon. member for Toowong. Although I hold the hon. member in high regard as a citizen and a man, I do not know of any man who holds queerer political ideas and philosophies than he does. I am astonished that he even has the temerity to interject, because I feel sure that the president of the Law Society is waiting to "do him over". He was only three votes behind the hon. member at the last preselection ballot. For about a

fortnight after that we did not have to use our eyes or ears to find out where the hon. member for Toowong was; we only had to use our noses.

I have no objection to members of the Labour Party doing what they do, because, the political game being what it is, we can expect virtually anything. However, a speech was made in the Chamber the other day by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for Townsville North—probably it was his political swan-song—in which he criticised the Government for doing nothing to establish secondary industries in North Queensland. I do not believe that the Government is doing all that it could or should do to establish industries in North Queensland, but the worst bit of sheer impertinence and hide that I have ever read was a member of the Labour Party criticising the Government for its failure to push ahead with industries in North Queensland. The party of which he is a member did absolutely nothing in this direction. This Government is at least doing something, even if only to salve its own guilty conscience. When the Labour Party was in power Brisbane got all the cake. We in North Queensland were lucky to get a few crumbs that were brushed off the table. Under this Government we are at least getting a slice of the cake. I do not believe it is a big enough slice, but at least it is a slice.

In Townsville, this Government is at present establishing a big industrial complex at the Bohle, something that I have been advocating over the last 20 years. It has been a little belated in providing it, but at least it is there. One industry has established itself there and I hope that before long, there will be many more. I can understand the hon. member for Townsville North saying that no industries have been established in Townsville. He is not notorious for getting around his electorate. Probably he does what the hon. member for Tablelands suggests I should do, namely, sit at home and wait for the phone to ring. Anyone who goes into the Stuart, Aitkenvale and Garbutt areas of Townsville and sees the industries established there in the last 10 years and contrasts them with the vacant allotments and huge bare expanses of ground that were there 12 years ago has a fair amount of hide and nerve to criticise this Government for doing nothing. However, I do not believe the Government has done all it could or should do. That is probably because of the pressure from the politicians who live in Brisbane and within a radius of 100 miles of it. I understand that within a radius of 150 miles of Brisbane there are already 50 members of Parliament. Under the Labour Party there would be about 56 members of Parliament, out of 78, within a radius of 150 miles of Brisbane.

Turning to the burning question of education—and I again say that I am not completely happy with all that the Government is doing—after comparing the position today with the deplorable state of the Department

of Education and the deplorable lack of schools and school facilities 12 years ago when the Government came to power, anyone who says that nothing has been done is completely blind and, unfortunately, completely bigoted and biased.

I mentioned the other day in Townsville, at a State high school gathering, that in 1957, when this Government came to power, Townsville had one paltry combined high school and technical college. It did not even have a separate high school. Today, Townsville has a separate technical college, which has been vastly improved, modernised and extended, and three separate high schools. In addition, about four or five additional primary schools have been established. Anyone who is quite fair about it only has to cast his mind back 12 years and think of the condition of the schools in those days.

Mr. Row: Don't forget the university.

Mr. AIKENS: Yes, we have the university college and the teachers' college. I was talking only about primary and secondary schools.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr. AIKENS: Keep out of this. The youngsters should keep out of it and let the old fellows deal with it. I am quite able to deal with it, because I know what I am talking about when I am speaking of Townsville.

Formerly we did not have one primary school in the Townsville area with a square foot of concrete underneath it, nor did we have one school with a parade ground. We did not have one school with a health room, a staff room, or a social amenities room. None of those things were there.

I remember when I got the Aitkenvale school in my electorate in, I think, 1950. I had to bow my head to get underneath the school, because there was not enough headroom for me. There was dirty gravel and dust underneath. I said, "Haven't you got underneath the school concreted?" I was told, "Oh, no, they don't concrete under schools". But every school today is concreted underneath. Not only that, but there is sufficient headroom. Schools are being raised from the old 5 feet 6 inches headroom of the Labour Party to 6 feet 6 inches and 7 feet 6 inches today on concrete blocks.

The people generally are saying, as I am saying now, in all honesty and fairness, that although this Government has not done all it could and should have done in the provision of schools and all the things that the schools really need, it certainly has wrought a vast improvement on the shocking conditions that existed in the schools when it took office.

At the recent Townsville State High School speech night I told the audience how the late Jack Pizzey and Tom Hiley entered into what they termed was a smart little bit of Levantine trading to make the money

available to reclaim the fetid, festering mangrove swamp in the heart of Townsville known as Monkey Island on which to build the present big Townsville State High School.

These Labour Party members are the people who think they can fool the public. The trouble is that they attend only their own political and trade union meetings and talk only to their own little groups. Some of them went to Cardwell the other day. The hon. member for Tablelands was there and, of course, I had a mate there. I make sure that I have a friend at all of these meetings. He told me, "You never saw such a collection of 'nongs' in all your life". They sent a chap up from here.

Mr. WALLIS-SMITH: I rise to a point of order. The statement of the hon. member for Townsville South is entirely untrue. I have never been in Cardwell in my life.

Mr. Sherrington: He is a rotten liar.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Carey): Order! The hon. member for Townsville South heard the statement of the hon. member for Tablelands, and I am sure that he will agree with it.

Mr. AIKENS: I will accept it. The meeting to which I refer was convened by a chap from Brisbane for all Labour members and all Labour candidates in the coming State election. I know that the hon. member for Cairns was there and I assumed, quite incorrectly it seems, that the hon. member for Tablelands also was there. I know, of course, that he dodges his job. That is one meeting that he should have been at if he is a loyal member of the A.L.P., because everybody else was there. I am happy to know that he was not. He dodged it, just as he dodges a good deal of the work that he should do.

This chap told me, "You have never heard such dither and blither in all your life". They arranged this meeting at Cardwell, just among themselves. Cardwell is a nice little isolated place on the North Queensland coast. There they met, 25 or 30 of them, in silent and solemn conclave to work out how they would fool the people at the next State election and how they would sweep the poll. They have not the simple intelligence to realise that the people who decide elections are not dedicated supporters of the Labour Party, the Liberal Party, or the Country Party, or take a vital interest in elections at all. They are what we call the great unattached body of the people who sit at home quietly and go about their own business quietly. They may even talk a little bit of politics. Sometimes they have to be reminded that an election is to be held.

The trouble with members of the Labour Party—and this is the tragedy—is that they think that these people are complete, abysmal fools who will fall for any line of propaganda and malarky that the Labour propagandists care to put up. That is what happened at Cardwell. Although the hon.

member for Tablelands was not there, I assume—I hope that I am not being unduly presumptuous in assuming this—that he got a report of what went on at the meeting. The 25 or 30 of them at Cardwell arranged, almost in secret, how they would win the next State election in North Queensland.

The people of Queensland also realise that if the Labour Party is returned to power and becomes the Government after the next State elections, the hon. member for Bulimba will not be the Premier. He will hold the titular position all right and will be the "front" man, but he will be purely and simply the facade for Egerton and his boys at the Brisbane Trades Hall. The "Moscow mob" will be completely in the saddle. I say to hon. members, "If you want to know what the people think of the 'Moscow mob', go out into the highways and byways. Get your great big cushiony, capacious bottoms off the seats of your motor-cars and walk around among the people. Stand on the street corners, go to various sporting fixtures and functions, and talk to the people and ask them what they think of the Labour Party today. They will say quite frankly that they will not have the Labour Party on whilst it is controlled by the 'Moscow mob' and whilst the useful idiots of the Communist Party, most of them at the Trades Hall, are in complete control."

If anyone wants to know how these people are in control and to what extent, he has only to remember, as appeared in this morning's "Courier-Mail", that the A.L.P. aldermen of the Brisbane City Council went along weakly and humbly to the Q.C.E. of the A.L.P.—to Egerton, Townsend, and the rest of them—and said, "Please, sirs, can we accept a rise in our aldermanic salaries, and, if so, sirs, how much can we accept?" The Q.C.E. of the A.L.P. graciously granted permission, I understand, for them to accept about \$12.65, or something like that, a week, with a little extra for each of the chairmen of the various committees.

Members of the A.L.P. are not kidding anybody. They may be kidding themselves but they are not kidding anybody else. The people realise that a Labour politician today, whether he be in State Parliament, the Federal Parliament, or the municipal field, is purely and simply a yo-yo dancing at the end of a string held by Jack Egerton and the boys at the Trades Hall. The people know the Labour Party today for a party of cant, humbug and hypocrisy.

An example of that was given yesterday by the hon. member for South Brisbane, whose frankness at times alarms members of his own party. He gave an example of the hypocrisy that is the hallmark of the Labour Party today. Of all people, the hon. member for South Brisbane, who admitted to me, as recorded in "Hansard", after an interjection that I made that he earns—or, I should say, receives—more than \$19,000 a year from his practice as a barrister in addition to his parliamentary salary, had the

temerity, in keeping with the philosophy of the A.L.P. today, to stand up here and criticise a university lecturer for doing just what the hon. member himself is doing. The hon. member criticised him for taking a salary as a university lecturer and, at the same time, picking up a paltry few hundred dollars through practising as a barrister at the Bar.

I condemn them both. I may be wrong—I frequently am—but at least I am consistent and honest, which is why the people have placed their trust in me and will continue to do so. I say that any man who accepts a salary for a position should confine his activities to that position. Yet the Labour Party condones the action of a member of this Parliament in taking his salary and allowances as a member of Parliament and earning over \$19,000 more a year at the Bar, whilst paying only fleeting visits to this Chamber. Although I am not going to be very harsh with the hon. member for South Brisbane in his absence, I think I can say that he is either a parliamentary transient or a parliamentary nomad, because he is here only when it suits his convenience.

I condemn both the hon. member and the university lecturer for not adopting the policy and principle of "one man, one job", and not devoting their time and energy to earning the salaries that they are paid respectively as a member of Parliament and a university lecturer. But one attacking the other is not only a case of the pot calling the kettle black but also one of Satan reproving sin.

I think I know my standing with the people of Townsville, and I am not going to ask for justification from anyone here. Time always justifies and vindicates me. I should just like to point out that North Queensland was the fountain-head of the Labour Party; it was its citadel for many years. As I said earlier, of the 13 genuine North Queensland seats today, only five are held by the Labour Party, and two, and probably one more, will be lost by it at the next State election. Only the hon. members for Burke and Cairns can claim that they are sure to be returned at the next election. Townsville itself was the real citadel of the Labour Party in North Queensland, and if anyone had said 15 years ago that the time would come when Tories would hold the seats of Flinders, Gregory, Mundingburra, as it then was, and Kennedy, he would have been grabbed and sent to Goodna, and he would have deserved it. It looked as if no Tory would ever hold any of those seats.

Mr. Row: What about Hinchinbrook?

Mr. AIKENS: That was a borderline seat, although I am not taking away any credit from the hon. gentleman.

In Townsville last year, with memories of Tom Foley, Jack Dash, Mossie Hynes, George Martens, and all the other Labour men who represented Townsville in the State and Federal spheres down through the years, at the municipal election 25,000 valid votes were

cast, of which 10 A.L.P. candidates polled an average of 300 votes each. So that 22,000 people in Townsville out of 25,000 would not touch the A.L.P. candidates with a 40-foot pole, and, as I said, Townsville was once the hub—the citadel—of the Labour Party in North Queensland.

I wish I could go further, but I have to leave now, get a car, and catch a plane back to my beloved Northland. If hon. members will bear with me till a later debate, I will, having dealt with the Labour Party and its prospects, which are absolutely nil, of becoming the Government at the next election, deal with the prospects of the Liberal and Country Parties.

Mr. Houston: We will get a candidate to stand against you.

Mr. AIKENS: I have no doubt that you will get some "soppy" or queer cove. The A.L.P. will get some sort of candidate. I can remember the time when it was considered an honour or a privilege to be the A.L.P. candidate at a State or Federal election, when one had to have some local or trade-union background. Today, anyone—and that means what I intend to imply—if he has the money, the influence, and the right Commo. approach, can become the Labour Party candidate.

Mr. MILLER (Ithaca) (3.42 p.m.): I join with other hon. members on this side of the Chamber in congratulating the Treasurer for bringing down one of the best Budgets that have ever been produced in this Assembly. I believe that the Opposition also has taken the opportunity of congratulating the Treasurer in a back-handed sort of way by claiming that he must have put aside finance during the past two years to make the present Budget the winner that it is.

Hon. members have heard many times the saying that this or that will "drive you to drink".

Mr. Houston: What happened yesterday? You all went for water.

Mr. MILLER: I believe that this Budget has driven many members of the Opposition to worse than that.

Mr. Houston: Was it the Cabinet Ministers who ran away?

Mr. MILLER: I was there till the end.

Mr. Houston: How many proxies did you have?

Mr. MILLER: I had no proxies.

During this debate, the hon. member for Belmont attacked the work that is being done by the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs in the Torres Strait Islands. When I queried that, he invited me to put forward my point of view when I took part in the debate, and I take this opportunity to do that.

Mr. Houston: You do not agree with the hon. member for Belmont at all?

Mr. MILLER: I agree with many things that the hon. member for Belmont said, but I am afraid that I do not agree with anything that he said relative to the Torres Strait Islands.

First of all, the hon. member for Belmont attacked the housing scheme that is being implemented on the Torres Strait Islands. I do not wish to bore the Committee by going through the list that I have of houses of the new type and houses of the old type on each of these islands; but I hope that the figures can be incorporated in "Hansard" because they show beyond all doubt—

Mr. Houston: Read them out.

Mr. MILLER: Does the hon. member want them read out?

Mr. Houston: Yes.

Mr. MILLER: Very well. The figures that I give first will relate to the houses of the newer type; those that I give second to the older type. The figures are—

Island	New Homes	Old Homes
Badu	41	25
Mabuiag	27	10
Yorke	20	10
Darnley	20	12
Stephen	7	2
Bamaga	167	-
Boigu	7	33
Saibai	7	26
Dauan	5	8
Coconut	8	14
Yam	24	16
Murray	24	66
Warraber	4	10
Kubin	9	6

Mr. Houston: What do you mean by new?

Mr. MILLER: The new type of fibro homes that are being built by the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs.

Mr. Houston: When did they start to build those?

Mr. MILLER: They started approximately in the early 1950's. I point out to the Committee that the gunyahs to which the hon. member referred were built in the 1940's and the early 1950's.

Mr. Newton: By whom?

Mr. MILLER: By the Islanders themselves and the homes they built were a credit to them. I wish to place on record that on these islands there are 370 of the newer type of home and 236 of the older type. I hope we will never get to the stage when any Government will force any Islander to live in a home that he does not want.

The islands of Murray and Warraber are inhabited by persons in the older group. I think the hon. member will agree with me that the younger people have left these particular islands and have come to Queensland

and Western Australia to find work on the railways. The older people do not want the new type of home, and surely it is not for us to demand that they move into a newer type of home.

Mr. Newton: Who said they did not want the new type of home?

Mr. MILLER: They did.

Mr. Newton: They did not say it to me.

Mr. MILLER: The hon. member also referred to the water supply on these islands. I agree with him that water is a scarce commodity up there. However, I point out that the councillors are in charge of the water on these islands just as the Brisbane City Council is in charge of the water supply for Brisbane and, if the councillors suggest that they have to ration this water, surely it is up to the Islanders to accept their decision.

Mr. Newton: Don't you think it is up to the Government to see that there is a proper supply there?

Mr. MILLER: If the hon. member for Belmont is serious and wants to talk about the water supply, he should have looked at the situation at Bamaga. On Bamaga the Government is building 9½ miles of 12-inch pipeline and this scheme, I believe, is a credit to it. It is doing this work at Bamaga because there it is possible and feasible, but there is no way in the world that this problem can be overcome on the smaller islands.

The hon. member mentioned that the houses on these islands were built by the Housing Commission. I should like to make it quite clear that they are built by the Aborigines and the Islanders through their Bamaga sawmills. I believe that the type of home that they are mass-producing there is a credit not only to the Aborigines and the Islanders who assemble them but also to the Aborigine in charge of the sawmill, Mr. Fisher, I think.

Mr. Newton: I said there was a shortage of labour on Bamaga on our visit.

Mr. MILLER: The hon. member, in his speech, suggested that these homes were built by the Housing Commission.

Mr. Newton: I did not. You want to have another look at my speech. I supported that scheme and said it should be extended.

Mr. MILLER: I suggest the hon. member wants to have another look at it.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. Newton: I referred to the very good houses done by the Housing Commission.

Mr. MILLER: I should also like to congratulate Mr. Solomon Bowie and Mr. Reginald Sebasio. Both of these men are on the staff of the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs. They started off as a

carpenter and a mechanic respectively and both eventually became foremen of their projects. It is to the credit of the Torres Strait Islanders that they are performing that type of work without any professional training.

The hon. member also attacked the hospital board at Thursday Island.

Mr. Newton: I did not. You are wrong again. You want to read it.

Mr. MILLER: He said that the hospital was under the control of the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs. This is not the case at all. The hospital on Thursday Island is under the control of the usual hospital board.

Mr. Newton: Who is on the board? Tell us who is on the board.

Mr. MILLER: The board is directly responsible to the Director-General of Health.

Mr. Newton: Tell us who is the main voter on the board, and then try to tell us that it is not controlled by the Department of Aboriginal and Native Affairs. The main voter on the board is the Deputy Director.

Mr. MILLER: Some of the statements that have been made by the hon. member were not correct. If he had asked for some action to provide an emergency medical service to the Torres Strait Islands, I would have agreed with him. Such a service is a necessity to the Islands. At the present time the only method of transportation available to acutely ill people is by lugger or some other boat. In 1968 this is just not good enough.

Mr. Newton: Now you are supporting me.

Mr. MILLER: While the hon. member was out of the Chamber I told the Leader of the Opposition that I supported the hon. member in many of the things that he raised here. On some things that he referred to in his Budget speech, however, I could not support him.

Some ill people have to suffer a delay of up to 48 hours before they can be taken to the hospital on Thursday Island.

I believe that as far back as 1956 the Director-General of Aboriginal and Island Affairs asked that something be done about this matter. He asked that the Government look at the lack of emergency medical services, and even routine medical services, on the Islands. I suggest that the Government look very closely at this matter to see if the problems can be overcome in some way. I should say that the vast majority of Queensland's population could reach a base hospital within a few hours, but that is not so in the Torres Strait Islands, where, sometimes, delays of up to 48 hours are experienced in getting people to hospital.

The population of the Torres Strait Islands is approximately 4,500 people, and of that number nearly 2,000 are under 14 years of age. Over 2,000 live more than 80 miles from Thursday Island, and over 1,000 live in the Darnley and Murray groups, which, I point out, are 130 air-miles from Thursday Island.

The department maintains an excellent radio network and its base on Thursday Island is in regular communication with outlying islands. However, this radio network is of little use if complementary transportation facilities are not provided. The seas in the Straits are often very rough and turbulent conditions prevail for the greater part of the year. No doctors or hospitals are provided on any of the islands except Thursday Island, and owing to the staff shortage on Thursday Island the visits by doctors to the outlying islands are very rare. The slow method of transportation prevents the doctors from moving quickly from one island to another. In addition, preventive medicine and medical education are sadly lacking.

Regular routine clinics are urgently needed. In the last eight years doctors, Civil Aviation Department staff, and many others interested in the area, have made surveys to find ways to overcome this problem. Investigations were made in 1958 and 1962 by the Royal Flying Doctor Service, but as late as 1967 it did not have an answer to the problem. The use of planes was examined, but it was found to offer little advantage because of the size and structure of the islands, and because some of the villages are located in the only suitable areas for a landing strip. The cost of the landing strips had also to be taken into consideration.

Until this year there was no answer to this problem, but the Royal Flying Doctor service now believes that the Bell Jet Ranger helicopter is suitable for this type of work. I point out that the Royal Flying Doctor Service is prepared to make its services available to the Torres Strait islands if the Government is prepared to finance the work.

Mr. Newton: Where is it to be based?

Mr. MILLER: On Thursday Island.

The report that I have reads, in part—

"To provide an emergency service to all the islands in the Torres Strait and adjacent mainland as far south as Aurukun Mission on the west coast and south to Iron Range and Lockhart River Mission, on the east coast."

Mr. P. Wood: Has this request been submitted to State Cabinet?

Mr. MILLER: I believe it has been submitted to the Government.

Mr. P. Wood: What was the result?

Mr. MILLER: I think they are waiting for an answer to this report.

Mr. P. Wood: How long have they been waiting?

Mr. MILLER: I could not say.

The wonderful work of the Royal Flying Doctor Service can be seen all over Queensland. I hope that, as a Government, we see fit to extend this service into the Torres Strait area.

They suggest that they could act on behalf of the Commonwealth Government as a health department in establishing a buffer area in the islands against the transmission to Australia of smallpox or other highly contagious diseases known to exist in Indonesia and Asian countries. There is also the problem of the New Guineans and Papuans who, as we know, are each year trying to come to Australia through the Torres Strait islands group. That would certainly overcome this problem.

Mr. P. Wood: What is the cost of the helicopter?

Mr. MILLER: The actual cost is \$100,000. Taking into account the cost of supplying homes for the doctor, the pilot and the engineer, and the cost of a base and hangar for the helicopter, the total cost is \$200,000. The actual running costs each year would be in the vicinity of \$70,000. I hope that the Government will see fit to examine this problem confronting the Torres Strait islands in transporting sick people to the base hospital at Thursday Island.

The hon. member for Port Curtis, in his Budget speech, referred to the A.L.P. as the champion of the great mass of Australia's people. I find that very hard to believe, especially as, since Mr. Justice Hanger's decision in 1966, I have not heard one member of the Opposition raise his voice in this Chamber to urge that compulsory unionism should be reintroduced in Queensland. If the A.L.P. is the champion of the great mass of the people, I ask why hon. members opposite have not asked for compulsory unionism in Queensland.

Mr. Melloy: Do you believe in it?

Mr. MILLER: I do believe in it. I suggest that the interpretation of "the great mass of people in Australia" is "the great mass of people under the Trades and Labour Council."

Mr. Walsh: May I correct you and say that there is no statutory law providing for compulsory unionism.

Mr. MILLER: I think that we should have something. I am still surprised that no member on the Opposition side of the Chamber has seen fit, since the Hanger decision, to ask for this. I am referring to the decision that puts membership of a union on a voluntary basis. The situation has developed to the stage where we find that the Trades Hall unions, through intimidation, have retained their numerical strength while, on the other hand, the right-wing unions are

suffering great losses of members because they are not prepared to employ the same tactics as the militant group of Trades Hall unions.

Mr. Newton: Name the unions you are referring to.

Mr. MILLER: I will, later on.

Mr. P. Wood: How much later on?

Mr. MILLER: The hon. member will have to sit there and wait, and find out.

We have now reached the stage in our industrial law where the militant unions are attempting to control the right-wing unions. If this situation is allowed to continue, the Communist-dominated unions will again hold the balance of power in union circles and will exercise control of the nation as they did in the post-war years. At the present time Queensland plays a vital part in maintaining the balance of power in the Australian Council of Trade Unions, a balance that could be easily upset if this situation is allowed to continue. As a Government, it is our responsibility to see that all unionists are protected from intimidation and are allowed to decide for themselves whether they wish to be members of a union. If we cannot give them this protection, it is our job to legislate for compulsory unionism. There is no alternative to these suggestions unless we wish to see the right-wing unions become puppets of the militant group of unions. The word "compulsory" is just as bitter a pill for me to swallow as it is for any other Government member.

Mr. Newton: It would be. Being an employer, you don't know what it means.

Mr. MILLER: I hope that when I am finished the hon. member for Belmont will consider that I do understand what it means.

We must look at this problem in relation to our arbitration system. In Queensland—in fact, in Australia—we have a compulsory arbitration system which compels employer and employee organisations to attend the Industrial Commission in all matters of industrial dispute and wage fixation. I believe that if we are to continue with compulsory arbitration it necessarily follows that we have compulsory unionism. It would be farcical to continue our system of arbitration while allowing unions to become so run down, through loss of membership, that they are unable to fight for their just rights.

Looking back over the years, we see that all the benefits enjoyed by the worker have been won by the trade union movement. Benefits like the 40-hour week, long service leave and many others were obtained only after industrial action. Today, with the arbitration situation that has developed, the unions have an ever-growing and more costly problem before them. The problems that confront the Trades and Labour Council are minor compared with those facing the unions that are not militant, that are content to

accept and abide by conciliation and arbitration, and that, to coin a phrase, are classified as responsible and respected unions.

The Trades Hall group comprises unions that are militant in their concept and includes the majority of craft and associated unions. They have behind them a long history of militancy. However, what must be remembered is that the Trades Hall unions have a dual concept in that they are both industrial and political bodies in the full meaning of the term. The Trades Hall unions are, to a large degree, controlled and manipulated by the Communists. Although I know that this claim has been made many times, I believe that an analysis of the facts will show it to be true. Of course, the best way to do this is to look at those in authority in the Trades Hall group of 39 unions. An examination of the facts shows that over 70 per cent. of those unions have industrial affiliations with the Trades and Labour Council and political affiliations with the A.L.P. If one accepts the argument that the A.L.P. is a body that fights Communism, one may well ask how it is that so many Communists obtain positions on the executive of the Trades and Labour Council. One may ask why there is a sharing of positions so that the president is a member of the A.L.P. and its inner executive, and the secretary is a long-standing member of the Australian Communist Party and one of the most dedicated and capable Communists in Queensland.

One may also ask, when one recalls how these positions are obtained, how the A.L.P. majority can continue to keep in a key position such a dedicated Communist. It must also be remembered that the election, if one may call it that, of the secretary of the Trades and Labour Council is carried out by the executive of that body, which has an overwhelming majority of A.L.P. men on it. It is therefore found that the strong A.L.P. group on the executive of the Trades and Labour Council combines with the minority Communist group on the executive to ensure that a Communist continues to hold a key position.

Of course, there are tailor-made explanations for this, possibly the most popular being that Alex. Macdonald is an industrialist first and a Communist second. Indeed, an examination of all Communists in positions of authority in the trade union movement reveals a constant and re-appearing pattern. They achieve positions of power never on a political basis but always on the basis of being good industrialists. This well-worn explanation is constantly used to bewilder the ordinary rank-and-file members. They are told, "So-an-so may be a Communist, but he is a good industrialist". This is the pattern that the Communists have used to build up, in the first place, their industrial image, and, in the second place, to play down their Communist political philosophies.

Mr. Newton: Have a look at the Liberals who attended the Communist school at Tallebudgera.

Mr. MILLER: I should like to know who did. A Communist, irrespective of his other capabilities or intentions, is a Communist first and an industrialist, or something else, second. I therefore believe that this explanation should not be acceptable in the industrial and political spheres in which the A.L.P., which is the alternative Government of the State and the nation, moves and operates.

However, getting back to the decision of Mr. Justice Hanger, one finds that it has caused very little concern to the majority of the Trades Hall unions, for the simple reason, as I stated earlier, that they believe that militancy can, and will, overcome the problem. This has been borne out by statements released from the Trades and Labour Congress held last week.

Any member of a militant union who does not wish to continue as a member is classed as a "scab" and treated as such. Unlike the right-wing unions, which abstain from taking action against any member not wishing to continue his membership, the militant unions inform not only the unco-operative member but also the employer that their members will not work with this "scab".

Mr. Walsh: You believe in preference to unionists, don't you?

Mr. MILLER: I believe in it, yes. I am comparing the action of the left-wing unions with that of the right-wing unions.

In most instances the employer bows to that type of industrial blackmail and either pressures men into joining the union or finds some reason for dismissing them. Employers of that type accept the condition that has been placed on them in order to ensure that industrial peace is maintained, so compulsory unionism is still in vogue with the Trades Hall group of unions.

Again, it was stated at the recent Trades Hall Congress that the Hanger decision had not affected these unions, and I believe that to be true, with one exception—the Miscellaneous Workers' Union. Apparently the Trades Hall unions are prepared to sacrifice that union in their bid for the control of the right-wing unions.

Strangely enough, it was the Miscellaneous Workers' Union that caused the trouble in the beginning. In granting a new award to that union, the Industrial Commission wrote into it the strongest of all preference clauses. That, of course, was challenged by a group of employers' organisations and subsequently declared by Mr. Justice Hanger to be illegal and beyond the power of the Commission.

The Miscellaneous Workers' Union is the one union in the Trades Hall group that is suffering to any extent by the loss of preference, and, again, an examination of the facts shows conclusively the reason for that. In that union, there is not the same unity as exists in other unions. Many of the members of the Miscellaneous Workers' Union are casual workers—casual cleaners, casual nightwatchmen, and so on—people

do not possess any particular trade skill, people who have little contact with other than a small group of union members and little contact with the hierarchy, people who tend to be in themselves, if not anti-union, at least not interested in unions and who, before the Hanger decision, were virtually forced into the union by the preference clause. Many of these people have taken the opportunity of resigning from or not joining the union, and the Miscellaneous Workers' Union finds that it cannot apply the same methods of holding its members as are applied to tradesmen working in a shop or to building tradesmen working on a project. Although there is a need for an employer in those fields to have continuity of operation, it is not necessary for employers of miscellaneous workers to have continuity to the same extent.

The white-collar unions, the non-militant unions, are mostly those that belong to the committee of the Combined Industrial Unions, and they are finding it extremely difficult to retain their members. This committee was formed because the right-wing unions were of the opinion that the Trades and Labour Council was paying politics more frequently than it was engaging in the fight for working conditions. It was set up to represent the large number of right-wing unions in Queensland that refused to have anything to do with what they termed the Communist-dominated Trades and Labour Council. The unions that combined together to form this committee are 11 in number and consist of such unions as The Australian Workers' Union, the Shop Assistants' Union, the Clerks' Union, the Police Union, the Nursing Federation, one or two of the smaller railway unions, and so on, and they are losing members very rapidly. The Clerks' Union, for example, this year has dropped from a strength of 26,000 about two years ago to a membership of 20,000.

What are the effects of this lost membership on the right-wing unions? They are many. Possibly the most important one is the plain loss of numbers, because it must be remembered that there is only one yardstick for the number of delegates that a union can send to all big union conferences; it is the number of members in the union. Another effect is the great monetary loss, especially when one bears in mind the sophistication that is approaching in this age of automation and technological change. The claims, research, appeals to the arbitration machinery and so on that have to be undertaken on behalf of union members are becoming more and more specialised and industrialised.

The costs of such actions today are becoming prohibitive. To quote one case, the Clerks' Union is in the process of serving a new log of claims, in the Federal sphere, on ship-owners. It has to be served on something like 1,500 respondents, and, by law, each respondent must receive a copy by certified mail. The document, or log

of claims, contains over 30 pages. Therefore, 1,500 of these documents have to be printed, and in all probability the employer organisation will oppose the claim. That means that the union will then have to notify the court that a dispute exists. When this is done, a day is set for the hearing of the case and each respondent must again be served with the log of claims. It is estimated that the cost of serving this log, before any consideration is given to legal costs, research costs and witnesses' costs—the mere cost of paper preparation and postage will be in the vicinity of \$3,000.

This shows the terrific costs that unions have to bear relative to the arbitration set-up. Therefore, from the monetary point of view this drainage of membership is causing great concern to the right-wing unions.

Coming back again to the number of delegates to conferences, we cannot allow our industrial sense to be narrowed or confined to the State of Queensland. As a responsible State Government, in a national federation, we must view this problem as an over-all national picture and remember that the parliament of the trade union movement is the Australian Council of Trade Unions and that the balance of power at this body's triennial conferences is very narrow indeed.

Queensland has played a very significant part in maintaining control of the "right" in this vast trade union organisation, mainly on the basis of the numbers of delegates that right-wing unions can send to conferences. If compulsory unionism did nothing else, it gave them the numerical strength to appoint a number of delegates.

Mr. Bennett: Have you ever been a member of a union?

Mr. MILLER: No, I have not.

Mr. Bennett: What a shame. Your education would have been the better for it.

Mr. MILLER: If we allow The Australian Workers' Union and other unions of the Combined Industrial Unions Committee to become weakened by the Hanger decision, without appropriate percentage loss to the left-wing unions, then we are virtually ensuring a Communist and militant left-wing control of the Australian Council of Trade Unions. At the present moment the interstate executive of that body is deadlocked at eight votes to eight. If at the next conference, to be held in Melbourne, the Queensland right-wing delegates lose the balance of power, a victory for the left wing could result. Of course, this would mean that the left wing would be restored to the position of power that it enjoyed in the immediate post-war years. We can all remember the many strikes that were organised then to disrupt the economy of the nation. They were irresponsible, almost childish, strikes, caused among the seamen, for example, often because two types of fruit were not provided on their tables,

or among the watersiders, for reasons too numerous to mention. On very many occasions those strikes had political rather than industrial backgrounds.

Many of the strikes that have occurred have an industrial concept in their inception, but this is utilised into a political concept so that Communists can make use of an issue to push a political ideology. Of course, no greater proof of this can be found than in the Mt. Isa strike. That strike was settled industrially when the prosperity loading was awarded by the Industrial Commission. It then dragged on for another six weeks, but in the political context instead of the industrial context. In this State, and indeed in the nation, we cannot afford to have strikes used purely as a political weapon, even though they may have an industrial background to their inception.

That does not mean that I do not support strikes. If employers have the right to band together to fight for what they consider is right then the unions have the right to withhold labour, but not in any sense other than an industrial one. It can be seen that the effects of the Hanger decision go beyond the boundaries of Queensland and can and will have national repercussions.

Australia is placed in a unique situation. Arbitration exists in this country, and employers and employees are compelled to meet before an industrial tribunal to agree on awards. Collective bargaining in this country is the exception rather than the rule. If in our industrial system compulsion exists on the one hand, surely it follows that it should exist on the other. Even though employers and employees might agree around the conference table on certain principles prior to going before an industrial tribunal, the tribunal does not necessarily have to accept the submissions that are placed before it.

Only a few months ago employers and the Building Workers' Industrial Union met and agreed on an increase of \$1.35 for builders' labourers. They took their agreement to the industrial tribunal as a consent award and asked that it receive the sanction of the tribunal. The tribunal refused to ratify it. Proof exists of the fact that sometimes other action has to be taken in the industrial field.

Another anomaly, if one may call it that, is that although the cost of arbitration is paid for by the unions, through their members, all workers employed under industrial awards benefit from the judgment of the industrial tribunal. The number of members in the Clerks' Union has fallen from 26,000 to 20,000, yet any increase gained by that union flows automatically to non-members. Many of the benefits granted to unions are won only after months of argument before the various industrial tribunals in Queensland and elsewhere.

Unless we as a Government are prepared to take some action in this matter, a number of consequences will flow. First, there will

be a continuing decline—it may be arrested, but there will still be a decline—in the numerical strength of the right-wing unions. I assure hon. members that the right-wing unions cannot afford to accept this situation without a fight. They have held their hand to a great degree, hoping that the Government would realise the political significance of Mr. Justice Hanger's decision. It is obvious that a larger number of employers and employer organisations have seen the political significance if that judgment is carried out in its entirety. Indeed, I believe that is one of the main reasons why no other employer group except the United Graziers' Association has approached Mr. Justice Hanger to ask that the preference clause be taken from its award. The other groups can see, in its totality, what the political effects could be if such a course were to eventuate.

The unions also can see the result, but they have held their hands hoping that some action would flow from the Government. If it does not eventuate, I believe that the right-wing unions will be forced to take action similar to their counterparts in America. The right-wing unions will ask the left-wing unions for their support, and the type of support they will seek will be along the lines of the Transport Workers' Union members refusing to handle goods that are not handled by members of the Clerks' Union. In other words, there will be a marriage of convenience between the left-wing and right-wing unions. That will become necessary, because it will be the only effective way that responsibility can be forced upon reluctant employers and employees to ensure that employees join a union.

It is often said that history has a habit of repeating itself, but we can do without a repetition of the chaos that was prevalent in the post-war years. Yet, if this marriage of convenience is forced upon the right-wing unions, we must have a recurrence of chaos. I believe it is worth repeating that a number of firms that the right-wing unions have approached have a closed-shop agreement with unions such as the craft unions, yet they will not enter into a similar agreement with unions such as the Clerk's Union. They have consented to this agreement with the craft unions because they have some trepidation about the industrial activity that will flow if they do not. They also realise that unions such as the Clerks' Union lack militancy or, indeed, lack the desire to fight by go-slow tactics, refusal to work, stoppages and strikes. I suggest that the very responsibility of the right-wing unions is being used to their detriment by employer groups who agree on the one hand because they know that pressure will be applied but do not agree on the other because of the respectability of the unions.

Mr. Newton: They realise the value of the production of those unions.

Mr. MILLER: That is not the case, and the hon. member knows it.

Unless Mr. Justice Hanger's decision is corrected by legislation unions will be forced away from arbitration; they will be forced to have recourse to collective bargaining. If we believe that collective bargaining is in the best interests of the workers in our State, we may as well do away immediately with the arbitration system. I trust that this will never happen. The arbitration system is certainly in need of a facelift, but it has proved over the years to be an effective bartering table for employer and employee alike and it has most certainly worked in the best interests of our nation.

Mr. LONERGAN (Flinders) (4.30 p.m.): As is usually the case in a debate like this, the field has been very wide. I have listened to some of the speeches from both sides of the Chamber with a good deal of interest, and anyone who complains in any way about lack of variety is difficult to please. The debate has ranged from a "la-la" to the Commonwealth financial agreement, and we could not get a wider field of debate than that.

It is not my intention to speak on the Budget, because I agree with it. We know that Opposition members also agree. Naturally they are not permitted to say so, although I feel that they share my feelings.

I listened to the Leader of the Opposition put up a good battle, but unfortunately for him he had nothing to attack and his speech was a sheer waste of time. His efforts could have been better spent in other directions—possibly in Isis, because he will certainly have to work up there, even to get a leg in.

Mr. Sullivan: He is not going over well.

Mr. LONERGAN: I believe not.

I always enjoy listening to the hon. member for Baroona, because it is quite obvious that he does a good deal of research on any speech he makes in this Chamber. On this occasion his speech could be best described as a waste of effort. He endeavoured to prove that the increase in the education grant was not as great as that suggested by the Treasurer. I am not good at figures. I am like the hon. member for Brisbane. We went to the rough, tough old school. Still and all, we made the grade just the same. It takes a lot to explain away a rise of \$14,000,000 from \$71,000,000 to \$85,000,000. That is a very healthy and necessary increase, because we all realise that in this day and age education of our young people is most important. The Government recognises that. Unfortunately, like every other Government and organisation, our efforts are limited by the amount of money at our command.

One hon. member passed some rather snide remarks about our giving assistance to church schools. I did not think that the remark was worthy of him. I felt like interjecting and asking him to name the school.

Mr. Bennett: Who said that?

Mr. LONERGAN: I shall not name him, because he is not in the Chamber at the moment.

It has been said that this Budget does nothing for the small man. I will not go into that. But there is no doubt that the aid we have given to the church schools, in itself, must flow to the parents of the children attending those schools. That is recognised by all, and it is a matter of some regret that the amount was not greater. I also regret, in common with other members, that it was not possible to do it years ago. It is well known, however, that Queensland has been plagued with drought for almost the whole time since the Government came to office, and this is the first year in which a few surplus dollars have been available. I commend the Treasurer for this assistance. The results will flow to the young people, and these grants will ultimately be to the good of Queensland as a whole.

I suggest to the Treasurer that he continue to press the Commonwealth Government for funds to make available loans at a low rate of interest to men on the land who have for so long suffered the rigours of drought. They ask not for grants or charity but for loans. A Labour Government granted such assistance many years ago; in fact, I believe that it even granted interest-free loans. What is needed now is the making of loans at low interest rates, and I hope the Treasurer will continue to press for this most necessary assistance.

Only a few weeks ago, whilst Parliament was in recess after the presentation of the Budget, I travelled through my electorate and I was quite surprised to find in financial difficulties people whom I knew quite well and who I thought, to use a western expression, at least "had a quid" even if they were not in a very strong financial position. At present they are in quite a bad way, and the banks are virtually refusing to make finance available. I do not suppose, looking at it from a strictly business point of view, they can be blamed for that when, instead of returns of 5 per cent. or 6 per cent. on overdrafts, they can get 15 per cent. or 16 per cent. on hire-purchase advances.

I am afraid that that is the position today, and it is not in the best interests of the State. The only way that I can see of overcoming it is for the Federal Government to do something for the people in remote areas to check the drift from the country to the city, which is a feature not only of Australia but of other countries, too.

It was refreshing to note the reduction in rail freights. It is most unusual for any Government to reduce freights. Indeed, a Labour Government increased them nine times in eight years. Although I would have liked to see the reductions taken further, what was done is a step in the right direction. It will give much relief, particularly to those in outback areas. The people there appreciate this action very much. All that

they look forward to now is an improvement in services, which at present leave much to be desired. I shall return to that point later.

It was rather disappointing to find that the reductions in road transport tax were not on the same scale as the reductions in rail freights. After all, road transport serves a very useful purpose in the economy of Queensland. If it had not been for road transport, stock losses during the drought years would have been astronomical. Stock could not possibly have been walked to rail-heads, and, even if they could have been, they could not have been moved because of a lack of wagons. I therefore believe that this is a section of the transport industry that should not be unduly penalised. It should be given reasonable encouragement to carry on efficiently and produce a fair return for the capital and labour involved in it. It is no use saying that road transport does not give service. As an ex-railwayman, I do not mind admitting that it does. However, I say also that the Railway Department, if it so desires, can give service equal to that given by road transport.

There are many weaknesses in the railway system in this State. I mentioned that last year, and I am afraid that I got a little bit off-side with my friend the Minister for Transport, Mr. Knox. However, it is not unusual for me to get off-side with people, and it does not worry me unduly. I often get off-side with my friends on the opposite side of the Chamber. As long as I believe I am right, I say what I have to say: that is part and parcel of my job.

There are many anomalies in the road transport system, too, but I intend to touch briefly on only a couple of them because I have dealt at length with many of them in earlier debates. In one instance in my area recently, a livestock carrier went out north of Charters Towers. I do not know what mileage he travelled, but normally a person who brings stock or wool to a railhead is exempt from road transport tax. Unfortunately, the nearest railhead in this instance was Pentland, which was about 3 miles closer to the point at which the carrier loaded the stock for the Charters Towers sale yards, and he had to pay road transport tax. In cases such as that, I believe that the police sergeant concerned should be given discretionary power. Had the man concerned taken the cattle to Pentland, a distance of 70 or 80 miles, and unloaded them in the railway yards, they would have stayed in the yards for eight or nine hours and then taken another six hours to cover the distance to Charters Towers. From Pentland to Charters Towers is 67 miles, and goods trains run at an average speed of 11 miles an hour in that area, which is not good enough, despite the fact that \$56,000,000 has recently been spent on the line. I believe that the Minister for Transport should look into cases such as that.

Let me now take the case of a grazier living between Charters Towers and Clermont who wishes to send cattle to the sale yards at Charters Towers. The distance between Charters Towers and Clermont is 232 miles. If the cattle are loaded 120 miles from Charters Towers, which is a little over half way, the person concerned has to pay road transport tax, because the Transport Department claims that the cattle should go to Clermont, then through Rockhampton and Townsville to Charters Towers. Can anyone imagine anything more unrealistic? However, that is the way the Act stands, and I am not blaming the officers who administer its provisions; they are only doing their job.

Instances such as those that I have given warrant the application of the unwritten rule of common sense, and I believe that the Minister for Transport should consider them seriously in that light. They irk not only the man on the land but also anyone who is endowed with a little bit of common sense.

The Minister for Health is not in the Chamber at present, but I believe that he will be shortly. As some hon. members know, there are four hospitals in my electorate, and this year the hospital boards at Julia Creek and Richmond were amalgamated. In spite of my efforts, the efforts of the local councillors in each of the towns, and the efforts of the members of the boards and various members of the public, the Minister went ahead with the amalgamation. No-one is happy about it, and I am quite sure that it is not in the best interests of either town.

I do not think for a minute that the Minister is saving money by the amalgamation; in fact, I believe that it is costing the department more to have one board instead of two separate boards. I have no figures on which to base my argument—I have not gone into it sufficiently deeply—but common sense decrees that Julia Creek and Richmond should have separate hospital boards. The few dollars that members of the boards receive in fees do not compensate them for the time they put into their work, and they should be encouraged to take an interest. Naturally, local people on a board take a keen interest in their own hospital, although I am not for one minute implying that the present board favours one hospital more than the other.

This is an unsatisfactory arrangement and I take this opportunity of publicly voicing my opposition to it. The one redeeming feature is that the Minister for Health has agreed to build a new hospital. It is about 20 years overdue, but at least we are getting it. One of the unpleasant features is that although it is at present a 20-bed hospital, the department sent its inspectors out to have a look at it and found that the daily average of in-patients, for what period I do not know, was between 12 and 14, and consequently it was decided to build a 14-bed hospital. I

pointed out to the Minister that those figures were taken out at a time when we were going through the worst drought in the history of Julia Creek. Consequently, there would be very few people there, and the natural assumption is that there would be fewer people in the hospital than normally. As a result of my frequent and persistent interviews with the Minister, I believe it has now been decided to increase the size of the hospital to 16 beds, and that it will be built in such a manner that it can be added to.

However, I am far from happy about the position. Julia Creek is one town in the West that will go ahead because of the beef roads and its cattle sale yards. With the added attraction of Normanton as a fishing centre, more tourists will be moving through. It would have been more in keeping with the district had a 25-bed hospital been built instead of one of 16 beds. Time will prove who is right. I feel that my opinion and that of the residents of the district will, in time, be proved to be correct.

As hon. members are aware, only a few days ago I asked the Minister for Health whether the department proposed to air-condition the nurses' quarters at Julia Creek. The answer was a foregone conclusion; I knew quite well that we were not going to get it. However, I wanted the Minister to say so, and I should now like to know why. At this stage, I might say that these nurses' quarters are substandard; they should have been burnt down long ago. Unfortunately, through lack of funds or for other reasons, the department cannot see its way clear at the moment to build new nurses' quarters, but the nurses would be prepared to put up with the inconvenience if their poky little quarters were air-conditioned.

I know that it is proposed to build new nurses' quarters at Mt. Isa and that they will be air-conditioned. I was happy to hear that, because the nurses deserve it. After all, if we are not prepared to give the nursing staffs at our hospitals decent living conditions, how can we expect to attract them to these centres, and what is more, expect them to remain there? Quite candidly, I admire the girls who go out there from places like Brisbane, where they have every amenity. They go out to a hot climate, where it is not unusual for the temperature to reach 112 degrees in the summer, and they work under these disadvantages. Their salary is not very much recompense for the inconvenience they have to put up with, and as I have already said, their accommodation is not what I expect of any Government department. I feel quite sure it would not conform to the standards set down in the Workers' Accommodation Act.

A very necessary adjunct to our hospitals is the ambulance brigade, and I have always taken an interest in its activities. Another hon. member might have raised this matter while I was absent from the Chamber. If so, I was unfortunate in not hearing his remarks. It is only in the last few days

that I received the report from the State council of the ambulance brigade. I believe that in 1949 an agreement was reached that the ambulance brigade would be paid a subsidy of 10s. in the £1. The same subsidy is paid today, but now of course it is \$1 in \$2. In spite of increases in costs of motor vehicles, wages and all the other expenses that are involved in running an ambulance centre, the subsidy remains the same. I make no apology for saying that the Government's approach to ambulance centres is unrealistic and unsympathetic, and gives no encouragement at all to the people who conduct the centres to strive to obtain finance. They are all becoming "browned off", and the ambulance centres are gradually going broke. Quite recently they made an approach to the Government for an increase in their subsidy, but unfortunately, as in the past, their request was rejected.

I will give hon. members some idea of the running costs of western ambulance centres and will compare their costs with those of other centres. The cost per mile to run an ambulance vehicle at Ayr is a little over 2c; at Julia Creek it is a little over 9c; at Cloncurry it is 12c; and at Hughenden it is 6c. Yet the centres situated in the Far West are paid the same subsidy as that paid to those on the coast. I can see the difficulties inherent in a system of paying subsidies on a sliding scale, but let us have a look at the average mileage travelled on each transport case in three country centres. In Mt. Isa the average is a little over 3 miles; in Julia Creek it is 39 miles; and in Hughenden it is 25 miles. So is it any wonder that the western ambulance centres are applying to the executive for grants to enable them to provide a service? What the future holds for them, I do not know. I prophesy that at some time in the future they will say to the Department of Health, "We are shutting down here. What are you going to do about it?" and that the officers in the department will spring off their tails and do something.

In Queensland, five or six ambulance centres are controlled by the Department of Health. They are costly to run, and I believe that the department has approached the Richmond Hospitals Board with a view to having that town's ambulance centre taken over by the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade. What the outcome will be, I do not know, but I do know that the townspeople and other people in the district are violently opposed to such a move, despite the fact that its redeeming feature is that highly skilled ambulance bearers would be available in the district. It is indeed rare to find a fully qualified bearer driving a hospital ambulance. Usually the driver is a wardman or somebody else who has not had the training that is provided to Q.A.T.B. personnel.

An increase of even 40c in the subsidy, thus making it \$1.40, would be a big step in helping ambulance centres to overcome their financial troubles.

This matter can be looked at in many different ways. For example, the Mt. Isa ambulance centre would be one of the wealthiest in the State. It has thousands of dollars on fixed deposit and has a regular income from levies that employees of Mount Isa Mines Limited impose upon themselves. The levies are paid directly into the ambulance centre's funds.

I am no doubt being a little unfair to this centre when I ask if it is entitled to the same 50 per cent. subsidy as other centres get. I believe that money lying idle serves no useful purpose, particularly in such a set-up. I often think that when a centre gets \$40,000 to \$60,000 on fixed deposit, the parent body should say, "You have no need for the subsidy. Will you agree to our re-allocating it to other centres that are in dire financial circumstances?"

Mr. Hughes: It may be just as well to review the scale, because some centres get a dollar-for-dollar subsidy.

Mr. LONERGAN: I believe that the Flying Ambulance service in Cairns does, but I have no quarrel with that.

This is a real problem which must be faced. The drain on the public purse becomes greater each year, and people just have not enough money to subscribe to ambulance funds as they had in former years.

I believe that the Treasurer's Budget lacks a few little details. Naturally, I am thinking of my own area, but the Budget does not refer to any water conservation scheme in the Flinders electorate. I spoke on this subject in the Address-in-Reply debate. My area is crying out for water conservation. We have many suitable sites that lend themselves to conservation. The exploitation of one of these sites would save the Government millions of dollars.

During the last few weeks I have had the good fortune to read a report by Mr. Eric Heidecker, an able man and a geologist by profession. The report is entitled "Reconnaissance Geology of the Big Rocks Damsite". For the information of hon. members, this site is situated 15 miles north of Charters Towers. With this gentleman's permission, I will quote from his report—

"The proposed Big Rocks damsite on the Burdekin River is 58 miles south-west of Townsville and 15 miles north of Charters Towers. This is one of the few promising storage areas between the Burdekin Falls 100 miles downstream and Hells Gates 80 miles upstream."

Charters Towers is at present served by a small weir with a total capacity of only about 400,000,000 gallons. Whilst that is sufficient for our present needs, it is not enough for our future needs.

Mr. Heidecker then made this very interesting and relevant statement—

"The Burdekin catchment above the Big Rocks includes a high rainfall belt. Thus, the average annual run-off of about three and a half million acre-feet (based on figures provided by the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission) is two-thirds of the flow of the Burdekin at its mouth, although derived from only one-quarter of the total catchment area. This flow is from reliable sources in the coast ranges, the Eumara-Toomba lake areas and the Valley of Lagoons. One of these consistent sources is Fletcher Creek which drains hundreds of small lakes in the Great Basalt Wall west of Dalrymple. This creek has maintained supplies of between 2 and 5 million gallons per day during even the worst droughts."

I will not quote all of the report, but this gentleman said later—

"Thus, a reliable supply of somewhat less than 85 thousand acre-feet (more than four times Townsville's annual requirements) could be maintained by a relatively small storage on the Burdekin."

Mr. Heidecker goes on to state the economic factors, in these words—

"Civic Utilization of Water from the Big Rocks Site

"The Big Rocks site is strategically located so that it could serve several centres—(a) Charters Towers, Selheim, Macrossan. A small 400 million gallon weir downstream of the Big Rocks guarantees Charters Towers and Selheim-Macrossan supplies in excess of one million gallons per day. A larger supply from the Big Rocks would guarantee supplies for—

(i) the proposed Charters Towers sewerage scheme;"

He continues—

"(ii) the Sellheim military complex in the event of a major influx of troops;

(iii) a re-established regional meat-works at Macrossan. . . ;

(iv) Local treatment of nickel and other ores at present under consideration. . ."

The point that disturbs me is that if this one individual man can carry out such a survey, which is illustrated by comprehensive aerial and other maps—by whom they were drawn I do not know—what is wrong with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission that it cannot interest itself in this scheme and come up there and do something? If the Commission carried out a survey such as this—it would not cost any great amount of money—it would let the people of North Queensland know that it is at least prepared to do something for North Queensland in the way of water conservation.

My feelings for a long time has been that the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission—and the Minister must take some blame

for this—has not been vigorous enough—and I might be unkind in saying this—in pressing for a larger allocation of funds from the Federal Government for water conservation in North Queensland. That will be the key that will open the door of development in North Queensland and prevent the unhealthy drift from the country areas to the cities.

I suggest to the Minister that he impress this on the Commissioner of Irrigation. Mr. Heidecker does not say that this is a suitable dam site, but he says it is worth consideration. He has made a report on the Big Rocks, which is a very sound foundation for any weir, which could be built at no great cost. Eventually Townsville will have to come to the Burdekin River for water. Townsville at the present time has water restrictions. Even when the Five Head Creek scheme is functioning there will still not be sufficient water in a dry year to keep Townsville going.

I propose now to mention the railway system, on which I spoke at some length last year. However, since then other matters have cropped up and I would be remiss in my duty if I did not bring them to the Minister's notice. Quite recently I toured my electorate. In one centre I visited, Oorindi, there were a few pitiless cottages at the railway station and some trucking yards. Imagine my surprise and dismay when I saw the type of accommodation that the fettlers were required to occupy. I thought that this matter had been attended to long ago. I had raised it previously and expected that the fettlers would be living in accommodation which, by railway standards, would be reasonably acceptable.

In reply to my question the Minister told me that those buildings at Oorindi were going to be moved to the northern side of the line. The men have been waiting eight years for that to happen. I feel that the employees there have been more than patient. This is something that would not happen in the Southern Division. The great disadvantage that they suffer is that they are so isolated and cannot bring to the notice of the responsible authorities the condition under which they live.

When the rehabilitation of the railway line to Mt. Isa was in progress, there were bridges at each end of the railway yard at Oorindi. Of course, we all know what happened there. The hon. member for Burke can confirm that the bridges were pulled out and culverts constructed in their place. In other words, dams were built and the water could not get away. At Oorindi the line through the railway yard was raised 2 ft. 6 ins., and now water comes up to the floor of the post office.

I was given an assurance many years ago that the department would put culverts under the line to give some relief to the people there. Nothing has been done, and we are wondering if it ever will be. Early this year there were scattered falls of rain

in western Queensland. There has not been a good season there since 1955, and I shudder to think what will happen to the railway line when it rains heavily. Early this year corrugated-iron pipes were washed from under the line and taken a couple of hundred yards away. They were not replaced. The ballast train came along and filled the holes with ballast. What will happen when it rains next time, now that there are fewer culverts to carry the water away, is anybody's guess.

One would expect people to benefit by their mistakes. Unfortunately that does not seem to apply in the Railway Department. On the Winton line excellent bridges, with concrete piers and steel girders, are being pulled out and replaced by concrete pipes. I do not know why, nor can anybody tell me why. I asked one railway employee why this was being done and he said, "I don't know". He said that at a place where there was a rather long bridge over a watercourse the water had been 2 ft. over the line, and now the water course has been narrowed by 20 ft. and pipes have been put in. Anyone's guess is as good as mine on what will happen there when the area has a normal wet season.

These things should not happen, and I am happy to raise them because I believe it is my job to do so. Whether I get off-side with anyone does not worry me at all. After all, if I do not raise these things, who will? What I am doing now is part and parcel of my job. If any rank-and-file member of the Railway Department made a mistake, he would be dealt with.

Mr. Thackeray: I get a lot of letters from your area asking me to make representations about various things.

Mr. LONERGAN: Anyone who wrote to the hon. member for Rockhampton North would be making a great mistake, because I am the best representative in Queensland for railwaymen.

These are matters that warrant an investigation by the Minister. I ask hon. members to mark these words: if we have a good wet season in western Queensland it will be two months before a train gets through to Mt. Isa. For one thing, the required manpower will not be available. The department has migratory gangs out there, and when the isolated falls occurred early this year there was not a train on the Mt. Isa line for two weeks. People in the small towns were clamouring for the Government to bring in fresh fruit and vegetables by air. That is not good enough, and I expect better than that on a railway line on which so much money has been spent.

On the other hand, I should like it to be clearly understood that, despite its many faults, if the line had not been raised to its present standard, it would not have been possible to get even a couple of trains a week along it now. It has been ballasted with metal and is a credit to the department

from that point of view. My only real complaint is that the department has put in inadequate waterways.

I hope that during the discussion of the Estimates I may be able to say a few words on public works, housing, and education. As hon. members well know, it is a very sore point with me that subcontractors are not employing apprentices. That is a blight on the Government and on the building industry, and I hope to have an opportunity later to speak on it at some length.

Mr. NEWBERY (Mirani) (5.12 p.m.): I have been in this Chamber for only four years; but I have been interested in politics for almost 44 years, and I have long realised that one of the most important functions of any Government is to bring down yearly a Budget that will maintain the State in solvency while, at the same time, providing for the maximum degree of progress that the finances will permit. Solvency provides security, and security provides confidence. Given confidence, the State and its people have the opportunity to progress.

The progress that I visualise is all-embracing progress in a better way of life, and a living for all our people, whatever their occupation. That is controlled to a great extent by progress in industry, both primary and secondary, because our wealth is determined by what we produce, be it a material substance or a service such as tourism, education, commerce, and the like.

Of course, there has never yet been a Budget that has satisfied everyone. There are Budgets that satisfy most people, yet a section of those who are satisfied are not prepared, for political or other reasons, to admit satisfaction. There are Budgets that are designed to stop a drift or fault in industry—corrective Budgets—and they are hard to take but necessary.

Yes, there are many classes of Budgets, and the one most difficult to deal with is the Budget that is determined to a great extent by the amount of money made available by another authority, such as the Federal Government, or by the lack of investment money from outside sources. I mention these various classes of Budgets more for the purpose of helping those who find it expedient to criticise the current Budget. I feel sorry for them, because the Treasurer has provided a Budget that has left so little room for criticism. It is a follow-up Budget, one which follows up the Budgets presented by the Country-Liberal Party coalition since 1957, one that follows up the Budgets which, since 1957, have lifted Queensland from the doldrums of the quarter century preceding 1957. We in Queensland do not live in the days of miracles but rather in the days of near-miracles. The development and progress of this State since 1957 is in that category.

Those who say that this Government has failed are not realistic in their thinking. I honestly believe that they do not think this

Government has failed, and that is a hard pill for opponents of the Government to swallow. There is far too much evidence of progress and development to be seen throughout the State—fantastic development, which is admitted by all classes of people throughout the State.

If there is a fault in that development it is that it has been too fast, as it was in the sugar industry. A few years ago we all thought that the time was ripe for a big surge forward in the sugar industry. I might mention that all sections of the industry agreed that the time had come for that move, and great benefits resulted to the people of the State. However, development costs much money; millers and farmers, not only in my area but in the whole of the State, were expected to find hundreds of millions of dollars to build up both mills and farms. On top of this, many mill areas suffered droughts of varying severity. But have no doubt. In spite of adverse overseas prices, the sugar industry will survive. It is now geared for and has the capacity to meet any opportunity of production. Certainly, there are hardships and they will continue for a while.

Education is a more vital factor in our life today than ever before, and here again Queensland has met the challenge. We hear much criticism about the lack of educational facilities, but, to be quite fair, I believe we must go back a few years and see what this present coalition has had to build from. We must remember that the coalition has never professed to perform miracles. I will relate what has happened in my own electorate. I will not generalise—I will be specific—and I have no doubt that my electorate is no exception. As far as education is concerned, there must be many other electorates similar to Mirani. In 1957 we did not have a high school in Mirani. In fact, there was only one high school, of a sort, in the whole Mackay area. Today the position has changed considerably for the better; we now have two high schools in my electorate—and they are splendid high schools, expertly staffed, with an enrolment in excess of 600 students. I might mention that prior to 1957 there were 16 students in my electorate attending the high school at Mackay. Now we have in excess of 600 attending these two excellent high schools in my area.

Mr. Hughes: The excellent library they have, you assisted in obtaining.

Mr. NEWBERY: That is right. Prior to my taking over in Mirani only half of my schools had libraries. Today, every one of my schools has a library and my contribution, known as the Tom Newbery library subsidy scheme, will introduce in three years around \$6,000 worth of books in the 38 schools in my area.

Prior to 1957 very few parents could afford to send their children to boarding school. Those days, strangely enough, are known as the "good old days"; I often wonder why. Today very few parents need to send their

children to a boarding school. They have quite adequate high schools right in their back yards.

Students living in nearby areas are given either free rail or bus transport to the schools. There is an urgent need for children to receive at least secondary education, and if the children now attending the high schools in my electorate had to attend boarding school it would cost their parents in excess of \$500,000 a year. I think that this is real progress and development. It goes hand in hand with industrial development; it is complementary to it. Of course, it could not be done in a day, or for that matter, a year. Queensland is a big State, and, as I have said before, development costs a lot of money and very few investors had confidence in Queensland in the "good old days".

This State has not reached the ultimate in education, but it is on the right road to approaching it. Year after year the Country-Liberal coalition continues to provide better conditions at our schools for students and teachers alike. Free bus services are extended every year to cover wider areas, and the textbook allowance, which now ranges from \$10 for students in grade 8 to \$40 for students in grade 12, is getting closer to the actual cost of textbooks involved. The student allowance of \$25 a year for both primary and secondary students attending non-State schools is meeting a long-felt want in those schools, which provide a splendid service. To the three convents in my own electorate the payment of \$25 a year for each student means that they will receive \$10,000 a year.

The Capricornia Institute of Technology at Rockhampton is providing to students in my electorate who are interested in industry a marvellous opportunity of receiving tertiary education between high-school and university levels. Teaching aids are now being provided by the Education Department free of charge to high schools and primary schools, and they are a great help to the staff.

Mr. Walsh: Do you think you will win the next election?

Mr. NEWBERRY: I am sure of it.

The supply to high schools of overhead projectors, thermal copiers and tape recorders is an indication of the modern teaching aids that are already supplied to assist teaching staffs. The introduction to our schools of audio-visual education is another illustration of forward thinking by the Education Department.

Incidentally, hon. members may have noticed in this morning's Press that my private secretary's son, Mr. M. Morris, has been awarded a Churchill Fellowship in audio-visual education and is going overseas to study under the fellowship.

The Government's thinking has destroyed the image that Queensland is the Cinderella State in the education field. In fact, Queensland is leading all the other States in education.

I turn now to what I have seen in my own electorate. The building programme embarked upon in recent years has been remarkable. Modern, splendidly equipped schools are being constructed, and new classrooms, new furnishings, new staff rooms, new libraries and new health rooms are provided. In fact, I find it hard to keep track of the development that is taking place. In my electorate every school has either been recently painted or is about to be painted. The staff are very enthusiastic about new teaching methods, with the result that greater contentment exists in parent-teacher co-operation.

The Education Department's Vote this year is \$85,000,000, of which \$29,000,000 is to be provided for buildings and equipment. That is an increase of 39 per cent. on last year's allocation.

A record recruitment of 2,050 teachers is envisaged at two new teachers' colleges. This will have a snowballing effect in a wide plan to take Queensland out of the doldrums in which it found itself prior to 1957.

Of course, some distance still remains to be travelled. The availability of money is a factor, but we are rapidly approaching the near ultimate.

I do not want to blot my copybook, but I must urge the Minister for Education to examine my constant plea to establish a secondary department at the Eungella primary school. A great need exists to provide such a department at that school, which is in one of the isolated districts in my electorate. Eungella is a mountain paradise in a dairying and grazing area, but for some strange reason its educational facilities have been neglected. Proper development cannot be achieved if proper educational facilities are not provided. People will not remain in an area if their children's educational facilities are neglected. Eungella is the main milk-producing area for the whole of the Mackay region and it possesses many other attributes. Access to Eungella is by a beautiful road that ascends the Eungella range, but unfortunately it is a very steep and dangerous road. Believe me, it is not funny climbing that range in a school bus.

This year—1968—21 students are travelling daily by bus to the Mirani High School, a round trip of 56 miles, and four other students from the area are attending boarding school, making a total of 25. In 1969 it is expected that 27 students will travel by bus to the Mirani High School and eight to boarding school, making a total of 35, or 10 more than this year. That number

would be even greater if there was a secondary department at the Eungella primary school. Settlers on Eungella have the unhappy alternatives of sending their children to a boarding school, which they cannot afford, risking their children's lives on the trip up and down the range, taking them away from school, or leaving the area. I leave it to hon. members to contemplate what their decision would be.

I would be failing in my duty if I did not mention a part of the Budget relating to the favourable consideration given to sugar rail freights. I assure hon. members that these concessions have been very well received throughout the Queensland sugar industry, and in my district in particular. In my area, based on last year's production the saving for the sugar mills in the Mackay-Proserpine district from raw sugar rail haulage rate cuts provided in the State Budget would have been approximately \$200,000. That sum is assessed on last year's production, by five mills, of 330,701 tons of sugar actually railed to the Mackay bulk terminal. The five mills affected are Proserpine, North Eton, Marian, Cattle

Creek and Plane Creek. Based on last year's production for these mills the savings would be—

Mill	Tonnage	Saving \$
Proserpine	85,321	65,697
North Eton	37,260	17,512
Marian	81,605	35,906
Cattle Creek	40,424	18,191
Plane Creek	89,091	45,546

Last year North Eton was badly affected by drought, and the tonnages for next year are expected to be greatly in excess of those quoted.

Some anomalies in Mackay, which are to be corrected in this year's Budget proposals, stemmed from the erection of the bulk terminal many years ago, the distances shunted and the wharf charges. Much less work was done by the railways this year, because the terminal did much of its own shunting compared with the period prior to bulk handling. As from 1 November these charges will be incorporated in one charge per ton of sugar to each mill and not listed separately as previously. The following figures set out the position—

Mill	Present Rate	New Rate 1 November	Saving	Percentage reduction
	\$	\$	cents	
Plane Creek	2.84	2.34	50	17.6
North Eton	2.73	2.26	47	17.2
Marian	2.47	2.03	44	17.8
Cattle Creek	3.68	3.23	45	12.2
Proserpine	4.86	4.09	77	15.8

From those figures it must be apparent to members of the Opposition, contrary to what they are claiming in their contributions in this debate, that the saving or reduction in freight will bring the new sugar rates in the areas quoted well below what they were prior to the change of Government in 1957. For instance, in the case of Plane Creek, there is a reduction of 17.6 per cent. compared with a rise of 7½ per cent. since 1957, the difference being a drop of 10.1 per cent. below the 1957 freight rate. I shall not mention all the other mills as they compare favourably with that just quoted.

Further to the concession on our raw sugar in the Budget, and announced only last week, is the 5 per cent. reduction in sugar-cane freights. This was not included in the Budget and I feel that I must mention it because it represents a great concession to the cane farmers. In proprietary mill areas the farmers do not receive this benefit relative to sugar hauled, whereas, in co-operative mill areas they do. But in the case of cane hauled, the farmer gets the benefit.

In November, 1966, a railway freight case was prepared by the sugar industry organisation. It contained an estimate of

772,000 tons of cane carried by the Queensland Government railways in the nine mill areas concerned at a freight charge of \$1,124,000. Only eight mills are now affected because, as some hon. members know, Marian mill went "on the road" with more than 200,000 tons of cane, making a saving to the co-operative of somewhere in the vicinity of \$160,000.

Assuming the same percentage of total crop was carried by rail in 1968 as in 1966, and allowing for the 7½ per cent. increase introduced in the 1966 Budget, we estimate \$860,000 to be the total 1968 cane freight payable on 550,000 tons of cane. A 5 per cent. reduction in this freight bill represents a saving of \$43,000 to those eight mills which still have cane on rail throughout Queensland. Freight saving on raw sugar concessions is estimated by the Treasurer at \$650,000 for the whole State. This, plus sugar cane rail freight concessions of 5 per cent. (which represents \$43,000 to the eight mills affected) represents a saving of just under \$700,000 to both millers and growers in the State.

Mackay district this year has had a remarkable growing season followed by extremely high sugar content. Pleystowe—and

this will be interesting to growers both north and south of Mackay—attained an all-time high average c.c.s. for a week of 17.42 per cent. That represents somewhere about 5.75 tons of cane to a ton of sugar. These two factors have produced a record output of sugar in the Mackay district estimated at 764,100 tons of 94 n.t. sugar, 206,000 tons above the aggregate peaks of the mills in the Mackay district. This aggregate peak, being 558,000 tons of 94 n.t. sugar. This represents a production of somewhere in the vicinity of 37 or 38 per cent. above the aggregate peaks in the Mackay area.

Removal of this excess cane created a good deal of anxiety for the growers in the Mackay area, and posed a real problem for the Sugar Board and its agent, the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. Ltd. The Sugar Board and the C.S.R. have done a remarkable job. I say this because, with an agreement in view, making a final acquisition of cane is a very delicate job. I offer my sincere congratulations to both of these organisations, particularly the C.S.R., because, as figures later on in my speech will prove, they have done a remarkable job in getting rid of the whole of this crop. A mistake in the final acquisition at this juncture could have caused later problems, especially now that we have backed an international sugar agreement.

The best export performance prior to 1968 was in the 1966 season, when 1,697,967 tons of 94 n.t. sugar were exported. On 6 September the Premier said in a statement that sales already firmly arranged from the 1968 season's production were nearly 250,000 tons more than from the whole of any previous crop. This would indicate export sales approaching 1,950,000 tons at that date. No doubt, with the final acquisition that I shall mention later, this will be higher, possibly in excess of 2,000,000 tons.

Here is the story of the acquisition of this year's crop. As early as May, 1967, the Sugar Board gave a very preliminary indication that it anticipated acquisition of not less than peaks from the 1968 crop. Queensland and New South Wales peaks then aggregated 2,230,000 tons of actual sugar. This was re-stated in March this year in reports by board members to the association's conferences. In mid-April, 1968, the bureau released the first estimate of the Queensland crop at 2,445,000 tons of 94 n.t. sugar. In early June the revised estimate given was 2,444,000 tons of 94 n.t. sugar. At that time New South Wales estimated approximately 134,000 tons.

On 2 July, 1968, the Sugar Board anticipated, subject to major qualifications relating to a possible international sugar agreement, accepting for marketing about 2,500,000 tons of actual sugar from the 1968 crop. This was approximately the estimate of the Queensland and New South Wales productions. On 19 August, 1968, the board advised that it would accept 2,500,000 tons

of actual sugar, which would be reached by accepting for marketing up to 120 per cent. of individual peaks.

At that time the Sugar Board indicated that about the middle of October it would make another announcement of possible further acquisition of cane. This was followed, of course, by an outcry throughout the district which was brought about by the wrong lead of a member of the Opposition who indicated that no more sugar would be taken by the Sugar Board. I can assure hon. members that that had a bad effect in the area because it was accepted by quite a few, who got this information by the grapevine, that that was to be the last acquisition.

On 5 September, 1968, the board advised that it had decided to acquire 2,580,000 tons, which would be reached by accepting up to 127 per cent. of individual peaks. On 30 September, 1968, a proclamation issued a formal declaration of acquisition of 27 per cent. above peaks. On 15 October, 1968, the board determined that the level of third-quota sugar to be acquired would be increased from 27 per cent. to 32 per cent. above peaks. At that time therefore a stage had been reached at which 132 per cent. of peaks was to be acquired.

Mr. Walsh: Do you think you will have any trouble there next season?

Mr. NEWBERY: I do not think so. The right thing has been done. The farmers have been advised of the possibility of restrictions this year, and I think that it is very important that they be advised sufficiently early to be able to plan accordingly. I have no doubt that we will have excess cane. I think that anyone who grows his bare peak is foolish; I think a farmer should grow 10 per cent. or 20 per cent. in excess of it. I have always aimed at 20 per cent. above my peak, and in my 30-odd years of farming I have had cane left standing in only three years. During that time I have grown a lot of excess cane, and my gamble has paid off. No doubt many other farmers are playing it along the same lines, and I think they should grow some cane in excess of their peak. This year the excess in the district is about 40 per cent., but I ask hon. members not to forget that it has been a fantastically good year—one of the best years in which I have grown cane—and if it had been a dry season there probably would not have been any excess.

The Mackay area, which is a good cane-growing area, has been over-producing consistently. The State probably is fortunate that the Mackay area has been able to produce in excess of its peak, because drought has occurred in almost every sugar-growing area of the State in the past nine years and invariably Mackay has made up the shortfall in other mill areas and enabled the State

to reach its peak. To my mind, the part that Mackay has played in building up production must have had some effect on the quota that Australia has received under the International Sugar Agreement. If that additional cane had not been grown, Australia may not have been given a quota of 1,100,000 tons less 10 per cent.

Mr. Walsh: Do you think that better storage will enable us to carry over some of the manufactured sugar into next year?

Mr. NEWBERY: Australia will be controlled by the sugar agreement after 1 January, 1969, and I could not answer the hon. member's question until I see the terms of the agreement. I say to the hon. member for Bundaberg that we have sufficient storage in Mackay for almost the whole of one season's crop.

Mr. Walsh: Storage for just on 500,000 tons?

Mr. NEWBERY: Yes, about 500,000 tons. The Mackay area is well prepared for any emergency with a carry-over. With the use of bulk handling and the cooling of sugar, it is possible to stack it in the big sheds. The treacle does not run from the bags as it did in the hon. member's day. Sugar technology has improved the keeping qualities of sugar, and if the need to store sugar arises, storage facilities are available not only at Mackay but also at Bundaberg, Lucinda Point, Townsville, and Cairns. Immense quantities of sugar could be held over if the Government or the Sugar Board saw fit to do that.

The news today of the success in reaching an agreement at the conference on the International Sugar Agreement is somewhat heartening to Queensland. The fact is that under that agreement Australia will now have a quota of 1,100,000 tons, less 10 per cent., on the world sugar market. Of the balance of the No. 1 pool sugar, 335,000 tons will go to the United Kingdom at a negotiated premium price of £Stg.43/10/- a ton. There is a quota of 173,720 tons to America. I do not know whether one could call that a rapidly-increasing quota, but it is increasing favourably. Every additional 1,000 tons sold is good business, especially when it is sold to America. There is a home-consumption figure of 640,000 tons, and I understand that it is increasing by about 70,000 to 75,000 tons a year. Therefore, in a few years the home-consumption figure could build up and give some relief in the restricted International Sugar Agreement quota.

Of course, before the expansion in 1963, home-consumption sugar represented about 66½ per cent. of all sales. Of the balance of 33½ per cent., two-thirds was sold at the guaranteed market price and the remainder was sold at world market price.

As of today, with the expansion of the sugar industry about doubling the production, we have 49 per cent. at world market price,

which represents the I.S.A. quota of 1,100,000. Where we had 66 per cent. on home-consumption price, we have today about 27 per cent. or 28 per cent. of our total production on home-consumption price, the difference between the 27 per cent. and the 49 per cent. being on the guaranteed markets that I have quoted.

From discussions that I have had today, I understand that the possibility of restricting to the 10 per cent. below the 1,100,000 tons is not very great for next year because there is some thought that we could stay on peaks for the 1969 harvest, thus building up a slight reserve for the benefit of the future.

I mentioned earlier that the first estimate was 2,445,000 tons. In June the estimate, including N.S.W., was 2,578,000 tons, but with the excellent season I have just mentioned we have reached the stage now where the production for 1968 is 2,600,000 tons. That represents 350,000 tons in excess of mill peaks. That is the figure, first of all, that we will have to reduce. It is the amount we will lose by the introduction of the International Sugar Agreement—the 350,000 tons in excess of mill peaks.

The base price under the new International Sugar Agreement is 3.25 cents a lb., which represents about \$65 a ton. The maximum price as agreed to is 5.25 cents a lb., which represents about \$105 a ton. We see every day in the Press that sugar prices range around \$40 a ton. There is no doubt that the cane-farmers in Queensland will not be so worried about what they have just harvested because that has gone, and this agreement does not come into being until 1 January, 1969, but I made some endeavour today to estimate what we could expect to get per ton of sugar from the 1969 crop. I have taken figures out, and the basis for my calculations is that, provided all other prices stay the same—that is, the negotiated price with Britain, the U.S.A. quota and the home-consumption price—and taking the I.S.A. sugar base price as 3.25 cents a lb., the price that we could expect next year for No. 1 pool sugar would be about \$94 a ton. I understand that some other gentleman worked it out and he arrived at about \$92, so that if we split the difference, it could be about \$93 a ton.

Hon. members will recall, too, that with the support price, which has been brought about by the borrowing of the \$19,000,000 support loan from the Commonwealth Government, followed by a further \$4,000,000-odd, we have been receiving about \$86 a ton. This would be a definite improvement. There were some requests made that the price for 1968 be \$96 a ton, but of course that failed. I have based this on the minimum base price negotiated in the International Sugar Agreement. With the 10 per cent. reduction in peaks we could expect that that severe restriction could force the price above 3.25c a lb. This could result in a price next year of over \$100 a

ton. If that price can be achieved, great benefits will flow to the Queensland sugar industry.

A few days ago an Opposition member reminded me that my electorate contains an area that has been producing large quantities of excess cane for many years. This over-production has been used to make up shortfalls that have occurred in other mill areas. The new agreement will restrict the Mackay mill areas to their peaks and will take them back from 135 per cent. to their mill peaks and possibly lower. I have no doubt that the mill-owners and growers in my electorate will regard that as a hard imposition and will complain about it. They have every reason to complain, because, as I have said, for many years the Mackay area has been making up the shortfalls that have occurred in other mill areas, and I have no doubt that the area made a great contribution towards the gains that have been received from the International Sugar Agreement.

I turn now to the Sugar Board's acquisition of this year's crop, I mention that it was very pleasing to hear today that the Board has now approved of the acquisition of the whole crop and has agreed to take 145 per cent. I have no doubt that this acquisition could clear the whole crop.

For many years this State has been waiting for the International Sugar Agreement, and it has now come into existence. Great credit must be paid to those people who negotiated on behalf of Queensland. I refer to the Premier, Mr. Pearce of the Australian Sugar Producers' Association, Mr. Bruce Henderson of the Queensland Cane Growers' Council, Mr. Wheen of the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. Ltd., and Mr. McEwen, the Federal Minister for Trade and Industry. Queensland owes a lot to those gentlemen for the part that they played in achieving this agreement. My thanks go to our Premier and his staff.

I should now like to discuss local government finance.

Mr. Newton: Tell us whether you are going to have sewerage in Sarina.

Mr. NEWBERY: I will tell the hon. member right now that we are going to have sewerage in Sarina, whether the A.L.P. in that town likes it or not. The A.L.P. is dead against sewerage in Sarina. Its members are trying to "knock" sewerage. All the meetings are introduced by the A.L.P., and the party is trying to sacrifice the amenities and health of the people for politics alone. It is "anti-Newbery"; that's what it is!

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. NEWBERY: Don't get me wrong; the A.L.P. is dead against progress. It wants Sarina to be the only town on the coast without sewerage. It wants the people in Sarina to sit on E.C.'s. for the rest of their lives. In 1965 they had the chance of

presenting a petition. I asked the shire clerk to prepare a petition. He prepared the petition. And what happened? He gave it to the fellow who asked for the petition. And what did he get? He did not get one signature on it.

Mr. Walsh: You don't mean to tell us that the A.L.P. is against sewerage.

Mr. NEWBERY: Of course it is. It does not want sewerage; it is trying to "knock" it every day. Public meetings are held, but most of those who attend them belong to the A.L.P. My opponent in the last council election, with the support of a couple of councillors, is leading the opposition. There is no doubt that he is leading the attack against sewerage for Sarina.

Mr. Walsh: They don't want progress.

Mr. NEWBERY: No, the A.L.P. does not want progress in Sarina. It wants the people to walk down the yard and sit on dirty, stinking E.C.'s. for the rest of their lives.

I believe that there is one occasion in every man's public career when he has to do what is right, irrespective of the consequences. I assure the hon. member for Bundaberg that sewerage will come to Sarina even if I lose my seat, which the A.L.P. wants to happen. But I will not lose my seat! I will lose it only if I do not provide sewerage. I will not lose one vote of the people opposing me in Sarina, but if I do not carry on with this sewerage scheme I will lose the votes of the people who support me and expect me to proceed with the scheme. The people of Sarina want to improve their way of life. They want sewerage in the town.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. NEWBERY: I repeat that members of the A.L.P. in Sarina do not want sewerage. In 1965 they did not want a petition. They said, "No! Hang on for a while; it is not close enough to the State election. Let's get at Tommy Newbery just before the State election, when we can embarrass him. We will try to stop him proceeding with the sewerage scheme." I can assure hon. members that no-one is embarrassing me. My people in the town of Sarina will have sewerage. They do not want to be the only people along the coastline of this State without sewerage.

We are providing sewerage at a cost of \$50 a pedestal. In 1963, in the days when a poll could be demanded, the people of Babinda refused to have sewerage when it would have cost \$38 a pedestal. On the very same day that Sarina put it through—about three or four weeks ago—Babinda agreed to proceed with sewerage, at a cost of \$58 a pedestal. In a matter of five years the cost has increased from \$38 to \$58

I repeat that we are providing sewerage at \$50 a pedestal, which is a fair average State charge. There are 81 pensioners in my area and we intend to give them the best concession given to pensioners anywhere in Australia, possibly in the world. We are allowing them a 50 per cent. concession on the sewerage rate. Yet, some of the pensioners are trying to "knock" me. They say that the rate is too high. It represents the cost of only one packet of cigarettes a week to them, yet some of them are "knocking" it. Not all the pensioners are opposed to it, and I have many pensioner friends. Only a few years ago I commenced a pensioners' housing settlement scheme by guaranteeing \$2,000 for the purchase of the land. They have now bought the land and have almost enough money to proceed with the building of their homes in the area.

Mr. Walsh: The mill campaigned against sewerage in 1937.

Mr. NEWBERY: I cannot be blamed for that. I was only a kid in those days.

I assure hon. members that Plane Creek mill, the Australian National Power Alcohol Co., and all the hotels in the area favour sewerage. A septic system is all right in some parts of Sarina, but in other places the septic effluent is running out into the street. Our beautiful hospital has a septic system from which the effluent is running down the main street past the high school. The soil absorption rate at the primary school is poor, and the effluent is running down a drain into the distillery dam. The effluent is running down a bank in the area south of Central Street in Sarina—the main centre of the town—into the distillery dam area, yet the A.L.P. in Sarina does not want a sewerage scheme. A.L.P. members claim that I made a promise in my council election campaign that I would let them have a poll. I stated that they would be able to demand a poll if they brought a petition. All hon. members know that since that election the Local Government Act has been amended. I told the council last Monday that I had not promised to give the people of Sarina a poll. I won the council election in Sarina last year against my opponent, who is an A.L.P. man, and I told the people what was going to happen.

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

Mr. NEWBERY: I shall now deal with local government revenue throughout the State. I do not think I need to tell hon. members of the financial difficulty that local government is facing. The only source of revenue available to local government is land rating based on the unimproved capital value of land. Local authorities, not knowing the worth of their ratepayers, can charge only an amount that they know the ratepayer can pay.

In the period 1959-60 to 1965-66 the value of rateable property based on the unimproved capital value has increased 102.6

per cent., or an average of 20.5 per cent. per annum. In the same period rates on all funds have increased at an average rate of 7.09 per cent. Many councils are faced with a number of constituents who have difficulty in keeping pace with this rate of increase.

Local government is being called upon to supply an ever-increasing range of services to ratepayers. We live in the 20th century and people have become accustomed to, and expect, a higher standard of living. The higher standard of living extends beyond home amenities such as refrigeration, electricity and hot water. Local authorities have to provide better roads, sanitation, reticulated water supplies, libraries, parks and gardens. In addition, swimming pools are almost a necessity in many parts of Queensland in the hot summer months. These are some of the more important services.

Other services are expected as well. How are these to be paid for? Apart from revenue the usual procedure in Queensland is to obtain loans to pay commitments. Despite its large area and relatively small population compared with New South Wales and Victoria, Queensland has borrowed more heavily than either of these States. Local government in Queensland, if it is to do the job it is supposed to do, has to pay a price for its heavy borrowing. Yet it has less revenue with which to finance its debt charges. The debt service in Queensland on ordinary funds has increased 64.4 per cent. in the period 1959-60 to 1964-65. As a proportion of the rate collections on all funds, the debt service was 59.6 per cent. in 1964-65 and is increasing year by year. On general funds this proportion is 40 per cent. This means that local government in Queensland has less funds with which to perform the other tasks with which it has been charged.

"The Australian" on 20 June said in its editorial, "Pity the poor councils". While the net indebtedness of the Commonwealth has decreased from \$3,370 million to \$3,134 million in the 15 years to 1965, the indebtedness of the States has increased by 199 per cent. and local government by 333 per cent. in the same period. This charge was not refuted.

The States, as distinct from local government, have a number of sources of revenue available. Local government has only one source of revenue—land rating—and it is limited in the extent to which it can increase this revenue. The people who pay the highest proportion of these rates per ratepayer—the primary producers—have just been through a severe drought. Their costs are continually rising. Obviously there is a limit to which land rating can be increased, and that limit seems generally to have been reached. In the more populated areas the people are required to pay less for better services, but even here the extent of taxing cannot be increased indefinitely. The landowner is penalised at the expense of the person who pays no rates.

Local government is in a real dilemma. Where is it to obtain the extra finance with which to carry out the services that are needed and demanded today? The road situation in Queensland is an example of the problems facing local government. The Main Roads Department is doing a good job within the limits of its finances, but considerable lengths of council roads are not of a high standard. In 1959-60 local authorities in Queensland spent on ordinary services 75.1 per cent. of the total expenditure from revenue, from which must be deducted 14.4 per cent. for debt services, 24.9 per cent. of expenditure was from loans and loan subsidies. In 1964-65 the percentages were 69.5 from revenue and 30.4 from loans and subsidies. Debt servicing has risen to 17.9 per cent. The percentage spent on new roads dropped from 8.3 in 1959-60 to 6.15 in 1964-65, whilst the percentage spent on maintenance decreased from 14.39 to 10 over the same period.

On the receipts side, on ordinary services revenue from rates increased at an average annual percentage of 5.1. Revenue from sanitary and cleansing services increased 9.9 per cent., and revenue from council properties increased by 7.3 per cent. Reimbursements for work done increased 5.3 per cent. per annum for the State, 27.3 per cent. for other bodies, and 17.7 per cent. for other categories. Receipts from revenue increased at the rate of 7.1 per cent. per annum, while receipts from loan funds increased at the rate of 12.7 per cent. Loan subsidies on ordinary services increased at the rate of 13.8 per cent. These figures have been taken from "Statistics of Queensland-Local Government—Part E".

All these things add up to the fact that additional means of finance must be found for local government. The ideal situation would be, of course, to receive a share of the common pool of taxation from the Commonwealth Government, yet the State is very slow to recognise this point, no doubt feeling that if that happened the State's share would be reduced. The royal commission into local government finance in New South Wales is now history. Many of the recommendations made were quite radical in approach, yet in their wisdom members of local governments in that State chose not to accept most of them. In New South Wales a grants commission has been set up to distribute \$4,000,000 per annum to local authorities, yet this amount, too, will be totally inadequate to meet the needs of the 20th century.

The Queensland Government has been generous with its subsidy scheme, but still more is needed for local government if it is to keep abreast of modern technological progress and provide the people of Queensland with those things that are important to any civilised community. Local government acknowledges that the State is doing its best with the limited resources at its disposal. The Commonwealth Government, on the other hand, is growing richer and richer, and it is to this source that we must look if local

government is to get a better deal. The support of the State will be needed if that goal is to be realised.

To sum up, local government needs these things. It needs new additional revenue which local authorities can use at their option. These could be payment by the State and its instrumentalities of an ex-gratia land rate equivalent to that paid by a private taxpayer. Some other forms of taxation could be imposed, such as petrol and tyre tax, and there are probably other revenue-producing sources as well. A share of the common taxation pool would be the most desirable. I feel the most important thing would be an increase in Commonwealth grants to local authorities in Queensland, such increases to be used at the discretion of the local authorities.

Mr. Houghton: A larger slice of the cake.

Mr. NEWBERRY: Yes, a larger slice of the cake, I have some figures of the amounts obtained in petrol tax in New Zealand. In that country all revenue obtained from petrol tax is used in the construction of roads. In 1959-60 the Commonwealth collected \$112,200,000 in petrol tax. Of that it paid \$87,800,000 to the States keeping the balance of \$24.4 million. In 1965-66 it collected \$217,700,000, of which it paid out \$161,000,000 and retained \$56,700,000. The total amount collected in the whole of Australia between 1959-60 and 1965-66 was \$1,124,500,000. In that same period \$794,800,000 was paid to the States, leaving a gap of \$229,000,000. An average yearly figure of \$32,800,000 went into the pocket of the Commonwealth Government. It could be paid to the State, and I am sure that it would give us a chance of increasing the Commonwealth grant, which would be of great benefit to local authorities.

(Time expired.)

Mr. CAREY (Albert) (7.26 p.m.): Being a person brought up and trained in the retail trade, and having been associated with commerce for the whole of my working life, I fully appreciate the feeling of satisfaction experienced by the Treasurer, the Premier, Cabinet Ministers, members of the Government and others associated with the presentation of Queensland's excellent Budget. We are very fortunate to have had such a Budget presented to us in this Chamber by the Treasurer, Hon. Gordon Chalk, in the 38th Parliament of Queensland, and I congratulate him upon it.

It is very apparent from the half-hearted attacks made on the Budget by the Opposition, whose job it is to find fault with the Government's legislation and especially with its control of the State's finances, that hon. members opposite are hard-pressed to counter the claims made by the Treasurer when he presented the Financial Statement recently.

Mr. Sherrington: Would you say that next year's election would have anything to do with it?

Mr. CAREY: Hon. members opposite have heard the Treasurer introduce the best Budget that has been brought down in this Chamber for many a long day, and there will be an even better Budget brought down after the next election.

Mr. Sherrington: That is right; we will be the Government.

Mr. CAREY: The Country-Liberal Government will retain the Treasury benches, and the next Budget will astound hon. members opposite. This is only a beginning. It is the "march to progress"; we will see the progress after the next election. The Treasurer will still be the Treasurer of this State, and a Country-Liberal Government will again occupy these benches.

From the few weak arguments submitted by hon. members opposite, it is apparent that the Labour Party cannot find much fault with the Financial Statement, which for the next 12 months will be the measuring stick for the progress and prosperity of Queensland. Many members of the Opposition have used a considerable amount of the time at their disposal to criticise the naming of the Budget. What a weak point! The only chink they can find in the Government's armour is the name of the Budget. As hon. members know—and I should like to endorse his description of it—the Treasurer referred to it as "Queensland's march to progress" budget. I ask hon. members: what is in a name? It matters little whether one is a Jones, a Wood, a Harris, a Smith—

Mr. Sherrington: A Carey.

Mr. CAREY: —or a Carey. It is the heart or the soul of a man that makes him an empire-builder, and it is the heart or the content of this Budget, brought down by good government, that spells continued progress and growth for Queensland.

I place on record my congratulations to the Treasurer, Hon. Gordon Chalk, and his Treasury officials, headed by that well-known and efficient public servant, Mr. Alan Sewell, for their contributions in framing such an excellent Budget and for the very careful husbanding of the State's finances that has made it possible for the Government to have funds available to increase expenditure on a very important facet of government—education.

Mr. O'Donnell: Who typed your speech?

Mr. CAREY: As a matter of fact, if you really want to know, a charming member of the Parliamentary secretarial staff.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! Will the hon. member please address the Chair.

Mr. CAREY: My apologies to you, Mr. Smith, but I thought I was speaking through you to the hon. member for Barcoo.

As he comes from Barcoo, we expect from him a lot of rot because he has Barcoo rot in his own right. As I was saying, my speech was typed by a very charming young lady from the Parliamentary secretarial typing pool after I sat up last evening till 11 o'clock getting my thoughts together.

The provision for education has been increased by \$14,121,552 or 19.88 per cent., which I will deal with much more fully in the Education Department's Estimates; but there are a few points I want to bring to the notice of the Committee now because I believe that some hon. members opposite have had no experience in reading Budgets. I do not direct those remarks to the hon. member for Barcoo. Being a Bachelor of Commerce, a degree he gained after much hard work, he is far more capable of reading Budgets and commercial papers than I am.

The Government is to be commended for increasing the weekly payment to foster mothers to \$7.50. Every one of us knows and appreciates the value of a mother, and many of us have had the wonderful experience of being reared by our own mother. I know, however, that some hon. members have not experienced that great joy and pleasure. And this Government has recognised the wonderful service being given to young people who go to various homes and are cared for by foster mothers.

I want to compliment the Treasurer and Mr. Sewell on setting aside also an amount of \$190,000 for a new scheme of payments to deserted wives and children, unmarried mothers and similarly placed persons. I know that Opposition members also commend the Government for this step. During my period in Parliament, I have heard many speakers complain bitterly that nothing is being done for the deserted wife who has to wait six months before she gets recognition from the Commonwealth.

Mr. Sherrington: Particularly the Gorton Government.

Mr. CAREY: Being a State representative in an excellent Government, I do not want to be drawn into the field of Federal politics. In this State the Country Party has a majority in the Government; in the Federal field the Liberal Party has a majority, and, together, we are making a very good team. I know that hon. members opposite appreciate what this Government has done.

How often have we had representations from mothers with families of one, two or three children, whose husbands, because of misdemeanours, have been cast into prison for four, five or six months, and who therefore have no income available to them. Queensland's Country-Liberal Party Government, with its heart of gold, has seen fit to recognise the problems that confront those unfortunate mothers, and is now making

available the sum of \$190,000 in an endeavour to relieve their problems. And that is only the beginning.

Mr. Bennett interjected.

Mr. CAREY: Mr. Smith, through you may I ask the hon. member for South Brisbane to raise his voice? I cannot hear him.

Mr. Bennett: I have not got a microphone as you have.

Mr. CAREY: Another feature of the Budget that is worthy of particular mention is the allocation of \$500,000 to ensure that Queensland will not lose its best brains to other States and to overseas countries. It is very important that they be retained in this State. The only other point I make is that at times real brains of the State are not fully recognised: we have to take a back seat!

The Government is providing the sum of \$500,000 for further development of industrial estates, and here again it is to be commended. This provision is concrete evidence of the Government's earnest desire to decentralise industry. According to the Budget my electorate will benefit greatly from this allocation, which proves the Government is anxious to entice manufacturers to establish factories outside the city areas.

Mr. Sherrington: Then you will have your Liberal opponent breathing down your neck.

Mr. CAREY: I thank the hon. member for interjecting, because I want to talk about that matter. We have known many men in many political parties who have had others breathing down the back of their necks. They have not exactly put on weight, have they? Every sane person over the age of 21 years, provided he is not bankrupt, has the right to stand for Parliament. I give credit to anybody who wants to stand. It is a shame that conflicts arise occasionally, but my colleague the hon. member for South Coast and I have not got ulcers and we are not taking Bex or any other headache powders. We believe the race will be run on a straight, fair and honest course and that we will come out of it with a gold medal such as that awarded at the Olympic Games.

Mr. Sullivan: In appreciation of what you have done.

Mr. CAREY: That's for sure. I appreciate the Minister's remark. The people of Australia, and particularly of Queensland, appreciate what has been done for them by their elected representatives. The constituents in my electorate can be assured that the Government has not forgotten them. Proof of this fact can easily be found.

The sum of \$750,000 is provided for continuation of the Dairy Pasture Subsidy Scheme. The scheme has been hailed by

dairy farmers as the most positive contribution by the Government towards assisting dairy farmers to increase production and overcome rising costs. They realise that they are no longer the forgotten legion, and never will be while this Government looks after their interests, but it will not be very long before the Australian Labour Party is known as the "forgotten legion".

Family enterprise in dairying deserves the support of the Government and I will deal with it on a much broader scale shortly.

I have referred to a few pertinent points in the Budget, which I believe should be highlighted. All hon. members have had an opportunity of reading it, and I know that the hon. member for Baroona has read it and fully absorbed it. The expenditure programme provides for an outlay of \$377,011,714 this year compared with \$344,765,370 last year, or an increase of \$32.4 million. Very shortly I will be asking the various Ministers who receive the increase of \$32.4 million to be certain that some of it is spent in my electorate. Once again I say we must admire those who are responsible for framing such a document, which spells out nothing but success.

So much for the hard financial facts. I now wish to deal with a few matters pertaining to my electorate and one of a personal nature. I propose to deal first with the latter. Hon. members do not need to be told that we have two opportunities during a session of Parliament to embark on a Cook's tour, as it were, and mention any matter at all. And I gladly use some of the time allotted to me in this debate to say thanks to those hon. members who are retiring for their wonderful friendship and fellowship, and for their goodwill to me during the 8½ years I have had the pleasure and responsibility of looking after the electorate of Albert.

Mr. Bennett: Is this supposed to be a swansong?

Mr. CAREY: It is not a swansong for me but it is for these hon. gentlemen. Many of them are on the Opposition benches, but they are indeed gentlemen. I hope that I can say the same thing about the hon. member for South Brisbane when he decides to retire on his \$19,000 income from his legal practice, which the hon. member for Townsville South told us about this afternoon.

The hon. gentlemen I propose to refer to have been very good friends of mine. They certainly do not all belong to the Country Party or the Liberal Party. Some of them are Independents, and quite a few are Labour members, but I still regard them as my personal friends. We may argue in debate, and we may even get a little heated, but in my 8½ years here I have not found one with whom I would not be happy to associate outside the Chamber.

I tender my very sincere thanks to Eddie Beardmore and Alf Muller. I suppose I should refer to them as the hon. members

for Balonne and Fassifern, but I think you might forgive me, Mr. Smith, because I am dealing with these hon. gentlemen as friends and human beings, not as parliamentarians.

An Opposition Member: You are insulting them.

Mr. CAREY: I am not insulting them. I am one of the elected representatives and, if I attribute anything to them, I must be attributing it to myself.

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: Might I suggest that you really mean that when you became a member of parliament you are more than human?

Mr. CAREY: We are always striving to do even more work for the community, and to put forward a better effort for the people we represent. One could be selfish, like the hon. member for South Brisbane, who does not exactly spend a tremendous amount of time in the Chamber.

Mr. Bennett: I haven't a fleet of trucks like you so that I can fleece the Government with transport charges.

Mr. CAREY: I wish the hon. member for South Brisbane would repeat that outside the House. If he did I might issue a defamation writ against him within 48 hours.

I thank my very good friends, Mr. Beardmore and Mr. Muller, for the considerable assistance they gave me in the early days of my political career when I was not game to stand up to Opposition members. None of them causes me any fear now, of course.

Then I come to Mr. "Bunny" Adair and Mr. Arthur Coburn, two very wonderful Independents who have given this Government and the Opposition a good deal of assistance. Generally, they have been very good friends of all of us.

Next I mention Mr. Peter Byrne, Mr. Jack Dufficy, Mr. Fred Graham and Mr. John Duggan. I am very pleased to see Mr. Duggan in the Chamber tonight. He has great difficulty recognising me in the Chair when I occupy it. He nods and I often wonder whether he will finish up wearing a harness like that worn by the hon. member for Tablelands. I do sincerely thank Mr. Duggan. I knew him long before I knew many other Opposition members. The first time I had the responsibility, as chairman of the Southport Chamber of Commerce, of looking after Mr. Duggan, his only worry was that he was working with and for the Labour Party which was not recognising his worth and quality or paying him a salary sufficient to enable him to buy a couple of allotments of land. I said to him, "Jack I would like to go to a sale. I think I can buy some cheap land". He said, "Cec., we will both go down there". Sure enough I bought six allotments and they turned out to be pretty good, although not as good as I would have liked them to be. If Mr. Duggan

had bought a couple, I am sure that he would have made quite a tidy profit on them.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. CAREY: It is a pity that members of the Opposition cannot speak a little louder because I cannot catch all of them.

Mr. Bennett: You even got the railway line pulled up to help your company further.

Mr. CAREY: It is a funny thing how often this old bogy—you would swear it was a bogie off a railway truck—is brought up that I had the railway line closed. I had then been in office only about 18 months, and if I got the railway line closed, my strength then must have been greater than it is today, because I cannot even get the Department of Harbours and Marine to spend \$500,000 in my electorate, a matter I shall be speaking about tonight if I have the time.

I want to thank Mr. Fred Graham, too. I recall a couple of pleasant weeks we had on the Whitsunday Passage islands as the guests of the Minister for Mines and Main Roads. We presented Mr. Fred Graham with a silver mug as the oldest gentleman in the party, and, believe me, he loved every minute of it.

"Johnno" Mann is a real character and none of us will ever forget him. Despite his firm political views, he was ever ready and willing to assist new members, irrespective of their political beliefs. I have often said to him, "Johnno", please write your memoirs".

A Government Member interjected.

Mr. CAREY: The Liberals are trying to get my seat and are also trying to take over my speech. If "Johnno" could write his memoirs as well as he can tell them he would make a handsome profit—much more than by pulling up a railway line!

Finally, I want to make special mention of the hon. member for Ipswich East, Mr. Jim Donald. He is a true friend of all of us, and we all admire him for his fairness and his ability to make friends. During a recent trip we were thrown together for five weeks on an old ship that tossed like a cork. Jim and I were sleeping in bunks on the canopy deck of the "Melbidir", and when it took six inches of water over the deck, our cases were flying backwards and forwards. Jim Donald showed his ability to coin a phrase when he said in that situation, "Cec., we are living in the aquarium", and from that day we lived "in the aquarium" and finished up as gold-fish worth our weight in gold.

I was very impressed with the speech he made last Tuesday. He has always been known as a fair, moderate man, but on this occasion he excelled himself when he gave full credit to the Treasurer for the Budget that he presented, and wished him well on his trip south in search of more money from the

Commonwealth for the State. In his fair and honest manner, he described the Treasurer as a vigorous fighter. He said that he was a vigorous fighter in this Chamber, and he knew that he would fight the Commonwealth Government vigorously and would not be browbeaten by the heads of his political party.

Mr. Bromley: The only thing is that he can't go the distance.

Mr. CAREY: The hon. member for Norman could not go the full 15 rounds this afternoon; he caved in on the bell.

Mr. Bromley: I spoke till my time expired.

Mr. CAREY: Political parties will not come into the Treasurer's thoughts when he is in Canberra asking for more money for the State.

However, I cannot continue eulogising Jim Donald all the time, as I have to cross swords with him on a couple of comments that he made during his speech last Tuesday. I say to him that I, too, dislike monopolies.

Mr. Bromley interjected.

Mr. CAREY: If the hon. member for Norman can give me a guarantee that his opponent, Mr. Ryan, will beat him at the coming election, I shall say a few words of thanks for his friendship. Mr. Ryan will be breathing down the back of his neck, and there is no way in the world that the hon. member for Norman will not be defeated. However, I do not like to forecast that and have it go into "Hansard".

I want to cross swords with the hon. member for Ipswich East on this point and say that I, too, dislike, and am opposed to, monopolies. During his speech, of which I obtained a copy of the "Hansard" proof so that I would be able to quote him correctly, he said that traders invariably got together and endeavoured to make arrangements to keep prices at top levels. He said that traders invariably formed trade associations so that they could make more profits out of their sales. I say to him that trade associations, particularly those of independent traders, are no different from the unions formed by workers. Just as unions exist to protect the interests of workers, so trade associations are established to protect the interests of their members. I say to the Committee that it will be a sorry day for the State of Queensland if ever the small retailer is pushed out of business.

Mr. Bennett: He has just about "had" it now.

Mr. CAREY: I would not be prepared to go as far as the hon. member for South Brisbane goes and say that he has just about "had" it. These traders have spunk and by nature are good Australian fighters. Although they have their backs to the wall, they are fighting back very successfully. If they do not bind themselves into buying groups and

trade associations—I am sure that the hon. member for Ipswich East agrees with me on this point—and buy together so that they can sell in competition with the chain stores, that sorry day when they disappear might come to Queensland. It has not come yet; I do not believe it will come. I believe that the housewife will eventually see the importance of keeping independent retailers in the field of purveying food-stuffs to enable her to buy at the best possible price. Through group-buying organisations, the consumer, Mrs. Housewife, is able to buy her goods much more cheaply than she would buy otherwise.

Mr. Sullivan: You have paid a very nice tribute to hon. members opposite who are retiring. What about the ones who are going to be beaten?

Mr. CAREY: I appreciate that remark greatly. Funnily enough, I probably am different from many other hon. members in this respect, because it will always be a sorry day for me when anyone in this Chamber is defeated. I know that some of us have to take the axe; but there is no-one here that I dislike to the extent of wishing to see him defeated. If I had my way, I would pass a Bill that we could all sit here for the next three years and have six consecutive years in this Chamber, instead of having the trouble of handing out "How to Vote" cards and getting all hot and bothered, as we do, when an election is held.

I wish to deal now with some special matters in the Budget that affect my electorate. I see on page 9 of the Budget that \$94,300 has been set aside for cultural activities. That matter was dealt with earlier today by the hon. member for Rockhampton South, but his approach to it was different from mine, so I shall present my own case.

Hon. members will see that \$30,000 has been made available to the Elizabethan Theatre Trust and \$30,000 to the Queensland Ballet Company.

Mr. Bromley: How much to the Queensland Art Gallery?

Mr. CAREY: That is the sort of comment that I would expect from the hon. member for Norman, who thinks only of the city. I intend to develop an argument and prove to him that there are just as many potential artists in country areas as there are in the city.

I ask the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities to ensure that not all the \$94,300 is spent in the Brisbane metropolitan area. He has already lost \$60,000 to two organisations, and I appeal to him to look at other areas. I am not going to be selfish and say to him, "Well, we are ready for the next \$30,000", but I believe that I was the first member of this Assembly who wrote to him after cultural activities became part of his Ministerial portfolio and asked him to remember the organisations in

the Albert electorate which are doing so much to assist cultural development of young people in the arts of acting, singing and dancing.

Mr. Bennett: Do you think Bernie Elsey does anything for culture?

Mr. CAREY: Bernie Elsey does not live in my electorate. He is a responsibility of my very good friend and colleague Mr. Russ Hinze, the hon. member for South Coast.

There are three wonderful amateur organisations training young people in my electorate—the Gold Coast Little Theatre, the Spotlight Theatrical Company, and the Independent Theatre. Who knows, among these young people there could well be another Rolf Harris, and I think that Rolf Harris is probably the greatest Australian entertainer ever known.

Mr. Sherrington: After tonight's effort, you are not far behind.

Mr. CAREY: If I could earn the same money as Mr. Rolf Harris, I would be glad to be not far behind him. The hon. member would be a long way behind both Rolf Harris and myself.

On a commercial television station, in the session "New Faces", a young man from my area was fourth in the semi-finals and fifth in the finals. This young fellow is about 14 years of age.

Mr. Bennett: The semi-finals of what?

Mr. CAREY: I think hon. members opposite would be wise to put down their newspapers and listen to my address. They would not then interject and ask questions that are not at all to the point. I said it was a television session known as "New Faces". I hope the hon. member for South Brisbane has now absorbed that. A resident of this area came to the fore. There were many candidates and this young man, Mr. Ken Gordon-Wickens came fourth in the semi-finals and fifth in the finals. I ask the Minister to give serious consideration to assisting these very worth-while amateur organisations that are doing as much for the cultural education of the young people of the Coast as the other trusts are doing for those in the city.

Now I want to speak for a few minutes on the dairying industry. I believe that many of us—I am very glad to look at the hon. member for Belmont because I know he will back me up in this—think that if any section of our community works harder than another, it is the family unit on the dairy farm. We are entitled to give these people every consideration.

I do not like this report on the investigation of marketing of milk in South-East Queensland and I want to give the assurance, particularly to readers of "Hansard", that it is not a Government report. It is only a report of departmental officers who

were asked to investigate the situation. This report can be discounted; it is not legislation. It must be considered piecemeal by members at joint party meetings of the Country-Liberal Government, and whatever is necessary to assist in the marketing of milk in South-East Queensland should be extracted. It was most disturbing to read that portion of the report which suggested that the franchise should be completely wiped out at the end of its term. It is terrible to think of in respect of a company which has somewhere in the vicinity of 250 employees, some of whom have been taken from the city and employed in our coastal area, and which has spent an enormous amount of money, from memory, in the vicinity of \$400,000. If the franchise is cancelled, we can write finish to this tremendous company that has done so much for development on our coast.

I am very confident that the Minister for Primary Industries and members of the Country-Liberal Government would never allow this to happen, because we support decentralisation of industry, and, if this franchise was not renewed, all this business would revert to the city.

The dairy farmers have played their part in raising overseas exports by 12.8 per cent. This indicates complete success by an industry that has been criticised from time to time by persons in various walks of life. I have every admiration for the dairy farmer.

Mr. Bennett: The Commonwealth Government says that dairy farmers are inefficient. Do you agree with that?

Mr. CAREY: It is a very funny thing that yesterday I heard the hon. member for South Brisbane, who is a legal man, criticise another legal man as being most inefficient, and say he had no right at all to be in the profession and had not got that far. I am quite certain I do not agree with the Commonwealth Government that the dairying industry, as I know it, is inefficient. If anyone cares to drive through my electorate he will see some of the most beautiful farms in the State, and, for that matter, in the Commonwealth. This is possible because of the subsidies paid by the Government on pasture improvement. The present production of those farms is tremendous.

Mr. Bennett: Show me their profit and loss accounts.

Mr. CAREY: I do not think the hon. member for South Brisbane could read a profit and loss account. All he sees are starry profits when he goes to court, and he says to himself, "Here are another few dollars," and up go his profits.

On page 20 of the Budget the Treasurer refers to housing. One of my main thoughts has always been to have the people of Queensland housed in the most efficient manner possible and as quickly as possible.

The Treasurer clearly states that the Commonwealth Government has refused to underwrite the States' works and housing programme in excess of \$710,000,000. This is an increase of only 4.9 per cent. As the Treasurer said, this would not cover even the rising cost of building homes and instituting works programmes. Those remarks can apply with equal force to the building of homes in this State. I appeal to the Minister for Works and Housing, who is a very excellent Minister doing a very good job, to increase the amount of loan money available to a home builder to a sum in excess of \$8,000. Home-building costs have risen, and it is necessary that this Government must keep abreast of the times and allow home builders to borrow more than \$8,000.

Mr. Bromley: What about exploiters of land sites for homes?

Mr. CAREY: If the hon. member has exploiters in his electorate, I tell him that in my electorate we have no exploiters of home sites for the building of Housing Commission homes for people who require reasonable homes at a reasonable rental. In 1960, at my request, this Government converted a 1,100-acre forestry reserve into a subdivisional and industrial development scheme, so that acres and acres of land are available in my electorate on which to build homes. If the people who are unfortunate to have the hon. member for Norman representing them have trouble in obtaining cheap land, I invite them to come to Southport. We will be able to accommodate them on reasonably priced land.

Mr. Bromley: What do you think is a fair price to pay for a piece of land?

Mr. CAREY: The range is so wide, it is hardly worth answering that question. However, I would tell the hon. member it is possible to buy land on the Gold Coast for \$750.

Mr. Sherrington: That would be a block you would buy by the gallon.

Mr. CAREY: I don't think so. If the hon. member for Salisbury has a few dollars I will invest them for him down there.

I naturally want to deal with education to a greater extent when the Education Department's Estimates are debated. For the present, I thank the Treasurer and those who prepared the Budget for the aid provided to independent schools. It is wonderful to think that primary schools will receive \$25 per annum for each pupil. We did ask for \$35, and my request to the Treasurer in the Address-in-Reply debate appears in "Hansard". I asked him to endeavour to make the sum of \$37 per annum per pupil available to independent primary schools. Under the Budget a payment of \$25 is to be made for pupils attending independent primary schools.

Mr. Sullivan: You made very strong representations about that.

Mr. CAREY: Yes, I did. I thank the Minister for his interjection. I also had my electoral council steer this matter through the Country Party conference at Cairns.

Mr. Bennett: They didn't steer it; they bulldozed it.

Mr. CAREY: They did not have to bulldoze it. The Country Party knew where it stood.

The other day I was a little astounded to hear the Leader of the Opposition say in his speech, which he read from pages and pages of foolscap —

Mr. Newton: You are not making a bad effort yourself.

Mr. CAREY: I am not reading: I have copious notes. He said that he was not too sure that the \$25 a pupil for independent schools was the right way to do it. Unfortunately, I was in the chair at the time and could not interject, but I would have loved some of my people to ask him if he supported aid for independent schools.

We did not get the \$35 that I advocated, but we did get \$25. I hope that the Leader of the Opposition fully appreciates what this will do to help these schools care for their pupils so that they will not be a burden on the State. I might claim that we really got \$35 a pupil, because we got \$25 for the primary students and the allowance for secondary students was increased from \$15 to \$25, which represents the increase of \$35. I think we had complete success.

I have not had an opportunity to check the attendances, but I think more secondary-school students attend independent schools than primary schools. Therefore the Government will contribute more than was expected, and the scheme will cost \$1,700,000 for a year. But how much would it have cost the State to build new school buildings, supply teachers, desks, furnishings, and so on?

I will now deal with a matter that is very near and dear to my heart. I am sure I will have support on this from my Labour friend, the hon. member for Norman, who started to develop the theme that we should provide more support for our life-saving clubs. The hon. member for Norman was on the right track. We should try to give more support to the Surf Life Saving Association. It is not easy to find avenues by which we can assist these people.

Mr. Bromley: I support anybody who saves lives or helps to do so.

Mr. CAREY: I entirely agree with that comment.

The Government is quite generous. It provides a subsidy of 75c for every \$2 collected by the Surf Life Saving Association.

In appealing to the S.E.A. to give a little more consideration to very worthwhile organisations such as the life-saving movement I am not being in any way critical.

These boys perform humanitarian work and risk their lives. Only yesterday some marvelous life-savers went to Government House to receive recognition, in the form of bronze medals and certificates, for acts of bravery during the surfing season last year.

On 28 February, 1968, I appealed to the Minister for Electricity, the Honourable Ron Camm, to see if a lower tariff could be charged the life-saving movement for the supply of electricity to club buildings. I think all hon. members know that life-savers have very good clubhouses. They are usually of a good standard and are well cared for. The boys look after the buildings and paint them. They do all these things with contributions by the public. During the day they require practically no electricity for lighting purposes. During the evening they probably do not need much for lighting purposes either, although I may be exaggerating a little. Most of the power used is for the cooking of meals for boys who stay over the week-end.

I wrote to the Minister and asked him if he would approach the S.E.A. and ask it to give consideration to putting the life-saving movement on the lowest possible tariff. I think this is fair and reasonable. If the Government can give a subsidy of 75c in every \$2, the S.E.A. could do something to assist these people.

The reply I received reads—

“I am informed that it is the invariable practice of electric authorities throughout the State and elsewhere to apply domestic tariffs only in those instances where consumption of energy arises from domestic activity and accommodation of a private family”—

This is a family of life-savers. The remainder of the current used is for the cooking of meals and domestic purposes, in my humble opinion.

The letter continues—

“Consequently its application is restricted to a private dwelling, flat or home unit, and under no circumstances has it been applied to the premises in which members of clubs of the kind in question are accommodated.

“In consideration of the quality of service performed by lifesaving associations Tariff (7) is applied whenever it is required by Clubs.”

I do not know what tariff (7) is, but clubs have to require that tariff (7) be applied to them.

The letter continues—

“This is a single metered tariff covering both light and power use with a minimum of installation costs. The option of separate lighting and power tariff exists if this is regarded as more favourable.”

So that it is the responsibility of the life-savers to decide whether they will apply for this particular tariff advantage.

The letter continues—

“If consumption is not in the proportions mentioned or alternatively where consumption drops below minimum charges in some quarters Tariff (7) offers the greater advantage.”

Up till now we had not been told that there was a tariff (7).

The letter continues—

“I am assured that the Southern Electric Authority will at all times be pleased to assist the Club in any tariff queries it may raise, and would suggest that the matter be again discussed with the Authority at Southport on the basis of this letter.”

Mr. Newton: Was that from the Deputy Leader of the Country Party?

Mr. CAREY: It was from the Minister for Electricity, whom we are proud to have as our deputy leader. But he is the Minister for Mines and Electricity.

Mr. Sherrington: We would not have him over here. We would not take him as a gift.

Mr. CAREY: I am certain he is so honourable he would not go onto that side of the Chamber at any price.

I shall now deal with a most important matter which I should have dealt with first. I assure hon. members that in what I say I am not criticising the Department of Harbours and Marine or finding fault with it. I am trying to bring to the notice of hon. members, members of the Cabinet, the Treasurer, who controls this department, and the department, that they do not realise how important the calm waters of the Broadwater and the Nerang River are to the State of Queensland. If they were aware of the importance of this area, they certainly would not be spending the amount of money that is being spent all over the State and virtually allowing us to develop what I have often been told is a natural, God-made harbour that does not need all these extra things.

Mr. Harris: Are you talking about the Manly Harbour now?

Mr. CAREY: No. That is not a God-made harbour; it is a man-made harbour which the hon. member for Wynnum criticised. I shall be dealing with him in a minute. The calm waters on the Gold Coast are the greatest tourist attraction in Queensland.

Mr. Sherrington: What is your attitude to the Tallebudgera Creek proposal?

Mr. CAREY: That is in my colleague's area and I shall leave it to him; I have enough troubles on my plate dealing with people who are trying to stir up trouble. The Nerang River is a beautiful river, and, as I said 20 years ago when I was president of the Chamber of Commerce, if it was in America it would be the No. 1 attraction. It has beautiful homes along its banks, and

there are the wonderful canals that have been developed by man. Further upstream are farm lands, where cattle can be seen browsing and eating the luscious pastures along the river banks. There are fishing grounds there, and it is a completely safe haven for the mooring of boats. Children can safely spend their time rowing in boats or swimming in the canals and creeks, because, as long as they can swim, there is no danger there.

Private enterprise has spent millions of dollars developing these natural waterways into something that has been improved by man. In my area the Government has spent \$132,600 in the eight years from 1960 to 1968. Let me tell the hon. member for Wynnum, who criticised the Government for not spending wisely the money allocated to the Manly harbour, that \$575,000 has already been spent on that project.

Mr. Harris: Only because of good representation.

Mr. CAREY: I think this happened before the time of the hon. member, and he has now to fight and argue to get enough water in the harbour to bring boats into the pens. According to his recent speech in this Chamber, there are 54 mooring pens at the Manly harbour, and the boats moored in them are valued at \$1,250,000. The boats cannot be brought up to the pier because there is not enough water; there is only 4' 6" of water and a depth of 6 ft. is required. In the Southport basin, in the Rankin Estate mooring area, there are already 100 buoys being put in so that boats, for which their owners pay \$2 per foot in mooring fees, can be moored. We have been assured by the local Press, which printed an article after the blessing of the fleet, that there are boats worth in the vicinity of \$7,000,000 moored on the Gold Coast.

Further, the report of the Department of Harbours and Marine informs me that another \$41,300 is to be spent on a harbour which the hon. member for Wynnum claims is no good and a waste of time and money, whilst there is to be spent in my area during the next year a sum of \$20,500, of which \$10,000 is for further moorings, \$5,500 for dredging the channel at what is known as the Grand Hotel Channel, and \$5,000 for beacons.

What do we find? A jetty is to be built at Portland Roads. I have been to Portland Roads, and there is only a caretaker there, nothing else. What is to happen at Cardwell? I do not begrudge the Minister for Primary Industries anything that is being spent in the Hinchinbrook electorate. I have been to Cardwell as his guest and, having been his guest, I do not wish to say anything nasty about him. However, \$100,000 is to be spent on building a jetty at Cardwell, of which \$50,000 is to be supplied by the Department of Harbours and Marine and the other \$50,000 by the council. At Cardwell people even read newspapers upside down; I have absolute proof of it.

Mr. Row: It is money well spent.

Mr. CAREY: Although Cardwell is a very pretty place, there is one thing that Cardwell Wynnum and Portland Roads have not got—tourists. The South Coast is visited by thousands of tourists, and it is about time the Government woke up to the importance of the area and gave full support to the development of the natural waters and harbours in the area. We will then have the best tourist attraction anywhere in Queensland.

(Time expired.)

Hon. S. D. TOOTH (Ashgrove—Minister for Health) (8.27 p.m.): The Budget debate provides hon. members with opportunities to deal with a variety of subjects, and I hope this evening to deal with two or three that are of interest to my department and to me personally.

First, I refer to a speech made recently by the hon. member for Toowoomba East in which he levelled at me, as Minister, an accusation of dishonesty relative to my reply to a question asked by him in November last. To quote him verbatim, his words were "dishonesty by virtue of presenting a misleading answer".

The hon. member has shown a complete lack of ability not only to interpret correctly the official publication mentioned in his accusation but also, I must confess it appears to me, even to understand his own question. He asked—

"Are any records kept in Queensland of infant mortality among Aborigines and, if so, what are the details?"

The answer to that question given by me in this Chamber on 17 November last year was—

"The recording of death statistics is not a responsibility of the Health Department."

Mr. P. Wood: But it does record them.

Mr. TOOTH: It does not record them, and that is precisely what I am getting at.

The hon. member for Toowoomba East has now claimed that recently he came upon some figures which indicated that my reply was not correct.

Mr. P. Wood: I have got some more figures since then, too.

Mr. TOOTH: The hon. member got them out of the paper that was laid on the table on Tuesday, and I propose to refer to that in a few minutes.

He has claimed that there are figures available in the Department of Health which might give him the information he sought. He had the caution to use the word "might".

Mr. P. Wood interjected.

Mr. TOOTH: The hon. member had better listen to me. He had a fair go; I ask him to pay me the courtesy of listening to me.

Let us pause, then, and examine the publication mentioned in the hon. member's attack on my honesty. The title of the publication quoted by him is "Report to the Queensland Committee for the Study of Maternal Deaths", and I emphasise the word "maternal", which in itself should have warned him to examine carefully any information in the report that might have appeared to him to relate to infant mortality. The foreword to the report also contains references to "maternal deaths" and "the maternal death-rate", and these references would usually be accepted as a clear indication that the statistics for infant mortality would not necessarily be found in this report.

The hon. member, however, seized upon page 43 of the report and quoted a section from it. This section reads—

"A survey of maternal mortality in a State such as Queensland would be incomplete without some assessment of the extent to which medical and hospital facilities are available to, and availed of, by the non-white section of the population. An analysis of this aspect shows that, of the 18 maternal deaths occurring during the period of this survey, all but nine occurred in white females of European extraction."

Mr. P. Wood: I was told that those statistics were not available—that statistics were not recorded on a racial basis—when they obviously are.

Mr. TOOTH: The hon. member has now made his point; will he let me have a go?

I take reasonable objection to being categorically accused of dishonesty by somebody who just does not know what he is talking about. The hon. member for Toowoomba East claims that the quoted section shows that there are available statistics of death showing racial origins, and he has pointed out that the report goes on further to show the precise racial origins of those who died. He is emphatic that the quoted sections of the report to the Queensland Committee for the Study of Maternal Deaths proves conclusively that this report discusses exactly the type of information he sought in his original question, and that statistics sought by him on Aboriginal infant mortality do exist.

Let me say that the hon. member's raw assumption that a report concerning maternal deaths, and his quoting statistics thereon, automatically proves the existence of other statistics would have been halted at its inception if he had read attentively the foreword of the report concerned. The foreword commences with a simple and clear explanation to readers that in 1960 the maternal death-rate of 0.68 deaths per 1,000 live births in Queensland caused serious concern, because it was the highest in Australia. A committee was established to inquire into the causes of maternal deaths and to make recommendations as to how the

incidence might be reduced. The hon. member's questions should undoubtedly have been further discouraged by the Director-General's introduction to this maternal mortality committee's report, which sets out quite clearly the methods used in arriving at the committee's findings. This is very pertinent, and clearly demonstrates that the general recording of death statistics is not a responsibility of, and is not done by, the Health Department.

Let me further enlighten the hon. member by pointing out that prior to the last referendum the Government Statistician discarded for statistical purposes registrations of death certificates for Aborigines, because section 127 of the Commonwealth Constitution states clearly that in reckoning the number of the people of the Commonwealth, or of a State or other part of the Commonwealth, Aboriginal natives shall not be counted.

To ensure that the hon. member avoids further inaccuracies, I draw his attention to the document he has just been waving about. It is the 23rd Annual Report of the Council of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, which was tabled in this House last Tuesday. He will find on pages 13 to 16 of that report the results of research by a member of the Institute into Aboriginal Child Health, including statistics relating to infant deaths but, in studying these findings, he should—

Mr. P. Wood interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Carey): Order! I ask the hon. member for Toowoomba East to kindly listen to the Minister. He is giving a full explanation of the answer to a question, which the hon. member desires to hear.

Mr. Bennett: He is attacking him; he is not answering questions.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. Bromley: The Minister thinks he is back with Sue Becker.

Mr. TOOTH: There is a slight overtone of jealousy in that comment. What I am a little worried about is that somebody will come breathing down my neck the way the hon. member for South Brisbane did last night without my being aware that he was even going to be there. It was a rather strange and unusual tactic. Probably most hon. members do not know what I am talking about, but the hon. member for South Brisbane does.

Mr. Bromley: So long as he does not give you the kiss of life.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! We will listen to the Minister.

Mr. TOOTH: I advise the hon. member for Toowoomba East that in studying these findings he should note particularly that the research work is not extended into Aboriginal families living in the community.

Therefore, the infant mortality rate determined in the report refers only to certain specified areas. It varies from area to area, and is not an over-all Queensland rate.

When people ask for statistics it is reasonable to assume that they are talking about statistics of Queensland in relation to a uniform approach throughout the State. A person can obtain statistics in his own back street if he wants to, but what value they are for any particular purpose, I do not know. Perhaps the hon. member for Toowoomba East can tell us.

Mr. P. Wood: You are ducking away now.

Mr. TOOTH: No, I am not. I ask the hon. member to listen to this.

Mr. Bennett: You are side-stepping.

Mr. TOOTH: No, I am not.

Let me remind the hon. member for Toowoomba East that he asked his question —

Mr. P. Wood: I asked three Ministers.

Mr. TOOTH: He asked me, and I am talking about myself. If I can make the point, the question was asked in November, 1967.

Mr. P. Wood: That is right.

Mr. TOOTH: Yes, that is right. The committee that produced the book upon which the hon. member based his charges of dishonesty was at that time studying the problems with which it had been charged and it had not compiled its report; it had not compiled its information. I made inquiries in the matter because I do not go round keeping detailed statistics and detailed accounts of what is going on in the technical side of my department. I was informed by Dr. Jean McFarlane, the Director of Maternal and Child Welfare Services, who is a member of the Committee, that this report was printed in about May of this year, that is to say, six months after the hon. member for Toowoomba East asked his question.

Mr. P. Wood: The figures were available.

Mr. TOOTH: How does the hon. member know the figures were available?

Mr. P. Wood: Because they had been compiled since 1960. Look at the report.

Mr. TOOTH: The point about it is that they had to be compiled, but they were not completed.

Mr. Bennett: They should have been compiled.

Mr. TOOTH: This is a different matter. The hon. member should talk to the statistician about that.

Dr. McFarlane indicated also that the committee had no figures available for publication in the report on Aboriginal infant mortality. That is her report to me, and the hon. member can take the matter up with her. No-one really knows how many Aborigines are living in Queensland; this is something that is not known.

Mr. P. Wood: The institute has been working on it since 1962.

Mr. TOOTH: It was working on the matter of maternal mortality. The trouble with the hon. member is that he does not seem to be able to distinguish between these things. Statistical information supplied by the Commonwealth Statistician on deaths indicated that certain areas showed higher mortality rates than others.

The hon. member is making great play about the report by Dr. Jose, which has just been published as part of the report of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research. This was completed in July of this year, precisely eight months after the hon. member asked me the question on which he charges me with dishonesty.

Mr. P. Wood: After you told me there were no such figures available.

Mr. TOOTH: That is all I have to say about the matter at the present time, but I would suggest to the hon. member—

Mr. P. Wood interjected.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Carey): Order! I ask the hon. member for Toowoomba East to listen to the Minister. I am sure that he will have plenty of opportunities on future occasions to ask the Minister questions, and I am sure that he will receive answers. Again I ask him to listen to the Minister.

Mr. TOOTH: I turn now to a matter of extreme importance to the health services of Queensland, namely, the provisions and training of nurses for our hospitals. The speaker in the A.B.C.'s "Guest of Honour" last week-end was an American nurse, Miss J. Elliott, the immediate past president of the American Nurses' Association, who was on her way to Europe to attend a meeting of the International Council of Nurses. She stated that in all parts of the world the problems of the nursing profession fell generally under three principal heads: shortage of nurses, recruitment and educational programmes, and economic security. Whilst I was aware of these things, it was helpful to hear them so firmly enunciated by so eminent a leader of the profession as it confirmed my own oft-repeated statement that Queensland's problems in this field are in no way unique, as some eager controversialists in our midst are wont to suggest, but are part of a world-wide pattern of problems and difficulties which are in fact much more pressing and acute in some other places than they are here. This does not mean,

of course, that we should regard this as a warrant for complacency and inaction, plodding along in the same old way with the same old methods.

Then again, the guest of honour was careful to suggest that what was done elsewhere might not necessarily suit us. This also heartened me, because it has been the theme of several comments I have made from time to time when discussing our problems. We have health problems in Queensland which are duplicated in few other parts of the world, and in some respects we must work out our own salvation in our own way. Indeed, we have already done so in many instances.

This applies in the field of nursing with as much force as elsewhere, and it has been a matter of profound regret and, indeed, distress to me, that I have not been able to establish a rapport with the people—a small coterie, it is true—controlling the Royal Australian Nursing Federation in this State so that we could work together in a rational and harmonious way for the betterment of the nursing profession and the health services in Queensland. Almost from the moment I became Minister for Health I have been subjected to political pressures to implement various proposals advanced by the R.A.N.F. These pressures first manifested themselves in the ranks of the Liberal Party organisation, particularly through certain branches of the Young Liberals, who clearly were briefed and inspired to try to bustle a new and inexperienced Minister into some sort of commitment which might bind the Government.

When this failed, a new tactic was tried—that of sending the student nurses into battle, apparently on the assumption—and a very shrewd one, I admit—that the Government and the Minister would find it distasteful to engage in public controversy with these young teenage girls and that we would lose public regard, anyhow, if we did.

And so it has now become something of an annual festival, round about June each year—a gathering together of representatives of a group known as the Student Nurses' Unit which, according to evidence offered by their own president at this year's assembly, incorporates less than 15 per cent., or fewer than 3 out of every 20 of the student nurses in Queensland, and many of these offering only nominal or token membership.

Their annual meeting, however, provides the rather shadowy group of seniors who guide and inspire them with an opportunity to attack the administration and conduct of our hospitals and health services, without having to accept any responsibility for the extravagances and exaggerations with which the students clothe their complaints and criticisms, or for the emotional excesses and unmannerly personalities into which the heady wine of youthful protest so often lures young people in these permissive times.

The latest area of pressure to be exploited has been the floor of this honourable Chamber where, for some time now, it has been obvious that certain members of the Opposition—one in particular—have been receiving specially detailed briefings for questions and statements, all designed to advance and support the policies and campaigns of the inner group of the R.A.N.F.

May I offer a word of friendly warning and advice to the Opposition in this matter. They hope some day to be the Government; they may some day be the Government. Let them be careful that in this particular area of public administration they do not commit themselves to positions and attitudes which will prove to be painfully embarrassing if and when they are ever charged with administering the health services of Queensland. Let me illustrate the point. If they have really pondered and studied what has been going on they will have detected, above the general outcry, a muted overtone of hostility to our free hospital system.

Mr. Houston: Rubbish!

Mr. TOOTH: Read the texts. That is the trouble with members of the Opposition. They are being fed stuff but they do not even know what is going on. This, however, notwithstanding the importance we attach to it, and notwithstanding the importance the Opposition attaches to this policy of free hospitals, is overshadowed by a far greater issue, only faintly delineated at present, but which I hope to outline more clearly in a few minutes if I can have the attention of hon. members opposite and if I am given an opportunity to speak without interruption. I do, however, urge the Opposition to study these problems in depth, to become aware of some of the underlying motives and purposes in much that is happening, and to approach this whole question with caution and a sense of responsibility. I have a list of books and periodicals to which, I suggest, hon. members may refer with advantage. I shall be happy to make this list available to any hon. member who is interested.

To return to the activities of what I have described as "the rather shadowy group of seniors" who guide and inspire the Student Nurses' Unit in its annual Press and radio campaign, their attitude—not the behaviour of the students, but the policy of those inspiring them—caused me considerable perplexity at first. Simple industrial problems I could understand. Requests for improvements in salaries, in working environment and related matters usually appeared to be in harmony with what one would normally expect from any industrial organisation; and in those matters that did not fall within the jurisdiction of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission I endeavoured to help as far as the resources made available to me would permit. All

these things, however, seemed secondary to—indeed, almost incidental to—the question of nurse education.

Mr. Bennett: Why do you hate nurses so much?

Mr. TOOTH: I love them. My only trouble is that I cannot get enough of them.

Whenever any of these questions were raised as points of negotiation, controversy, or attack, they ultimately appeared, to use a homely phrase, as “stalking horses” to the principal objective of nurse training.

At this point let me say that I do not, and never have, taken the stand that our training of nurses is ideal—or even approaches the ideal; but I do not, and never will, accept the proposition that it is poor, to the point of inefficiency. Results prove otherwise. Products of our much-maligned system of nurse training seem to be welcomed with enthusiasm overseas, whether it be at St. Luke's Centre, New York, Clinic Hirslanden in Zurich, or at major hospitals in the United Kingdom, and certainly they are welcomed, and welcomed very warmly, at the great southern hospitals of this country.

What has intrigued me, however, particularly in recent times, has been the scarcely veiled hostility exhibited by some officers of the R.A.N.F., and others who have appointed themselves their champions, towards efforts we have made to introduce innovations and improvements into our nursing training. If our system is as poor as we are led to believe, surely new initiatives should be welcomed and judgment should be suspended until the test of time reveals the worth or otherwise of our plans. We are suspending judgment. We are not irrevocably committed to any of these innovations. We hope they will work. We are going to try with might and main to make them work, but our overriding purpose is to improve our training in whatever way may be possible in the context of our own situation and within the limits of our own resources.

The attitude of opposition adopted by certain people in the Royal Australian Nursing Federation has, however, finally convinced me that their real goal is not the modification and improvement of the present system of training in Queensland, but its ultimate elimination or destruction and the substitution of a completely different approach to nurse training. Hon. members will note that I do not say completely “new” approach, because it is my conviction that what is envisaged by the people in the Federation directing policy on this matter is not something new but something which has been slowly developing in the United States of America since 1948, when Dr. Esther Brown published her book “Nursing for the Future”.

Mr. Houston: You like reading women's books.

Mr. TOOTH: That is a most intelligent comment from the Leader of the alternative Government. I mention a book that has had the most profound effect—

Mr. Houston: On you.

Mr. TOOTH: —on the whole nursing structure in North America, and the hon. member says, “You like reading women's books”.

Mr. Houston: You do.

Mr. TOOTH: It's incredible!

Mr. Houston: All the apprenticeship decisions were made on a book written by a woman.

Mr. TOOTH: I suggest that the Leader of the Opposition listen to this, because some day there may be a political accident and he might finish up on this side of the Chamber.

In short, the plan is to discard what has been described as our “19th century on-the-job apprenticeship” system, the training of nurses in the hospitals in the nursing situation, and to transfer it to the tertiary level, in the university or in the colleges of advanced education. This is what began in the United States 20 years ago, and, though at first disowned and disclaimed by the American nurses' organisations, it has recently been acknowledged and proclaimed as their official policy. It is possible that the nurses' organisations here may register a similar disclaimer, but all the signs and portents are present in Queensland today as they were in America two decades ago; and I am fully persuaded that the ultimate goal of those who are presently denigrating our nurse-training course is to hamper, frustrate and thwart us in our efforts to recruit and train nurses under our present system till, they hope, we will be forced to accept their plans.

Controversy about these conflicting concepts of training has raged for some years amongst doctors, nurses, and hospital administrators in America with, it is claimed, disastrous results to nurse recruitment and hospital efficiency. The problem has now become one of widespread public concern, with an admitted shortage of something approaching 150,000 nurses in the U.S.A. In New York, the city's health services administrator was reported recently as saying, “The nursing shortage is an incredibly serious problem. We are not giving first-rate nursing care in our hospitals; I am not sure we are giving second-rate service. But I am sure we have increased deaths in the hospitals because of the shortage.”

This widespread public concern in the United States of America has flooded over recently into the popular magazines, and I quote from “Look”—one of the glossy American magazines—of 23 January this year—

Mr. Houston interjected.

Mr. TOOTH: I have not time to listen to the hon. gentleman.

I quote the following sketch of what Dr. Esther Brown proposed in 1948 and the events that have followed—

“Her basic plan was to fracture nursing into a split-level. On the lower floor, she proposed to keep practical nurses, with a year or less of technical training, to give patients bedside care; on the upper story, she put the professional nurse—an RN (registered nurse) with a college degree—to supervise, administer and teach. With a college education, the professional nurse would no longer just carry out the doctor's orders; now, she would be his colleague, virtually an equal.

“The American Nurses Association liked the split-level plan and began to exert its influence to switch nurse training from hospitals to college campuses. But not until 17 years later did it issue its White Paper to justify its position.

“A recurring theme in the Association's position paper is the decisive, independent role to be played by the professional nurse in patient care. As a justification for a nurse needing a college degree, the White Paper said she is now required ‘. . . to make critical, independent judgments about patients and their care’. Physicians wonder whether this was an invitation to nurses to displace them as head of the patient's treatment team.

“Physicians fear also that the position paper preaches a doctrine dangerous to patients with its claim that not only is the college-educated nurse the doctor's equal but perhaps, in some ways, even his superior. Only once in the 13 page document, which discusses the role of the nurse in patient care, does the word physician appear. And it is in this passage that worries medical men: ‘Recent direct leadership in nursing, aided by the focus on man's emotional well-being in what is called this age of affluence and anxiety, has enabled the nurse in significant measure to move apart from and farther than the physician in comprehension of and response to the patient as a psychological as well as a physical being’.

“Lurking somewhere in the murky language of that long sentence, doctors think, is the notion that nurses with degrees can handle patients' emotional problems better than physicians can.”

In November, 1966, the Nurses' Board of Queensland received a letter from the executive secretary of the R.A.N.F. in which the board was asked—

“to give urgent consideration to the matter of preparing two grades of nurses. One, the professional nurse who is expected to accept greater responsibilities in the course of her duties, and who is required to act in unpredictable and emergency situations, wisely and skilfully, as well as more fully appreciate her role as a nurse. This person

must have higher educational qualifications to enable her to undertake a more intensive course in preparation for nursing service. When this is done the community generally, as well as the Nurse, must benefit. And the other person, the Nursing-Aide, should be required to have a lower standard of education for entrance and study a simplified course.”

Compare this, Mr. Carey, with the first paragraph of the extract from “Look”, which I will read again—

“Her basic plan was to fracture nursing into a split level. On the lower floor, she proposed to keep practical nurses, with a year or less of technical training, to give patients bedside care; on the upper storey, she put the professional nurse—an RN with a college degree—to supervise, administer and teach.”

I think hon. members will see a very clear parallel, not merely in thinking, but in terminology. That is why I suggest that we should approach this in a calm, rational, careful manner, and try to understand it.

Mr. Houston: Tell us something about Queensland's problems and what you are going to do about them.

Mr. TOOTH: I have just indicated what the problem is. It is really dreadful to think that the Leader of the alternative group in this Parliament cannot even listen calmly and quietly to an exposition of this problem.

Mr. Houston: I listened, and you took us on a tour of the universe.

Mr. TOOTH: Will the hon. member let me talk?

What are the opinions of Australians who have had an opportunity to look, close hand, at the results of the American experiment? In the Sydney “Sun” of 23 January last that newspaper's American correspondent, Lana Wells, reports from New York—

“Australian exchange nurses learn very little in American hospitals. After coming to New York for cultural and educational purposes they discovered that the standard of nursing is generally higher in Australia than it is in U.S.

“Margaret Lindsay, a nurse from Melbourne said, ‘I was shocked by the standard of nursing here. . . .’”

In the Brisbane “Telegraph” of 21 June last year the matron of one of Sydney's biggest hospitals was reported as saying—

“We in Australia don't ever want to be in the situation they have in America. In 1965 I was in a leading New York Hospital which should have had an establishment of 975 graduate nurses but their staff totalled only 285.”

Another opinion, quite forcefully expressed, appeared in a Melbourne newspaper of 3 August, 1966, quoting Dr. O'Donnell, a

specialist who had just returned from America, as saying that he would fly back to Australia for hospitalisation if he ever felt ill in the United States. His comments were so startling that I quote them in full as reported in the "Age"—

"I was appalled by what I saw of nursing in the wards of a larger New York hospital," he said.

"Dr. O'Donnell was replying to the Director of Nursing for the Melbourne District Nursing Service, (Miss Mary Evans), who was reported to have said in New York last month that the U.S. was 20 years ahead of Australia in nursing education and training.

"I can only assume from Miss Evans's remarks that she did not visit the wards of New York Hospitals," he said.

"There is a colossal shortage of trained nurses in America, and they are recruiting them from Ireland and West Germany to staff hospitals."

By the way, they were recruiting in Australia also. The Californians had a special mission in Australia trying to enroll nurses.

He continues—

"The highly trained nurses Miss Evans saw are rarely, if ever, seen by patients. Instead, much of the nursing is left to wholly untrained and mostly unsupervised nursing aides."

"Dr. O'Donnell said he had seen nursing aides tie crippled patients' call-bells out of reach so they would not have to attend to them.

"He said he had also seen nursing aides leave meals in front of paralysed patients on the theory that if they were hungry enough they would eat.

"Naturally, this was a medical impossibility for many of them, and their food was taken away untouched. This situation could last for two or three days until a doctor and nursing sister realised why their patient's health was deteriorating, Dr. O'Donnell said.

"It is terrible to think that brilliant surgery carried out in hospitals such as these could be jeopardised by this complete lack of after-care," he said.

"Dr. O'Donnell said that during his stay (in America), the 'New York Times' had carried an article attacking the standards of some of the city's hospitals."

All this adds up to a pretty grim picture, one that we would not wish to duplicate here. Let me remind hon. members that in respect of the Queensland position we have had within recent weeks categorical public statements from Miss B. Schultz, the executive secretary of the Royal Australian Nursing Federation and from her principal assistant, Miss Dickinson, stating that basic nursing needs are met in Queensland.

Miss Schultz said—

"Well, shall we say this, that the necessary things are done. There are lots of small facets in nursing care which our nurses would like to give, but they don't have the time."

Miss Dickinson supported this by saying, *inter alia*, "... the patient is given all the essential care ..."

Mr. Houston: What about quoting the questions?

Mr. TOOTH: Oh, be quiet.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Carey): Order! I ask hon. members to listen. If they want to ask questions of the Minister they are quite at liberty to do so, and I am sure that the Minister will answer them.

An Opposition Member: No, he is not.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask hon. members to listen to the information being conveyed to them by the Minister.

Mr. TOOTH: Neither of these ladies ever has a kind word to say about the Health Department, so that their remarks, which I have just quoted, are a reluctant but very telling testimony to the general average standard of nursing care in Queensland. As I have said so often, this does not mean that there are not occasional deficiencies and occasional breakdowns. It would be miraculous if there were not in a service so widespread and diversified, and operating under so many different conditions as does ours in Queensland. But, in general, we have little of which to be ashamed.

Before leaving this question of the great conflict between the opposing views on nursing, I wish to quote from a book published as recently as March of this year in Sydney, and sponsored by the New South Wales Nurses' Association.

On page 121 of "Sydney's Nurse Crusaders", we find—

"The demand that a prospective nurse should have a better education as a foundation for nursing training is sound. Everyone needs more education, some more than others."

Mr. Houston: Do you agree?

Mr. TOOTH: Of course I do.

The book continues—

"By raising the educational standard for entry some think that a superior nurse will be evolved. But is an 'A' in mathematics with no feeling for the patient to be compared with dedication and a lower pass in that subject? We don't want disinterested intellectuals and we don't want dedicated fools, but somewhere between these two extremes there lies a large group of young women who are sufficiently intelligent and reasonably

dedicated. They may not appeal to cold academics jesting at scars and never having felt a wound. By emphasising academy at the expense of general approach and soundness, they might give us some Bachelors of Nursing (Honours) and little else. Good nurses have rarely come from such a group."

That is a quotation from a book sponsored by the Nurses' Association of New South Wales, published about three months ago in Sydney.

Mr. O'Donnell: The mathematics qualification is ridiculous. It is not an essential subject for the course of nursing.

Mr. TOOTH: That is right.

Mr. O'Donnell: Why not eliminate it?

Mr. TOOTH: The hon. member is asking the question. He should seek the answer from the people who are worrying me. He is a little off the track there.

Mr. O'Donnell: I am not off the track.

Mr. TOOTH: I wish now to turn for a few moments to the most recent of many controversies we have had with leaders of the Student Nurses' Unit regarding alleged conditions in Queensland's public hospitals. Hon. members will recall that the most alarming statements were made about harm being done to patients—a substantial proportion of patients—through alleged deficiencies in nursing care. Though these allegations have been adequately answered by Miss Schultz and Miss Dickinson in the statements I have quoted, it would be instructive to examine the method used by this small and, on their own showing, quite unrepresentative group of students.

It is a technique of taking isolated occurrences at a number of centres and grouping them in order to present a picture of widespread maltreatment of patients and neglect of nurses. If the technique is recognised, and the specific occurrences are evaluated objectively, it becomes obvious that in many instances the authors are manufacturing a case from whatever material comes to hand in order to suit their special objectives.

In conference with representatives of the students' unit in 1967, the departmental officers pleaded for specific hospitals to be cited so that discreet inquiries could be initiated into the alarming allegations about patient neglect that were made, but the officers were met with stark silence from the representatives. Let me say that I have always treated with respect any specific allegation or complaint made to me of any activity of my department. I have requested on all occasions that full investigations be made into every such case. The allegations of the nurses would have been treated in this fashion had the opportunity been given to us to do so. I am firmly convinced that the machinery that is available at hospitals board level would

have resolved many of the problems and the concern of the students had they availed themselves of it.

Public hospitals are controlled by hospital boards composed of local residents of repute. The boards are responsible for investigating complaints relating to their hospitals, and the taking of appropriate action to remedy any shortcomings. They are well able to discharge this responsibility if given the opportunity to do so. This is particularly true in regard to matters affecting hospital staff, because the boards, as the employers, have a special responsibility for staff recruitment, accommodation, discipline, amenities and working conditions.

Students would be well advised to have confidence in their boards and to give them the opportunity of redressing any wrongs and improving working conditions where considered necessary by bringing their complaints to the notice of the boards.

It might be appropriate at this point to make reference to allegations of intimidation of student nurses—specifically to the suggestion that this is the explanation of the fact that only 14 per cent. of student nurses are members of the Student Nurses' Unit. My own discreet inquiries—and I have avenues of inquiry amongst student nurses—reveal two factors. Firstly, there is a wide revulsion amongst students at the extravagancies and exaggerations in the public and Press statements issued by the leaders of the group and at the intemperate language often used in presenting a case; and secondly, there is a feeling that the unit can be manipulated and used for purposes quite apart from the interests of the student body as a whole.

This latter feeling became very strong following an extraordinary episode before the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission in 1966, when the industrial advocate for the Royal Australian Nursing Federation was accused of sacrificing the interests of students in an effort to promote the interests of senior staff.

He replied—

" . . . we are not sacrificing the young. It is interesting to note that at the recent conference of our student nurses' unit in Townsville where all the student nurses were represented, a unanimous motion was handed down that the Royal Australian Nursing Federation should not under any circumstances seek to increase their salaries. They believe that they are entirely adequate at the moment. They want us to devote our attentions more in other directions which involves immediate legislation."

Hon. members will note these points. First it was claimed that the Student Nurses' Unit at that time was representative of all student nurses. A catastrophic fall in membership has obviously occurred if it be now down to 14 per cent. but the suggestion that the

others have been intimidated out of membership is ludicrous. There must surely be other reasons. Perhaps this next point explains it, so let us look at it.

Second, it was claimed that the students asked that the R.A.N.F. "should not, under any circumstances seek to increase their salaries. They believe that they are entirely adequate at the moment." Mr. Carey, let me suggest that, however altruistic young student nurses may be—and many of them are very altruistic—it is hard to believe that they would be so altruistic as all that. Rather would they be inclined to depart in droves from an organisation which put up that kind of proposition on their behalf; and that apparently is what has happened.

My only further comment is that, in the light of these events it is a bit unreasonable

to attribute a fall in membership of the Student Nurses' Unit to intimidation by the various hospital authorities.

Whilst on the subject of salaries of nurses I must refer to comparisons—misleading comparisons—which are often made with the moneys paid to other comparable groups of employees in the community. It is suggested that people such as typists, clerks, shop assistants and dental attendants do much better financially than do nurses. I have set out hereunder a table showing the weekly salaries, cash in hand, paid to five comparable groups of girls in each of the years 17-18 to 22-23 years. It is assumed that a student nurse starting at 17 goes through each year without failure.

Actual salaries payable on 16 October, 1968, were—

Age Group	Student Nurse	Dental Attendant	Female Shop Assistant	Female Clerk	Public Service Clerk-typist Commencing 17 Years
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
17 years and under 18 years	14.91	18.93	17.80	18.15	19.75
18 years and under 19 years	16.82	20.43	21.03	21.45	23.40
19 years and under 20 years	19.11	21.93	24.27	24.75	26.10
20 years and under 21 years	21.72	33.20	27.50	28.50	28.60
21 years and under 22 years	33.65	33.20	32.35	33.00	34.90
22 years and under 23 years	34.70	33.20	32.35	33.75	38.35

On the face of this the nurses seem well behind, but it is only half the story. Nurses live at the hospital. They pay no board, lodging or daily fares. The others pay board and lodging conservatively estimated at \$6 per

week and fares estimated at \$1.80 a week (clerk and typist for 5 days \$1.50) totals of \$7.80 or \$7.50. Nurses do not pay these amounts. When we subtract these weekly charges from the salaries of the other groups the comparison looks like this—

Age Group	Student Nurse	Dental Attendant	Female Shop Assistant	Female Clerk	Public Service Clerk-typist Commencing 17 Years
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
17 years and under 18 years	14.91	11.13	10.00	10.65	12.25
18 years and under 19 years	16.82	12.63	13.23	13.95	15.90
19 years and under 20 years	19.11	14.13	16.47	17.25	18.60
20 years and under 21 years	21.72	25.40	19.70	20.55	21.10
21 years and under 22 years	33.65	25.40	24.55	25.50	27.40
22 years and under 23 years	34.70	25.40	24.55	26.25	30.85

In addition to this, nurses receive free uniforms and have them laundered free of charge.

I have set this out in some detail to refute the misleading statement oft repeated, often with a full knowledge of the true facts that nurses' emoluments are less than those of their sisters in comparable age groups. I think it is only fair to ask that those who make these comparisons—and in the main they are people who know the true facts—would reveal them properly and fully.

Don't, however, let the comparisons end here. On graduation, the trained nurse has horizons unlimited. She can travel to most parts of the world and find people clamouring for her services. Passenger ships will

employ her for months on end. She has a training which will serve her in good stead as a wife and a mother and in the days of her later maturity re-open doors, if she so desire, to useful and satisfying professional activity once more.

At this point let me revert to something I said to one of our critics recently during a discussion on nurse training. "The Government has taken and will continue to take fresh initiatives in this field." No doubt honourable members would want to know what we have done and what we propose to do.

First, we have introduced a system of correspondence notes to supplement the lectures given by doctors and matrons in

the smaller training hospitals where conditions often impose heavy and unexpected burdens on senior staff. These have been prepared by a panel of medical men and departmental officers and are circulated regularly to all training hospitals. Their use is not mandatory. They are intended to supplement the personal contact of student with tutor, of nurse with matron which is so necessary in the successful training of nurses.

The calibre of the panel of authors of these notes ensures both their quality and accuracy. They are professional men of repute who voluntarily and without financial consideration agreed to assist us in this new field.

It is a matter of regret to me that the R.A.N.F. looks with disfavour on this new initiative.

It has informed me that the scheme of lecture notes is not a solution to the problem and that the Federation does not support them, and also that there are inaccuracies. On 18 July last I wrote and asked what the inaccuracies were. To date I have received no reply.

If ever I had doubts, however, as to the wisdom of this new development, they were dissipated after talking with several matrons I had the pleasure of meeting in recent visits I made to country hospitals. There was an enthusiastic acceptance of these notes and an acclaim to their worth that justified the initiative taken in the matter.

Second, we have introduced an experimental regional training school for general nurses at Rockhampton. This embraces the smaller training hospitals at Emerald, Clermont, Mt. Morgan, Barcardine, Longreach, Blackall, and Biloela.

Student nurses from these hospitals are brought to Rockhampton hospital for an intensive in-service study programme. Student nurses from the Rockhampton Base Hospital voluntarily replace at the country centres those nurses who are undergoing the intensive training programme at Rockhampton. This interchange of positions covers a period of 16 weeks for each in-take. Rockhampton hospital has recently completed its first period of training under the new arrangements for country nurses, and the opportunity was taken for the Department's Adviser in Nursing to visit Rockhampton to talk to the girls who had completed their 16 weeks' study, and to talk to the girls who comprise the second in-take from country hospitals. Over all, the reaction to the scheme is most heartening, and most girls indicated that they favour it.

It is a matter of regret to me, however, that the R.A.N.F. looks with disfavour also on this new initiative mainly, I understand, on the grounds that there was insufficient detailed preparation, as indeed, the principle of the scheme was recommended by them months before it was launched. I am hopeful that, with a successful first in-take past and

a wide acceptance of the plan in Central Queensland, the R.A.N.F. may warm a little towards it and perhaps help it along.

I should like to pay a tribute to the hospital boards, medical superintendents, matrons, nurses and parents in the various centres and to officers of the department who have all co-operated in this new venture. It is indeed a most heartening and exciting development and will help to preserve for country girls an avenue into the nursing profession—one which many of our critics want to close on the grounds that country hospitals are too small to give adequate training in nursing. Approaches have been made to the hospitals boards at Toowoomba and at Cairns to seek their co-operation and the co-operation of their staffs in the introduction of similar schemes in these areas. The committee has already visited these centres and has informed me that again the response has been most favourable and co-operation has been indicated at all levels.

For a long time I have been conscious of the fact that, with the general acceptance in training hospitals of a commencing age for nurses of 17 years, we have been failing to lay our claim for enrolment on the category of 16-year-olds who do not desire to proceed to Senior and who take up other spheres of employment. In order to tap this field, I conferred with my colleague the Minister for Education, and, as a result of our deliberations, a first-Junior course for 12 months has been introduced into certain high schools for 1969 on a trial basis. This course, whilst certainly containing an element of nursing content, includes basic subjects such as English, Biology, Social Science, Typewriting or Science B (whichever one had not been taken previously). A bias towards nursing has been provided by the inclusion of Physiology and Anatomy, and Nutrition and Hygiene.

This course will be tested at three metropolitan high schools and the Rockhampton High School.

This should attract support from all who are concerned about nurse supply and nurse training. A recent study by the School of Hospital Administration of the University of New South Wales entitled "Schoolgirls' Interest in Nursing as a Career" produced some interesting conclusions. One of them reads as follows:—

"Interest in nursing as a career is most widespread amongst girls aged 15 to 16. A 'strong interest' in nursing is more prevalent amongst 16-year-old girls than amongst any other age group."

It is therefore quite clearly an error to wait until girls are 17 before providing some points of contact with the nursing profession. It is to bridge this gap that this course has been inaugurated and we are hoping for real co-operation and support in this new initiative. The Nurses' Board of Queensland at its last meeting gave the scheme its unanimous blessing.

With the development of new and more sophisticated procedures, we are entering an era where specialisation in nursing will be necessary to complement specialisation in medicine and surgery. My predecessor, the late Dr. Noble, entered into an arrangement whereby the Australian College of Nursing established a branch in Queensland. The Government has provided accommodation at Princess Alexandra Hospital and meets 90 per cent. of the cost of the college.

This branch of the college has already done invaluable work in the post-graduate field in this State, and we have recently had preliminary discussions with a view to further developing its work into the fields of specialised nursing.

Consideration is also being given to improved teaching facilities at the major metropolitan hospitals, where provision of special tutor sisters in the wards has been approved. I hope it may be possible to recruit them without delay.

The possibility of intensive in-service training for mature women who wish to return to nursing is under consideration, and means whereby young mothers who are trained sisters may be brought back into the wards are also being explored.

The patterns of hospital staffing and management are changing in concert with the changing patterns elsewhere in our changing world. We are not oblivious of these things. We do not intend to be panicked into hasty and ill-conceived changes, but we do not intend to ignore the need for change and progress.

That leads me to say that in all the comments that I have made tonight I affirm that the department and the Government have an open mind on all of these problems, with the exception of any attempt to destroy the present system, because irrespective of what might happen elsewhere in the world, this is the only system which, under present conditions and at the present time, will work effectively in Queensland. Anybody who contributes in any way to the destruction of this system, by deliberately trying to persuade young people not to be recruited, is being very foolish indeed. This has been happening in the last two or three months. A young woman of my personal acquaintance said to me after the recent controversy, "Well, I was going to join the nursing service but now I won't". I am sure that this is happening in many cases, and it is a tragedy.

It will not be a tragedy for me—it will not hit me—as I shall be gone before "the results become apparent. We will be able to carry on under the present system for the next four, five or six years, and I do not propose to stay here for ever. But I want to warn the Committee of the supreme importance of this problem. It is not a matter for joking nor a matter for nonsense; it is a matter of profound importance.

I ask every hon. member to read very carefully what I have said tonight to get an understanding of the nature of the problem.

The hon. member for Ipswich West spoke at length recently in this Chamber on alleged inadequacies at the Ipswich hospital, particularly in the maternity section of that hospital.

I was surprised to hear her say that no-one seemed to know much about what developments were being planned for the maternity ward, as I can assure the hon. member that general remodelling and alterations to the existing maternity ward and an extension providing additional beds have already been approved at sketch plan stage. I recently gave approval for the board to proceed with working drawings and specifications. This project is estimated to cost over \$300,000, and, apart from general remodelling throughout, will provide enlarged nurseries and ante-natal clinic and extensions to labour ward accommodation.

Mrs. Jordan interjected.

Mr. TOOTH: Don't talk to me about being late! More has been done in Ipswich during the life of the Country-Liberal Government than Labour Governments did in 20 years.

Let me say also that, far from being without a planned programme of hospital extensions at Ipswich, that hospital is at present proceeding with a major building programme which was approved as far back as April, 1964. I have received from the secretary of the board today details of this approved programme, and I would like to read it in toto—

- (i) New quarters for nurses;
- (ii) Provision of third floor administration block to provide additional patients' accommodation;
- (iii) The conversion of an existing building for resident medical officers' quarters and nurses' lecture room and library;
- (iv) The remodelling of existing building used as nurses' quarters;
- (v) The conversion of the stores block to a new kitchen and dining room block;
- (vi) Remodelling of the first floor of the male ward block, including additional accommodation for the pathology laboratory;
- (vii) Remodelling of the ground floor of the male ward block to provide larger X-ray department and physiotherapy department; and
- (viii) The extensions to roadways.

The secretary further advised that items (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) have been completed and that sketch plans for the other proposals are in hand. Let me say that the cost of the work referred to by the secretary as having been completed was \$567,000. Just how soon the proposed new works can be completed—and that includes the remodelling and extensions

of the Maternity Block—will depend on the speed with which plans and specifications can be prepared.

The hon. member for Ipswich West made reference to Press publicity given to the conditions that prevailed at the hospital during September, and to letters from patients of the hospital about the same time. I would again like to read from a report received from the secretary of the board dealing with the position that obtained at the Ipswich Maternity Hospital during September, and I quote—

“For the year ending 30th June, 1967, there were 1,221 births and the daily average of the mothers in the whole section—private and public—was 28. For the year ended 30th June, 1968, there were 1,270 births, whilst the daily average of mothers was 28.2. For the month of September, 1968, the births were 126, whilst the daily average of mothers was 35.9. In July, 1968, the births for the month were 102, whilst the daily average of mothers was 25.6, and for August, 1968, the births were 99, whilst the daily average of mothers was 27.8.

“These figures are given to indicate that September was abnormal from the point of view of the number of births and the number of mothers treated in hospital.”

I understand that the position for October has to some extent returned to normal and for the first 20 days of this month the daily average of mothers was 28.2.

Reference was made also by the hon. member to a letter published in “The Queensland Times” from a patient, and short reference was made to the reply of the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital (Dr. O'Rourke). I think that, to put the record straight, I should read in full the report made by Dr. O'Rourke in answer to the complaints made in “The Queensland Times”—

“Although we realise we are far from perfect, and we are continually planning improvements, and, in fact, a complete new wing for the maternity section, we feel most of these complaints are entirely unjustified, or else there is a reasonable explanation.

1. On 7th September, the calorifier in our hot water system developed a steam leak with complete break-down of the steam line. It was removed and a smaller emergency unit installed, but this unit was apparently not large enough for the full demand. Repairs were completed by the 12th September, and the hot water system is now functioning as normal.

2. Premature babies, by definition, are extremely small, and it is not space they require, but adequate supervision and equipment. For the best supervision, they are usually kept in the same area, which may appear cramped to the layperson.

3. During early September, the maternity hospital was packed to capacity and there was an unusually high number of births. For this reason, patients who were in the convalescent stage and almost ready for discharge, were asked to use a tiled room, which had been converted into a bedroom due to the acute shortage of beds, so that the more urgent cases could be watched more closely. Careful inspection of the room reveals no soiled linen, and it is certainly not the practice of the hospital to keep soiled linen in bedrooms.

4. Fees of \$10.00 per day are fixed by the State Government.

5. As infection causes a very much increased mortality in premature infants, it is inadvisable, to move furniture in and out of the nursery, as an aseptic precaution, and at times mothers are asked to bottle feed babies, in the premature nursery only, while standing. Other babies are fed by the mothers in their rooms.

6. We are unable to substantiate the claim that mothers are unable to obtain their meals.

7. The claim, that if the mothers did not wake at midnight to feed their babies, they were not fed, is ridiculous as normal babies are not fed at this time, and any baby requiring a mid-night feed is fed by the nursing staff, and not by the mother. The only babies coming into this category are premature babies.

8. There are no garbage cans outside any bedroom in the hospital. There are only two outside garbage cans, and they are outside the kitchen.

9. We are delighted to see that our nurses are coming and going, as this means the patients are being adequately supervised should any unforeseen complications arise.”

It appears to me, after reading the reports from the board, that the abnormally high bed occupancy in the maternity block in September contributed largely to the circumstances complained of by some patients. I am confident that once the total programme of planned work at Ipswich Hospital is completed, at a total estimated cost of \$1,300,000—and this, as I said earlier, will be dependent on the expedition with which plans can be finalised—the shortcomings in present accommodation requirements will be met.

I refer finally to a comment of the hon. member concerning Toowoomba Hospital in which she said that Toowoomba had had nothing much done to it since 1945. I certainly am not prepared to accept any responsibility for what development occurred between 1945 and 1957, but since this Government came into office the cost of hospital buildings completed at Toowoomba or in the course of construction has been \$2,800,000.

I think Dr. Pye once said that no store builds accommodation for the Christmas rush, and I suppose one could draw a parallel with the situation at Ipswich Hospital.

(Time expired.)

Mr. INCH (Burke) (9.30 p.m.): I do not propose to speak at any length on the many facets of the Financial Statement as presented by the Treasurer, for a number of my colleagues on this side of the Chamber have already dealt extensively, and in a critically detailed manner, with the document which the Treasurer has been proud to christen "Queensland's march to progress" Budget.

Whatever progress has been achieved in recent years, or is expected to be attained in the future, has been, and will continue to be, dearly paid for by the people of Queensland, as a result of the financial manipulations of the Treasurer and his predecessor, by the sell-out of our natural resources to foreign interests at less than bargain-basement rates, and with little, if any, equity in the industries arising from the exploitation of these resources, and through their negotiation of loan moneys from the Commonwealth Government for developmental projects at rates of interest and under conditions far less favourable than those granted to other States.

In this regard, I refer in particular to the loan negotiated by the former Treasurer, Sir Thomas Hiley, for the rehabilitation of the Townsville-Mt. Isa railway line, and which has to be paid for through heavy interest and redemption payments over a relatively short period of time compared with the terms—even straight-out grants—extended to other States for similar projects.

At this stage, let me interpose that we still have not a trafficable line during a normal wet season. While I cannot charge the present Treasurer with being the chief architect of the negotiations for the loan from the Commonwealth Government for this project, which the people of Queensland are paying for so heavily, especially the people of North-West Queensland, I do accuse him, as the former Minister for Transport, together with his Cabinet colleagues at the time, of being blinded by their desire to engage, at a cost of many thousands of dollars, the services of an overseas firm of consulting engineers to plan and supervise the rehabilitation of this railroad in preference to their own railway engineers.

These engineers, with their years of experience of railway construction in Queensland, who are ever-ready to consult with and take heed of the knowledge and experience of maintenance inspectors, trainmen and gangers, would have had a better concept of local conditions over the whole length of this line and would have made adequate provision to overcome or minimise the problem which could, and did, arise from the damming up of water in the wet

season as the result of the increased height of the new road-bed above the level of the old line. It is now evident that the planning and supervision of the project by this overseas firm of consulting engineers went somewhat astray, as during the wet season in the early part of this year a number of wash-outs occurred on the line and the bridge over Corella Creek, a short distance from Nelia, collapsed, causing a 10-day suspension of rail traffic over the line.

If this sort of thing occurs in a normal wet season, what can we expect in a heavy wet season? Will other bridges collapse because their foundations may not be of sufficient depth to prevent their being scoured out by flood waters? This appears to be what has happened in the case of the Corella Creek bridge.

Are long lengths of line and road-bed to be washed away by waters that have been backed up for miles because of insufficient drainage, the outcome of what can only be regarded as inadequate planning and engineering? There is every likelihood of this occurring in a heavy wet season. It is apparent that the Railway Department itself holds some fear in this regard, if one can judge by an article that appeared in the "North-West Star" on Wednesday, 16 October, 1968. This article is headed, "Crucial Railway Work", and reads—

"The Queensland Railways Department is taking steps to ensure the North-West rail link from Townsville to Mount Isa will not be broken by flooding in the coming wet.

"A Railway Department spokesman said yesterday special precautions were being taken because of the 'experience' in the last Wet.

"The 'experience' was the collapse of the high level railway bridge over Corella Creek, near Nonda, on February 20 after heavy flooding.

"The railway service to Mount Isa was disrupted for more than a week and fresh food trucked and flown to Mount Isa following the collapse.

"Safety precautions for the wet season include:

"A new designed concrete bridge over Corella Creek.

"Drainage and reinforcement work on the line between Richmond and Nonda.

"The department spokesman said that the work was only the first stage of a programme which would make the line resistant to future flooding."

I put emphasis on the word "first" because it appears that many more washouts will occur.

The article continues—

"Work is progressing on the new \$140,000 Corella Creek bridge which should be completed by the end of November, he said.

"The bridge piers will be driven 40 feet into the creek bed.

"The Railways Department has called tenders for flood repair and protection work on the line between Richmond and Nonda."

I ask whether the piles or foundations of other bridges would be of sufficient depth to prevent their being scoured out by flood waters. Apparently the Railway Department is at last awake to the fact that they were not of sufficient depth.

In this article the department's spokesman says that the bridge piers will be driven down to a depth of 40 feet. That indicates how badly some other bridges have been planned and constructed. Several bridges on the Jardine Valley side of Hughenden have also had to be rebuilt, admittedly not because of flood damage but because they were unable to take the weight of the heavier trains now using that line. This is the line that is supposed to have been rehabilitated at a cost to the Queensland taxpayers of \$54,000,000. The cost is still mounting and will continue to mount. This can be seen by the extra repair work that needs to be done even now. The saving of \$6,000,000, which the Treasurer proudly boasted about a couple of years ago, will soon be used up in meeting these extra costs.

We can add to these costs the loss of revenue to the Railway Department during the period that the line was out of service, the inconvenience and hardship imposed upon travellers who were stranded at that time, the loss of perishable foodstuffs to business people, and the shortage of basic foodstuffs to people in far-western towns. If this is the price for progress, then heaven help the people of Queensland.

I should now like to touch on the matter of freight rates charged on goods transported to Mt. Isa and other western towns. It seems to be anomalous that a differentiation should exist between freight rates charged on goods or merchandise railed from Brisbane to Townsville and those charged on similar items railed to Mt. Isa and other western towns. I understand that goods railed to Townsville and to other coastal cities and towns attract a concessional rate, which is termed a "port" rate. That concession allows merchants in those towns to land their goods at a fairly reasonable cost. However, goods and materials railed to Mt. Isa and other western towns attract the full freight rate, and consequently the cost of living in those areas is added to and the cost of home construction rises.

Although the Treasurer has indicated that from 1 November, 1968, freight rates will be reduced by 5 per cent., a further incentive similar to the concession rate enjoyed

by merchants in Townsville and other coastal towns should be given to people in the inland areas to assist them in their efforts to develop that part of the State. I urge the Treasurer to give favourable consideration to that proposal.

One other matter that I desire to bring to the attention of the Treasurer is the need for a larger allocation of finance, by way of straight-out grants, to the western local authorities to enable them to carry out necessary and urgent work and to provide the facilities and amenities that they lack.

Mt. Isa, from which a goodly portion of the wealth of the State is derived, is urgently in need of a water-filtration scheme. For at least four months of the year its residents are plagued by filthy, muddy water that menaces their health and well-being. Although there has been strong agitation for the city council to implement such a scheme, from the observations of the councillors it would appear that such an undertaking could not be carried out unless the people were prepared to accept an increase of \$12 a year in their rates. It is either that, or they must continue drinking, washing and cooking in this filthy water. Such an increase would be far beyond the capacity of the ordinary householder to pay. Many of them are not high wage-earners and quite a number receive only the age or invalid or some other such pension.

I have mentioned the wealth that is produced in this area, but a great deal of revenue is paid to the Government in various forms of taxes, including royalties. I might mention that in the past three years, from 1965 to 1967 inclusive, the royalties received from Mount Isa Mines Limited totalled \$1,738,951. That sum will be further augmented by the 1968 receipts which are not yet on record. I put it to the Treasurer that he should recognise the revenue being derived from this area by making a substantial grant to the Mt. Isa City Council for a filtration plant, which will be so beneficial for the people whose efforts in this locality of considerable climatic discomfort facilitate the earning of that revenue.

During this debate there has been much discussion about Commonwealth-State financial relationships. There has been some confusion at times about how we have arrived at the present position. I think it may be of value to place on record in "Hansard" the manner in which the present situation has evolved. It is set down in the Commonwealth document titled, "Commonwealth Payments to or for the States".

Events have altered dramatically since the Second World War. At that time the financial resources available to the States were for the most part sufficient to enable them to meet their own expenditures principally from funds that they themselves were responsible for raising. Commonwealth payments to them, though they had increased over the years, were still relatively

small and confined to a fairly narrow field, that is, to tiding the States over the difficult periods, assisting the financially weaker States, or providing funds for purposes in which the Commonwealth had a common interest with the States.

The Second World War radically changed this situation. To finance its greatly increased war-time expenditure, it was necessary for the Commonwealth to "maximise" its revenue from all sources. The incidence of State income taxes, which were then levied concurrently with Commonwealth income tax, differed widely between States and, as the Commonwealth is constitutionally forbidden from discriminating between States in the imposition of taxes, its rates were in practice limited by the scope available for additional tax in the State with the highest rate of tax at each income level. This, of course, meant that in other States there were large untapped sources of income-tax revenue. This problem was the subject of discussion between the Commonwealth Governments on a number of occasions during the early war years, but no mutually acceptable solution was reached.

On 23 February, 1942, the Commonwealth Treasurer appointed a committee to consider the question of the Commonwealth becoming the sole income-taxing authority for the duration of the war and of payments, by way of grants, to the States because of their retirement from the income-tax field. That committee presented its report on 28 March, 1942, and recommended that for the duration of the war and one year afterwards the Commonwealth should be the sole authority to impose taxes on income. It suggested that a scheme of uniform taxation should operate from 1 July, 1942, and that the States should be compensated on retiring from the field of income tax.

In May, 1942, legislation was introduced in the Commonwealth Parliament to implement, with minor amendments, the recommendations of this committee. Under this legislation, a uniform income tax scheme came into operation on 1 July, 1942.

In the same year the validity of the Commonwealth uniform tax legislation was challenged in the High Court by four of the State Governments. The challenge was unsuccessful, the High Court finding that the Commonwealth could enforce priority in the collection of its income tax and could make grants to the States under section 96 of the Commonwealth Constitution on the condition that they vacated the field of income taxation.

Under this war-time income tax scheme, therefore, the Commonwealth was the sole income taxing authority for the period of the war and one year thereafter. By way of compensation, the States were paid tax reimbursement grants (provided they did not impose taxes on income) based upon their average collections from taxes on income in the years 1939-40 and 1940-41.

Later in 1942 the Commonwealth, in agreement with the States concerned, established a uniform entertainments tax on a similar basis and provided for annual reimbursement grants, based on collections in 1941-42, to be paid to the five States which had previously levied entertainments tax.

The tax reimbursement grants (less any arrears of income tax collected by or on behalf of the States) paid to the States in the period 1942-43 to 1945-46, inclusive, amounted to \$68,510,000, of which \$66,978,000 was by way of income-tax reimbursement grants and \$1,532,000 by way of entertainments-tax reimbursement grants.

Under the war-time legislation any State could apply for additional financial assistance if the income-tax reimbursement grant appeared to be insufficient to meet that State's revenue requirements in any year. On the recommendation of the Commonwealth Grants Commission, the additional financial assistance given by the Commonwealth under this provision was \$1,106,000 in respect of 1945-46 and \$4,266,000 in respect of 1946-47.

At a Premier's Conference in January 1946 the States were informed that the Commonwealth Government proposed to continue uniform income tax indefinitely. The conference decided that the total tax reimbursement grants in both 1946-47 and 1947-48 should be \$80,000,000, and that the grants in subsequent years should be determined by means of a formula under which this base amount would be increased in accordance with variations in population and half of the percentage increase in average wages per person employed in Australia as a whole. The grants continued to be conditional upon the States refraining from levying income tax, but the condition requiring the States to refrain from imposing entertainments tax was discontinued. These provisions were incorporated in the States Grants (Tax Reimbursement) Act of 1946.

Following further discussions with the States during the next two years, the total grant for 1947-48 was increased to \$90,000,000 and the formula embodied in the 1946 Act was amended. Beginning in 1948-49, the aggregate grant payable to the States in each year under the Act, as amended, was determined by varying the sum of \$90,000,000 in accordance with a formula which took account of variations in the total population of the six States since 1 July, 1947, and the full percentage increase in the level of average wages per person employed in Australia as a whole over the level of 1945-46.

The States Grants (Tax Reimbursement) Act of 1946 included a schedule determining the distribution of the aggregate grants in 1946-47 and 1947-48. It further provided that in each of the financial years 1948-49 to 1956-57 inclusive, a percentage of the grant was to be distributed in accordance with the

schedule and the remainder was to be distributed in proportion to the populations of the States adjusted for density, and for the number of children between 5 and 15 years of age. The percentage to be divided according to the schedule was 90 per cent. in 1948-49, 80 per cent. in 1949-50 and so on down to 10 per cent. in 1956-57 and nothing in 1957-58. Thus, in 1957-58 and 1958-59 the whole of the tax reimbursement grants was distributed in proportion to the States' adjusted populations so that the distribution of the grants between States was no longer determined, directly or indirectly, by reference to the amounts of income tax collected by each State.

Although no change was made in the tax reimbursement formula after 1948-49, the Commonwealth made grants to supplement the amount yielded by the formula in each subsequent year of its operation. These supplementary grants, which in some years took account of special circumstances, were distributed in some years in proportions which differed from those of the formula grants. The total amount of the tax reimbursement formula grants and supplementary grants paid to the States in 1946-47 was \$84,266,000. Between that year and 1958-59 the amounts made available by way of these grants increased year by year so that the total amount paid in 1958-59 was \$410,000,000.

The question of resumption of State income tax was further discussed at the Premiers' Conferences of September, 1950, and August, 1951. In October, 1952, Victoria took out a writ in the High Court challenging the validity of the uniform tax legislation. However, this challenge was not pursued.

In July, 1952, the Commonwealth informed the States that it was willing to discuss with them the possibility of resumption of State income tax. A report subsequently prepared by Commonwealth and State Treasury officers on the technical problems involved was presented to a Premiers' Conference held in February, 1953. At that conference Commonwealth and State Treasury officers were asked to prepare a further report as a basis for discussions on the extent to which the Commonwealth might vacate the income tax field. This report was received at a Premiers' Conference held in August, 1953, together with a report on the special problems facing Queensland in the event of the return of taxing powers. No agreement could be arrived at between the Commonwealth and the States on the extent to which the income tax field should be vacated by the Commonwealth.

In December, 1955, the Victorian Government took out a new writ in the High Court challenging the validity of the uniform tax legislation. In particular, Victoria disputed the power of the Commonwealth to make tax

reimbursement grants conditional upon the States not levying income tax, and the Commonwealth's power to provide an absolute priority for payment of Commonwealth income tax over income taxes levied by the States. In November, 1956, the New South Wales Government intervened to support Victoria's challenge. In August, 1957, the High Court ruled unanimously that the conditions attaching to the tax reimbursement grants that the States should not levy income tax was valid. By a majority of 4 to 3, it ruled that section 221 (1) (a) of the Income Tax and Social Services Contribution Assessment Act 1936 to 1956, which prohibited a taxpayer paying State income tax until Commonwealth income tax was paid, was invalid.

At a special Premiers' Conference held in March, 1959, all the main aspects of Commonwealth-State financial relations were considered. In particular, extensive discussions took place on the question of the resumption of income tax by the States, but there were considerable differences of opinion on the complex issues involved and no acceptable solutions emerged.

The conference then turned its attention to the question of revising the tax reimbursement arrangements, and it was suggested that the Commonwealth might closely examine the whole system of revenue grants to the States with a view to submitting precise proposals at the normal meeting of the Premiers in June, 1959.

I think that hon. members are familiar with events since that conference. I trust that the summary I have given of events in earlier years will place in perspective events that occurred subsequently.

Progress reported.

The House adjourned at 9.58 p.m.
