

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**TUESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 1968**

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## TUESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER, 1968

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

### QUESTIONS

#### DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURE ON ADVERTISING

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

(1) How much was spent by the various Government Departments on promotional material and publicity through radio, television, Press and theatre films or slides during the twelve months ended September, 30, 1968?

(2) What proportion of the cost was for (a) preparation of material, (b) actual advertising charges by the publicity media and (c) commission?

(3) Did the Departments concerned deal directly with the advertising media or were arrangements made through advertising agencies? If so, who were the advertising agencies?

Answers:—

(1) "\$468,073.92."

(2) "It has not been the general practice to maintain records of this expenditure dissected in the manner sought by the Honourable Member. The cost and time involved in obtaining the information at this juncture would not be justified."

(3) "A number of Departments dealt direct with advertising media. In other cases, arrangements were made for the material to be handled through advertising agencies. During the twelve months ended September 30, 1968, these included:— Campbell Advertising Pty. Ltd., George Patterson-Noble Bartlett Pty. Ltd., U.S.P.-Benson (Qld.) Pty. Ltd., Charles E. Blank Pty. Ltd., J. W. Johnson Advertising, Drive In Screen Ads. Pty. Ltd., Australian Advertising Agency Pty. Ltd., Littleton Associated, Jackson Wain (Qld.) Pty. Ltd., Le Grand Advertising Pty. Ltd., Cosway Public Relations Pty. Ltd."

#### SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS

(a) Mr. Houston, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Labour and Tourism,—

(1) What social service or other benefits are available to the public in need of such assistance?

(2) What is the amount of and what are the conditions applying to each type of assistance?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "I table a detailed statement, setting out the information sought by the Honourable Member, in so far as my

Department is concerned, in regard to relief assistance, which may be granted in the form of cash payments to persons in destitute circumstances. Free rail travel over the Queensland Railways also is made available not more frequently than once in every calendar year, on application, to the following categories of persons, viz.:— Age, invalid, and widow pensioners; service pensioners as the Repatriation Department equivalent of age and invalid pensioners; war widow pensioners, whose financial circumstances, disregarding the war widow's pension, are not such as would disqualify them from age or widow's pensions; wives of T. and P.I. pensioners, whose husbands receive considerable rail travel privileges from the Railway Department; Miners' phthisis pensioners and T.B. pensioners. The number of requisitions issued for 1967-68 to these persons was 27,203, and the value of them was \$187,685. I also table an information statement, in regard to the issue of these free rail passes by my Department. I stress that these details of the assistance mentioned above have been circulated to all Honourable Members, from time to time, and are also forwarded to Honourable Members upon their election to this House. They have also been made available to anyone enquiring for them. In addition, a special Christmas cheer distribution, and a special winter relief distribution, are made each year, based on the same rates as are contained in the statement referred to in the first paragraph."

Paper.—Whereupon, Mr. Herbert laid upon the Table of the House the statement referred to.

(b) Mr. Houston, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) What social service or other benefits are available to the public in need of such assistance?

(2) What is the amount of and what are the conditions applying to each type of assistance?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "(a)(i) Widows, invalid and age pensioners, deserted wives, wives of prisoners, unmarried mothers and, in some instances, relatives caring for children are paid assistance at the rate of \$2.50 per week per child. The number of children in a family for whom such assistance is paid is determined by the total family income as related to the State male basic wage. (ii) Deserted wives, wives of prisoners, deserted de facto wives and unmarried mothers with families living in a one parent situation and not eligible for Commonwealth Social Service benefits, on establishing their *bona fides* are paid family assistance at the rate of \$20.50 per week for mother with one child and \$2.50

per week for each additional child until such time as they do become eligible for Commonwealth Social Service benefits. (iii) Families in need of immediate help, not in category (ii) above, are paid Emergent Family Assistance at the same rate of payment as Relief Assistance paid through the Department of Labour and Tourism, viz., \$2.35 for the parent, \$2.35 for the first child, and \$1 for each additional child. (iv) All recipients of Family Assistance under categories (i), (ii) and (iii) are eligible to receive free textbooks and school requisites at the cost of the Department for the children assisted. (b) Underprivileged and socially deprived children who are neglected or under unfit guardianship, or whose parents are unable to care for them and whose welfare is in jeopardy and who are received into the care of the Department of Children's Services by voluntary application or through order of a Children's Court are placed in children's homes or in foster homes and are cared for by the Department until they can either return to their parents or until they attain the age of eighteen years. The home or foster parents are paid an allowance of \$7.50 per week in respect of pre-school and primary school children and \$8.50 per week in respect of secondary school children. Secondary school children are paid 50 cents per week pocket money. In addition free textbooks, school requisites and initial issues of uniforms and clothing are supplied for these children. (c) Free inter-hospital transport is available to all those in poor financial circumstances and where hospital or medical treatment is not available locally on the certificate of the medical superintendent of a public hospital. The cost of free travel passes last financial year was \$30,745. Free travel for treatment at the Queensland Radium Institute or nearest sub-centre is provided, without application of a means test, to all persons suffering from a malignant, pre-malignant, near malignant or suspected malignant condition on the certificate of the medical superintendent of a public hospital. Cost in 1967-68 was \$18,417. (d) Medical and surgical aids, including wheel chairs on permanent loan and artificial limbs, are provided if the persons concerned are unable to meet the cost. The amount expended by this Department on such assistance during 1967-68 was \$20,008."

#### SYMPOSIUM ON ALCOHOLISM, TOWNSVILLE

**Mr. Aikens**, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

(1) Was a seminar under the sponsorship of the Co-ordinating Committee on Alcoholism held at Townsville University College on or about August 5? If so, what was the total cost, including fares and salaries of State officers and employees

who travelled from Brisbane and other places to attend and what Government Department footed the bill?

(2) What salary and allowances are paid to Mr. Benjamin, who appears to be remotely connected with the problem of alcoholism, how many other officers or staff are paid from the public purse to assist him in his job and what is the total annual cost of this Department?

(3) Who selected the speakers at the seminar and, apart from Dr. Milton, which of them has ever seen or spoken to an alcoholic?

(4) Were any of the speakers at the seminar paid for the addresses they delivered and, if so, who were they and how much were they paid?

*Answers:—*

(1) "A Symposium on Alcoholism, conducted by the Queensland Health and Education Co-ordinating Committee on Alcoholism and supported by the Townsville Local Medical Association, the Roman Catholic and Anglican bishops, the North Queensland Prisoners' Aid Society and other community leaders, was held in Townsville on August 5. The total cost involved was \$593.52 and was met by the Department of Health out of its allocation from the Liquor Acts Trust Fund. As Co-ordinating Committee education officers were in Townsville at the time in the course of their normal duties, no additional expenditure was incurred by their participation in the Symposium."

(2) "The Executive Officer of the Queensland Health and Education Co-ordinating Committee on Alcoholism, Mr. M. L. Benjamin, receives \$6,250 in annual salary and allowances. There are five other officers and the total cost for the financial year 1967-68 was \$38,536.49."

(3) "The three local speakers were suggested by the North Queensland Prisoners' Aid Society and the three visiting speakers were selected by the Co-ordinating Committee. They have all, in the Honourable Member's words, "seen or spoken to an alcoholic."

(4) "No."

#### SPECIAL LEASES, CLARE IRRIGATION AREA

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

(1) Further to his Answer to my Question of October 31 regarding Clare Irrigation Area, is S. R. Hall, to whom an area of 100 acres of portion 140 was granted and is now in the course of conversion to perpetual lease, one and the same person as S. T. R. Hall, the present lessee of portion 140 under S.L. 25499? If not, what is the relationship?

(2) What did L. Hall, son of S. T. R. Hall, pay for 100 acres of portion 140 transferred or in the course of transfer to him and what is the tenure?

(3) What did P. E. Shadforth, son of E. A. Shadforth, pay for 84½ acres of portion 142 transferred or in the course of transfer to him and what is the tenure?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2 and 3) "Present tenures in each case are special lease. The sale price for transfer from father to son in each case was \$1. As transfers of special lease, no payment to the Crown is required. If converted to perpetual lease, the lessee would pay an annual rent for the first ten years of a sum equal to \$3 per centum of the unimproved value of the land as fixed by the Minister for Lands, upon the recommendation of the Land Administration Commission. The rent for each succeeding ten-year period would be determined by the Land Court. If the tenure is converted to freehold, the lessee would be required to pay the price fixed by the Minister for Lands upon the recommendation of the Land Administration Commission."

COMPLETION OF BITUMEN SEALING,  
HERBERTON-ATHERTON ROAD

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

(1) Have plans been made for the bitumen surfacing of the two sections of unsealed road between Herberton and Atherton?

(2) When will the work be done?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "A scheme for the construction to bitumen surfacing of the half-mile section, Moffat Street, Herberton, to Grant Creek, has been released, and work has commenced on alteration to services in connection with the construction of this section. Work on the second section (Elsie Creek to top of Range) is not programmed for release before 1970-71. Any advance on this date could only be made at the expense of other works in the area."

ESTABLISHMENT OF PRAWN FARMS

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an article in *The Sunday Mail* of October 27, entitled "Sea farm may hit trawlers"?

(2) As the prawn industry is important to Queensland and as the State has probably many areas in which to establish such farms, will he investigate the possibility of establishing farms along the coast in order to keep abreast of overseas methods?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "The Fisheries Research Institute at Deception Bay, which is jointly staffed and financed by the Department of Harbours and Marine and C.S.I.R.O., is at present engaged on research into the prawn fishery. Consideration has been given to the potential of prawn farming, but the research programme has not advanced far enough to permit a firm decision. At this point in time it appears possible that farming of prawns to young adulthood for release to the sea may prove a proposition worthy of research effort."

ELECTRICAL TRADESMEN IN RAILWAY  
WORKSHOPS

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

(1) Is the Roma diesel shed being presently staffed by two electrical tradesmen instead of the normal strength of three?

(2) How many electrical tradesmen are employed in diesel sheds in the State?

(3) How many hours' overtime were worked by electrical tradesmen in diesel sheds in the year 1967-68 and what was the cost of the overtime?

(4) How many electrical tradesmen and electrical apprentices, respectively, are employed on day work at Redbank Railway Workshops?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "The total number of electrical tradesmen employed by the Railway Department is 285."

(3) "The information is not separately extracted and to do so would involve considerable clerical time, the expenditure of which is not considered justified."

(4) "Twenty tradesmen, 29 apprentices, but these numbers fluctuate."

(b) Mr. P. Wood, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Transport,—

What is the full working staff strength of electrical tradesmen required to staff the Toowoomba Railway Workshops and how many electrical tradesmen are presently employed there?

Answer:—

"The staff of electrical tradesmen at Toowoomba Railway Workshops is at present one sub-foreman and five electrical tradesmen. The present establishment is one sub-foreman and six electrical tradesmen."

CONSTRUCTION OF MT. WHITFIELD ROAD,  
CAIRNS

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

(1) Has an origin-and-destination survey been carried out in Cairns district? If so, has Mt. Whitfield road through Mt. Lumley

scenic reserve been considered for construction and will the Commonwealth Aid Roads Grant scheme and Main Roads subsidy apply to it?

(2) If not, in view of the rapidly increasing tourist demand, will he urgently consider giving early priority to the proposal and the scheduling of its construction?

*Answers:—*

(1) "No."

(2) "Mt. Whitfield Road is not declared under the Main Roads Acts. Construction would be a matter for Mulgrave Shire Council."

#### SMALL-BOAT HARBOUR, CAIRNS

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

(1) What preliminary work, including siltation tests, etc., have been carried out for the construction of Cairns small-boat harbour and what is the cost to date?

(2) How many boat harbours were constructed in Queensland during the last ten years and what were the costs of construction?

(3) In comparison with Cairns, what are the present small-craft registrations at those centres?

*Answers:—*

(1) \$30,125 has been spent on preliminary surveys and tests in connection with the construction of a small-boat harbour at Cairns. These works have included current measurements at Smith Creek and preliminary dredging and regular siltation tests of the Cairns Esplanade. These siltation tests are still being carried out at three-monthly intervals."

(2) "During the 10 years to June 30, 1968, construction work has been undertaken on 13 boat harbours in Queensland. Spendings to June 30, 1968, have been as follows:—Brisbane Harbour—Southport, \$42,817; Manly, \$575,000; Cabbage Tree Creek, \$142,830; Scarborough, \$12,808; Mooloolaba, \$18,561; Urangan, \$154,366; Gladstone, \$106,212; Rockhampton—Rosslyn Bay, \$54,174; Yeppoon, \$71,269; Mackay, \$12,502; Bowen, \$119,357; Townsville, \$148,251; Cairns, \$112,700."

(3) "Small-craft registrations at these main centres as at June 30, 1968, were as follows:—Brisbane Harbour, 21,183; Urangan, 1,489; Gladstone, 490; Rockhampton, 692; Mackay, 1,184; Bowen, 506; Townsville, 1,944; Cairns, 1,121."

#### "SOFT" BUTTER

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

(1) Has he seen trial samples of "soft" butter which is to be brought on to the market shortly?

(2) Are any additives used in its manufacture and does it retain the nature of the cream?

(3) As I understand that a certain cooling process is involved in its manufacture, has he or his Department any knowledge of the likelihood of bacterial content in the butter?

*Answers:—*

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Additives are not used and chemically the butter is similar to normal butter."

(3) "The cooling process recommended by my Department provides a butter of comparable bacteriological quality to normally processed butter."

#### PROVISION OF SHELTER SHED, MANLY JETTY

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

In view of the distance from the end of Manly Jetty to the nearest shelter shed, approximately 300 yards, will he urgently consider the erection of a shelter shed on the jetty for the convenience of passengers travelling to Dunwich, Amity Point and neighbouring islands, boat owners and their families who use the Manly Harbour and Jetty for mooring purposes, and the general public?

*Answer:—*

"I have arranged to have the proposal for a shelter shed at the end of Manly Jetty investigated."

#### MAINTENANCE WORK, MANLY BEACH BATHING AREA

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

In view of the large number of people, especially children, who use the Manly beach bathing area particularly at weekends and holidays, will he (a) have the area cleared of rusty sheets of iron, oil drums, drink cans, broken bottles and glass, (b) remove the large unused broken concrete drain in an endeavour to prevent further accidents, (c) remove the large quantity of broken unsightly and dangerous concrete slabs from the swimming area and the stairway leading to the beach and (d) give urgent consideration to repairing the broken and dangerous retaining wall?

*Answer:—*

"The management and control of the Manly beach bathing area has been placed with the Brisbane City Council and I suggest the Honourable Member place his requests with that authority."

## PAPERS

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

## Reports—

Queensland Government Tourist Bureau, for the year 1967-68.

Commissioner for Railways, for the year 1967-68.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

## WOORABINDA ABORIGINAL RESERVE

**Hon. V. B. SULLIVAN** (Condamine—Minister for Lands) (11.18 a.m.): During the week-end a newspaper, through its "Letters to the Editor" column, published a letter under the heading, "Challenge on polling campaign" over the name of E. Jones, A.L.P. campaign director for Mackenzie.

Referring to Woorabinda, the question was asked—

"Who is the person responsible for buying and selling cattle at the settlement?" Hon. members are aware that, as the person in charge of the department, the Director of Aboriginal and Island Affairs is responsible for the administration of his department, and he in turn, of course, is answerable to me as Minister, and, through me, to Cabinet.

The further question is asked—

"Is there any commission from these transactions, and who receives it?"

Disposal and purchase of cattle is done through many agencies, the principal being—

Primary Producers' Co-operative Association Limited, Rockhampton; Dalgety and New Zealand Loan Ltd., Rockhampton; Australian Estates Co. Ltd., Rockhampton; Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Ltd., Duaringa; John Maguire & Co., Emerald; James M. Ryan & Sons, Rockhampton; D. and M. Davey, Duaringa.

The commission rates payable are the standard set, namely, 3½ per cent. in sale-yards and 2½ per cent. on sales on property.

A further important question is—

"Have all the people on the settlement been enrolled on the electoral roll?"

The answer to this is that I have no idea whatsoever, nor do I intend to mount an inquiry to ascertain who, among the Aboriginal residents of this or any other Aboriginal community, have enrolled as a result of the exercise of their free choice in this matter.

I remind hon. members that amendments to the Electoral Act specifically gave to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders the right of choice whether or not they would enrol, but, should they exercise that choice, they are bound by all of the rules and regulations applicable to all other Queenslanders. Indeed, penalties are provided to ensure that pressures are not exerted

to influence Aboriginal Queenslanders in the free exercise of their choice in these matters. It would appear that the A.L.P. campaign director for Mackenzie has thoughts of taking action along these lines were he or his political canvassers given access to the reserve area for political purposes.

When the Elections Act was amended, my Government took considerable care to ensure that no influence was brought to bear on any Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal inhabitant, and, to achieve this desirable result, arranged for the Under Secretary of the Justice Department, as well as the Principal Electoral Officer, together with the Director of Aboriginal and Island Affairs and/or senior officers of their departments, to attend at every centre where there was some density of Aboriginal or Islander population to explain to them their rights and responsibilities under this legislation.

Similar action was taken by the Commonwealth electoral authorities, and my Government has been particularly scrupulous in respecting the freedom of choice conferred by section 26A (1) of the Elections Act. I might mention further that so far as access to reserves for political purposes is concerned, this matter was considered by Torres Strait councillors in conference, and the Government's policy is consistent with the wishes of the reserve residents as expressed through councillors in conference.

I feel that I cannot emphasise too greatly the matter of influence, and therefore quote the Elections Act, section 26A (3), which reads—

"A person who influences or attempts to influence in any manner or by any means whatsoever a Torres Strait Islander or an Aboriginal inhabitant of Australia in the free exercise of his choice whether or not to enrol as an elector, is guilty of an offence against this Act and liable to a penalty of two hundred dollars or to imprisonment for six months."

It is a matter for regret that the A.L.P. campaign director for Mackenzie introduced Russia into propounding ideologies when, as is abundantly manifest, my Government is respecting the democratic personal rights and liberties of the individual, which apparently he would endeavour to control, direct or influence.

The hon. member for Mackenzie, as is well known, particularly in his electorate, has for 10 years accepted without remuneration the very onerous responsibility of being honorary cattle adviser to the department, a position which he has carried into effect with the maximum of ability, the utmost of goodwill, and under completely scrupulous circumstances at all times. During the period of guidance by the hon. member for Mackenzie, net returns from cattle activities in the Woorabinda area alone increased from \$12,218 to \$217,000 per annum, all of which has been returned directly to the Aborigines themselves through the Aboriginal Welfare Fund. That is certainly a magnificent effort.

In addition, many Aboriginal Queenslanders have received training in pastoral activities contributing to the fact that today more than 80 per cent. of Aboriginal Queenslanders sponsored by the department enjoy full award wages and conditions in the pastoral industry, and have enjoyed these working conditions for a considerable period.

Furthermore, the whole of the Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal reserves have been reorganised as a result of the hon. member's activities, and they are now rapidly becoming valuable economic pastoral undertakings for the well-being of Aboriginal Queenslanders.

There is no doubt that the hon. member for Mackenzie, who is held in the highest regard by this Government, is also similarly regarded by his own electorate, a fact which has been amply demonstrated for many years now and will again be demonstrated next year by the electors of the area that he represents.

#### FORM OF QUESTION

**Mr. MILLER:** (Ithaca) having given notice of a question—

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The first portion of the hon. member's question is out of order. It seeks an expression of an opinion on the accuracy of a statement appearing in a newspaper.

#### SUPPLY

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE—ESTIMATES—

THIRD AND FOURTH ALLOTTED DAYS

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

ESTIMATES-IN-CHIEF, 1968-69

DEPARTMENT OF MINES, MAIN ROADS AND ELECTRICITY

CHIEF OFFICE

Debate resumed from 31 October (see p. 1154) on Mr. Camm's motion—

"That \$630,663 be granted for 'Department of Mines, Main Roads and Electricity—Chief Office'."

**Mr. AHERN** (Landsborough) (11.37 a.m.): I rise to commend the Minister for Mines, Main Roads and Electricity for his administration of those three very difficult portfolios. I commend him particularly for his administration of the Main Roads Department and for the work that he has had carried out in my electorate. His efforts have been very well received by the constituents of my electorate, and I am sure that the local authorities of Landsborough and Maroochy desire to be associated with the vote of thanks that I am expressing to the Minister and his department for the work that has been performed in their areas.

In replying to the Minister's remarks in this debate, the Leader of the Opposition made at least two false accusations about statements that he alleged I made during the Landsborough by-election campaign. He said, first of all, that I was quite happy with the two-lane highways that are in my electorate and lead to the Sunshine Coast. His statement is not true. During the campaign I said that I would be fighting for the provision of a greater length of four-lane highways to the Sunshine Coast, and I have been doing this. I draw the attention of the Leader of the Opposition to what he did say. I can understand the reason for his not remembering what was actually said, because I suppose that Mr. Stanaway wrote his speech for him. He said that I would be a "paper tiger" in my efforts in Brisbane, unable to convince the powers that be of the need for those roads. The local Press contained reports of that statement by the Leader of the Opposition during the campaign. On these matters his memory is not the best. What I did say was that a great amount of money was being spent on those highways. I think that this fact has been clearly established, but for the benefit of those people who doubt it I shall now take a little time to convince them that it is so.

From 1963-64 to 1967-68 a considerable amount of money was spent by the Main Roads Department in my electorate. Over the last five years, in the local authority areas of Landsborough and Maroochy, a sum of \$3,371,000 has been spent on permanent main roads works.

**Mr. Hinze:** It is an important area.

**Mr. AHERN:** That is so; it is an important area. I have been fighting for the expenditure of a greater sum on road works in my electorate. Over the last five years, a large sum of money has been spent on road maintenance in the same areas. Over the last five years \$1,119,000 was spent on maintenance. In addition, free grants by way of Commonwealth aid allocations to the local authorities have totalled \$569,000. Roads (Contribution to Maintenance) allocations, by way of free grants, have totalled \$122,000. They are significant contributions.

In relation to the highways referred to particularly by the Leader of the Opposition during his speech on these Estimates, it is interesting to note that, on the Bruce Highway, a tremendous amount of work has been carried out. I think it is worth while detailing some of the work that has been done on this part of the Bruce Highway, which is vitally important to the future of the Sunshine Coast. In the last five years, expenditure on part of the Caboolture bypass, in the Landsborough electorate, was \$126,000; on the 1½-mile section north of Glasshouse Mountains, \$221,000 was spent.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! There is far too much conversation in the Chamber. I suggest to any hon. member who wants to engage in

conversation that he leave the Chamber and give the hon. member for Landsborough an opportunity to make his speech.

**Mr. AHERN:** Thank you, Mr. Hooper.

A 3.3-mile section of road north of Beerburum was completed in July this year, at a cost of \$261,000; a 3½-mile section near Forest Glen cost \$270,000 and a 1½-mile section north of the Maroochydoore turnoff cost \$236,000. The cost of providing two additional lanes north of the Maroochy turnoff was \$75,000, and the 2-mile section between Woombye and Nambour cost \$350,000.

The amount spent on bridges on this road in the last five years was \$240,000. In the last five years, on this road alone, a total of \$1,779,000 was spent. As I said during my campaign, that was particularly significant expenditure. Apparently the Opposition was not aware that these amounts had been spent, or hon. members opposite would not have gone to the trouble of asserting during the campaign that no money had been spent on the Bruce Highway in my electorate and that money should be allocated to provide additional sections of four-lane highway to the Sunshine Coast.

During his speech on these Estimates the Leader of the Opposition also said that the four-lane sections of the Bruce Highway were constructed merely for their propaganda value. The figures provided for me by the Maroochy Shire Council indicate that, at the present time, the four-lane section is carrying about 7,500 vehicles a day. That represents quite a number of vehicles, and shows that expenditure on improving the highway is fully justified.

**Mr. Houston:** Don't those vehicles also travel on the other parts of the road that have only two lanes?

**Mr. AHERN:** That interjection indicates that the hon. member does not really understand why that section of the highway was built. It is not merely part and parcel of the road to the North. It is used extensively by local people travelling up and down the Sunshine Coast to conduct their business in Nambour. It has been clearly established that 7,500 vehicles a day, on the average, use this section of the road. More people use it than use the section of road between Landsborough and Beerwah.

**Mr. Houston:** What about the road at Petrie, and all round the outskirts of Brisbane?

**Mr. AHERN:** That is in the advanced planning stage now. I agree that more money should be spent there; I have not disagreed with that.

The four-lane section made a significant contribution to the area, and was well worth while. I am confident that as funds become available more four-lane sections will be provided on the road to the Sunshine Coast.

At holiday periods particularly, the road to the Sunshine Coast carries a heavy volume of traffic. The character of the traffic is very different from that on other roads in the State. This road carries a large number of caravans. This is slow-moving and difficult traffic to handle, and makes the road difficult to traverse. I realise the problem that the Main Roads Department has in planning for these peak periods, and I agree that it is impossible to plan only for peak periods. I am sure that the Main Roads Department realises this problem and that the Sunshine Coast will receive better access roads as time goes on.

The Leader of the Opposition has criticised certain of my statements. I bring to the notice of the Committee certain of his statements. Some of my friends who are at present campaigning in the North have told me that on his visits to the North the Leader of the Opposition is prone to accuse this Government of building four-lane highways in South-east Queensland in preference to roads in outback areas. Yet here he claims that we should be building more four-lane sections on the highway to the Sunshine Coast.

**An Opposition Member** interjected.

**Mr. AHERN:** I find it difficult to know what is the policy of Opposition members on these matters. It seems to vary depending on where they are and to whom they are speaking. If they are speaking to a North Queensland audience they say that too much money is being spent on four-lane highways in South-east Queensland, whereas if they are speaking to a South-east Queensland audience, they say that more money should be spent on four-lane highways here.

**Mr. Ramsden:** They do not seem to have a policy at all.

**Mr. AHERN:** That is what I just said. I do not think they have a policy at all. The Main Roads Department has reason to be proud of its planning achievements in country and urban roads, and I commend it for that.

The new Caboolture bypass from south of Caboolture to Beerburum is under construction. Half of it is practically completed, tenders have been let for the other half, and work has commenced on it. Because of foundation problems, which were anticipated by Main Roads Department engineers, the successful tenderer has been given until March 1970 to complete this section. In the interests of the Sunshine Coast I ask that the Main Roads Department give some incentive to the successful tenderer in an effort to have this section of the bypass finished by the Christmas tourist season next year. It is only a matter of three or four months that is involved. I am sure that if a little extra effort was put into it, this section of road would be completed by Christmas next year. This would be of tremendous assistance to the tourist industry in the area



and would be of great benefit to the future of this area. It would make our future brighter if this road was completed four months earlier than expected.

On behalf of the people in my electorate, and on behalf of many people of this State, I commend the Minister for Mines, Main Roads and Electricity on the Estimates that he has introduced, and hope that he will be here to introduce many more Estimates of this type.

**Mr. TUCKER** (Townsville North) (11.50 a.m.): The royalties paid on coal won in Queensland and exported by foreign companies must be one of the Government's soft spots. The Opposition—initially the Leader of the Opposition and then I—raised this matter in the Address-in-Reply debate. The Treasurer came roaring into the Chamber that same afternoon and made a statement designed to ensure that what he said would appear in the Press. It was a rather unprecedented action, which made it quite obvious that the Government was worried about royalties and also about the fact that the Opposition has raised this matter successfully throughout the State of Queensland.

**Mr. Ramsden** interjected.

**Mr. TUCKER:** I find it hard to hear what the hon. member is saying. I realise that the Treasurer understood that there was a story to be told about the poor return from the coal royalties, and he himself took a hand in endeavouring to shift the emphasis placed on it on that day.

When the Leader of the Opposition raised the same matter again during the current debate, the Minister for Mines, Main Roads and Electricity entered the debate that same afternoon, not roaring but squeaking, and told the same old story as that told by the Treasurer during the Address-in-Reply debate. It was merely a reiteration of what we heard on that occasion.

The story of the small amount being returned in royalties cannot be told too often from this side of the Chamber. I noticed a recent report to the effect that the Thiess Peabody Mitsui organisation has orders from Japanese buyers for approximately 47,000,000 tons of coal. When it is realised that 2,500,000 tons is the amount of coal that would be contained by wagons standing buffer to buffer from Brisbane to Cairns, it will be seen that 47,000,000 tons is a very considerable quantity. That shows just how much of this "black gold" is pouring out of the country for a very small return.

**Mr. Hughes:** What would you do? Would you put a high royalty on it and let it stay under the ground?

**Mr. TUCKER:** If the hon. member is patient, I shall tell him what I would do. I have said before that I am not in agreement with the way in which the Government is handling the matter at present. From the way

in which the Minister immediately entered the debate, it appears to me that the Government has something to be afraid of in this facet of its administration. It "doth protest too much". To the question, "Is the Government afraid?" I say emphatically, "Yes." That has been emphasised by the actions of the Treasurer during the Address-in-Reply debate and the Minister for Mines during this debate.

I would not be surprised to see the Minister for Mines walking in bearing a sandwich board on which was written, "Prepare to meet thy doom". "Thy Maker cometh", "The end is nigh", or something like that. From his handling of Queensland's coal deposits it would appear that he believes that this country will last for only another 10 or 20 years. He is selling our birthright at a rate which will ensure that after 10 or 20 years nothing will be left for the future. I do not believe that he looks any farther ahead than 10 or 20 years.

**Mr. Ramsden:** Don't you think that your outlook is pessimistic?

**Mr. TUCKER:** No. I believe that I have a duty, as have all members of the Opposition, to point this out to the people of Queensland and show them what is happening. They should be told how the State's wealth is being sold for a song and then being exploited to their own great advantage by the people to whom it is sold. It is not the people of Queensland who are gaining great wealth; it is those who are exporting the coal overseas.

As all hon. members know, coal is not regenerative. Once it is taken out of the ground, it is gone for ever. Animals can graze on grass and one knows that next year the grass will be there again. But coking coal cannot be replaced; once it is taken out of the ground, it is gone for ever. That is why the Opposition has emphasised on many occasions the need to look closely at what the Government is doing and ensure that future generations will not curse this generation for its short-sightedness in regard to this particular mineral.

The coking coal to which I refer is that which lies 20, 30 or 40 feet below the surface, where the overburden can be removed and the coal taken out quite easily. The open-cut method of mining does not involve a great deal of trouble and overhead, and in the majority of cases the coal sent overseas is being won by that method. That is what the State is losing. Coking coal is being ripped out of the ground and leaving only a hole that Queenslanders will be able to show visitors and say, "Well, that is where the coking coal was in 1967-68." As I said before, I believe that the Government is adopting a very short-sighted policy.

Again I advert to my earlier comment that the Minister appears to be looking forward only 10 to 20 years. Surely every hon. member expects this country to go on expanding for longer than that. In my

opinion, it is obligatory on us to look forward 50 or 100 years, to the time when industries will be moving up into this belt and using its products for processing. If the present trend continues, industries moving to the coal-fields will be left not with easily-won coal but with coal deep underground that will be very costly to win. It is quite obvious, I think, that the further underground coal is, the more steeply mining costs rise, and if it is necessary to push out about a mile from the pit head as is now being done at Collinsville, costs rise dramatically. I emphasise that when industries go to the coalfields in order to use coal in manufacturing processes, the easily-won coal will have disappeared and they will be forced to win coal from deep underground and a long way from the pit head. They will be competing on a world market that will probably be more highly competitive than is the world market today—goodness knows, it is highly competitive today—and they will be forced to use coal that is very costly to win. I repeat: the Government's policy in that regard is very short-sighted.

I heard the interjection from an hon. member opposite, "Do you want us to leave it in the ground?" Other hon. members opposite say that in another 10 or 20 years' time another fuel will have been discovered and we will not then be able to sell our coal to anyone. Those are the arguments that have been advanced by Government members. But what a lot of rot that is! Coal will always be needed to process minerals. There will never be a time when coal will not be needed for this purpose and, in the northern part of the State, anyway, there is tremendous untapped wealth in minerals.

**Mr. Dewar:** Coal is used as a feed-stock in the production of many chemicals.

**Mr. TUCKER:** That is quite true. As I say, there will never be a time when coal is redundant. Therefore, posing the question, "Do you want us to leave the coal in the ground until other fuels are discovered and we will never be able to use it?" is posing a fallacious argument. The position envisaged by it will never occur in this State. Those hon. members who make these interjections must be struck by the logic of that argument.

**Mr. Ramsden:** I am struck by your colossal ignorance in trying to foretell what is going to happen 100 years from now.

**Mr. TUCKER:** This Government does not look ahead at all; it lives from day to day and does only what it thinks is for its own political advantage in the months immediately ahead. This State possesses untold wealth in iron, copper, bauxite, silver lead and many other minerals, and there is no doubt that tremendous wealth in minerals has as yet not been discovered in Queensland. I do not think Mount Isa Mines Ltd. yet knows completely the amount of mineral wealth that lies around Mt. Isa and there are many more other areas behind Townsville, Mackay and

Bowen that have not yet been properly prospected and in relation to which I have heard rumours of the existence of extensive mineral deposits.

Some day in the future, if this country continues to develop, we will want to process these deposits, yet we are depriving the industries which we hope will one day need this cheap coal to compete on the world's markets of the opportunity of ever using it, and we are selling it to Japan and other countries for 5c a ton to process their minerals into goods that they are selling back to us and other countries at sky-high prices. Therefore, I again raise this question today as the Leader of the Opposition very successfully raised it at the beginning of the debate on these Estimates. We must continue to punch this point and bring it to the notice of the people of Queensland to show them how this Government is dispersing our mineral wealth and not retaining any of it for the future use of this State.

In reply to the interjectors I have mentioned, I reiterate that I want to see our own processing works on our own mineral fields, using this our own cheap coal to compete on the world's markets. If any Government member can show me where the Government is prepared to set up one such processing works I will be happy. But that is not happening and it would appear as though it will not be happening—not in the foreseeable future, anyway. This is one angle that the Government should be exploring and exploiting. If we set up our own processing plants using our own cheap coal we will be able to use Australian labour and export the finished products overseas. This would be the way in which the real wealth would flow back into this country.

If we must have overseas companies doing this, then let us have a controlling interest in those companies. If, as has been claimed, the State does need overseas capital to exploit some of its mineral wealth, let the State retain a controlling interest in the companies that provide that capital, and let it insist on Australian management of them so that it will not be subject to the whims and the directions of people who are completely foreign to this country.

I do not believe that any Australian, much less any Queensland, could have any real argument against what I have said. There is the possible danger that if we do give foreign capital a controlling interest in our natural resources, and a recession occurs throughout the world, the people who will suffer first will be ourselves and the workers in the mining industry. We would not be able to raise our voices in protest. Once the decision was made overseas to close down operations in Queensland, any protests that we made would not be heeded.

That kind of situation is completely undesirable. If we do need overseas capital, let us retain a controlling interest in the companies that provide it. If Australian

management is retained in them perhaps I will be prepared to go along with them, but I am not prepared to go along with them when they operate without any, or with only very little, Australian content and they export our mineral products to the advantage of themselves and their countries of origin. Their operations are subject to directions that are beyond the control of our Governments. I am very worried about the situation, and I believe that any thinking Queenslander also would be worried.

I have been watching with interest the developments that have taken place relative to the proposed establishment of the Goonyella coal mine. It appears that a lot of jockeying is going on at the present time over the proposed railway line from Goonyella to the coast. I know that the hon. member for Mackay raised this matter recently, and I do not blame him for doing so. As a matter of fact, I commend him for his vigilance. Obviously if coal is to be exported from that field it would be to the advantage of the City of Mackay if it was exported through the Mackay Harbour. I do not have any quarrel with the hon. member for raising that matter, for I know that he is a live-wire member who is always on the ball. For that, I commend him.

What does surprise me, however, is that the hon. member for Bowen has not put in a claim on behalf of Bowen for the export of Goonyella coal through its port. A railway line is already established from Collinsville to Bowen, and Bowen Harbour is one of the finest on the coast. Many expert businessmen in Collinsville have pointed out that the obvious thing to do is to construct a railway line from Goonyella to Collinsville. Anyone who looks at a map of Queensland sees that Goonyella is 142 miles south-west of Mackay and that not many obstacles stand in the way of establishing a railway line from Goonyella, along the Bowen seam, which extends from Collinsville to Blackwater and Moura, to Collinsville. The obvious thing to do is to construct a line that traverses the seam and connects Goonyella and Collinsville. Many thinking men have put this proposal forward.

**Mr. Camm:** Including the hon. member for Bowen.

**Mr. TUCKER:** If he has, he has done it so quietly that only he could hear it.

**Mr. Camm:** He does not tell you what he is doing.

**Mr. TUCKER:** That is right. And he does not tell his electors, either.

Bowen has an established railway line from Collinsville, an acknowledged first-class harbour and wharf area, and town facilities. Many people say that Bowen is the obvious choice for an iron and steel works in Queensland. That idea has been canvassed for over 50 years. Bowen has access to good coking coal. If it could gain access to better coking coal from the Goonyella

area, surely its prospects of getting a steel works would be enhanced. Surely Bowen has the right to say, "We have the harbour, the facilities, the town, and a railway line to Collinsville on which huge tonnages of coal are being hauled to Mt. Isa."

Bowen has unlimited limestone supplies; it has salt and many other desirable and necessary things for a steel works. Bowen is probably seeking further coking coal.

**Mr. Davies:** It is to be hoped that the hon. member for Bowen reads your speech.

**Mr. TUCKER:** I repeat that I am amazed that I have not heard him on this subject.

We know that Bowen has no iron-ore, but we also know from Japan's experience that, if all other commodities and materials are available, iron-ore can be transported and converted into steel at a competitive price. Japan imports iron-ore from Western Australia, so that iron-ore can be carried long distances and processed profitably. We know also that Newcastle, Wollongong and Port Kembla import iron-ore from Western Australia and process it economically. They can do so because they have coal readily available. That is why Collinsville people say that the line should go from Goonyella to Collinsville, and that manufactured steel could subsequently be exported through Bowen. I have no argument against Mackay—good luck to it. It is represented by a live-wire member who is prepared to put forward his ideas very forcefully in this Chamber. But I have a good deal of commiseration for Bowen. It appears to me that, because of the silence of the hon. member who represents the area, Bowen has missed the train in getting a line from Goonyella. Wonderful prosperity could be channelled into the Bowen area if the hon. member for Bowen opened his eyes and got around his electorate and listened to what many of his people (especially those in Collinsville), are saying about the need for this line.

I have closely studied the report of the State Electricity Commission, and to me it depicts a worrying trend. The generation and reticulation of electricity are the major components in capital development. About one-sixth of all public funds—that is, money for roads, education and a host of other things, including electricity—is channelled into electricity development. It is big business, and I have no argument with that. But as I see it, most of the electricity boards throughout Queensland are operating at a loss. At best, they are breaking square. They do not appear to have any real reserves and seem to be relying completely on outside capital. I concede that that was necessary initially, but I now ask: where are we heading in electricity development?

A diligent search reveals that the amount of interest paid by boards on loans received from the State Electricity Commission was equal to, or greater than, the money received by them from the State

Electricity Commission. That prompts me to ask where are we going, when the interest payments are greater than the capital outlay. (Time expired.)

**Mr. HUGHES** (Kurilpa) (12.15 p.m.): The Estimates now before the Committee portray the progress that was outlined, in brief form, by the Treasurer in his Financial Statement. One could, in an analytical way, deal with many facets of the Estimates of the Department of Mines, the Department of Main Roads, and the State Electricity Commission, and speak for a considerable time on them. However, because of the great interest displayed in them by other hon. members, I shall restrict my remarks to, and present my views on, what I consider to be a few problems that warrant attention. This will facilitate the opportunity for other hon. members to speak.

The Minister administers the Department of Mines, whose Estimates have increased, in 10 years, from \$943,000 to over \$2,000,000. This progress typifies the person who occupies the ministerial bench in charge of these departments, in the person of the Honourable R. E. Camm, who, in my view, is knowledgeable and approachable. I have found him very co-operative at all times. Like many of our Ministers, he displays a sense of duty which ensures the good results that we, as members, get when we go to him. If Ministers are approachable, we should give them credit. Whenever I have approached this Minister he has been most courteous and helpful.

I bring to the Minister's attention a matter relating to an authority to prospect granted to a company to prospect areas in Moreton Bay for the purpose of sand mining. The authority to prospect designates three areas: one is at the entrance to Moreton Bay, on the north-western section of Moreton Island, where there are swift currents and a good deal of tidal movement, and it is a fairly general open area; the second is the Cowan Cowan-Comboyuro section; and the third is the south-western section of Day's Gutter.

I believe that the Government should look at its policy on mining where there is a possibility that the commercial and amateur fishing grounds, which are frequently used, may be affected. It can be suggested that by giving an authority to prospect the Government is indicating to the mining companies who, in the pursuance of their activities will spend a great deal of money, that if they find payable areas they will be granted a lease.

Granting an authority to prospect does not necessarily mean that a lease will be granted. If a company were granted a lease to mine, a hardship would be imposed on commercial and amateur fishermen. Many fishing clubs and amateur fishermen use the Moreton Bay area. It is my understanding that once the banks on which weed and feed are growing are disturbed, tidal movement breaks them up and it could take 20 to 30 years for them to reform.

It is possible that mining could be carried out only in conflict with the provisions of the Harbours Act and of the Fisheries Act. That is another aspect that should be looked at. I believe that companies should be bound by the provisions of those Acts if they have an authority to prospect and, later, to mine, and that their operations should not conflict with the provisions of any of our Acts. The Minister might well consider this matter and if he believes, in his wisdom, that the commercial and amateur fishing grounds could be so interfered with as to be a detriment, economically, to our people and the State, he should, after a review of this matter, inform the holder of the lease that no mining lease will be granted in areas 2 and 3. This would then influence that aspect of the company's policy and its expenditure of funds.

I believe that the whole subject of mining should be reviewed, and greater liaison established between departments. I remember being interested in assisting a developmental project on Moreton Island, but this seemed to bog down because there was not between the Department of Lands and the Department of Mines the liaison necessary for efficient operations. This \$4,000,000 developmental scheme was lost to Queensland largely for that reason, and because we did not seem to have a policy that covered it. I believe that this is something that the Minister, with his colleagues, may well consider.

There is one other matter on which I have some constructive suggestions to make. I refer to delays which I have experienced in the issuing and transferring of vehicle registrations at the Main Roads Department. I have been in touch with the Minister a number of times on this matter. On three occasions on which I have been to the department this year I waited for 40, 50 and 55 minutes. On one occasion my business was the registration of a vehicle; on another it was the simple payment of registration fees; and on the third it was the transfer of registration of a car.

**Mr. Bromley:** They probably knew who you were.

**Mr. HUGHES:** I would not suggest that. On most occasions the system seems to work with some efficiency and speed, but breakdowns do occur. I do not know how they happen, or whether I was merely unfortunate in being delayed on each of the three times that I had business there. It does seem, however, that in this department, which is sophisticated in many ways and, with the equipment desirable for efficiency, housed in a modern building, the system is not perfect. When there is a large volume of business to transact, it is not unreasonable to have to wait 10 minutes, or possibly even 15 minutes, but I think it is entirely unreasonable to have to wait 40, 50 and 55 minutes. On those occasions I went to the counter to ask the reason for the delay.

**Mr. Bromley:** It may have been the running of the Melbourne Cup.

**Mr. HUGHES:** No, it was not that. On one occasion the file was there waiting to be processed by the teller, but nothing was being done about it. On the other two occasions, I was not able to ascertain the reason.

My suggestion to overcome this undue waiting involves the detailing of a clerk to be responsible for the movement of files. I suggest that when a member of the public makes an application at the counter, a numbered ticket be issued to him, a duplicate attached to the papers concerned, and a triplicate lodged with the clerk responsible for the movement of files. This would mean that somebody would have the responsibility for the movement of files. It appears that at present no-one has this responsibility. This system would also help to preserve anonymity in business dealings, because numbers and not names would be called over the public address system. It would also assist the officer at the cash register, because he would not have to call the difficult names of many New Australians, and it would also prevent two people from going to the cash register at the same time.

A clerk who was responsible in that way would be able to keep a time check on the number. If there was any delay in transacting the business, he would then be able to ascertain the reason for it. If further information was required—it was not in my case, I might add—it would be quite easy to call for the applicant and endeavour to obtain it.

I hope that consideration will be given to my proposal, which appears to me to have the merit of greater efficiency and of enabling a matter of public importance to be dealt with more expeditiously. Time and good service are important to many members of the public, and this should be kept in mind.

I believe, too, that a check should be made of the seating accommodation provided at the Main Roads Department in the area in which this business is transacted. Although I am aware that there are peaks and troughs in the flow of members of the public, the department should ensure that sufficient seating accommodation is available to meet the peaks. There is ample space in the particular section of the building, and more seating should be provided. It is little enough to ask that members of the public should be shown every possible consideration. In fact, I believe that at all times Government departments should be cognisant of the need to meet the convenience of the public, give it service, and win its goodwill.

I suggest that consideration should be given to establishing a paying office for the department in the inner-city area to deal with straight-forward matters such as registration renewals or the payment of fines. In some instances, people who receive tickets for offences have to go up to Spring Hill to pay the fines and, because of the large volume of business transacted there, it is not always easy to find a parking spot. A paying office

such as I have suggested would be much more convenient for many people and would give a service to the public.

In the few minutes left to me, I should like to compliment the engineering section of the Main Roads Department and all those associated with the implementation of the Wilbur Smith plan with the finance that has been made available by the Government. It has been fraught with difficulties, and tremendous problems have had to be overcome. Never before has the department embarked on road building, with all its ramifications, and property resumptions on such a large scale. Congratulations are in order to all those who have been involved in planning, engineering, building models and undertaking the statistical and research work required. In my opinion, Queensland ranks second to none, not only in Australia but also in the world, in its handling of resumptions.

**Mr. Bromley:** Are you happy about the amounts that the people concerned have received when resumptions have been made?

**Mr. HUGHES:** That is not for me to say; but the reports that I have seen indicate that the people concerned are happy. Of the large number of property-owners involved, only an infinitesimal few now have a difference of opinion with the Government, and these are being negotiated and settled. By far the greater proportion of the claims that have been settled have been settled at a figure far higher than that originally offered. It would appear from the terms of settlement that there are very few problems in this regard.

Finally, I point out that Fairfield Road is a real problem. It is a pity that this section of roadway does not come within the scope of the activities of the Main Roads Department. It is a city council matter and presents a tremendous traffic problem. It is indeed a highway of tragedy, causing constant frustration, delay and accidents. This adds to costs and injuries, and, if nothing is done about it by the Brisbane City Council, the Government and the Main Roads Department might have to look into the question of running the main road right through the city, to link north and south, instead of having approximately 4 miles through the city under the control of the Brisbane City Council.

The Government paid the Brisbane City Council \$3,000,000 in subsidy last year, but we still have this problem with us. It would appear that it will not be overcome until the Main Roads Department, instead of terminating its jurisdiction at the north and south entrances to the city, runs the main roads right through the city area. The Government could adjust the subsidy to the council accordingly. Until this is done we will have continuing problems because we cannot get results, particularly in the case of Fairfield Road, which demands urgent attention. I ask the Minister and the Department to give this matter consideration.

**Mr. DEWAR** (Wavell) (12.31 p.m.): Firstly, I should like to thank the hon. member for Cairns, who was kind enough not to take up his time to enable me to join the debate.

**Mr. Davies:** Why? Wouldn't the Government let you in?

**Mr. DEWAR:** The fact that I had to appeal to the Labour Party to do this seems to me to be somewhat enlightening in view of the fact that about a month ago I indicated to the Government Whip that I should like to speak. To be fair, on Thursday he did tell me that I could speak on Thursday night, but unfortunately, at 4 o'clock on Thursday afternoon I had to attend an eye specialist and have an operation on my eye, with the result that I finished that evening with my eye bandaged. I reported to the effect that I was unable to speak that night and I was assured that I would be given time today.

I raise this matter because I should like to know where an Independent stands in this Chamber, whether there are two types of justice where only party personnel are allowed to speak and Independents have to take their places in the queue. I should like to know whether it is the Government Whip or the Opposition Whip whom I should consult in order to be allotted time in the debates in this Chamber. I put this query seriously, because I want to know.

**Mr. Aikens:** If you were an interesting and informative speaker you would have no trouble getting in.

**Mr. DEWAR:** In deference to my room colleague from Townsville South, I can assure him that in the 18 years we have done battle across the Chamber, he might have been ahead of me occasionally, but not all the time.

Now, in this debate on the Main Roads Estimates, I want to make reference particularly to the question of main roads. Time would not permit me to comment on matters pertaining to electricity, much as I should like to, because of my deep and abiding interest in that subject. I must confess, of course, that because I have been 18 months away from that portfolio I naturally am not up to date and au fait with some of the more recent developments. I admit to being confused in recent times as to who has been in charge of electricity in this State, because in the last three months we have seen statements in the Press emanating from a number of Ministers, in many cases taking over the role not only of the Minister in control of electricity but also of the Commissioner for Electricity Supply.

With regard to the main roads aspect of these Estimates, I should like, first of all, to make reference to a publication by the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce, known as "The Voice of Business" dated August, 1968, and quoting Mr. Park, president of that body. Whether accidentally or by

design, Mr. Park has taken up the argument that I put before this Chamber about a year ago, and he has gone into very minute detail in a dissection of the Commonwealth grants that are made to the various States of Australia.

I am particularly interested in Mr. Park's references to the long lines of communication in Queensland between the various population centres. He says that, although the population in country areas is sparse, most of the State is settled. He is talking about the State's road system, and is making these comments in the light and atmosphere of his statement that there is something wrong with the fact that Queensland receives a much lower per-capita payment from the Commonwealth Government than do South Australia and Western Australia. The difference between Queensland's and South Australia's grants is \$10 per head of population. That sum may not sound much, but if Queensland were to receive a per-capita grant of the same order as South Australia's, Queensland would receive this year a further \$18,000,000 from the Commonwealth.

Mr. Park goes on to say—

"The formula is so grossly unfair to Queensland that, although it has a sparser population (2.49 persons per square mile) than South Australia (2.87 persons per square mile), Queensland receives very much less per head by way of financial grants."

He develops his argument along the line that the area of this State that receives less than 10 inches of rain annually, which, he comments, would be desert country in any language, constitutes only 13 per cent. of the State's over-all area, whereas in South Australia a similar area constitutes 83 per cent., and in Western Australia 58 per cent. He points out that if the entire population of Queensland was concentrated in an area extending 300 miles from Brisbane, as is virtually the case in South Australia and Western Australia, then Queensland would be receiving some form of financial justice under the present formula. He tells a story—and I give him my full support—that reveals that Queensland is receiving scant justice from the Commonwealth Government in this matter.

In my view, since World War II all the Governments that have graced the Treasury benches of this State have failed miserably to mete out justice to the people of Brisbane.

The problem of roads in the far-flung areas of the State is one that must be shouldered by the Commonwealth Government. Sometimes it is maudlin to reiterate, but we all know that, of all the States, Queensland has the greatest capacity to earn export income. The future may show that other States have a greater capacity in certain fields—for example, the mineral development that is occurring in Western Australia—but, as Mr. Park has pointed out, 87 per cent. of Queensland enjoys more than a 10-inch

annual rainfall. In my view, Queensland undoubtedly has a fantastic future ahead of it in the production of foodstuffs for a world whose population will double in some four decades and whose ability to produce foodstuffs is diminishing.

Eventually man must certainly have to farm the sea to produce foodstuffs from aquatic life, and a panorama of Queensland's agricultural pursuits reveals that it could earn an ever-increasing amount of export income. This is due to the arable nature of our land and the climatic conditions that we enjoy.

But the problem of building roads to the far-flung areas of the State is one that rests on the shoulders of the Commonwealth Government. I realise that the State has received some measure of assistance from beef-road grants, but the Commonwealth is only scratching the surface. From the State's own funds something like twice that sum, and maybe more, has been spent on roads in country areas in any one year.

Beef roads are purely beef roads; they are designed to assist the cattle industry. There are thousands of areas in Queensland that are capable of producing other types of exportable goods and in which the provision of adequate roads would be an advantage, not only to the State but to the Commonwealth as a whole, in the earning of export income. But what has happened? Instead of the Commonwealth Government facing up to its responsibility in what might remotely resemble a statesmanlike attitude, the people of Brisbane have been made scapegoats by being forced to shoulder the responsibility of providing funds for building roads in other areas of the State.

I made it very clear on 2 April last, when discussing an amendment to the Main Roads Act, that during the 10 years of this Government's life only 4.3 per cent. of the total funds spent on roads of all types in this State was spent in this city, and that, even taking into consideration the likely Government spending over the next five years on the Wilbur Smith plan and the Brisbane traffic survey, without an escalation in the allocation of funds each year—that is, on the same amounts of money spent in that year—the ultimate result would be that Brisbane would receive less than 10 per cent. of the total funds spent on the State's roads.

Assuming that the figure that the Minister gave me at that time for the five-year programme was correct—I do not doubt that it was—it is obvious that more and more money will be spent in the State, and therefore Brisbane's proportion of the total will decline from 10 per cent. What has happened since then? From questions I asked some two or three weeks ago it can be seen that for the last financial year the City of Brisbane received \$7,838,000 for roads, while the rest of the State received \$49,208,000. Therefore, in the last financial year the City of Brisbane received 13.7 per cent. of the total funds

spent on roads—including subsidies of all types—in this State. Of Brisbane's total of \$7,838,000, only \$1,486,000, or 3.6 per cent., came from the \$57,000,000 spent last year on permanent works and maintenance, the allocation for which represents by far the greater portion of the total amount spent. An amount of \$1,654,000 in subsidies was spent in Brisbane as against \$1,028,000 in other parts of the State. I have included that figure in the over-all total of \$7,838,000.

I ask the Committee to bear in mind that, before the Brisbane City Council could receive \$1,654,000 in subsidy, no doubt it had to spend about \$4,000,000 or \$5,000,000 from its own funds. The Urban Roads Fund received an all-time high amount of \$3,812,000. All the sums I am referring to are included in the total of \$7,838,000, as against \$49,208,000 spent in the rest of the State.

The Estimates for this year, on page 96, show that, for permanent works and maintenance, a slightly smaller amount has been allocated this year than was spent last year, and less was spent last year than was allocated. To explain that, \$33,130,000 was allocated and \$32,670,000 was spent. This year \$31,280,000 is allocated for permanent works. For maintenance, \$9,100,000 was allocated last year and \$9,090,000 was spent. This year \$8,900,000 has been allocated.

So that in the atmosphere of a slightly smaller allocation of funds for permanent works and maintenance—not to any degree; something like \$1,000,000 or \$2,000,000—we find that the over-all Vote in the first section has been increased from a spending of \$60,700,000 to an allocation this year of \$63,508,000. This almost approximates the amount by which the Urban Roads Fund has been increased this year. This fund will pay for the expressways under the Wilbur Smith plan.

When I raised this matter earlier this year the Minister, in reply, made a great deal of comment about the 75.1 miles of road classified in the Brisbane city area as main roads. I do not cavil at this; not one iota. I am happy to know that the Main Roads Department accepts responsibility for 75.1 miles of road in this city. I have only one "beef"—let us get these roads into a decent condition. The only road out of Brisbane that is worthy of being called an outlet from or an inlet into a capital city is from the Oxley Hotel onwards on the Western Highway to Ipswich. This is a magnificent piece of work. To some extent, fairly similar conditions exist in the Mt. Gravatt area.

But on the north side of Brisbane, which in many respects has become the Cinderella of life in this city, there are shocking roads. In this regard I should like to take issue with the hon. member for Landsborough, who suggested that the roads from the Brisbane boundary northwards, along the Sunshine Coast, are adequate. There are no more shocking roads in this State than there are in this area contiguous to the capital city,

with its population and the area it serves. The condition of these roads is a shocking indictment of about 20 years of lassitude and misrepresentation.

**Mr. Ahern:** I referred to my electorate.

**Mr. DEWAR:** Let us take the Landsborough electorate. Take, for example, the road from Landsborough. About a mile along that road there is a two-lane highway which continues until it reaches that magnificent piece of road, to which I have referred to in the past, between Woombye and Nambour, and which should have been built from the Chermiside tram terminus.

If the hon. member is satisfied with a two-lane highway in his electorate, that is a matter for him. As one who traverses that road regularly, I am not satisfied. The main roads system in the Landsborough electorate is a shocking indictment of the Government. There is more traffic on that road in peak periods than there is on the road to the South Coast. This has been proved conclusively in the last two Easter periods. These are official figures that I heard, with my own ears, emanating from the Main Roads Department.

**Mr. Camm** interjected.

**Mr. DEWAR:** If the Minister wants to bring that argument up, I can develop that one, too. I could deal with the amount spent in the Southern Division, but I am not interested in that. In the Southern Division \$19,430,000 was spent, compared with \$15,500,000 in the Central Division and \$14,170,000 in the Northern Division. When the eleventh year is added to the 10 years of spending, it will be seen that, of a total of \$416,900,000, the City of Brisbane received a grand total of \$23,470,000, compared with \$393,490,000 for the rest of the State. In other words, in the 11 years during which I felt that I had some little influence in the Government—

**Mr. Camm:** Very little.

**Mr. DEWAR:** Yes, very little, as it turned out.

**Mr. Aikens:** They tell me you never mentioned it in Cabinet.

**Mr. DEWAR:** I was the only one who fought against handing over traffic control to the Brisbane City Council.

I might refer to a comment which I think epitomises the attitude of the Minister for Mines, Main Roads and Electricity. In a recent broadcast, in reply to the interviewer's comment, "Lately the Main Roads Department has been spending a lot of money on freeway construction in Brisbane," the Minister said, "Yes, this is an unavoidable necessity." An "unavoidable necessity"! I think that succinct comment epitomises in very simple terms the attitude of the Government to the spending of any money in the Brisbane city area.

I repeat that spending, in 10 years, 5.6 per cent. of the total funds from all sources on roads in an area where 40 per cent. of the population resides, who are paying taxes and meeting their share of repayments on loans, is making a scapegoat of the people of this city. They are forced to carry on their backs a load that is not rightly theirs. I do not think that anyone in this city would say that all the money collected here in revenue should be spent here, but I do believe that Brisbane should receive a far better deal than the spending of 5.6 per cent., which may increase to under 10 per cent. over the next four years, of the total spent on roads throughout the State.

The responsibility for the building of developmental roads in the far-flung areas of the State lies squarely on the Commonwealth Government, because the building of such roads increases Australia's overseas earnings, from which every Australian benefits. It is most certainly not the responsibility of the people of this city to finance to such a great extent road works outside the city when the roads system here is in such a shocking state.

**Mr. NEWBERY** (Mirani) (12.54 p.m.): I place on record my appreciation of the excellent job being done by the Minister and his departments. I should also like to congratulate the heads of his departments—Mr. Charles Barton, Mr. Neil Smith and Mr. Kevin Healy—for the splendid work that they are doing, and to thank them personally for the assistance that they have given me during the year.

As a North Queenslander, I pay tribute to the way in which road transport between Brisbane and the northern cities has been revolutionised in the past decade. Some of the improvement, of course, is attributable to the excellent work of the Minister's predecessor, the late Honourable Ernest Evans; but I make that comment without seeking to detract from the excellent record of the Honourable R. E. Camm, who has shouldered his responsibilities as a Minister in an exemplary way.

Looking at my electorate of Mirani, it is pleasing to see the work being undertaken on the Dingo-Mt. Flora road. That road will open up new areas of land included in Area III of the brigalow scheme and provide all-weather access in equal measure to the outlets of Rockhampton and Mackay. I understand, too, that the Main Roads Department is to begin work soon on another new beef road called the May Downs Road. A job has now been released for a 14.63-mile section of road 76 miles north-west of Dingo. This road will give an east-west connection between the Marlborough-Sarina road and the Dingo-Mt. Flora road.

A great amount of work is being done on the Mackay-Clermont road. Last year \$773,400 was spent on it, and it is expected that \$897,000 will be spent on it this year.



I might mention in passing that between 30 June and 31 October this year \$241,000 has been spent on that road. It is expected that, after the present job of 12 miles is completed, only 39 miles will remain to be bitumen sealed.

As a frequent traveller over the Marlborough-Sarina road, which traverses much of my electorate, I must mention that a great amount of work also is being done on it. If the present rate of progress is maintained, it will not be very long before the Sarina-Marlborough road is bitumen sealed to a width of 24 feet. Last year an amount of \$563,000 was spent on the Sarina-Marlborough section. This year the estimated expenditure is \$688,000. Since June, \$250,000 has been spent. When the widening is completed, the name "Crystal Highway" now applied to it will no longer be appropriate.

However, a lack of funds is the obstacle to further work, and I trust that the Minister will continue to make every effort to attract more Commonwealth funds to help solve the immense road problems of the area embraced by the Mirani electorate and, indeed, of the whole of rural Queensland.

Having had 23 years' experience as a member of a local authority, I believe that I am well qualified to record the excellent part played by the local authorities in my electorate—Broadsound Shire, Mirani Shire, Nebo Shire, and Pioneer Shire—in main roads construction work. All those local authorities have given of their best over the years as constructing authorities for the Main Roads Department. There are some signs, however, that the department is taking work over from some of them. While that may be necessary on bigger jobs, I would very much dislike to see councils denied the opportunity to keep local residents fully employed, particularly in view of some of the problems that they are facing in employing the labour force in the lengthened slack season. Where a council construction force has given efficient and economical service to the Main Roads Department, I would welcome the Minister's assurance that every attempt will be made by that department to keep the council's organisation intact in the future.

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

**Mr. NEWBERRY:** Before lunch I was discussing main roads. In addition to the main projects in my area, I should like to mention other works that I feel are worth mentioning. These are works that are being carried out, or are about to be carried out, in the area. The first is the Mackay-Eungella road, where a large scheme is under way at the moment. It is hoped that by about the middle of next year the Mackay-Eungella section will be widened, to Netherdale. Another job worth mentioning is the Eton Range project, which has been completed, in some places to a width of 32 feet on bad bends.

Another section that I should like to mention is the Eton-Nebo-Clermont highway, known as the Peak Downs Highway, on which several jobs of some size have been completed, while tenders for others have been released. I should also mention the widening of the Sarina-Koumala section of the Bruce Highway. This work has been needed for some time and is now almost completed. In addition to the widening of the roadway, bridges in the area are also being widened.

In conclusion on the main roads section of the Estimates, I ask the Minister to make every endeavour to expedite the widening of the Sarina-Marlborough road, which I mentioned before lunch. I should also like him to expedite that section of the Bruce Highway that runs through Koumala, Carmila and down to Marlborough, passing through the Mirani and Callide electorates. I ask the Minister to keep this in mind.

I ask the Minister also to have a look at a section of road on the Eungella Range which I feel is very dangerous. There is a very bad bend adjacent to M.R.E.B. poles near the top of the range. This section is very narrow and dangerous and, as school buses use this road, I think it is something that should be attended to. I know that the Main Roads Department has had a look at it, but the Minister may be able to do something that will expedite the elimination of this dangerous section. I can assure him that the people living on the Eungella Range, especially parents of children using the school buses, would feel very relieved in knowing that the children were descending the range in greater safety. I think this bend is called "Breezy Point".

Before passing on to deal with electricity, I think I would be failing in my duty if I did not mention mining in my electorate. Hon. members will know that right in my electorate there is the possibility of tremendous mining expansion. I refer particularly to the Goonyella project, which is on the northern end of the Blackwater seam and in the north-western part of the Mirani electorate.

I have made constant and consistent representations on behalf of my constituents for the export of coal through my area. I have always made myself available to be of service to the Utah Development Co. during its investigations in the area. This project will, of course, bring tremendous benefits to my area, not only to Sarina but also to Nebo and possibly other townships further up the Pioneer Valley. Of course, Mackay, being in the centre of the export area, will benefit greatly.

My electorate contains one of the largest mineral fields in the State. Gold was mined at Grasstree, and is being investigated at Mosquito Mountain and mined at Eungella; copper-ore is being investigated at Bong Bong, Pinevale and at other places in the western portion of the electorate; and silver-ore also is available. Of course, other metals are

found, too. Many companies are interested in prospecting for minerals in my electorate with the hope of developing mineral fields in the future.

At present, investigations are being made into the potential of the Grasree field by a syndicate of which I am chairman, and by Geo-Peko. The syndicate was formed approximately five years ago, and presently has an option with Mount Morgan Ltd. Five years ago the syndicate took up a lease following knowledge that the field produced gold in the 1890's and again in the 1930's and 1940's. With the advent of improved mining techniques, the members of the syndicate thought that the workings could be re-opened with the prospect of creating work for seasonal workers who would normally be unemployed in slack seasons. It is hoped that this field will prove a good producer.

I should like to compliment the eight businessmen in Mackay who formed the syndicate. They are keen to do something for the area. Mr. Bernie Wood, the brother of the hon. member for Logan, is the syndicate's secretary. The Government, the Minister, and the heads of the departments under his control, have granted us a great measure of assistance in investigating this field, and I thank them for it.

I turn now to electricity. I have been interested in electricity supply for approximately 12 years. Prior to 1957 I represented the Sarina Shire on the Mackay City Council Electricity Committee. Following the establishment of the Mackay Regional Electricity Board in 1957, after it was found impossible for the Mackay City Council to carry on the electricity undertaking owing to the lack of loan funds, great advances and developments have occurred in the Mackay area. The board has controlled electricity throughout the Mackay region for 11 years. When it took over the undertaking in 1957 the maximum demand for the Mackay region was 6½ MW. With the build-up to the present demand in the area the maximum today is 25 MW. In 1957 the Mackay Regional Electricity Board took over 9,000 electricity consumers, most of whom were in the City of Mackay. Some lived in country centres like Mirani and Sarina. Today the Mackay Regional Electricity Board supplies 19,000 consumers, and that figure represents 99 per cent. of the population in that area. The Mackay Regional Board area contains a total of 53,000 people. Great advances have been made, and six years ago the Mackay region was interconnected with the North by a 66 kV line through Bowen. Since then the Northern Electric Authority has been formed to control generation and major distribution through the 132 kV lines. The Collinsville Power Station is now on line, and a twin-circuit 132 kV line is coming into Mackay, giving us much more security. In view of the great development that is taking place, we are fortunate in having this supply. At Collinsville a 30 MW. turbine has been put on line and another one is not far from

commissioning. We therefore have sufficient power for any developments that may take place, and that has been so throughout the years. In the last few years, in spite of the tremendous development that has taken place in Queensland, electricity development has been a jump ahead of demand. We have not had to shed load as a result of being behind in power-house development and supply.

Whilst all that has been going on there has been tremendous development in the North and elsewhere in Queensland, but I am greatly concerned, as a country man, about the rural extension deposit scheme. Prior to 1966 the loans made available to the industry were sufficient to meet all capital expenditure, that is, for power-stations, generation, and transmission of supplies to all consumers in the various regions.

**Mr. Hanson:** Under a Labour Government they got subsidies, too.

**Mr. NEWBERY:** That is right. We got subsidies, and we have had quite a lot of them since then. In my term of office as chairman of the Mackay Regional Electricity Board we have spent \$12,000,000 on supply. I assure the hon. member for Port Curtis that a great deal of that \$12,000,000 was in the form of subsidies supplied by this Government. The Mackay region has received subsidies up to this year and, but for this Government's assistance, we would not be second only to the City of Brisbane in supplying 99 per cent. of the people in the area. The only places that are not supplied are 36 cattle stations and the islands in the board's area.

**Mr. Camm:** What about the expansion in Gladstone?

**Mr. NEWBERY:** The people in Gladstone cannot complain, either. There has been a tremendous build-up in Gladstone. The Government has kept up with the supply there.

I was originally opposed to the rural extension deposit scheme, but as chairman of the Mackay Regional Board I realised that something had to be done and I supported the scheme. I felt that if we did not have the rural extension deposit scheme we would have no chance of going ahead with further development to provide supplies for our people. What we need is more loan money.

In 1966-67 loan raisings by the various regional electricity boards totalled \$18,300,000. That was without the rural extension deposits. The total debenture loan raising for Queensland in 1966-67 was \$28,500,000. The rural extension deposits raising in 1966-67—it was for only part of the year—totalled \$565,000. We had a programme worth \$53,100,000 and therefore, with the \$28,500,000 and the \$565,000, we had to raise from other sources a sum of \$24,600,000. In 1967-68, the first full year with rural extension deposits operating, the regional electricity board loans totalled

\$18,500,000 and the total debenture loans in the State increased from \$28,500,000 to \$31,600,000, with \$23,800,000 from other sources. The programme totalled \$55,000,000, compared with \$53,000,000 for the previous year. In the same year, 1967-68, we received \$821,000 from rural extension deposits. My purpose in supporting the rural extension deposit scheme is evident. This was a tremendous build-up in the demand for electricity in this great State of ours, and probably the greatest demand came from the area represented by the hon. member for Port Curtis, which is supplied by C.R.E.B.

For 1968-69, the Regional Electricity Boards' loan raisings have risen to \$20,500,000 and the total debenture raising from the whole of the State has risen to \$31,200,000. The estimated programme for this year is \$11,000,000 more than for last year, and we have to raise that amount, so we will have to find \$35,200,000 from other sources. The raising from rural extension deposits this year is \$1,200,000. It is necessary for the electricity supply authorities to use every available avenue to raise money to carry out this tremendous expansion in the industry. Capital needs in the industry have increased by 78 per cent. over the past four years.

Getting back to my area, the capital expenditure of the Northern Electric Authority, of which I am a member, was \$10,200,000 last year. This included the Eungella Dam. The expected increase this year is \$1,400,000. Much as we all dislike the rural extension deposit scheme, I feel that we have to accept it if we are to have an opportunity to keep up with the tremendous development taking place in this State. Development needs electricity supply, and there is no doubt that sufficient supply of electricity in any area induces development.

On behalf of my constituents, I extend to the Minister and his chiefs of staff, Mr. Barton, Mr. Healy and Mr. Smith, my sincere thanks for the part they have played in the development of this great State.

**Mr. DAVIES** (Maryborough) (2.33 p.m.): I have no intention of being parochial in my remarks on these Estimates, except in regard to what has happened in other parts of the State that has an effect on my electorate.

Firstly, I express resentment at the cavalier treatment by the Minister for Mines of a telegram that I sent to him on behalf of miners who had been sacked from the Burrum coalfield. Immediately I heard of the dismissal of 10 men—it happened to be on a Friday evening—I confirmed it, and on the Saturday morning I sent a telegram to the Minister. However, I did not receive a reply from the Minister for several days, after he had been in the Isis electorate indulging in cheap political talk from the platform in which he spoke at length, without any depth of meaning, about the employment of these miners. I received an answer to my telegram some days later. As I say, the Minister was in the Isis electorate, which has

had no representation in this Parliament for four months because no by-election has been held. The letter I received from the Minister stated simply, in two or three lines, that he would look into the employment of these men. Yet he made statements from the platform that had no meaning, and the people of that electorate had no confidence in them. Since then, 15 miners have been sacked from another mine, and I do not put the blame for this on the shoulders of the mine-owners in the Burrum coalfield. Circumstances are such that these things do happen, as I said when I addressed a large number of men and their families from Burrum at the miners' picnic on Saturday afternoon.

Although there is to be a by-election in Isis, the Minister was not able to go there and say anything definite. All he said was that these men "may" be employed in other mines, and they "may" be employed on some bridge work—which was going to be done, in any case. There is ample work to be carried out in the electorate, and a Government that finishes the year with a large surplus should be prepared to make money available to the local authority to undertake necessary road works and secure employment for these men.

There are 14 men still unemployed, despite the good work of the Miners' Federation in obtaining employment for them at Moura and other centres. They have to leave their families and homes and go to other parts of the State when ample work is available. Any shire council chairman will confirm that some of the best men available for road work are those who have been miners.

The Government is making no effort to help these men, and I appeal now to the Minister to do something and to make some statement on this matter from the public platform. The Premier is here today, but I will guarantee that he makes no statement on it. The Government should do something apart from making promises such as those made by the Minister for Transport when he came to the electorate. A smash occurred where a road crosses a railway line. No lights have been installed to warn motorists of the existence of a level crossing.

The Minister also visited another place where some railway wagons were damaged. Although there are seven or eight dangerous level crossings in the electorate, the Minister made no promises about them. Surely he could have said to the people, "We will spend money on these level crossings". Instead, he said, "I will go back to my office and consult with my officers and give the matter consideration". The people of Isis realise that the Minister is merely endeavouring to pull the wool over their eyes. Although there are dangerous crossings there, nothing has been done about them. I claim that Isis is one of the most neglected electorates in the whole State, simply because it has been taken for granted. The shock for the Government is coming on the 16th of this month.

One of the Ministers also dealt with freight concessions.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I have extended considerable latitude to the hon. member for Maryborough in dealing with matters that really come within the jurisdiction of the Minister for Transport. I do not intend to extend any further latitude, and I hope that he will now return to the Estimates before the Committee.

**Mr. DAVIES:** So far as roads are concerned, I would say that virtually all the chickens in the area are carted over the roads.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr. DAVIES:** The existence of the coal mines in this area depends on the continuation of the power-station at Howard. The Government is making no statement in this regard. We are prepared to make the statement that when we are returned to power next year the Howard Power Station will not be closed. Because of the importance of the power-station to the people of the area, in no circumstances should the Government close it. At the last board meeting the Government endeavoured to stampede the people into believing that the station simply could not exist because of the cost of generating electricity there. The Annual Report of the Wide Bay-Burnett Regional Electricity Board comments upon the overhauling that has been carried out and the improvements made, and states that it is pleasing to note that the thermal efficiency at the Howard Power Station has again improved this year. The average is 21.76 per cent., compared with 21.22 per cent. in 1966-67.

In several places the report speaks of the progress that has been made in developing greater thermal efficiency and the board's endeavours to reduce the cost of production of electricity. However, even if the cost of producing electricity in this power-house is higher than it is in the big power-houses that are being built in other places, the State should be prepared to carry the Howard Power Station while there is coal in the Burrum coalfield and employment can be provided for the people living there. The State would be more than compensated for the cost by the progress of the townships of Burrum, Howard and Torbanlea, and also of the City of Maryborough, because many of the miners are employed in that city.

The Australian Labour Party has made a definite statement that, if it is returned as the Government next year, it will retain the power-station and assist the district, just as a Labour Government did in New South Wales.

**Mr. Ramsden:** Where is this Labour Government? In Tasmania?

**Mr. DAVIES:** No, in New South Wales. It was done by a Labour Government, and the present Government has carried on the policy.

In the short time available to me, I wish to draw the attention of the Committee to the state of the roads in the Isis area. The City of Maryborough is affected because it is surrounded by the Isis electorate, and anyone who wants to leave the city has to travel through that electorate.

Hervey Bay is an area that has possibly the greatest tourist potential in the State. Only those who do not know the area would not be willing to accept that statement. Fraser Island, 90 miles long, with wonderful ocean beaches, rain forests, and general attractions, has been neglected by the Government. Money is being poured into the South Coast road to make it a four-lane highway. It has been reported to me that approaches have been made to the Minister for the construction of a six-lane highway to the South Coast. If that is so, such a proposal should not be considered. Is the bypass across the mouth of Currumbin Creek necessary? Of course it is not. It may be needed eventually, but not at present. That is true of other improvements on the South Coast road, too.

Government members talk about progress. I ask them to consider the road over the Bunya Mountains.

**Mr. Knox:** How long is it since you have been there?

**Mr. DAVIES:** We are sinking to a low standard of debate, Mr. Hooper, when hon. members opposite have to take refuge behind something that was not done satisfactorily by others.

**Mr. Knox:** How long is it since you have been there?

**Mr. DAVIES:** I have been over it more frequently than the Minister has. The Bunya Highway, which runs over the Bunya Mountains, is a shocking road, a disgraceful road. The only road that is worse is the Boonooroo Road, which goes through the Isis electorate. Boonooroo is the nearest seaside resort to Maryborough. The Tuan-Boonooroo area is one of the biggest fish-producing areas in the State, and I shall now read a copy of a letter from the Boonooroo Progress Association to the Minister in charge of fisheries. The chairman of the association is Mr. J. Trussell and the secretary is Mr. Cockburn, and the letter is headed "Amity Point, Boonooroo, via Maryborough". It says—

"On behalf of the Boonooroo Progress Association I am writing to you about the state of the Boonooroo Road."

As hon. members know, I have raised this matter time and time again and appealed for work to be done on that road, which is outside my electorate. Boonooroo is a wonderful little tourist resort and is the best place from which to begin fishing in Hervey Bay. In spite of that, nothing has been done there. The electorate has been taken for granted for too long, and I remind the Committee that the people on whose behalf this letter was written have a vote

in the by-election to be held on the 16th of this month. There is a sealed road to the forestry area, but the other nine miles is unsealed.

The letter continues—

“As you know, most of the fish received at the Brisbane Fish Markets come from this district, and how the fishermen get them over the road in good order nobody will ever know, as the road is not fit for a horse and buggy let alone heavy trucks loaded with fish.

**Mr. Ramsden** interjected.

**Mr. DAVIES:** The Liberal member can ridicule this letter as much as he likes, but there is an election on 16 November, and the people in this area are very interested in the reception that this letter receives in this Chamber.

The letter continues—

“The Fish Board should be able to get the Main Roads Department to do something with the road seeing so much fish comes from this district and Maryborough supplied the most fish in the State up to the year ending June 30.

“Trusting something can be done for the residents of Boonooroo concerning this matter.”

This is the nearest seaside resort to Maryborough—it is really Maryborough's seaside resort—yet there is no sealed road to it. Of the 23 miles of the main road to Hervey Bay, there are only 11 or 12 miles of decent surface; the other nine miles rank as some of the roughest road one could travel over. Yet this electorate has been represented by a Country Party member for many years! The electorate has been taken for granted, and it is up to the people in it to show this Government that they resent the treatment it has received.

So far as Fraser Island is concerned, the only people doing anything to help the tourist industry are the local tourist organisations and the company that is running the small planes across to the island. Road-construction work is non-existent. I refuse to believe that it is an insurmountable job for the Main Roads Department. I know it is a sandy island, but I cannot see any reason why the only roads on the island should be those constructed to prevent forestry trucks from sinking into the sand. This area, with its magnificent tourist potential, has been completely neglected by this Government.

**Mr. Knox:** Cheer up.

**Mr. DAVIES:** The people of the area will cheer up after 16 November, because they have one of the finest candidates who has ever offered himself for election, a practical man and a primary producer for a primary-producing electorate. I can say that about Jim Blake.

**Mr. Ramsden** interjected.

**Mr. DAVIES:** If I were in the hon. member's place I would not have to resign as chairman of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board and from other jobs. I do not know whether he was pushed out.

I remind the Minister that not only is the road to Boonooroo affecting the condition of the fish on the way to market, but school buses also use this road and the wear and tear on vehicles is tremendous. It is not right that this road should be allowed to remain in its present state. The cost of sealing it would not be as great as may be thought. A sealed road has been constructed as far as the forestry turn-off, and it has stood up to all weather conditions surprisingly well. Despite flood waters that have run over it during heavy rain in the wet season, it has remained in good condition. It has been down a few years now, so the cost of sealing the road I am referring to would not be great. It is up to the Minister to do something about the Boonooroo road.

Another question—it possibly does not come within the Minister's field but I draw his attention to it—the condition of beaches in the area. The Minister has made no statement about the neglect of the beaches in the area or the erosion of beaches at Burrum Heads and Hervey Bay, and the Government has made no money available for beach protection work in this area as it has on the South Coast. The Government is pouring money into roads on the South Coast and at the same time is spending large sums in assisting to prevent beach erosion. Just as the bread industry was neglected in this area, just as the broiler industry was neglected, so we have been neglected throughout the electorate simply because it has been taken for granted. After the coming by-election the electorate will insist on getting its share of prosperity. That is an indication of the outlook of this “Queen Street” Country Party Government, which is dominated by the Liberal Party and interested only in the area south of the Landsborough electorate. It is dominated by interests who have no desire at all to develop industries such as the fishing and prawning industries in the North.

**Hon. R. E. CAMM** (Whitsunday—Minister for Mines, Main Roads and Electricity) (2.51 p.m.): In reply, I desire to thank those hon. members who congratulated the officers of the departments that I administer, and whose Estimates the Committee has been debating. I join with those hon. members in offering my thanks for the loyal service that my officers have rendered to their respective departments and their obvious interest in furthering the development of this State by carrying out the very progressive policy of the present enlightened Government.

I will deal individually with the remarks of some hon. members and then with the remarks of those who mentioned the work carried out by the Main Roads Department in their electorates.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to the Electrical Workers and Contractors' Board and its administration of apprentices. He should know that the board is limited in its activities by the Act under which it operates. The Electrical Workers and Contractors Act provides that an apprentice, on the completion of his apprenticeship under a statutory apprenticeship scheme over the period prescribed by the Apprentices and Minors Act, shall be granted a certificate of competency as an electrical mechanic or an electrical fitter if he has passed the final examination in the course of instruction prescribed under the Apprentices and Minors Act. The board has no jurisdiction over the period of apprenticeship or over the course of instruction prescribed under that Act. It is obliged to issue a certificate of competency as an electrical worker to anyone who conforms to the standards laid down, and that is what the board is doing. The board indicated that it was not able to compare the standard and the period of the previous apprenticeship course with the new one or to compare a tradesman who has completed an advanced trade course with a tradesman prior to 1968. Having regard to the fact that the new apprenticeship course is only now producing apprentices who have completed their training, and to the fact that the board has no jurisdiction in the matter, it would appear that the board has adopted the correct attitude in declining to express an opinion on what, after all, is only a matter of academic interest to the board in its capacity as a board.

The Leader of the Opposition asked if it had been definitely ascertained if a tradesman who had completed his apprenticeship under the new scheme will be recognised in other States. The board said that this has not been definitely ascertained, because other States had not decided their policies in this matter. With regard to the issue of a certificate on the completion of the advanced trade course, the board explained that the Electrical Workers and Contractors Act did not provide for the issue of such a certificate. The board does not conduct the course or have anything to do with any examination held at its completion. Generally the board answered the questions raised by the hon. gentleman within the limits of its authority under the Electrical Workers and Contractors Act. It would have been presumptuous for the board to have done anything else. To that extent, the board's administration is not in question.

Finally, the hon. gentleman suggests that the board should be under the control of the department that is responsible for the training of electricians. It is significant that such control does not apply in any other State of the Commonwealth.

**Mr. Houston:** You have a weak-knee'd board that cannot do a thing.

**Mr. CAMM:** That is the hon. gentleman's opinion.

I have just outlined the duties of the board. The Electrical Workers and Contractors' Board is not subject to the Apprentices and Minors Act.

I dealt with the remarks of the hon. member for Salisbury concerning miners' pensions at some length on Thursday afternoon, but there are a few other matters that I should like to reply to because of some statements in the Press that are not in accordance with the facts. People have "sounded off" in this Chamber, and in the Press, about our "small" approach to pensions, particularly compared with the approach in New South Wales. I ask hon. members to examine closely the following figures. Mine workers in Queensland contribute about \$139,764 a year to the fund, the mine-owners contribute \$618,641 a year, and the Government contributes \$150,000 a year. There are 2,250 contributors, and those enjoying the pension in Queensland at the present time total 1,450. Hon. members should bear in mind that the Government, with its contribution of \$150,000 contributes more to the pensions fund than all the mine-workers in Queensland.

I now turn to New South Wales. The mine-workers there contribute \$751,580; the mine-owners contribute \$3,328,033 and the Government contributes \$160,000. The contributors in New South Wales total 12,533 and the pensioners number only 8,935. For 12,533 contributors the New South Wales Government contributes \$160,000, compared with \$150,000 contributed by the Queensland Government for only 2,250 contributors. I do not think anyone can regard that as a "small" outlook on the part of the Queensland Government.

I should like to set out a few other facts relative to Queensland miners' pensions that have been conveniently omitted from statements made by the hon. member for Salisbury and articles that I have read in the Press. In what other industry in this State do employees get such privileged treatment, providing for pensions on retirement, on incapacity and for widows, as well as a generous nursing allowance? The Queensland miners' pension rates are as follows:—

	Per Week
	\$
Single man or widower .. .. .	15.25
Married man .. .. .	26.50
Widow .. .. .	14.25
Child .. .. .	1.50
Nursing allowance .. .. .	11.75

These rates are, and always have been, reduced by any entitlement to Commonwealth age, invalid or widow's pension, which forms part of the total income. Thus, they are never less than the above rates. In fact, they exceed these amounts in the case of approximately 55 per cent. of miners' pensions. I refer to single men, married couples and widows receiving maximum Commonwealth benefits whose pension income since

10 October, 1968, has been, respectively, \$16.25 a week (as in New South Wales), \$28 a week (\$2 less than in New South Wales) and \$15.25 (as in New South Wales), and all future increases will be received automatically with Commonwealth pension increases as in the past. In addition, they receive a nursing allowance of \$11.75 a week if they are unable to care for themselves.

The Amending Act of 1968 provided for optional retirement at any time between the ages of 60 and 65 years. Thus, a mine-worker with a younger wife and children may continue in his employment after the age of 60 years and receive, as well as his wages, a part miners' pension of \$10 a week. At his discretion he may retire on a full miners' pension of \$26.50 a week and accept full-time employment elsewhere without restriction. Previously he was restricted to earning \$11 a week.

These are some of the privileges not provided in other States and to many pensioners these advantages far outweigh the additional payments of \$1 a week, single, or \$3.50 a week, married (not \$4 a week as claimed by the hon. member for Salisbury, who obtained his information from a document that was not quite correct), which a mine pensioner receives in New South Wales.

It is true that the Queensland pensions fund is in a healthier state than the similar funds in most other States. However, at the last actuarial examination, the Queensland fund's deficiency had risen to \$3,034,560. Surely it was time to "call the doctor" to this so-called healthy fund. This unfortunate position can be attributed to a section of the more affluent miner-pensioners who were ineligible for Commonwealth age, invalid or widows' pensions, and thus received maximum payments at all times from the Miners' Pension Fund. These pensioners, and they include mine-owners, engineers, electricians and all other workers associated with the mining industry—approximately 25 per cent.—were paid \$3,020,917 in miners' pensions in 1965, after contributing only \$67,905 to the fund.

How can any fund that pays out that amount of money and receives such small contributions remain actuarially sound? This is one reason why Queensland pension rates were pegged, and why it is hard to understand the desire of the Miners' Federation to support, so strongly, increases to this section of miner-pensioners. It was also a reason for the amending legislation providing for the continuance of increases to the less fortunate pensioners who are receiving minimum miners' pensions, and for the permitting of mine-workers to continue in employment after the age of 60 years on a full salary plus a pension of \$10 a week, or to retire on full miners' pension with the opportunity to take other full-time employment. That was denied them under the previous scheme.

The amending legislation assented to on 18 April, 1968, also stabilised contribution rates and so satisfied the repeated requests of

the Queensland Miners' Union and owner-representatives to withhold increases in owners' contributions, which would result in further retrenchments in the industry. Both the mine-owners and the union representatives requested that the contributions be pegged.

Surely, while income is pegged at the request of both contributing parties, it is impossible to provide ever-increasing pension rates. This examination of the pensions fund was brought about by a motion, moved and passed by mine-owner and union representatives on the pensions tribunal, requesting me to put this fund on an actuarially sound basis because the actuary had reported that the fund was heading for bankruptcy.

Reference has been made to Clutha Development Pty. Ltd. and Thiess Bros. Pty. Ltd., who, along with many other companies, hold only an authority to prospect for coal and have not as yet paid contributions to the pensions fund. The position under the Act was causing concern and was referred to the Solicitor-General. All concerned can be assured that the full liability of such companies will be met. As a matter of fact, representatives of Thiess Bros. indicated right at the outset that if that company is obliged to contribute to the Miners' Pension Fund it is happy to pay retrospectively from when work started. However, contributions cannot be accepted if, or when, liability does not exist.

While the Queensland Government has applied the necessary corrective measures to ensure solvency, adequacy, actuarial soundness and future stability of the fund, New South Wales has yet to take this action, and I have no doubt that those concerned in that State will find that the process is not entirely painless.

In the meantime, it is absurd to compare the pension benefits of two States. Furthermore, the suggestion of strike action is completely irresponsible and unnecessary, as I have already agreed to meet members of the Miners' Federation and receive from them suggestions that they claim will result in retired miners receiving increases whilst the fund is kept on an actuarially sound basis—at the same time, I daresay, not incurring any expense for the miners or the mine-owners.

The hon. member for South Brisbane spoke about the establishment of a major power-station in Central Queensland. I want to assure him that the Government takes account of the continued operation of power-stations for as long as it is economic for them to operate. This Government has encouraged development to such a degree that the demand for electricity is increasing at an unprecedented rate. We do not intend to close any power-station; rather, we intend to build more power-stations in Queensland to cope with the increasing demand.

The hon. member claimed that the removal of trams had some effect on the generation of electricity. The coal that is used to

generate sufficient electricity for the Brisbane tramway system amounts to less than 1 per cent. of the coal from the Ipswich field that is used for the generation of electricity.

From his references to the energy resources of Queensland, it is apparent—which is not unusual in his case—that the hon. member for South Brisbane was not in the Chamber when, in introducing my Estimates, I spoke of the work of the Queensland Energy Resources Advisory Council. I pointed out that the council recently submitted its report for the year ended June, 1968. I spoke of the statistical data prepared by the council and the figures which have been compiled on reserves of energy in Queensland in the various forms of uranium, crude oil, natural gas, hydro-electricity and black coal. I also spoke of the statistics prepared by the council dealing with the consumption and utilisation of various forms of energy in Queensland. I pointed out that the council's activities included reports concerning natural gas reserves, coking coal reserves, advice relating to the export of coking coal, and the matter of parameters for determining coal reserves. I advised that the council is continuing its work and is making further studies on the usage of natural gas and coking coal from Queensland sources.

Notwithstanding the hon. member's comments on the Hetherington Report, I point out that it has proved a most valuable reference document for the Government, and data from it have been used on many occasions. Copies of it have been sought by many bodies. In fact, Queensland's move in obtaining a report such as this one prompted Victoria to obtain similar advice, and more recently the Government of New South Wales has commissioned a similar type of study. It is not correct that the Hetherington Report has been pigeon-holed. This report was prepared for the Premier before I succeeded to this portfolio. I examined it when I became Minister for Mines, and, in directing the State Mining Engineer, Mr. Morley, to proceed overseas in the middle of 1966 on a study tour on behalf of his department, I instructed him to make a particular study of energy resources in North America. On his return Mr. Morley furnished a report to me, and the recommendations and the relevant aspects of that report dealing with energy resources were subsequently published in the Queensland Government Mining Journal.

Arising from my study of the Hetherington Report and Mr. Morley's report, and following on my examination of the matter of Queensland's energy resources, in November, 1966, Cabinet approved that the Queensland Energy Resources Advisory Council be formed. This council, which reports direct to me, is chaired by Mr. Morley, and its four other members are Mr. Neil Smith, Commissioner for Electricity Supply, Mr. E. McCarthy, Chairman of the Queensland Coal Board, Mr. M. L. Noume, Government Gas

Engineer, and Mr. A. H. Basire, formerly senior petroleum technologist, now a consultant to the Department of Mines.

As I have already stated, this council has made numerous studies since it has been formed and has furnished Cabinet and myself with recommendations on matters of major policy as affecting our energy resources.

I think that I should reply to some of the comments made by the hon. member for Rockhampton South in criticising the working of the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board. Before I deal with the matters that he raised, I make it perfectly clear to the Committee that the hon. member has every right to bring before this Chamber anything that concerns the area that he represents.

One aspect of the current controversy involving the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board is that one of the Rockhampton City Council's nominees on the board, Alderman Fraser, placed before the council a document marked "Confidential", which came into his possession by virtue of his membership of the Board.

**Mr. Pilbeam:** He did not place the document before the council. He removed something that was in the document and referred it to the council.

**Mr. CAMM:** He referred to that document. I have a copy of it. The document related to the selection by the board of a new manager.

It appears that Alderman Fraser had strong feelings regarding the procedure adopted by the board in its handling of the matter and, on that account, he referred to the document at a council meeting and expressed his views on it. I sympathise with Alderman Fraser in that I have no doubt he acted in good faith and I can understand his motives, which were, no doubt, based on the fact that he believed he had an overriding duty to the Rockhampton City Council while serving as a member of the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board. That, however, is not the position.

Members of regional electricity boards are not appointed by local authorities. The Governor in Council makes appointments on the basis of the qualifications of the nominees and having regard to any other circumstances that it is considered necessary to take into account. The fundamental basis of membership of regional boards, apart from the member nominated by the State Electricity Commission, that is, that they should be members of local authorities, was introduced into the legislation as a convenient means of appointing members who could be regarded as being qualified to assist in the general administration of an important public authority.

This was not the only way in which the membership of regional boards could have been catered for. For example, it could have been on the basis of the nomination by public organisations, industrial organisations and



similar public bodies, if the Governor in Council had so required. It could also have been by the straight-out appointment by the Governor in Council of persons selected by him to be members, as in the case of the Northern Electric Authority. However, it was no doubt felt by the Legislature at the time that the statute was enacted that membership of local authorities was a convenient and suitable way of securing representation of the calibre considered necessary.

The position is that members of regional electricity boards are not appointed to represent the interests of the local authorities or groups of local authorities of which they are the nominees. In fact, they are appointed to assist in the administration of a public authority providing an important service in the community and operating a highly specialised commercial undertaking to a large extent in competition with other forms of energy providing a similar service. This is clearly demonstrated by the fact that, should a local authority fail to nominate a member for appointment to a board, the Governor in Council may appoint someone who is not a member of a local authority.

Membership of the board therefore imposes on members complete allegiance to the board to the exclusion of other interests, whether private or as a member of a local authority, and complete responsibility for the efficient operation of the board without reference to other authorities.

These views are clearly supported in the judgment of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in a case brought against a board of fire commissioners of New South Wales by one of the members of that board. The member represented the Fire Brigade Employees' Union on the board. Certain legal advice was obtained by a subcommittee of the board concerning an application for a new award by the Fire Brigade Employees' Union. The member of the board asked that this legal information be made available to him and he stated that such information would be used by him to further the union's interests.

The board decided by a majority that the legal advice would not be made available to the member. It was in connection with this decision that the member sought a declaration from the Supreme Court that the board was not entitled to refuse to produce the legal opinion referred to. Certain other consequential declarations also were involved. In its judgment the court stated that the member's overriding loyalty was to the board, irrespective of his affiliations. The judgment goes to considerable lengths to point out the responsibilities of members of statutory bodies and emphasises that such membership should never be used to promote sectional interests.

The judgment of the court was that, while the member may have felt that he was acting bona fide in adopting the attitude that he

did, it was an erroneous attitude. The court declined to grant him the declarations which he sought.

On the general question of the responsibility of board members, I quote as follows from the judgment to which reference is made:—

"Undoubtedly there will be differences of opinion between Board members. Indeed, it is well that this should be so; sound and wise decisions by the Board can only be based upon a full and informed discussion of varying and conflicting views and considerations. Nomination of the individual members and their election to membership by interested groups ensures that the Board as a whole has access to a wide range of views, and it is to be expected within this wide range of views that inevitably there will be differences in the opinions, approaches and philosophies of the Board members. But the predominating element which each individual must constantly bear in mind is the promotion of the interests of the Board itself. In particular a Board member must not allow himself to be compromised by looking to the interests of the group which appointed him rather than to the interests for which the Board exists. He is most certainly not a mere channel of communication or listening post on behalf of the group which elected him. There is cast upon him the ordinary obligations of respecting the confidential nature of Board affairs where the interests of the Board itself so require.

"If the members of Boards such as the present Board constantly keep before them their overriding duty to the Board to promote the purposes for which it exists, then they should have little difficulty in discharging honourably their public duty."

I quote a further extract, as follows:—

"It is entirely foreign to the purpose for which this or any other Board exists to contemplate a member of the Board being representative of a particular group or a particular body. Once a group has elected a member he assumes office as a member of the Board and becomes subject to the overriding and predominant duty to serve the interests of the Board in preference, on every occasion upon which any conflict might arise, to serving the interests of the group which appointed him. With this basic proposition there can be no room for compromise."

That is in respect of a member who is nominated or appointed by a particular group or authority. In this case the local authority simply nominates the members of the regional board, who are appointed by the Governor in Council, not by the local authority.

There is a strong similarity between the New South Wales case and the recent occurrence in the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board, although it might be noted that, in the New South Wales case, members are

actually appointed by the group to which they belong, whereas in Queensland they are appointed by the Governor in Council.

In the light of all this information, there is little doubt that the business of the regional board is strictly for the board's purposes unless the board decides otherwise. It is important, so that the board may operate in the best interests of its consumers, that this aspect of its conduct should be clearly understood and applied.

Regional board and local authority responsibilities are clearly defined in the respective legislation under which they operate, and do not overlap; there being no area where a regional board and a local authority are electric authorities within the same area of supply. It is clear, therefore, that a member of a local authority who is also a member of a regional board owes allegiance to the council of which he is a member on council business, and to the board of which he is a member on board business. A council, as a local government authority, has no more right to meddle in regional board affairs than a regional board has to meddle in the affairs of a council.

There are some matters, of course, where common interests are involved, such as public lighting and the location of poles in public streets. In such cases, if there is a dispute between a local authority and a regional board which cannot be reconciled, the legislation provides for the manner in which the dispute is to be determined.

In the particular case in question, the board had before it the matter of the appointment of a manager. There could be no greater responsibility on the members of the board than to ensure that the best possible appointment was made. In fact, section 39 of the Regional Electric Authorities Act requires that "the Regional Board shall appoint a person chosen solely on the basis of his executive, technical and administrative experience and qualifications to be manager."

It appears that, in exercising its duty under this section, the board regulates its own procedure in ensuring that this requirement is observed. To this extent, the board is not limited by any particular requirement in the consideration of an application by any person. That is to say, the fact that the board may stipulate a closing date for the receipt of applications does not preclude the board from considering any application received after such closing date, if, in the opinion of the board, its best interests are served by so doing.

In this particular case, the members of the committee appointed by the board had no doubt that its action in inviting an application after the advertised closing date was in the board's best interests, and felt that the board would have recognised this with due regard to the fact that, in the final analysis, the board was unassailably in a position to accept or reject or otherwise deal with the report and recommendations of its properly

appointed committee. The committee undoubtedly felt that the board had trust and confidence in it, and expected it to make its best recommendation in the interest of the board and its consumers. This, it undoubtedly did. Any decision of the board to accept or reject or otherwise deal with the committee's recommendation was one solely for the board.

Whether or not members of regional electricity boards are rubber stamps is of course a matter within the control of the members themselves. If they want to become rubber stamps they have the power to do so or to do otherwise.

I will now deal with some other points raised by the hon. member for Rockhampton South. There is no evidence that inefficiency in the board's operations is increasing at a faster rate than the number of the staff. The number of employees of the board is 773, and not 200 as was stated by the hon. member. With an undertaking increasing at the rate that the board's undertaking is increasing, obviously it is to be expected that the number of board's employees will further increase.

**Mr. Pilbeam:** Can you tell me how many employees are over 70 years of age?

**Mr. C.A.M.M.:** Does the hon. member say that quite a number of men employed by the regional electricity board in Rockhampton are over 70 years of age?

**Mr. Pilbeam:** Yes. They were appointed after they retired from other industries.

**Mr. C.A.M.M.:** I have no doubt that the members of the board controlling the appointment of these people must have considered that their services were highly valuable. The sole decision on whether these men are capable of doing the job for which they are appointed rests with the members of the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board.

**Mr. Pilbeam:** The members did not even know that they were appointed.

**Mr. C.A.M.M.:** They can bring these matters up at board meetings. The members of the board cannot be doing their job if they do not know what is going on.

It is true that the board has a deficit of \$1,000,000. This situation arose as a result of the rapid expansion in the board's undertaking; the decision to provide for generating plant to meet abnormal increases in demand; to the loss of certain generating plant at sea, which caused a deferment of the availability of generating plant at the Callide Power Station; to the water shortage at Callide at a critical point of the operation of the Callide Power Station; to the cost of installing a gas turbine to meet a possible shortage in generating capacity; and, generally, to persistent drought conditions throughout the region, which affected the consumption of electricity.

To anyone with a knowledge of electricity supply and electricity supply economics, it is clear that no undertaking anywhere could withstand the conditions with which the Capricornia board had to contend without incurring deficits. It is worthy to note that, in spite of these difficulties, the board's budget for 1968-69 provides for a reduction in the deficit of the order of \$200,000. The board has also provided in the budget for payment of about \$350,000 from revenue towards the capital cost of the gas turbine installed at Rockhampton in 1967. Without this payment the deficit in the current financial year would have been reduced by over \$500,000.

The investigation carried out by the committee appointed by the board is regarded as satisfactory. Generally, the report of the investigators was approved by the board and the recommendations have been put into effect. It cannot be suggested that the investigators were not competent to perform the task they were appointed to perform. The methods they used were those which are common in investigations of this kind, and the results have clearly not been abortive. Incidentally, the chairman of the panel was the chief engineer of the State Electricity Commission of Queensland, and not the manager of the Townsville Regional Electricity Board.

I have already stated that there is no evidence of increasing inefficiency in the C.R.E.B. Similarly, there appears to be no evidence of wasteful administrative methods that would fritter away any advantage gained by the establishment of a major power-station in Central Queensland. The State Electricity Commission and the members of the board are as much concerned as are the council and large industries in Central Queensland to ensure that the undertaking is operated efficiently, in the best interests of all consumers.

Claims that the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board is using wasteful administrative methods are not borne out by actual results. The management costs and the distribution costs as a percentage of over-all production costs, or on a per-unit-sold basis, favour the Capricornia board in comparison with other boards. In 1967-68, compared with the previous year, there was a greater reduction in the management cost component of total production cost in the Capricornia region than in any other area in Queensland. The number of employees on any basis of assessment does not reflect unfavourably on the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board.

With regard to power-station efficiency, it is of particular interest to note that the Callide Power Station, with an over-all efficiency of 29.09 per cent., is more efficient than any other power-station in Australia using plant of the same capacity, in spite of the fact that some other stations are operating under more favourable conditions. It should

be noted also that, accompanying those performances, the board's capital expenditure has increased from \$1,281,000 in 1961-62 to \$8,600,000 in 1966-67, over \$8,000,000 in 1967-68 and \$7,500,000 in 1968-69. In view of the unavoidable operational difficulties experienced by the board over the past few years, it would seem reasonable to believe that, under the circumstances, the position is satisfactory.

The board is moving along the road to recovery, but if the hon. member for Rockhampton South, or any other member of the Rockhampton City Council or any other resident in that area, should place before me any specific instance of what he considers to be mismanagement, I will investigate it carefully.

It will be regrettable if the board is to be without the services of the nominees of the Rockhampton City Council in its future deliberations. It would be in the best interests of the region if the incident that has caused the present upset could be relegated to the minor position that it should occupy in the over-all administration of the electricity supply industry in an area where there is such rapid development, which will require the provision of more and more generation and distribution facilities to meet the increasing demands for power.

I should now like to deal with the many aspects of the Main Roads Department raised by hon. members. It will not be possible for me in the time available to deal in detail with all the points mentioned by hon. members. However, I can assure them that their remarks have been noted and will be given the fullest consideration.

Even if large amounts of extra funds were suddenly to become available and we could expedite our construction programme, there would still be many jobs for which we would have no resources and we would have to continue on a programme of works in accordance with determined priorities.

Better roads bring demands for new roads and for upgrading of many roads which a few years before were not considered important. Thus, in trying to solve the road problem we create for ourselves new problems and new road needs.

The Leader of the Opposition advocated the construction of more four-lane highways. There is nothing we would like more than to have sufficient funds to justify a big programme of four-lane highway construction. As it is, there are still many miles of basic two-lane roads yet to be built in this State. Moreover, we do not have a great mileage of road for which four-lane construction could be justified. An average daily density of traffic in excess of 6,000 vehicles a day is about the stage when a two-way road starts to render less than very good service. Up to this volume of traffic, two-way roads should give very satisfactory service. In Australia, and in Queensland particularly, we do not have the funds to build divided highways

generally until traffic volumes are in excess of 6,000 vehicles a day, and Australian road authorities aim at having them built when traffic reaches 9,000 vehicles a day.

The Government is serious and sincere about road safety and does build some short lengths of divided highway for this purpose. In addition, there are many places where roads are widened at crests, and climbing lanes are constructed on hills to allow slow vehicles to be passed by others. As one travels from Brisbane, one sees short sections of four-lane highway being constructed in regions in which the traffic density is increasing.

I shall now deal with the contributions of specific hon. members. It is pleasing to note that the hon. member for Flinders appreciates the work that has been done in his area. As far as the policy of "bridges before bitumen" is concerned, it is not possible to generalise on these things. Bridge works and their approaches are a very costly form of road work, and it depends on the situation whether the best return will be obtained from building first the road or the bridges. In the hon. member's area the Main Roads Department has gone ahead of road construction and built many major bridges over rivers that have been troublesome in that area during wet seasons.

Planning for a new bridge over Sloane Creek, on the Flinders Highway, is well advanced, and we have programmed for the release of a scheme in the first half of 1969. So far as beef roads are concerned, an agreement has been made for the spending of \$39,500,000 on certain roads, and this will keep us occupied for a while. At the same time, the Main Roads Department has agreed to spend \$7,000,000 during that period to construct further roads within the beef-roads complex.

The hon. member for Mackenzie also referred to beef roads, and he mentioned particularly the road from Banana to Westwood. There are many roads that it has not been possible to include in the new beef-roads proposals, and they will be considered at a later date if they are not built from normal funds in the meantime. The construction under the brigalow scheme in the hon. member's area of some main roads to the first stage posed a problem for the Main Roads Department. Gravel is very scarce in the area, and it was judged imperative to pave and seal the roads concerned. As a result, the construction of other roads had to be deferred.

Bitumen-surfaced roads are now being built in the Banana Shire as fast as funds will allow. I think the hon. member will agree that in that area, which is one of the most rapidly developing areas in any part of Queensland, the need for roads is increasing each year. There are demands for roads to the power-station at Callide. It is desired to build a bitumen road from Biloela to that power station. The decision to

construct the Fairbairn Dam will necessitate further construction work on the road leading from Emerald to the turn-off to the dam. These roads come into prominence after our priorities have been fixed and after our five-year programme has been decided upon. Naturally, therefore, the building of some roads has to be deferred to allow the construction of roads the demand for which has been created by development in those areas.

The hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha mentioned planning. I am sure that, with our forward planning policy, this matter is well organised within the Main Roads Department. He would also like to see the department play a greater role in the Brisbane area. In the past few years the department has done so, particularly since the Government assumed responsibility for expressways and freeways under the modified Stage 1 of the Wilbur Smith proposals.

The priorities of the Boyne Valley Road will be examined in view of the statements made by the hon. member for Port Curtis. He did his best in the time available to him to "rubbish" me on the work of the Department of Mines, and he finished by requesting that I give consideration to the construction of a road in his area. Such is the policy of the Government that his representations will be considered fully when we come to examining the possibility of building roads in his area.

The problems created by the growing urbanisation of the Gold Coast area referred to by the hon. member for South Coast are well recognised, and everything possible is being done to overcome them within the means available.

The problems of land acquisition are well known. The new Act was devised to deal with these problems and to help people; but nothing that the Government does seems to prevent people from getting upset as soon as they see survey pegs. How can land be resumed until some surveys have been made, trial designs compared, and a final decision to go ahead made? I sympathise with people who have built a home and beautified their land and who then see surveyors coming along, with theodolites and pegs, to survey a new road. In all cases, as many as three or four surveys are made in a locality before the final alignment is decided upon, and I am sure that officers of the Main Roads Department are only too willing to help with the rapid completion of resumption proceedings.

Regarding the suggestion that there should be a uniform traffic code throughout Australia, I point out to hon. members that a great deal has been, and is being, done in this direction. There is now an Australian standard specification for road traffic control devices, and at least a motorist knows that if he crosses a double line in any State of the Commonwealth he is committing a breach of the traffic law.

The hon. member for Rockhampton South mentioned also that more funds must be found for greater expansion in road-building in Central Queensland. I agree with him; I am sure that all other hon. members agree with him. But how does the Government get the loan money that is needed? Which department's Loan Fund allocation is to be cut? It must be kept in mind that the State's loan allocation is decided by the Loan Council, which is constituted by the Commonwealth and States' Treasurers meeting in Canberra. If the amount of loan money is fixed, it means, naturally, that if increased funds are made available for the Main Roads Department the funds of other Government departments have to be reduced.

The hon. member mentioned the Capricorn Highway. The department would like to do more work on that highway, but the many developments in Central Queensland make it difficult to meet its total road needs. Admittedly, the Drummond Range is a problem. It will be very expensive to do the job properly; but great improvement will accrue from some minor works, and attention to the range section will be practicable when the remainder of the road is completed. The department is now concentrating on making the road more trafficable between the Drummond Range and Barcaldine. The channels over the Pine River and Belyando Flats have been attended to, and the department is releasing sections east of Jericho and west of Alpha for construction to bitumen standard. I think that the hon. member would concede that if the Drummond Range section of the road was made trafficable now for very heavy transport, the road between the Drummond Range and Barcaldine would rapidly be ruined; whereas, if the department can build the road to a certain stage, as it is doing now, it can then come back and concentrate on the Drummond Range. I might add that negotiating the Drummond Range today in a motor-car, or even in a motor-car with a trailer, presents no problems to a competent driver.

The hon. member for South Brisbane referred to Merivale Street when commenting on roads, but prefaced his remarks by saying that the Government has adopted the Wilbur Smith plan, which, in effect, has frozen all the relevant land. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Government has adopted only the general principles of the report and is constantly pointing out that the proposals are schematic only and subject to change.

When the plan was received, the Government announced that it had adopted Stage 1 of the report, with some modifications, and up to date it has not indicated what other stage of construction it will undertake next. It has since stated repeatedly that future works will be adopted only after a much more detailed examination of priorities and of the design details. An endeavour will be made to give five years' notice of the fixed alignments of future projects when they are approved. All land, when resumed, will be paid for at ruling values.

So far as the Merivale Street property is concerned, no project has been adopted for this area, but preliminary investigations into further projects indicate that Merivale Street properties may not be subject to much disturbance.

The hon. member for Carnarvon suggested the need for bigger contracts. The Main Roads Department is endeavouring year by year to release bigger jobs so as to derive the advantages of scale. In doing so, the department has to consider many things such as the continuity of employment of existing road-workers, availability of plant and, of course, the employment of men in a local authority area where the local authority itself has been appointed the constructing authority. Generally speaking, there is an increase in the average size of jobs carried out.

The hon. member for Tablelands mentioned the Dimbulah-Normanton road, the Karumba road and the road to Weipa. There surely cannot be much complaint about the deal that these areas will get over the next six years from the beef-roads programme. Some \$2,000,000 will be spent between Mungana and Highbury commencing in 1970-71, while nearly \$4,000,000 is to be spent on the Normanton-Croydon-Georgetown road. Those figures have been released to the local authorities concerned.

Admittedly, we do not yet know when a start can be made on the Normanton-Karumba road, but much preliminary investigation has been done. As far as the Weipa road is concerned, there has been work going on between Mareeba and Laura, and from Laura to Coen for some years now. By the end of 1973-74 an amount in excess of \$4,000,000 will have been spent on the Mareeba-Laura road in addition to any expenditure likely to be incurred between Laura and Coen, and this should make a very great difference to the road to Weipa. The road to Edward River is not gazetted, and at present is the responsibility of Cook Shire.

The hon. member for Albert spoke of many road needs in his area, all of which I recognise. I will have their priorities looked at, as well as his complaint about speed zoning on the highway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

Being a shire chairman, the hon. member for Logan has a good knowledge of the problems of road finance, and I thank him for his constructive contribution.

I should like to run briefly through some of the comments that were made. The hon. member for Ipswich East made his usual contribution, in which he advanced the claims of the miners in his area. I should like to inform him that I have the utmost respect for the miners in this State, especially the coalminers in the West Moreton field.

The hon. member for Port Curtis, in his discourse on the mining industry, mentioned the deposits of bauxite at Weipa. I should

like to remind him once again that no hon. member on this side of the Chamber has ever claimed credit for the existence of the deposits of bauxite at Weipa. They have been there for many years. I have pointed out on many occasions that back in the 1920's there was a report in the Mining Journal on the deposits of bauxite at Weipa. What I have always said is that prior to the coming to power of this free-enterprise Government, sufficient capital could not be encouraged to come into this area to develop the huge deposits of bauxite.

I should like to thank the hon. member for South Coast for his complimentary remarks about the various officers of the department.

The hon. member for Toowoomba East referred to the retrenchment of miners in his electorate, and he asked about work done to ascertain the chemical properties of coal. There was a time when it was felt that some coal contained a number of properties that would be valuable to a fertiliser project, and I am sure that the State's industrial technologists will fully examine the composition of coal found in the area to which the hon. member referred.

I should like to congratulate the hon. member for Landsborough on his concise and well-presented case for further road development in his electorate.

I should now like to refer to the remarks of the hon. member for Townsville North. He made the extravagant claim that in 10 or 20 years' time there will be no coal left in Queensland. From the reports that I have seen, I should say that the State will have to encourage many more companies to mine coal and will have to increase its coal exports considerably to see the end of its coal resources within 100 years.

**Mr. Tucker:** I said "easily-won coal".

**Mr. CAMM:** I can only say that the hon. member's claims are rather exaggerated and verge on the ridiculous. I inform him that we will ensure that plenty of reserves of coal are available for the benefit of the State's future generations. He did not seem to complain about the activities of the New South Wales Labour Government in exporting huge quantities of coking coal from that State, but as soon as a move was made in this State to capture some of that trade hon. members opposite seemed to think that the Government was guilty of some sort of heresy in allowing this coal to be exported. I wonder if they realise that the United States of America is exporting more coking coal to Japan and other countries than we are, and that its inferred reserves are not higher than ours.

**Mr. Houston:** How many steel industries are there in the United States of America?

**Mr. CAMM:** There are many steel industries, and that is all the more reason why the United States should keep its coal. It will run out of its coal supplies, not in 10 years' time but in 5 years' time.

The hon. member talks about overseas companies holding us to ransom and says that they may commence a project, and then, because some mythical man overseas says, "Stop mining in Queensland," they will stop. I do not know why those companies should suddenly stop mining after investing millions of dollars in this State. If the hon. member does not think that the conditions of the leases are being complied with, he knows that we can forfeit the leases. I tell him that many mining companies that are established in this State eventually come under Australian management. Certainly the State needs technical advice from overseas in starting many of these projects, but I remind members of the Opposition that many of the companies participating in them have Australian management.

I remind hon. members, too, of what I said in the Address-in-Reply debate on the participation of Australian capital in the venture to mine the huge deposits of bauxite at Gove. The Commonwealth Government insisted that there should be an Australian equity in that venture, but three of the biggest financial institutions in this country were unable to raise sufficient capital to acquire the 50 per cent. interest that the Commonwealth said they should have.

**Mr. Houston:** What royalty are they paying?

**Mr. CAMM:** I am not interested in royalties. Members of the Opposition are talking about participation of Australian capital, and surely they are not going to come in on royalties all the time. I have consistently refuted all their claims relative to royalties. Prior to 1956 the State did not collect one penny in royalties.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition became rather critical. I was amazed to hear him criticising the hon. member for Bowen, than whom there is no better hon. member in this Chamber. He has made numerous representations, and I have letters from him advocating assistance in getting coal from the Goonyella field, through Collinsville, to Bowen. However, when a company is prepared to spend hundreds of millions of dollars in mining and shipping the coal, it should be allowed to have some say in where the coal is to be shipped from. I wonder if the Deputy Leader will be so critical of the hon. member for Mackay, who no doubt hopes that the coal will go to Mackay? I wonder why he is pressing for the coal to go to Bowen rather than to Mackay. That is the impression I gained from what he said.

The hon. member said that there is not one processing plant in Queensland. Doesn't he know about the alumina plant at Gladstone? Doesn't he know about the copper-refining plant at Townsville? He lives in

the area, so surely he knows that some of our ore is being processed here. Doesn't he know that the plant at Gladstone to extract sulphuric acid will use the pyrites from Mt. Morgan? Doesn't he know that we are to establish a plant at Weipa to calcinise bauxite?

There is quite a lot to which I should like to reply in the last few minutes available to me. I am sorry that I cannot deal with the remarks of the hon. member for Wavell, who advocated the spending of more main roads money in this city, but I will dwell for a little while on the remarks of the hon. member for Maryborough, who tried to make a political speech. I repeat that the Howard Power Station will continue in operation as long as it is in the interests of the electricity consumers in the Wide Bay and Burnett regions for it to do so. I forecast that that power-station will continue in operation for many years.

**Mr. Davies:** You told the people there how much it cost to run it.

**Mr. CAMM:** And I will tell the hon. member how the Labour Government treated the coal-miners at Howard when the coal-owners were building up a trade of some thousands of tons a month with New Caledonia. There was a shortage of coal in the south-east part of Queensland. While the boats were in port the major part of the output of the Howard miners was loaded onto the boats for New Caledonia, and when the boats were on their way to New Caledonia the miners were stockpiling coal for local consumption. The Labour Government made the consumers in New Caledonia pay 6s. 6d. a ton towards the loading of that stockpiled coal into the railway wagons at Howard. Not satisfied with that, after the owners had fought and argued to get this contract going with New Caledonia, in the end the Labour Government said, "You cannot export this coal from Howard. You will send it down to Brisbane for our railways and for electricity generation." Yet the hon. member said that the A.L.P. Government looked after the miners at Howard! That is how it treated the consortium of companies that was trying to establish a coal export trade for Queensland.

The hon. member has the effrontery to make a political speech about what the A.L.P. would do if it got into power. The Howard Power Station will be kept in operation. It will be completely worn out before hon. members opposite have any say whatever in its operations. I was in the area and I spoke to the people there in a sincere endeavour to provide employment for the miners who are retrenched. Those who were retrenched on the first occasion are now in employment. There is no unemployment amongst those who were retrenched earlier.

**Mr. Davies:** Fourteen men are still out of work.

**Mr. CAMM:** That mine closed this week. We are trying to provide those men with employment. We have released a major main roads job with a high labour content. The hon. member will no doubt say that we did that for political purposes.

**Mr. Tucker:** That is right.

**Mr. CAMM:** We released it to provide employment for the men who have been retrenched because of the closure of the mine. The resources of the first mine were exhausted. Everyone knew that it would have to close. The miners knew it, and they made their own arrangements to get alternative employment. They make their own arrangements. We, as a Government, do not direct workers where they should go. If Opposition members became the Government they would tell workers where to go.

At 4 p.m.,

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! Under the provisions of the Sessional Order agreed to by the House on 22 October, I shall now put the questions for the Vote under consideration and the balance remaining unvoted for the Department of Mines, Main Roads and Electricity.

The questions for the following Votes were put, and agreed to:—

Department of Mines, Main Roads and Electricity—

	\$
Chief Office	630,663
Balance of Department, Consolidated Revenue Trust and Special Funds and Loan Fund Account	99,208,509

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURAL  
ACTIVITIES  
CHIEF OFFICE

**Hon. A. R. FLETCHER** (Cunningham—  
Minister for Education and Cultural  
Activities) (4.2 p.m.): I move—

"That \$978,274 be granted for 'Department of Education and Cultural Activities—Chief Office'."

In rising to present the Estimates of my department, I do so with full recognition and appreciation of the splendid work done in the field of education in Queensland during the record term as Minister for Education of the late Premier and Minister for State Development, the Honourable Jack Pizzey, during whose ministerial control the State's educational system was completely overhauled and modernised at all levels, improving, in every way possible, opportunities as well as facilities for all our children, with particular emphasis upon equal opportunity for country children.

Jack Pizzey was, as a Queensland Minister for Education, a very fine Minister indeed. He was entitled to add after his name the letters B.A., Dip.Ed., and he was a qualified and most able educationist and, to the day of his death, continued to be a student.

His rapport with everything and, indeed, everyone connected with a positive attitude to education, along with his frequent visits to schools, and the ease of his talks with staff and students, was well known, and particularly appreciated by those who worked close to him.

He was constantly in touch with and studying developments within his department and was invariably at one with his directors and advisers when they proposed new measures and innovations. His relationship with the members of our university senate and with the faculty was one of mutual respect and proper admiration. He at all times showed consideration for their concerns and appreciation of their very considerable contributions to education's total effort. As Jack Pizze's successor I take up the task.

I can well understand the feelings that will probably be evident on the other side of the Chamber when the details of this Budget, particularly as they affect my department, become known fully. They have become partly known from the Treasurer's speech.

**Mr. Sherrington:** That was election propaganda and nothing else.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** There was a good deal of information in it.

With dramatically increased expenditure provided for in every field of my department's activities, hon. members opposite will experience difficulty in finding areas of criticism. I also feel that this will not be possible for them.

Naturally there are critics of this Budget on the other side of the Chamber. That is their role, but they must find it an extremely difficult job in 1968. There are, too, other critics of education in Queensland at present, but it seems to me that they face a danger of criticising just for criticism's sake. No matter what progressive move we make, they, of course, will find fault with it.

Let me quote an example. On 23 September last, a Press statement was issued by my department giving particulars of a new building described as Queensland's most modern primary school, incorporating new concepts on school design which I had studied whilst overseas. The Press statement confirmed that this new school would be commenced immediately at Petrie Terrace to replace the school destroyed by fire this year.

Within 24 hours of these details appearing in print, a story appeared in the Press to the effect that, "The Queensland Teachers' Union has hit out strongly at the so-called 'revolutionary design' for the new Petrie Terrace Primary School". The story continued with the statement that the "Education Department's claims on advantages of the new design were misleading". This remark was credited to the President of the Teachers' Union.

In all fairness, I must state that I received a letter from the president later in which he enclosed a copy of the actual letter he had sent to the newspaper and which, he said, they had mangled. He stated that he regretted being forced to use the media of mass communication, and that the union's letter to the newspaper had been misinterpreted by it.

**Mr. Davies:** Which paper do you say mangled the letter?

**Mr. FLETCHER:** I did not say that. That was in the letter that I received from the President of the Teachers' Union.

The Education Department was accused also of not including in its design and facilities for the new school any aspects of the union's suggestions, they presumably being those demonstrated in the model of a classroom shown at a Valley store in Brisbane recently, and more recently at Toowoomba and perhaps other centres. Heaven forbid that I should be as parsimonious of praise for any idea or job well conceived as are our critics, but the simple fact is that Queensland's most modern primary school was the idea that we had in view more than 12 months prior to our announcement of plans for its building. Indeed, the Director of Primary Education, Mr. Guymmer, attended a meeting of the Petrie Terrace Parents and Citizens' Association immediately after that school was burnt down, and his promise to them that Queensland's most modern primary school would rise in its place is now on record.

A second point of criticism in the article was that money had been wasted paying for overseas trips by education officers when designs suitable for Queensland schools could have been provided here. It would take me a month of Sundays to quote all the instances where critics have called on us poor billy-goat Queenslanders to model everything about ourselves, including our educational facilities, on the great, wonderful overseas, yet the moment we move to put these overseas ideas into actual practice, which is the only way in which proper assessment can be made, we are accused of wasting time and money.

After my address to the Australian Council of State School Organisations which met in Brisbane on Monday 7 October, I was correctly quoted as saying, "There is still a great deal to be done in Queensland education, and giving them (things that need to be done) priorities within a limited budget is something that really racks our soul". Also referred to was my statement that parents and citizens' organisations were contributing more than money to the educational programme. Those statements I did indeed make, and I stand by them and reiterate them. We owe a great deal to the efforts of parents and citizens' organisations.

**Mr. Sherrington:** We owe them a great deal more than that.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** I am the first to accord them all the respect and gratitude that they deserve.



I would point out, however, that a great amount of additional material has been provided for schools in recent years. My department has always been prepared to subsidise on a \$1 for \$1 basis any material or aids recognised as educationally desirable. Unlike some other States, Queensland does not normally set a limit on the amount of subsidy available for any particular school. Subsidy is available on library books, reading laboratories, film projectors, radiograms, television receivers, recordings, duplicators, typewriters, pianos, as well as on a wide range of school-ground improvements, including swimming pools. In a number of other States the percentage of the cost subsidised is considerably less than Queensland's standard 50 per cent.

In addition to subsidising the cost of many items, the department provides without subsidy many additional materials to schools. In 1966, with the introduction of the new mathematics programme, structured material was issued to all schools on the basis of one box of Cuisenaire rods for each pupil. The textbook "Background in Mathematics" was issued to all primary teachers. Last year, as funds became available, provision was made for all primary schools to be issued with balances, geometrical shapes, and clock-face stamps. All opportunity schools were issued with further materials such as attribute blocks specially suited to the needs of slow-learning children.

**Mr. Sherrington:** You should find a more suitable name for them.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** I agree that the name is rather misleading. I had to find out what "attribute blocks" were.

This year, additional provision has been made in the Estimates for the issue of new mathematic textbooks and further aids for use in the classroom. Five modern reference books in mathematics, English and science were issued to all primary schools. All schools were provided with tape recorders and tapes, and with microscopes. Secondary schools were provided with tape recorders and tapes, spirit duplicators, copying machines, and overhead projectors. The free issue of materials such as these to all schools is not matched by any other State in the Commonwealth.

In congratulating parents and citizens on their contribution of not only money but also that enthusiasm and support which provides part of the environment in which their children learn, I was entirely sincere. I repeat: parents and citizens do a grand job.

I have a word, too, for those critics who persist in comparing educational standards in Queensland with those overseas. They continually use that magic word "overseas". I have the highest regard for overseas educationists, just as I have the highest regard for educationists right here in Australia and in our own State of Queensland.

Educationists who have studied education on a world-wide basis and in depth have seen, as I have seen—admittedly, I had limited opportunities of seeing; some of my officers have seen in depth—not just the examples of positive achievement, the innovations of design, of methods and syllabus, but the frustrating failures, the blackboard jungles, the damp-rotted patches of poverty that abound in the most affluent of "overseas" countries. They know that problems in education abound overseas, as they do in Australia.

I turn now to the general expenditure on education provided for in this year's Budget. Altogether, \$22,000,000 more will be spent on education this year than was spent last year. The appropriation this year is almost 20 per cent. higher than last year's appropriation, which itself was 11½ per cent. higher than that for the preceding year. In these two years the education Vote has been raised by nearly one-third, to reach the present record of approximately \$85,000,000.

In addition, some \$29,000,000 has been allocated this year for educational buildings and equipment—an unprecedented increase of almost 39 per cent. from one year to the next—proof indeed of a policy of progress being implemented as hard and fast as is humanly possible.

The Estimates make provision for 850 more primary and secondary school teachers, and for raising the number of trainee teachers by 657 to 3,824. This allows for a record recruitment of 2,050 teacher-trainees from next January, when new teachers' colleges will come into operation at Mt. Gravatt and Townsville.

**Mr. Houston:** That includes those who are going to do the two-year course and those who are going to do the three-year course?

**Mr. FLETCHER:** Yes, as far as I know.

The rapidly expanding institutes of technology at Brisbane, Toowoomba and Rockhampton have received an allocation (for teaching and administrative costs) of \$2,500,000, a 45 per cent. increase. Two million dollars are set aside for the modernisation of school furniture and equipment, and \$331,000 for the purchase of modern textbooks for primary-school mathematics and social studies.

The present \$15 a student annual allowance to non-State secondary schools will be increased to \$25 a student per annum, matched by a similar amount for non-State primary-school students. The annual textbook allowance to all secondary-school pupils is increased to \$10 for Grades 8, 9, and 10, and to \$40 for Grades 11 and 12.

For the 1969 academic year at university level, allocation for running costs has been increased by 12 per cent., to nearly \$12,000,000.

Capital works call for the expenditure of some \$13,500,000 from State funds for 10 new primary schools, 17 extensions to primary schools, 20 extensions to high schools, three completely new high schools at each of Yeppoon, Emerald and Macgregor, a section of Mt. Gravatt.

**Mr. Aikens:** All in the Brisbane area or on the Darling Downs, I presume?

**Mr. FLETCHER:** No, at Yeppoon and Emerald, and only one in the Brisbane area.

Extensions are to be made to five country technical colleges and the three institutes of technology already mentioned. A further \$6,000,000, recoverable from the Commonwealth, is to be spent on teachers' colleges, science laboratories, library facilities at State schools, pre-school teachers' colleges, and on buildings and other equipment for technical education.

Even so briefly outlined, the story is pretty impressive. In detail it becomes more so.

Educational endeavour, of course, is to provide opportunity for all. Education begins at birth, and the Government offers educational opportunity to all and at the earliest practical stage of life.

The development of this State's special education services is an area in which we may justly take particular pride, since it is in this area that handicapped children are afforded very real opportunity. Over the past decade special education services for Queensland children have grown enormously. Most dramatic, perhaps, is the greatly increased numbers of centres which provide education for slow-learning children. Services have been extended geographically so that the number of centres now providing special education has shown a fourfold increase. Opportunity schools and classes were provided in six different centres 10 years ago. Today, 25 centres are functioning throughout the State.

There are 16 separate schools—eight metropolitan and eight country—as well as nine centres, mostly in the country, with classes attached to regular primary schools. These centres are situated in Cairns, the main towns down the coast to the Gold Coast and as far west as Mt. Isa.

These centres represent a total of 109 classes at the present time, compared with only 31 classes 10 years ago. There has been a steady increase in enrolments in these centres over the last decade. Ten years ago there were 610 children enrolled in opportunity schools and classes. By 1962 this figure had doubled; by 1966 it had trebled; and, this year, enrolment reached 2,200—four times the number in 1958.

Similarly, expansion of educational provisions for deaf children has shown considerable increase. The pre-school centre for deaf children, which now forms part of the school for the deaf, alone provides

education for 120 children, while the total enrolment is 371. At the beginning of 1969, eight additional teachers will be appointed to cope with the increasing enrolments.

Increased enrolments have, of course, resulted in progressive building. The latest buildings for special schools are equal to world standards for buildings of their kind. Perhaps the best example of this is the State school for deaf children, located at South Brisbane. Its design embodies the very latest developments in electronics and acoustics, which are used to implement the latest technique of teaching deaf children by the oral method. The best possible conditions for teaching are provided in every classroom in the buildings. Individual desks are specially wired to provide the best possible auditory reception for each child. Residential accommodation of a very high standard is also provided. Separate rooms, each accommodating six children, replace austere and impersonal old-style dormitories. When building at this school is completed it will become one of the finest schools for deaf children in the country, and possibly as good as similar schools anywhere else. Total estimated final cost will be about \$2,000,000, of which \$800,000 has been expended. It is expected that \$500,000 will be spent on further construction this year.

In 1963 the Buranda school for the blind was established in what was previously the Buranda Infants School. The largest school of its kind in Australia, its name was changed to Narbethong, meaning "cheerful place", in October, 1964. Pupils at Narbethong, some of whom have residual vision, are given specialised teaching attuned to the requirements of the visually handicapped. Provision is made in the Estimates for a special scheme for the boarding-out of selected pupils of both Narbethong and the school for the deaf. This is in addition to the continuation of the provision of free transport on trams and buses for resident pupils and their escorts between the pupils' homes and the school on all necessary occasions, and the provision of transport home for boarders on each of three school vacations, while those living farther away than 24 hours by train travel are provided once each year with free air travel.

Currently, nine classes operate at Narbethong primary level. Seven classes follow the regular primary-school syllabus, one caters for the educational needs of slow-learning, visually handicapped children, and one for deaf-blind children. Most classes average 10 pupils each, and those children who can make satisfactory progress using vision methods use large print, magnification devices and special lighting, while all others use Braille—this latter group containing 40 per cent. of the enrolment.

In addition to the regular primary-school syllabus, from grade 4 manual training and homecraft courses are provided, as well as music theory, music perception and appreciation of music. Typing is a course added from grade 6.

Upon satisfactory completion of the grade 7 standard of education, careful consideration is given by the senior guidance officer and the head-teacher to the planning of suitable courses for these students to undertake at Cavendish Road State High School or Kelvin Grove State High School. Similar guidance is continued throughout the students' secondary-school career.

At the present time, 17 visually handicapped students are undertaking academic, commercial or technical courses in grades 8 to 12. These students attend regular classes with sighted students for the majority of their lessons. During certain periods, however, they attend a resource room where they receive individual help from one of two tutors who, while remaining on the staff of Narbethong, spend their teaching time in tutoring visually handicapped secondary-school students. The affording of opportunity in this field continues to be particularly rewarding.

I would like to praise the application and dedication of the teachers who are attached to our special education services. Their devotion to duty, their efforts beyond the call of set duty, their fostering of these children and their time and effort given in out-of-school supervision constitute an understanding of duty and community endeavour which may be equalled but not excelled.

**Mr. Bromley:** The department does a good job over there, too.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** Thank you.

This applies also to the voluntary helpers and organisations who do so much and say so little about themselves, and for whom I have already declared my deepest regard and respect.

In order to meet a need for additional classroom and administration accommodation at the Narbethong school, a new block has been erected and alterations have been carried out to the existing building. This project provides for three additional classrooms, a library, staff-room, garage for the school bus—which, by the way, was a project of the Narbethong Parents and Citizens' Association—tuck-shop, health services room, equipment store and store-rooms.

**Mr. Bromley:** The Government would not subsidise the bus or assist in buying it.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** I have said that it was a project of the Narbethong Parents and Citizens' Association.

**Mr. Bromley:** Why wouldn't the Government subsidise it?

**Mr. FLETCHER:** It is not in the "subsidisable" area.

**Mr. Bromley:** This is a special school. You could have made an exception.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** We have not come to that yet. Possibly that is one of the things we will set our hands to in due course.

These, together with the modifications to existing buildings and the provision of the necessary furniture, entailed an expenditure of \$76,250.

Speaking specifically now of opportunity schools, it is clear that this Government has given full recognition to the special educational needs of the slow learner, and over the last ten years has pursued a vigorous policy of extending opportunity schools and classes throughout the State.

The purpose of an opportunity school is to provide the best conditions for learning for the slow-learning child who is unable to keep pace in regular classrooms. Classes are restricted to 20 pupils so that the child may receive the maximum amount of individual help from the teacher, and the school is supplied on a very liberal scale with modern learning materials. Every child is treated as an individual, and teaching methods and materials are varied according to the child's particular needs. With these favourable conditions within the special classroom, the slow-learning child is able to gain the maximum benefit from his education. Each year a number of opportunity-school pupils qualify for entry into trade apprenticeships and other occupations which require a measure of skilled training. That is undeniable evidence that the opportunity school as provided by this Government is reaching its main objective, namely, to prepare these children for an independent and useful life in the community.

**Mr. Bromley:** I think opportunity schools should be separate from other schools.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** That could be a good idea. Possibly that, too, is an objective that we have in mind.

Plans for the Gold Coast Opportunity School have been completed. The latest idea that school buildings should be flexible enough to allow for the implementation of new teaching techniques has been incorporated into the design of this school. Movable furniture, including blackboards on castors, and individual desks and chairs, will allow for easy rearrangement for group work, class lessons and other activities outside the classrooms. An enclosed courtyard will allow for further activities outside the classroom. This school will also have a home science section set up in the form of a small flat, as well as a fully equipped manual training section. The estimated cost is \$120,000.

The Inala Opportunity School, built at a cost of \$102,643, was opened in August this year, providing places for 100 slow-learning children.

**Mr. Sherrington:** You would not even supply that school with an incinerator when I wrote to you.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** The school was the important thing.

In keeping with trends in most progressive countries of the world, an increased variety of special education services has been provided over the last decade.

For children of average ability who for various reasons are severely retarded in their performance in the basic subjects, the Guidance and Special Education Branch provides a remedial teacher service. The latest development was the opening this year of an experimental class for children who are educationally handicapped through reasons other than mental retardation, sensory deprivation, cultural deprivation or instructional factors. These children are handicapped by factors sometimes not clearly diagnosed and understood. Six children are enrolled in this experimental class at a Brisbane primary school. This is one of the few classes of its kind in Australia.

Owing to advances in medical science, more children born with multiple handicaps are surviving to later years. The challenge to educationists is consequently greater. Queensland has kept abreast of world trends in this area—as a matter of fact, quite impressively so.

I think it is worth while telling the Committee at this stage that the head-teacher at the New Farm school for spastic children, Mr. Geoff. Swan, while in London on a Churchill Scholarship, visited the Franklin D. Roosevelt School for Handicapped Children—probably the most famous, and certainly among the most famous, of its kind in the world. A teacher there showed him a copy of the remedial language programme she was using, and described this programme as the absolute latest and most distinguished in the world. Asked where she procured the programme, she admitted having come across it at the Marian Frostig School for the Handicapped in Los Angeles. This, incidentally, is a private school run by Marian Frostig, a world-recognised authority who visited Australia not so long ago.

On his return to Queensland, Mr. Swan reported his conversation to the senior clinical guidance officer, who remarked that it was interesting because he had recently received a letter from Marian Frostig asking for a further copy of Bulletin No. 34 of the Research and Curriculum Branch, "Psycholinguistic Research in Queensland Schools" and associated language programme material, as her previous copy was missing. This was the one referred to as one of the most distinguished and latest in this field. The moral here, of course, is that in this particular field Queensland may claim to be up with the leaders.

This work in psycholinguistics, as carried out in Queensland special schools, includes, then, notable pioneer research work, and this research into the effects that training in primary language (listening and speaking) has upon secondary language (reading and

writing) has been significant. It has in fact, broken new ground in the teaching of reading.

As a result of these advances, more scientific knowledge and greater professional skill is demanded of the teachers in special schools. There has been a steady professional development by teachers which is commensurate with the over-all development in special education. They are continually searching for new and better methods of educating the children in their charge. Consequently they have frequently been leaders in using new materials and implementing new methods and techniques. For example, structured materials for mathematics and reading laboratories were widely used in special schools years before they became commonplace in the regular schools.

The further work of the Guidance and Special Education Branch includes educational and vocational guidance through the whole range of careers. Particularly significant has been the progressive extension of these services to country areas. In 1966 regional offices were opened in Townsville and Toowoomba, and in 1967 a further office was opened in Rockhampton. Work of this branch includes educational assessment and the advising of migrants, which is quite important. During this year 269 migrant students from overseas and 300 from other States were interviewed regarding their placement in suitable courses in metropolitan high schools. The educational levels of 203 adult migrants were assessed and certificates stating the Queensland equivalent of their education achievement were provided. Other guidance activities include preparation of reports on students for the Repatriation Department and selection reports on behalf of applicants for apprenticeships.

As a step toward meeting the continually increasing demand for special services, provision has been made in the Estimates for an increase of 17 in the professional staff at the Guidance and Special Education Branch.

At pre-school level, the Estimates provide for an increased grant from \$39,500 to \$44,500 to the Creche and Kindergarten Association. The State grant to affiliated kindergartens will increase from \$1,100 to \$1,250 a unit from January, 1969. Here again, this is consistent with this Government's appreciation of the valuable work done by kindergartens, as witnessed by the progressive increases provided for in our Estimates year after year.

Government assistance to kindergartens in the financial year 1958 totalled \$33,152, more than double the amount of assistance provided in the previous year. In this year's Estimates provision is made for total assistance amounting to \$194,575.

Since 1958, this Government has increased its grants to affiliated kindergartens from \$500 a unit to \$1,250. Assistance to kindergartens included a special grant of \$100,000

in 1959-60 towards the cost of a new kindergarten teachers' college, enabling 182 enrolments this year compared with 34 in the year 1957.

Where the new concept of education is perhaps most obvious, most encouraging and easiest accepted, is at the primary-school level. The first day at school is no longer the tense moment it once was. Tears and tantrums have given way to smiles and enthusiasm. That may not be 100 per cent. so, but it is noticeably the case. Today it is common knowledge that school no longer marks a sharp break from play one day and commencement of lessons the next. Today we set the stage for learning. To a certain extent, lessons are a continuation of play, but under systematic supervision.

Where as the infant learns to play, the primary-school child plays to learn. School designs, teaching aids, textbooks and even furniture are planned in the light of our understanding that learning takes place best when the experiences planned are in keeping with the developmental growth of pupils. Syllabuses are planned to include activities which are vital and meaningful to those participating. Experiences are co-operatively planned and carried out by teachers and pupils, providing a stimulating and happy environment. The creation of ideal conditions for learning constitutes a mammoth task, and one which the Government has faced up to and is proceeding with at a commendable rate.

Of course, we are bound to have critics, some quite honest, some not so honest, and some quite irresponsible. There are others who should know better and can only be manipulating facts and circumstances for their own personal and political reasons. They persist in attributing to the Government the hangovers from the bad old days, and, even more foolishly, they insinuate that the Government, by some stroke of magic or a wave of a conjurer's wand, could, and should, have produced overnight an education Utopia.

Were it not so tragic it would be amusing that so often the cry for change to modernity, and also the cry against change, emanate from the same source, even the same person or group of persons. I have already referred to the complaint about our study overseas of education systems. Those same people insist that we should model more of our systems on those overseas. The president of the Queensland Teachers' Union, who claims—and I have no reason to doubt his claim—to have allowed the expenditure of large sums of money on studying and putting together an ideal classroom, protested that this Government "hadn't a clue" and raged in further frustration when he belatedly realised that the Department of Education had already been working along lines of certain similarities and had indeed planned and prepared long ago for the building of such classrooms. He was in fact a good deal behind the times.

Syllabuses also have come under attack as being antiquated. The president of the Queensland Teachers' Union was in fact quoted in a national newspaper only a short time ago as complaining that Queensland teachers had little to say in the system and are tied down by "silly syllabuses and rubbishy textbooks". That almost constitutes an attack upon members of his own union—the very people who placed him in a position of trust. It is common knowledge in the profession—and certainly Mr. Baldwin should be aware of it—that practising teachers comprise the very large proportion of syllabus committees. It would appear that Mr. Baldwin would do better to liaise more fully with those whom he represents than to complain of insufficient liaison with the Department of Education.

In a speech made by the late Hon. Jack Pizzev in the Address-in-Reply debate in September, 1967, reference was made to new mathematics and science syllabuses then being introduced. Stages 1 to 4 of the new mathematics syllabus were introduced, stages 5 to 6 prepared, and stages 7 to 8 are now ready. All stages will be used in all primary schools by 1969.

As mentioned earlier, a special provision of \$331,000 has been made for the purchase of suitable textbooks in mathematics and social studies. Provision of Cuisenaire material to all pupils and provision of "Background to Mathematics" to all teachers was completed long ago, and that compares more than favourably with what has been done in other States.

The Estimates this year provide, in addition to all other extra provisions for education, a special sum of \$2,000,000 for the modernisation of school furniture and for the supply of further teaching aids and school requisites.

**Mr. Sherrington:** Why has it to be a special sum? Is it because it is an election year?

**Mr. Houston:** Yes. It will not be done next year unless we do it.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** It is a special sum to meet special requirements that are developing in this State.

**Mr. Sherrington:** Why can't it be included in the other Estimates? Why has it to be "special"?

**Mr. FLETCHER:** It is not a bad idea to earmark special sums for the modernisation of school furniture and the supply of further teaching aids. It is quite a good way of identifying such sums in the Budget.

Primary schools already have been provided, either wholly or in part, by the department with new and important teaching aids, including microscopes, tape recorders, duplicating machines, television sets, sets of shapes and balances.

Provision is made for a clerk-typist to be appointed to each Class 1 primary school. There is also provision for the Government to pay full rental of one telephone and the cost of all official calls at all State primary schools. This is an extension of the scheme that began in 1962, when the Government subsidised telephone rental and allowed the cost of official calls to be recovered from the school petty cash.

Primary-school transport services now number 805, compared with 369 in 1957. Pupils conveyed by these services now number 41,713. The conveyance allowance to parents now totals \$3,158,000, compared with no such payments previously.

**Mr. Aikens:** Compared with \$1.18 under Labour.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** No dollars, no cents.

The Government may well also compare with justifiable pride the fact that former Labour Governments did not provide any schools of the air with the fact that three such schools are now in operation. The Royal Flying Doctor Service must be given considerable and due credit for the success of these schools of the air, which so ably supplement the primary-correspondence-school system operating throughout the State. The final stage of a four-stage programme to carry school-of-the-air facilities to primary-school children resident up to 300 miles from the Charleville Flying Doctor Base is currently being effected, with the full co-operation and aid of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. These schools of the air operate from the bases at Charters Towers, Mt. Isa, and Charleville. The department has provided for a grant of \$10,000 per annum to help meet expenses of services within the structure of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

A special course for governesses is conducted by the department to increase efficiency further in the home supervision of correspondence lessons. The course last year was particularly successful and, indeed, appreciation was expressed by the Queensland Country Women's Association for what it recognises as a very valuable service.

The Department of Education has accepted the responsibility for the Aboriginal settlement schools at Cherbourg, Woorabinda, Yarrabah, Palm Island, and Bamaga, as well as those already under its control.

Facilities for the training of Torres Strait Island teachers have been made at Kedron Park Teachers' College. After 12 months at the college, teachers return to schools on the islands with greater teaching skill.

In fact, an increase in professionalism is general throughout the teaching service. For instance, the much discussed and very valuable in-service training has increased to the extent that residential seminars are held regularly, vocational courses are arranged, and district inspectors' seminars have been increased.

The groups who attend residential seminars are encouraged with first-class train travel or refund of their private car-transport costs, plus full accommodation. Those teachers who attend summer vacation in-service schools are provided with first-class rail travel, and assistance is given in finding suitable accommodation.

At these seminars, lectures are given by specialists in the various fields of education, discussion groups are formed and encouraged, and generally, by reason of visual aids and the widening of horizons, our teachers are given new concepts.

On the subject of in-service education, basically members of a profession must accept personal responsibility to keep abreast of educational developments and practices. The most effective form of in-service education occurs within the school itself. All who occupy positions of responsibility in the school—that is to say, principals, deputy principals, subject masters, head teachers and senior teachers—have a leadership role involving responsibility for in-service training. This has long been the accepted position in overseas and Australian schools. I am confident that members of the Queensland teaching service readily accept this responsibility.

Inspectors have an important role in in-service training. A major part of their work lies in the area of providing help in the form of advice and encouragement for inexperienced teachers, and reports indicate that this work is being carried out very successfully.

The department accepts that where there are major changes in courses such as reading, mathematics and science, it carries an obligation to provide an opportunity for principals, head teachers, senior teachers and subject masters to become familiar with the proposed changes by arranging seminars during the school year.

The department has also, for many years, organised vacation courses, of which I have already spoken, for those teachers desiring further assistance in various subjects or as an opportunity to improve their professional competence. The pattern of week-long residential seminars held for principals, head teachers and deputy principals in recent years is evidence of the department's acceptance of this responsibility.

Considerable thought is being given to new courses to which the department has been committed.

In country areas where single teacher accommodation was difficult to secure or unsatisfactory, arrangements have been made with the Queensland Housing Commission for the provision of twin-unit dwellings and houses to meet the needs of teachers.

Fortunately, and because of this Government's foresight in progressively extending transport systems for country children, many

small schools have been closed in favour of this transport to larger and better-equipped schools.

Over the past 10 years, class sizes in Queensland primary schools have steadily become smaller. This is, incidentally, another area of contradictory statements that I referred to earlier. We seem never to cease hearing about overcrowded classrooms; yet in September, 1968, the journal of the Queensland Teachers' Union itself recognised the progress that has been made and indicated that the "gradual improvement in this regard . . . was encouraging."

It is of course obvious that the task of reducing class sizes cannot be accomplished overnight. It is equally obvious that, with time, the task must become even greater with student numbers increasing, with increasing proportions of pupils entering high school, and with increasing numbers staying in secondary school to Grade 12. On the matter of class sizes, it is worthy of note that critics make little comparison on class sizes here with those overseas. The reason is obvious enough, since in almost every country there are some schools with overlarge classes, insufficient teachers and also inadequate accommodation. Faced with this problem, school systems in the United States years ago undertook a somewhat drastic solution. This involved halving the school day, with some pupils attending in the mornings and some attending in the afternoons only. Over 170,000 primary-school pupils were restricted in this manner. Similar systems operate in Hong Kong and Japan, and in many other countries.

When people talk about large classes they are referring to classes that, in their opinion, are too large. However, we find that, even on such well-known committees as the Newsom and Plowden committees, virtually nobody was able to say what size a class should be. Indeed, research findings do not indicate that there is one best size or one best teacher-pupil ratio. One comprehensive study in the United States found very few differences between the educational programmes observed in small classes of 25 and fewer pupils and those observed in larger classes of 35 or more. Large classes and small classes differed significantly on only 26 of nearly 500 items investigated.

The conclusions that were drawn from this study were that, while few significant differences were found between small and large classes, results indicated that small classes did not, over all, prove superior on the criteria measured in the study.

**Mr. Davies:** What we want to know is the size to which classes are being reduced here.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** I have just said that they are being progressively reduced.

I hasten to say that this is not to be construed as a defence of large classes, for it is obvious that the smaller the class the

more attention a good teacher can devote to individual pupils. However, it does indicate that educational research has yet to discover the most advantageous class size.

An analysis of the information gathered from Queensland schools over the past year shows very encouraging trends. In primary schools they are—

One in every two classes in the State has an enrolment of 35 or fewer;

Over the past year there has been a decrease of 11 per cent. in the number of classes over 35. This indicates some improvement—not enough, perhaps, but at least we are not slipping;

Two years ago there were 57 classes of 50 or more pupils; in 1968 there are four only. This also indicates some progress.

As I have said previously, much remains to be done; but making progress we are, and as fast as is reasonably possible.

Our capital-works programme provides for \$4,276,000 to be expended on State primary-school buildings. In country areas new State primary-school buildings will be erected at Babinda, Cannon Vale, Cooktown, Helidon, Kingsthorpe, Kingston, Woodstock and Vincent. Additions will be made at Broadbeach, Currajong, Frenchville, Goondiwindi, Tewantin, Town View, Walkervale, Warra and Weipa South. In Brisbane, additions are scheduled for Aspley East, Jindalee, Kenmore, Kenmore South, Mt. Gravatt South, Richlands East, Runcorn, Servicetown South and Watson Road. New State primary schools will be built at Woodridge North and also at Petrie Terrace.

Details of the Petrie Terrace school have already been announced. Planned to be Queensland's most modern primary school, incorporating concepts in school design that are totally new to this State, the new Petrie Terrace school will next year replace the one destroyed by fire this year. As was promised to the Petrie Terrace Parents and Citizens' Association, it was always our intention that that association and the head-teacher would be brought into consultations on the design and construction of the school. This promise is being kept, and two such conferences have already taken place.

The whole planning and concept of this school, which is well likely to provide guidelines for those to follow, has been researched, studied, discussed and so formulated by educationalists, taking into consideration the most practical, the most modern and, above all, the best ideas culled from overseas advances. Its basic design is tuned to modern teaching methods and also takes advantage of Queensland's climatic conditions.

While to genuine people and those not envious of our achievements our enthusiasm over this particular new school is very obvious and altogether pardonable, I must make it clear that we do not pretend that it will prove to be the end.

**Mr. Aikens:** I'll bet it will not be built in North Queensland.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** Possibly we will build the next one in North Queensland.

We should like to think that it will be the end, and of course we hope that it will; but, as I have said before, all education, all knowledge, is a continuing thing. Therefore, we realise that we should, and hope that we may, learn from this new concept and from it gain either a prototype or an even better design. At all events, we certainly will not be in a position to sweep away overnight all the older schools and systems and conjure up new and modern buildings in their stead.

At the risk of being repetitious, I claim that we are moving in the right direction as fast as can be reasonably expected, and certainly very much faster than any previous Queensland Government moved, and, I may add, not too slowly when compared with those overseas countries so often referred to.

For example, the primary-school system in the United Kingdom is generally conceded as ranking very highly, but in that country, of 20,060 schools, more than half—12,500 of them—were built before 1902, and of that number half were built prior to the year 1875. Hon. members can imagine the likely design, size and facilities of such schools compared with the type of building that is desirable today.

**Mr. Aikens:** Why don't you go to the Townsville South school? It could beat those to a frazzle; it was built in the time of the Crimean War.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** I will go up and see it as soon as I am able to. I will get the hon. gentleman to take me there and show me.

A revolution has taken place in secondary education in Queensland in the last 10 years. Unlike revolutions which produce chaos and suffering, this is accepted by enlightened people as one of the most progressive developments in education this century.

**Mr. Houston:** You are putting a lot of propaganda over.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** There is no propaganda in my speech.

**Mr. Houston:** Why do you keep praising yourself?

**Mr. FLETCHER:** I am simply reciting the facts.

**Mr. Aikens:** You are playing yourself down.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** That is quite right.

It represents the realisation of a programme designed to offer secondary education to all; not to any elite; not to the academically brilliant; but to all young people of all types of ability, aptitude and social background. This has been our aim.

When I point out that the State secondary-school enrolment has exploded from 14,000 to almost 77,000 in 10 years, hon. members must begin to appreciate the magnitude of this development. This, of course, is only part of the story. The secondary school has become much more comprehensive. Its entire programme has had to be redesigned to meet the greatly widened interests and abilities of its students and, at the same time, meet the demands of a rapidly changing and highly complex world.

This Government, through the Department of Education in Queensland, has moved rapidly in the up-dating of the mathematics, science and other syllabuses at all levels; in implementing the provision of new and comprehensively equipped Commonwealth-financed science blocks, and in the encouragement of students toward higher education. This is plain for all to see. We are determined to provide the most of the best and the latest, in keeping with the present and future needs, within the limits of our capacity.

There is more in the background to this picture. From 36 State high schools and 34 secondary departments 10 years ago, secondary-schooling facilities have been so widely dispersed that there are now 98 State high schools and 68 secondary departments in Queensland, not to mention the new high schools and additions to cost \$4,321,188 to be erected this financial year, a figure that does not take into account the Gorton Grant Senior Science Laboratories programme to the tune of \$1,128,437, and the parallel Commonwealth scheme of assistance with secondary-school libraries calling for the provision of \$27,000,000 over three years throughout Australia.

Today, in every Queensland town of any size, there is education to at least Junior standard for all who want it, and for approximately 80 centres outside of Brisbane there is education to Senior standard. This is no minor achievement. No longer need parents shun inland towns because their children's future might be jeopardised. No longer does the bright 14-year-old boy or girl in remote places find formal schooling at an end. No-one visiting our remoter towns after an absence of some years can fail to be impressed by the impact that the provision of secondary-school facilities is having on the community.

There is more—a great deal more—to be said of this State's progressive and beneficial dispersement of educational facilities. If hon. members have travelled overseas they will have noticed, I am sure, that the affluence of an area is reflected in the quality of its schools. The richer the area, the higher the quality of the educational facilities; the poorer the area, the poorer the schools in every way. This simply is not so in Queensland. The Government gives the country areas the same high quality of building, staffing, teaching aids and general assistance as it gives the largest school in the most affluent areas of the most



prosperous city. Yet there exist those who continue to compare our efforts and achievements with those in countries overseas.

By what fair and equitable standard can we possibly be compared? Construct 1,000 miles of highway in the U.K. and you link a very large number of centres with populations in the 400,000 to 500,000 mark, each bread-winner paying heavy taxes for everything, including education. You link areas developed over the many hundreds of years of that country's age. Construct 1,000 miles of highway here in Australia and stretching before you are many thousand more miles after you have finished them; also, you have linked just a comparatively few towns, populated not in the hundreds of thousands but possibly in the tens of thousands. Moreover, your 1,000 miles of highway link areas where, though much has been done, so much more must yet be done, where dams and harbours and roads and 101 other vital developmental must be tackled as fast as finance is available, so that the vast resources and potential of our State may be tapped. In short, we are having to do a great deal of other developmental work at the same time as keeping up with the Joneses educationally.

Travel these countries, look not necessarily in the nooks and crannies, but in the big cities, the not so wealthy or healthy areas, at the schools which exist there in far greater profusion than ours—and I may add a degree of confusion not even imagined here—and you will find old schools, dingy, dark and dirty schools, under-staffed schools, every educational evil you care to concern yourself with, and again, in far greater quantity, even comparatively, than we know of here in Queensland.

**Mr. Houston:** Where is that?

**Mr. FLETCHER:** In any of the older countries overseas.

We have problems. We admit this. There are still many things to do. So have they got problems, which are sometimes greater and more difficult than those that we have. All things considered, our system of giving the most of the best without over-high taxes can certainly be compared, I think, only favourably with that in the overseas countries I have referred to. All this very real progress of ours has not been achieved easily.

Apart from the over-all cost of buildings and equipment, which is generally much higher in country areas, the staffing of country schools has posed a major difficulty. We are no Robinson Crusoe on that island of problem, either. Practically every country in the world is suffering from a shortage of secondary teachers, and all types of schemes, including the sending of recruiting teams to other countries, are being employed to attract more secondary teachers.

In the United States of America recently, a prominent educationist from Stanford University told me while I was there that America must face the fact that if present accepted staffing scales were the criterion, the situation in the years ahead would become worse instead of better. He gave me this as his considered opinion, and he was one of the America's top men.

In Queensland there is no possibility of a spectacular solution to the problem, and any political person or party promising an instant solution is guilty of total ignorance or total lack of integrity and sincerity. The reason that there is no possibility of a spectacular solution here—and this statement must be credited with the modesty with which it is offered, since it is offered despite the already-mentioned fact that provision is currently made for a record recruitment of 2,050 trainees from next January—is that only those whose academic background indicates that they could complete the course of teacher training are offered scholarships. The total number of these is not so much above what is required to meet basic need. The teaching force can be increased only gradually—or only as rapidly as we can get those whose academic background indicates that they could complete the course. In point of fact, last year—here I am dealing only with scholarships to teachers' colleges—3,550 scholarships for a two-year course were offered and 1,480 were accepted; 141 one-year-course scholarships were offered and 76 were accepted.

It is common knowledge that students apply—and good luck to them—for every scholarship offering around the place, and when the time comes they accept what suits them best personally or, as often happens, accept none for some reason or other (they may marry, for example) over which neither we nor anyone else has control. We do not have acceptors for all scholarships offered.

I wish to establish this point clearly to refute the completely wrong impression, all too often voiced, that scores or even hundreds of young people wishing to become secondary teachers, and also academically and medically suited to become secondary teachers, are refused such an opportunity in Queensland. This is irresponsible nonsense. Quite plainly the fact is that we have not as many young people academically, medically and otherwise suited for training as secondary teachers as we would like to have.

In fact, with extreme pressure to expand educational services in all fields, it becomes extremely difficult to effect any improvement in the staffing of high schools from one year to another. Yet the fact remains that improvement has been effected, and plans are in hand to maintain the progress so far made. Moreover, it is expected with not undue confidence that the erection of a teachers' college in Townsville will bring into the

service a number who otherwise would have been reluctant to undertake the course of training in Brisbane.

Another problem associated with staffing stems from the requirement that all teachers undertake to serve anywhere in the State. This would not be a major concern if every part of the State produced its share of teachers, but unfortunately practically all teachers come from cities and towns along the coast, and quite understandably most teachers feel reluctant to leave the larger centres for service in a high school or a secondary department in a remote small township. The department does its absolute best to distribute the hardships of transfer evenly, and no teacher is ever left for a long period in an unfavourable outback area. Nevertheless some still feel that their own particular circumstances deserve special treatment which obviously makes it the harder to do the right thing by all. In the face of all these things, we continue, perhaps not as fast as we would like, to progress.

At the secondary level, as already shown at primary level, we also have improved, and continue to improve, class sizes. It is customary in secondary schools to use the size of classes in English as the index of class size. Working on this scheme, it may be said that each secondary class in Queensland contains an average of 30.8 students. This practice, however, conceals the fact that in many subjects classes are not as large as they are for English.

In 1967 a survey of sizes of classes in the various subjects revealed that, while some students were taught in classes of more than 30, there were very many classes in which numbers were much smaller. In Grades 11 and 12, 69.5 per cent. of English classes contained fewer than 30 students; 78.2 per cent. in chemistry contained fewer than 30 students; 80.5 per cent. in mathematics, 85.6 per cent. in physics, 90.6 per cent. in geography, 95.2 per cent. in history, and 95.6 per cent. of French classes contained fewer than 30 students.

**Mr. Newton:** It would depend on the subjects taken, of course.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** I have given the class numbers.

**Mr. Newton:** It does not work out that way.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** In Grades 8, 9 and 10 over one-third of English, mathematics and French classes contained fewer than 30 students, whilst in some classes—for example, typewriting and business principles—almost two-thirds of the classes contained fewer than 30 students. Over-all figures show that in Grades 8, 9 and 10, 55 per cent. of all classes contained fewer than 30 students, whilst, in Grades 11 and 12, 87 per cent. of classes contained fewer than 30 students.

Whilst there has been this encouraging increase in the number of small classes, there has been a corresponding decrease in the number of large classes. Over the last two years the number of classes containing in excess of 40 students has halved—from 18.1 per cent. to 9.6 per cent.

For new State high schools and additions to our Queensland high schools, the estimated expenditure this coming year is \$4,321,188. New State high schools are to be built at MacGregor, a division of Mt. Gravatt, in Brisbane, and at Emerald and Yeppoon in the country. A new secondary department building is to be added at Lowood; a secondary department and manual training and domestic science additions are to be provided at Pomona State School. Secondary department additions are to be made at Dimbulah, and manual training buildings are to be built at the State high schools at Cairns and Maryborough. Additions will be made to the Brisbane State High School and at Coorparoo, Mt. Gravatt, and Nashville. Additions and fire-damage replacements will be made to the Wynnum State High School. In the country, additions will be made to State high schools at Atherton, Ayr, Beaudesert, Beenleigh, Bremer, Heatley, Ingham, Ipswich, Lockyer, Longreach, Malanda, Mareeba, Mirani, Mt. Morgan, Mt. Isa, Pittsworth, Roma and Sarina, and at Miami State High School on the Gold Coast. Further work will be completed at Centenary Heights, and other additions will, of course, be under consideration.

Finally on this point, a word on temporary or demountable classrooms. The much-maligned demountable classroom is in fact a better-than-adequate classroom. It is airy, well-ventilated and flexible in use, and it lends itself to modern syllabuses. It would be wrong to pretend that much work in replacing certain temporary classrooms has not still to be done. However, it should now be clear that this matter has high priority on the Government's programme and is being given every consideration humanly possible.

The temporary classrooms are, in my opinion, a worse problem than the demountables.

**Mr. Newton:** You ask the teachers. They claim that in some cases they are hot boxes.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** That could be true.

Because of the Government's foresight and administration, the Technical Education Branch of the Department of Education has been able to make notable improvements. This has been due mainly to the allocation of both State and Commonwealth funds.

Since the technical training sections of the State high schools at Cairns, Bundaberg and Maryborough were separated from the high schools and became separate technical colleges, these colleges, together with the other technical colleges, have continued to grow in

enrolments, and new workshops and classrooms have been provided to improve teaching facilities and to up-date existing equipment.

New technical colleges have been established at Eagle Farm, Yeronga and Kangaroo Point, and the first stage of a new college to serve the Gold Coast area will be opened in 1969. Plans are being developed for new technical colleges at Ithaca, Coorparoo, and the Pine Rivers area, and for an office training section at Ekibin.

At present under construction from State funds are—

Maryborough Technical College: a three-storey workshop-classroom block for the plumbing, welding, electrical and motor mechanics trades;

Townsville Technical College: a three-storey workshop-classroom block for the plumbing and woodworking trades.

At present being planned for commencement of construction in the near future are—

Bundaberg Technical College: an administration-classroom block with a laboratory for training cane-testers;

Maryborough Technical College: a workshop-classroom block for the fitting and turning and woodworking trades;

Rockhampton Technical College: a workshop-classroom block for the fitting and turning and woodworking trades;

Toowoomba Technical College: a workshop-classroom block for the plumbing, painting, bricklaying and motor mechanics trades;

Ekibin Office Training Section: a teaching block for training girls in all facets of office work.

In general, it can be said that technical education provides tuition at five distinct levels: post-graduate level, where the entry requirement for the course is prescribed as the holding of a recognised degree or diploma; tertiary courses, where the entry requirement is prescribed as the completion of the secondary education course, that is, at Senior level; sub-tertiary courses, requiring entry at Junior level; apprenticeship and post-apprenticeship courses, involving training in most of the apprenticeship callings; and hobby or recreational courses, which serve a most valuable purpose in allowing adults to develop new skills for their own satisfaction and, in some cases, permitting rehabilitation of a handicapped person.

Technical education in Queensland is expected to cover the whole spectrum of technological education, ranging from post-graduate courses through to hobby courses. Few people realise the complexity or the magnitude of this field of education. It caters for approximately 20,000 students in Queensland who are attending institutes of technology, technical colleges, tutorial classes,

supervisory classes, or are receiving correspondence tuition through the Technical Correspondence School.

**Mr. Houston:** Why couldn't you put all this into a report?

**Mr. FLETCHER:** This is a report. This allows the Opposition to comment on this as a report.

On the examination side, it is worthy of note that each year in excess of 500 examination papers are prepared for the apprenticeship examinations alone.

This task is made even more difficult because many of the apprentices are involved in trades where they are not stationary, and even though an apprentice may nominate to sit for an examination at one particular centre, he may in fact change his examination centre three or four times before actually sitting for the examination paper. Many people regard the apprenticeship system in Queensland as being the finest in Australia.

**Mr. Houston:** You are "kidding"!

**Mr. FLETCHER:** I am not "kidding".

The Department of Education is responsible for the technical college training of apprentices, and the Department of Labour and Tourism, through its apprenticeship offices, is responsible for the industrial side of apprenticeship. These two departments work very harmoniously. It was in 1964 that a new Apprenticeship Act was introduced and this Act brought into being many revolutionary ideas which are now being adopted by some of the other States. The 1964 Apprenticeship Act prescribed for the first time in Queensland complete daylight training for apprentices in the first and second years and partial daylight training for apprentices in the third year, and the provisions made in the Queensland technical colleges enabled this to be provided.

In order to supplement the apprenticeship training available, the Department of Education this year introduced the advanced trade courses. These courses are available in the fields of building and furnishing, mechanical, electrical, printing, automotive, plumbing and sheet-metal. In general, two types of courses are offered in the advanced trade field; one type of course provides for a deeper penetration into the theory of the trade, supplemented by either studies in supervision of staff or elementary bookkeeping; the other type of course provides for a much deeper penetration into the trade with supplementary knowledge. For example, available for both fitting and turning tradesmen and motor mechanics is a course that leads on to the maintenance of heavy earth-moving equipment covering both the prime mover and the hydraulics sides of this equipment.

Anyone labouring under the delusion that our courses and facilities for apprentices are not generally of the best should visit a few

of our technical colleges. He should visit also the School of Graphic Arts at Kangaroo Point where he would see machinery and equipment and instruction, as modern as today, for our future lithographers, compositors, bookbinders, engravers and others of the printing industry.

The Department of Education does provide some recreational type of courses in fields such as dressmaking, millinery, cake-icing, floral decoration, elementary wood-work and cooking. These courses have been reorganised and many of them are now available as a set syllabus. The purpose of the revised course is to allow the students attending to gain fundamental knowledge of the particular field on a step-by-step basis, so that a lady who wishes to take dressmaking will go through all the various phases associated with cutting the material and making the dress. She then can become competent to make at least some clothes for herself or her children.

In 1965 the then Minister for Education established the Queensland Institute of Technology at Brisbane, and in 1967 further institutes were established at Toowoomba and Rockhampton. Each institute is an institute within its own right, and the Toowoomba and Rockhampton institutes are not just branches of Brisbane. The Brisbane institute is, of course, much larger than the other two and can offer a greater range of course material.

The courses offered at the institutes and those offered at the university lead to the same end as far as recognition and employment are concerned, but the nature of the courses is somewhat different.

The fundamental science to be included in both courses must be the same, but the structures of the courses differ in the final year. The institute course concentrates more on applied technology based on sound scientific knowledge, whereas the university course tends more towards engineering science with a bias towards producing students capable of undertaking advanced research.

At the Queensland Institute of Technology, Brisbane, 42 courses are conducted within the six departments.

**Mr. Houston:** Tell us why you restricted them last year.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** That has been made public.

Twenty of these are at the tertiary level, 19 at the sub-tertiary level and three at post-diploma level. Advisory committees operating under the Technical Educational Advisory Council meet regularly and keep courses under review. An advisory committee on science, with a broad academic and industrial representation, finalised the structure of the diploma in science course. New sub-tertiary courses in surveying and instrumentation and control were introduced in 1968.

Of the courses that are available only at an institute of technology, we can name optometry, medical laboratory technology and agricultural engineering. At the present time, three courses of a post-graduate nature are offered at the Brisbane Institute of Technology. These are a diploma course in town and country planning, a diploma course in landscape architecture and a diploma course in business administration. These courses are proving to be very popular, and the people who have pursued them have found them very beneficial in providing the specialised knowledge on the one hand or a breadth of knowledge in the case of business administration on the other, to give a completeness to the academic training obtained in the primary qualification.

The certificate courses that have been developed are designed to satisfy the requirements of industry at technician level. These certificate courses are available at an institute of technology, at some of the technical colleges and by correspondence through the Technical Correspondence School. It is considered that these certificate courses will be in very great demand by industry throughout Queensland. In many cases, industries are coming to realise that they will have a demand for technicians to carry out much of the work instead of relying on engineers. This has been the general practice in other countries and it has been found that, by the use of technicians to carry out routine work, engineers can be released from this type of work to carry out the more academic work for which they have been trained.

Capital works at Queensland's institutes of technology call for the expenditure this financial year of \$3,301,626, while from Consolidated Revenue a 45 per cent. increase to \$2,485,000 has been provided for these rapidly expanding institutes. It would be idle to suggest that no more is to be achieved at our three institutes of technology. Certainly more institutes, more buildings, more facilities and more qualified staff are all highly desirable aims, but from where is the money to come to provide still more of everything, particularly skilled staff? Hon. members opposite know that the lack of skilled staff is one of the main obstacles in the way of the development of these institutes at the moment.

It is suggested that highly qualified staff can nearly always command higher salaries elsewhere, and this is true to some degree. After all, there are just not enough of the sufficiently qualified people to go around, and this problem of lack of qualified staff is common throughout most of the world and not only to Queensland.

From Consolidated Revenue a special provision of \$30,000 is made in the Estimates to meet the first costs of a rural training school at Emerald similar to the one now established at Longreach.

An interest in rural activities is fostered in Queensland children from as early as their primary years by the experiences they share in the activities of their agricultural project clubs. The subjects of agriculture and animal husbandry are included in Junior courses available at a number of schools, and rural courses are provided by the Technical Correspondence School. These facts are more or less well known; however, not so well known are recent developments in agricultural education.

For some years the Queensland Agricultural College, Lawes, has provided post-Junior courses leading to diplomas in agriculture, animal husbandry, dairy manufactures and horticulture. At the beginning of 1967 these were replaced by courses with entry at two levels, namely, after Junior and after Senior. Boys who intend to become practical farmers or rural technicians are able to undertake two-year certificate courses in agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, poultry husbandry and food manufactures. Those who aim to become rural technologists may enrol in one of the three-year tertiary courses available at Gatton College.

The tertiary courses lead to the award of an associate diploma in the areas of rural technology, horticultural technology, poultry technology or food technology. Students who successfully complete the diploma course may elect to undertake a fourth year of advanced studies leading to the award of a fellowship diploma.

Boys who desire to enter the sheep and wool industry can enrol in the two-year post-Junior course that is provided at the Longreach Rural Training School. It is a boarding-school with a sheep property of 32,000 acres on which is provided practical experience in sheep. The course offered at the school covers five major subject areas, namely, animal husbandry, farm and station management (a very important subject), station engineering and general studies.

In each of the last three financial years a sum of \$300,000 was allocated from State Loan Funds and an equal amount from the Commonwealth Technical Training Fund to provide new teaching and dormitory accommodation at the Queensland Agricultural College, Lawes. In this way the Government has implemented a programme to ensure that the facilities will match the educational development of the institution. In the re-building programme at the Queensland Agricultural College, the second of the new residential blocks was completed in August, 1967, and the plant industries teaching block was completed towards the end of the year. Plans were also finalised for the construction of ancillary buildings for farm plant and implement storage. These include studies of reproductive efficiency in cattle, hybridisation of cattle and poultry and animal nutrition, and continuation of hybrid maize breeding.

Investigations are being continued into the long-term effects on soil properties of varying levels of salinity in irrigation waters—a very important problem in parts of Queensland—and into problems associated with pasture establishment and management, soil chemistry, and the agronomy of potatoes and other crops.

A grant from the Australian Honey Board enabled the commencement of a study into the effect of different hive designs. Part of the work done by the Queensland Agricultural College relates to the provision of stud stock for primary industry.

The roles of the Queensland Agricultural College and the rural training school are certainly very important. They are roles that this Government neither underestimates nor neglects to foster equally with other areas of education.

**Mr. Houston:** Was that "on the go" before your Government came to office?

**Mr. FLETCHER:** Yes, and it has been improved a lot since we came in.

**Mr. Houston:** I expected you to say that.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** Thank you.

The number of teachers employed in primary, special and secondary schools at 1 August last was 10,743, an improvement on the figure of 10,035 taken out the previous year. As we have already shown, provision has been made for a further increase of 850 in the coming year. With the advent of the three-year course there will not be so many moving into the schools.

**Mr. Houston:** There will not be so many next year, and there will be a drastic reduction the following year.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** We are putting more into our colleges to make up for that.

**Mr. P. Wood:** You referred previously to recruiting troubles. Do you think you will be able to recruit the number you want?

**Mr. FLETCHER:** I have already told the Committee what I thought about that. Provision has been made for an all-time record in recruitment of 2,050 from January, 1969. The hon. member asked if we can get them. I do not know; I can only hope. That will raise the number of teachers in training to some 3,800. In 1969 there will be four teachers' colleges, situated at Kedron Park, Kelvin Grove, Mt. Gravatt and Townsville. In addition to the two new colleges, a further very large addition is being made to the Kelvin Grove college for the library, and for instruction in arts and crafts. These new buildings will be equipped and furnished in a manner that will make them comparable with the best of their kind. Closed-circuit television will be a feature, and other modern teaching aids will be provided. The provision of more teachers, better

amenities for teachers and teachers in training, and better teaching methods, are matters of prime concern. This Government and the officers of the Department of Education are keenly aware (as I am also) of the burden of responsibility that inevitably is the lot of every teacher.

Every endeavour is made to attract candidates likely to develop into suitable teachers. We at least know that, to be a teacher, a person must be of decent character, a person who, if he or she influences young people in any way, will desirably influence them for their own or the common good. That is elementary.

As people are chosen to be teachers largely but not exclusively on the basis of academic performance, it should follow that teachers have the intelligence to realise that they can have considerable influence upon their charges and, therefore, at all times must give of their best talents, understanding, sympathy, strengths and self-discipline. To achieve such flexibility, and to aim at all times to be an example to be looked up to, while remaining a properly adjusted and normal person under the strain of teaching, calls for a high degree of dedication which is, most fortunately, common in our teaching profession.

Our teachers are entitled to the respect due to an honourable profession. They are entitled to the best conditions, both outside and inside the classroom, that this Government can offer, and I state categorically that this is the completely sincere aim of my department.

The special committee appointed to review teacher education met first in July, 1967, and has now submitted an interim report dealing with the education of teachers for primary schools. As a result of the committee's recommendations, a course of three years' training for primary teachers will be gradually implemented, commencing in 1969, when the three-year course will apply to one-third of the new intake for that year. In 1970 two-thirds of the new intake will begin the three-year course, and in 1971 the scheme will be made uniform.

This extension in training will enable education in teachers' colleges to increase, at the one time, in breadth and depth in academic studies, in the theory and methods of teaching and in the development of teaching skills. This will raise the status of the teaching profession. Teachers successfully completing the three-year course will proceed by annual increments to the equivalent of the present top classification without the necessity of further study.

Work on the development of the St. Lucia and Townsville universities is proceeding at a rate which is making them outstanding architectural as well as educational institutions. In very recent years 17 new Chairs have been created at St. Lucia, and 20 additional Chairs have been created in existing departments. Seven professors have been appointed to the University College of

Townsville. The range of courses has increased considerably. Bachelor degree courses have been established in a further eight departments, and undergraduate and post-graduate courses leading to the degree of Bachelor of Education have been established. Eight diploma courses have been added to the range of post-graduate diplomas, while masters' degrees are now offered within 43 of the 53 departments.

Full-time and part-time enrolments at St. Lucia reached a total of 14,726 in 1968. Bachelor degrees conferred increased to 1,526 in the same year. At the University College of Townsville, full-time and part-time enrolments in 1968 were 617. It can only be expected that increased enrolments will continue, the present development being of course due in most part to the fact that opportunities for a full course of secondary education are now available in most parts of the State. It is expected that 10,233 students will sit for Senior this year compared with 2,984 in 1957, and a good number of these will naturally wish to continue into the tertiary areas. The State Government, with the Commonwealth, is therefore pressing ahead with the development of the St. Lucia and Townsville campuses.

Site preparation has commenced at Mt. Gravatt for the opening of the proposed new university there. A sealed ring-road has been completed on the crest of this splendid site, and the provision of water and other services is proceeding. Commencement of construction will depend on the recommendation of the Australian Universities Commission and a decision on provision of funds for the period 1970-72.

Before I resume my seat, I place on record our welcome to Queensland's first Director of Cultural Activities, Mr. Arthur Justin Creedy, M.A. He arrived in Queensland from England on Monday, 14 October, accompanied by his wife and two of his three children.

Mr. Creedy, whose appointment followed what may be termed an exhaustive exploration in an effort to find the best man possible for the job to be done, was selected from 65 applicants, 25 of whom lodged their applications with the Agent-General for Queensland in London. Mr. Creedy's experience in music and the arts includes dramatic experience as producer, actor, dramatist and critic. He has had operatic experience as producer, singer, librettist and lecturer. His experience in planning includes not only university and extramural courses but also research, courses in fine art, theatre and music productions. This background and experience fit him admirably for appointment as Director of Cultural Activities, and I am confident that under his guidance there will be worthwhile developments in cultural activities in Queensland.

As I see it, Mr. Creedy's first task will be to prepare a coherent and imaginative plan for this development. To prepare this plan

he obviously will need to study in depth the present position. If he did not do that, there might occur wasteful overlap in some directions, and a vacuum in others.

**Mr. Houston:** The hon. member for Maryborough will be of great assistance to him.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** How the director goes about preparing a plan for the future is, of course, up to him. He has the required experience and ability. He will certainly have my co-operation and, I am sure, the co-operation of existing cultural organisations, bodies and individuals, and the hon. member for Maryborough.

Mr. J. F. Wieneke, Director of the Queensland Art Gallery, has achieved remarkable results in his administration. Displays and exhibitions have been well presented and well received; country centres have received exhibitions of art; and, in general, the gallery has functioned very smoothly and efficiently. Moreover, because of his first-class knowledge of art valuation, and by reason of his sound advice, Mr. Wieneke has made possible the purchase of many works of art at prices which have saved the gallery thousands of dollars.

Mr. R. O. J. Mellish, an experienced art judge and researcher in the field of art history, has been appointed Assistant Director of the Queensland Art Gallery. Both Mr. Wieneke and Mr. Mellish are talented Queenslanders, and we can look forward to further steady developments in this area.

Another Queenslander, Mr. Alan Bartholomai, B.Sc., who took his degree at the University of Queensland, majoring in geology, and who had been Acting Director of the Queensland Museum since the previous Director was appointed Chief Government Geologist, was recently appointed Director of the Queensland Museum.

Summarising, our approved works programme provides for primary-school building expenditure of \$4,276,000; for opportunity schools \$200,000; for high schools and secondary departments \$4,321,188; for technical colleges and Gatton College \$2,080,512; for teachers' colleges \$3,322,578; for institutes of technology \$3,301,626; and for sundry educational works \$975,000. Further, there is the special Commonwealth grant of \$300,000 for rebuilding at Gatton, and there will also be a special Commonwealth grant for libraries for State high schools.

Total education expenditure from Consolidated Revenue this year is to be \$86,866,387, the percentage proportion to education from the total Government Consolidated Revenue, excluding railways, being 30.92 per cent. The percentage of education expenditure from tax reimbursements is 56.44 per cent., which is no inconsiderable expenditure.

I speak for my department and for myself, but in doing so I believe that I merely echo the policy of this Government in saying that there is no aim we consider of more importance than the aim of education, which is to assist every individual, without taking issue on race, colour or creed, to attain his full potential. In my department there is a team of jolly good people. By and large, the members of the teaching profession are first-class people also, anxious and willing to get on with the job.

Education has progressed because of the efforts of those dedicated to its progress—the Government, the Directors of Education in my department, their assistants, and the “fair-dinkum” vast majority of the teaching profession.

For myself, I am intensely proud to have followed into the Ministry of Education a man whose purpose and endeavour will be proven to have contributed to the education system of this State so much that is positive, productive, and enduring. I am proud, also, of the officers and members of the teaching profession to whom I have already alluded. I appreciate their dignity under fire, their giving of their total effort. They have my loyalty, as I know I have theirs, and it is my privilege to commend to the Committee and to the people of this State their administration of the allocations made for educational purposes.

**Mr. HOUSTON** (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (5.41 p.m.): I am sure that all hon. members will agree that the Committee has listened to quite a long resume of the Minister's responsibilities, and my feeling was that the Minister showed us that he did not completely understand the whole of the subject matter covered by his portfolio. I say that because he went into minute detail in explaining many matters that I am sure were well known to every hon. member and to anyone who is interested in education generally. In fact, a couple of times he used the term “elementary, I am sure”, and that is exactly what it was.

Of course, it became necessary for the Minister to give the Committee quite a lot of information because the latest report of the Minister for Education that is available to hon. members is for 1967. The details contained in that report show that the figures are up to 1 August, 1967. I think it is shocking that members of this Assembly should be given a report containing information that is 15 or 16 months out of date. What does the Government think Parliament is? It is not a place to debate what happened 18 months ago. We want to know what is happening today. Until the Minister gave us further information today, the latest figures available to me and other hon. members were up to 1 August, 1967.

**Mr. Lee:** Rot!

**Mr. HOUSTON:** The hon. member for Yeronga has been so intent on his own business that he has not even opened the report. If he had, he would have seen that it is a report for the year ended 31 December, 1967, and that the figures included in it are up to 1 August, 1967. As I said earlier, they are 15 or 16 months out of date. I think it is about time that sort of thing stopped. It is not fair to anyone who wishes to analyse the education system in this State.

**Mr. Lee:** It shows how far behind the times you are.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** The Minister came into the Chamber today and gave the Committee information that should have been included in a report and put in the hands of hon. members before the Estimates for the Department of Education were introduced. In effect, all he did was give us bits and pieces of information and bring the report up to date, and it took him over an hour and a-half to do that. As you know, Mr. Hooper, every hon. member in this Chamber wishes to speak on this subject. Standing Orders limit the duration of the debate to three days, and each member is permitted to speak for only 25 minutes. In effect, therefore, the Minister has prevented two or three members from taking part in the debate. Exactly the same effect could have been achieved—I am not criticising the Minister personally, because the procedure that he followed was established in earlier years—if the Minister had brought out a modern, up-to-date report at least a week or so before the Estimates came up for discussion. I suggest that that should be done by the Minister for Education, whoever he may be, next year. Hon. members could then see the number of teachers in service and compare—

**Mr. Lee:** Your problem is that you would not know how to look at it.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** Oh, shut up and keep out of it. You don't know what you are talking about.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr. HOUSTON:** The point is, Mr. Hooper, that I feel very strongly about this. I want to be able to debate the issues before the Committee on sound figures and on a sound basis, not on figures that are 15 or 16 months old.

Now, let us have a look at some of the things the Minister is claiming great credit for. He talks about what the Government has done for the teachers in this State. As I pointed out in the Budget debate—the Treasurer did not give one minute of his time to refute it and this Minister has substantiated it—next year the number of second-year students will be approximately 1,774, give or take one or two according to

failures at the end of this year. The following year we will have only 1,370 first-year students coming in and actually doing the first year of a two-year course. The Minister substantiated this when I said that that is the total to take between the two-year and the three-year courses. The number taking the first year of a three-year course is 680. All this talk about 2,000-odd students coming in next year, therefore, will not assist greatly in the problem of providing enough teachers for the future. As I said, the following year it will be down and the year after that it will be down again.

Now let us look at the educational qualifications that are spoken about. I do not know what the position is this year, but the report deals with the position in 1967. I do not think there is any great change this year, because the Minister did not mention any change and he was up-dating what is in the report. According to the 1968 report, which deals with the position at 1 August, 1967, the total number of teachers with degrees, including primary and secondary teachers, head-masters, principals, deputy principals and the like, was 858. Certainly some of those had three degrees, but, out of a total teaching strength that year of 10,035, only 858 had degrees. In other words, the total number of degreed teachers in our State schools in Queensland is only 8.5 per cent., yet the Government is boasting about what it has done for teacher training. I think it is a shocking situation that this State has such a low percentage of teachers holding degrees.

I know the Minister can get up and say that so many teachers are getting degrees, and I do not want him to go back and tell me what happened in 1957, 11 years ago. I am not concerned with what happened in the past; I am worried about what is happening now.

Let us look now at the number of diploma-holders. The total number of teachers holding diplomas in education or similar qualification is 327, or 3.25 per cent., giving a grand total of only 11.75 per cent. of the teachers in our schools holding degrees or diplomas. When we take into consideration the fact that this includes, as I say, principals, head-masters and so on, I believe it is a very low figure.

Let us now consider the number of teachers who have a class 1 qualification. As I said before, there are 10,035 teachers, or there were in 1967. To bring it up to date, there are 10,743 this year, but my percentages are based on the actual figures in the report for the year before. Out of the number I have mentioned, only 2,222 teachers are class 1 or better. This is 22 per cent. So, here again, within the teaching service, on the Government's own classification of its teachers only 22 per cent. are sufficiently trained to be classified as class 1. How can the Minister come in here and boast about our education system, which he says is much better than that in most other parts of the



world. If this is so, surely the rest of the world must have a very low standard of education.

**Mr. Row:** That is the reason why our teachers are in demand all round the world.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** Only 8.5 per cent. have degrees. Surely the Minister is not suggesting that some of those will be going. Every trained teacher we lose is a critical matter for our education system, and I believe that the Government will have to take positive action to encourage our young teachers to study and get degrees. It is not doing that at the present time.

I want to look now at what education, as we know it, is for. Unfortunately, of course, in many cases people use the term "education" when what they actually mean is that the student is going to school, either as a young person or as an adult. "Education" covers the whole of one's passage through life. In Australia there are many people who have received very little schooling as we know it but who have, by hard work and by learning from experience, been able to obtain and hold some of the highest positions in the land. Surely we must agree that those people are well educated, although they may not have been well schooled.

I believe that the purpose of education must be to enable our young people to cut corners in coping with present-day living conditions instead of forcing them to take the long way round in learning from experience. We must ensure that upon leaving school our young people can earn a living and become acceptable members of society, able to play their part in the development of our society. Last but not least, after completing nearly a lifetime in employment they should be entitled to enjoy their years of leisure in retirement.

We should ensure that our students are sufficiently trained to enable them to be self-supporting. But what is happening at the present time? Among our young people are many who simply cannot cope with adulthood when they reach it and cannot become ordinary members of society. We have an obligation to find the cause of the problem and to endeavour to remedy the situation. The Minister indicated that he realised that there were some students who cannot cope with the school syllabus. If that is so, we need to look at the percentage of the adult population that has missed out on formal schooling.

Far too many young people leave school without being able to fit into today's society. Far too many get into trouble and pose a problem to the State. The courts are telling us that the number of young people who appear in courts on various charges is increasing, and people associated with social welfare are telling us that problems relative to illegitimacy and other undesirable aspects of community life are also increasing

in number. If this is so, surely the root of the trouble lies within our education system, and surely something can be done to correct it at that stage.

It is of no use responsible members of the community saying that the community should do something for young people when they attain the age of 17 or 18 years. Something needs to be done for them in their early years. For many years—and I am not referring only to the present Government—no endeavour has been made to get to the root of the problems that confront those young people who cannot succeed in their primary and secondary education.

I suggest that the Government set up a panel of experts to investigate this matter. We will never be able to claim that our education system is equal to that of any other country while we have these misfits in our society. There must be a place for everybody in the community, but unfortunately some children are left behind in primary and secondary education. Of course, the young people may not be entirely to blame. I am sure that the Minister has spoken to some young people who have claimed that they simply cannot cope with the educational courses that they are asked to undergo. The only way a solution to this problem can be reached is by conducting a thorough investigation into the cause of their trouble. Of course, the Minister can tell us that there are experts in the department who are already doing this. I do not deny that they are trying to do it, but I think they must make a greater effort. Until that is done I will not be satisfied that we have a system of education which is the best in Australia or in the world.

As the Minister said, many people are now remaining longer at school, but how many of them, after staying longer at school, find that they are getting the same jobs as those in earlier generations. Over the years we have raised the qualifications for entry to particular callings from 7th Grade to 8th Grade. It is now a 9th Grade or Junior entry standard. In some callings employers now demand a Senior pass for jobs that previously required a Junior pass, and jobs that used to require Senior standard now require a university degree. In one sense that is good, but unfortunately those who cannot gain the necessary entry standards are being left behind. A bigger gulf is developing between those who are coping and those who cannot cope. Previously, any lad who passed 7th Grade was pretty sure of being apprenticed in one field or another. Unfortunately, those who cannot obtain a Junior pass are now finding it very difficult to get into callings for which previously only a 7th Grade pass was required. I know that the former Minister for Education, the late Mr. Pizzey, attempted to overcome this problem by providing special courses. However, I do not think they provide a real answer, because the majority

of employers take the special courses as an admission that the student is not capable of undergoing higher educational training.

**Mr. Fletcher:** Where do you go from there?

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I think we have to go right back to the first year at high school and completely redesign the courses. I have no time to expound my full thoughts on this matter, but we must remove the stigma of inferiority from students who undertake the special courses.

**Mr. Newton:** There will have to be an 8th Grade leaving certificate.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** There must be something in between, as the hon. member for Belmont says. Whether the answer lies in his proposal or not, I do not know, but the present system is not proving successful.

**Mr. Fletcher:** You appreciate that it is not a simple problem.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I quite appreciate that, but we must attack it. It is useless to talk about varying the courses for certain students to get them through to Senior and University. A brilliant student will make his way through life, and we know that some people who have had very little education have left their mark. There are dozens of examples to be found of people who left school a few years ago and undertook part-time study, and who are now very successful. I am worried about those who have not the mental capacity because of their make-up or physical shortcomings. They develop an inferiority complex and are left behind. After talking to many people in the education and business fields, I do not believe that separate courses are the answer to the problems. If we could educate employers to accept these people in industry they would be all right, but the employers will not do so. Even in the apprenticeship field we stipulate qualifications. I have already voiced my criticism of that and I will not traverse the subject again, because I know, Mr. Hooper, that you will pull me into line.

The Minister referred to a problem associated with the design of our schools. Candidly, I will support any move to improve schools by providing modern teaching equipment and a better-class room layout. However, I become most incensed when the Minister and other Government members say, "Yes, we will amend the legislation and we will do so-and-so," and then say, "We are doing a lot more than Labour did." Labour did a lot under adverse conditions.

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

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I now refer to what I said in my Budget speech on the assistance to be given to private schools and the increase in the allowance from \$15 to \$25 per pupil. The Treasurer claimed that the method adopted by the Government was the only

sensible one and asked who would work out the priorities if my scheme was adopted, namely, that the schools that need most help should be given most help. I pointed out that many schools can be considered as being up to the State standard while many others are well below it.

How does the Department of Education work out its priorities? Surely the Treasurer does not suggest that it pulls out of a hat the schools that will get additions, improvements and other amenities. There must be some planned method of doing this. If the department wants to help primary schools and not make this some type of election gimmick of so much a head, it should set up a committee. This is a matter for negotiation between the schools concerned.

**Mr. Sullivan:** Do you subscribe to the principle of aid to primary schools?

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I have not said anything against it. I am trying to tell the Government how it will work. I have accused the Government of trying to gain votes because of the way it is doing this. I said that, and I repeat it, because the Government is helping those who might not need help at present and is not helping those who really need it. I do not want to go into all those details again.

**Mr. Sullivan:** Did you say that we are helping those who do not need it?

**Mr. HOUSTON:** The Government is paying this money to every school, irrespective of its present condition. Some private schools—I do not want to name them—in my view are up to the State standard. But many private schools are well below that standard. They are not even paying their teachers the correct salaries. They need more help. I suggest that the Government budget an amount—in this case it is over \$2,000,000—to help these schools, but then let them be helped according to their needs. I say that this could be done.

**Mr. Sullivan:** You say that the efficient schools should be penalised in favour of the inefficient ones?

**Mr. HOUSTON:** That is ridiculous. Some schools have plenty of money coming in. If the Minister's argument is sound, the Government should give to all high schools and primary schools in this State an annual amount based on the number of children attending them so that the parents and citizens' associations at those schools could carry out the work they want to. The Government rations parents and citizens' associations and tells them that it cannot grant a subsidy for certain work because they have overdrawn what they are entitled to. I have no complaint about the Government's using priorities to give to those who need. But the Government is not doing that with independent schools. The Treasurer said that it cannot be done. Let our attitude be clearly understood. We say that it can be done and,

unless the Government uses some form of priority to give to those who need and not apply a blanket cover, I accuse it of trying to buy votes.

The Minister said that there will be quotas or restrictions on the number attending the institute of technology next year. This is completely wrong. This State is crying out for personnel with technical skills and, no matter what else the Government does, it should not restrict the number attending the institute of technology. This is one field of education that I believe is most important. The Minister may say that it is not possible to get teachers. I say that there are people willing to become teachers if adequate salaries are paid. There are plenty of people in the community with the necessary background to become qualified teachers in this field.

**Mr. Sullivan:** Weren't we criticised by the Teachers' Union for the "crash" training programme?

**Mr. HOUSTON:** That is a different matter altogether. The Government was using the "crash" programme to produce teachers of academic subjects. I say that in the technical field people can be brought in who already know their subjects and who lack only training in the art of teaching. That means of obtaining trade teachers and other technical instructors was successful for years.

The really important thing is that there should be no restriction on the number of students taking technical courses. This State is drastically short of trained technicians, and I think the obligation is on the Government to see that all opportunities are provided for their training. The Government introduced this scheme of technical training with a great fanfare and a lot of half-truths which were meant to indicate that under Labour Governments nothing was done in the field of technical education. There were in fact many diplomas issued then, and many of the top men in the Department of Education and the public administration field today are diploma-holders. These are qualifications that they obtained under the Labour Government's system.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. E. G. W. WOOD** (Logan) (7.22 p.m.): In presenting his Estimates, the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities gave due credit to his predecessor in office. I congratulate him on paying a tribute that I most heartily support. At the same time, he revealed something of the real truth of what is happening in the field of education.

To those who recognise the truth, it is now made very obvious that the Department of Education is in a position to slay, once and for all, the canard of "too little, too late", the canard of our inferiority, and the canard of inadequate teaching aids, out-of-date textbooks, go-slow building and classroom replacements, and many other untruths. So very much has been done, and in the

coming year so much more is provided for with the extra money now available, that if the department is to be criticised at all, it is to be criticised for the fact that it has made too little of itself and has not advertised itself enough.

I was amazed to hear the Leader of the Opposition say before the dinner recess that he does not believe that any recognition should be given to non-degreed teachers. He belittled them. They are just as qualified to teach as are degreed people.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I rise to a point of order. I did not say that. That is a deliberate lie, and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Carey): Order! The Leader of the Opposition is asked to withdraw the statement, "That is a deliberate lie," and I ask the hon. member for Logan to withdraw his statement.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** The hon. member for Logan must withdraw what he said that I said.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN:** He is all right.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** No, he is not.

**Mr. E. G. W. WOOD:** What particular statement does the Leader of the Opposition wish me to withdraw? What I said was "off the cuff".

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN:** I ask the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw the statement, "That is a deliberate lie." I shall then ask the hon. member for Logan to withdraw the statement objected to by the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. HOUSTON:** I will withdraw.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN:** Thank you.

**Mr. E. G. W. WOOD:** At your request, Mr. Carey, I withdraw accordingly.

**An Opposition Member:** Now get on with reading your speech.

**Mr. E. G. W. WOOD:** I think I am doing a much better job than the Leader of the Opposition did. The presentation of his Budget speech was the most woeful dirge I have ever had to listen to. The Leader of the Opposition can now listen to me for 25 minutes.

It is interesting, and perhaps typical, that an article in the Sydney "Bulletin" states—

"The New South Wales Government has shown itself very feeble in public relations. The facts may well be that the school building programme is the most spectacular in the history of Australia, that teacher trainees' allowances are going up, and so on, but very few people know about it.

The Education Department shows itself very proud of its achievements, but keeps its pride to itself."

The same can be said of the Queensland Department of Education. There is a great deal to be said for modesty, and it is true that if a department has to take time out to blow its own trumpet, it has little time for more important things.

I think that the Department of Education would be justified in making a full-scale attack, backed by the strength of its own achievements along its total front, against those of its critics, who are plainly destructive rather than constructive, and that applies particularly to the Leader of the Opposition.

The Minister for Education very properly gave credit to the loyalty of the vast majority of the members of the teaching profession, and it is about time that the Leader of the Opposition did likewise. I support the Minister's views on their dedication. I know many teachers in my electorate and, as are members of any other profession, they are labouring under certain difficulties. However, they are responsible and reasonable people, and they can accept my assurance and the assurance of the Government that the Department of Education gives every consideration to their problems.

I raised this issue during the Budget debate. I mentioned, for example, that I had been told by teachers that (a) they would be much happier if they could be allowed to teach the particular subject in which they prefer to specialise and (b) if transfers could be arranged to take place only during the Christmas vacation period. On the surface, and certainly to the layman, these requests seem reasonable enough. However, on putting the questions to the Minister for Education, I received straightforward answers that proved that there is more to these matters than meets the eye.

In the first place, teachers are trained to be teachers of a variety of subjects. They are allocated, as far as possible, to the subjects to which they are suited academically, and no school principal would want it otherwise. However, it is a fact of life that not an exactly equal number of teachers prefer to teach, say, English, history, social studies, science, and so on. It becomes quite impossible to arrange, and inevitably there must be an imbalance and teachers must be brought out of their specific subjects.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. E. G. W. WOOD:** I do not intend to take any notice of hon. members opposite at this stage.

For this reason, and because of the occasions on which teachers may be away sick and other similar unforeseeable circumstances, teachers are bound to be asked to take classes outside those of their own preference. It is wise to ask them to do this, because there

could be a very real danger of their becoming too narrow in their outlook, too much in a rut, if they taught one subject continually. I agree with the Minister that they must broaden their outlook.

As to transfers, it is very clear to me that the Department of Education considers every application for transfer with all possible sympathy. The very great majority of transfers are the direct result of specific requests on the part of the teachers so transferred. In the "Education Office Gazette", which is issued in all schools, it is asked that all teachers requiring transfer the following year should apply for them previous to the September of the current year. That is ordinary practice in most Government departments. This year already almost 300 such requests have been dealt with within the secondary area alone and the requested transfers arranged. Normal transfers—that is, those transfers conditioned by promotion and the uncomplicated district-to-district transfers—are arranged to coincide as far as is humanly possible with the Christmas vacation. However, it is obvious that, where transfers become necessary owing to deaths and resignations, the department has to act quickly and in the best interests of the school involved and the children, and it has no option but to make transfers during the school year. During the month of August last, for example, there were 85 resignations from the department, and the point is that the very nature of settlement in Queensland makes it obligatory to have an effective transfer scheme for teachers, most of whom have their parental homes in closely settled areas.

It is necessary—indeed it is accepted by teachers—that all members of the teaching service undertake to serve wherever they are required. In practice, each undertakes a period of two to three years away-from-home service. In the teaching profession, as in other professions, there exists, of course, the few exceptions which prove the rule. As a general rule, teachers are a very fine body of persons acutely aware of their responsibilities and awake to the limitations which finance inevitably imposes on their profession, in the same way as finance limits the resources of most individuals.

I cite the case of a retired school-teacher in Toowoomba, Mr. J. A. C. Wilson, who wrote to "The Toowoomba Chronicle". I will quote exactly what he said. He logically asked the question, "Are the people prepared to accept the increased taxation needed to modernise education?"—presumably to the degree to satisfy all—"without curbing the expenditure of other Government activities?" His theme is that every amenity, not simply education, but hospitals, transport and everything else, can be only as good as the people are prepared to pay for. One can do anything if one has enough money. That is the story behind it, of course. He suggests that an estimate of cost be drawn up to

cover all the desired innovations, modernisations, buildings, classrooms, facilities, etc., and this can be presented to the people showing them what degree of taxation is required from them to provide these amenities. This author very creditably, and with no less than proper courtesy, makes it clear that he in no way writes to criticise the present administration, and he recognises the work it has done for education.

This, then, is an example of the clear thinking and fair comment which can be attributed to a typical representative of the teacher body. But, as I have said, there remains that occasional exception. I must congratulate the hon. member for Bundaberg for his forthright comments on the egocentric Dr. Goodman, who so ignored even reasonably good taste by haranguing secondary-school students at their school speech night with his arrogantly condescending attitude towards parliamentarians. I concur with the hon. member for Bundaberg and add to his words the words of Victor Hugo, who wrote that common sense is in spite of, not the result of, education. I think hon. members—particularly those on the Opposition front benches—would agree that if this needed to be made even more clear it was made manifestly clear by the Labour candidate, Mr. Baldwin, on a number of occasions.

**Mr. Newton:** He has you worried already.

**Mr. E. G. W. WOOD:** Hon. members opposite are the ones who should be worried. In his Estimates speech the Minister for Education dealt briefly and, if I may say so, all too kindly, with the political acts, or should I say antics, of Mr. Baldwin. Mr. Baldwin may, if he must pass the buck, blame the Press for misquoting him or for mangling the written articles he gave them complaining, even before it is built, about the magnificent new school concept soon to become reality.

Mr. Baldwin is the president of the Queensland Teachers' Union, and whom can he blame but himself for attempting to hoodwink not only the general public but also probably the members of his own union by permitting photographs to be displayed in such a way as to suggest that they are something they are not? I am referring now to the display that has been mentioned by the Minister for Education as being on show at a Valley store. Several photographs were included in the display, and one that depicted a very dingy and dilapidated room was placed in a position and under captions such as to suggest that it was a typical classroom provided by the present Government for the use of Queensland students.

In fact, the photograph was of a room that was provided at the Cairns High School during the last war and was to be demolished. It would have been demolished if the parents and citizens' association had not made strong representations to have it retained for its use.

Against its better judgment, the department decided to permit the association to use the room, provided the department was not called upon to maintain it.

**Mr. R. Jones** interjected.

**Mr. E. G. W. WOOD:** The hon. member for Cairns will be able to deal with education, and he can advise the young members of the community what they can do about flouting the law by taking part in processions. He may also encourage a march on the American Embassy.

Another photograph was displayed by Mr. Baldwin in a manner that would suggest that the type of building depicted was the type that the Queensland Department of Education should provide. In fact this photograph showed the exterior of a Catholic presbytery at Wavell, in Brisbane.

I can tell hon. members that copies of the photographs will be tabled during a future debate. I had planned to table them, but when I learned that another hon. member intended to table them I was happy not to cause him to change his plans, which coincided with mine.

What is Mr. Baldwin trying to prove? Does he imagine that he can show something like this in front of Queensland voters and get away with it? I am sure that very few of his own union members would have been aware of this attempted confidence trick. I doubt whether members of his own political party were aware of it. The teacher is the man whom pupils will always look up to, and actions of this nature on his part do nothing to enhance the name of the teaching profession.

No member of this democratic Government denies anybody the right to criticise it in a proper manner, but let the critics be sure that the manner is proper.

I was particularly delighted to hear the Minister for Education reply to those critics who compared Australia with overseas countries. When we are defeated at sport we say that we are only a small country and we expect nothing else; when we win we say we do very well for a small country. But nobody thinks of making the same allowance when our education system is criticised as being not up to standard. In evaluating an education system we must recognise that Australia comes under the heading of a developing country. It is quite ridiculous to think that at this stage we can reach the same level of educational facilities as that provided in overseas countries which have been in existence for a much longer period.

I have dealt with education matters generally, and I would say very effectively, and I should now like to deal more particularly with my own electorate.

Before the present Government came to power very little was spent on education in the Logan electorate; only the bare essentials were provided. Since 1957, \$1,600,000

has been spent in the Logan electorate, and in the last financial year \$300,000 was spent there.

Expenditure on school road transport has really increased in the last 10 years, and almost 90 per cent. of it has been provided by the Government. Special boats have been provided for children at Dunwich and on the bay islands. About \$84,000 a year is spent in providing transport for the 1,400 students sent to secondary schools. The Labour Party did not do anything about that.

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. E. G. W. WOOD:** Let me remind hon. members opposite what Labour did. In 1957 there were about 3,000 Senior examinees; in 1967 there were 10,000. That shows what this Government has done.

**Mr. Wallis-Smith** interjected.

**Mr. E. G. W. WOOD:** The hon. member for Tablelands should be thinking about Mr. Borzi rather than Mr. Baldwin. There is quite a difference between them. The first-named gentleman is one of the best local-authority brains in Queensland—he will be an asset to this Chamber—whereas the other man is a left-wing trouble-maker. There is quite a difference.

At this stage I draw the Minister's attention to the fact that the people in the Beenleigh area are striving particularly hard to have an opportunity school established in the town. I know the value of these schools. We in Cleveland went to considerable trouble—

**Mr. Houston** interjected.

**Mr. E. G. W. WOOD:** It is easy enough for the hon. member to laugh, but we are very serious about it.

**Mr. Houston:** You went to one; you should know all about it.

**Mr. E. G. W. WOOD:** That remark is too silly to answer.

The opportunity school at Cleveland has been of untold benefit to the people in that area. The Beenleigh area is just as big as Cleveland, and it is entitled to similar treatment. I appeal to the Minister to do something about providing an opportunity school for Beenleigh. A survey is needed, but it will have to be very extensive and a great deal of work will be required to carry it out. The establishment of this school has been delayed, and I impress upon the Minister the need for it.

I congratulate the Minister on the introduction of his Estimates and the way in which the Department of Education is shaping. I am very proud that the Mt. Gravatt university scheme is progressing. It will make a tremendous difference to my district. The people in the Redlands area are looking forward to it. Direct access roads

are being provided by the Council and the Main Roads Department to the university site. This university will make a tremendous difference to the Beenleigh area and to other areas south of the Brisbane River. The Minister said that the basic planning work and road work had been done. I would appreciate it if the other work could be pushed ahead as quickly as possible, although I know that much work is being done at the St. Lucia university. In 11 years, 18 major buildings have been erected on the St. Lucia campus. I hope that, in time to come, the Mt. Gravatt university takes its place with the other university undertakings in Queensland.

**Mr. DAVIES** (Maryborough) (7.45 p.m.): I have listened to many speeches in this Chamber since I became a member of Parliament and, of course, prior to that. But I have never heard a speech like the one we have just heard from the hon. member for Logan. Never before have I heard a member of Parliament take advantage of the shelter of this Chamber to attack his political opponent. (Government laughter.)

I challenge any Government member to produce "Hansard" and show me where it has been done previously. It is just as well to place plainly on record that Mr. Baldwin, the president of the Queensland Teachers' Union, after visiting all cities in the State, after being heard, after being listened to, after being interviewed, and after being seen, was elected by a large majority of the members of that union as their president and has been selected as the candidate to oppose the hon. member for Logan. It was a scurrilous attack and it is wrong to imply that sectarianism has been used by this candidate, as president of his union, in his display of what the union regards as something which all education authorities should aim at as a model classroom—not the ultimate, but something that is considered by the union to be the best it can conceive after experience and enlightened thought. This room was displayed in many centres. I looked very carefully at it, in the company of the Leader of the Opposition, for a lengthy period in Brisbane and we in Maryborough had the privilege of having it on display there. A large number of citizens had a careful look at it and took particular note of the ideas put forward by the union. Whether this man is liked, or not liked, he is president of a responsible union in this State and should not have been attacked in the way he was. The attack will certainly not do the hon. member for Logan any good.

I join with the Leader of the Opposition in his request that an endeavour be made in the future to bring reports up to date before they are presented to Parliament. The present practice has been going on for years and must be changed because members should have up-to-date information. Frequently figures are based on an earlier census. The number of teachers and pupils are given according to the census date, 1 August, 1967, practically

15 months ago. The report says that a certain number of students are attending the institute of technology in Maryborough. That figure is wrong. It was right at the date given, 1 August, 1967, but of what value is it at this stage? If we believe such figures we would have every right to charge the Government with the failure of these organisations for the period they have been in existence. For instance, the total number of full-time and part-time students at the Capricornia institute is given as 158. The Minister gave the figures in answer to my question, but we cannot ask questions on every matter. As a matter of fact, we are reproved if we do that. But the reports are 15 months out of date. The report says that 158 students are at the institute whereas there are 174 at present. It says that there are 162 at the Darling Downs institute, which would appear to be unsatisfactory, but today's figure is 309. The figure given for Brisbane is 3,230, but up to the end of the second term this year it was 3,890. I leave it at that. I feel that some endeavour should be made to give us up-to-date figures.

One reason these reports are not up to date is that the departments are understaffed and their staff are underpaid compared with their counterparts in southern States. It is time something was done about it. The heads of our departments are overworked to the point of slavery in their conscientious desire to serve their Ministers and their departments and do the work that they are doing. That is the reason why we do not have the reports, and it is also the reason why Ministers refuse to answer so many questions asked in the House. They say that compiling the required information would require too much work. This is the Parliament of Queensland, and it has the right to demand information, no matter what its preparation may cost.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Carey): Order! The Chair is anxious to hear the speaker.

**Mr. DAVIES:** I am pleased to see that you are capable of controlling the Committee, Mr. Carey. I support the Leader of the Opposition in what he said about the number of teachers. I shall take that matter no further, because the hon. member for Toowoomba East will deal with it later. I wish, however, to read from an article in the "Queensland Teachers Journal" which arrived by mail only today. It states—

"We have for a long time been behind other States in the provision of teacher training."

**Mr. Lee:** Who wrote that?

**Mr. DAVIES:** I could be very unkind, but I will not be.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Carey): I ask the hon. member for Maryborough to address the Chair.

**Mr. DAVIES:** Yes, Mr. Carey. The article continues—

"The number of teachers being trained per 10,000 of population brings this out vividly. We run a not-very-proud last."

This article was prepared by Mr. Clark, who is a well-known research worker in the field of education and a man highly respected by all sections of the community. I challenge anyone to say anything that is detrimental to Ted Clark. The figures are here, and I challenge the Minister to produce those of other States if he says Mr. Clark is wrong.

It is also true that there are eight teachers' colleges in New South Wales, 12 in Victoria, five in South Australia, and two each in Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania. That confirms the sad story told by the Leader of the Opposition.

I now want to draw attention to some further interesting figures. At 1 August, 1967, there were 202,713 children attending primary schools, and in 1956, the year before Labour went out of office, there were approximately 200,000 children in such schools, so that the population of primary-school age has not increased very greatly. But the secondary school population has increased, just as it has in all the other States and other parts of the world. It has increased to 77,728, which brought about the necessity for the building programme with which the Government was confronted, just as a Labour Government was confronted with the problem of providing primary schools following the population upsurge in the post-war years. We met that situation magnificently.

I remind the Committee that from 1944 to 1956 the number of children at primary schools increased by 66½ per cent. The number in Scholarship classes increased by 98 per cent. The number in Junior classes at high schools increased in the same period by 79 per cent., and the number in Senior classes increased by 50 per cent. As the Director of Education, the late Mr. Watkin, said at that time, "We have a problem now facing us in the secondary field," and the Government, confronted with that situation, had no option but to build additional secondary schools.

Moving on in the report, I find that much is made of the Government's school transport system. I have said before—

**Mr. Lee:** Don't talk about that. They had to walk in your day.

**Mr. DAVIES:** I shall direct my remarks to you, Mr. Carey.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr. DAVIES:** Personally, I should like to see—I have said this before—a commission or a group of experts appointed to inquire into the school transport system. The Government's only concern is to see increased sums of money spent on such a transport system, to see increased mileages

travelled. I should like to know what consideration is given to many other aspects of the problem.

I am not speaking against the transport system, particularly as it applies to high schools. However, I believe that in many instances buses travel too far. When schools become too big, children become mere cogs in a machine; they fare much better in smaller groups. In addition, at most schools—I should like the Minister to tell the Committee in how many cases this does not happen—the bus driver is waiting for the children to come out at half-past three. They have no chance of an extra word with the teacher, no chance of extra training in sport. In the morning, they arrive just in time for school. In the ideal situation, the child has not to travel very far and he can have some time for sport after school. He is not then dominated by the mad rush of the present system.

If it is necessary to have safety belts in motor-cars, is it not necessary to have safety belts in school transport buses? I should like the Minister to investigate that matter and give the Committee an answer to my question. In addition, I should like him to tell me how often school buses are examined thoroughly and who is responsible for carrying out the examination.

**Government Members** interjected.

**Mr. DAVIES:** I wonder whether you want to hear me speak in this Chamber tonight, Mr. Carey, or whether you want these loud-voiced hyenas over here on my left to take charge. They are not themselves tonight; it is Melbourne Cup day. I am asking whether you want to have silence or whether you want this disorderly rabble to take charge.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Carey): Order! If the hon. member for Maryborough needs the protection of the Chair, I assure him that he will get it. If the hon. member desires to have his speech heard in silence, I shall make the Committee listen to him in silence.

**Mr. DAVIES:** It has been said that the school project club system was brought into being by the Country-Liberal Government. Let me place on record that there were 397 such clubs in 1956, that the number had grown to 704 in 1966, and that in 1967 it had dropped by about 200 to 525. The excuse is made that more science clubs have been formed.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN:** Order! There is too much noise to the left of the chair.

**Mr. DAVIES:** In my opinion, the drop in the number of project clubs from 704 to 525 is a reflection upon the Government, and upon its interest in the welfare of country children and country people.

In earlier debates I have spoken of institutes of technology in Queensland. Some time ago I asked a question of the Minister and suggested that he should consider reserving land in Maryborough for any development that may take place in future. The Minister said, "The time is not opportune." That is not a reasonable answer. If time is allowed to pass, land will not be available or will have to be purchased at an extremely high price. I ask the Minister to reconsider his answer.

The Minister said that he had just followed the recommendations in the Martin Report in establishing the institutes on the Darling Downs and in Rockhampton. However, the evidence shows that there is a greater scholar potential in the statistical area of Maryborough than in either of the other areas, and the fact that these institutes are not acquiring sufficient students is shown by the canvassing that is going on to induce students to attend them. I leave that with the Minister for further consideration. All I ask at the present time is that an area be reserved, by arrangement with the Commonwealth Government. There is a suitable area; the present rifle range must very soon be moved further away from the central part of the town.

I notice in this report mention of the Conservatorium of Music. Anyone who knows the extent of the activities of the Conservatorium of Music must realise that the building is entirely inadequate. I should have thought that the Government would have taken steps to provide a new one. With the election looming, it says it is giving consideration to it, but that is all that is happening. We will be promised a new conservatorium just as we were promised a new art gallery before an earlier election, only to find that it was dropped immediately after the election. I suppose it will come up again in the next election.

The Labour Government established the Conservatorium of Music of Queensland in this city. Labour is interested in this and I make an appeal to the Minister to consider the provision of a new building.

In regard to the Research and Curriculum Branch I should have thought that more detail would have been given of the good work done by this branch. The fact that it was not aroused the suspicion that this branch, too, is short staffed and that adequate funds are not available for it to do its work. The same thing applies to the Guidance and Special Education Branch which, over the years, has done a magnificent job that compares more than favourably with that of any similar branch in any part of Australia. However, at all times it has been short of funds and therefore not able to do the work required of it.

My next point has to do with junior farmers' clubs. I have been told in this Chamber by members of the Government that this Government started junior farmers'



clubs. What utter nonsense that is! The following passage appears at page 8 of the Report of the Minister for Education for the year ending 31 December, 1956—

“The Junior Farmers’ Organisation continues to make progress. During the last twelve months the membership of the State’s 128 Clubs increased from 5,630 to 8,450.”

That was under a Labour Government. The 1967 report, which, of course, is 15 months old, states that there are 173 clubs in operation, a rise of nearly 12 per cent. on the previous year’s total. Since this Government has been in power there has been a miserable increase in the number of clubs from 128 under Labour to 173. That gives the answer to the claim that the Government parties have been interested in the welfare of country people. The Labour Party is the party that truly works in the interests of country people.

I am pleased to note that, with the limited finance available, the Department has done as much as it could for national fitness development in this State. As chairman of the National Fitness Organisation in Wide Bay, I appreciate the assistance that has been given over a period. The Commonwealth Government is falling down on its job in this direction. It screams to high heaven about the percentage of men who are not fit and cannot pass the physical examination to join the Forces, but makes no extra money available to the State to extend the National Fitness Organisation’s work. It is not known by many that the National Fitness Organisation controls the Duke of Edinburgh Organisation and Award Scheme. I am very pleased to be associated with the fitness organisation, particularly because of the excellent influence it has on the lives of many people and their efforts to obtain these various awards.

The Director-General at page 8 of his report, in the second column, deals with the Wark Committee, which is quite an important service, and says—

“Nevertheless it should be borne in mind that any system which requires Commonwealth funds for one aspect of education to be matched by grants from the States has an effect of diverting expenditure from other areas of education which may indeed, in the view of the State, warrant high priority.”

I think that therein lies a very big problem and that we must resist the encroachment of this particular line of thought into State spheres of administration. I should not like to see the day when education is administered from the banks of Lake Burley Griffin. I believe that in the development of State administration there should be frequent conferences of departmental chiefs who control the States’ Departments of Education. Only with that form of administration can we work out a uniform system, and one that is not controlled from the banks of Lake Burley Griffin.

The worst aspect of a system under which the Commonwealth says, “We will give you \$500,000, and it must be used now” is that, as the Director-General of Education says, that sum has to be matched by grants from the State. That means the money must be taken away from another avenue of education and applied to a particular purpose. There is a great evil in that system, and I am pleased that the Director-General has mentioned it in his report.

I turn now to libraries, and here again the shortage of money is preventing the Library Board of Queensland from doing what it wants to do.

In the report of the Chairman of the Board he says—

“The demands for better services and the consequent need for greater resources are outstripping the Board’s ability to provide adequate services from its information sources.”

That is a bad situation, and all the skiting in the world about what we are doing in Queensland cannot hide the fact that something is wrong. The same can be said of adult-education facilities. They are being starved of funds. A lot more could be done if money was made available. Members of the community are hungry for the type of information that can be provided through adult education and the library service.

It is pleasing to notice that an increasing number of city councils, town councils and shire councils are taking over library services. Eighty local authorities conduct a total of 140 libraries, and of those 80 a total of 73 local authorities now operate 113 free libraries. The high rate of resignations of library assistants is a matter of concern. Again is it because the salaries paid are not adequate? I ask the Government to look into this matter.

I briefly want to say “Thank you” to the Department of Education and to the Minister for the manner in which they have received representations that I have made.

A technical college is about to be opened, and I hope that there will be an official opening. It is an excellent building. I could not praise it too highly. However, it has been provided much later than it should have been.

**Dr. Delamothe:** Why didn’t you build it in your time?

**Mr. DAVIES:** The Country-Liberal Government has been in power for 11 years, and the Government of the same political colour has been in power in the Commonwealth. The Federal Government is starving this Government of funds. We hear the meek, mild and timid voice of the hon. member for Bowen, who did not even fight for a railway to his port. He will not raise his voice against the Commonwealth, and the Commonwealth will not give him the money.

There is one further matter that I should mention. We have a highly reputable head teacher at the Albert school. The house in which he is accommodated is in need of repair and the Department of Works says that it is not worth repairing. I appeal to the Minister to give consideration to the construction of a new residence at the Albert school. The people who live in that district have not worried the Minister, but on their behalf I appeal to him to give consideration to that project, and to the Minister for Works and Housing to give consideration to the construction of a manual training building, which is so essential for the students of that area.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. PORTER** (Toowong) (8.10 p.m.): It is a pleasure to participate in this debate, which is being conducted, except for an occasional lapse, in so happy an atmosphere. If I were given to using extravagant words (which I am not, I hope) I would say that a mild state of euphoria obtains in the Committee at the moment. I am quite sure that this has to do with the subject and is not at all connected with the post-Melbourne Cup atmosphere. I am sure that the Minister and the gentlemen—the highly specialised gentlemen—who are his senior officers agree that education is indeed a very serious subject. I am sure this Committee thinks so too.

One thing we can be quite sure of is that the education scene is changing vastly. Education is a field in which all those things that were accepted without question for so long are now being put to question and where there are few things left which are fixed and irrevocable. It is not at all true to say of education that because this has been done in a certain way for years past we can safely continue doing it in the same way. Once rigid dogmas that were not to be questioned are now cast aside. A form of orthodoxy in education, almost an article of faith, is being abandoned. It is not long since there was such an inflexible attitude to education that it was believed there was a completely fixed form of learning not to be questioned by anybody. This was something that all children, irrespective of their types, their mentalities, their characteristics, had to swallow as a body of learning; indeed, they had it forced down their throats so that, at the required time, they could regurgitate it, as it were, on demand, for examination purposes.

It is pleasing to note that, over the last few years particularly, more and more it is being recognised that education can mean many things to many children. We have already arrived at the stage where examinations are no longer the be-all and end-all of the education system. I hope that we will go a long way further in this direction. We are accepting that the educational system can have infinite flexibility, and that it can cater for the different tastes of many different children. We are beginning to recognise

that there are large differences in capacities and in tastes for learning, and, indeed, that the same child can have different capacities and different tastes at different ages and stages of his or her education.

Where once there was this rigid orthodoxy, we are now accepting the fact that there can be flexibility, variation and experimentation in education. Indeed, we are accepting that these things are essential to a successful education system. I therefore say that this is an exciting period in education. I am sure that the Minister and his officers will agree with that. I am quite sure that, in our time, we will see more change in educational procedures, methods and attitudes.

**Mr. Bennett:** It is to be hoped that we do.

**Mr. PORTER:** We will. We have already seen a great many. We will perhaps see more than occurred in the whole of the last half-century.

In the Opposition's comments so far in this debate—and indeed, in previous debates touching on education—there seems to be an obsession with what has not been done. We should realise that this is an area in which it does not matter very much what has been done; there will always be a tremendous amount to be done. Therefore, there is always a great area of criticism if somebody merely wants to look for avenues to criticise and not for avenues to praise. That is the unfortunate aspect with education.

I recall that the first address I made on Estimates in this Chamber was when the late Jack Pizzey was Minister for Education. I made precisely the same comment and he agreed with it. No matter how much we spend, no matter what we do, no matter how well we do it, there is always room for criticism. It has been suggested, for instance, that the widespread discontent exhibited by teachers in recent times was because they were dissatisfied with their conditions and facilities, and that this Government had not done enough for education. We were told that not enough money had been spent, and that we were spending less of our total expenditure on education than any other State. Of course, the fact is that in New South Wales, where much more in total is spent—and much more in quantum on a pro-rata basis is spent—that has not precluded teachers from being totally discontented with their lot. We have exactly the same symptoms of discontent in that State. In fact, it went further, and only a month or so ago there was a one-day strike there to draw attention to what the teachers believed were their proper grievances.

Quite obviously, merely paying attention to these facilities, the mere spending of money, is not the whole answer to these vexed problems of education. I say, as I have often said before, that if members of the Opposition are sincere in suggesting that the education ills, such as they are, and if

they are, can be cured by spending money, and they expect to be taken seriously, they should tell us where this extra money will come from. From what other pocket do we take it to put it into the education pocket? Do we terminate, to some extent, the free hospital system? Surely they do not suggest that. My stand on this is well known.

It would be interesting to know the stand of members of the Opposition as to where the money should come from. Do they suggest that we lean more heavily on the Commonwealth Government? To me this is a direction which I look at with some considerable apprehension. I am gravely feared as to the continuing loss of State sovereignty if we allow the Commonwealth Government to intrude more into the sphere of education.

All in all, this Government has a good record in education. It has blazed some trails. Its contribution to non-governmental schools puts it in the van of the whole of Australia. Maybe it has been over-cautious in some other avenues, but, as I say, one cannot accomplish everything in this field. If members of the Opposition honestly believe that the Government is vulnerable on education, I, for one, invite them to make education an election issue next year, because we will learn then what the community as a whole, apart from a few vocal militants, thinks of the education system and what has been achieved.

I want to talk briefly on three major aspects of education and say something on what I feel should be the shape and purpose of 20th-century education. I want to make comments on effective teacher status, which I regard as the key to the big problem of teachers and their discontent, and on the role of parents and citizens' associations in our State education system.

I said that I regard education as passing through perhaps the most exciting period in its history. We are leaving conformity well behind us, and so we should. We are no longer so slavishly tied to external examinations as we were, and it is a very encouraging sign to know that next year all the sub-senior forms will be able to choose their own English courses, with advice, I presume, from the Professor of English, but not direction. This is a wonderful step in the direction of real flexibility, of recognising that children are individuals, and that they must learn at an early age to be able to assemble their own material and use it in a coherent fashion.

But, of course, as always, more change is needed. These are early pointers on the way. I wonder why we have to require at all levels some external proof of a boy's or a girl's scholarship, their competence in an academic sense. I wonder why we do not accept the obvious common sense that continuous assessment made internally, within the framework of the learning pattern, as it

were, is infinitely preferable to an arbitrary external assessment made outside and at the end of a learning period. I wonder, too, why we still have to continue on the sort of basic educational premise that all children have an academic bent and are aiming at going to the university.

This, of course, leads to the unfortunate assumption that all those young people who are not fortunate enough to be blessed with academic capacity are of somewhat lesser and more common clay, and are not worth bothering about to the same extent. We all know that this is not true. Probably not a very large proportion of us here are fortunate enough to hold university degrees, yet I think we all exhibit a certain competence in our own way, even if Dr. Goodman might not agree on that.

I also wonder why, when we get to the stage of preparing for university, we feel it necessary to have so restrictive a matriculation examination. Surely the only real purpose of Senior matriculation is to screen, as it were, those who will be entitled to, and can really use, university facilities. Why are there so many compulsory subjects? Why must we have five? Why is it necessary for a child to choose a course—and literally this means to choose a career—at the tender age of 15? How many children know at that stage what they can best do and what they want to do? All too often, of course, it is a case of an ambitious parent choosing for them. This brings great hardship on the children, and I think it also contributes to later personality problems. I cannot for the life of me see why we cannot have a system of setting major and minor subjects for Senior matriculation, and some of each for everyone who is doing matriculation, with perhaps only three as major subjects for university entrance.

We have gone quite a considerable distance in refashioning various curricula, but to me it is high time we had a very complete revision. I would say that we will only achieve this if we understand the true purposes of education in this day and age. Our own Professor Bassett has, I think, fairly well summarised this in the introduction that he wrote to material which was considered by the 1962 Australian Council of Educational Research. Professor Bassett said that the criteria that should guide education today were philosophical and psychological and could be stated in this way: it is a valid educational aim in our society to foster to the maximum degree possible the educational development of individual children. The maximum individual learning occurs when pupils are taught by methods which evoke active responses from them and under conditions which permit and encourage the maximum degree of responsibility on the part of the pupils for their own improvement. In other words, he contemplates education to produce thinking

individuals, because without these thinking individuals as adults our democratic system is likely to be in a bad way.

The celebrated British educationist, Sir Percy Nunn, put it as well as anybody could when he said—

“Nothing good enters into the world except in and through the free activities of individuals, and educational practices must be shaped to accord with this truth.”

To me, that is the role of education—to cater for individual needs; to make for inquiring minds; to produce people who, when they leave school, are able to keep educating themselves for the rest of their lives.

**Mr. Murray:** Many kinds of people.

**Mr. PORTER:** All kinds of people—different people. Only in this way, with this type of education system, can democracy be served, succoured and maintained.

Although we have done a great deal of experimentation with the curricula, which I heartily commend, I urge much more of it. I think that we have to do away completely with the sort of dogmatic assertion that we have all become used to—that studying Shakespeare’s plays is necessarily good for a student; that reading Longfellow’s poems is somehow good education; that academic mathematics are suitable for everybody; that we should all learn a foreign language, and so on. Those are assumptions which in fact, if questioned, have no valid base.

I say that we should not impose impersonal curricula demands on students. We have to give the average student a chance. We have to get him to become interested in education. He has to be given a chance to extend his personality and discover that he can contribute as much to the community as can any gifted academic. In other words, as my colleague the hon. member for Clayfield said, it has to be recognised that children are all different, just as people are all different—and thank God for it!

That is why I am appalled at any moves towards conformity or uniformity in education—anything that says, “This is the official way to do it. This is right and proper. Do not deviate.” That is why I worry so much about the intrusion of the Federal Government into the educational field. I know this is not the time or place to be talking about Commonwealth-State relationships, but when a Federal Government says, “Yes, you can have money for education if you spend this money for science blocks, if you spend this money for libraries, if you spend this money on uniform textbooks,” so that every child, at any given time of the day, in the same class, is learning the same thing from the same textbooks, and is being taught in the same way, that horrifies me. I think it is a terrible thing to contemplate. It is not education. It is adopting procedures similar to

those adopted in totalitarian States to produce unthinking people who will accept and not question.

Our role is certainly to have a State education system which is flexible, imaginative, and experimental, and which recognises that children are all different and that each child can be different at different periods of its development.

**Mr. Bennett:** You would not say that the present system is flexible?

**Mr. PORTER:** I think that the present system is infinitely more flexible than it was a few years ago and, without wishing to be political, infinitely more flexible than it was before 1957.

Mentioning the Commonwealth Government, I was a little startled to hear the Minister refer to the “Gorton grant”. I hope that we do not hear very much of this nomenclature, as if we were fortunate to receive from some person a sum of money—which is as much our money as his to give—and we should be grateful for it and spend it in precisely the way he wants us to spend it.

**Mr. Murray:** This is the sort of Gorton we have not heard of.

**Mr. PORTER:** It is the type of intrusion into a State sphere that I regret.

On the question of teacher status, I have always believed that that involves much more than money. Money is important, of course, but status means more than money. The Church of England Grammar School took a very real step forward. I believe, in the direction of teacher status when recently it gave its senior masters status, salaries and conditions similar to those of assistant lecturers at the university. To my mind, that was at step in the right direction.

I am convinced that teacher status will never come—I have said this several times before—until teacher training is separated from teacher employment. Again I recommend to the Government, as I did in 1966, that, by statute, a teacher training authority should be set up along the lines recommended in the Martin Report.

**Mr. Hughes:** And the Australian College of Education.

**Mr. PORTER:** Yes. As the hon. member for Kurilpa reminds me, the Australian College of Education strongly supports that suggestion, as did the British Robbins Report. By that method of separating the employment agency from the training agency, I believe we would go a long way towards achieving teacher status, enable teachers to see themselves as professionals, and remove from their minds the fear that standards will be lowered when the Government wants a number of teachers, and that standards will be raised when it does not want many. That is their fear and, of course, the “crash” training programme only helped to enlarge that fear.

On the subject of parents and citizens' associations, I say that such associations play a part in the educational system that is much greater than is generally realised. I believe that the contribution that such associations make is insufficiently valued. I do not know whether the total amount of money that they raise has been estimated. I believe that some work along those lines is proceeding—but I shall be surprised if it is found that parents and citizens' associations throughout the State raise less than between \$6,000,000 and \$7,000,000 a year as their contribution to the State's educational programme.

Without doubt, if we had to provide this sum from our own resources we would find it a great strain on the total budget as well as the education budget. I should therefore like to see parents and citizens' associations more fully recognised. I should like to see a larger grant made by the Government to the council of the parents and citizens' associations to assist them in their work. It may not be beyond the bounds of possibility to consider the appointment by the Government of a full-time liaison officer, as exists in New South Wales. Over and above this, I think we must recognise that the parents and citizens' associations must not be faced with tasks that are beyond their capacity so that we kill this genuine urge to assist.

At my own Toowong High School—there must be many schools in this category—because it is unfortunately sited on difficult terrain cut out of the side of a hill, I think that some \$16,000 raised by the parents and citizens' association over the last six years has largely been soaked up in basic ground works. It takes money like a blotter soaks up water, and I believe that the department would be well advised to look at the problems of different schools to ensure that the parents and citizens' associations, when they raise moneys, are able to see those moneys expended on tangible assets which the children of that time—their children—can use. I make that recommendation to the Committee, and, through the Committee, to the Minister and his officers.

I conclude by saying again that education is a vast field with the horizons constantly expanding, where methods are changing, where we are entering an era of electronics. Who knows what that will mean in education, or what the cost will be? We are moving rapidly towards the library-centred schools, where children will be taught to encompass and prepare their own projects, and I think that in this electronic age we will be able to use adjuncts which will return us to much of the individual tuition that has gone. It is impossible for us to recognise now the shape of things to come, but I am sure we will accept that it will be much different and much dearer. I commend what has been done, and I confidently look forward to continuing improvements in this vital field.

**Mr. P. WOOD** (Toowoomba East) (8.33 p.m.): I am pleased to have the opportunity to join in the debate on such an important topic. My only regret at the moment is that we are limited to 25 minutes in which to discuss so many important matters. There are many vital aspects of education—the buildings the students use, the equipment they are provided with, the syllabus they are taught and the courses they follow—but we can all agree that the basic essential in education is the teacher. Without a sound teacher, all other ingredients will not be sufficient to overcome the deficiencies that result from unsound teaching. That is one of the reasons I was so happy to see the introduction of the three-year training course for teachers. It is most welcome and will eventually provide a higher standard of teaching in our schools. It is a decision involving considerable change, and any decision involving change will inevitably create many problems which will need to be faced and solved. It is some of the problems that will arise from the introduction of the three-year training course that I want first of all to comment upon tonight. I hope I will have the opportunity to make some suggestions which I think are relevant to the problems arising from this decision.

It is welcome news indeed for all people interested in education, and certainly for teachers, that teachers, having undergone a three-year training course, will automatically be able to proceed to the highest classification available in the Department of Education. It is now recognised for the first time that teachers' colleges adequately qualify teachers for the highest classification available in the Department of Education. This previously was not recognised. The department has not previously considered teachers as adequately qualified for the highest classification in the Department of Education until they completed a further course of study at the university.

That course has varied over the years. At present a teacher who wishes to proceed to the status of Class I is required to complete seven university units, and that is quite a task. Most teachers undertake that course by external studies. All teachers will welcome the fact that onerous work is no longer necessary for them to reach a Class I status. I hope, as I am sure the Minister does, that many teachers will still desire to proceed with a university education through either the external studies department or attendance at evening classes at the university.

Having recognised for the first time that teachers with a three-year course at a teachers' college will be able to qualify as teachers, we will have to examine the position of the great number of teachers who have completed one-year or two-year courses at teachers' colleges. Unless those teachers have already earned their Class I classification they will be seriously disadvantaged financially over many years. This will be through no real fault of their own.

Owing to circumstances that operated and to policies of Governments of all political opinions at the time they received their training, they completed either a one-year or a two-year course, and that course has never been recognised as enabling them to reach the highest classification available to them.

The teachers who completed a one-year or a two-year course, depending on when they did their courses, were not responsible for the circumstances of the day which made those courses necessary, or for the policies of the Governments that established those courses.

The Minister will have to give serious consideration to the position of teachers who are still in Class II and have not proceeded, and will not be proceeding, to Class I if they do not have their certificate in education or other necessary qualifications.

It becomes a mathematical question, perhaps. A third year at college, that is, the extra year at college, is worth how many years of practical teaching? It will be difficult for anyone to say that one year at college, the additional year, is worth more than, say, five years of practical teaching, three years of practical teaching, or any number of years that one cares to hit upon. In fact, some people will argue that a year of practical work is of greater benefit than a year of work at college, but I think it will be conceded that the provision of a three-year course is a step forward. A teacher with two years of training and, say, three years of practical experience as a teacher, in which it is hoped that he will have undergone periods of in-service training, however limited they might have been, will have received the guidance of district inspectors of schools. In the last 20 years or so quite a transformation has taken place in inspections of schools. I think I can say that inspectors now go to schools and give guidance, assistance and information to teachers as well as inspecting them and giving them grades according to what the inspectors think they are worth.

Take the case of a teacher with two years of training and three years of practical experience, and bear in mind that individual teachers vary in ability and aptitude. Can we say as a rule of thumb that a teacher with three years' training is necessarily a better teacher than one with two years' training and three or four years of practice? I do not think we can. Can we say that a teacher with one year of training at a teachers' college and, for example, six years of practical work in schools, during which he has attended in-service training courses and has received the benefit of advice from his district inspector and his head-teacher as well as having had the benefit of every-day conversation with his fellow teachers, is necessarily inferior to a teacher who has received three years of training at college? That becomes very important, because the teachers who have had three years of training

at college will automatically proceed to a higher rate of pay without the need for a great deal of onerous study, often under difficult conditions.

Now that the principle has been established—it is an important principle—that a course of study at a teachers' college will automatically qualify a teacher for the highest salary rates payable to a teacher, all teachers will have to become so entitled. It is a new principle that college qualifications are to be sufficient. Of course, we will have to consider the position of all those teachers who have expended much toil and tears in gaining their degrees by either evening or external studies, or who have a certificate of education. Most of them have six units, although some of them have obtained Class I status with three university units. They have worked very hard for their qualifications. Naturally we cannot put them in the position of feeling that they studied hard for six years, or 10 years or more, only to be faced with a situation where they might say "I might have saved myself all the sweat and tears I put into this, because the position has now changed and I could have reached the top salary scale without the effort".

The solution to this lies—it is an important solution—in a more generous degree allowance. That will be important because the Class I teachers will not be disadvantaged and more people will be encouraged, having completed the three years of college work, to seek a degree through either evening work or external work. At the moment the degree allowance is simply not big enough to persuade a teacher, once he has done three years of college work, to spend 10 years, if he does a unit a year, and a lot of money and most of his spare time in getting a degree. If we do not give the teachers who will be devoting three years to obtaining a university degree an incentive greater than the present incentive, they just will not do it.

In his contribution to this debate, my Leader pointed out that the percentage of teachers with degrees in our high schools and primary schools is declining. That is a serious situation. Their numbers will decline even further if more encouragement is not given to teachers to obtain degrees. I believe there should be a substantial degree allowance. There should be a scale of allowances for those who have qualified for Class I, whether they have a certificate of education or some other qualification.

In effect, the Minister has admitted that one year of college education may be the equivalent of seven university units by virtue of the fact that teachers who do one extra year at college do not have to qualify for a certificate in education with seven university units. I hope that hon. members may see the validity of my comparison between one year at college and seven university units. It is very important that students, once they have undergone three

years of work at the college, should be given credit by the university for the work they have done.

At the very minimum, once a student has finished his three years, he should be credited by the university with three units towards an education degree or some equivalent degree. If we cannot come to some arrangement with the university in this regard it does not say very much for the quality of the courses we are offering at our teachers' colleges.

**Mr. Hughes:** Some incentive must be provided for them to go on and get degrees.

**Mr. P. WOOD:** I have spent about five minutes explaining this. I am sorry if the hon. member has not understood me.

**Mr. Hughes:** I am agreeing with you.

**Mr. P. WOOD:** All right, I accept that.

**Mr. Murray:** We are not all bright. We have to take it quietly.

**Mr. P. WOOD:** I agree with that, too.

It could be a matter of negotiation between the university, the Government and the Department of Education that the successful completion of three years of college be at least the equivalent of three units of a university degree. It could well be argued that it might be more, but it ought to be at least three. That, in addition to more generous degree allowances, will be a positive incentive to teachers to go on and complete their degrees, which is so important.

I might add that I have never favoured the term "teacher training". Perhaps I am being a little fastidious, but I prefer to think of it as teacher education. "Training" does not strike me favourably, but that is only a small point.

I have been speaking of the need for teachers to be given positive encouragement to proceed to a university degree. With the provision of a three-year course at teachers' colleges and a possible subsequent reduction in the number of teachers wanting to enrol for university courses, I can see the situation arising where the university will want to abandon the External Studies Department. Within the university itself there are, and always have been, very strong opponents to the External Studies Department, one of the main functions of which has been to meet the need of teachers who want to gain their academic qualifications to rise to Class I status. Once that need is no longer there—and this will arise at some time in the future—the pressure will become even greater from within the university to have the External Studies Department go out of existence. That would be a very sorry state of affairs, because that department has done a tremendous job in enabling not only teachers but all sorts

of other people in all sorts of situations and places to obtain a university degree of equal standing to a degree gained internally.

If I may make a brief aside, the people in the External Studies Department at the university deserve the highest praise. In that commendation I include especially the Deputy Director of the External Studies Department, Dr. Goodman, who has been the subject of some criticism for comments he has made, and I shall not refer to the comments he has made of a political nature. I do not think anybody would place in doubt his value to external students. As Deputy Director of that department he has done a fine job and is continuing to do so. What he does incidental to his work as Deputy Director is not for me to comment on.

I ask the Minister to remember that there may well arise within the university strong pressures to abandon the External Studies Department.

I now wish to make a point that I should perhaps have made earlier when referring to teachers of Class I and Class II status. The annual report that I have before me shows that Class I teachers number 2,123, and Class II teachers and teachers on probation number nearly 7,000. For many years the need to obtain six-tenths of an arts degree by external or evening studies has been a great barrier between Class I and Class II teachers. I have always maintained that it has suited the Government to have a limited number of Class I teachers, with the great majority of teachers remaining in Class II.

I did a little arithmetic and was astonished at the result. The difference between the salaries paid to Class I and Class II teachers is at the moment about \$735 per annum. If one estimates the saving in salaries to the Government by having all of those teachers in Class II instead of Class I, it works out at a staggering \$2,500,000 per annum. It is not easy to make an exact calculation because some Class II teachers are proceeding to Class I, so that it must necessarily be an estimate only. If, as I hope, all the Class II teachers eventually move to Class I, the Government will, with the present number of teachers, be faced with an extra bill of \$2,500,000 a year. That probably will be the Government's major problem, not the theoretical one of giving to Class II teachers the status of the teachers with three years' training.

Teachers have rights which should be respected, and I think it is the right of teachers now in Class II to be able to move automatically to Class I, as three-year trainees will be able to do. The problem of obtaining an extra \$2,500,000 will have to be faced, and I hope that financial considerations will not prevent the Government from doing what I suggest. The Government is fortunate in the sense that all the money

will not have to be found in one year, because the movement of teachers from Class II generally to Class I will be staggered over a number of years. What I want to point out is that if all teachers of Class II status now were to be paid the top salary of Class I, an extra \$2,500,000 a year would be required. It can be seen that the Government has been quite happy to keep the division between Classes I and II because it has meant the saving of a considerable amount of money each year.

**Mr. R. Jones:** Will the three-year trainees be recognised outside Queensland?

**Mr. P. WOOD:** I am sure they will be.

**Mr. R. Jones:** What about the two-year trainees?

**Mr. P. WOOD:** It is difficult to say. They might be accepted in other States. If a person with one or two years of training goes overseas, it is difficult to obtain employment in England. It is a different matter for one who has seven degree units.

Another matter to which I wish to draw the Minister's attention is the growing imbalance between male and female teachers and teacher students, particularly in the primary field. I have mentioned this problem before, and I think the Minister is very familiar with it. Let me indicate quickly the seriousness of the problem. In 1963, which was not so long ago, there were at the Kedron and Kelvin Grove Teachers' Colleges 713 males and 1,096 females, males thus being about 40 per cent. of the total number. For the last year mentioned in the report, there were 573 males and 1,698 females. I have calculated the percentages, but I have misplaced them. I think it was of the order of 27 per cent.

**Mr. Tucker:** 26 per cent.

**Mr. P. WOOD:** Somewhere about that. Only about 26 per cent. of the students are males. That has happened regularly over a period of years, and there is no indication when the trend will be reversed.

**Mr. Fletcher:** It is a world-wide trend.

**Mr. P. WOOD:** That does not mean that something cannot be done in Queensland to stop it. We are laying all sorts of problems in store for ourselves.

Of course, I recognise the work that women teachers are doing in the schools. They do a good job; their work is equal to that of the men. However, instability will develop in the teaching service. Women marry, leave the service, and perhaps subsequently return to it. The Minister well knows all the problems of staffing caused by having to employ married women teachers.

**Mr. Fletcher:** Only too well.

**Mr. P. WOOD:** Only too well. I am sure that the Minister knows that more must be done to encourage male students to enter the Department. To show the trend, I point out that a poster was used in schools last year to encourage students to enter the teachers' colleges. I do not know whether that has been repeated this year, but, even if it has, it is not doing very much to encourage young men to enter the teaching service.

I should like to see departmental officers employed full time as recruiting officers. It may well be argued that all teachers are, in a sense, full-time recruiting officers for the Department. However, they are primarily full-time teachers, and their time is very much taken up with their many duties. It is just not possible for them to have all the necessary information at their disposal or to devote sufficient time to being recruiting officers, and I ask the Minister to consider the proposal that I have put forward.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. N. T. E. HEWITT (Mackenzie) (8.57 p.m.):** Having served in this Chamber when Labour Governments were in office and also during the term of office of Country-Liberal Governments, I know better than anyone the advances that have taken place in the field of education in the outlying areas of Queensland. Many hon. members expound their views as to what should take place in the city. I think that members such as myself and my good friend Wally Rae, the hon. member for Gregory, who is overseas at present and whose electorate I am representing in his absence, have had the opportunity of coming to grips with many of the problems facing the people living in distant areas, and I say that the Country-Liberal Government has faced up to those problems courageously. If we look back, we realise how little was done for those people and how little thought was given to their needs prior to this Government's taking office. From time to time we hear criticism that the Government is not doing enough. If we look at what was done prior to its coming to office, we realise just how much it has achieved.

**Mr. Newton:** You should put it on record some time to prove your point. We would welcome your doing so.

**Mr. N. T. E. HEWITT:** It is not difficult to state what has been done in the field of primary and secondary education. Before 1958, there were no secondary departments in towns such as Clermont, Emerald, Mundubbera, Theodore—

**Mr. Sullivan:** Jandowae.

**Mr. N. T. E. HEWITT:** And Jandowae. Although Clermont and Emerald are not in my electorate, I point out that Clermont has a very fine secondary department and



Emerald is to have a new high school, in addition to a secondary department, in the new school year. Things of that sort have given country people a much better opportunity of having their children educated and have made unnecessary the old system of governesses.

Further, we have given these areas rural schools. The rural school at Longreach provides the opportunity for young people to come to grips with the problems of land development today and these, I might say, are becoming more complex, as are problems in other fields. These schools give boys the opportunity to learn many new skills.

I think that we will eventually have to look at the possibility of providing agricultural mechanical courses at schools in this State, and the need for them. As one who knows something about the subject, I can only say that there is a very real need for qualified people who can erect a windmill, fix an engine, or do many other things on the land. They are just not available. Agricultural mechanical courses are available in a few of the independent secondary schools in this State, and I think we could consider constituting such courses in all of our schools.

We are very thankful for the Institute of Technology at Rockhampton. It gives further opportunity to the children of the area. I had the pleasure on speech night of listening to two guest speakers who are teachers at this institute. They are going to do an excellent job for the Education Department, and particularly for those people who live in Central Queensland.

The Education Department has now taken over the control of the Aboriginal schools in the various parts of the State. This is something which was needed and I believe it has given a great uplift to the people in Aboriginal settlements. We have endeavoured wherever possible to give to these Aboriginal children a secondary education. In my own area the children from Woorabinda are transported from Woorabinda to Baralaba by school buses to obtain a secondary schooling. Only the other night at the Baralaba speech night I had the opportunity of talking to many of these children and of seeing how they are progressing now that they are able to obtain secondary education. I pay tribute not only to the school-teachers at these settlements but also to those who control them—people such as Mr. Naggs who was previously the superintendent at Woorabinda, and the present superintendent, Mr. Ted Butler, who was transferred to Woorabinda from Weipa where he had done an excellent job.

At the same time, I wonder if we are doing enough for our Aborigines. I feel that I have played my part, and I will continue to play a useful part in this regard, but I must say that I believe we have to look at the possibility of breaking away in some degree from the academic side, so far as these children are

concerned. When they reach the Junior standard, or even prior to that, we should look at the possibility of setting other courses to which they would perhaps be more adapted. It is a thought which I think is a worthy one, and, as one who has always been interested in them, I will continue to press in this Chamber for solution of their problems.

There is not much more I want to say except to thank the very many officers within the department who have been ever-ready to co-operate and have helped me from time to time. For instance, wherever it was possible to do so, they gave a school bus service. Even if a case was borderline on the number of children, they would look at it very carefully. Through our transport system, we have been able to provide secondary education for many children who were denied it prior to this Government coming to office.

**Mr. Sullivan:** You mentioned the college at Longreach and the other one at Emerald.

**Mr. N. T. E. HEWITT:** The one that is being established at Emerald will be of vital importance to the central district and is to be situated in one of the most rapidly developing regions of this State. It will give to children an opportunity of looking at the mining industry, irrigation, agriculture on dry land and, of course, the grazing industry. In addition, there is a limited number of sheep in the area, so I say that the Government could not have thought of a better area for the establishment of another rural college. I know that other areas, such as Biloela and Monto, clamoured for the establishment of a college, but I am sure that the people in those districts are big enough to realise that the decision on location was arrived at only after very careful consideration of the area that was thought to be the best.

I return to transport services. Ten years ago three secondary school transport services operated in the State; today there are 240. That will give hon. members some idea of the progress that has been made under this Government. When we became the Government there were 38 high schools and 39 secondary departments in existence; today there are 167. We know that the provision of that number has entailed the expenditure of a great amount of money, and that expenditure probably stopped the Government from doing many other things that it wanted to do.

Many changes have taken place. Very recently I had the opportunity of attending a speech night at Moura and of looking at the new domestic-science block that is erected there. I was able to compare it with the one built at Theodore, probably five or six years ago. The change in design has to be seen to be believed. Of course, some people will say, "Our school is not as modern as somebody else's," but we must keep up with progress.

I am very grateful to the officers of the Department of Education who have assisted me. I realise that some places still need residences for school teachers. One that quickly comes to mind is the township of Dingo. I know that the department realises that a residence is needed in the new and progressive township of Blackwater. Within a very short time Blackwater may become one of the largest inland towns in Queensland.

I ask the department to keep an eye on the problems that confront the inhabitants of our inland areas. Those areas have lagged behind for far too long, and it is only now that they are catching up with modern trends. I can assure hon. members that the people of western and central Queensland are very grateful to the Department of Education for what it has done in those areas.

**Mr. BROMLEY** (Norman) (9.9 p.m.): There seems to be a bit of shenanigan going on tonight about who is going to speak and who is not going to speak, and whether the Minister wants to re-enter the debate or whether I am allowed to speak on these Estimates. Finally it was decided that I would be granted this wonderful opportunity to say a few words on education. I could say many words on education, and there are many things I would like to say, but 25 minutes is not nearly long enough to say what I should like to say on the Department of Education.

I want to speak on teacher training and on the many injustices that are occurring within the department. I should like to speak about the autonomy of the various colleges, the lack of teachers, the university and the Queensland Art Gallery. However, because I know that the Minister wants to say a few words tonight—

**Mr. Sullivan:** You have your 25 minutes, haven't you? What are you crying about?

**Mr. BROMLEY:** I realise that I have 25 minutes and I will use them if I want to. But, unlike the Minister for Lands, I intend to be courteous and give the Minister for Education a chance to speak. The Minister for Mines, Main Roads and Electricity got the call ahead of me on his Estimates this afternoon, and I did not get an opportunity to speak on them. In my usual fashion, I do not wish to attack the Minister or the department. I want to bring before the Committee some matters that I consider are tremendously important to the department.

I said that I would speak about injustices and the ignoring of appeals, as sometimes unfortunately occurs in this department and in other Government departments. I want to tell the Committee about an instance of undemocratic procedures which, for some unknown reason, are adopted in Queensland.

It is often stated that the reason for rejecting appeals is that the grounds of appeal are vexatious or frivolous. In this instance, which concerns a lecturer in the Department of Education, the circumstances are certainly vexatious and frivolous from the appellant's point of view. In his appeal neither of these reasons was advanced. It was a genuine, sincere, meritorious appeal by a lecturer who applied for two almost identical positions in the Department of Education. His appeal against one appointment was allowed to proceed, but his appeal against the other was refused, without explanation.

So that everyone may know that this is a genuine case, and so that it may be investigated, I will cite for the information of the Committee the names of everyone concerned and everything else about the case. The person concerned is Mr. Thomas Morgan Pryce-Davies, a Bachelor of Science. I make it quite clear at this stage that I have nothing against the appointees. I do not know them, and they are probably quite competent lecturers. My purpose is to disclose an apparent injustice inflicted on Mr. Pryce-Davies, who is a lecturer in his sixth year at the Kedron Park Teachers' College. He appealed against the appointment of Ian Edward Kelk to the position of senior lecturer "A", science, at that college. His appeal was heard on 21 December, 1967, and on 7 and 8 March, 1968. He also appealed against the appointment of John Murray Davies to the position of lecturer "A", science, at the Kelvin Grove Teachers' College. Those were two similar positions that were declared vacant.

Mr. Pryce-Davies received a reply from the Director-General dated 7 November, 1967, which implied that no appeal lay against such appointment. What sort of democracy do we live in when a person in the Public Service is informed that no appeal lies against any appointment whatsoever? His solicitors, Messrs. J. F. Fitzgerald and Seymour, wrote to the Director-General on 24 November, 1967, pointing out certain matters, which I do not intend to deal with tonight but which the department knows about.

On 1 February, 1968, without giving any reasons, the Deputy Governor in Council determined that no action be taken in respect of such notice of appeal, and of course this was contained in the letter. That is according to my information, and no doubt the department knows that that is correct.

In July, 1968, the appellant tried to obtain an interview with the Minister for Education, the Honourable A. R. Fletcher. This request was refused in a letter dated 25 July, 1968.

I should like to ask the following questions—

1. Why was the man refused, in one instance, his right of appeal?

2. Why did the Deputy Governor in Council choose to refuse this particular appeal?

3. Why was he given no explanation?

4. Why was he refused an interview with the Minister to discuss this matter?

I am sure that anybody who reads this speech in "Hansard" about the denial of a person's democratic rights, irrespective of which department he is in, will agree that this establishes a most alarming precedent. This man has been refused a right of appeal, an interview with the Minister and an explanation of all of the matters that arise in this case, and he does not know where he stands.

I stated in a speech last week that this is Human Rights Year. Apparently, in Queensland, it applies only in name and means nothing at all. I view this case seriously. This man has been given a pretty rotten deal. It must be obvious to the Minister that this lecturer has been kept dangling on a string, waiting for justice, for over 12 months. I ask the Minister to take some urgent action in this matter, and see that the whole subject of appeals is reviewed with a view to some reform. It is no wonder that discontent still rages among members of the teaching profession when this sort of thing goes on. I wanted to make that particular point early in my speech.

I said that I wanted to talk about other things, too. The hon. members for Toowoomba East and Maryborough spoke on matters pertaining to the training of teachers, as no doubt other members will also.

I am now going to deal with a matter which, to my way of thinking, is tremendously important. I refer to the Queensland Art Gallery. Towards the end of the report of the Minister for Education is a short report on the activities of the Queensland Art Gallery for the year 1967-68. I ask the Minister if the Moreton Galleries are really for sale. I do not know whether they are, and artists do not know whether they are. People have told me that they know of approaches to the person concerned about purchasing the galleries.

It seems to me that the Minister and the Government have done a complete somersault on the matter of the Queensland Art Gallery and the Moreton Galleries. That does not surprise me, but what does surprise me is the fact that the Press, which was so vociferous on the matter early in the piece, has been strangely silent about it during the last few months. Although this is a very important matter, the Press appears to have lost all interest in anything relating to the Queensland Art Gallery. One thing that emerges from the whole shemuzzle is that the vast majority of thinking artists and art lovers have lost all interest in the Queensland Art Gallery and its activities. Nevertheless,

they are perturbed and concerned about what may or may not be going on, and many of them have contacted me in this regard. The Government appears to be bowing to a dictatorship from sources outside the administration of the Minister, and obviously the policies of the Art Gallery are being decided and controlled from outside the Government. As the Minister knows, and as you know, Mr. Smith, I have asked many questions in the House dealing with the conduct of the Queensland Art Gallery and associated matters, but very few, if any, of them have been answered to my satisfaction and the satisfaction of people in the art world who are worried about the present position. We have now a ludicrous situation in which the Director of the Art Gallery still owns his own private commercial gallery, even though the Government stipulated that he must sell it within 12 months of his appointment. After all, there were 30 applicants for the position of Director of the Queensland Art Gallery. I should mention that I have nothing personally against the present Director, and I shall develop that statement as I go along. At the time of his appointment there was a furore throughout the art world, and within the Queensland Art Gallery itself.

As the Minister well knows, the assistant director resigned, two trustees resigned, and there were headlines and leading articles in the Press at the time. That is history, as are the questions that I asked, although they have not been answered to my satisfaction.

It seems to me that there is no doubt that artists and sculptors are completely frustrated and, frankly, puzzled and suspicious about what is going on. In fact, one person who wrote to me said—

"There is not only a strangeness about the matter; there is a very bad smell."

It is well known—I have asked questions about this in the Chamber—that fund-raising schemes connected with the building of a new art gallery have lapsed completely. Everybody seems to have lost interest. Those who have been to the Queensland Art Gallery will agree, I am sure, that its size is completely inadequate.

I have received many complaints from artists in Queensland. They have said that there will have to be a change in the views of the Director and the chairman of the trustees, otherwise all local artists will lose interest in art in Queensland and in the Queensland Art Gallery. They will turn their backs on it completely. I have nothing against the 11 trustees of the Art Gallery. However, they are the custodians of public money that is used in the purchase of works of art, and it seems to me that some of the trustees, and perhaps the new assistant director, have not got the background to enable them to decide which work of art or painting to purchase.

I do not think that the Director of the Queensland Art Gallery should be a figure-head. If he is the Director, surely he should have a great deal of autonomy in purchasing works of art for the gallery. He should not be frustrated in matters of that sort. He might wish to buy certain paintings. The trustees, who may not have the complete knowledge that he has, may say "No." All hon. members know, I think, that to display paintings of a poor standard may do incalculable harm, and I believe that there should be a complete change in policy.

I am looking forward to visiting the new \$14,000,000 art centre in Melbourne during the next parliamentary recess. Although it is ludicrous to suggest to the Government of Queensland that it should build an art centre here at a cost of \$14,000,000, I appeal to it for an improvement in the standard of the Queensland Art Gallery. I have had discussions with various artists, who insist that a new and bigger gallery must be built in Queensland.

**Mr. P. Wood** interjected.

**Mr. BROMLEY:** Not only the artists, but everyone who goes to the gallery will admit that.

We all know that if anyone wants to put on a special display the gallery is so small that all other paintings and pictures have to be taken from the wall. In fact, all art exhibits have to come down to make room for any special exhibit. It is only natural to assume therefore, that everybody would like a much bigger and more modern Art Gallery than the present one.

I do not think anybody could argue that we have no talent in Queensland. There is no doubt whatever that we have, but to my way of thinking the policies of the Government and the Director and trustees of the Queensland Art Gallery are starving this talent because of the lack of support being given to artists in Queensland.

I make a serious appeal to the Minister and to the Government. I believe that Queensland and its people appreciate not only art in an art gallery but art in all its forms. In fact, Australian entrepreneurs will say that there is no doubt whatever that the people of Queensland, more than those of any other State, appreciate live shows such as ballet—in fact, shows of any description whatever. We have to do something about this. Do not let us go backwards. Do not let us go downwards in the world of art. Rather, let us do something to build up our Art Gallery and art generally in Queensland.

There are other matters about which I wished to speak tonight, particularly autonomy in various colleges. No doubt the Minister received a letter from the Darling Downs Association for Advanced Education relative to autonomy for various colleges. I have not time to speak in detail about that matter, but I suggest that, whilst I have the

greatest admiration for young pupils at primary and secondary schools today, there is without doubt a loutish element in Queensland and throughout Australia generally. I suggest that something could be done to bring into the curriculum of our educational system at least a half-hour session a week in good manners.

(Time expired.)

**Hon. A. R. FLETCHER** (Cunningham—Minister for Education and Cultural Activities) (9.33 p.m.): I think I should briefly acknowledge one or two comments that have been made by hon. members opposite. The Leader of the Opposition had something to say, critically, on the subject of the lateness of our presentation of my annual report. This rather surprised me, since I am quite sure that he would know that this is the usual pattern of things. Indeed, if he had inquired he would know that 1 August is accepted as about the earliest date for educational statistics in any of the Australian States. It is just not possible to collate and publish the 1968 census figures in this report. Otherwise, it would be much later than it is now.

**Mr. Houston:** You used many of these figures. A roneoed copy would have done us.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** Possibly I could have given the hon. member a roneoed copy of some of the figures.

**Mr. Houston:** Not me, the whole Parliament.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** I can still give the hon. member, if he is interested, a few of the figures, but this is not a reasonable request. The usual form is to bring out the report on the figures that are available, and the last figures available as at this time are the ones we have published. In no other State are these figures published any earlier than they are here.

**Mr. Houston:** I reiterate that it is wrong. With all the modern equipment that we have, such as computers and so on, you should be able to make available the latest facts.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** We may be able to do it with computers and all the things we have now, but I reiterate that this is the usual form and the usual time, and that normally, with the facilities available, this cannot be done unless we use the figures that I have used. If the Leader of the Opposition goes to any other State or any other department he will find the same thing. He gave me the impression that this was something out of the ordinary and something that we could normally have done.

**Mr. Houston:** I did not say that at all. I said, "Let us call a halt to the old idea."

**Mr. FLETCHER:** I will have a look at the possibility of doing that. I realise that it would be a good thing not only for the hon. gentleman's sake but also for mine. I am simply telling him the facts of life in this matter.

The Leader of the Opposition also referred to the number of degree-holders in the ranks of the State's teachers. I think that he provided us with an excellent sample of the misuse of statistics. He quoted a figure of 8.5 per cent. as the proportion of teachers with degrees, from which I drew the inference that teachers, whether they are primary teachers, music teachers, home-science teachers, or physical-education teachers, are unqualified if they do not have degrees.

**Mr. Houston:** I did not say that at all.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** The hon. gentleman did not say that, but that is the inference.

**Mr. Houston:** You cannot draw inferences from my speech.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** The hon. gentleman takes a number of teachers and says that only 8.5 per cent. of them have degrees.

**Mr. Houston:** That is right.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** I say the inference is that they should have degrees. I am telling the hon. gentleman that it is my opinion that many of these people without degrees are just as good at teaching as they would be if they had degrees. In fact, there are no degrees in some of the subjects that they teach. The Leader of the Opposition has misused statistics and proportions.

**Mr. Houston:** I was only quoting your statistics from various statements that you have made.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** Of course they are my statistics; but the hon. gentleman is misusing them for a purpose that is not justified. That is not the way to use these statistics.

**Mr. Houston:** It does not suit the Government to have that type of statistic.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** Of course it does not, because this is an unreal way of using them. Surely the Leader of the Opposition would not seriously suggest that infant teachers are not highly skilled, professional teachers because they do not have university degrees.

**Mr. Houston:** Would you like them to have a degree?

**Mr. FLETCHER:** With that type of teacher, I do not mind whether they have a degree or not.

Of the teachers of general subjects, which are chiefly academic, in high schools 30 per cent. have university degrees. This is a far more appropriate use of available statistics.

**Mr. Houston:** It is not. Don't you think that a head-master in a primary school should have a degree?

**Mr. FLETCHER:** If possible, yes.

**Mr. Houston:** And isn't a three-year course going to give you that?

**Mr. FLETCHER:** I have said that the Leader of the Opposition has misused figures and has given a false impression.

With regard to the number of teachers, I should like to thank the Leader of the Opposition for drawing attention to the fact that the introduction of the three-year course for primary teachers will reduce the number of teachers entering the service from teachers' colleges from 1971. This is a fact that people should notice; it is one of the side-effects. It is one of the things that have to be ridden over in instituting a three-year course. We need to have a dip in the number of teachers coming out of college.

**Mr. Houston:** Are you going to suggest to me that the Treasurer's statement about 2,000 will try to smooth this over?

**Mr. FLETCHER:** I did not try to smooth it over. This will result in a smaller number coming out from a three-year course than would have been expected from a two-year course, from the expected record intake of 2,050 in 1969. However, the Leader of the Opposition has overlooked the fact that primary-school enrolments will increase relatively slowly in the next few years. This is one of the statistical facts relative to the next couple of years. In fact, for a period of at least four years from 1970 primary-school enrolments will decrease. This is connected with the birth-rate.

**Mr. Houston:** You are not taking credit for that?

**Mr. FLETCHER:** I am not taking any credit; I am just giving the Leader of the Opposition the facts. The Government expects that it will be possible to maintain its programme of progressive reduction of class sizes, even with the reduction in output from teachers' colleges below that which would certainly have been a record figure, because the Government will not be faced with the need to increase the number of teachers to cope with increased enrolments.

However, that will provide only partial mitigation of the problem. We have to get over an unavoidable bad spot. When we institute a three-year course against a two-year course, there must be consequences. These are the consequences that we think we will, by the fortuitous circumstances of a drop in enrolments, be able to get over more easily than would otherwise have been the case. Primary-school enrolments in 1974 are expected to be some 4,500 fewer than in 1970. I trust that this clears up the concern felt by the Leader of the Opposition regarding the possible undesirable effects of our progressive introduction of the three-year training course for primary teachers.

I understood from the Leader of the Opposition that our schools could not be considered to be perfect until we could point to the fact that delinquency figures are decreasing. Surely the hon. member does not suggest that our schools are responsible for delinquency in the community. That is rather a long shot. It is oversimplifying a very complex problem. I

deny that our schools can be held responsible for whatever delinquency exists in the community. I am sure that if the incidence of delinquency was taken as the criterion of the effectiveness of an education system, on the basis of ascertainable figures, the Queensland system would surely be adjudged one of the best in the world. I have no evidence to suggest that the incidence of delinquency here is greater than in any comparable country or State.

**Mr. Houston** interjected.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** Nevertheless, there is an inference. Our secondary schools are taking positive steps—in a direction which, I am sure, the Leader of the Opposition will approve—to alleviate the problem of teenage delinquency by offering a richer and more varied programme of extra-curricular activities. Secondary schools endeavour, to a greater extent than ever before in the history of education in this State, to provide students with positive attitudes and interests in a wide range of leisure-time pursuits. The hon. member must admit that. This is something in which he who runs may read. One has only to go to a high-school speech night to understand how true that is. In addition, as the hon. member for Maryborough said, the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, which is promoted amongst secondary-school students, is making a valuable contribution in this direction. I think the hon. member for Maryborough would be interested in that.

With the hon. member, I have sympathy for the academically less inclined. When speaking of the provisions for the academically less able students in secondary schools, the Leader of the Opposition referred to the special courses. I agree with much of his point of view. As hon. members no doubt realise, students undertaking a special course can now sit for the Junior examination in the subjects they are studying. That occurred for the first time in 1967. This year, some 1,500 such students will take the Junior examination. Experience has shown that the special course is regarded very highly in a number of our schools. I have come across it myself. When speaking at a recent speech night, the principal of the Indooroopilly State High School touched on this subject. There is evidence also that the students taking the course are accepted by employers. The head-master of at least one State high school—I think it was Yeronga—said that they were in great demand.

The apprenticeship entry requirements are such that only a very limited number of apprenticeships, such as those in the electrical trades, are not open to students taking a special course. It comes as something of a surprise to hear anyone suggest that there is a stigma attaching to the successful completion of any secondary course when there is so much evidence to the contrary. I think

this has been a jolly good idea. Contrary to the hon. member, I get a good deal of pride and satisfaction from this.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke about restrictions on enrolments at the institute of technology. I think that this was explained in the Press or in answer to a question.

**Mr. Houston:** You gave an explanation. What I am saying is that we have to overcome the reason that you gave.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** We, too, think we have to overcome this. The restriction placed on the enrolments for a number of our courses has been caused, as I said before, mainly by staff shortages. There is a world-wide staff shortage. There is competition for this type of staff, which is making it pretty tough, even in southern States. It is a common problem throughout Australia. Like us, other States have found it necessary to limit enrolments in certain fields of advanced education. Shortage of laboratory space at the Queensland Institute of Technology is another factor which has influenced our decision to limit enrolments. Of course, enrolments in some courses next year might not reach the set limits. I also said that in the Press release that I gave. No limit will be set at Toowoomba or Rockhampton, so that in a few cases there may be alternative places to go, if, of course, it is possible and practicable. If anything, the department has been quite open, honest and frank in announcing the limits well beforehand. I have insisted on this. I think that this is necessary for all concerned.

**Mr. Houston:** I have no fight with what you have done, but I said that Queensland can't stand this.

**Mr. FLETCHER:** Queensland is progressing at at least as good a pace as any of the other States, and I share the Leader of the Opposition's anxiety to do the best we can and to go as fast as and as far as possible.

The hon. member for Logan manifested some concern about transferring teachers in the Christmas vacation. I think I have convinced him that there is sympathetic reaction to this and that there is a very keen endeavour to do this as much as possible. Teachers die and resign and there are transfers and consequential transfers and it is all fairly easy. He has noticed what most people in Queensland have noticed, namely, that things educational have improved out of sight in Queensland in the past few years. I am not claiming credit for anybody in this regard, but anyone who has not noticed that education has improved has just not been noticing.

I, too, would like to establish an opportunity school at Beenleigh when it is statistically right to do it. I shall try to get it as quickly as possible.

The hon. member for Maryborough said many things were necessary. Unfortunately most of them would cost a great deal of

money. As I have stated frankly, many things still have to be done in the education field in Queensland. We are limited by a strict priority system of doing first things first and the most important things first, and some highly desirable things will have to wait. Most of the things that the hon. member said should be done I agree with, but they have not yet reached the priorities that get them a place on the spending list for this year. Junior farmers' clubs, research, curricula, National Fitness, salaries, adult education and a whole lot of other things are matters that we, too, would like to give attention to.

The hon. member made some use—or perhaps it was misuse—of figures. He said, as I understood him, that primary-school enrolments were higher in 1957 than they are now, or just as high. I think he conveniently overlooked the fact that primary-school enrolments were decreased by the transfer of Grade 8 children to secondary schools. That means that the figures do not, strictly speaking, show a fair comparison. In any case, I am not even sure if he gave the correct figures. In 1958 primary-school enrolments were 205,737 and in 1968 they were 206,181. In any case, it is not a very important point.

The hon. member for Toowong evidenced some of the attitudes to education that I myself share. Many of the questions that he so thoughtfully posed are being considered by educationists everywhere. We do try to cater for individuals.

The hon. member for Toowoomba East dealt with some things that are also troubling us in what he likes to call "teacher education" rather than teacher training. The position of teachers trained in one-year or two-year courses compared with that of teachers trained in the new three-year course, and their classification scales, is a matter of concern which has not escaped attention. The problems referred to are recognised by the department, and are in fact the subject of much thought by departmental officers. As the hon. member admitted, there could well be complications in endeavouring to bring teachers of experience up to the status of those trained under the three-year scheme. No doubt some of these would say, "I worked very hard and got through my training whilst others didn't bother to study and spent their week-ends at the seaside, and now, because of their experience, they are to be brought up to my standard." The Government is thinking about that. It appreciates that that point has to be taken into consideration.

I share the hon. member's view that the old External Studies Department would be a loss to Queensland. Too many people

have taken advantage of that department, very greatly to the advantage of the rest of the community, for it to be dispensed with lightly. There is, of course, a tendency on the part of the university to think of in-study as being more desirable than external study.

In regard to the female student population of teachers' colleges, it is true that female students outnumber male students. However, this should not be taken to apply also in the schools. The simple fact is that losses through resignation are very much greater in the case of women than in the case of men. Everyone knows that that is one of the problems of teacher training. Women are trained, then they get married and leave; hence the larger numbers of women that must be taken into the colleges.

Queensland, in fact, has the highest masculinity figure, if that is the correct way of putting it, of all the Australian States. In 1967—I know I should have the 1968 figures, but this is the best I can do—the percentage of male teachers in the various States, leaving out the decimal points, were—

	Per Cent.
New South Wales .. .. .	44
Victoria .. .. .	49
Queensland .. .. .	51
South Australia .. .. .	42
Western Australia .. .. .	49
Tasmania .. .. .	36

Queensland leads the field.

The hon. member for Mackenzie has noted, as did the hon. member for Logan, that secondary education especially and education generally have improved in his part of the State.

With regard to the appeal about which the hon. member for Norman spoke so eloquently, this is something, I feel quite confident, that my officers have dealt with justly according to the information available to them, and I would not dream of intervening personally, as Minister, in something that I am quite sure has been looked after very well.

Referring to the art gallery, he said it was significant that the Press that used to be so critical, had stopped criticising. I have publicised in the Press what has happened about the art gallery and I invite the hon. member for Norman to apply his own standards to what the Press is doing because, quite often, he himself has interpreted criticisms by the Press of my department or any other as representing public opinion. Let him apply that same standard now. If public opinion is satisfied, through the Press, so am I, and I do not think there is anything wrong with the art gallery situation at present.

At 9.55 p.m., under Standing Order No. 307 and Sessional Order agreed to by the House on 22 October, progress was reported.

The House adjourned at 9.56 p.m.