

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 19 AUGUST 1969

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

DISALLOWANCE OF QUESTION

Mr. SPEAKER: On perusing this morning's Business Paper I noted that one inadmissible question, namely, No. 7, was inadvertently included. I do not propose to call that question.

Mr. TUCKER (Townsville North): Why is it inadmissible?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member knows full well why it is inadmissible.

Mr. TUCKER: I do not see that at all.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question contains implications and innuendoes. If the hon. member reads the question he will see that.

Mr. TUCKER: There is no innuendo.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member knows full well that it is an inadmissible question.

Mr. TUCKER: I do not agree with you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member also knows that the disallowance of a question cannot be made the subject of a debate.

Mr. TUCKER: You are covering the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. member rises again while I am on my feet, I shall deal with him. The question is disallowed.

Mr. TUCKER: I still say that you are covering the Government and that the question should be asked.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! That is a reflection on the Chair. I ask the hon. member to withdraw his accusation.

Mr. TUCKER: I am not going to withdraw it. You are covering the Government. You are supposed to be impartial.

NAMING OF MEMBER

Mr. SPEAKER: I name the hon. member for Townsville North for disregarding the authority of the Chair.

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (11.04 a.m.): It is quite a serious matter to disregard the authority of the Chair, as, I am sure, all hon. members are fully aware. I suggest to the hon. member that he obey the ruling of the Chair and withdraw the accusation that he has made. He must realise that he has cast a reflection on the Chair.

Mr. TUCKER: The question is designed to help northern industry. I do not believe that it is wrong to ask it. I am not going to withdraw my statement.

SUSPENSION OF MEMBER

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (11.05 a.m.): I move—

“That the hon. member for Townsville North be suspended from the service of the House for the remainder of the day.”

Question put; and the House divided—

AYES, 41

Ahern	Knox
Armstrong	Lickiss
Bird	Loneragan
Bjelke-Petersen	McKechnie
Camm	Miller
Campbell	Moore, R. E.
Chalk	Muller
Chinchen	Murray
Cory	Newbery
Crawford	Porter
Delamotho	Rae
Fletcher	Ramsden
Herbert	Richter
Hewitt, N. T. E.	Row
Hewitt, W. D.	Sullivan
Hodges	Tomkins
Hooper	Tooth
Houghton	
Hughes	
Hungerford	<i>Tellers:</i>
Jones, V. E.	Hinze
Kaus	Lee

NOES, 30

Aiken	Lloyd
Aikens	Marginson
Baldwin	Melloy
Blake	Moore, F. P.
Bousen	Newton
Bromley	O'Donnell
Casey	Sherrington
Davies	Tucker
Davis	Wallis-Smith
Dean	Wood, B.
Hanlon	Wood, P.
Harris	Wright
Houston	<i>Tellers:</i>
Jensen	Inch
Jones, R.	Thackeray
Jordan	

PAIR

Low	Hanson
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Resolved in the affirmative.

Whereupon the hon. member for Townsville North withdrew from the Chamber.

QUESTIONS

POWERHOUSE PROJECT, CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

(a) Mr. Houston, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

In view of the time lapse since negotiations began with the Commonwealth Government for financing of a powerhouse in Central Queensland, and the grave doubts that exist as to this project proceeding, will he make a full statement as to the action taken by his Government to convince the Commonwealth Government that this powerhouse is urgently necessary, and lay on the Table all documents relating to these negotiations?

Answer:—

"The original case submitted to the Commonwealth Government was a detailed one. It showed the attractions to industry of the natural resources of Central Queensland. It also showed how industrial development of the nature outlined would act as a catalyst to facilitate a series of supporting industrial developments. It emphasised the importance of continued decentralization of the State's industrial development. Further, the case was not advanced solely on the grounds of the benefit which would flow to Queensland if the powerhouse were built, but it also stressed the tremendous benefits which would accrue to the nation as a result of the additional external credits it would indirectly provide. The material supporting the case comprised several documents. One document was a 208 page confidential interim report of a comprehensive survey of the resources and industries of Central Queensland undertaken jointly by the State and the Commonwealth. Another document was a confidential statement prepared by State officers showing the possible increased industrial development of the region following the building of the powerhouse. This document mentioned specific industries for which the State already had preliminary or exploratory inquiries. The statement showed the relationship between the various industries involved, their call on local natural resources, and the effect of the establishment of each such industry on Australia's balance of external payments position. As to the economics of the power station, the case pointed out that the State had undertaken comprehensive and detailed studies on the costs of power and it invited the Commonwealth to examine the State's proposals in detail in close collaboration with the State. Since the original submission was made there have been a series of discussions at officer level and, more recently, an examination of the power proposals by the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority. In the course of those discussions and examination, further information has been made available by the State. My Government has no grave doubts about the project proceeding as we are convinced that it is for the good of this State and the Commonwealth. That being so, Commonwealth financial assistance should be forthcoming and all that is needed is for the details of this assistance to be successfully negotiated between the State and the Commonwealth; these negotiations are proceeding. I am not prepared to table documents in respect of the foregoing matters, as much of the information submitted to the Commonwealth was strictly confidential."

(b) **Mr. Bennett**, pursuant to notice, asked The Treasurer,—

(1) Will he clearly state to the House the full and factual circumstances regarding the Central Queensland powerhouse issue?

(2) Is the case actually hopeless, as suggested by him, because of the attitude of Queensland Ministers in the Federal House?

(3) Has he asked for the full information contained in the Snowy Mountains Authority report? If so, when does he anticipate the information will be supplied?

(4) At what price can power be generated in connection with this project?

Answers:—

(1) "It is unfortunate that the Honourable Member was not in this House this morning when the Honourable the Premier answered this question in his reply to Question 1 as asked by the Leader of the Opposition this morning. I suggest he read the Honourable the Premier's very comprehensive statement of fact."

(2) "In his characteristic way the Honourable Member endeavours to play on words in the hope of promoting muddled thinking. I made no such suggestion."

(3) "The Government has a copy of the Snowy Mountains Authority report. Following receipt of the report we have sought further discussions between technical officers of the Snowy Mountain Hydro-Electric Authority and our State Electricity Commission. The Government will shortly consider the whole matter further in light of the report and our officers' advice."

(4) "It is not possible to state any fixed price as price depends on many factors. Our general aim is to be able to supply customers prepared to take very large blocks of power at a very high load factor at a price comparable with world standards."

COMMONWEALTH AID FOR DROUGHT RELIEF

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

In view of obvious lack of Commonwealth Government assistance to the extent desired in relation to drought relief, will he make a full statement as to where the fault lies, and lay on the Table all documents relating to the negotiations?

Answer:—

"I have publicly stated that the Commonwealth Government's latest offer of assistance is helpful and most appreciated. It falls short of what the State requested, but this is no reason why we should 'bite

the hand' of someone who is assisting us. The State, in its own way and time, will continue to negotiate with the Commonwealth on the subject and I do not intend to provide the Honourable Member with information which, if misused politically, could disadvantage the State in its dealings with the Commonwealth."

REPORTS AND STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS,
PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT

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

How many (a) Reports, (b) Proclamations, (c) Orders in Council, (d) Regulations, (e) By-laws, and (f) Ordinances have been issued under the various legislation relating to departments under his Ministerial control since December 11, 1968?

Answer:—

"All instruments of the nature mentioned in (a) to (f) made or issued since December 19, 1968, and statutorily required to be tabled in Parliament, were so tabled by me on August 7. If the Honourable Member cares to examine these, he will find they comprise 7 Proclamations, 3 Orders in Council, and 5 sets of Regulations or amending Regulations. One Proclamation and 1 Order in Council under the Public Service Acts, not required to be tabled, issued during the period, as did a further 7 Proclamations dealing with such constitutional matters as the prorogation, dissolution and summoning of Parliament, appointment of Administrators, &c. No Reports or By-laws or Ordinances were involved."

OIL DRILLING OPERATIONS, REPULSE
BAY AREA

(a) **Mr. Ahern**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Mines,—

In view of the blow-out of natural gas during drilling operations in the Bonaparte Gulf on August 6, will he give an assurance that the Mines Department will exercise strict supervision over the proposed drilling in the Repulse Bay area?

Answer:—

"I can assure the Honourable Member that the Mines Department will exercise the strictest supervision over the drilling of the well Japex-Ampol Mackay No. 1. It is intended to have an Inspector on location 24 hours a day."

(b) **Mr. Cory**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Mines,—

When was the announcement originally made that oil search activities would be carried out by drilling in Repulse Bay, near Proserpine?

Answer:—

"The original announcement that oil search activities would be carried out by drilling in Authority to Prospect 103P was made publicly in Cloncurry on April 11, 1967, and published in the *Courier-Mail* and provincial daily newspapers on April 12, 1967. This was to the effect that basic farm-out arrangements had been agreed, on a 50 per cent. basis, between Ampol Exploration (Queensland) Pty. Ltd. and Japex (Australia) Pty. Ltd. The press release also stated that a well had to be drilled before December 31, 1968. This date has since been extended to December 31, 1969. I would mention that Ampol had carried out a vigorous programme of exploration, including the drilling of Proserpine No. 1 well, to the limit of funds available. It then had to seek a partner to enable exploration to continue, without delay. Subsequent study of geophysical and geological data by the companies caused them to decide that the most favourable area in the Authority to Prospect was in Repulse Bay."

(c) **Mr. Casey**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Mines,—

What additional protective measures and safeguards have been incorporated in the agreements with drilling companies about to commence drilling operations in Repulse Bay, following the recent disastrous blow-outs at Santa Barbara and other places?

Answer:—

"There have been no additional protective measures and safeguards incorporated in any agreements with the operating company. Adequate provision is contained in existing regulations. As I explained in my reply to the Question by the Honourable Member for Salisbury, the casing design has been carefully examined and the cementation practices discussed with the Japex engineers. Mud stocks have been examined and certain minimum amounts laid down. It is our intention to have an Inspector on location 24 hours a day. These things are functional and directed, not made by agreement."

RAIL FREIGHT CONCESSIONS, GOONYELLA
PROJECT

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

(1) Has he read the report in *The Townsville Bulletin* of July 28, 1969 in which the Townsville District Development Bureau complains that North Queensland manufacturers and suppliers have been precluded by railway freight concessions *ex* Brisbane from competitive tendering for plant, material and equipment associated with the Goonyella project?

(2) Is it a fact that the Railway Department has provided freight concessions of up to fifty per centum to suppliers *ex Brisbane* for this project?

(3) Has he discussed this matter with the Townsville Development Bureau?

Answers:—

(1) "I did see at least two reports by the Manager of the Townsville District Development Bureau concerning this subject in the Townsville *Daily Bulletin* during the latter part of July."

(2) "Yes, it is a fact that the Railway Department has provided freight concessions not only to suppliers *ex Brisbane* but also to suppliers *ex Townsville*."

(3) "No, but I am quite willing to discuss the matter at a mutually convenient time and date and also the Manager of the Townsville Development Bureau would know that action has already been taken as promised in my Election Policy Speech towards appointing a firm of consultants to investigate railway freights."

INQUIRY INTO RAIL FREIGHTS AND TRANSPORT CHARGES

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

(1) As there is intense interest in North Queensland on rail freights and transport charges, what action has the Government taken to implement election promises?

(2) Has he read the report in the *Cairns Post* of August 1, in which the Cairns Regional Development Bureau urges the inclusion of representatives of provincial industry on any inquiry which may be held? If so, what action will be taken to comply with their request?

(3) What assurances can be given to provincial trading communities that they will have an opportunity to present their case?

Answers:—

(1) "Following the preparation of a brief, proposals for an expert investigation were invited from seven firms of consultants. Proposals are required by September 15."

(2) "The nature of the inquiry is not such as to admit the inclusion of representatives of provincial industry. Such representatives will, however, be able to submit documented cases and to interview the consultants."

(3) "I have already given assurances that cases may be presented."

CONTROL OF CROWN OF THORNS STARFISH

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

In view of public concern as expressed in the Press regarding the effect of the Crown of Thorns starfish on the Barrier Reef, what action is being taken by the Government to investigate the problem with a view to its control?

Answer:—

"Most of the scientific investigations to date, into the incidence of the Crown of Thorns starfish on the Barrier Reef, have been carried out by officers of the State Fisheries Branch. Within the last twelve months, the small Japanese submersible vessel has been made available to assist. As these investigations have widened, so has our awareness of the present wide distribution of this starfish. These investigations are continuing. Following reports of increasing populations of the starfish in the American Zone of the Pacific, a major investigation based at Guam is presently under way supported by grants of some \$300,000 from the U.S. Government. The first phase of this investigation which it is hoped will add substantially to our knowledge of the starfish, is expected to be completed about the end of this month. Scientific opinion is divided as to the reason or reasons for the upsurge in the numbers of starfish being reported. Discussions between Commonwealth and State officers as to the need, and, if so, the methods to be employed to combat the starfish are to be held shortly. The primary suggestion for discussion is a programme of individual slaughter of the starfish *in situ* on the Reef by divers until such time as more effective means can be devised. Other suggestions relate to a programme of breeding and release of predators such as the Triton shell and for the development of electrical or other barriers. Action has been taken in the meantime to prohibit the taking of these molluscs. Consideration is presently being given to widening the list of prohibited molluscs."

CLASSROOM ACCOMMODATION, MUNDINGBURRA STATE SCHOOL

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

Has any firm decision been made with regard to the replacement of temporary classrooms with permanent classrooms at the Mundingburra School? If so, what are the full details?

Answer:—

"No decision has yet been made with regard to the replacement of temporary classrooms at the Mundingburra State School. The matter is to receive further consideration in the light of the financial position towards the end of this calendar year."

CIRCULATION OF "PAPER DART" AT
UNIVERSITY

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a publication named *Paper Dart*, which purports to be the "Weekly Newsheet of the R.S.S.A.", which carries the heading "Erotica" repeated five times, and which was circulated recently at the Queensland University? If so, was any action taken by the police in respect of such publication and, if not, why not?

(2) Is he aware that consequent on this publication a lewd and disgusting personal physical exhibition was publicly staged at the University? If so, was any action under any law taken against the persons involved and, if not, why not?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes, I have seen and am disgusted with the particular issue of the publication *Paper Dart* referred to by the Honourable Member. I am advised that copies of the publication were placed on a table in the University of Queensland Union Building on July 14 to enable students to take copies. The University security officer gave copies to members of the administration and immediate action was taken to prevent the distribution of the paper. The name of the student responsible for the publication could not be obtained. However, officials of the union removed the copies which had been placed in the union premises. No direct action was taken by the police because proof could not be obtained as to who prepared the material and who was responsible for its preparation and circulation."

(2) "I am further advised that the University authorities referred to the University's solicitors the evidence which was obtained in relation to the acts which took place on the afternoon of July 16, when "Erotica" was staged. The University's solicitors advised that the University should charge certain students with breaches of discipline and a committee has been appointed to inquire into the charges which will be preferred against those students."

ESTABLISHMENT OF PINEAPPLE CANNERY,
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

Mr. V. E. Jones, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

As the report of the feasibility study into the economics of a pineapple cannery for Central Queensland was examined by Cabinet early in June and the pineapple growers of Yeppoon and district are vitally concerned with what the report recommends, as this will have an important bearing on their planning and development for the future, will he supply a copy of

the report to the Fruitgrowers' Association of Yeppoon so that they can make comments upon it before a final decision is made?

Answer:—

"The report of the feasibility study into the economics of a Pineapple Cannery for Central Queensland which was recently submitted to Cabinet, recommended against the undertaking on the grounds that it was not economically feasible. Cabinet, to further satisfy itself on this question, directed the Co-ordinator-General of Public Works to study the report and its recommendations. After a close and detailed study, advice has now been received confirming the recommendations expressed in the report."

STATE ELECTORAL ROLLS

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

(1) Is he aware of the large number of electors who were disfranchised at the State Election held on May 17, 1969 by virtue of the fact that their names had been wrongly removed from the State Electoral Roll?

(2) Will he have investigations made into the efficiency of the present method of enrolment of electors and the system of roll-purging by notice of objection?

Answers:—

(1) "No. The Principal Electoral Officer has informed me that very few cases have been brought to notice of electors being wrongly erased from the rolls."

(2) "Enrolment of electors can only be effected on a signed application and no erasure may be made until a notice of objection has been sent to the address shown on the Electoral Roll and the prescribed period of time has elapsed for a reply. The names of electors are only erased from the roll by objection when they have been reported as "left" at a roll check. This procedure is uniform in all Australian States and the Commonwealth and is considered to be the only safe and satisfactory method of cleansing the rolls. Under these circumstances no such investigation as suggested is considered to be necessary."

BOATING FACILITIES, NUDGE ELECTORATE

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

(1) What plans are in hand for the provision of public boat-launching facilities on the north bank of the Brisbane River in the lower reaches, at Cribb Island, Nudgee Beach and Cabbage Tree Creek?

(2) Does his Department propose to call tenders for the provision of a marina concept adjacent to the southern bank of Cabbage Tree Creek? If not, will he give consideration to an investigation into the possibility of this area being developed as a boating area?

(3) Has he given consideration to the expenditure of a greater amount on harbours, anchorages and facilities for small ships in the present financial year?

Answers:—

(1) "A boat launching ramp has recently been completed on the north bank of the Brisbane River at Bulwer Island and the ramp in Cabbage Tree Creek widened and lengthened to provide two launching lanes to the low-water mark. The foreshores at Cribb Island and Nudgee Beach are very flat and any all-tide ramp would be approximately a half-mile in length. Such a ramp would not be practical for launching purposes nor could its cost of about \$50,000 be acceptable."

(2) "The plans for the development of Cabbage Tree Creek as a boat harbour have not provided for development on the south bank due to the absence of road access to the area when the plans were approved. Some road access has now been provided to the recently completed sewerage treatment plant in this area and I have arranged for further investigations into the feasibility of providing some access to the boat harbour from the south bank."

(3) "An amount of \$500,000 has been provided from State Government funds during the present financial year for small-craft facilities. This compares with an amount of approximately \$365,000, previously provided annually from the Commonwealth Fuel Tax, which has been discontinued."

ACCOMMODATION FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION

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

1. Is he aware that the Queensland Autistic Children's Association has been required to vacate its present premises and is experiencing great difficulty in securing alternative accommodation?

2. Will he give consideration to providing accommodation for this Association to enable it to carry on its important work for autistic children?

Answers:—

(1) "My attention has been drawn to a newspaper report to this effect."

(2) "I am advised that adequate treatment and training are already available at existing psychiatric clinics and training centres."

RAILAGE DELAYS, FODDER FOR STARVING STOCK

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

(1) Is he aware that due to the shortage of wagons there is delay, at border stations and within the State, to fodder railed from interstate?

(2) As this fodder is urgently required for starving stock, what action is being taken to speed up the turn-round of wagons both at the transshipping stations and at destination stations in Queensland?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Some delay is occurring at border stations although regular supplies of wagons and tarpaulins are being made available. Unfortunately, wagons and tarpaulins are not being promptly released by consignees and this largely contributes to the delay. There are now 629 Queensland wagons under load with fodder throughout the State. For instance, in one case among many, there was delay of two weeks to a particular consignment. This has meant tying up of wagons for that period when they could have been used to benefit other needy customers. Instructions were issued to general managers to allow 48 hours for the unloading of the wagons at destination points and to then rigidly enforce demurrage on wagons and tarpaulins. I would ask that those consignees who have been fortunate enough to receive their supplies, to release the wagons so that others may take advantage of the drought assistance scheme."

EXCLUSION OF QUEENSLAND FROM ANTI-INFLATION FINANCIAL MEASURES

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

In view of the serious economic position in Queensland as a result of the prolonged drought, will he ascertain if Queensland could be excluded from the anti-inflation measures imposed by the lifting of bank interest rates on overdrafts and the lifting of deposits with the Reserve Bank, at a time when the opposite action is most essential and desirable for Queenslanders generally, and so allow primary and secondary industries to continue to function reasonably?

Answer:—

"The matter is one for the Reserve Bank which is not a State instrumentality. I suggested to the Honourable the Premier that he pass the Honourable Member's request on to the Commonwealth Government and this action has been taken. I have a great deal of sympathy with the request. On previous occasions I have had reason to raise the matter of economic measures being applied on a blanket basis throughout the Commonwealth when, in

fact, the economic ills to be cured are not of equal severity throughout the Commonwealth. It seems to me that there is a clear case for application of some measures of economic management on a selective basis."

DRUMMOND RANGE SECTION, CAPRICORN HIGHWAY

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

With reference to the Capricorn Highway, can any priority be given to the construction of the section between Drummond township and the crest of the Drummond Range?

Answer:—

"Having regard to the needs on declared roads throughout the State and to the Capricorn Highway as a whole, and in particular due to the high cost of construction of the section referred to, no priority can be given at this stage."

HOUSING COMMISSION OPERATIONS, EMERALD

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

What immediate plans has the Housing Commission for the erection of teacher accommodation and houses for purchase and for rental at Emerald?

Answer:—

"The provision of a two-unit building for teachers when land is available is under discussion with the Education Department. Current building contracts will provide 11 houses. The Housing Commission has also arranged to obtain, from the Land Administration Commission, further building sites which will become available in an area being developed by that Commission and for which the Emerald Shire Council has undertaken construction of road works and water supply. As soon as these matters are sufficiently advanced the Housing Commission intends to invite tenders for more house construction. Loans are available from the Commission at all times for persons desiring to have houses erected on their land."

SALE PRICE OF USED RAILWAY LINES

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

(1) Is it a fact that in certain rural areas used railway lines are for sale at 55 cents per foot plus freight, but if there is no sale these rails will be conveyed to Brisbane and sold to junk yards at 39 cents per foot?

(2) If so, will he waive the freight to encourage local sales and, if not, why not?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Small quantities of used rails are sold at a price per lineal foot depending on the weight of the rail and its condition plus freight if applicable. When large tonnages are available, tenders are called and the prices obtained are dependent on market fluctuations."

AXLE OVERLOADING, TRANSPORT VEHICLES

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

(1) In each of the previous three years, how many drivers as employees of transport firms have been fined for breaches in connection with axle overloading?

(2) What is the total amount in each year of fines for these offences?

(3) Have any drivers been gaoled for failure to pay these fines?

(4) By what methods can a driver ascertain if his vehicle is loaded in conformity with the regulations prior to his attendance at a weighbridge?

(5) If a driver has reason to believe that his vehicle may be overloaded prior to his leaving the depot, what means can he take to prevent having to accept the responsibility for any breach that may occur?

(6) For what reason has the onus for axle-overloading breaches been placed on the driver of the vehicle rather than on the owner?

(7) In view of the fact that in recent times drivers have faced the threat of gaol because former employers have been unable or have refused to pay fines incurred by these drivers, is it proposed to review existing legislation?

(8) When axle-overloading breaches occur, is the vehicle allowed to continue on its journey still overloaded, thereby committing a further breach of the Act?

(9) Has the weighbridge officer or police officer the authority to remove the excess loading?

Answers:—

(1) "The number of complaints laid against drivers of vehicles for axle overloading breaches in the past three years was as follows:—1966-67, 2,464; 1967-68, 2,677; 1968-69, 3,635. As records maintained by the Department do not indicate whether the driver was an owner/driver, an employee of a transport firm or an employee or agent of other vehicle owners, the number of complaints which were in respect of 'drivers as employees of transport firms' is not readily available."

(2) "Total fines paid for overloading breaches in the past three years have been:—1966-67, \$57,836; 1967-68, \$50,899; 1968-69, \$60,592."

(3) "This information is not available to the Department. Warrants of Commitment for the non-payment of fines are issued by Clerks of the Court, without prior reference to the Main Roads Department, as a process to enforce the default penalty for non-payment of the fine and are then forwarded to the police for execution. However, in the opinion of senior officers of the Department, the number of drivers gaoled for these offences would be very few, if any at all."

(4) "As most vehicles weighed are not overloaded, presumably most drivers are able to determine the gross vehicle weight and distribution of loading with sufficient accuracy to prevent axle overloads."

(5) "The driver, in common with all other citizens, cannot evade responsibility for knowingly breaking the law."

(6) "Both the driver and the owner are obliged to observe the law. However, before an owner can be prosecuted, evidence that he caused or permitted the overloading must be available. The driver is prosecuted as the person actually committing the offence."

(7) "The question of whether owners of vehicles, consignors of goods, terminal despatch officers, etc., could be implicated and prosecuted for weight of loads offences (as well as drivers) has been under consideration for some time. Under the existing law, the collection of acceptable evidence is virtually impracticable. Any change in the law would require departure from the generally accepted concept that an alleged offender should not be required to prove his innocence. The alternatives are still being examined but there are a number of legal and practical difficulties."

(8) "When considered warranted vehicles detected grossly overloaded are required to adjust loadings. The wholesale holding of vehicles and offloading of all excess loads would cause considerable disruption to the transport industry and the movement of goods, as well as creating traffic hazards. The Weight of Load Regulations are designed to protect the community's roads against unnecessary damage and it is hoped to achieve the necessary co-operation without creating serious inconvenience to the community in general and the transport industry in particular, including drivers, by offloading every excess load, no matter how small."

(9) "The Regulations prescribe that a driver shall comply with any requirement given by a police officer or authorised person to discontinue driving a vehicle until the loading thereon is reduced to comply with Regulation limits."

AUTHORITIES TO PROSPECT, OFF-SHORE OIL EXPLORATION

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

(1) What is the number of current authorities to prospect in respect of off-shore petroleum exploration?

(2) How many of these were issued prior to 1957 and are still operative?

(3) How many of the authorities to prospect issued prior to 1957 have expired?

(4) Of the number that have expired, how many have been renewed and for what periods?

(5) Does the conferring of an authority to prospect entitle the company to commence drilling at any time or place within the authority area?

(6) Has he the right to impose restrictions on areas within the authority to prospect in which drilling may not take place?

(7) Has he power to enable him to impose conditions in respect of off-shore drilling to safeguard against spillage?

(8) Has any foolproof method of off-shore drilling been devised which would enable him to lay down specifications for drilling operations?

(9) Has any efficient method of dealing with oil spillage been devised to enable him to lay down specifications to be observed by the holder of an authority to prospect or production licence should an oil spillage occur?

(10) In the event of an oil spillage, are holders of authorities to prospect or production licences liable to pay compensation for damage to property?

(11) Has he any authority to institute proceedings against any company in respect of the occurrence of an oil spillage?

(12) What conditions have been imposed in regard to drilling operations by the Japex company presently being carried out at Repulse Bay in respect of (a) pollution of the surrounding area, (b) accidental spillage, (c) dealing with a spillage should it occur and (d) compensation for damage?

Answers:—

(1) "Authorities to prospect for petroleum were granted under 'The Petroleum Acts', which is the onshore Act, before the proclamation of the joint Commonwealth/State Offshore Legislation in 1968. Under this Offshore Legislation the titles granted are Exploration Permits for Petroleum. The number of current permits is sixteen."

(2) "None of the current permits were granted as authorities to prospect before 1957. Authorities to prospect at that time normally had a term of five years and at the end of that period, or prior to this on the title-holder's request, new ones would be granted provided that a worth-while programme was being carried on."

(3) "All. However, most of the areas now held offshore were held under Authority to Prospect prior to 1957."

(4) "As explained previously, the areas held under Authority to Prospect prior to 1957 were either given new titles or expired. Under this process, the shape and size of the present titles do not correspond with those issued prior to 1957."

(5) "Section 28 of *'The Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act of 1967'* provides that a permit authorises its holder to explore for petroleum and to carry out such operations and execute such works as are necessary for that purpose. These operations include drilling for petroleum."

(6) "Section 18 of *'The Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act of 1967'* enables the designated authority to reserve areas from the provisions of a permit, license or pipeline license provided that it has been reserved before a permit or license over the area has been granted or before a pipeline license has been granted in respect of a pipeline over that area."

(7) "Section 101 of *'The Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act of 1967'* provides for the designated authority to give directions to holders of permits on any matters with respect to which regulations may be made. Section 159 provides for the Governor in Council to make regulations on all matters necessary or convenient for carrying out or giving effect to the provisions of the Act. This section lists a number of specific matters for regulation which includes 'the control of the flow and the prevention of the escape of petroleum or water'. At this stage regulations are still being discussed between industry and the Governments and it is hoped that they will be in a form to forward to the Parliamentary Draftsman before the end of the year. In the meantime Section 101 gives the designated authority the necessary power."

(8) "Section 101 gives the designated authority the power to give directions such that drilling operations are carried out in as safe a manner as possible. I have no knowledge of a so called fool-proof method of offshore drilling. There is always some risk, however remote."

(9) "There is no single method of dealing with an oil spill and the laying down of detailed specifications for one situation may not be practical for another. It is

intended that the operator be directed to submit a plan for each well drilled and this examined as to its suitability."

(10) "Generally speaking, if the oil spillage is due to negligence or is deliberate on the part of the permittee or licensee then that person would be liable to pay compensation for damage caused as a result. The Question comprehends a great number of specific questions, and it would be impossible to give a short Answer fully dealing with a question of law of this nature."

(11) "The designated authority, who has directed a permittee or licensee in any matter referring to offshore exploration for petroleum and that permittee or licensee does not comply with that direction, may himself do whatever is necessary to carry out his direction and the costs are recoverable in a court of competent jurisdiction. This would apply to an oil spillage if by chance it occurred. In addition the designated authority has power to cancel a permit or license under these conditions which would result in the permittee or licensee losing his entire investment."

(12) "(a) Japex have been instructed that nothing will be permitted to be thrown overboard and all garbage, rubbish, &c. must be taken ashore for disposal. (b) The casing design has been carefully examined and the cementation practices discussed with the Japex engineers. Mud stocks have been examined and certain minimum amounts laid down. It is our intention that a Departmental Inspector will be on site while the well is drilling. The formal Notice of Intention to Drill the well was lodged with the Department of the 7th instant and if upon examination of this, further requirements are considered necessary for the safe drilling of this well, the operator will be directed to comply with them. (c) Japex were instructed last May to submit a proposal for action in the event of an oil spillage and a reply is expected in the near future. (d) This Question was answered by Question No. 10."

HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSES

Mr. Sherrington, pursuant to notice, asked Minister for Works,—

(1) How many Housing Commission homes have been built for (a) purchase and (b) rental during each of the past three years in (i) the metropolitan area and (ii) country areas?

(2) What was the number of homes built in each of these three years on behalf of various companies, who are the companies, and what was the number built for each company?

(3) How many current rental applications are before the Housing Commission and what is the number in each priority?

(4) How many homes have been allotted to rental applications in (a) the metropolitan area and (b) country areas over these three years?

Answers:—

(1) “

	“ 1966-67		1967-68		1968-69	
	Home-ownership	Rental	Home-ownership	Rental	Home-ownership	Rental
Metropolitan	337	224	320	386	167	259
Country	490	592	494	516	419	833
Total	827	816	814	902	586	1,092 ”

(2) “For 1966-67 and 1967-68 I refer the Honourable Member to the Answer to his Question on October 22, 1968. For 1968-69—

Company, etc.	Location	Number
Amagraze Limited ..	Biloela	3
Thiess Peabody Mitsui Coal Pty. Ltd. ..	Moura	8
Utah Development Co. Queensland Alumina Limited	Blackwater ..	19
North Queensland Flour Mills Pty. Ltd. ..	Gladstone ..	1
Capricornia Regional Electricity Board ..	Rockhampton	1
Mackay Regional Electricity Board ..	f Baralaba	1
Northern Electric Authority of Queensland ..	f Biloela ..	4
Gladstone Harbour Board	Proserpine ..	1
	Collinsville ..	27
	Gladstone ..	1
		66 ”

(3) “4,467 comprising—100 points 210; 80 points 64; 60 points 118; 40 points 1,472; nil priority 2,603.”

(4) “The following tenants obtained accommodation in new or existing State Rental properties, exclusive of Armed Services and Employer Tenancies. Changes of occupancy are not recorded in Service and Employer Tenancies.

	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69
Metropolitan ..	1,046	1,073	1,087
Country ..	600	629	556

(5) “In the Metropolitan and adjacent areas the prices for new houses currently available for purchase range—(a) \$9,150 to \$10,600; (b) \$8,910 to \$10,640; (c) \$9,700 to \$10,440. In country areas prices are affected by location and local factors and whether erected on Crown or freehold land; examples are (a) Dalby \$8,600, Mt. Isa \$10,150; (b) Ipswich \$8,930, Currumbin \$10,520; (c) not applicable.”

(5) What is the average purchase price for (a) timber, (b) fibro and (c) brick in the various areas?

(6) What is the average deposit for intending purchasers in each of the above categories?

(6) “For houses priced at \$9,500 or less the deposit is \$500. Otherwise the deposit is the excess over \$9,000.”

DROUGHT MITIGATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. W. D. Hewitt, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Primary Industries,—

(1) Of the five specific recommendations outlined on page 7 of the 1966 Report of the Drought Mitigation Committee, which have been acted upon by the Government?

(2) In regard to those suggestions that would involve amendments to the Commonwealth income tax laws to provide for special deposits as a drought reserve and for special deductions for on-property storage facilities, what submissions were made to the Commonwealth Government?

(3) What has been the response from the Commonwealth Government to those submissions?

Answers:—

(1) “Two meetings were chaired by the Minister for Primary Industries, between Government and industry representatives and the recommendations of the Committee were endorsed and forwarded to the Premier for consideration. On February 2, 1968, the Premier, the late J. C. A. Pizzey, wrote to the Prime Minister to enlist the support of the Commonwealth Government in the following measures, namely—(a) encouragement of on-property fodder production and storage; (b) encouragement of on-property and off-property storage of fodder produced by specialist growers. A further letter dated February 28 to the Prime Minister requested the Commonwealth Government to consider, amongst other matters, the introduction of a scheme by which private financial reserves may be set aside for drought mitigation purposes. The fourth specific recommendation related to expansion of activities

under the Farm Water Supplies Assistance Acts and of rural water supply schemes. It was recognised that this was dependent upon Commonwealth Government support. However, because the Emerald Irrigation Scheme was under consideration and because greater priority was attached to the first three recommendations, no case was submitted to the Commonwealth Government at that time. The fifth specific recommendation, namely, 'a review of freight concessions on fodder purchased in advance of drought' was considered by an inter-departmental committee. This Committee, in its report submitted to Cabinet in August, 1968, recommended that no change be made in the form of encouragement of the storage of fodder."

(2) "Submissions were made to the Commonwealth Government in the letter dated February 28 recommending—(a) The introduction of a scheme by which deposits might be lodged with the Taxation Commissioner as a drought reserve, such deposits to be an allowable deduction in the year of deposit, but included as income in the year in which they are used. This submission was instrumental in the introduction of the Drought Bonds Scheme announced by the Commonwealth Government recently. (b) In respect of structures erected on the property for storage of fodder, it was proposed that the special depreciation allowance of 20 per cent. per annum be supplemented by an investment allowance of 20 per cent., as in the case of machinery, or that the total cost of the structure be a taxable deductible item in the year of construction. (c) It was also proposed that payments of deposits or full purchase price for foddors to Marketing Boards or to co-operative bodies for the purchase and/or storage of fodder should be a deduction in the year of payment, irrespective of the year of delivery."

(3) "There has not been any direct reply to the submissions from the Commonwealth Government. However, the Drought Bonds Scheme, announced by the Commonwealth, closely resembles the scheme suggested in the State's submission."

OPERATION OF S G I O THEATRE

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

(1) What guidelines are set down by Cabinet for the operation of the S G I O Theatre?

(2) Does the Government intend that the Theatre, as a theatre, should function as such and that companies performing there might reasonably expect affairs to be in the hands of the appointed management with due regard to the Theatre as a building being part of the State Government Insurance Office building complex,

or is it to be regarded as another sub-department of the Insurance Office to be supervised in detail by the Insurance Office general management?

(3) In view of the problems encountered in the installation of a computer at the Insurance Office, would it not be preferable for the general management to give priority in application of managerial skill and personal attention to the wide range of affairs of the Insurance Office that vitally concern policyholders and the State?

Answers:—

(1) "The only guidelines set down by Cabinet relate to the scale of hiring charges and the conditions of letting."

(2) "The affairs of the Theatre are in the hands of the appointed management, subject to general oversight accorded by the State Government Insurance Office to its investment."

(3) "I do not feel that the application of managerial skill and personal attention to the wide range of affairs of the State Government Insurance Office has in any way been diminished by the construction and operation of the S G I O Theatre—in fact I consider the construction and operation of the Theatre fulfils a long-felt want in this City."

APPOINTMENT OF FEMALE WELFARE OFFICERS TO PRISONS SERVICE

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

Will he give consideration to the appointment in the prison service of female welfare officers whose efforts would be directed to the problems of the prisoner's family, bridging the gap between prisoner and family that too often follows the circumstances of a man's imprisonment or unsettles him in prison in the knowledge of the chaos he has generally left behind for his wife and children?

Answer:—

"Yes, although it is to be here mentioned that the problems of the prisoner's family have been recognised and appointments of two additional welfare officers have been already recommended. Here I also wish to refer to the good work at present being done voluntarily in the field referred to by the Honourable Member, by the Family Committees of The Prisoners' Aid Societies, North Queensland and South Queensland. Every inquiry by prisoners as to the family position, regarding either financial or other circumstances of the family, is at present referred to the Prisoners' Aid Society through the welfare officer for necessary attention. On the other hand, a prisoner's wife, herself, or any dependants can personally contact the

office of the Prisoner's Aid Society for assistance. Up to the present, there has been only one welfare officer at Brisbane Prison and one at Townsville Prison and recommendations have been made for two additional appointments of welfare officers, one to be appointed to Brisbane Prison and one to Wacol Prison, thus to give the Metropolitan Area three Prison welfare officers. All welfare officers have been, and it is expected they will continue to be, active members of the Prisoners' Aid Society. Broadly speaking, the position as regards the welfare of families of prisoners is reasonably well catered for per medium of the work of welfare officers, the Family Committees of the Prisoners' Aid Society and that Society in general. However, the Department is not complacent and realising the problems in this field, will doubtless extend its activities progressively in the future."

NEW COURTS OF LAW COMPLEX, BRISBANE

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

(1) When will the new District Court building be opened for Court work?

(2) Is it proposed that the Supreme Court will occupy the building whilst the present Supreme Court building is being demolished?

(3) When will a start be made on the demolition of the present Supreme Court building?

(4) What arrangements, if any, are being made regarding the existing Magistrates Court building in George Street, which is situated within the Supreme Court, District Court and Magistrates Courts complex?

(5) Will any portion of the existing Magistrates Court building be demolished? If so, have any arrangements been made to transfer Magistrates Courts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 to some other location in order to avoid the noise and inconvenience associated with the excavation works that will be involved in relation to the new Supreme Court building?

Answers:—

(1) "Present completion time of the contract for the new District Courts Building is December 4, 1969. On this basis, the building can be prepared for occupancy during the Christmas vacation. However, there is some doubt as to the contractor's ability to complete the contract by the scheduled completion date, and some delays in opening the building might be expected."

(2) "It is proposed that the activities of the Supreme Court be accommodated temporarily in the new District Courts

Building until such time when, after the old buildings are demolished, the new Supreme Court Building is erected on this site."

(3) "A start is expected to be made on the demolition of the present Supreme Court Building after the transfer of the activities of the Supreme Court to its temporary location in the new District Courts Building."

(4) and (5) "The existing Magistrates Courts will not be demolished until after completion of the new Supreme Court Building, which is phase 2 of the total development. During construction of the new Magistrates Courts Building which is phase 3 of the total development, it is proposed to accommodate the Magistrates Courts in rented premises partly in the area presently rented for the Supreme Court."

POLICE REPORTS ON TRAFFIC BREACHES

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

(1) Has Inspector Chandler instructed police officers to issue breach reports for all accidents whether the investigating police consider that a breach has been committed or not?

(2) On what basis was this instruction given?

(3) Is it merely for the purpose of raising revenue?

(4) Has a further oral instruction been given by Inspector Chandler to the effect that, if a motorist does not pay on the traffic breach ticket and pleads not guilty and defends the charge, the charge by the police has to be withdrawn?

(5) Will he countermand any such instructions in order to preserve some vestige of public relations between the police and the citizens of Queensland?

(6) Has Inspector Chandler indicated that if no breach is considered, proceedings are to be taken under section 17 of the Traffic Act, which deals with driving without due care and attention?

(7) Has Inspector Chandler issued instructions that even where breaches occur in relation to accidents where the damages sustained are less than \$100, a breach report must be furnished?

(8) Is this done to help insurance companies, which pay only \$2 for the report?

(9) Have instructions been given that Reg. 49 of the Traffic Act shall be liberally employed in the issuing of breach reports when on busy intersections it is impossible to avoid, at times, driving too close to the vehicle in front?

(10) Is this the same Inspector Chandler who caused all the trouble in Innisfail by the withdrawal of a gaming charge against a defendant before the police evidence was completed?

Answers:—

- (1) "No."
- (2) and (3) "See Answer to (1)."
- (4) "No."
- (5) "See Answer to (1) and (4)."
- (6) "No."
- (7) "No."
- (8) "See Answer to (7)."
- (9) "No."
- (10) "Inspector Edwin Peter Chandler was in charge of the Innisfail Police District from April 11, 1968, to February 24, 1969."

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS, S G I O BUILDING PROJECT

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

As three deaths and a number of accidents have occurred to workers employed on the State Government Insurance Office building project, has any action been taken by the Machinery and Scaffolding Department against the principal contractor, K. D. Morris & Sons. Pty. Ltd., by way of prosecutions or other measures, to see that the Scaffolding Act is fully observed on the job and, if not, why not?

Answer:—

"Yes. The Machinery and Scaffolding Department has had one and sometimes two Inspectors on the S.G.I.O. site full time from June 23 to August 8. However, as a Safety Officer has now been appointed by K. D. Morris & Sons Pty. Ltd., it has been determined that Inspectors on the site on a permanent basis be discontinued, but arrangements have been made for an Inspector to make a daily visit to the site. On the question of prosecutions, a number of sub-contractors are employed, the legal responsibility of the principal contractor is being investigated."

STAFF, GOVERNMENT GAS ENGINEER; CONVERSION TO NATURAL GAS

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

(1) What was the number of personnel employed by the Government Gas Examiner and Engineer's Department as at December 31, 1968?

(2) What was this number increased by in the first half of 1969 when the changeover from coal gas to natural gas affected household consumers and industry in the metropolitan area?

(3) Of the above number, how many are fully qualified to carry out inspections on all matters associated with the natural gas conversion?

(4) What has been the number of monthly inspections carried out by such officers for the months of March, April, May, June and July this year affecting the household consumers and industry on (a) conversion of appliances, (b) blow-ups affecting consumers, both household and industry, (c) accidents occurring during the conversion, (d) meters and (e) accounts received?

(5) What has been the number of conversion faults either rectified or advice thereon given to (a) the conversion company, (b) household consumers, and (c) industry?

(6) What has been the number of conferences held with (a) the South Brisbane Gas Company and (b) the conversion company, for the period March 1 to July 31, 1969?

Answers:—

(1) "Nine—total all functions."

(2) "Nil. Approaches have been made for high-grade staff for temporary employment, but have not been successful. An officer of the Department of Mines has been loaned part-time."

(3) "In Brisbane 3, Townsville 1."

(4) "(a) Separation of functions of inspection is not possible as matters are inter-related. Most conversions were checked. Totals are—March, 5; April, 62; May, 54; June, 63; July-August, 122. It should be noted that conversion work is not continuous and that new work was not carried out during the following periods:—April 1 to May 12, May 20 to May 29, June 14 to July 7, August 9 to present. (b) and (c) Four have been reported direct to the Department. The company has notified eleven. None is regarded as serious. (d) Twenty-two. (e) Excluding petitions, in excess of 100."

(5) "(a) Many conversion faults were rectified on the spot by Gas Examiners—number not recorded. Reports, mostly verbal, given on 245 premises to gas company and/or conversion company. (b) All householders contacted were given advice as necessary. (c) No problems reported."

(6) "Total unknown. The Chief Gas Examiner is in constant contact."

NATURAL GAS CHARGES

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

(1) How was the thermal unit for natural gas arrived at and by whom?

(2) What was the rate struck per therm and by whom?

(3) What charges were allowed per month for the conversion costs against the consumer and by whom?

Answers:—

(1) "The British Thermal Unit, or B.T.U., is an internationally accepted unit of energy. It has been in existence far longer than living memory. It is defined in the Gas Acts. The Honourable Member may have intended to refer to the calorific value of natural gas. This also is defined in the Gas Acts. It is primarily decided by nature. In general around the world this varies from about 850 to 1,100 B.T.U. per standard cubic foot saturated. The local figure is of the order of 1,030 to 1,075. Control of calorific value measurement is a responsibility of the Government Gas Engineer and Chief Gas Examiner."

(2) "The rate charged per therm was the same as for the manufactured gas. A decrease in tariffs for consumers with hot water systems on natural gas has been announced. The rate struck was by the company and was acceptable to the Chief Gas Examiner. Income from tariffs is controlled by the provisions of Part VII of "The Gas Acts, 1965 to 1967."

(3) "Charges allowed for off-setting conversion are governed by the provisions of Part VII of "The Gas Acts, 1965 to 1967." The rate is primarily determined by the company, but the Chief Gas Examiner must be satisfied. Annual returns are due on September 30 and these will cover initial allocations."

RAIL FREIGHT RATE, GOONYELLA PROJECT

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

Are there any other contract agreements in existence with the Railway Department that offer a rate as low as the two cents per ton per mile currently being offered for goods and material for use in the Goonyella project? If so, what are they?

Answer:—

"This is not a contract rate. The freight rates for the Goonyella Railway Project are on a similar basis to those which applied for the Mt. Isa Railway Project and for the Moura Railway Project (1½ cents per ton per mile in each case) and are for the purpose of reducing

costs. This freight rate, among others, has application only to the Goonyella Railway Project. It is Government policy to encourage major development in various parts of the State. To allow the contractors and sub-contractors closest to the project to enjoy favourable freight rates, these special rates apply for that project. Those in the region where the Goonyella-Hay Point Line is being constructed who will benefit are suppliers of sleepers, cement, ballast, fuel, timber and building materials. Also, in Mackay, there is a supplier of points and crossings who would have a freight advantage as a result of this action over competitors in other areas. It is apparent from statements made by Australian Labor Party spokesman and the Honourable Member that they do not favour the substantial reduction in freight rates which has been allowed for this Project. This attitude would be in keeping with the policy of the Australian Labor Party who, when in office in this State, increased rail freight charges nine (9) times in ten (10) years. I have no doubt that if they had been returned to office in May of this year, these concessional freight rates, available to industry throughout Queensland and which are particularly favourable to industries in North Queensland, would not have been granted."

COMMONWEALTH AID ROADS ALLOCATIONS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

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

As the new Commonwealth Aid Roads allocations have now been determined, what are the total allocations for the following categories as defined by the Agreement—Category A, (i) towns and cities and (ii) shires; Category B and Category C, (i) Brisbane City and (ii) major provincial cities?

Answers:—

(1) "I do not understand what information the Honourable Member is seeking. The *Commonwealth Aid Roads Act 1969* does not refer to Categories A, B and C, nor does it mention generally cities, towns or shires."

(2) "If the Honourable Member is seeking information about the allocations for 1969-70 from moneys to be received under the *Commonwealth Aid Roads Act 1969* to Local Authorities for expenditure on roads not declared under "The Main Roads Acts", the following information can be supplied:—

"Allocations to Local Authorities for undeclared roads—(a) From moneys for expenditure on Rural Arterial Roads, Nil; (b) From moneys for expenditure on Other Rural Roads, Brisbane City, Nil; Other Cities and Towns, \$315,509; Shires, \$3,709,274; (c) From moneys

for expenditure on Urban Arterial Roads, Brisbane City, (Not yet determined); Other Cities, \$313,929; Shires, \$52,828.

(3) "Urban Arterial Road expenditure is confined to roads approved by the Commonwealth Minister for Shipping and Transport in the following urban areas as designated by the Commonwealth Statistician for the purposes of the 1966 Census—The Brisbane Statistical Division (which includes the whole of the Cities of Brisbane, Redcliffe and Ipswich, the whole of mainland Redland Shire, and parts of the Shires of Caboolture, Pine Rivers, Moreton, Beaudesert and Albert); Urban Townsville; Urban Gold Coast; Urban Toowoomba; and Urban Rockhampton.

SURVEY OF UNDERGROUND WATER SUPPLIES, MARYBOROUGH AREA

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

(1) Has the team of geologists exploring underground water supplies in the Maryborough area completed its survey? If so, when does he expect the report to be finalised?

(2) If the work is not completed, when does he expect the team to finalise its investigations?

Answers:—

(1) "The original programme of field investigations and drilling was completed in February, 1969. A preliminary report based on these investigations is at an advanced stage in compilation and is expected to be issued within three months."

(2) "Study of data has indicated that supplementary drilling at Boonooroo and pumping tests are necessary for a fuller evaluation of the area and it is proposed to carry out this work early in 1970. These results will then be amalgamated in the report for publication."

EXPENDITURE ON OFFICE AND BEDROOM ACCOMMODATION, PARLIAMENT HOUSE

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

In view of his statement as reported in *The Courier-Mail* on August 6, that "For more than an hour Labor members spoke about their own needs and the fact that they have to sleep three to a bed in the Lodge" and his statement that "all they could think about was their own home comfort",—

(1) What was the total expenditure on improvements, repairs, alterations and furnishings by all Departments to the bedroom, office or bedroom and office in Parliament House for each Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, Speaker and

Chairman of Committees during each of the periods 1957 to 1960, 1960 to 1963, 1963 to 1966, 1966 to 1969?

(2) Does he desire to correct his statement that "they have to sleep three to a bed in the Lodge"?

Answers:—

(1) "The information sought by the Honorable Member is not readily available and the time and expense that would be involved in securing it could not be justified."

(2) "The printed report needs correction by substitution of the word "room" for the word "bed"."

SPECIAL LEASE FOR MOUNT ARCHER ROAD CONSTRUCTION, ROCKHAMPTON

Mr. Wright, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Lands,—

(1) What were the conditions of the special lease granted to the Rockhampton City Council with regard to Mount Archer which enabled the Council to construct the Mount Archer Road?

(2) Has any variation of the terms of the lease been requested by the Rockhampton City Council?

(3) What is the area of land in question?

Answers:—

(1) "The conditions of Special Lease No. 27270 which is held by the Council of the City of Rockhampton over land at Mount Archer are as follows:—(a) No compensation for improvements shall be payable by the Crown at the expiration of the term of the lease, but the lessee shall have the right to remove any structural improvements, within a period of three months, provided all moneys due by the lessee to the Crown on any account whatsoever shall have been paid. (b) The lessee shall, within the term of the lease and at its own cost and expense, provide access to the leased land to the satisfaction of the Minister. (c) The lessee shall, within the term of the lease and at its own cost and expense and to the satisfaction of the Minister, develop not less than 50 allotments on the leased land for residential or business purposes. (d) Subject to condition (e) hereafter, the lessee may purchase the fee-simple of the land comprised in the lease for the sum of \$2,000. (e) The lessee shall not be entitled to purchase the fee-simple of the land comprised in the lease until the lessee shall have fully complied with conditions (b) and (c) hereof. (f) Upon payment to the Minister of the said total purchasing price, together with the prescribed deed fee and Assurance Fund

fee, a Deed of Grant shall be issued to the lessee in respect of the land comprised in the lease."

(2) "No variation of the terms of the lease has been requested by the Rockhampton City Council."

(3) "The area contained in the Special Lease is about 220 acres."

BRISBANE KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS'
COLLEGE AND GRANTS TO
KINDERGARTENS

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

(1) How many graduates of the Brisbane Kindergarten Teachers' College are at present employed in kindergartens in Queensland?

(2) What financial assistance has been given by the State Government to this college during each of the last five years?

(3) What financial assistance has been given by the State Government to kindergartens which are affiliated with the Queensland Creche and Kindergarten Association during each of the last five years?

(4) Is pre-school education an essential prerequisite to the primary-school programme? If not, why not?

Answers:—

(1) "The Brisbane Kindergarten Teachers' College is under the control of the Creche and Kindergarten Association. Information on the placement of the graduates of the College is not available within the Department of Education."

(2) "The State Government makes grants to the Creche and Kindergarten Association to assist in the furtherance of its objects, including the conduct of the Kindergarten Teachers' College. In 1965 a special grant of \$100,000 was made to the Creche and Kindergarten Association to assist in the costs of construction of the new college. The grants to the Creche and Kindergarten Association exclusive of grants for individual kindergartens in the past five years have been as follows:—
Creche and Kindergarten Association, 1964-65, \$25,000; 1965-66, \$28,800; 1966-67, \$35,500; 1967-68, \$41,000; 1968-69, \$45,500."

(3) "Kindergartens affiliated with the Creche and Kindergarten Association have received the following grants in the last five years:—1964-65, \$53,550; 1965-66, \$65,700; 1966-67, \$74,900; 1967-68, \$95,550; 1968-69, \$119,850."

(4) "No. The primary school curriculum does not assume that children have had pre-school education."

INCREMENTAL WAGE PAYMENTS FOR
RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

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

(1) Has the Government investigated the matter of incremental payments for Queensland railway employees so that they will be no less favourably treated than railway employees in other States? If so, when is it expected that payment will be granted?

(2) Will the basis of incremental payments for Queensland railway employees be considered on similar rates to those operating in other State railway systems, which range from \$1.00 to \$6.80 per week?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "This matter has been the subject of discussion by the Combined Railway Unions with me. On June 27, I advised the Secretary of the Combined Railway Unions that the matter of service increment payments to railway men had been discussed at Cabinet and it was decided this matter, along with others involving increased expenditure, be considered in the preparation of the 1969-70 Budget."

INTERSTATE PASSES FOR CHILDREN OF
RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

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

Why will the State Government not allow dependent children of Queensland railway employees to be included on their interstate passes when Commissioners of other State railway systems are agreeable to granting this concession to their employees annually?

Answer:—

"To allow the concession would require reciprocal arrangements with other Australian railway systems. The existing carriage stock of the Queensland Railways is fully utilised and further extension of free travel would result in paying customers being deprived of train accommodation."

ESTABLISHMENT OF TEACHERS' COLLEGE,
TOOWOOMBA

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

Is it proposed to establish a teachers' training college at Toowoomba? If so, have working plans and specifications been drawn up, is it anticipated that tenders will be called and when is it expected that building will commence?

Answer:—

“It is proposed to establish teacher education facilities in association with the Darling Downs Institute of Technology. Working plans and specifications have not yet been drawn up. Construction work on buildings will not be commenced before the next financial year.”

PROPOSED STATE PLANNING AUTHORITY

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

With regard to the proposed State Planning Authority by the Government (a) what progress has been made to date, (b) what form will the authority take, (c) what type of professional specialists and others will comprise the authority and (d) what will be the nature of its responsibilities and obligations?

Answer:—

“(a) A committee has been appointed to examine and report on the proposals submitted by professional bodies. (b) This has not yet been determined. (c) A planning group would normally include architects, engineers, surveyors, economists, sociologists and others. (d) This is under investigation.”

RESIGNATIONS AND RE-APPOINTMENTS, TEACHING SERVICE

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

(1) How many (a) secondary and (b) primary teachers in the categories of males and females have left the teaching profession since July 1, 1968 to the present date and for what reasons?

(2) How many have rejoined the service during the same time?

(3) How many (a) male secondary, (b) male primary, (c) female secondary and (d) female primary teachers were employed by the Department in 1967, 1968, and this year to the latest available date?

Answer:—

I table the statistics requested for the information of the Honourable Member.

(1) “The numbers of teachers who resigned between July 1, 1968, and July 31, 1969, were:—

—	Male	Female	Total
Primary ..	166	1,013	1,179
Secondary ..	146	606	752

The reasons for these resignations were:—

—	Primary		Secondary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Marriage	345	..	234
Household duties; family reasons ..	2	200	..	107
Teach elsewhere ..	13	29	15	12
Other employment ..	57	31	61	23
Ill health	25	..	4
Leaving State: travel ..	36	201	23	93
Full-time study ..	19	5	16	17
Other and not specified ..	39	177	31	116
Total ..	166	1,013	146	606

(2) “The numbers of teachers re-admitted to the teaching service during this period were:—

—	Male	Female	Total
Primary ..	44	747	791
Secondary ..	60	355	415

In addition, 1,624 teachers were admitted to the service from courses of teacher education or from other sources.”

(3) “Teachers employed in various categories at the times specified were:—

—	Male	Female	Total
August, 1967—			
Primary ..	3,226	3,312	6,538
Secondary ..	1,950	1,547	3,497
August, 1968—			
Primary ..	3,248	3,731	6,979
Secondary ..	2,050	1,714	3,764
June, 1969—			
Primary ..	3,240	3,997	7,237
Secondary ..	2,166	1,974	4,140

INCREASES IN SOFT DRINK PRICES

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

In view of the Public Notice on page 22 of *The Courier-Mail* of August 6 indicating without any prior warning that the retail price of most brands of soft drinks were increased from that date by one to three cents on various sized bottles—the one cent on the small size plus increase in bottle deposit representing an increase of 42 per centum and particularly in view of the fact that the medium size has been increased by three cents as compared with two cents on the larger size, and deposits on all sizes are five cents, together with the fact that I have already received a number of complaints about this price rise, will he (a) disallow any price increase at this time, (b) institute an investigation into the justification or otherwise of the rise, and (c) immediately restore price control on essential commodities such as bread, which I have been informed is also about to be increased in price?

Answer:—

“(a) No. Aerated waters and cordials are not and never have been the subject of price control since power to control prices reverted to the States in 1948. (b) No. (c) No.”

VISITS OF GOVERNMENT DENTIST TO
NORMANTON

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

(1) How many visits were made by the Government dentist to Normanton during 1968 and to date in 1969?

(2) What is the normal duration of these visits?

(3) Has any itinerary been made for the remainder of 1969 and, if so, will he disclose the details?

(4) Will he consider more frequent visits and a longer duration of such visits?

Answers:—

(1) “1968—Three (3) visits—January 31 to February 14; May 25 to June 8; August 10 to August 24. 1969—Two (2) visits to date—February 8 to February 22; July 26 to August 9.”

(2) “Two (2) weeks.”

(3) “Yes. A further visit is scheduled from November 8 to 22, 1969.”

(4) “The itinerary presently undertaken by the itinerant dentist from the Cairns Hospital would not permit more frequent visits or a longer duration of such visits. The position will be reviewed from time to time in the light of the demand on the overall itinerant service provided in the area.”

APPOINTMENT OF GROUNDSMEN,
RAVENSHOE AND ATHERTON
STATE SCHOOLS

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

In view of his promise just prior to the last State election to the Country Party candidate for Tablelands that a groundsman would be appointed at Ravenshoe State School after the election and the subsequent reply to my telegram to him after the election, can he indicate when the groundsman will be appointed at Ravenshoe and whether a groundsman will be appointed full time at the Atherton State Primary School?

Answer:—

In terms of the Premier's policy speech, it is expected that janitor-groundsman will be employed in Class I and Class II Primary Schools as from January 27, 1970. Ravenshoe and Atherton will both qualify.”

CHERRY TREE CREEK CROSSING,
HERBERTON-ATHERTON ROAD

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

In view of the constant delays and danger caused by flooding of the Cherry Tree Creek crossing on the Herberton-Atherton Road, what steps are being taken to have permanent works carried out to eliminate these hazards?

Answer:—

“It is proposed to release a permanent works scheme for a crossing of Cherry Tree Creek at an early date—probably in September.”

HOUSING COMMISSION RENTAL ACCOM-
MODATION, IPSWICH WEST ELECTORATE

Mrs. Jordan, pursuant to notice, asked The
Minister for Works,—

In view of the building of Housing Commission rental houses in the Ipswich West Electorate being almost exclusively for the Defence Forces and taking into consideration the number of applications from civilians for rental houses there, will he give consideration to building a greater number of Housing Commission rental houses for the civilian public and also investigate the possibility of building low-rental Housing Commission flats in the area?

Answer:—

“The major and urgent expansion at Amberley has called for a substantial housing programme for defence personnel. To assist non-service families, allocations of Housing Agreement moneys totalling \$223,000 were made direct to Ipswich Housing Societies in 1968-69 and a tentative allocation, which I expect to be able to increase, of \$140,000 has already been made for 1969-70. The Housing Commission has contracts current for 7 houses which will be available for purchase applications during the construction period and, if not sold, will be rented. At the present time preference is given to construction of houses of a suitable size for families with children, in preference to flats, which do not cater adequately for such families. I can assure the Honourable Member that her representations will be kept under notice. To provide for non-service personnel the Queensland Housing Commission is willing to purchase, at reasonable prices, single allotments or small groups of sites within the general residential community.”

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, IPSWICH AREA

Mrs. Jordan, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Industrial Development,—

As indications were given in the Press some time ago that an industrial estate was being planned for Ipswich, when will this estate be established and where is it to be sited?

Answer:—

“Approval has been given for the establishment of an industrial estate at Ipswich. However, a thorough investigation by Departmental officers has confirmed that there is no Crown land in that vicinity which would be suitable for the purpose. Appropriate action is therefore in hand to acquire a parcel of freehold land at Ipswich and when this has been finalised full details will be announced. As the Honourable Member will be aware, my Department, when dealing with freehold land, has consistently followed the practice of negotiating with individual owners for the acquisition of property rather than exercise any powers of resumption. This of necessity takes some little time.”

ADDITIONAL SPEECH THERAPIST, IPSWICH AREA

Mrs. Jordan, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Education,—

(1) Is he aware that there are a number of school children in the Ipswich area who urgently require the assistance of a speech therapist and are not receiving such aid?

(2) Will he give urgent consideration to the appointment of another speech therapist in this area to relieve this situation, which in spite of requests has been one of long-standing concern?

Answers:—

(1) “Yes.”

(2) “There are no speech therapists available for existing vacancies. A part-time appointment of a married woman has been made in the Ipswich area making it possible to provide speech services at two additional Ipswich schools in third term.”

STOCKPILING OF COAL, GLADSTONE

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a report in *The Courier-Mail* of August 6 wherein the action of coal companies in overloading stockpiles adjacent to Gladstone's waterfront was justified by a company representative of Thiess Peabody Mitsui?

(2) Has he also noted that following recent negotiation of the price of Moura coal in Japan a report appeared in a

southern publication called *The Miner* wherein it was stated that the *Japanese Commerce Daily* was highly critical of railway and port shortcomings in this State and said that these shortcomings were cited by the Japanese steel industry as taking the edge off otherwise bright export prospects?

(3) As the port authority concerned, the Port of Gladstone, has carried all its responsibilities and as members of the Railway Department have worked most assiduously in getting coal to the port, has there, to his knowledge, been any refutation of the criticism mentioned?

Answers:—

(1) “Yes.”

(2) “No.”

(3) “The Treasurer discussed the matter of coal deliveries generally with the steel mills on his recent visit to Japan and I do not feel that there is any misunderstanding of the present position.”

IMPROVED ACCOMMODATION, MOUNT LARCOM STATE SCHOOL

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

(1) Is he aware of a serious situation developing in the primary school at Mount Larcom concerning the fact that parents are contemplating taking their children from school in the summer months?

(2) Is any permanent work envisaged at this institution in the near future?

(3) Are any temporary improvements likely to be carried out at Mount Larcom to relieve the students and teachers from the oppressive conditions that prevail in the months of October and November?

Answers:—

(1) “I am not aware of any serious situation at Mount Larcom State School.”

(2) “No provision is made in the current financial year's Loan Works Programme for the construction of permanent classroom accommodation on the new school site at Mount Larcom.”

(3) “Action has recently been taken for the removal of two demountable classroom buildings to Mount Larcom to be erected on the new school site so that improved accommodation will be available for the primary section of the school.”

POWER STATION BUILDING PROGRAMME

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

With reference to the Hetherington Report on Energy Resources of Queensland and their use, wherein it was stated that

coal must still be regarded as the most economic source of fuel for the next major electric power generating installation for 1971, the plans for which must be finalised in 1965—

(1) Did the State, to his knowledge, have such plans ready by the end of that particular year? If so, when were plans finalised and economic sites selected for this huge undertaking?

(2) On what date was submission made to the Commonwealth for assistance in the construction of this large power facility and when was a reply, if any, received?

(3) Is he aware of a 1967 Commonwealth publication entitled *Energy in Australia*, published under the imprimatur of the Minister for National Development, wherein on page 30 it is stated, "The present power station building programme in Queensland will have cost approximately \$114 million by 1970, and it will be necessary to have put further major projects in hand by that time"?

(4) Has any firm decision been given in this request for assistance to the Commonwealth and has he read the report of the investigating team from the Commonwealth who recently inquired into the feasibility of the project?

Answers:—

(1) "Following the completion of investigations in hand at the time referred to, i.e. 1964, the Swanbank 'B' power station was approved for construction in 1965. The first 120 MW set for this Station will be commissioned in 1970."

(2) "No submission was made to the Commonwealth for assistance in respect of the power station referred to in (1)."

(3) "Yes."

(4) "It is assumed that the Honourable Member is referring to the power station now under consideration for Central Queensland. No firm decision on the Government's request to the Commonwealth for assistance has been given. The Report on the investigation initiated by the Commonwealth into technical aspects of the proposal has been received by the Government. It is at present under consideration by officers of the Departments concerned."

MAINTENANCE, BOWEN HILLS RAILWAY STATION

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

In view of criticism by residents and train travellers regarding the dirty and dilapidated condition of Bowen Hills railway station, will he consider having the necessary painting and renovations done immediately?

Answer:—

"This matter is already being examined as a result of previous representations."

NAMING OF NEW S G I O THEATRE

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

In view of the widespread controversy regarding the new S G I O Theatre not having a name clearly identifying it as a theatre belonging to the State Government, will he give consideration to naming the theatre "The State" or "The Queensland" or some similar name to clearly define its identity?

Answer:—

"The Honourable Member's question is based on wrong premises. The theatre does not belong to the State Government; it has been built by the State Government Insurance Office (Queensland) in its investment of policy-holders' money."

CONSTRUCTION OF WEST INNISFAIL STATE SCHOOL

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

(1) Have plans and specifications been drawn up for the establishment of the West Innisfail State School, which is to replace the already-condemned Goondi State School?

(2) Have tenders been called? If not, when will they be called?

(3) Has a date been set for commencement of construction?

Answers:—

(1) "No. The proposal for the establishment of a new school at Innisfail West to replace the existing Goondi State School was included in the Draft Educational Works Loan Programme for the 1969-70 financial year but because of the limited funds available in relation to the many major projects listed, the work cannot be undertaken during the current financial year. Consideration will not be given to the preparation of plans and specifications until funds are available to permit this project to be undertaken."

(2) and (3) "See (1) above."

WAITING LIST, INNISFAIL DENTAL CLINIC

Mr. F. P. Moore, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) How many persons are presently on the waiting list at the Innisfail Dental Clinic and what is the waiting time for an appointment?

(2) In view of the fact that the Innisfail Clinic is the only one in the Mourilyan Electorate, will he take immediate steps to establish a clinic at the Tully District Hospital?

Answers:—

(1) "Two hundred (200) patients for operative treatment and fifty (50) for prosthetic work are on the waiting list. Waiting time for an appointment is approximately 4 to 6 months. However, toothaches and other emergency cases are treated without delay. The situation should improve as a result of the recent installation of new equipment."

(2) "The establishment of a dental service in Tully has not been overlooked. The extension of dental clinic services in Queensland must be considered in the light of the overall dental needs of the State and the availability of dentists to staff existing dental clinics and any proposed new clinics. It is understood a private dentist is practising in Tully."

DETERIORATION OF MAIN ROADS, INNISFAIL DISTRICT

Mr. F. P. Moore, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Mines,—

(1) Is he aware that the newly constructed main roads between Moresby and Mourilyan and from Goondi Hill to the Palmerston Highway intersection are already breaking up after some seven weeks of use?

(2) What is the reason for the rapid deterioration of these roads?

(3) What steps are being or are to be taken to remedy the situation?

Answers:—

(1) "I am aware that the newly constructed section of the Bruce Highway between Moresby and Mourilyan is giving trouble in places. The work at Goondi Hill is incomplete and will be completed as soon as weather conditions are favourable."

(2) and (3) "The difficulties on the Moresby-Mourilyan section are due to failures in the paving material, although it complied with all required tests prior to use. This has now been fully investigated and remedial measures will be undertaken at an early date."

IMPROVEMENT OF CHARLEVILLE- CUNNAMULLA ROAD

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

(1) Is he aware that the existing condition of the Charleville to Cunnamulla road is preventing the free-flowing movement of thousands of drought-affected stock from North Queensland?

(2) In view of the importance of these stock movements to properties throughout the north and west of Queensland, will he give urgent consideration to essential work being carried out to make this a better trafficable and all-weather road?

Answers:—

(1) "I fully appreciate the problems on this road which are accentuated at the moment by drought conditions and the heavy transport operations arising from this. This road is not the only one where problems of this nature are being experienced."

(2) "The alignment of this road is being investigated and a design should be possible in the near future. In view of the state of planning, permanent improvements are not anticipated before the 1971-72 financial year. In the meantime, the road will be maintained in as reasonable condition as practicable, consistent with the funds available and prevailing weather conditions."

SURVEY OF CROWN LANDS, MARYBOROUGH AND BUNDABERG AREA

Mr. Blake, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Lands,—

Has the survey by Departmental officers of Crown lands between Maryborough and Bundaberg, with a view to the lands' best utilisation, been completed? If not, can he give a practical estimate of when the survey will be completed and considered?

Answer:—

"The survey and utilization study of vacant Wallum land between Maryborough and Bundaberg has not yet been completed. This land is part of a large area of Wallum country between Brisbane and Bundaberg which is at present under investigation. No definite date can be given for the completion of the investigation of the large area involved but officers in the Departments of Lands and Forestry are co-operating with a view to the submission of a report to me at an early date."

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, HERVEY BAY AREA

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

Is the provision in provincial areas of further industrial estates to those already announced by the Government being considered? If so, will the Hervey Bay area, which has both port and rail facilities, be considered?

Answer:—

"The provision and development of industrial estates in provincial centres will be progressively extended as the need for such action is established. With respect to the general area referred to by the Honourable Member, my Department already has under its control approximately 150 acres

in Bundaberg and 218 acres in Maryborough. Detailed planning is under way and it is expected that construction of first stage developmental works will be commenced in both centres during the present financial year. Under these circumstances and having regard to the requirements of other areas throughout the State, it is unlikely that further industrial estates will be established in the Hervey Bay area in the immediate future."

SCHOOL EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED BY PARENTS
AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS

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

(1) Does equipment supplied by Parents and Citizens' Associations become the property of the Education Department from the time of installation on Education Department premises?

(2) Are members of Parents and Citizens' Associations liable for damages for any injuries arising from the use or installation of such equipment?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Except under unusual circumstances, no. A categorical answer to cover every possible set of circumstances cannot be given."

KOLAN-BURNETT WATER CONSERVATION
SCHEME

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

Has the Kolan-Burnett Water Conservation Scheme received priority over other similar large water conservation schemes proposed for Queensland? If not, why not?

Answer:—

"During my election campaign, I spoke at length on the subject matter of the Honourable Member's Question. My colleague, Mr. Wharton, the Member for Burnett and Mr. P. Neville are both vitally interested in this matter and I gave them my assurance that I will continue to make every endeavour to obtain the finances necessary for this undertaking."

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROCESSING
FACTORY, BUNDABERG

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

Will financial consideration be given to the establishment of a farmers' co-operative fruit and vegetable processing factory for Bundaberg? If not, why not?

Answer:—

"Although there has been some general correspondence on the subject, no application has been received for the registration of, let alone financial assistance for, a primary producers' co-operative association to engage in fruit and vegetable processing at Bundaberg."

PROVISION FOR VOTING IN STATE
ELECTION BY SERVICEMEN IN
VIETNAM

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

(1) Was provision made for servicemen in Vietnam to vote in the State Election on May 17?

(2) Have letters requesting the reason for not voting been sent to the home addresses of servicemen in Vietnam who did not vote in that election?

Answers:—

(1) "In accordance with arrangements made by the Honourable the Premier with the Right Honourable the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, facilities for postal voting in relation to the General Election on May 17 last were available in all areas outside of Queensland where members of the Defence Forces were serving. I am informed that servicemen in Vietnam voted by these means."

(2) "In accordance with the provisions of *"The Elections Acts, 1915 to 1965,"* a notice is at present being sent by the Principal Electoral Officer to each elector who failed to vote at the recent General Election. The Act requires that each such notice be sent to the elector at the address mentioned in the Roll. Where the Principal Electoral Officer is satisfied that the elector was absent from Queensland on polling day, for instance if he knows an elector was then serving in the Armed Forces outside of the State, the notice is not sent."

NEW STATE SCHOOL, GLENMORE

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

Will the new Glenmore State School be erected during this financial year? If so, what is the estimated date of commencement?

Answer:—

"The proposal for the construction of a new school building at Glenmore was included in the Draft Loan Works Programme for the 1969-70 financial year but the project could not be afforded a sufficiently high priority, within the ambit of the funds available, to enable it to be included in the Approved Loan Works Programme

for the current financial year. This proposal will, however, receive further consideration from time to time when future Loan Works Programmes are being prepared."

NEW POLICE STATION, NORTH
ROCKHAMPTON

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

Will a new police station be erected at North Rockhampton this financial year?

Answer:—

"The Loan Works Programme does not include the erection of a new police station at North Rockhampton this financial year."

AMATEUR NET FISHING LICENCES,
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

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

In regard to my correspondence relative to the renewal of amateur fishing licences in Central Queensland, can he now inform me of the decision from his investigations?

Answer:—

"Amateur net fishing licences were cancelled from December 31, 1968, at the expiry of a period of three years' notice. The intent of this cancellation was both to preserve the livelihood of professional fishermen and to conserve fish stocks for amateur line fishing. I am satisfied that amateur net licences are required only by a small minority while on the other hand there is a very strong body of public opinion against the re-issue of these licences. As the matter stands at present, there is no intention to re-issue such licences."

BUSINESS FIRM OF STUART ADAMS

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

(1) Is the firm of Stuart Adams a registered company? If so, what is the company's address and its type of merchandising?

(2) Who are the directors?

(3) On what date was the company first registered?

Answers:—

(1) "The name, Stuart Adams, is registered as a business name only under *"The Business Names Acts, 1962 to 1965."* The principal place of business is 44 Gilston Street, Grovely, and the business is of tailors and mercers."

(2) "The members are Edward Enock Adams of 44 Gilston Street, Grovely, and Walter James Stephen Burton Struthers of 109 Edmonston Street, Kelvin Grove."

(3) "The business name was first registered on February 2, 1967."

REPORT ON TEACHER EDUCATION

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

With reference to the committee appointed on April 24, 1967 to review teacher education in Queensland,—

(1) Has the report been presented to him?

(2) When will it be made public?

(3) What interim proposals have been made?

(4) Which of these proposals have been implemented?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "The Teacher Education Committee is still deliberating."

(3) "An interim report was submitted to Cabinet on June 28, 1968. This interim report recommended: (i) that a minimum of three years of basic preparation for primary school teachers be adopted and that this extension of training be introduced with a proportion of the 1969 intake to teachers' colleges; (ii) that teachers successfully completing the three-year course proceed to the equivalent of the present I.1 classification without the necessity of undertaking further study."

(4) "One third of the students who entered teachers' college in 1969 to prepare for teaching in primary schools were awarded scholarships to cover a three-year course."

AUTONOMY FOR TERTIARY EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS

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

(1) What committees are presently receiving submissions on, or making enquiries into, the matter of autonomy for Institutes of Technology, the Conservatorium of Music and the Queensland Agricultural College?

(2) What are the terms of reference of any committees appointed?

(3) Will any report or recommendations be made available to this House?

Answer:—

"The matter of the granting of autonomy to tertiary educational institutions is at present being considered by the Agricultural Education Advisory Council, the Technical Education Advisory Council and officers of my Department. In due course I shall be reporting to Cabinet on this matter."

ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION, CENTENARY HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL, TOOWOOMBA

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

(1) What additional accommodation will be required for the Centenary Heights High School for 1970?

(2) When will a start be made on site works for the extensions?

Answers:—

(1) "Executive Council approval has been given to an expenditure of \$97,900 for the construction of six additional general purpose classrooms, a staff room and additional toilet accommodation at the Centenary Heights State High School. This is the total additional accommodation required for the enrolment anticipated at the commencement of the 1970 school year."

(2) "It is anticipated that work on this project will commence in about two weeks' time."

PROTECTION OF AUSTRALIAN TRAWLER OPERATORS, GULF OF CARPENTARIA

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

Has any approach been made by owners and skippers of Australian-owned fishing trawlers operating in the Gulf of Carpentaria, seeking protection from foreign vessel competition and other restrictions aimed at assisting this industry? If so, with what results?

Answer:—

"Yes. Trawler operators have been advised of the legal position, briefly, that Australian jurisdiction is limited to 12 miles off-shore in respect of foreign boats. The matter of foreign vessels has been taken up with the Commonwealth which is endeavouring to negotiate with the foreign governments concerned. The successful conclusion of the agreement with the Japanese Government with respect to tuna boats is one result of such negotiations."

OPERATION OF POLICE RADAR UNITS

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

As Queensland has had at least five different policies in regard to police radar-trap operations in traffic since the beginning of this year, will he give details of the manner in which these traffic devices are now operated with reference to warning signs, location on roads and other relevant features?

Answer:—

"Generally radar units are operated at accident prone areas, in conjunction with warning signs, in clear view of the motorists, and with the prime object of reducing accidents occasioned by speeding."

TENANCY BY WIDOWS OF HOUSING COMMISSION RENTAL HOMES

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

(1) Under what conditions and for what reason are widows being asked to leave Housing Commission rental homes almost immediately after the death of their husbands?

(2) Is any review or variation of this practice proposed?

Answers:—

(1) "The question of future tenancy raises itself automatically following death of a tenant—the previous tenancy having ceased. Where the number of occupants is reduced to only one it is obviously necessary to review the position. The tenancy was granted originally because of the capacity of the house to accommodate a family and the family concerned received preference for that reason. With a reduction to one person we have a house, which could accommodate say 2 to 6 children, occupied to only a fraction of capacity. When the single survivor seeks to have a new tenancy created in her or his name these facts are explained. The Commission has applications from larger families, including widows, deserted wives, and invalid pensioners with children who need accommodation on low rebateable rent conditions. It has been found that the single survivors approach this matter in a variety of ways—some are interested in a transfer to a one bedroom Commission flat; some will take relatives to live with them; others will apply for accommodation at one of the aged persons homes conducted by organisations which receive Commonwealth subsidy for this express purpose. Others ask to be allowed to remain and are advised that the Commission cannot agree to an indefinite tenancy and they are asked to reconsider. There is no question of eviction. The problem is twofold—underoccupation of accommodation on the

one hand, and the requirements of low income families on the other. The Housing Commission is sympathetic and realises the disinclination to leave a house which has the associations of husband and family. However, these elderly ladies do become frail and infirm and the properties tend to become neglected. There is no overall solution which will fit every case. However, we should not ignore that the grown-up children have some responsibility towards an aged parent and they may assist in a variety of ways even if they cannot permanently accommodate the parent in their own homes."

(2) "No."

ESTABLISHMENT OF POLICE STATION,
WOODRIDGE AREA

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

In view of the recent dangerous case of arson in the Woodridge area of Logan Electorate, will he give urgent and favourable consideration to the provision in this financial year of sufficient finance for the establishment of an adequate police station and sufficient staff to restore reasonable security to the residents?

Answer:—

"Action is in hand to acquire a selected site at Woodridge for the future establishment of a police station in that area when finance and manpower are available. In view of other urgent commitments it will not be possible to provide for the establishment of a police station at Woodridge in the current financial year, but the matter will be kept under review in relation to available finance and manpower."

PROVISION OF SCHOOLS FOR BACKWARD
CHILDREN, LOGAN ELECTORATE

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

Will he give favourable consideration to the provision in this financial year of sufficient funds to establish schools and provide staff for the benefit of backward and handicapped children in the Beenleigh, Kingston, Woodridge and Park Ridge areas of Logan Electorate?

Answer:—

"A survey conducted in June of this year revealed insufficient slow learning children in the Beenleigh area to justify the establishment of a two-class opportunity school unit in that area. The needs of the Woodridge-Kingston-Park Ridge area are recognised and the forward planning for opportunity schools includes provision for a six-class school with manual training and homecraft facilities for this area. A site at Woodridge has been secured. In view of

other priorities and the funds available for capital works, it was not possible to include this project in the works programme for 1969-1970. The matter will be kept under review."

PURCHASE OF LAND FOR HOUSING
COMMISSION HOUSES, REDLAND
SHIRE

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

Will he give favourable consideration this financial year to the provision of sufficient funds for the purchase of land in the Redland Shire and the erection of houses thereon for rental, rental/purchase and purchase to a degree sufficient to keep pace with the population shift in that direction?

Answer:—

"I am aware of the current progress in the Redland Shire which has been stimulated by the provision of a town water supply by the Council. The Honourable Member may be assured that this locality will receive continuing consideration having regard to the requirements of the State as a whole. To assist home ownership, Housing Commission loans are available to persons desiring houses to be erected on their land. In addition, 11 Commission houses have been constructed at Dunwich, a contract was let last week for 2 more, and tenders have been invited for another 5. The Commission has 8 sites at Alexandra Hills currently available for selection by persons desiring to have Commission homes erected for purchase and a further 11 sites are in course of purchase at Capalaba. Homes have also been financed in the Redland Shire with Housing Agreement moneys made available to Co-operative Housing Societies."

NEW ACCOMMODATION FOR TEACHERS,
THURSDAY ISLAND

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

With reference to the erection of new accommodation for teachers at Thursday Island,—

- (1) Have plans been finalised?
- (2) When will building commence?
- (3) When will the work be completed?
- (4) Who will carry out the work?

Answers:—

- (1) "Yes."
- (2) "Erection is expected to commence in the first week in September."

(3) "Single teachers' quarters will be ready for occupation by the commencement of the 1970 school year and the whole project is scheduled for completion by the end of April, 1970."

(4) "My Departmental work force."

CO-ORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT
ACTIVITIES, THURSDAY ISLAND

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

(1) Has a committee been established to co-ordinate Government activities on Thursday Island?

(2) If so (a) who are the members of this committee; (b) what meetings have been held and (c) what has been discussed?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "On February 18, 1969, Cabinet approved that a grant of \$225,000 be made available to meet the cost of augmenting Thursday Island's water supply. It further directed that a committee of representatives of the several departments concerned make a study and report on the future requirements of the Island. I am informed that the committee has met on several occasions and that a report is in the course of preparation for submission to Cabinet."

ENROLMENTS AND WAITING LISTS,
OPPORTUNITY SCHOOLS

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

How many children are (a) on the roll and (b) on the waiting list for each of the following opportunity schools or classes:—Atherton, Barooka, Beaudesert, Bundaberg, Buranda, Caboolture, Cairns, Cleveland, Darling Point, Dutton Park, Gold Coast, Greenslopes, Gympie, Inala, Innisfail, Ipswich, Mackay, Maryborough, Mount Isa, Nambour, Newstead, Redcliffe, Rockhampton, Sandgate, Toowoomba, Townsville and Windsor?

Answer:—

"I table the information requested by the Honourable Member. Of the 28 schools and classes listed, 19 have been opened since 1958. In 1957 there were less than 500 places available for slow learning children as compared with the present provision of approximately 2,400 places. The Department is anxious to increase this provision as fast as available funds will allow. The numbers of children on the

roll and on the waiting list for the various opportunity schools or classes as at the end of July are as follows:—

—	On Roll	On Waiting List
Atherton	40	Nil
Barooka	147	25
Beaudesert	33	Nil
Bundaberg	60	11
Buranda	126	22
Caboolture	40	8
Cairns	78	Nil
Cleveland	43	7
Darling Point	130	34
Dutton Park	168	76
Gold Coast	40	26
Greenslopes	61	20
Gympie	40	3
Inala	107	32
Innisfail	40	3
Ipswich	135	16
Mackay	125	18
Maryborough	61	16
Mount Isa	40	16
Nambour	41	10
Newstead	120	12
Redcliffe	60	37
Rockhampton	122	22
Sandgate	100	31
Toowoomba	125	16
Townsville	147	6
Windsor	147	57 "

OVERLOADING OF RAILWAY WAGONS UNDER
CONTRACT RATES TO NORTH QUEENSLAND

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

(1) Further to my Questions to the Minister for Transport on December 6, 1967, March 20 and August 22, 1968, and to the Premier on October 22, 1968, concerning overloading on rail wagons under contract rates to Cairns and North Queensland, and in view of subsequent reports appearing in the *Cairns Post*, *Sunday Truth*, *The Courier-Mail* and *The Sunday Mail*, alleging a rail freight swindle to an amount exceeding \$40,000 as freight claimed on "ghost" loadings, has the report on the investigation been processed from the Fraud Squad and forwarded to the Solicitor-General?

(2) If so, has the matter reached finalisation and what action is expected?

(3) If not, in view of the interim of approximately two years, (a) to what stage has the investigation and/or prosecution proceeded and (b) is he now prepared to disclose the name of the firm and/or persons involved?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Certain legal advice has been received and I do not propose at this stage to disclose the possible action to be taken in this matter."

(3) "See answers to (1) and (2)."

GROUND IMPROVEMENTS, BALACLAVA
STATE SCHOOL, CAIRNS

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

Have preliminary reports been compiled by engineering consultants Gutteridge, Haskins and Davey for schoolground surface, drainage and grading improvements at the Balaclava State School, Cairns? If so, has consideration been given for approval of the project and when can it be expected that tenders will be called and the work commenced?

Answer:—

“My Department has assessed a report on the school grounds at Balaclava State School prepared by consultants and plans and specifications are being prepared for the subsoil drainage to portion of the grounds. Consideration will be given to the invitation of tenders for such work on completion of the documents.”

HOUSING COMMISSION OPERATIONS,
CAIRNS

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

(1) How many allotments within the area of the city of Cairns are owned by the Queensland Housing Commission?

(2) How many houses are presently being built and what was the tender price for their construction?

(3) Is the Department negotiating the purchase of further land in Cairns?

(4) Does the Department intend to call tenders for the construction of houses in this financial year and, if so, how many will be (a) purchase homes and (b) rental homes?

Answers:—

(1) “Fifty-five vacant allotments of which 30 are on an estate recently developed.”

(2) “No Commission houses are currently under construction. However, a direct initial allocation of \$70,000 has been made to the Northern Co-operative Housing Society for 1969-70 and it is anticipated this amount will be increased. Five applications have already been submitted to the Commission by the society.”

(3) “The Commission desires to acquire further sites. Areas recently investigated would have involved very high development costs to produce satisfactory building sites.”

(4) “Tenders for one house are currently open and tenders for 10 houses have been programmed subject to survey and availability of water and electricity

services on the estate recently developed. The houses will be available for purchase during the construction period and if not sold will be rented. However, loans are available at all times from the Commission for persons desiring to have houses constructed on their own land.”

ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS, HAPPY VALLEY
STATE SCHOOL

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

When will construction of additional classroom accommodation at the Happy Valley State School be undertaken?

Answer:—

“No provision is made in the current financial year’s Loan Works Programme for the construction of additional classroom accommodation at Happy Valley State School. Further consideration will be given to the matter in the preparation of the 1970-71 Loan Works Programme.”

PAPERS

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

Reports—

Public Accountants Registration Board, for the year 1968-69.

Parole Board, for the year 1968-69.

Registrar of Co-operative and Other Societies, for the year 1968-69.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamations under—

The Acquisition of Land Act of 1967.

Trustee Companies Act 1968.

The Jury Acts Amendment Act of 1967.

Forestry Act 1959-1968.

Orders in Council under—

The Beach Protection Act of 1968.

The Supreme Court Act of 1921.

The Liquor Acts, 1912 to 1965.

The Queensland Law Society Acts, 1952 to 1967.

Money Lenders Act 1916-1968.

The Magistrates Courts Acts, 1921 to 1964.

The District Courts Act of 1967.

The Public Curator Acts, 1915 to 1957.

The Banana Industry Protection Acts, 1929 to 1937.

The City of Brisbane Market Acts, 1960 to 1967.

The Dairy Produce Acts, 1920 to 1963.

The Dairy Products Stabilisation Acts, 1933 to 1957.

The Drought Relief to Primary Producers Acts, 1940 to 1961.

The Fauna Conservation Act of 1952.

- The Fish Supply Management Act of 1965.
 The Fisheries Acts, 1957 to 1962.
 The Fruit Marketing Organisation Acts, 1923 to 1964.
 The Meat Industry Act of 1965.
 The Milk Supply Acts, 1952 to 1961.
 The Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1966.
 The Regulation of Sugar Cane Prices Acts, 1962 to 1966.
 The Soil Conservation Act of 1965.
 The Stock Acts, 1915 to 1965.
 The Sugar Experiment Stations Acts, 1900 to 1965.
 The Wheat Pool Acts, 1920 to 1957.
 The Austral-Pacific Fertilizers Limited Agreement Act of 1967.
 Forestry Act 1959-1968.
 The State Housing Acts, 1945 to 1966, and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Acts, 1923 to 1957.
 The State Housing Acts, 1945 to 1966.
 The City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1967.
 Water Act 1926-1968.
- Regulations under—
 The Prisons Acts, 1958 to 1964.
 The Elections Acts, 1915 to 1965.
 The Art Union Regulation Acts, 1964 to 1965.
 The Collections Act of 1966.
 The Auctioneers, Real Estate Agents, Debt Collectors and Motor Dealers Acts, 1922 to 1961.
 The Apprenticeship Act of 1964.
 The Inspection of Machinery Acts, 1951 to 1966.
 The Motor Vehicles Insurance Acts, 1936 to 1968.
 The Sawmills Licensing Acts, 1936 to 1965.
- Rule under the Coroners Act of 1958.
- Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of The Union-Fidelity Trustee Company of Australia Limited.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

AMPOL-JAPEX MACKAY NO. 1 WELL

Hon. R. E. CAMM (Whitsunday—Minister for Mines, Main Roads and Electricity) (12.43 p.m.), by leave: An authority to prospect for petroleum off shore was first granted in the Mackay area on 19 December, 1955, by the then Minister for Mines (the Honourable C. G. McCathie, M.L.A.). Exploration continued under Authority to Prospect No. 33P, then Prospecting Petroleum Permit 703, Authority to Prospect No. 68P, and Authority to Prospect No. 77P, which was surrendered in 1961.

Ampol Exploration (Queensland) Pty. Ltd. was granted Authority to Prospect No. 93P over the area on 1 April, 1962, and has

explored it continuously since. On 1 April, 1964, Authority to Prospect 103P was issued in place of 93P. Under the agreement of 16 October, 1967, between the Commonwealth and the State, and the consequential legislation, 103P was replaced by Exploration Permit Q12P issued under the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act of 1967, and Authority to Prospect No. 162P issued under the Petroleum Acts, 1923 to 1967. 162P applies to land, islands and internal waters, and Q12P applies to other submerged lands.

Ampol carried out a vigorous programme of exploration, including the drilling of Proserpine No. 1 well, to the limit of funds available, and then sought a partner to enable the exploration to continue without delay.

In March, 1967, I was handed a letter of intent by Ampol regarding a farm-out agreement with the Japanese Petroleum Exploration Co. Ltd., known as "Japex". This included a provision that Japex would drill one well in the area.

On 11 April, 1967, I announced that the farm-out arrangements had been approved and that a well would eventually be drilled. My announcement was reported in all the major newspapers in Queensland, including the Brisbane "Courier-Mail," the next day.

Other references were made to the Japex proposals from time to time, and again, on 13 May this year, I released a press statement in Mackay concerning the possibility of a well being drilled in the vicinity of Repulse Bay, which forms part of Queensland's internal waters.

The company lodged a formal notice of intention to drill with the Mines Department in Brisbane on 7 August, 1969, and now that this document has been submitted indicating the precise situation of the proposed well, it is known that it will be within Queensland's internal waters. This brings it under Authority to Prospect No. 162P, the Petroleum Acts, 1923 to 1967, and the Petroleum Regulations (Land), 1966. The proposed location is approximately latitude 20 degrees 49 minutes 5 seconds south, longitude 148 degrees 58 minutes 45 seconds east, in the south-east corner of Repulse Bay.

The Acts and regulations governing the authority to prospect give the Minister for Mines the power to issue directions and orders to prevent waste and protect land and property. The regulations contain detailed requirements for design and operation to reduce to the minimum the possibility of a harmful escape of oil.

The drilling proposals of Japex, the operating company, have been discussed by officers of the Mines Department with the engineers who will be involved in the drilling of the well. We have indicated that safety precautions more stringent than those that apply to drilling on land will be required.

The notice of intention to drill is being examined by petroleum engineers of the Mines Department and conditions to ensure

the safe drilling of the well will be determined. For example, it is our intention to have a departmental inspector on location while the well is drilling. In addition to stocks of drilling mud considered as adequate for the operation, additional mud stocks will be stored on board the drilling vessel. These will include enough weighting material to allow for increasing the weight of the total mud volume to a weight capable of holding back a formation pressure gradient considerably higher than has been known to occur in Queensland or Queensland waters. Casing design factors have been examined and found to exceed those required by the American Petroleum Institute. The cementing of each casing string will require that the cement fill reaches to the previously cemented casing, whereas on shore this is usually only required for the surface string.

Following on the Santa Barbara blow-out, the Government decided not to issue any new exploration permits or authorities to prospect for petroleum off shore until it was satisfied that drilling could be carried out with little risk to other resources. At the same time, it was reaffirmed that the Government would not repudiate any existing agreement. The Senior Petroleum Engineer of the Department of Mines was sent to the United States and England to inquire into modern off-shore drilling practices and the latest knowledge on the prevention of the escape of petroleum from wells drilled off shore.

Drilling is an essential step in finding deposits of petroleum, so all rights to explore for petroleum include the right to drill. For example, Authority to Prospect No. 33P issued on 19 December, 1955, granted "the . . . right to conduct a special investigation of the said area including . . . scout and deep test drilling as may from time to time in the opinion of the applicants be appropriate for the purpose with a view to determining the existence or otherwise of petroleum . . ."

Similarly, the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act of 1967, which is matched by supporting Commonwealth legislation and corresponding legislation enacted by all the other States, provides in section 28 that the holder of a permit may "explore for petroleum and . . . carry on such operations and execute such works as are necessary for that purpose." To take away this right after it has been granted would be repudiation by the Government—and this Government will not repudiate any agreement that it has entered into.

Repudiation could cause a world-wide loss of confidence in the integrity of the Government of Queensland, resulting in a drying-up of capital for investment in the State and a flight of capital from the State.

In such a case it seems almost certain that the State would be called upon to pay compensation. Since a considerable amount of money has already been spent under Authority to Prospect 103P alone, and contracts in excess of \$500,000 have been entered into

for the drilling of the Mackay No. 1 well, claims for compensation could be considerable.

The greater part of the Great Barrier Reef comes under the agreement of 16 October, 1967, between the Commonwealth and the State, and the joint legislation enacted thereunder.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I should imagine that the House, having agreed to allow the Minister to make a statement, would allow him to make it without any further interruption. I will deal in no uncertain terms with any hon. member who interrupts.

Mr. CAMM: This legislation cannot be altered without common legislative action by the Commonwealth and the States. Similarly, the State must consult the Commonwealth on matters such as varying a permit.

Everything involves a risk, whether it be driving a car, clearing land for a farm or drilling for oil. A wise person weighs the benefits against the risks, decides what seems to be the best, and then carries out his decision in a way that involves the least risk and greatest benefit.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I have already warned hon. members about interrupting. The hon. member for Norman has been continually interrupting since I issued that warning. I am giving him another warning—one only—that if he continues to interrupt I will deal with him under Standing Order 123A.

Mr. CAMM: Queensland is a State that is in great need of development. We need more money spent in the State, creating more jobs and attracting more people to come here and live. We need more Government revenue so that expenditure on such things as education, hospitals, housing and research could be increased. We would like to spend more on national parks and research on the Great Barrier Reef. But where is the money to come from?

Last year the value of oil and natural gas produced in Queensland was nearly \$10,000,000, and almost as much was spent on exploration for petroleum. Royalties amounted to more than \$800,000.

Discovery of further important oil and gas fields could result in a great increase in investment, employment, business activity and Government revenue. The State could then do many of the things that we have wanted to do for a long time.

We can control drilling so that the risk is remote, and it is my intention to do this.

Mr. Sherrington: Absolute piffle!

Mr. CAMM: It is on record now. You can read it.

Mr. Bromley: After that, wait until the Address in Reply.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! If hon. members do not keep quiet there will be no Address in Reply; there will not be time for it.

FORM OF QUESTIONS

Mr. BENNETT (South Brisbane) having given notice of three questions—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The three questions posed by the hon. member for South Brisbane appear to contain more information than they seek. One of the questions deals with a television programme and I think it should be addressed to the Postmaster-General, who is in charge of the department that controls television programmes. I will have a good look at the three questions, but I am very much afraid that they are out of order in their present form.

Mr. BENNETT: It seems to me that the way this State is going we need some more information.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! If the hon. member for South Brisbane continues to interrupt during question time I will deal with him.

Mr. BENNETT: You can deal with me like you did—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member will have the three of his questions ruled out of order if he continues to interrupt.

Mr. JENSEN (Bundaberg) having given notice of a question—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. JENSEN: I was not given the correct answer this morning. The Minister debated the question and made it clear—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I advise hon. members who are new to the House that it is not in order to preface questions with explanations as to why they are asked, or to explain them in any way.

Mr. HARRIS (Wynnum) having given notice of a question—

Mr. Chalk: The Wynnum electorate?

Mr. HARRIS: You would be aware of that. When you came down you tried to "con" me, but you had no chance in the world.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member for Wynnum should not be distracted by interruptions. It ill behoves any hon. member on either side of the House to interrupt an hon. member when he is giving notice of a question.

Mr. HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I bow to your ruling.

LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF QUESTIONS

Mr. HARRIS (Wynnum) proceeding to give notice of a fourth question—

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

SITTING DAYS

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier): I move—

"That, unless otherwise ordered, the House will meet for the dispatch of business at 11 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in each week, and that on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and after 1 o'clock p.m. on Thursdays, Government business shall take precedence of all other business."

Motion agreed to.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier): I move—

"That the Standing Orders Committee for the present Parliament consist of the following members:—

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, Mr. Chalk, Mr. Diplock, Mr. Hooper, Mr. Houston, and Mr. Tucker."

Motion agreed to.

LIBRARY, REFRESHMENT ROOMS, AND PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS COMMITTEES

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier): I move—

"That the Library, Refreshment Rooms, and Parliamentary Buildings Committees for the present Parliament be constituted as follows:—

Library: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Chinchin, Mr. Houghton, Mr. Kaus, Mr. P. Wood and Mr. Wright.

Refreshment Rooms: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Cory, Mr. Hanson, Mr. Harris, Mr. Lee, Mr. Low and Mr. Newton.

Parliamentary Buildings: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hanlon, Mr. McKechnie, Mr. Porter, Mr. Sherrington, Mr. Thackeray and Mr. Wharton."

Motion agreed to.

PRINTING COMMITTEE

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier): I move—

"That a Select Committee be appointed for the present Parliament to assist Mr. Speaker in all matters which relate to the

printing to be executed by order of the House, and for the purpose of selecting and arranging for printing returns and papers presented in pursuance of motions made by members.

"That such Committee consist of the following members:—Mr. Speaker, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Blake, Mr. Lickiss, Mr. Melloy, Mr. Miller and Mr. Wallis-Smith." Motion agreed to.

MINISTERIAL EXPENSES

ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. CORY (Warwick): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return, in the usual form, of expenses of Ministers for the period 1 July, 1968, to 30 June, 1969, inclusive, showing each separately and in detail."

Motion agreed to.

VOTING AT STATE ELECTIONS

ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. O'DONNELL (Barcoo): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return, in the usual form, giving details of the voting at the last State elections, together with details of voting at by-elections held since the general election on 28 May, 1966."

Motion agreed to.

OVERTIME PAID IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. McKECHNIE (Carnarvon): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return showing the amount of overtime paid in each Government department (all funds) in 1968–69."

Motion agreed to.

FEES PAID BY CROWN TO BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. CHINCHEN (Mt. Gravatt) (3.9 p.m.): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return showing all payments made by the Government to barristers and solicitors during the 1968–69 financial year, stating the names of the recipients and the amounts received, respectively."

Mr. THACKERAY (Rockhampton North) (3.10 p.m.): I move the following amendment—

"Add the words—

'and, with regard to solicitors, indicating any amounts paid to them which are payable to barristers, and to whom.'"

You will remember quite vividly, Mr. Speaker, that last Thursday week, when hon. members were asked for private members' motions, the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt was ruled out of order by you.

Mr. Chinchén: That is not correct.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member for Mt. Gravatt was not ruled out of order. After he had moved his notice of motion I advised the House that I was taking private members' motions. I did not rule the hon. member out of order.

Mr. Bennett: No, but you sat him down.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Hanlon: How could he move it if you were not taking them?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member for Mt. Gravatt had completed moving his motion before I made the announcement. I did not ask the hon. member to resume his seat. Following his moving of the motion, I announced that I was taking private members' motions.

Mr. Bromley interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I am merely reminding the House that I did not rule the motion out of order.

Mr. Hanlon interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! If hon. members in the front benches continue to interject, I will have to deal with them.

Mr. THACKERAY: I know that you, Mr. Speaker, are a stickler for protocol. I want to know why you did not call the business in the correct order. Why didn't you call the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt when you called me? That is the question I want answered.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I think the hon. member for Rockhampton North is being led astray a little by the interjections from the front row. I ask him to continue with his amendment.

Mr. THACKERAY: I have already moved the amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does the hon. member wish to speak to the amendment?

Mr. THACKERAY: I am speaking to it. The Opposition is saying quite openly in this amendment that solicitors should nominate the barristers to whom they pay money. The motion moved by the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt is such a motion that solicitors can cover up the barristers to whom they pay fees. That is why I am asking that my amendment be included in the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Is there a seconder for the amendment?

Mr. BENNETT (South Brisbane) (3.13 p.m.): I second the amendment so ably moved by the hon. member for Rockhampton North. It is obvious that he understands more about the method of briefing counsel by this Government than the mover of the original motion who purported to obtain some information for this House. In so doing he tried to conceal the full information, and he did so obviously to protect the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member is not in order in imputing improper motives to any member of this House by alleging that he is protecting the Government. I ask the hon. member to withdraw that statement.

Mr. BENNETT: I withdraw it, but in dealing with any suggestion of imputing improper motives, I point out that I was perhaps commending the hon. member's technique in being a loyal member of the Government when it does not wish to give the full information. When Parliament meets, I do not think it should be any sort of a sham show. When we seek information or ask questions, or even when we may have some information ourselves, we are entitled to test the authenticity and truth of that information and that is why Ministers are here. That is what they are here to do.

Mr. Davies: I could not get information from the Premier this morning.

Mr. BENNETT: Exactly. It is very difficult to get information from any Government members or anything other than abuse and sarcastic comments. That is one of the real defects in having to move notices of motion. It is rather a shame, as a matter of fact, that we have to give notice of a motion concerning important matters of this nature, because material like this should be at the disposal of any Minister who is properly apprised of his responsibilities and understands what he is doing.

The real reason, no doubt, why the hon. member for Rockhampton North moved this amendment is that, for many years now, the information we have been given does not set out in detail the fees paid to individual members of the profession, be they barristers or solicitors.

I should imagine that a large firm of solicitors, with many partners, would get a reasonable amount of governmental work. However, the information on fees paid to solicitors and firms of solicitors does not disclose the fact that particular counsel at the Bar are getting a fair proportion of the fees listed as being paid to those solicitors.

Mr. Knox: Do you know who they are?

Mr. BENNETT: I am indebted to the interjector. No, I do not know fully who they are because the Government has not the guts to tell us. However, I do know that certain barristers receive preferential treatment from this Government and from many individual Ministers, not because of

their quality or ability, but because they are prepared to go out and door knock for members of the Liberal Party and of the Country Party. I could name them if the Minister really wants me to.

Mr. Chalk: Name them.

Mr. Knox: Name one.

Mr. BENNETT: Government members know very well who worked for Peter Connolly at West End, and if they do not, they do not know what is going on in their own parties. The "ginger group" can tell them because they keep their ears to the ground.

Whilst I do not query the ability of some members of the Law Reform Commission, let me say quite categorically and candidly, in view of the interjection from the Minister for Transport, that some appointments to the Law Reform Commission, which I thought would be a body divorced from politics, were made because of preferential political treatment.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! We are not discussing the Law Reform Commission.

Mr. Aikens: Ray Smith has put you into the pauper class now.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, but we are dealing with the fees that are paid to those who are loyal to Cabinet Ministers by endeavouring to unseat Government members who are not persona grata with the Government. They receive emoluments, just as one solicitor did by being appointed to the Law Reform Commission, not because of his ability in law or because people at the Bar or in the solicitors' world wanted his appointment, but because he tried to unseat the hon. member for Toowong. I did not propose to say all of that. I was speaking academically about fees until the Minister invited me to substantiate my remarks. Every practising member of the law knows how the Law Reform Commission was constituted.

It does not seem proper that preferences or politics should be a consideration when the expenditure of public money is involved. Men should be briefed and paid on ability. I make this sound suggestion to members of the Ministry: while those people who have been paid over the years are, in the main, men of ability, there are many others at the Bar and many other solicitors with equal, if not better, ability. It has been the practice and policy of democratic governments throughout the English speaking world to insist that in the expenditure of taxpayers' money it should, as far as possible, be evenly distributed. When people gain the impression that they are being given preferential treatment by the Government, they are sometimes apt to lose their detached and objective professional attitude to their tasks. One or two counsel come to mind who, after being inundated with briefs from the Government over the years, lost their objective and detached professional attitude and entered

the arena of politics in order to secure the continuation of the lucrative fees that they were receiving.

The amendment, which should have been the original motion, has been moved so that that House will know exactly who is getting what. In other words, fees paid to all counsel, and those paid specifically to solicitors, should be listed properly. Fees paid to solicitors on behalf of barristers who were to receive their fees on brief should also be shown on the list of fees to be tabled in the House. This is a reasonable proposition, and, if the Government is unafraid to place the full facts before the House, it must surely support the amendment. Its purpose is simply to reframe the motion so that the full truth will be placed before the House and the Opposition will not be in the position of having to accuse a Minister, as the Treasurer accused Mr. Hulme, of hiding the truth. If the Government does not want to expose itself to the accusation of hiding the truth, let it simply accept the amendment so that who is receiving what can be truthfully shown to the House.

Mr. Ramsden: Will you answer a question?

Mr. BENNETT: I will always answer questions extemporaneously; I do not want a fortnight's notice, as Ministers do.

Mr. Ramsden: At what point of time did we alter the system of asking this question?

Mr. BENNETT: We are altering it now. I get a little impatient with obtuse people. I am well reminded how Mr. McKenzie must have become rather annoyed with the hon. member for Merthyr in the past. I am merely trying to say that this question has been asked by the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt in the old-fashioned way because he does not know what specific information he is seeking. The mover of the amendment and I are merely endeavouring to polish the motion so that, in a tradesmanlike fashion, this Parliament will be asking for—or, in the alternative, demanding—full information rather than information that does not give the full and true facts.

Hon. G. W. W. CHALK (Lockyer—Treasurer) (3.24 p.m.): We have seen evidence in the House today, right from its opening, of certain new tactics which no doubt the Labour Party intends to use during the session. That is its prerogative.

Mr. HOUSTON: I rise to a point of order. The Treasurer is imputing improper motives to the Opposition. I strongly object to that, and I ask for your protection, Mr. Speaker, in the same way as you protected the Treasurer.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition has raised the objection that the Treasurer is imputing improper motives to the Opposition. I ask him to accept the denial.

Mr. CHALK: I accept the assurance of the hon. gentleman relative to that, but I invite hon. members to look at what has happened.

First the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt moved the motion, then the hon. member for Rockhampton North moved an amendment, not very ably and without explaining the circumstances, and then the hon. member for South Brisbane rose and gave an explanation of why the amendment had been moved.

The Leader of the Opposition has charged me with imputing improper motives. Let us look at what happened exactly 12 months ago. The question asked by the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt is word for word with the question asked by the then hon. member for Mourilyan.

Mr. Bennett: That is right.

Mr. CHALK: Did the A.L.P. seek on that occasion to obtain from the Government the information that it now alleges it is seeking? I put it to the Chamber quite clearly that the idea behind this amendment is nothing more or less than an endeavour to create some embarrassment within the Chamber for purely political purposes. A motion similar to the one moved by the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt has been moved in this Chamber shortly after the opening of every session of Parliament over many years—I have not had an opportunity to check more than one year at the moment—but I believe it is a clear indication of the purpose for which the amendment has been raised on this occasion.

Let us go a little further and take the insinuations about the legal profession made by the hon. member for South Brisbane. I say that it is a clear indication of the calibre of the hon. member that he subscribes to the profession and uses this Chamber as a coward's castle to attack his friends. In other words, there is no right—

Mr. BENNETT: I rise to a point of order. I did not attack my colleagues, nor did I question their integrity. I answered the Minister for Transport relative to the appointment of one or two members of the Law Reform Commission—they are the only two—and what I said is quite true. It is not attacking the profession to say that one member was appointed as recompense for his endeavouring to unseat the hon. member for Toowong.

Mr. CHALK: The hon. member made reference to the chairman of the Bar Association.

Mr. Bennett: I did not.

Mr. CHALK: The hon. member did. He insinuated in every possible way.

The point is that those men have no right to protect themselves against an attack in this coward's castle, and all I wish to say

to the hon. member is that I believe that all the legal men engaged by the State Government are honourable men.

Mr. Bennett: I did not say they were not.

Mr. CHALK: The hon. member insinuated it in every possible way.

Mr. Speaker, my main purpose in rising to speak on this matter is to indicate—

Mr. BENNETT: I rise to a point of order. I should like to make my position quite clear. I said that if public moneys are being expended, they should be distributed evenly amongst the whole Bar, not given to a certain few. I did not question the honesty or integrity of any member of the Bar.

Mr. CHALK: I believe that it is the prerogative of any Government to spend its money engaging the services of those men in the legal profession who the Government considers have the ability and experience to either present or defend a case, and, so far as I am concerned, that leaves the hon. member for South Brisbane out. My principal purpose in rising was to point out to this Chamber and to the people of Queensland that the motion now before the Chamber has been moved in this fashion down through the years. For that reason I can only conclude that there was a motive in the A.L.P.'s moving the amendment.

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (3.31 p.m.): The real reason for this amendment is Press publicity and the desire of the A.L.P. to put the Government on the spot. I suggest to them, however, that if they want to put the Government on the spot, for goodness sake do it for something worth while. Do not raise these little flim-flam issues purely for party-political-propaganda purposes.

We had a shocking example here today of Satan reproving sin, not that that is a new role for the hon. member for South Brisbane. After all, he made exactly the same speech here, with the exception of a few words, as I made in the early fifties, when the Labour Government did exactly the same thing as he is accusing this Government of doing.

Mr. Bennett interjected.

Mr. AIKENS: Look up "Hansard" if you want proof. If this amendment will let us know just what the barristers are getting, then I will be quite happy to support it. Everybody knows—I do not know whether the hon. member for South Brisbane does, because he knows very little about the practice of law and what goes on in the legal profession—that some solicitors "touch" barristers, because many barristers absolutely refuse to see their clients even for the purpose of receiving instructions. They work purely from the brief supplied to them by the solicitor. The solicitor tells the client what the barrister's fees are and the solicitor puts a bit on for himself. He may tell the

client that the barrister's fee is 250 guineas plus \$50 a day refresher but he may tell the barrister that it is only half that amount, so that whereas the client pays the solicitor the fee demanded by the solicitor for the barrister's services, the barrister gets only half of it. If the Crown is being "touched" in this way—if the Crown is handing money over to solicitors and they are raking off a bit for themselves—I am quite happy to support the amendment.

Going into the question a little further, if the hon. member for South Brisbane, as a shining light of the Bar, wanted to do something to clear up the murky mess surrounding the legal profession, he would demand, as I have for many years, that barrister-members of Parliament be placed in exactly the same category as solicitors relative to holding an office of profit under the Crown. What a ridiculous position we have been in for many years! For instance, barristers can take from the Crown—and they do—thousands of dollars a year in fees, and at the same time they can continue to occupy their seats as members of this House because barristers' fees are not considered to be fees at all; they are some sort of slimy gratuity.

If we look at a barrister's gown we will see that there is a little pocket in the back of it, between the shoulder-blades. In accordance with tradition, the barrister is supposed to turn his back on his client while the client surreptitiously places the fee in the little pocket. That is the tradition under which we work. The barrister, after leaving his client, can go to a piestall, reach his hand into the little pocket and say, "By jove, he was a generous client, wasn't he?" That is the ridiculous part of the whole matter. Let us put barristers on the same footing as solicitors. Let us say to the barrister, "If you take any fees at all from the Government, those fees shall constitute an office of profit under the Crown and you will not be eligible to hold a seat in this House."

Let us go a little further. Last year I asked the Minister for Justice a question relative to barristers' fees. I should say that after four or five years in the office of Minister for Justice he would have a slight smattering of the law and its administration, and he told me that a barrister does not actually represent his client. He said that the client simply pays the barrister through the solicitor; that the barrister is, in effect, an officer of the court and is there merely to help the court. If necessary, the barrister can do exactly what he likes. He can refuse to take instructions from his client and he can refuse to act or speak for his client. But his fee must still be paid. The Minister for Justice nods his head in agreement. He cannot deny it; it is recorded in "Hansard". I suppose that if it was not in "Hansard" he would have a go at denying it.

We find that the Crown is spending the taxpayers' money and paying good dollars to barristers, any of whom can thumb his nose at the Crown and go into court and sell the Crown down the river.

If there is any profession that needs a clean-up—a prophylactic cleaner run through it—it is the legal profession. It would be a relatively simple matter to clean the charlatans out of the medical profession because there are not many in that profession, but we will never clean the charlatans out of the legal profession because it is infested with them. There are so many charlatans in that profession that if we cleaned them out very few people would be left in it.

Mr. Bennett interjected.

Mr. AIKENS: When I say these things, at least I say them in public and everything I say in public is actionable. If the Government is desirous of holding a royal commission into anything I say, I hope that it will hold one into the scandalous charges that have been made against the Townsville General Hospital by the hon. member for Wavell. If the Government holds such a royal commission I will not “dingo” it; I will go into the witness box, as I did during the Golden Casket Royal Commission. I would not claim privilege, as some members of Parliament did, during the National Hotel Royal Commission. It took me four days to get into the witness box, and it took Mr. Justice Mansfield four minutes to have me thrown out. Mention is made of political patronage. When we talk about political patronage and elevating members of the legal profession to the high position of the judiciary, I would like to tell the full story of how Mr. Justice Mansfield became Senior Puisne Judge and how Mr. Justice Mack was appointed to the Supreme Court Bench as a result of the Golden Casket Royal Commission. However, I know that you, Mr. Speaker, would chop me off before I got very far. It was in return for the way they pulled the Government of the day out of the soup.

When we deal with any aspect of the legal profession we deal with perhaps the most putrid thing that we can, and I feel sure that when this debate on the legal profession concludes, you, Mr. Speaker, with your strict rules as to hygiene and other things, will order this Chamber to be liberally doused with phenyl.

Mr. LICKISS (Mt. Coot-tha) (3.38 p.m.): We have witnessed a kind of political tactic that appears to be indicative of the Opposition. The tactic was elementary in the extreme. We have seen the hon. member for Rockhampton North acting as a “front” man for the hon. member for South Brisbane, who never misses an opportunity of attacking his own profession, and under privilege.

Mr. BENNETT: I rise to a point of order. I do not mind being justly attacked, but the allegation now is that I have never missed an opportunity in this Parliament of attacking

my own profession. I state categorically that I think it is an honourable profession. I have never once attacked it, and I challenge the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha to name one occasion on which I have. No-one has been as loyal to my profession as I have.

Mr. LICKISS: The hon. member has challenged me to name one occasion. I do not have to go beyond today. He imputed improper motives in relation to political activities to members of his own profession for personal gain that they may derive. I do not think I need go further than that.

I do not wish to delay the House other than to say that today we have seen the greatest piece of political hypocrisy and, I would suggest, political stupidity that has ever been witnessed in any Parliament in the British Commonwealth. Here we have an hon. member who has risen in his place to move an amendment to a motion identical to one that he himself moved in 1966. I should like to quote from page 48 of Volume 243 of “Hansard” for 1966–67—

“Mr. THACKERAY (Rockhampton North): I move—

“That there be laid upon the table of the House a return showing all payments made by the Government to barristers and solicitors during the 1965-66 financial year, stating the names of the recipients and the amounts received, respectively.”

It is interesting that now, for sheer political reasons, the Opposition wishes to have additional information. I wonder why the hon. member did not seek that information when he moved the motion to which I have just referred.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (3.42 p.m.): I had not intended speaking on this motion but as the Treasurer has entered the debate I think it is necessary for me to put a few facts straight. Firstly, what happened this morning concerning the hon. member for Townsville North was not of our making. The hon. member asked a question last Thursday week and you, Mr. Speaker, —

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The matter before the House relates to an amendment to Notice of Motion No. 1 on the Business Paper.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is right, but the hon. member who has just resumed his seat said that we were indulging in tactics today. I am giving him an answer. I am giving the story as it actually happened.

Mr. Campbell: Aren't you capable?

Mr. HOUSTON: If the Minister holds his tongue he will learn something.

You, Mr. Speaker, said that question No. 7 was inadvertently included on the Business Paper. If it had not been included a different discussion would have occurred between the hon. member for Townsville North and you. However, that matter was dealt with.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition is not in order in referring to a question which has been ruled out of order in this House. He is debating the disallowance of a question. He is using this debate for that purpose. I ask him to confine his remarks to the amendment before the House.

Mr. HOUSTON: I am leading up to it. That is what happened. Last Thursday week the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt read a notice of motion. Some time during his doing so, you, Mr. Speaker, realised that you wanted to deal with other matters first and told the hon. member to resume his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition is misleading the House. At no time did I interrupt the hon. member for Mr. Gravatt when he was speaking. I made my statement to the House at the conclusion of the notice of motion, after the hon. member had resumed his seat.

Mr. HOUSTON: I accept that, Mr. Speaker, but the point is that you said you wanted to deal with something else first.

Mr. SPEAKER: I did not.

Mr. HOUSTON: You said you were not dealing with that class of business. At any rate, the hon. member for Rockhampton North gave notice of motion which included the words that he has now moved as an amendment, and you did not object to their being said.

Mr. Hanlon: And Chinchin did not get up and repeat his motion.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is right. The hon. member did not rise in his place.

The first occasion on which the Opposition knew that the motion moved by the hon. member for Rockhampton North—it was different from that moved by the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt—was not on the Business Paper—I claim that it should have been because it was moved—was this morning. Because one motion happens to look like another, surely that is not a reason to exclude it from the Business Paper. As I said, according to Mr. Speaker a question appeared on it by mistake. Fair enough, and this notice of motion could have been left off by mistake, and perhaps we would accept that. However, the point is that we took what we considered to be a way out which would not embarrass you, Mr. Speaker, by not calling for an explanation why it was not on the Business Paper.

Surely the hon. member for Rockhampton North has a right to move an amendment to a motion such as this, and he did that. The hon. member for South Brisbane has a right to second that amendment and what he says in seconding it is up to him.

We have now received the suggestion that, because the hon. member for Rockhampton North moved the same motion some three years ago and because another member of the Australian Labour Party moved it last year, we should not change. What are we

to do? Are we to go back to the days of long dresses and button-up boots? We say that we will use every means at our disposal to modernise this Parliament and bring it into line with modern thinking.

We believe that this is the type of information the people of Queensland and the members of this Parliament are entitled to have. We did not know that the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt would get the call before the hon. member for Rockhampton North. I venture to suggest that even Mr. Speaker would admit that he would not who would get the call on a particular matter.

In fact, Mr. Speaker called the hon. member for Mt. Gravatt; I take it, in good faith. It could just as easily have been the hon. member for Rockhampton North who got the call. If that had been the case, the motion as amended would have appeared on the Business Paper, and then we would have seen what happened.

We have moved this amendment. We believe that the people are entitled to know which barristers receive money from solicitors and not directly from the Government. In addition, I should think that members of the Government would want to know where money paid to solicitors goes.

Question—That the words proposed to be added (Mr. Thackeray's amendment) be so added—put; and the House divided—

AYES, 30

Aiken	Jordan
Baldwin	Lloyd
Bennett	Marginson
Blake	Melloy
Bousen	Moore, F. P.
Bromley	Newton
Casey	O'Donnell
Davies	Sherrington
Davis	Thackeray
Dean	Wood, B.
Hanlon	Wood, P.
Hanson	Wright
Harris	<i>Tellers:</i>
Houston	Jones, R.
Inch	Wallis-Smith
Jensen	

NOES, 44

Ahern	Kaus
Armstrong	Knox
Bird	Lee
Bjelke-Petersen	Lickiss
Camm	Loneragan
Campbell	Low
Carey	McKechnie
Chalk	Moore, R. E.
Chinchin	Muller
Cory	Murray
Crawford	Porter
Delamothe	Rae
Fletcher	Ramsden
Herbert	Richter
Hewitt, N. T. E.	Row
Hewitt, W. D.	Sullivan
Hinze	Tomkins
Hodges	Tooth
Hooper	Wharton
Houghton	<i>Tellers:</i>
Hughes	Miller
Hungerford	Newberry
Jones, V. E.	

Resolved in the negative.

Motion (Mr. Chinchin) agreed to.

OFFICIALS IN PARLIAMENT ACT
AMENDMENT BILL

INITIATION

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier): I move—

"That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider introducing a Bill to amend the Officials in Parliament Act 1896-1968 in a certain particular."

Motion agreed to.

DEATH OF MR. M. MCINTYRE

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (3.58 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Malcolm McIntyre, Esquire, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland.

"2. That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the relatives of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland in the loss they have sustained."

The late Malcolm McIntyre, who died on 12 August last, was elected to the 30th Parliament of this State on 15 April, 1944, as representative of the electoral district of Cunningham, and served through that and two succeeding Parliaments until his retirement in 1953. He spent his entire life in the electorate that he represented and brought to the Parliament of Queensland a mature experience in land matters and civic administration.

The late gentleman was born at Yarranlea, in the Pittsworth district, where he received a State school education. At an unusually early age he took up land at Mt. Tyson and became one of the most widely known and successful grain and dairy farmers on the Darling Downs, and he represented the Downs in the capacity in which he was a specialist.

He had a lifelong association with the Mt. Tyson Co-operative Dairy Association, of which he was Chairman of Directors for many years, and he also served several terms on the Pittsworth Shire Council. His capacity for public spiritedness was apparently unquenchable, and it is said that he served in some capacity on every public committee formed round Pittsworth during his active years. His sound practical knowledge of grain growing was recognised by his party, and he was its spokesman when the affairs of that industry were debated in this Chamber.

Mr. Chalk, Mr. Low, Mr. Aikens and I were associated with the late gentleman in this House for quite a number of years.

He was indeed a gentleman, and I am sure everyone who knew him held him in very high regard.

The late Mr. McIntyre was also a man of deep Christian convictions. He was a prominent member of his church and for 30 years conducted Sunday school in the community to which he had endeared himself over a long and fruitful lifetime. On behalf of members I express to his relatives our sorrow and sympathy.

Hon. G. W. W. CHALK (Lockyer—Treasurer) (4.01 p.m.): I want to associate myself with the motion of condolence moved by the Premier. I do so particularly because of the close friendship that developed between the late Malcolm McIntyre and myself in my early days in this Chamber. It is true, as the Premier said, that Mr. McIntyre came into this Chamber in 1944, three years before the Premier, myself, Mr. Low and one or two others. He came from the Pittsworth area and was one of the few members who each week-end travelled to and from his own electorate, which adjoined or was very close to the area I represented. Because of that and the fact that we stayed together in the Lodge, a friendship grew up between us and existed right to the time of the late Mr. McIntyre's death. It is principally because of that that I want this afternoon to associate myself with the motion of condolence.

It is true, as the Premier said, that Mr. McIntyre, not only during the time he was in this Chamber, but before his entry and after his retirement, was a leader in his particular industry and a man whose advice was sought by many. He had a very kindly disposition and was one who always wanted to see the better side of the individual. I feel certain that the Pittsworth district will suffer a great loss by his passing. To all his relatives I convey my deepest sympathy.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (4.03 p.m.): On behalf of the Opposition I want to endorse what the Premier and the Deputy Premier have said in regard to the deceased gentleman, and I wish to join with them in offering condolence to his relatives.

I did not know the deceased gentleman at all and I doubt whether very many in the Opposition at this moment served in the House with him. But I think it is significant that during the time he was the member for Cunningham, if my memory serves me rightly, he was not opposed by the Labour Party. I think that would indicate that the leaders of the party at that time recognised Mr. McIntyre as a man of high standing in the community. A recommendation like that bears out what the Premier has said, that he was an active man in his own area, active in the progress of the area and respected by all. On behalf of the Opposition I join with the Premier and Deputy Premier in their expressions of sympathy.

Hon. A. R. FLETCHER (Cunningham—Minister for Education and Cultural Activities) (4.04 p.m.): For two or three reasons I should like to support this motion of condolence. Of course, I am Mr. McIntyre's successor. Also he was my lifelong friend. For as long as I can remember he was a close and valued personal friend of mine. As a matter of fact, it was because of his urgings and help that I became the member for Cunningham. I remember him affectionately as one to whom I could always go for good, sound, honest and down-to-earth advice.

He left Parliament because of ill health. Over a period of 15 or 16 years he had borne with cheerful courage the trials and tribulations of a long stretch of ill health. He had been a very special sort of person around the area of Pittsworth. When he left this House he was the friend of everyone here. Indeed, I think I can say that I was the beneficiary of the sort of regard that he engendered here because members of the Opposition, as we were then, and members of the then Government came to me in pretty large numbers and said, "You are Malcolm's successor. If you are as good a man as he was you will do all right. If there is anything I can do to help, I will do it."

Only this morning I received a letter from Mr. Frank Bulcock, which I feel rather warm about. Mr. Bulcock remembered his association with Malcolm McIntyre, and knows that I am his nephew. He wrote to me and paid very high tributes to his former associate in dairying matters when he was in this Parliament. He said that at that time—I think he was Minister for Agriculture—he had received a great deal of earnest and sincere help from Mr. McIntyre, and he finished his letter by saying, "and I have not forgotten".

Malcolm McIntyre was a man of absolute integrity with a down-to-earth, truthful, common-sense sort of wisdom. In addition, he had the saving grace of humour to an extent that very few of us will ever achieve. In the community in which he lived he was accorded the status of a man and a gentleman.

We have lost someone who was a good deal above the average type of man, and I have tremendous satisfaction in noting the remarks of those who have moved and supported this motion.

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (4.8 p.m.): Naturally I have no desire to be polemic on such a solemn motion as this, but I would point out that Mr. Bulcock was not in Parliament with Mr. McIntyre, although it was very nice of Mr. Bulcock to think that he was. It is a tribute to Mr. McIntyre that a man like Frank Bulcock would so remember him.

I came into Parliament in 1944 with Mr. McIntyre and quite a lot of other illustrious gentlemen, and I formed a very firm friendship with Mr. McIntyre as well as an attachment to him. He was a politician somewhat above the ordinary because he was completely frank and uninhibited in his expression of opinion. He was always a gentleman, and I always regarded him as a typical country gentleman. I could not pay anyone a higher compliment than that.

I am going to suggest something that perhaps might not seem to be quite the thing on a motion such as this. After Malcolm McIntyre retired from Parliament in 1953 because of ill health—he did so because he was so honest, although he could have carried on without any difficulty for some years—at his request I visited him at the Mater Hospital. I would have visited him earlier if I had known he was there. He was quite upset because he had been robbed—and I think he was robbed—of superannuation payments. Both of us joined the superannuation fund when it was brought in in 1949. The original Act provided that a member had to serve, as we thought, in three full Parliaments for a period of nine years. Malcolm McIntyre and I thought, as did all members of Parliament at the time, that that was the case. After Malcolm McIntyre retired and applied for his superannuation benefits, which were only a paltry \$10, he found that he was to be held not to the spirit but to the letter of the law. If I remember rightly, he was four days short of the full nine years.

I raised the matter in the House and clashed rather acrimoniously with certain people. As a result of the Malcolm McIntyre case, and the fact that we all thought that he had been diddled out of his superannuation, the Act was amended so that the qualifying period for the payment of superannuation is now eight and a half years. He said to me, "Tom, had I known that they were going to hold me to the letter of the Act and make me serve nine years in Parliament before becoming entitled to superannuation payments on a weekly basis, I could have sat on my veranda and won Cunningham without going out electioneering at all." He was such an excellent chap that we all knew that to be true. "Then," he said, "after the effluxion of the nine-year period I could have resigned and put the Government to the expense of a by-election. I naturally thought, as you all thought, that the three full Parliaments were near enough to nine years, and was indeed nine years."

I understand that the Superannuation Board comprises Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier. I do not know whether they have discussed the Malcolm McIntyre case since then, but if they have not, and if the late Malcolm McIntyre has left a wife or any lineal descendants or blood relations, I think it might be an idea, even at this late stage, 16 years afterwards, for the Superannuation

Board to consider the case and make retrospective payments of that paltry \$10 a week to his descendants. At least that would be a tangible record of the appreciation of the members of this Parliament.

I very much regret his passing. Indeed, I always regarded him as a very good friend although in many respects he was my complete antithesis particularly in the way we conducted ourselves in the Chamber. He was always the epitome of good manners and good conduct, whereas I was sometimes goaded and provoked into saying things I later regretted. However, that does not alter the fact that I held him in very high regard. I deeply regret his passing and I should like to associate myself with this motion of condolence now before the House.

Motion (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) agreed to, hon. members standing in silence.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

Debate resumed from 7 August (see p. 36) on Mr. Hungerford's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (4.13 p.m.): On behalf of the Opposition I support the motion moved by the hon. member for Balonne and seconded by the hon. member for Wavell. On my own behalf and that of my party I should like to express continued loyalty and affection to the Throne, and the person of Her Most Gracious Majesty, and I include, naturally, all the people in the electorate of Bulimba, whom I again have the privilege to represent. I thank them for their continued support and for allowing me to again represent the electorate of Bulimba, on this occasion with an increased majority compared with previous years.

I thank the Administrator, Mr. Justice Sheehy, for his Opening Speech. In doing so, I feel that all members would wish Mr. Justice Mack, who unfortunately suffered illness just prior to the opening of Parliament, a full recovery. We trust that he will soon be restored to good health. In his position of Chief Justice he has to accept great responsibility, as does any senior judge in the State, and, in addition, the responsibility of being Administrator is certainly very heavy. I feel that his efforts to carry out those duties effectively and well and the great amount of time and energy he has devoted to that position were partly responsible for his illness.

His Excellency's speech followed the trend set in recent years. It was basically Government propaganda and lacked any reference to legislation of a controversial nature as between the Government parties. I am sure that hon. members hoped to hear from the Administrator whether the Government would proceed at an early stage with liquor legislation and electoral redistribution. Unfortunately, it appears that the Government

parties are divided on how far they should go with liquor and redistribution legislation, and were not prepared to suggest to His Excellency that it be announced at this point of time as Government business. It has been suggested that both of those matters will be dealt with before the end of this year. Permit me to suggest to the Premier that what has been Government practice for far too many years be not followed, that is, the introduction of important legislation at the end of a session so that hon. members do not have an opportunity to study it fully.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen: If we keep going as we have today, that might happen.

Mr. HOUSTON: I do not want to upset you again, Mr. Speaker, but, as I said before, when these things happen, the Premier and I must take the courses we think fit.

Irrespective of what happens at any point of time, it is imperative that everybody concerned with legislation be given every opportunity to consider it. I do not refer only to members of Parliament. We are the mouthpieces of our electors, and in some cases we speak on behalf of organisations that have approached us. Therefore we must give those organisations and our electors a chance to study legislation. It is not a matter of suiting only the convenience of Parliament; we must consider members of the public as a whole.

I mention that because, in the dying stages of the last Parliament, on behalf of the Opposition, I objected to legislation being rushed through. I suggest that at this point of time the Ministerial programme be arranged so that we will have sufficient time to study legislation.

Allow me to congratulate the hon. member for Balonne on his election to Parliament. He will no doubt admit that a hard campaign was fought in that area following the retirement of Mr. E. J. Beardmore. I am sure that the hon. member will also agree that Mr. Ben Ward was a worthy opponent. Mr. Ward is a man of the West and knows the area and its people, and had he been elected he would have been a most worthy representative. However, the electors decided that Mr. Hungerford was to be the member for Balonne for the time being. Naturally, he is accepted by all hon. members who believe in our democratic system of election.

The hon. member for Balonne based his maiden speech on those areas he knows best. As is the case with so many new members of Parliament, he attacked the Government on its past policy. He spoke at length on the drought, freights, the cost of living, and decentralisation. At some stages I thought he was reading what Mr. Ward and I had said in that area. We said that the Government was too slow in providing drought relief. He said that the drought was affecting the people and that the Government had not done enough, and that what it had done was done too late. We attacked freight

charges in country areas. Whilst speaking in those places, I made a point of the differences between freight charges that had to be met by people living in the country and those applicable in other parts of the State. The hon. member said exactly the same thing. He called on the Government to reduce freight charges on many commodities, not only on taking them out of country areas but also on bringing them in.

The hon. member also spoke about the cost of living, and what he said was quite true. The Federal Government is not doing the right thing by country people in the matter of taxation concessions and rebates on freight charges on certain commodities. I think it was the Treasurer who said this morning that in loans and interest rates the Commonwealth could play a bigger part in assisting people in the country. Of course, we agree with that.

The hon. member also spoke on decentralisation, and said that 1,000 people had left the five shires in his electorate since 1960. I point out to him that his statements on decentralisation are not new. They have been said in this House for many years and, particularly since 1960, I recall member after member on this side of the House telling the Government that people are leaving western areas and going to the Coast. We have asked the Government to take positive action in these matters, and have suggested ways and means of remedying them.

During the election campaign I, on behalf of the Australian Labour Party, spoke of the levelling of electricity charges and pointed out that this was one way in which country people could be assisted in the establishment of industries, and also in obtaining the latest electrical equipment to help in their activities. We promised that we would level electricity charges, and in this we had the support of many people in country areas. But who attacked us on that issue? None other than the Minister for Mines, Main Roads and Electricity, who said that this would cost \$6,500,000. So what! I believe that that is little to pay over a period of time to help reduce the cost of living in country areas and assist in their development.

One thing I regret is that during the election campaign the hon. member for Balonne did not support us in the statements we were making. As he was tied to a party, I suppose it was natural that he should fall in with their wishes. I hope that he will now be a keen and consistent advocate for country areas. If he is, I can assure him that we will welcome his support in our efforts to develop rural areas and make the country a better place in which to live. Unfortunately, of course, experience has shown that new members who attack their own Government—and rightly so—are very quickly made to toe the line, and rapidly become cogs in the great Country-Liberal coalition machine.

We know, of course, that the Liberal Party in this House is completely dominated by outside influences. Liberal members toe the line whenever big business tells them to. We also know, of course, that the Country Party represents the large pastoral combines. We have heard the hon. member for Gregory tell us more than once in this House of the combines that are strangling the small man on the land. When the two parties get together, they are dominated completely by outside financial institutions. To get an idea of how much they are supported by such bodies, it is only necessary to look at some of the costs of the election campaign. If hon. members who followed the campaign are honest with themselves, they will agree with me when I say that never has any political party in Queensland spent so much money on political propaganda as the Country Party spent on this occasion.

Mr. Ramsden: What is the Lord Mayor spending on television every night of the week?

Mr. HOUSTON: The fact is that the amount spent by the Country Party in this election campaign would far exceed the amount spent by the Australian Labour Party throughout Australia in a Federal election. One would swear that the money grew on trees.

Mr. Campbell: You would be joking!

Mr. HOUSTON: For 16 weeks the Country Party had one complete column in "Sunday Truth". As the hon. gentleman knows—I suggest to him that he should not become too involved in this—at one stage the gentleman who ran that column charged the Labour Party for some of his services, so I have some idea of what he charges. There were full-page advertisements in "The Courier-Mail" and the "Telegraph". The Country Party was entitled to do that; it was part of the election. But the advertisements did not say "Vote for the Liberal and Country Parties"; they said "Vote for the Country Party".

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: Your national budget at the end of the year will be \$300,000.

Mr. HOUSTON: How do you know that?

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: I read it in the newspaper.

Mr. HOUSTON: The hon. member reminds me of the fellow who goes to a reporter and says, "Have you heard the story? This is it." The reporter prints it in good faith, and then the fellow goes round the countryside and says, "Look, here are the facts. I read them in the newspaper." In fact, he started the furphy.

The State is experiencing, unfortunately, one of the worst droughts it has known. I am sure that every hon. member will agree with that statement. The Country Party is made up of men who live in country areas. Am I to believe that the

finance available to the Country Party during the election campaign was obtained from people living in drought-stricken areas?

Mr. Lee: It just shows how badly they needed Country Party representatives back in this Chamber.

Mr. HOUSTON: If the stories are correct and they are suffering financial loss because of the drought—I have no doubt that far too many are—they would not be in a position to pay in the thousands of dollars that the Country Party spent on this election campaign. So when I suggest that the money came from other sources, I think my argument is very sound.

The hon. member for Balonne used a very common saying when he said in his speech that there is a drift to the cities. Unfortunately, that is true. How can it be overcome? The Australian Labour Party suggested the levelling out of electricity charges; it suggested other assistance to primary producers; it suggested rail concessions and many other things. Therefore, I suggest to the hon. member for Balonne that he take some notice of what members of the Opposition have said and will say, and that he will get behind the Opposition and assist it if he really wants to represent the country people of the State.

One finds that many people in country areas have become disillusioned in their support of the Country Party. Years ago they believed that it was a party that could truly represent country interests, but today that is not so. In many instances, the only interest that Country Party candidates have in the country is in living in a country town so that they can make a living out of country people.

Mr. Sullivan: Why didn't some of you go out and support the A.L.P. candidate against Mr. Hungerford?

Mr. HOUSTON: While the Minister was running round the islands giving out untrue propaganda, I was out in the area supporting the A.L.P. candidate against Mr. Hungerford.

Mr. Sullivan: You didn't do much good.

Mr. HOUSTON: I shall tell the hon. gentleman how well we did.

One of the things that shocked me in country areas was the lack of activity by some of the local shire councils. One of the cries in country areas is, "We must not have politics in local authorities." One goes out there and meets the people and finds that they do not mention politics; the average person accepts you for what you are. But when one talks to some of the councillors, the first thing they say is, "Of course, our council is non-political."

Mr. Sherrington: "I am only secretary of the Country Party."

Mr. HOUSTON: That comes a bit later. They usually give you a cup of tea first. I must say that they are very generous in this type of thing. Then someone says, "Do you know so-and-so?" You say, "No, I haven't met him, but I believe he is a Country Party candidate." They say, "Yes, the dirty so-and-so beat me for pre-selection." That is what you get.

Mr. Sullivan: You did get a cup of tea first?

Mr. HOUSTON: Yes.

Mr. Sullivan: After you went round criticising the Premier, there are few local authorities who will give you a drink of water.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is all right. I will take my own. I am quite prepared to look after myself. I have done so successfully for quite a few years.

One thing I do regret is that the people in control of some local authorities are playing politics in the jobs they are holding. We find that, because they are ardent Country Party supporters and hope some day to be candidates, Federal or State, they are not prepared to push this Government for the things to which their people are entitled.

Mr. Sullivan: Have you the names of any of these local authorities?

Mr. HOUSTON: I have plenty and I will name them in my own time, not the Minister's. The point is that when one talks to them about the expenditure in their areas they will say quite candidly, "We are not prepared to increase the rates." If one asks them why, they will say it is because so-and-so in the area is having a bad trot and to do so in face of the drought would be unwise. There is a very sound argument why, when a person is finding it tough, he should not be hit harder by his local authority, but surely, by the same token, the local authority that agrees to keep rates down because of local conditions must accept the responsibility of getting onto the Government for money because the area must progress. It is this attitude of the country squire looking after his area and being the gentleman around the place that I object to.

This is not something new. I am sure that if the Minister has spoken to these people they would have told him that I said I thought they were falling down on the job in not attacking the Government. In fact, on more than one occasion I got information on some of the shortcomings of this Government, some of the charges and expenses the Government was passing on to local authorities which they thought were unjust. When I asked them had they not mentioned this to the Government or the Minister concerned, they said, "We do not want to rock the boat at this point of time."

Mr. Sullivan: You must admit the increases in road construction and amenities that have taken place in country towns.

Mr. HOUSTON: I expect some improvement in 12 years, but the Government cannot deny the fact that people are leaving the areas. They cannot deny that today there are fewer people, on a percentage basis, living in country areas than there were 12 years ago. The Government cannot get away from those facts. If people are to be brought back into country areas, the Government must give them amenities as near as possible to those enjoyed by people living on the coast. The only way to get such amenities there is to take some positive action and make more money available to local authorities so that they can improve local conditions, and also to do something about reducing freight and electricity charges so that these people can live under conditions similar to those existing on the coast.

Before I pass on to the hon. member for Wavell, I should like to correct the statement by the hon. member for Balonne that he could not understand why anyone was opposed to the use of overseas capital to develop our State. He went on to explain how many people, including the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, obtained loans for development and how America borrowed money from England. This is very true, and no-one denies it; money has been borrowed. But the trouble is that the hon. member has confused borrowing with giving away. The Labour Party has never objected to the borrowing of money for development. As the hon. member said, it is quite true that the Lord Mayor of Brisbane has borrowed money. But I think that everyone in Brisbane will agree that Brisbane has progressed. In fact, the Liberal Party propaganda was, "Return us city fellows; return us city Liberals. See what our Government has done to develop Brisbane." In other words, the Liberal Party tried, in some cases successfully, to capitalise on the development of Brisbane.

Mr. Tooth: You will agree that the development of Brisbane is a sign of the development of Queensland?

Mr. HOUSTON: The Minister should not come into this; he was nearly "done". Of course the development of Brisbane is not a sign of the development of the State. Ask the hon. member for Toowong if he thinks that his electorate has developed. I know that there are plenty of fights between the Liberal Party and the Country Party, but the Minister should not use the interjections to "do his colleagues over".

Mr. Sullivan: I would rather live in Jandowae than in Brisbane. We live better up there.

Mr. HOUSTON: That might be right, too, but the hon. member next to the Minister does not think so. The Liberal Party and the Country Party should stop fighting in this Chamber; they can fight outside.

Let me make the Labour Party's attitude very clear. It objects very strongly to giving away our natural assets. If an area is to be developed, or if a natural resource is to be developed, whether it be coal, bauxite or anything else, Queenslanders and Australians should be given the opportunity of participating in that development. But that has not happened under this Government.

Time and time again when legislation has been introduced we were told that the State could not get Queensland and Australian participation in development. On later investigation we have found that that has not been so. It is possible to get Queensland and Australian participation provided the Government looks for it. I am convinced that the Government was so intent on getting certain projects under way to use them for propaganda purposes that it did not force the companies concerned in those projects to look for local participation. Last year Comalco Industries made a profit of \$9,700,000. That is not a bad return for this so-called development of our State. I make it very clear that the Labour Party wants to see Australian and Queensland participation in the development of this State.

The hon. member for Wavell spoke on a matter that certainly stirred the Government, particularly the Minister for Health, and I congratulate the hon. member for bringing to public attention in this House the matters that he mentioned. However, I cannot fathom out how, on saying those things, he could say that they were in no way a reflection on the Minister or his department and its policies. I cannot understand how the hon. member could say what he said and mean it—and I do not doubt that he meant it—and then say that he was not casting any reflection on the Minister.

The hon. member for Wavell said basically what the Opposition has been saying for the last three years, if not longer. He mentioned nurses. Time and time again the hon. member for Norman has argued about nurses and their training, and time and time again the Minister for Health has said that nothing is wrong with the training of nurses. The Minister virtually said that what the hon. member for Norman had said was completely wrong. Surely the Cabinet, through the Minister, lays down the policies that are followed by the Government.

The Public Service, and the public servant, naturally, advise the Minister. That is quite right, but surely the Public Service is not running this State. Surely the Minister and Cabinet must shoulder the full responsibility; surely the views expressed by the hon. member for Wavell were known to the Minister and his advisers. In spite of

what the hon. member for Townsville South tried to accuse the hon. member of by a question today, I imagine from what the hon. member said that he made his thoughts known to the Liberal Party, through the various media open to him, prior to coming to this House.

Mr. Lee: It shows that we do not gag members like the Opposition does.

Mr. HOUSTON: That will be the day! The whole point is that the Minister knew full well that what the hon. member said was said by him in other places, at other times.

Mr. Tooth: I had not heard it before. It was the first time I heard it.

Mr. HOUSTON: The Minister may say that officially, but I do not imagine that the hon. member, as a prominent member of the Liberal Party, would rise in this House and say things like that, particularly as the Treasurer said in a pamphlet he circulated during the election campaign that he was pleased to have him in the party, and pleased to have him as a candidate. Therefore, the Minister must have known his views on various matters.

Mr. Tooth interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: If the Minister did not know his views, I suggest that the hon. member for Wavell, now that he is in Parliament, has allowed himself to become the mouthpiece of the A.M.A. That is a matter that he and the Minister will have to thrash out. I assure the hon. member that while he continues to advocate improvements to hospitals, medical services and the welfare of nurses and patients, we will accept his support in the case that we have been presenting for a long time.

The whole exercise in the hon. member's speech in this House brings into focus the attitude of many of the news media in this State. Apparently the rights or wrongs of the case do not matter; it is a case of who happens to present the case. I think it will be agreed that since the hon. member spoke this matter has had great news coverage. Personally I am pleased, because it supports our case. But I ask why was not the Labour Party's agitation for change and assistance in the training of nurses, as presented by the hon. member for Norman and others, given the same publicity many months ago? Surely the news media can be expected to publish news, arguments and views on the merits of the case, not just, as in this case, those of a man who is virtually attacking his own Government.

I now wish to make a short reference to the speeches made here during the election of Mr. Speaker, wherein the hon. member for Townsville North and I attacked the living and working conditions of members of this Parliament, particularly those of country members. It is true that I did not mention the amount that members were

paying for their accommodation at The Lodge. The amount charged for accommodation is surely for the Government to fix, but we should bear in mind that under every award in this State everyone living away from home receives a living-away-from-home allowance as distinct from his ordinary income. Those who are requested to live away from home to perform their work are paid a living-away-from-home allowance, whereas members of Parliament do not receive such an allowance. That may be quite logical, but this is the point: if the board and lodging rate was increased substantially there could be a case for country members receiving an allowance while away from home, on the same basis as other employees who receive an allowance in addition to their statutory salary. However, the main fact is that living together, three to a room, is not acceptable at this period of time.

An Opposition member: Four to a room.

Mr. HOUSTON: I thank the hon. member for his interjection. In some cases there are four to a room.

I assure my critics, including members of the Country Party who think that the living conditions here are pretty good, that I will continue to advocate an improvement. If given an opportunity, we will implement action that will permit members of Parliament to do efficiently the job they are paid to do.

Let me refer now to the Government's attitude towards the running of this House, and other matters associated with parliamentarians. Surely we have not reached the stage where meeting times, working conditions and procedures in this Parliament depend on the whims of the political party in power at a particular time. I always believed that Standing Orders and associated matters were based on the requirements of the times, with the basic idea of making this nation and Parliament as democratic as possible.

This being so, how can the Government conduct an inquiry on matters associated with Parliament and parliamentarians and have conducting it and interpreting the various submissions made, only Government members, none of whom has ever been in Opposition, excepting Mr. Jones and you, Mr. Speaker, and neither of you has been in Opposition for 12 years. I believe that if you are on the committee, Mr. Speaker, it is logical that you should be chairman. However, I was shocked to discover that you accepted such an appointment when, only a few days before, you stated that you would promote the welfare of all members.

Obviously this committee is based purely on party politics and cannot know the problems of the Opposition and its members. Sir Francis Nicklin, when Premier, made it clear that there would be no change in the Standing Orders unless there was unanimity. He said that he did not want the operation

of this House—and I supported him in this—to depend on the party in power running the proceedings and deciding what the Standing Orders should be.

Mr. Porter: This is making a mountain out of a molehill.

Mr. HOUSTON: Not as far as I am concerned. We have asked, on many occasions, that the Standing Orders Committee meet so that it can look at the operation of this Parliament.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! May I take this opportunity to assure the Leader of the Opposition that no decision of that committee will be adopted until it is approved by the all-party committee on Standing Orders.

Mr. HOUSTON: If that is so, Mr. Speaker—and naturally I accept what you say—would it not be better for the Premier to introduce a motion to set up an all-party committee, even if it does happen to comprise the members of the Standing Orders Committee?

Mr. Ramsden interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: The hon. member for Merthyr has confirmed just what I have said would happen. He asked what right I have to determine Government policy. He wants the right.

Mr. RAMSDEN: I rise to a point of order. I said nothing of the kind. I asked the Leader of the Opposition what right he had to ask that the A.L.P. sit on a Government committee to determine what our policy would be.

Mr. HOUSTON: I believe that it is complete arrogance on the part of the Government parties to contemplate setting up a committee without inviting the A.L.P. to participate, and without inviting the other two members to express their views. After all, we are part of this Parliament.

My attitude on parliamentary sittings is well known. We are approaching a Federal election, and the Federal Parliament is still sitting, right on the eve of that election. The Tasmanian election was held on 10 May. That Parliament met, even with a change of Government, on 17 June. It also met prior to that election.

Mr. Campbell interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: At least it met, and parliamentary representatives could ask questions and could put before Parliament the views of the people they represent. In this State, Parliament rose on 10 December last year. The election was held on 17 May. It was not until 5 August that we met for the first time. This is not in the interests of the State, but it certainly suits Cabinet and lazy members of Parliament. Let me make it quite clear that it does not suit the Opposition, and I believe it does not suit the people of Queensland.

Mr. Campbell: It is no worse than it was in 1956.

Mr. HOUSTON: The Minister is always living in the past. The point is whether the Opposition should be represented on this committee.

Let us look at some of the election results. The Australian Labour Party received 380,000 votes, which means that we were supported by over 45 per cent. of the electors. The Liberal Party received 200,000 votes, or only 23.7 per cent., and the Country Party received 179,000 votes, or 21.1 per cent. In other words, the Liberal and Country Parties together received fewer votes than we did, yet here they behave as if they represent the majority of the electors of Queensland.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! May I please have order in the House? I ask hon. members on my right and my left not to engage in rowdy crossfiring whilst the Leader of the Opposition is speaking.

Mr. HOUSTON: Irrespective of seats, surely the point is that the views of the people whom we represent must have some bearing on when Parliament should sit and the work of parliamentary representatives, particularly as I made our attitude on these matters very clear during the election campaign. Not only do we hold seats in the largest cities, but, of the eight largest electorates in the State, the Labour Party holds five, namely, Cook, Tablelands, Burke, Warrego and Barcoo.

In this debate members can speak on any matters at all, and there are so many things of importance to the State that one could talk about that it is hard to know which is the most important. To me drought, and ways and means of overcoming it, is important; development of our natural resources is important; development of our industries is important; making sure that we have full employment is of major importance; and working conditions and the safety of workers are always important.

Perhaps one of the things most worrying to thinking men and women is the way in which we are abusing our natural assets by allowing our natural resources to be exploited. By fouling many of our streams and the atmosphere for the sake of profit and personal comfort for some at this point of time, I believe we are jeopardising our future and that of succeeding generations. Some years ago the Government introduced legislation to set up an authority to control air pollution in this State and advise people on what precautions to take to stop further pollution. One of the kindest things one can say about that authority is that it has only slowed down the rate of air pollution in this city. When one gets away from Brisbane, particularly if one is high enough

to look over the city, it is found that the city atmosphere is becoming progressively worse year after year.

Control of the other pollutants that are with us is not being tackled at all. In fact, the attempts that are being made by those in authority to stop the pollution of our streams and waterways, and the haphazard methods of pest and weed control, are pathetic. It is absolutely urgent that we stop using our natural watercourses as industrial sewers. This use is not only fouling the watercourses; it is also fouling the banks and the land and is stopping the development of marine life, and the stage is now being reached at which coastal waters are being affected by the polluting material that is being indiscriminately dumped in the waterways.

I know that many industries started on watercourses so that the watercourses could be used to help in the disposal of waste materials. However, because of the volume of industries and their turnover, and the advent of new chemicals, detergents and insecticides, organisms in the water are being killed and reactions are taking place that are completely polluting the whole water system.

(Time expired.)

Debate, on motion of Mr. Hinze, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 4.56 p.m.
