

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 21 AUGUST 1969

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

QUESTIONS

INSTALLATION OF SEWERAGE, CANNON HILL STATE SCHOOL

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

(1) When is it proposed to replace the earth closets at the Cannon Hill State School with sewerage installations?

(2) What stage has the design of toilet blocks reached, pending such installation?

Answers:—

(1) "As soon as possible after the Brisbane City Council declares the area sewered."

(2) "Planning of new toilet blocks will proceed when the Council's declaration is made."

PETROL SUPPLY FOR CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

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

When speaking on the Co-operative and Other Societies Bill on December 7, 1968, did he state that he had at least two measures he could implement that will allay the anxieties of co-operative societies buying for cash whose source of supply is cut off? If so, what action has he taken to assist the Queensland Associated Cattlemen's Co-operative Ltd., whose source of supply of petrol through the Queensland Associated Motorists Co-operative Ltd. has been cut off?

Answer:—

"My information is that the supplies of the Societies referred to were cut off as they were selling below the price followed on the fixing of the price in South Australia. The representative of the Queensland Associated Cattlemen's Co-operative has been advised to inquire as to whether this is a breach of the 'Trade Practices Act'."

PERIODS SPENT IN CUSTODY BY ACCUSED PERSONS

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the strong criticism of Acting Judge McCracken in the District Court on Thursday, August 7, 1969, of cases where accused persons spent long periods in gaol between arrest and trial?

(2) Is he aware that Mr. D. J. Killen, barrister and M.P., claimed that his client had been in custody for more than five months?

(3) According to the system of justice in Queensland why is such a delay tolerated or excused?

(4) Are more Judges required to man the District Courts in Queensland?

(5) Has his attention also been drawn to Judge McCracken's statement that in Longreach last May he found a man had been in custody for six months and three days awaiting sentence and that the period of incarceration was longer than any Judge would have given him for the offence to which he was prepared to plead guilty?

(6) Did he also note the Acting Judge's comment to the effect—"There is something wrong with the administration when this sort of thing can happen"?

(7) What does he intend to do to obviate this intolerable situation?

(8) Is he prepared to compensate this unfortunate prisoner at Longreach who was forced by the Crown to languish in the Longreach gaol because of the Government's alleged maladministration of the criminal law?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "I have read the report in *The Courier-Mail* of August 8 last of proceedings of the previous day in respect of the adjournment to the next Sittings of the District Court of five charges of stealing against the accused person. A further two charges of stealing were similarly adjourned. The accused was represented by Mr. Killen of Counsel and his client had been in custody for between five and six months at the time."

(3) "The accused was first tried on July 14 on a charge of stealing. There was a disagreement by the jury. Altogether, he has been committed for trial on eight charges and also on a charge of breaking, entering and stealing for which he was tried on August 7. The proceedings in the lower court were conducted by the police. The police, of course, come under the administration of my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Works. It would appear, however, that during the period in question there were remands of the various cases from time to time due to difficulties experienced in securing the attendance of necessary witnesses and the appearances of legal representatives on behalf of the accused. All adjournments were made with the consent of the accused. I do not propose to disclose full details concerning these matters as the great majority of these cases are still *sub judice*. As the Honourable

Member appreciates, there is a great multiplicity of charges. There are also outstanding seven charges of stealing not heard in the lower court and one charge of assaulting a member of the Police Force in the execution of his duty, which, in accordance with the practice, will not be heard until all the charges to be tried on indictment have been terminated."

(4) "The matter has not in any way been affected by the number of Judges of the District Court."

(5) "The Judge did refer to a case at Longreach in which a man had been in custody for six months and three days. As regards the Longreach case mentioned by Acting Judge McCracken, the accused person in question was arrested on March 30, 1968, on a charge of doing grievous bodily harm. The accused was released on bail with a surety. After several remands, October 31, 1968, was fixed for the preliminary hearing of the charge before the Magistrates Court, Longreach, for which witnesses were brought from Brisbane and Townsville. The accused failed to appear. His recognizance and surety were estreated and a warrant was issued for his arrest. During this period, the complainant had been a patient in the Townsville Hospital receiving treatment for a fractured right femur and a fractured right tibia. The warrant was executed and after the accused had been in custody for eight days the preliminary hearing of the case against him was heard on December 5, 1968. He pleaded guilty and was committed for sentence to the first Sittings of the District Court to be held at Longreach in 1969. He did not apply for bail. There is provision in section 113 (4) of the "Justices Acts" for him to be committed to a place other than Longreach with his consent in writing. However, at the date of committal the list of District Court Sittings for the ensuing year had not been published. Before making a committal, the justices must be satisfied as regards the length of time which will elapse before a court of competent jurisdiction next sits at the place to which a defendant would, in the absence of the subsection be committed, which would be Longreach. This information was not available. However, the accused was in custody at Her Majesty's Prison, Stuart, Townsville, where he would have been informed of his rights and he took no action which he could easily have done to have been sentenced at an earlier date."

(6 and 7) "See Answer to (5)."

(8) "There has been no maladministration of the criminal law and the prisoner is not entitled to compensation because he had his remedy and failed to take it."

PROHIBITION OF BINGO

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

(1) Is he aware of the dens of iniquity and gambling hells which flourish throughout Queensland, in which women and children are involved in the game of bingo?

(2) Will he take the necessary action to amend any legislation, Order in Council, regulation or any other instrument which would otherwise prevent the playing of bingo?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "No."

GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

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

What are the various activities carried out by local authorities on which a Government subsidy is paid and what is the rate of subsidy on the particular items that do attract subsidy?

Answer:—

"I lay upon the table a list of rates of subsidies to Local Authorities under the State's Approved Subsidy Scheme, and leave it to your discretion, Mr. Speaker, whether such voluminous information should be included in 'Hansard'."

Paper.—Whereupon Mr. Chalk laid upon the Table of the House the paper referred to.

COMPENSATION FOR LAND RESUMPTIONS FOR DAM PURPOSES, LOGAN ELECTORATE

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

Will he urge the Government to pay out at once full compensation to farmers holding land in use in the proposed dam site areas in the Logan Electorate, with the right to continue to use their land, if they desire, until it is required for the dams?

Answer:—

"Work is in the preliminary stage. As yet there is no definite proposal to build the dam. Until some design basis is formulated, it is not possible to indicate the land affected. Compensation is not payable until the land is taken."

SEWERAGE INSTALLATION LICENCES FOR PLUMBERS, NORTH QUEENSLAND

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

(1) Is he aware that qualified plumbers in North Queensland are not able to obtain licences for sewerage installation unless they leave their place of abode?

(2) Is it possible for the Government to arrange for schools of instruction and practical examinations for these men in their respective areas?

(3) What provision has been made for qualified plumbers in Far North Queensland to hold licences for sewerage installation?

Answers:—

(1) "No, I am not aware. Any person who has satisfactorily completed his trade apprenticeship in plumbing and passed each year's examination is eligible under the "Sewerage, Water Supply and Gas-fitting Acts" for the issue of a plumber's licence which would entitle him to carry out sewerage plumbing work anywhere in Queensland. A person who has the necessary qualifications should make application to the secretary, Plumbers, Drainers and Gasfitters Examination and Licensing Board, care of Department of Local Government, enclosing particulars of his qualifications and the prescribed licence fee, whereupon action will be taken to issue a licence to him."

(2) "This is a Question that should be addressed to my colleague, the Minister for Education and Cultural Activities."

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

JUVENILE SMOKING SUPPRESSION ACT

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

(1) Is the Act known as "*The Juvenile Smoking Suppression Act of 1905*" still in force? If so, why is it not available at the Government Printing Office for school principals, shopkeepers and other interested parties or persons to purchase?

(2) Is it an offence under the Act for shopkeepers to sell or supply tobacco in any form to any person under the age of 16 years? If so, (a) is the Act policed, (b) when and on what grounds was the latest prosecution, (c) was the prosecution successful and how much was the fine and (d) what are the penalties for breaches of the Act?

Answers:—

(1) "*The Juvenile Smoking Suppression Act of 1905*" is still in force. As there has been no public demand for this Act it has not been reprinted in pamphlet form."

(2) "Yes. (a) Yes. (b) On January 27, 1956, a youth, aged 15 years, appeared at the Children's Court, Brisbane, charged with having smoked a cigarette in a public place. (c) The defendant child was admonished and discharged. (d) The maximum penalty for a breach of section

2 of this Act (supply tobacco to person under 16 years) is \$20; and for a breach of section 3 of the Act (person under 16 years smoking in a public place, etc.), the maximum penalty for the first offence is fifty cents and for the second or any subsequent offence \$1."

CONTROL OF TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS

Mr. V. E. Jones, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Lands,—

As there has recently been some speculation in the Torres Strait area relative to the future of the Islands of Saibai, Dauan and Boigu and as apprehensions are felt by the residents regarding their future, particularly the prospects of transfer to Papuan administration, what is the Government's attitude to these Islands and their inhabitants?

Answer:—

"The Government considers that, as these Islands are within the boundaries of the State of Queensland, they are part of Queensland and the inhabitants are Queenslanders. I am aware that some such apprehensions are felt by the residents and during a recent visit to the Torres Strait I generally enquired and in particular of the democratically elected Councilors, their views on their future and whether they regarded themselves as Queenslanders or would wish to be embraced by the Papuan/New Guinea Administration. Unanimously it was quite firmly indicated they believed themselves to be Queenslanders and would strenuously oppose any suggestion that they should be transferred to any other administration. The Government considers that the approximately 900 people inhabiting these Islands are linked to Queensland by economic forces, religion, social services and politics, rather than to the neighbouring Papuan shore. Indeed, with almost half of the original Saibai Island population now resident on Cape York Peninsula and many others from the three Islands living on the mainland of Australia for education, work opportunity, etc., the whole of their outlook is orientated to Queensland and to Australia and therefore the Government can, with confidence, assure the inhabitants that it will support their opposition to any change in status."

MAINTENANCE WORK, OLD CLEVELAND ROAD

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

(1) Will any section of the two miles in Old Cleveland Road now receiving attention by the Main Roads Department be resealed or widened?

(2) What is the nature of other maintenance work to be carried out over the two-mile section apart from clearing and replacing timber culverts?

(3) What is the estimated cost of the work to be carried out by the Department over this section?

Answers:—

(1) "Not under present operations but it is anticipated resealing of the section will be commenced about the middle of 1970. Widening of the western end as far as Belmont is in the preliminary planning stage but no firm date has been set for this work."

(2) "Shoulders are being widened to provide increased traffic safety and this involves extension of culverts and some clearing of timber."

(3) "The maintenance work at present being carried out is estimated to cost \$14,500."

CLASSROOM ACCOMMODATION, MT. GRAVATT SOUTH STATE SCHOOL

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

As increased enrolment is expected at Mt. Gravatt South School for the 1969 school year, have any plans and specifications been drawn up for additional classroom accommodation at this school? If not, what alternative recommendations have been made to overcome the shortage of classroom accommodation for the start of the 1969 school year?

Answer:—

"No doubt the Question refers to the 1970 school year. Present classroom accommodation at Mt. Gravatt South State School should be sufficient for the enrolment anticipated for the commencement of the 1970 school year. However, plans are being prepared for the construction of two permanent classrooms to replace existing temporary classrooms."

EASEMENT, WONDALL HEIGHTS STATE SCHOOL

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

When will work commence on the forming and fencing of the easement from the Island View Estate to the Wondall Heights State School?

Answer:—

"The work on the clearing of the easement to the Wondall Heights State School will be commenced at an early date and quotations for the erection of necessary fencing will be invited when the clearing is completed."

PROSECUTIONS FOR DEFECTS IN COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

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

(1) Are prosecutions launched against both the owner and the driver of a motor vehicle which has been intercepted and found to have insufficient tyre tread?

(2) If so, does this apply to the owners and drivers of commercial vehicles?

(3) Is the owner and driver of a commercial vehicle liable for prosecution for driving a vehicle that has mechanical defects other than faulty tyres?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Yes."

(3) "Yes."

INSTALLATION OF SHIPS' GARBAGE INCINERATORS AT PORTS

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

Has construction commenced on incinerators on wharves for the purpose of the disposal of waste from ships? If not, what is the reason for the delay?

Answer:—

"Contracts have been let for the installation of incinerators at the Ports of Brisbane, Gladstone, Townsville, Cairns and Thursday Island. The contract date for completion of the installation of incinerators at those ports is March 20, 1970. The Commonwealth Government has requested that the design of the incinerators to be installed at the Ports of Urangan, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Mackay, Bowen, Lucinda, Mourilyan and Weipa, be re-examined with a view to reduction of the sizes of the incinerators to be installed at those ports. The Commonwealth's request is now under consideration."

PROTECTION OF AUSTRALIAN BUSTARD

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

In view of the recent Press statement that although the Australian Bustard was a protected species it was still being shot, what action does he intend to take as a deterrent against further decimation of their numbers?

Answer:—

"In every instance where evidence of interference with the Australian Bustard is obtained, sufficient to sustain a prosecution under *The Fauna Conservation Act of 1952*," appropriate action will be taken.

My Press statement of August 1 last, was designed to advise people who may not previously have known, or who may have forgotten, that the bustard was in fact a protected bird, and to request the co-operation of the public in protecting it. In this respect, factual evidence should be given in the first instance to a police officer, honorary protector or fauna officer. Every police officer as well as all Inspectors and Advisory Officers of the Department of Primary Industries and certain officers of the Departments of Lands and Forestry are *ex officio* Fauna Officers."

FUMIGATION OF STORED GRAIN

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

Because of the continuing necessity to safeguard stored grain from the ravages of weevils—

(1) Is it true that seed and grain which have been treated with certain prescribed toxic chemicals can no longer be used in stock foods or sold for feeding to stock?

(2) If so what are these prescribed chemicals?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "The prescribed chemicals are—Benzene hexachloride (BHC), dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), dieldrin, endosulfan, endrin, hexachlorobenzene (HCB), mercury (Hg)."

IMPOSITION OF CURFEW ON YOUNG GIRLS

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to statements in the Brisbane Press over the past three weeks that young girls aged from 11 to 15 years are attending discos and other places of that nature and are roaming the streets of Brisbane until after midnight?

(2) How many police officers are patrolling the city streets at any one time between the hours of 11 p.m. and 2.30 a.m.?

(3) What powers have police in dealing with young girls under 15 years who, although not patently breaking any law are considered to be jeopardising their own safety?

(4) Has the question of the imposition of curfews being placed on girls of these ages been considered?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "The Honourable Member may be assured that there is an adequate police coverage of city streets both by foot and mobile police, during the hours referred to on any given night."

(3) "There is power under the "Children's Services Act" for a police officer to take into custody, for the purpose of applying to a children's court for an order that a child within the meaning of that Act be committed to the care and control of the Director of the Department of Children's Services."

(4) "Not by the Police Department."

STATE ELECTORAL ROLLS

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

Further to my Question of Tuesday, August 19, in reference to enrolment of electors, will he detail the course of action in the deletion of an elector's name by objection, in particular, (a) who lodges the objection, (b) what action precedes the lodgment of the objection, (c) are physical roll checks carried out, (d) are these checks carried out by officers of the State Electoral Office and (e) are police checks still made?

Answer:—

"(a) Any person may lodge an objection to a name on the roll. The method of objection is set out in detail in section 31 of the "Elections Acts." This procedure is followed when the State Electoral Registrar lodges objections. (b) The person objecting is required to have evidence that the name of the elector should no longer be retained on the roll. For the duty of each electoral registrar in this regard see section 31 (3) of the "Elections Acts." (c) House-to-house roll checks are carried out in the year preceding a general election. The most recent one was completed late in 1968 for the whole of the State. (d) Officers of the State Electoral Office are fully engaged in compilation of the rolls and are not available for house-to-house checking. (e) Yes. The roll check made last year was carried out by police in all areas of the State with the exception of the metropolitan area and the provincial cities. By arrangement with the Commonwealth Government, the major cities were canvassed by the Commonwealth Review Officers and the results made available to both Commonwealth and State electoral authorities."

ACCIDENTS AND RADAR TRAPS, SANDGATE ROAD

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

(1) How many accidents were reported on Sandgate Road between Hamilton Road and Virginia State School in each of the years ended June 30, 1967, 1968 and 1969?

(2) How many radar traps were located on Sandgate Road between Hamilton Road and Virginia State School in the three months ended Sunday, August 17?

(3) How many bookings for exceeding the speed limit were made during the same period?

Answers:—

(1) "Year ended 30th June, 1967, 24; year ended 30th June, 1968, 22; and year ended 30th June, 1969, 33."

(2) "12."

(3) "65."

SPILLAGE FROM COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

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

Does legislation exist to prevent motor vehicles from travelling at speed along the streets, loaded with sand, ashes, gravel, crushed stone and similar cargoes, in such a manner as to submit other road users, pedestrians and even properties en route, to being smothered by portions of the load blown off by the generated wind and, if so, what positive steps are being taken to enforce the law?

Answer:—

"It is a breach of Regulation 77 (d) of the Traffic Regulations for any person to drive any vehicle on any road the loading upon which is not so arranged, contained, fastened or covered that neither the load nor any part of it will fall or otherwise escape from such vehicle. The Honourable Member should refer the second part of his Question to the appropriate Minister."

COAL SOURCE FOR PROPOSED POWER STATION, GLADSTONE

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

With reference to his Press statement in the *Rockhampton Morning Bulletin* of August 8, 1969, on the proposed power station for Gladstone in which he stated that investigations were carried out by specialist planning staff over a period of three years and were very detailed and thorough—

(1) From what source or sources will coal be drawn to supply the proposed power station?

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(2) What will be the cost per ton at each point of supply?

(3) What will be the rail freight charges from each point of supply to the proposed site at Gladstone?

Answers:—

(1) "A power station at Gladstone is in a favoured position to draw coal from a number of sources whichever can supply it to the powerhouse at the lowest cost. At present Blackwater appears to be that source, but this could well change in the future as further developments in coal mining in Central Queensland occur."

(2 and 3) "This information is confidential but the Honourable Member is assured that coal can be delivered to the powerhouse bunkers at a favourable cost per million British Thermal Units."

DIRECTOR AND SUPERVISORS OF ART AND MUSIC

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

With regard to the applications for a Director and Supervisors of Art and Music for his Department, (a) were the applications called and, if so, when, (b) how many persons applied, (c) who were they and what qualifications did they possess, (d) who are the appointees, if any, (e) what are their duties and (f) where are they presently performing their duties?

Answer:—

"(a) Applications for appointment to the positions of Supervisor of Art and Supervisor of Music were invited in November, 1968. (b) There were six applicants for the position of Supervisor of Art and ten for the position of Supervisor of Music. (c) For the better functioning of the Public Service, this information is treated as confidential. (d), (e) and (f) No appointments have yet been made."

PROTECTION OF FISHING INDUSTRY

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

(1) Is he aware that the important fishing industry is suffering through lack of Government interest and assistance?

(2) What action has been and is being taken to protect Queensland's fishing industry in the last twelve months?

(3) (a) What is the reason for the kerosene taste which still prevails in certain fish and results in heavy dumping and (b) is any research presently being undertaken to alleviate this problem and, if so, what is the nature of this research?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "There has been no lack of interest on the part of the Government in the Queensland fishing industry. This is being amply demonstrated, to take two examples, by its development of fishing research facilities in co-operation with C.S.I.R.O. and its promotion of the Australian Fisheries Council which now functions as a States-Commonwealth liaison forum for the assistance and protection of the industry."

(3) "(a) The cause of the kerosene-like taint in fish is unknown. (b) Yes, and the Fish Board has employed the C.S.I.R.O., Division of Food Preservation to examine the problem. This examination is continuing."

REVENUE AND UNCLAIMED DIVIDENDS,
TOTALISATOR ADMINISTRATION BOARD

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

(1) What has been (a) the hold and (b) the Government's share, excluding unclaimed dividends, in each year since the commencement of operations of the T.A.B. to the present date?

(2) (a) What is the total amount of unclaimed winnings from the T.A.B. since its inception and (b) what is the largest single unclaimed amount?

(3) In view of the fact that I and others have consistently advocated the establishment of a Ministry of Sport, which has just as consistently been denied by the Government, will he arrange for those youngsters representing Queensland each year in interstate school sports to be financially assisted towards their expenses for the trips, by allocating moneys from unclaimed winnings?

Answers:—

(1) "I refer the Honourable Member to the annual reports of the Totalisator Administration Board of Queensland which have been tabled in this House. Figures for the financial year 1968-69 will be included in the next annual report."

(2) "For the financial year 1968-69 the amount was \$207,000. Twelve months ago I gave the Honourable Member the figures for earlier years. Apparently he was too tired to turn them up or look for them. The largest single amount was \$1,500."

(3) "Unclaimed dividends are paid to the Consolidated Revenue Fund and form part of the State's general revenue. It has always been my practice to accord functions such as education, the treatment and care of the sick, aged and infirm, and other social service activities a much higher priority in allocation of State finances than the form of spending now suggested by the Honourable Member."

Mr. BROMLEY: I rise to a point of order. I object to the Treasurer's suggesting that I am lazy.

Mr. Chalk: You didn't turn them up.

Mr. BROMLEY: I know what answer I was given on the last occasion, but there may have been some more figures since then. I ask that that statement be withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member for Norman has taken offence at the words used by the Treasurer and asks that they be withdrawn.

Mr. CHALK: If the hon. member asks for a withdrawal, I will withdraw, but I do suggest, from the things that happened, that he was lazy yesterday.

Mr. BROMLEY: I ask for an unqualified withdrawal.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The Treasurer has withdrawn the remark and the matter is finished.

Mr. BROMLEY: Then he brought out something else. I want a fair go, Mr. Speaker. I want to be protected, the same as Government members are protected. I am entitled to that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The point of order was taken and the Treasurer withdrew the remark.

Mr. BROMLEY: Then he got nasty.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member's point of order was taken, and there will be no further discussion.

Mr. BROMLEY: He still got nasty.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BROMLEY: I ask that the remark implying that I am lazy be not included in "Hansard".

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

LOCAL AUTHORITY LOANS AND SUBSIDIES

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

What are (a) the loan-raising approvals and (b) the subsidy approvals for the financial year 1969-70 for the following local authorities—Toowoomba City Council, Rockhampton City Council, Townsville City Council and Gold Coast City Council?

Answer:—

"I lay upon the table the information sought by the Honourable Member, and leave it to your discretion Mr. Speaker whether such voluminous information should be included in Hansard."

Paper.—Whereupon Mr. Chalk laid upon the Table of the House a paper containing information referred to.

Mr. Davies: It should be in "Hansard". Commonwealth "Hansard" would do it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! There are some items, such as graphs and tables, which we find it impossible to print in "Hansard". I ask the hon. member for Maryborough to be a little tolerant and appreciate the impossibility of having certain documents included in "Hansard".

NEW BUNDAMBA STATE HIGH SCHOOL

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

(1) Will the proposed new State High School at Bundamba be completed and ready for use for the commencement of the school year of 1970?

(2) What is the estimated enrolment for 1970 at the school in (a) Grade 8, (b) Grade 9, (c) Grade 10, (d) Grade 11 and (e) Grade 12?

Answers:—

(1) "The first stage in the development of the State High School at Bundamba will be completed and ready for use by the commencement of the 1970 school year. This will provide accommodation for all Grade 8 students seeking enrolment."

(2) "In accordance with Departmental policy, the school will open in 1970 with only Grade 8 students, and an additional grade will be added each year until the complete secondary curriculum from Grade 8 to Grade 12 is provided for. The anticipated enrolment of Grade 8 at the Bundamba State High School in 1970 is 145."

NEWSPAPERS AND BOOKS TO PRISONERS

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

Are prisoners at Boggo Road and Wacol Prisons allowed to receive newspapers or paper-back books? If not, why not?

Answer:—

"No."

STANDARD OF HEARING AIDS

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

Does his Department exercise any control over (a) the standard of hearing aids sold in Queensland and (b) the qualifications of persons who supply and fit them?

Answer:—

(a) and (b) "No. The standard of hearing aids and qualifications of persons who supply and fit them were discussed at

the 1968 Health Ministers' Conference but a final agreement regarding uniform control measures could not be reached."

MINISTERIAL VISIT TO CAPE YORK PENINSULA AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS

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

What was the purpose of the visit by him and the Director, Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs, to Cape York Peninsula and Torres Strait Island Reserves prior to the election?

Answer:—

"As the Honourable Member would have observed when he accompanied me on one occasion, such visits are in discharge of my responsibilities as Minister in Charge of Aboriginal and Island Affairs and, of course, the Director as Administrative Head of the Department accompanied me."

OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL SURVEYS

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

With regard to surveys to ascertain the number of children who would be eligible for opportunity schooling,—

(1) Since January, 1967, what requests from all sources and from which areas has his Department received for surveys to be carried out?

(2) What surveys have been carried out since January, 1967, and with what result and what surveys are planned for the future?

Answers:—

(1) "Since January, 1967, requests for opportunity school surveys have come from: Warwick, Gladstone, Chinchilla, Atherton Tableland, Lockyer, Kingaroy, Dalby, Ravenshoe, Mt. Garnet, Ingham, Biloela, Beenleigh, Charters Towers, Beaudesert, Inala, Mt. Isa."

(2) "(a) The surveys carried out and the results are as listed:—Warwick—Two classes to be established when accommodation is available; Gladstone—Action is being taken to establish an opportunity school; Chinchilla—Insufficient numbers to warrant the establishment of classes; Atherton Tableland—Two classes were opened at Atherton in January, 1969; Beenleigh—Insufficient numbers for the establishment of classes; Charters Towers—Two classes to be established when accommodation is available; Beaudesert—Two classes were opened at Beaudesert in January, 1969; Inala—New opportunity school opened in August, 1968; and Mt. Isa—Two classes established in August, 1967. (b) During the remainder of 1969 opportunity school surveys will be carried out at: Ingham, Biloela, Kingaroy and the Gold Coast."

BOAT HARBOUR, BUNDABERG DISTRICT

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

(1) Has the Department of Harbours and Marine studied the proposals for a boat harbour at either Bargara or Burnett Heads? If so, which seaside resort is more favourable?

(2) Will the Department give consideration to an early start on a boat harbour for the Bundaberg district?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes. In response to representations made by the Honourable Member for Burnett the Department of Harbours and Marine has prepared a preliminary report on the establishment of a boat harbour in the Bundaberg district. Factors of cost and natural physical advantages render Burnett Heads the more favourable site."

(2) "The Department is awaiting information to be supplied by the Woongarra Shire Council on the present and future likely usages of such a boat harbour. This information is essential to establish, in the first place, the immediate need for such a proposal, and if sufficient need is established, the development planning."

LIAISON OFFICER FOR PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS

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

Has his Department a particular officer from whom secretaries of school parents and citizens' associations can obtain information? If so, what is his name and, if not, will he give consideration to the appointment of such an officer?

Answer:—

"No. All correspondence from Parents and Citizens' Associations should be addressed to the Department. On receipt it is marked out to the relevant officer for consideration. It is not intended to appoint one officer who would attempt to deal with the many specialized functions carried out within the Department. Existing arrangements have proved satisfactory."

NEW BUILDINGS, VICTORIA PARK STATE SCHOOL, MACKAY

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

(1) Will the proposed new school buildings to be built near the Victoria Park School become a separate infants' school or will they remain under the complete control of the existing school?

(2) When does he anticipate that these buildings will become available to his Department?

Answers:—

(1) "The new school at Victoria Park will be a separate infants' school."

(2) "Provision has been made in the Loan Works Programme for the commencement of this building in the current financial year. It will not be ready for occupation at the beginning of 1970, and no definite date of completion can be given."

T.A.B. AGENCIES

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

(1) How many T.A.B. agencies are now operating in (a) Brisbane and (b) other places?

(2) On what basis are agencies opened?

(3) Can he, at his discretion, control or direct the opening of new agencies?

(4) Has the T.A.B. sought to open agencies for which he has declined to give approval and, if so, what were the locations of any proposed agencies?

Answers:—

(1) "74 in the Brisbane Metropolitan area and 194 elsewhere."

(2) "The determination is made by the Totalisator Administration Board according to demand, distance from existing agencies and other relevant factors."

(3) "The information sought by the Honourable Member is available to him in the relevant provisions of the Racing and Betting Acts."

(4) "No."

TOOWOOMBA TRANSPORTATION SURVEY

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

(1) What works have been undertaken towards the implementation of the Toowoomba transportation survey since its completion in February, 1966?

(2) Will Stage One be completed by the date set in the survey for stage development? If not, what is the anticipated date of completion?

(3) What costs have been met by (a) his Department and (b) the Toowoomba City Council?

(4) Have there been, or will there be revisions or alterations to the recommendations of the survey? If so, what are they?

(5) When will work commence on Stage Two?

Answers:—

(1 and 3) "The major work involved is the extension of the Warrego Highway in Bridge Street to Tor Street and at present construction is in progress by Main Roads Department on the section from the Warrego Highway to Greenwattle Street. The section from Greenwattle Street to Tor Street is under design and will be joint Toowoomba City Council and Main Roads Department responsibility. Other works involving traffic improvement to intersections is partly Main Roads and partly Toowoomba City Council responsibility. Dissection of responsibility was agreed to by the joint Policy Committee of Toowoomba City Council and Main Roads Department."

(2) "It is anticipated that most of the work included in Stage One will be completed by the date set down in the Study."

(4) "No significant alterations have been approved as yet but there was always the likelihood of amendments because of possible changes in the plan of development and the Study is under constant review by Toowoomba City Council and Main Roads Department."

(5) "Planning is in hand for Stage Two but no firm date for commencement of work can be set at this stage."

PHYSICAL TRAINING EQUIPMENT AND
FACILITIES, BRISBANE AND WACOL
PRISONS

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

What exercise facilities and physical training equipment are available, and what physical exercises are prisoners permitted, at (a) Boggo Road Prison and (b) Wacol Prison?

Answer:—

"The shockingly medieval type prison in Annerley Road (formerly Boggo Road) inherited from the A.L.P. in 1957 has no exercise facilities other than the limited exercise yards but action is in train to provide them. On the other hand Wacol Prison built by this Government is provided with first-class sporting fields and bowling greens. There is no physical training equipment available at Brisbane Prison while there are all types of sporting gear available at Wacol Prison. Physical exercises at Brisbane Prison are confined to the exercise yards while at Wacol Prison there is a wide range of sporting activity. This comparison of facilities and activities at Boggo Road (Brisbane Prison) and Wacol Prison is the most severe criticism that could be made of this type of Government activity during over forty years of A.L.P. administration."

LICENSING OF FIREARMS

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

(1) Has he or his Departmental officers received requests from the Central Coast Graziers' Association or any similar body in this State calling for the licensing of all firearms?

(2) As a number of graziers in the central district have had several head of cattle gunned down and killed by irresponsibles using heavy calibre rifles and spotlights, has any investigation been made into allegations submitted to the Department by the Central Coast Graziers' Association?

(3) What right has a land-owner to order away from his property boundary people who stand in the adjacent roadway firing bullets at cattle and stock?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Police Department records fail to indicate that complaints have been made by members of the Central Coast Graziers' Association that cattle have been gunned down and killed by irresponsibles using heavy calibre rifles and spotlights."

(3) "A land-owner has a right to order away from his property boundary people who stand in the adjacent roadway firing bullets at cattle and stock. However, if the land-owner is of the opinion that an offence is being committed by such person, I suggest he communicate immediately with the police in the locality concerned when appropriate action will be taken in relation to that complaint."

DELAYS IN TREATMENT FOR PUBLIC
PATIENTS, IPSWICH GENERAL
HOSPITAL

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

(1) Is he aware that there is a waiting time of about five to seven months for people requiring operations at the Ipswich General Hospital in the public wards, and that, in contrast, if a person goes to a private doctor he can undergo the operation required after a lapse of only one week, in the intermediate ward?

(2) As this adversely affects people in the lower income groups who cannot afford the fees required for intermediate wards or the time off work in the long waiting period, will he take steps to alleviate the situation?

(3) As the waiting time for people requiring dentures or denture repairs or alterations at the Ipswich General Hospital is about twelve months, will he also endeavour to see that this situation is improved as quickly as possible?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "Ipswich Hospitals Board officers have advised that the waiting time for non-urgent elective surgery for public patients is no more than three months. Urgent surgery is given an immediate priority. Priority is also given to those people who are unable to work on account of a condition needing surgery even though it is of a non-urgent nature."

(3) "I am informed there is a ten to twelve months waiting list. However, this does not apply to people who are ailing or ill and have doctor's certificates. These people receive immediate attention. Patients requiring adjustments or "alterations" are taken as they present themselves—there is no waiting time. Any patient requesting relining of a denture who has not been an Ipswich Dental Clinic patient is placed on a waiting list. With respect to repairs of dentures, these are received one day and returned to the patient the following day. When a patient has had teeth extracted, an appointment for dentures is given within three to four months, this being the normal period for healing of the tissues. Any extension of the dental service at Ipswich will 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."

IPSWICH FIRE BRIGADE

Mrs. Jordan, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Labour and Tourism,—

(1) Is he aware that there is a great deal of unrest and dissatisfaction among firemen at the Ipswich Fire Brigade and that there is objection to being instructed to do fire-drills at the week-end instead of, or as well as, on week days?

(2) What qualifications are required for appointment of a chief fire officer and has the Ipswich chief the necessary qualifications?

(3) Will he investigate the situation prevailing at Ipswich with a view to preventing an extension of what appears to be or could become a dangerous situation as far as Ipswich is concerned?

Answers:—

(1) "The State Fire Services Council informs me these problems are industrial matters presently before the State Industrial Commission."

(2) "Concerning qualifications for the appointment of Fire Brigade Chief Officers I am informed applications for vacant positions are called by the respective Boards and applicants are considered on the basis of their practical fire-fighting experience and educational qualifications.

I am advised that the Ipswich Fire Brigade Board considered the present chief officer the most satisfactory applicant because of his long association with the Board during which he had the required practical experience."

(3) "An inspection of the Ipswich Fire Brigade Board by the Fire Services Inspectorate of the State Fire Services Council is presently proceeding."

HOUSING COMMISSION RENTAL HOUSES, IPSWICH AREA

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

With regard to Housing Commission rental houses in the Ipswich area—

(1) How many (a) are available for Defence personnel, (b) were built in the financial years 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69 respectively and (c) are planned for the financial year 1969-70?

(2) How many (a) are available for the civilian public and in what suburbs are they located, (b) were erected in the financial years 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69 respectively and (c) are planned for the financial year 1969-70?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) 459 at Ipswich including Amberley; (b) 1966-67, 2; 1967-68, 16; 1968-69, 6; (c) 361 have been requested by the Commonwealth and a request for a further 112 is anticipated."

(2) "(a) Of 449 houses constructed for civilian use 102 are now rental and located at Brassall, East Ipswich, Raceview, Leichhardt and Ipswich; (b) 1966-67, 12 erected including 3 rental; 1967-68, 7 erected including 3 rental; 1968-69, 11 erected including 4 rental; (c) 13 including 2 home ownership. Of the balance of 11 those not sold will be rented. The programme is subject to review on completion of development of land now in course of acquisition."

CLASSROOMS, HARRISTOWN STATE HIGH SCHOOL

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

(1) What is the number of temporary classrooms in operation at the Harristown State High School?

(2) How long have these been in operation?

(3) Are two rooms of the Assembly Hall used daily as classrooms?

(4) When can this school expect to have sufficient permanent classrooms available?

Answers:—

(1) "Four (4)."

(2) "Since 1961."

(3) "It should not be necessary for part of the Assembly Hall to be used for normal classroom requirements."

(4) "Consideration is not being given to the replacement of temporary classrooms at this School at present as future enrolments are expected to decrease."

HOUSING FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES IN COUNTRY AREAS

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

(1) Has the Government given any consideration to dealing with the housing situation for lower-paid railway employees in outback areas?

(2) If so, will he agree to altering the basis of computing the rental of railway houses to allow employees who are among the lower-paid group, such as fitters, a reasonable chance of securing a railway house at a reasonable rental? If not, why not?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The rentals of railway houses are generally much lower than comparable accommodation. Rentals are as low as \$3.99 per fortnight for married accommodation. If I were to agree to the Honourable Member's suggestion it would only result in an increase in rentals. I do not intend to accede to the Honourable Member's request."

REPORT ON OFF-SHORE OIL DRILLING PRACTICES

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

(1) Will he table the report of the senior petroleum engineer of the Mines Department on off-shore drilling practices and the prevention of the escape of petroleum from wells drilled offshore.

(2) Was this report considered and accepted by the whole Cabinet after the engineer's trip to England and the United States?

Answers:—

(1) "Due to extremely heavy commitments, including examination of proposals to drill in Repulse Bay and gathering information for Parliament, the Engineer has not yet completed his report."

(2) "He has conferred with me repeatedly and his views were given deep consideration. Cabinet has been kept informed."

EMPLOYMENT OF LOCAL TRUCK OWNER-DRIVERS ON MAIN ROADS WORK

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

Is it the practice of the Main Roads Department to employ local truck owner-drivers on main roads constructions in various areas? If so, why are owner-drivers brought from other areas by foremen "mates" and local owner-drivers left without work?

Answer:—

"The Main Roads Department uses several methods of truck cartage in its Day Labour operations throughout the State including the employment of owner-drivers and cartage by contract following advertised tenders. Where owner-drivers are required in any area, attention is given to the employment of local owners, but consideration has to be given to the economical functioning of Day Labour gangs, and this is greatly assisted by maintaining intact efficient small groups of proven workmen including truck owners by ensuring them some degree of continuity of engagement. Most construction projects require the use of trucks fitted with special equipment such as water tanks, pumps and the like, and fittings used for bitumen spray work, and foreman frequently arrange to transfer owners with such special skills or equipment to these works."

COMMONWEALTH DAIRY INDUSTRY REHABILITATION SCHEME

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

In view of the delay in finalising details so that the Commonwealth Government's proposed farm amalgamation scheme can be implemented—

(1) Is he aware that a number of farmers who could benefit from this scheme are leaving the industry and accepting whatever offer is made for their farm, which is often well below their real value?

(2) Has the Government been requested by the Q.D.O. to hear their submissions and discuss the terms of the scheme? If so, what was the result of this or any other discussion and when is it likely that the scheme can be implemented?

Answers:—

(1) "The Honourable the Premier has stated on a number of occasions that the Commonwealth Government's amalgamation scheme will be implemented as soon as the financial details are finalised on a basis acceptable to the States."

(2) "The Government has been constantly in touch with the Q.D.O. The views of the Q.D.O. and the State Government have been passed on to the Commonwealth Government. See Answer to (1)."

RE-FORMING OF ROAD TO KURANDA
RAILWAY STATION

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

(1) In view of the inability of cars and buses to use the road through railway property at Kuranda due to its narrow and rough state and the fact that large numbers of tourists and visitors call to view the Kuranda railway station, will he have the work of widening and re-forming this road completed as soon as possible?

(2) Will he also consider sealing this road in the near future?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "To develop the land for the turning of tourist road vehicles would require extensive earthworks and drainage, in addition to re-arrangement of footwalks. Funds are not available for works of this nature."

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF,
ATHERTON

Mr. Wallis-Smith, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Labour and Tourism,—

Has approval been given for the appointment of a Deputy Fire Chief at Atherton? If so, when will the Board be notified so that applications can be called for the position?

Answers:—

"No. The matter is still receiving consideration."

EXTENSION OF VISITING PERIOD,
BRISBANE PRISON

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

In view of the new and extensive visiting facilities which have been planned and implemented by the prison administration at Boggo Road, will the visiting period of twenty minutes at present permitted be increased? If not, why not?

Answer:—

"No."

JUNIOR AND SENIOR EXAMINATION FEES
FOR PRISONERS

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

Will he consider waiving the required examination fees for all prisoners who desire to sit for Junior or Senior subjects, as the average prisoner's earnings are such that it takes approximately one month to earn the necessary fee for one subject?

Answer:—

"On receipt of an application from the prison authorities my Department will give sympathetic consideration to the waiving of junior examination fees. It is understood that the University will give similar consideration to a request for the waiving of senior fees."

ESTABLISHMENT OF BUREAU OF REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

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

In view of the suggestion of the Vernon Committee of Economic Enquiry that the selection of a limited number of centres for accelerated growth would increase the effectiveness of decentralisation—

(1) Have such centres been selected in Queensland?

(2) If so, what are the names of these selected centres?

(3) If not, does he intend to select such centres and, if so, when?

(4) What is the progress of the plan to establish a Bureau of Regional Development?

(5) Will the already-established Regional Promotion Bureau be incorporated in the proposed Bureau and, if so, will they be fully financed by State funds?

Answer:—

(1 to 5) "The establishment of the Bureau of Regional Development and matters incidental thereto come within the province of the Honourable the Premier, to whom the Honourable Member should direct his Question."

ESTABLISHMENT OF HOME FOR AGED
PERSONS, CHARLEVILLE

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

Because there are no aged persons' homes established anywhere in the West of Queensland and often old people who have spent all their lives in the West are required to be completely transplanted from their environments, will he give urgent consideration to building such a home at Charleville?

Answer:—

"Under the Aged Persons' Homes Act, the Commonwealth Government will subsidise construction costs of approved homes erected by charitable organisations or local authorities on a \$2 to \$1 basis. The total cost of furnishings, within stipulated limits, for such aged persons' homes is met by the State Government. Funds expended by a State Government towards the costs of establishing an aged persons' home do not attract Commonwealth

subsidy. The attention of local community organisations or local authorities interested in this field could be drawn to these encouraging subsidies."

SHORTAGE OF NURSES IN WESTERN AREAS

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

Is he fully aware of the acute shortage of nursing staff in most western towns and, if so, what steps have been taken by him to have this matter remedied?

Answer:—

"I am aware that from time to time shortage of nursing staff occurs in western towns, as it does in all hospitals. This is not peculiar only to Queensland, but is world-wide. Recruitment of staff for individual hospitals is the responsibility of the respective hospitals boards. My Department assists whenever possible with staff recruitment at times of acute shortages."

ROAD WORK AND WATER RETICULATION, THOZETS ROAD HOUSING ESTATE

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

Has any agreement with the Rockhampton City Council and the Housing Commission been reached for road work, channelling and kerbing and water reticulation at the proposed Thozets Road housing estate? If so, when will work commence and what is the approximate date when allotments will be available?

Answer:—

"Yes. The work has commenced and it is anticipated that allotments will become available from mid-October."

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK

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

(1) What was the cost of Government promotional activities for each of the years 1966-67, 1967-68, and 1968-69 for (a) radio, (b) television, (c) press, (d) billboard and roadside hoardings and (e) advertising to promote various Government undertakings?

(2) How many public relations officers were employed by the Government in each of those years, and what was the total of salaries paid to such officers in each year?

(3) What was the cost of engaging public relations firms by the Government in each year and what are the names of the firms and the amounts paid to each?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "As the Honourable Member's question relates to Governmental activities as a whole, I regret I am not, as Minister for Industrial Development, in a position to supply the desired information."

TOONDAH HARBOUR PROJECT, CLEVELAND

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

(1) How much money (a) has been spent by the State Government on the Toondah Harbour project, Cleveland, to date and (b) will be required to complete Stage I?

(2) What land has been or will have to be acquired on and near the foreshores of the area under development for Stage I?

(3) Was the land resumed or repurchased and from whom at what cost?

(4) What will be the cost of reclaiming the tidal flats necessary for completion of Stage I?

(5) Who is carrying out the work of reclamation, levelling and dredging and what will be paid to each person or group carrying out this work?

(6) Did any person, company or other group apply for Government aid to develop any of the land, or for the reclamation of any of the area concerned in Stage I of the harbour development? If so, who applied, when did they apply, what amount or amounts did they apply for and what reasons, if any, were given to any who were refused assistance?

(7) Has any person, company or other group concerned in carrying out work on the development of this harbour or in the purchase and operation of any kind or kinds of ferry service from the harbour, been given any Government assistance, financial or otherwise and, if so, who was given such assistance and what was its nature and value?

Answers:—

"No State Government funds have been spent on development at Toondah Harbour, Cleveland, and furthermore there has been no State Government approval of any plan to develop a boat harbour in this area. In reply to the Honourable Member's questions (1) (a) and (b) to (5) and (7), I should point out, that, on January 28, 1969, the Port Authority for Brisbane, the Corporation of the Treasurer, entered into an agreement with Stradbroke Ferries Pty. Ltd. to dredge a channel 120 feet wide and 6 feet deep at low water into the foreshores at Cleveland at a point commonly known as Toondah Harbour. The agreement also provides for the dredging of a swing basin and the pumping of the spoil to reclamation on a site being

developed by Stradbroke Ferries. The total cost of the work is expected to be \$58,250, comprising \$2,500 for bundwalls built by Stradbroke Ferries and \$55,750 for dredging and reclamation by Central Dredging Pty. Ltd. Tenders were invited for the work. Expenditure of approximately \$32,000 has been incurred to date. The land being reclaimed is Crown land over which a special lease has been offered to Stradbroke Ferries. Under the agreement with Stradbroke Ferries, the Corporation of the Treasurer undertook to meet three-sevenths of the cost of the work or \$20,000 whichever was the greater. Stradbroke Ferries undertook to meet the balance of the cost now estimated at \$38,250. In return for this contribution the company received the following benefits:—1. No harbour dues will be payable by the company for the use of the channel for a period of 10 years; 2. Other barges or bulk loading ferry services using the channel will be charged a harbour due by the Corporation, including an advance payment which will place Stradbroke Ferries at no competitive disadvantage; 3. The Corporation will consult with Stradbroke Ferries before declaring a harbour due. No arrangements with respect to this development or the use of the channel have been made with any other party.”

(6) “On September 7, 1964, Mr. N. Malmstedt requested a Government subsidy towards the construction of a commercial barge ramp and the dredging of a channel 60 feet wide and 6 feet deep at low water into the foreshores in this vicinity. Mr. Malmstedt’s estimate of the cost of the work was \$38,800 and subsidy was sought as the channel would be of public value. On October 12, 1964, Mr. Malmstedt was advised that no contribution could be made towards the cost of this work. Crown approval to proceed with this work was granted in February, 1961, but to date, the channel has not been commenced. On March 6, 1969, James, Drake and Walker, solicitors, applied on behalf of Mr. N. F. Malmstedt for a special consideration by way of relief or exemption from any harbour dues charged by the Corporation in the event that Mr. Malmstedt commenced a ferry service using the dredged channel now under construction. The reason advanced for the concession was that Mr. Malmstedt had reclaimed approximately 5 acres in this vicinity which could be connected with the channel under construction. Messrs. James, Drake and Walker were advised on March 25, 1969, that the reclamation of a site in this vicinity did not constitute grounds for any exemption from harbour dues for the use of the channel by commercial barges.”

VISITS TO INMATES, BRISBANE PRISON

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

(1) How many visits are (a) recidivists and (b) first offenders at Boggo Road Prison entitled to each month?

(2) How many letters are those in (a) and (b) entitled to write each month?

(3) If a prisoner receives a visitor during the relevant period is he entitled to write a letter during the same period? If not, why not?

Answers:—

(1) “(a) Recidivists are permitted by Regulation to receive a visit each month from relatives up to five in a group, and two-monthly from friends at Brisbane Prison; (b) First offenders are permitted to receive weekly visits from relatives and fortnightly from friends. Prisoners at Wacol all receive visits at least fortnightly for an extended period and on State Farms for one hour weekly, irrespective of classification.”

(2) “Prisoners who do not receive visits may write letters at the same frequency of visits.”

(3) “A prisoner who receives visits is not entitled to write social letters during the relative period. However no restrictions are placed on genuine business letters and the Superintendent on request, grants permission. Additional special social letters are granted by the Superintendent on request providing the prisoner has an adequate reason for requesting this privilege.”

ALLOCATION OF SCIENCE BLOCKS, STATE HIGH SCHOOLS

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

With reference to the allocation of science blocks at State high schools from finance from the Commonwealth Government,—

(1) What is the number and location of science blocks in each of the financial years since the implementation of the scheme?

(2) What is the value of the buildings and equipment provided in each case?

(3) What schools will be provided with science blocks by the end of the present triennium?

(4) What is the estimated cost of buildings and equipment in (3)?

(5) What is the value of equipment supplied to schools not mentioned in (1)?

Answer:—

"In the time available it has not been possible to collate the detailed information required. I request the Honourable Member to repeat his question for answer on Tuesday next."

ATTENDANCES AT TEACHER-LIBRARIAN SEMINARS

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

With reference to the courses for teacher-librarians held in Sydney from January 6 to 24, 1969, and in Townsville in May—

(1) What was the number of teacher-librarians from Queensland who attended the special courses?

(2) How many were from (a) State high schools and (b) non-Government schools?

(3) What assistance, if any, was given to teachers to attend the courses?

(4) How were the teachers from State high schools selected to attend the courses?

(5) How has the knowledge gained by the teachers been utilised to assist other teachers not able to attend the courses?

(6) At which State high schools is it planned to erect Commonwealth libraries in the present triennium?

Answers:—

(1) "(i) Sydney Seminar—14; (ii) Townsville Seminar—Approximately 55."

(2) "(i) Sydney Seminar—11 from State High Schools and 3 from Non-Government Schools; (ii) Townsville Seminar—45 from State High Schools and 10 from Non-Government Schools."

(3) "(i) Sydney Seminar—Teachers from State High Schools received \$10 per day. (Of this \$2 per day was provided by the Commonwealth); (ii) Townsville Seminar—Rail passes, free accommodation for country teachers plus a Commonwealth allowance of \$2 per day for out-of-pocket expenses."

(4) "(i) Sydney Seminar—The Commonwealth Department of Education and Science set a quota of 11 from State High Schools. Six (6) were chosen from the Brisbane area and five (5) from large

provincial city high schools; (ii) Townsville Seminar—All State High Schools north of Gympie were asked to nominate a teacher to attend."

(5) "In improving the utilisation of existing library services and in assisting at local one-day seminars in various centres."

(6) "In the current triennium it is hoped that Commonwealth libraries will be established in all high schools with an enrolment of 1,100."

LAND REQUIREMENTS FOR GOONYELLA AND HAY POINT PROJECTS

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

(1) Is the Government aware of the various areas of land that will be required or involved in the Goonyella and Hay Point projects?

(2) What are the details of these areas of land?

(3) Who are the owners, lessees or tenants of these land areas?

(4) When and how did they acquire their land?

(5) How much of their various land holdings will be involved in the two projects?

(6) Will the Government, or the company concerned, undertake the resumptions or acquisitions?

Answer:—

"So far, the Utah Development Company has not taken any area to lease. The company's Authority to Prospect covers a vast area and I do not intend to ascertain the names of all the landholders in the area of the Authority. The exact route of the railway line traverses many properties, both on the coast, in the freehold areas of the farms and in the grazing leasehold areas. So far the survey for the railway line has not been completed."

LOAN BORROWING AND REPAYMENTS, TOWNSVILLE-MT. ISA RAILWAY PROJECT

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

(1) How much did Queensland finally borrow from the Commonwealth for the Townsville-Mt. Isa railway project?

(2) What repayments have been made to the Commonwealth and what part of this is interest on the loan?

(3) When did repayments begin?

(4) How much will Queensland ultimately repay to the Commonwealth and what percentage will be interest?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) "The information is readily available to the Honourable Member in the annual reports of the Auditor-General upon the Public Accounts of the State."

PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT OF MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS, TOWNSVILLE AREA

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

(1) When were married women teachers in the Townsville area requested to indicate whether they wished to join the permanent teaching staff?

(2) What is the present situation and when may teachers who replied in the affirmative expect some definite statement on this matter?

Answers:—

(1) "The amendments of the Public Service Regulations concerning the employment of married women and continuation of employment of female teachers upon marriage were printed in the May, 1969, issue of the *Education Office Gazette*. Application forms were also issued to schools."

(2) "Applications for continuation in permanent employment after marriage submitted by single female teachers have received consideration progressively. The first issue of approvals of permanent status of married female teachers will date as from August 25, 1969."

ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS, HEATLEY STATE HIGH SCHOOL

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

(1) As all present classrooms are now in use and as a great number of children have already indicated that they will be attending Heatley High School in 1970, what steps have been taken to ensure that these new arrivals will be properly accommodated next year?

(2) When will work begin on the necessary additions?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Planning of additional classroom accommodation at Heatley State High School is in hand. On completion of plans and estimate of cost, Executive Council approval will be sought for the work involved. Construction will commence as early as possible thereafter to provide the additional accommodation for the 1970 School Year."

ESTABLISHMENT OF INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, NORTH QUEENSLAND

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

(1) Is it proposed to establish an Institute of Technology in North Queensland?

(2) If so, has a location been determined and has Cairns received due consideration as a site prospect?

(3) If not, will he arrange for a survey and the early approval of such a project?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "There are no plans, at present, to establish such an institute in North Queensland."

(3) "The Commonwealth Government has approved developments in advanced education for the Triennium, 1970-72. Additional projects cannot be undertaken during this period."

OIL EXPLORATION, GREAT BARRIER REEF WATERS

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

What has happened to the six leases in the Great Barrier Reef area which, as he stated during the recent election campaign, were locked in a safe in his Department?

Answer:—

"I assume that the Question refers to the 41 applications received for the 14 areas offshore that were advertised in October, 1968, as being open for application under the Joint Commonwealth-State Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Acts. No final decision has yet been made."

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

Further to my Question of August 20 concerning leases, permits or authorities held in regard to oil exploration on or

near the Great Barrier Reef, what financial commitments have these companies entered into in regard to oil exploration activities?

Answer:—

"The greater part of the Great Barrier Reef is subject to Joint Commonwealth-State legislation enacted under the agreement of October 16, 1967, between the Commonwealth and the State. An Exploration Permit for petroleum is issued under the Commonwealth Act as well as the State Act, and it is necessary to consult the Commonwealth Government before making public the information requested."

DEFERMENT OF ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: In view of the number of answers that have been deferred, I must ask hon. members to be a little tolerant. There are so many questions and we are short of staff. This, unfortunately, has led to the working of overtime, sometimes till 11 o'clock at night, to check the questions and put them in their correct order. The time is fast approaching when, if a question is not in order, it will be returned to the member who gives notice of it to put it in its correct form. The work of correcting questions is getting too much for the staff to handle, but I ask hon. members to please bear with us for the time being. Some of the questions cannot be sent to the various departments until the following morning.

DEATH OF MR. A. COBURN

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable members, I regret to announce that I have just received advice that the former hon. member for Burdekin, Mr. Arthur Coburn, passed away this morning. I suggest that hon. members rise for a brief period as a mark of respect.

Whereupon hon. members stood in silence.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Regulations under—

The Coal Industry (Control) Acts, 1948 to 1965.

The Education Act of 1964.

FORM OF QUESTION

Mr. F. P. MOORE (Mourilyan) having given notice of a question—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The question is completely out of order. I advise the hon. member to have a private talk with me on the subject of questions in my office.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS TEMPORARY CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY AND WAYS AND MEANS

APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 1

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

"That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would otherwise prevent the constitution of Committees of Supply and Ways and Means, the receiving of Resolutions on the same day as they shall have passed in those Committees, and the passing of an Appropriation Bill through all its stages in one day."

Motion agreed to.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

Debate resumed from 19 August (see p. 81) on Mr. Hungerford's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. HINZE (South Coast) (12.37 p.m.): In making my contribution to the Address in Reply in this, the first session of the 39th Parliament of this State, on behalf of the South Coast electorate I, in all humility, reaffirm our loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Of course, the South Coast is now the largest country electorate in the State in numbers, with, I believe, 20,000 people on the roll and qualified to vote at this stage. I am therefore very proud of having the opportunity, on behalf of the wonderful Gold Coast area, of expressing our loyalty to the Crown, more particularly because next year the Royal couple will be travelling throughout Australia, particularly Queensland, during the celebrations commemorating Captain Cook's voyage of discovery. It must have been somewhere near Point Danger, in my electorate, that Queensland's coastline was first noticed by Captain Cook. He named Point Danger when he almost ran aground on a reef there, and looked across and saw the peak that he named Mount Warning.

Having mentioned those few matters of historical interest, I express the hope, on behalf of my colleague Mr. Cec. Carey and myself, that it might be possible when the Royal couple visit Queensland next year for them to visit the Gold Coast area.

I should like to congratulate the Administrator of the Government, Mr. Justice Sheehy, on the way he conducted the opening ceremony of this Parliament. It is very pleasing to think that, after a lifetime of service to this State it fell to Mr. Justice Sheehy's lot on this occasion to open the Parliament. We were all pleased that he had this opportunity, although it is regrettable that his appointment as Administrator came about through the illness of the Chief Justice.

I should like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, upon your reappointment to the very important position of Speaker of this House. I think I would be correct in saying that, provided you complete this term, you will set a new record term as Speaker of the Queensland Parliament. On behalf of all other members of the Government—and I am sure I speak for members of the Opposition, too—I express the wish that you will be afforded the opportunity of breaking the present long-standing record.

It is customary to extend congratulations to the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I congratulate the hon. member for Balonne, Mr. Harold Hungerford. He was Chairman of the Waggamba Shire, and his long experience in local government in Western Queensland extends over approximately 20 years. No-one would know more about the requirements of Western Queensland than he knows. I congratulate him on winning his seat and on the way that he moved the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

I should also like to congratulate the hon. member for Wavell, Dr. Crawford, who seconded the motion.

An Opposition Member: Do you go along with him?

Mr. HINZE: Whether he is right or wrong—

An Opposition Member: Wise or unwise.

Mr. HINZE: Or wise or unwise, as Jack Duggan said, after he gets a few of the spots knocked off him members of the Opposition will find that he will be a valuable member of the Government because he has indicated that he is prepared to say what he thinks. I do not know whether he is right or wrong; only time will prove that. But at least he is a specialist in the medical profession and obviously must know what he is talking about.

I should like to congratulate the Premier on the way that he led the coalition parties to success in the recent State election. The Premier had to take up the reins of leadership in unfortunate circumstances, but he proved his worth and came through with flying colours. There is no doubt that he will be recognised as a most capable Premier of this State.

Rather strangely, perhaps, I should like to congratulate the Leader of the Opposition also. In all sincerity and honesty I say that he has improved considerably in his position as Leader of the Opposition. I hope that he will be spared for a long time in good health so that he may remain as Leader of the Opposition. My remarks apply also to his deputy leader. The Leader of the Opposition applies himself assiduously to the work of the Australian Labour Party. He is doing a good job, so I hope that he is permitted to remain in that position.

I agree with the hon. members who have said that a period of eight months is far too long for Parliament to be in recess. It is noticeable that the Federal Parliament is still sitting and that a Federal election will be held in only a few weeks' time. However, with the responsible coalition Government that we have in this State I feel sure that the days of Parliamentary recesses of eight months are behind us. I do not think that the people of Queensland want a long recess. There is absolutely no need for it, and I hope that we do not again see the State of Queensland left without a sitting Parliament for such a long period of time.

A lengthy recess does not give hon. members the opportunity of directing questions to Ministers. Since the beginning of this session we have seen the result of the recent long recess: on the first day, 89 questions were asked; on the second day, 80 questions were asked; and on the third day, 65 questions were asked. I think Jack Stanaway and Val Ffrench must be running out of questions now because the number was down a bit today.

Mr. Sherrington: You are biting the hand that fed you on the preferential votes.

Mr. HINZE: Fair enough. But wait a moment; it was a reciprocal arrangement.

Other members have commented on the state of Parliament House and the conditions at the Lodge. It is not necessary for me to confirm any of their comments, but I agree with most of the statements that have been made. Hon. members are entitled to proper office accommodation, and members who travel long distances from their homes, and who sleep at The Lodge, should have modern accommodation. The Lodge is akin to Cherbourg in that there is segregation there. I do not know why, but I could not take my wife into The Lodge.

Mr. Thackeray: You want accommodation like that at the Parkroyal?

Mr. HINZE: We should have accommodation similar to that. Nothing is too good for the workers.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I do not want the Address in Reply debate to become a private conversation between the member who is speaking and a few members on my left. I should like the whole House to hear what the hon. member is saying, and I should also like the hon. member to address the Chair. I also ask hon. members on my left to behave a little better.

Mr. HINZE: I will comment very briefly on some of the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition in this debate. He said that Queenslanders should participate in the development of our mineral resources. I think everybody in Queensland agrees with that sentiment. I advocate the establishment of a Government-sponsored Queensland mining trust, although I do not suggest that it should be Government-guaranteed. The

small investor wishing to participate in developing Queensland's mineral wealth wants to know that his investment will be sound. It may be said that unit trusts are available for the small investor, but I am thinking of an authority similar to the S.E.A. that would be sponsored by the Government. In negotiating with overseas companies for the employment of capital to develop industries, particularly our mining industry, Ministers would know that this fund was available.

At present, about \$800,000,000 is deposited in Commonwealth Savings Banks in Queensland and about \$800,000,000 in the private banks' savings accounts. That means that about \$1,600 million is lying in the banks in Queensland. If even 1 per cent. of that money was made available to a mining trust, the Treasurer, or whoever was negotiating with the overseas companies, would have at his disposal about \$16,000,000 to ensure participation by the small investor who wants security and something to show that he is investing in the mining wealth and development of the State. In advancing that proposal, I should like some consideration given to it at a later date.

Much has been said about the Great Barrier Reef. If my memory serves me correctly, when the legislation dealing with off-shore drilling went through the House last year the hon. member for Salisbury examined the Bill clause by clause. We knew at that time that drilling for oil on the Barrier Reef was to proceed, and whenever the Premier was on the public platform during the election campaign he indicated that it was not the intention of the Government to repudiate a contract. There can be no doubt about where the Government stood on this subject; our attitude has been consistent throughout.

Mr. Sherrington interjected.

Mr. HINZE: Do not let us play to the gallery.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HINZE: We should not jump on a hobby-horse and play to the gallery. Let us be factual and sensible about this. Instead of looking continually at the negative side and saying that there will be a blow-out—obviously some people hope that there will be—let us say that we may find oil on the Barrier Reef without any blow-out. Let us think of the benefits that could accrue in Queensland.

Mr. Sherrington: What benefits?

Mr. HINZE: We are gaining benefits now from the finding of oil in Queensland.

Mr. Sherrington: What benefits have the consumers got from natural gas?

Mr. HINZE: It must be appreciated that if mineral wealth or oil is found, it must benefit the State generally.

There is no doubt about where we stand. The Minister for Mines has tried repeatedly to make public the intentions of the Department of Mines. He has said that the Government does not intend to repudiate any contract, and has indicated to those responsible that every precaution must be taken in drilling for oil on the Great Barrier Reef.

Mr. Sherrington interjected.

Mr. HINZE: I think the hon. member said that that does not apply in my area because the Great Barrier Reef is not adjacent to it. Let me point out that every Country Party member who stood in that area increased his majority. Nobody can say that that is not true or that the Great Barrier Reef was not an issue. Every Country Party member who stood—take, for example, Mirani, Whitsunday and Mulgrave—increased his majority, and the farther away people are from the Barrier Reef, the more they accept the possibility of blow-outs and damage to the Barrier Reef.

The people arguing against this drilling know very well that the risk involved is infinitesimal. Opposition members know as well as I do that it is a political hobby-horse. I have a good deal of respect for the hon. member for Salisbury as a conservationist, but we must be practical and realise that the reef is some distance under water.

Let me now deal with some election figures. We often hear that the Country Party is governing with a minority vote. Consider the following figures:—

Party	Seats Won	Percentage of Valid Vote
Country Party	26	58.97
Liberal Party	19	55.3
Australian Labour Party ..	31	58.04

Party	Seats Contested	Percentage of Valid Vote
Country Party	39	49.7
Liberal Party	44	40
Australian Labour Party ..	77	45

It is possible to do anything with figures, but, being practical about it, on the figures in the first table the Country Party received 58.97 per cent. of the votes and the A.L.P. received 58.04 per cent. Opposition members continually refer to the A.L.P. receiving 45 per cent. of the votes. However, using the number of seats contested as the basis, the Country Party received 49.7 per cent. of the votes.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. HINZE: This means that in contesting new electorates the Country Party, with its modern organisation, can rely on maintaining

an average of about 49.7 per cent., and can even afford to drop nearly 5 per cent. before it need worry about Labour. Make no mistake: the Country Party is a popular party, and the people appreciate it. It has no factions. It is rapidly modernising. Hon. members should note that its representation extends from the electorates represented by Wally Rae and Bill Lonergan, in the Far West, to the electorate represented by Roy Armstrong in the North, to the fabulous metropolitan Gold Coast.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Hooper): Order! The hon. member should not refer to other hon. members by name.

Mr. HINZE: Very well. Let us not be cynical about gerrymandering.

Mr. P. Wood: Is the Country Party interested in metropolitan electorates?

Mr. HINZE: We will see. Let us study the Australian Labour Party's record from 1949 to 1957. Where was the "one vote, one value" principle in those years of A.L.P. Government in Queensland? Let us look at the figures. In 1950, when the A.L.P. was in power, there were 4,701 qualified to vote in Barcoo; 4,928 in Belyando; and 14,113 in Mt. Gravatt.

Mr. Sherrington: What about Salisbury at the present time?

Mr. HINZE: It is nearly as large as South Coast. At the election of 7 March, 1953, when the State was still under A.L.P. control, there were 4,790 on the roll and qualified to vote in Barcoo; 4,842 in Belyando; and 20,823 in Mt. Gravatt.

Mr. Aikens: Tell us now about the shirt-tail agreement with the A.L.P.

Mr. HINZE: We have three years in which to hear all about that. You address Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr. HINZE: At the election of May, 1956, still under an A.L.P. Government, there were on the roll and qualified to vote 5,159 in Barcoo and 26,307 in Mt. Gravatt.

I wish to make brief reference to the Opening Speech of His Excellency the Administrator. I think that what he said then is worth repeating. He said—

"For me this opening of Parliament is a special event. It is the first time I have had the honour; holding as I do at present the high office of Administrator of the Government of Queensland.

"I would not like to let the occasion pass, without briefly paying a personal tribute to the Parliamentary Institution, the bulwark of democracy.

"To me, Parliament at its best, represents the finest institutional system yet devised by man, for the just and orderly conduct of the affairs of the community of which he forms part."

His Excellency went on to refer to some of the matters of policy to which the Government will give consideration during this term of office. He referred to widening of the Dairy Pasture Subsidy Scheme; payment of textbook allowances to students at teachers' colleges; extension of rural electricity; and other very important matters.

One thing to which His Excellency said the Government will give consideration is the setting up of a regional planning authority. The sooner that is done, the better it will be. In my electorate, to get anything done it is necessary to go from one Government department to another, and delays and red tape hinder the obtaining of decisions. I spoke about this matter some time ago, and I now hope that it will be possible to set up a regional planning authority on which there will be town planners, engineers, town clerks, and possibly representatives of this House.

I now wish to deal with censorship, which is, I believe, a matter of great importance to the State of Queensland. I refer to what is becoming increasingly known as our permissive society, or, perhaps more appropriately, our sickening society. In doing so, I wish to quote some extracts from last Sunday's edition of "Sunday Truth". There is nothing special, of course, about last Sunday's issue; each "Sunday Truth" is much the same as the others. However, I wish to refer to page 1 on which is the heading, "Girl, 16, Flees With Jailbird." She is part of a Gold Coast family, which is the important thing so far as I and my colleague from Albert are concerned, and the newspaper published a poignant picture of her mother and father.

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

Mr. HINZE: Before the recess for lunch, I was developing my argument relative to the continual attack upon law and order in this State, particularly upon censorship, and referring to extracts from "Sunday Truth" of last Sunday. As I said, one sees similar articles each week-end in "Sunday Truth"; they did not appear only in this edition.

On page 6, under the heading "Cop This with Mac Lachlan", this appeared—

". . . Queensland's Collector for Customs, Mr. D. Reid, called for a 60 per cent. increase in his prevention and detection staff.

"Mr. Reid said he needed to have 40 more inspectors before the State's coastal ports were fully policed.

"Evidence is mounting that attempts are being made to create a sizeable drug market in this country", he pointed out. 'It is our job to stem the flow before it reaches that state here.'"

Turning over a couple of pages, one saw the heading "Drugs and sex—Piccadilly now. History becomes Vice", and the article read—

"Piccadilly Circus is rapidly winning itself a world-wide reputation as the centre of drugs and easy sex in London."

I am quoting this in reply to the people who continually refer to the United Kingdom, Denmark and Sweden, and say that we should "get with it". It continued—

"Young visitors, intent on having a good time in England, head straight for this famous landmark—tipped off by friends who have already been there.

"Drugs are easily bought and sold—it's a pushers paradise despite the efforts of police."

Another couple of pages further on appeared the heading "Crime is 'to double in the next 10 years'". This will be of interest to hon. members. It was sub-headed "State now faces impasse", and the article said—

"Queensland Society is at the point where it would have to decide how it was going to grapple with the problem of crime, according to noted Australian criminologist Mr. Paul Wilson.

"Mr. Wilson, a lecturer in Government at Queensland University, warned that crime would double in the next decade.

"He said that at present 50,000 criminal offenders went through Queensland courts each year. This would increase to 100,000 in the next 10 years."

A few pages further on—this will be of interest to hon. members opposite; it was written by Haydn Sargent—appeared an article headed "Disease worry to young boys". It said—

"The voice at the other end of the telephone was young, nervous and obviously self-conscious. 'I'm ringing about that letter in "Sunday Truth"', he said.

"Trouble is, he was the fifth who had telephoned, so I still wasn't sure if he was the writer. It turned out that he was.

"That letter was a letter from a 15-year-old boy who suspected he had V.D."

Those extracts from "Sunday Truth" indicate how serious the position is relative to moral standards in this State, and that is why I draw the attention of hon. members to them particularly.

Not a day passes without our seeing an attack on the Queensland Police Force—the only power that is able to enforce the laws made in Parliament. We see attacks on the censors by people whose main argument is that, being adult, they rebel at the thought of being restricted in what they read or write or what they may see or hear on the stage or at the motion picture theatres. They refer continually to other States and the so-called "enlightened" attitude of these States to sex films, etc., and also to the so-called "enlightened" attitude of countries

overseas, particularly the United Kingdom, Denmark and Sweden, to which I referred earlier.

At this point, I wish to draw to the attention of the House this comment by Mr. Justice Fullagar—

"There is no special test for indecency or obscenity in print. Most people would have no difficulty in determining whether a particular statement made in public from a street corner or at a general gathering is indecent or obscene, but when the words appear in print there are not wanting those who would argue that the written word has some special immunity or must be dealt with by some unique test.

"These forget that 'there is no more benefit to the public from a literary presentation of obscenity, however skilfully written, than if the same things were shouted by a drunken man in a public street, and it is difficult to say that one is more artistic than the other'."

I refer hon. members to the belligerent attitude of a group of ratbags attending the University of Queensland who are determined, apparently, to bring that great institute of learning into disrepute by their filthy expressions and complete disregard of any semblance of law and order.

I believe that the people of Queensland are fed up to the back teeth with this radical group and that they will demand that this Sovereign Government of Queensland should no longer stand idly by and ignore the actions of these contemptible hooligans. Only last week we saw the spectacle of a lecturer by the name of Dan O'Neil charged with openly and defiantly breaking the laws of this State—a fine example indeed.

What must the parents of our young people think? Is it any wonder that the public of Queensland are concerned at the almost powerless attitude of the university senate? I state quite emphatically that so far as this ratbag radical group is concerned, it is no use ducking round corners or trying to sweep this problem under the carpet. A head-on clash is imminent. If the Government of this State does not afford some protection to the thousands of young people attending our universities, we will have to accept the scorn of the electorate.

I think I should now refer to the group of people who constitute the Queensland Literature Board of Review. The chairman is Mr. J. P. Kelly, O.B.E., Bachelor of Arts, Solicitor, Chairman of the Mater Hospital Board. These are the people who, week by week and day by day, are being attacked by those who indicate that we in Queensland are so far behind. One of the members is the Honourable Ben Matthews, a retired judge and a highly respected gentleman in this State. Surely he is a person well qualified to sit on a board such as this. Another member is Mrs. Una Mulholland, a prominent worker in women's organisations. Another is Mr. Brian Clouston, Bachelor of Commerce, publisher

and managing director of Jacaranda Press. Then there is Mr. Robert S. Byrnes, M.B.E., Bachelor of Arts and, I understand, treasurer and general secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. The secretary is Mr. Peter Jones, of the Justice Department. The board meets fortnightly, except in January and the second half of December.

I might add that the board was set up in 1954 by a Labour Government. It has been in existence for 15 years and it has stood the test of time, for, out of the thousands of books reviewed, only about 100 have been rejected for distribution. That is not a bad effort for a body of responsible people who are now constantly being maligned by the sex worshippers.

Now let us look at the experts—those who continually attack the “old curiosity State”. I refer to Queensland, of course. Perhaps the matter of censorship has been highlighted since the arrest of Mr. Staines, an actor in the stage play “Norm and Ahmed”. He was comparatively unknown until he used the words—

Mr. Hughes: What words did he use?

Mr. HINZE: I have the bench charge sheet, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I should like a direction from you as to whether you think I should mention the words. I might say that I have discussed this matter with the hon. member for Ipswich West, a long-time friend of mine in local government, and she has no objection. I repeat, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I have here the bench charge sheet against Mr. Norman Staines which indicates the words that were used that were regarded as objectionable. I am asking your opinion whether I should quote them or whether they should be included in “Hansard”.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Hooper): They will be included in “Hansard”.

Mr. HINZE: Bowing to your ruling, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and seeing that there are some young people in the gallery, I will ask that the bench charge sheet be included in “Hansard”.

EXTRACT FROM BENCH CHARGE SHEET

“CHARGE

“That on the 19th day of April 1969 at Brisbane in the Magistrates Court District in the State of Queensland constituted by the Central Division of the Brisbane District appointed under ‘The Decentralization of Magistrates Courts Act of 1965’ one Norman Aubrey Staines in a public place to wit Twelfth Night Theatre, Wickham Street, Brisbane aforesaid used obscene language to wit the words — BOONGS.”

Mr. HINZE: I suggest that the simplest way for a third-rate actor to become famous or infamous, as the case may be, in a third-rate show is to utter the words referred to. Similarly, the stage play would

have no appeal whatsoever, apart from a few nude scenes and some garbled expressions regarding sexual activity. And then, of course, the appeal would only be to those who could be regarded as sexually deprived or homosexuals, lesbians, wife-swappers or spivs. To those who suggest that we should emulate the United Kingdom, I refer to the latest importation from that country, the “junkie” Mick Jagger. Of course, “old Mick” had to receive a suspended sentence for drug-taking before he could leave the United Kingdom. In addition, he brought with him his mistress, Marianne Faithfull, who had to have a stomach pump applied to her before she could recover from an overdose of drugs. People from the United Kingdom, Denmark and Sweden are ones that we should be looking up to, and they advocate a freer society for Queensland.

Imagine these freaks being brought to Australia by the motion picture industry to play the part of poor Ned Kelly! No doubt the indomitable bushranger would turn in his grave at the thought of it. The point I am trying to make is that, no matter what magnificent achievements a country is capable of, if that country becomes morally bankrupt, as the United Kingdom is obviously becoming, it is only a matter of time until the lesson of the fall of Rome is repeated.

Perhaps to those of us who are prepared to be referred to as “squares”, or “cubes”, or “wowers”, and who simply adore the “old curiosity State” for all its weaknesses, the statement emanating from the motion picture industry that far too great an emphasis is placed on sex in today’s films can be regarded as a breath of fresh air in an industry that is so important in moulding the opinion of our young people.

Mr. Bromley: I have been saying that for years.

Mr. HINZE: I am saying now that it is about time the Parliament and the Government of this State stood up to the ratbags at the university. I am quite sure that all hon. members have been asked by their constituents to do something about these people at the university. The hon. member for Mt. Gravatt recently showed me a document that came from the university. I have a copy of it here, but I have no intention of quoting from it because it is too filthy. No other person could possibly publish such a document in this State, but somebody at the university is getting away with it. If that type of person cannot be handled by the university senate, the members of the senate should admit that fact and let the Government stop the printing of the filthy rubbish that emanates from the University of Queensland. If the Government does not do that, it should give the game away.

In conclusion, I touch on another matter that concerns all members of the community. I refer to the carnage on the roads. I suppose that a greater number of people are killed

on the roads in the Gold Coast area than in any other area of the State. Possibly it is due to the density of traffic in my electorate. As a parent, I am concerned about the fact that on each occasion my children go out I do not know whether they will return home.

I am suggesting that it is beyond any Government or Government party to get to the root of this problem and that an all-party committee should be set up to consider it. It is no use thinking that this matter is a political football.

Mr. Sherrington: How many times have we called for all-party committees?

Mr. HINZE: I am putting the suggestion forward. If the hon. member for Salisbury also asks for an all-party committee, we may get it. I point out that if the Government recommends the introduction, for example, of radar traps, it immediately gets opposition from members of the Opposition. Whether the introduction of a measure like that is right or wrong, members of the Opposition are opposed to it because it is political. The same remarks apply to breathalysers. The sooner we get together and attack the problem, as a Parliament, the sooner the State will benefit. The State cannot afford to lose 500, 600 or 700 people each year on its roads. I am not too proud to say that I should like to see the establishment of an all-party committee to tackle the problem of the carnage on the roads.

There remain a number of items that I want to refer to. I will have an opportunity in the Budget debate to go into them in detail, but at this stage I indicate briefly the matter of the highway to the Gold Coast. When the rail service to the Gold Coast was discontinued, the Government promised that it would construct a four-lane highway to that area. I admit that considerable funds have been spent on that road. We were promised a four-lane highway to Coolangatta by 1970. That will not be accomplished until 1973 unless increased allocations are made.

My area is the tourist capital of Australia, with 3,000,000 people visiting it yearly. Tourism on the Gold Coast is a major Queensland industry, but interstate transports and semi-trailers passing through the Gold Coast pose a real problem. I have raised this matter from time to time, and I have asked the Minister for Main Roads and his department what can be done to prevent heavy transports passing through Surfers Paradise which is a highly developed residential tourist area. When I sought the diversion of heavy vehicles during certain hours at night to reduce the noise level, I received this answer—

“The Solicitor-General has pointed out that a great number of these heavy vehicles passing through the Gold Coast area at night-time would be engaged in interstate

trade. That being so, the provisions of section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution can affect the position in this respect.”

Hon. members will realise the problem I am facing. It is essential to construct a bypass running parallel with the present highway, about a mile inland. Funds must be made available so that this work can be carried on simultaneously with the work necessary to provide a four-lane highway to Coolangatta by 1973.

I suppose that most people visited the Show last week, and no doubt all who saw the computer at work were impressed with it. In the Surfers Paradise area a computer is to be used in the Gold Coast traffic control scheme. This will be the first area in the Southern Hemisphere to control traffic by a computer. This is one way in which the department is trying to overcome the problem but I suggest that the best way is to provide funds for an inland freeway.

Another matter of prime importance in my electorate is the proposed Currumbin boat harbour. I have pressed for this ever since coming to Parliament. I know that a model is being tested at the university to determine the flood flow, and I have been told that the investigation will be completed in a couple of months. I will then be urging the Treasurer to allocate funds so that we may proceed with the planning of the Currumbin boat harbour.

(Time expired.)

Mr. NEWTON (Belmont) (2.33 p.m.): As this is the first session of the new Parliament following the general State election, I wish to extend to the electors of Belmont once again my sincere appreciation for their vote of confidence in me and their recognition of the work done in the electorate on their behalf during the past nine years. They have my assurance that their problems, and those affecting the Belmont electorate, will receive my full-time attention as in the past. They are also assured of my continued close attention to any legislation which is important to Queensland and its people.

I thank my campaign director, Australian Labour Party branch members, members of affiliated unions, and other persons who assisted me during the campaign.

I congratulate the many new members on this side of the House on their success in the election. Their contributions during this session will let the people of Queensland know that they belong to a team that is always looking after their interests.

As Assistant State Campaign Director during the recent State election, I thank the people of Queensland for the great vote of confidence placed in the Australian Labour Party and its policy as enunciated by our Leader. The 45 per cent. vote cast for the Labour Party and its candidates, while not enough to enable us to form a Government,

under the present Tory set-up in this State, returned the Australian Labour Party as the senior party in this Parliament.

Mr. Lee: Rot!

Mr. NEWTON: It is not rot at all. The hon. member for Yeronga can juggle figures however he likes—we expect that of him—but he cannot falsify percentages or votes cast.

As members of the senior party in this Parliament, we will make our presence felt and our voice heard on the many matters that will come before this Parliament affecting the State and its people.

It is my intention to deal with the change from coal gas to natural gas and to indicate that the stand taken by the Opposition on behalf of the consumers of natural gas in this State, when the Gas Act Amendment Bill of 1967 was before the House, was the correct stand. The Australian Labour Party opposed the second reading of the Bill and its clauses when they were discussed in Committee.

Up to the present, the conversion has been a matter of trial and error, resulting in daylight robbery and blackmail of the consumers who have been caught up in this conversion without having any choice in the matter. When the conversion was discussed in this Chamber, the Government knew nothing of the effects it would have on the consumers, and left them to the mercy of the South Brisbane Gas and Light Company Limited which, so far, has a monopoly in the metropolitan area. The Government was sold down the drain on the heating content of natural gas and the price to be charged. Statement after statement was made by the manager, secretary and other top-ranking officers of the company that the gas would have double the heating content of coal gas and that its price would be the same as that for coal gas, or 30 per cent. lower.

Mr. Sherrington: The Minister told the House that.

Mr. NEWTON: That is true.

After the Government was sold down the drain, and after the legislation was passed—as I said, the Opposition opposed it—we find that coal gas has double the heating content of natural gas and that the price of coal gas is 100 per cent. lower than the price being charged for natural gas. The Government has allowed this price to be charged by a monopoly, while coal-mines are being closed and coal-miners are being retrenched in this State. This Government has had much to say about development, but it backs only the exploiter of our mineral resources, as has happened with natural gas.

The policy of the A.L.P. Opposition is clear. We believe in the development of the State and we also believe that the people of Queensland should share in and benefit from such development. The action taken so far

by the Government in the conversion to natural gas cannot be accepted or tolerated by the consumers affected. The Government has remained silent since 15 May, 1969, and has, until now, allowed the South Brisbane Gas and Light Co. Ltd. to rob the consumers. The Government should have insisted that the company honour its assurances and promises to the consumers that natural gas had double the heating content and that the price would be the same as that charged for coal gas, or 30 per cent. less. If these assurances and promises could not be carried out, the Government should indicate quite clearly to the South Brisbane Gas Co. that it will take over the franchise and see that the change from coal gas to natural gas works out more favourably to the consumers than it is at present. If we were the Government, our approach would be that the conversion must work out in the interests of the consumers and the State or the franchise would be taken over from the company.

I now wish to deal with the position as it has affected the consumers.

Mr. Lee: You would like to socialise it.

Mr. NEWTON: Of course, there are always interjections from the Government side of the House on what we would do about the socialisation of industry. We have stated time and time again that if there was any industry that was not working in the interests of this State, or its people, we would not hesitate to socialise it. So far we have never done that. I have said this here before. At present we find ourselves caught in a situation in which the consumers of natural gas have had no say. First of all, since the conversion to natural gas in April complaints have come to me of higher accounts in Mansfield, Holland Park, Mt. Gravatt, Coorparoo, and Greenslopes, and they show an average increase of 90 per cent. above the price of coal gas.

Other causes of complaint are the low heating content of natural gas and the way in which the rating unit was changed to indicate that the heating content had been doubled.

Honourable Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I should have imagined that hon. members on my left at least would not interject when one of their members was speaking.

Mr. Sherrington: Break it down! Most of it is coming from the other side of the Chamber.

Mr. Davies: Every man on the other side is speaking.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I do not have to be prompted by the hon. member for Salisbury or the hon. member for Maryborough.

Mr. Sherrington: Be fair about it. There is more talking on the other side than on this side.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! If the hon. member for Salisbury does not keep quiet whilst I am on my feet, I shall have to deal with him.

Mr. Sherrington. You can deal with me, but be clear in your conscience.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! If the hon. member is inviting me to deal with him, I do so under Standing Order 123A and ask him to retire from the Chamber.

Mr. Sherrington: I will do that, too.

Whereupon the hon. member for Salisbury withdrew from the Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I say to hon. members on my right that when a member is on his feet and speaking, I do not want cross-firing in the Chamber, and I do not want interjections. Pertinent interjections will be allowed, but there is too much cross-firing and conversation in the Chamber when members from either side are speaking. It will have to cease.

Mr. NEWTON: I now wish to deal with the points raised by the consumers. They complained of the low-heating content of natural gas, and the way in which the rating unit was changed to indicate that it had double the heating content of coal gas is most interesting. In the case of coal gas, it took 200.00 units per therm, or 200 cubic feet of gas for a therm. The unit was lowered for natural gas to the present situation that 100.00 units were to constitute a therm, or 100 cubic feet for a therm. That indicates quite clearly in simple arithmetic that coal gas has double the heating content of natural gas at the present time.

The next point raised is the calorific value which allows the statutory unit to fluctuate. What we have been told by the Government and other people associated with the conversion is not in fact the position, because every consumer who has contacted me has complained of the poor heating content of natural gas compared with that of coal gas. If it is a fact that coal gas has double the heating content, why was it abandoned?

Mr. Lee: That is not true.

Mr. NEWTON: It is true. The hon. member would not know.

Mr. Lee: It is not true.

Mr. NEWTON: The hon. member has not had experience in this field. As he always does in this Chamber, he is butting in on something about which he does not know anything. The fact that coal gas has double the heating content of natural gas and was abandoned in favour of natural gas is something for which the Government must answer.

The company doing the conversion was held to only 21 days to rectify any faults or leaks after the conversion of the appliances was carried out.

Mr. Lee: You will have to swallow those words.

Mr. NEWTON: I will have to swallow them? It is the hon. member who will have to swallow his words.

Consumers were advised by the South Brisbane Gas and Light Co. Ltd. and the company doing the conversion that after that period of 21 days they would have to pay to have the faults rectified. But the thing that stinks to high heaven in the conversion is that the only indication the consumer would have that there were faults and leaks would be when he received his account for the natural gas. In Mansfield, the first account was issued 35 days after the conversion, and I remind hon. members that the company doing the conversion was held to only 21 days after the conversion to adjust faults.

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: But they did adjust the accounts, did they not?

Mr. NEWTON: I will come to that, too. I have plenty of time in which to tell the House how the accounts were adjusted.

The second accounts were issued after 21 days, and throughout the period of conversion they have been issued for differing periods, in an endeavour to confuse the consumers and prove that there is nothing wrong with natural gas, that it is just something that has happened in the process of conversion. Whether hon. members opposite like it or not, housewives are not as silly as some people seem to think they are. They have to ensure that the pay packet brought home each week by the breadwinner goes round. When someone says, "Your gas account is high because it is for 35 days, 28 days, or 21 days", as the case may be, the housewife knows that, as a matter of simple arithmetic, she has only to divide it by seven to find the number of weeks that are involved. Housewives quickly woke up to that.

Mr. Lee: It will be cheaper in the long run.

Mr. Houston: No, it will not.

Mr. Lee: Of course it will.

Mr. NEWTON: It is interesting to note, too, that at the second-reading stage of the Bill the Opposition endeavoured to extract from the Government—it debated the point very strongly—certain assurances as to where the consumer would stand in conversion. Every possible excuse has been used by the South Brisbane Gas & Light Co. Ltd. It has blamed the appliances; it has blamed the late reading of meters. It has had to look for reasons why the conversion has not worked out satisfactorily. In some instances, people have found it impossible even to get a hot shower since the conversion to natural gas has taken place, whereas they were able to get a hot shower when coal gas was used. Consumers have not been given any choice in the matter.

A number of people have complained about faults occurring at the week-end and have stated that, when they got in touch with the gas company or the company doing the conversion, they were advised that the faults could not be rectified until Monday. In some cases this meant that the consumer and his family were without gas over the week-end. In other instances—a number of other hon. members have received complaints similar to this—faults were not rectified till later in the following week. This is a shocking state of affairs.

Another incident that has been bandied around parrot fashion happened at Holland Park. In this case, too, the appliances were immediately blamed, and the consumers were told by the conversion personnel that their appliances were not worth converting because they were too old. Why was this not told to us when the Gas Act was amended in 1967? Why was it not told to the consumers so that they would at least know where they were going?

We had the shocking example of one consumer, a housewife, who had seven visits from 10 men of the conversion company to rectify an oven complaint. Finally, one of the three supervisors—an American—arrived on the scene and spent 2½ hours checking the oven, only to find that the bypass had not been done during the course of conversion. That is the sort of thing that is going on all the time, and I shall give other examples of it.

Consumers also complain that when their accounts and conversion problems were being disputed, they were told to pay up or the gas would be cut off. That is the treatment they received because of this Government's actions. Amended accounts were received at Mansfield. This point was raised by the hon. member for Chatsworth. These amended accounts were delivered; the first accounts were delivered on the Wednesday prior to the State general election. Consumers immediately contacted me. I had plenty to do at that stage as I had an election to fight, but when my constituents got in touch with me I acted immediately. I was swamped with complaints from housewives about the accounts they had received. They were 95 per cent. and even 100 per cent. higher than those for coal gas. My only course was to make a statement through the Press. This I did, warning people in the metropolitan area about what was going on and stating that the assurances given to this Parliament and the consumers were not being carried out, that is, that the price would be the same as that for coal gas or 30 per cent. less. I pointed out also that natural gas did not have double the heating content of coal gas, as we were assured it would. What happened? On the Saturday morning of the State general election, the consumers received amended accounts. The South Brisbane Gas Co. could not get them out quickly enough. The accounts were

amended and showed simply an amount. There was nothing at all to show how the amount was arrived at.

If hon. members opposite want to smile about these things they should consider themselves lucky they have not had the consumers' protection council operating. This matter would have given them headaches for six or eight months.

Not many of the problems that have arisen for consumers of this gas have been solved.

Mr. Lee: You are saying that the gas is to blame?

Mr. NEWTON: Let me be quite honest. I am saying that we in this Parliament should never have been misled, nor should the consumers have been misled, before the conversion took place. Most of the problems should never have arisen. The conversion is being carried out by trial and error. It is quite evident that nobody, other than some personnel of the Gas Examiner and Engineer's Department, knows very much about it, and that includes the South Brisbane Gas Co. and the conversion company.

What is happening, of course, is that the conversion is being done by trial and error and the consumers are paying for it. This is what I have been complaining about for the last four months. But have we heard anything from the Government? Has any action been taken by the Government? No! There has been complete silence on this matter.

The people who received the amended accounts mentioned by the hon. member for Chatsworth were not even satisfied then. They were not sure at that stage just where they stood, so they paid them under protest. This did not have any effect, because the July and August accounts are creeping up in the same way as the first accounts that were issued in June. The consumers have taken steps themselves in an endeavour to overcome the problem. They have switched to electrical appliances such as hot-water jugs and frypans, and have turned to the latest washing powder, "Cold Power", to avoid using the gas copper. Yet they are still receiving high accounts for natural gas.

Mr. Hughes: I think you must admit that these are only a very few cases among the many conversions.

Mr. NEWTON: Let me make it quite clear that there would have been thousands of cases reported if this had been known early in the piece. I am referring to information that has been passed on to me since the deputation met the Minister for Mines in July.

A number of faults that occurred at Holland Park were attributed to the fact that when the appliances were converted a de-sooting process was not carried out. Houses in that area would contain gas appliances that are nearly 20 years old. During the credit squeeze from 1952 to 1956 I worked on houses in that area, so that a number of

the houses are less than 20 years old. The South Brisbane Gas Co. stated that one of the reasons for the faults was the fact that that process was not carried out. Why was it not carried out when the conversion of the appliances was done?

I will leave the conversion aspect for the moment and deal with another shocking state of affairs. A number of people were chosen and given a fortnight's schooling and then made leading hands. They were then given 10 unskilled people under their control and were sent out to make the conversions to natural gas. They were expected to convert 5½ houses each day.

Mr. Lee: That is reasonable.

Mr. NEWTON: Of course it is reasonable; provided the conversion was carried out in the way that it should have been carried out.

There is another matter. Prior to the conversion, and even since the conversion, if anything goes wrong on the household side of the meter the consumer has to obtain the services of a licensed gas-fitter to rectify the fault; yet unskilled people were allowed to go into the houses to make the conversions. Hon. members should see some of the things that were done. I have two gas nipples here and I would like to show hon. members the size of the holes that have been bored in them. The people who made the conversion could not consult any reference book, so they were told to follow the old rule-of-thumb method. One would think that they were converting the gas stoves to burn crude oil. Naturally all the converted gas nipples had to be replaced with new ones with holes of the size suited to such a powerful element as natural gas.

In view of the number of complaints that I have made on behalf of the consumers of natural gas, I again indicate to the Government that it should set up a full public inquiry into (a) the cost of conversion of household appliances and the safety of those appliances; (b) the charges being made for natural gas; and (c) the fact that natural gas does not possess double the heating content of coal gas, as this Parliament and the consumers were assured it would have. I ask for that public inquiry because of what is occurring in this State.

I mention the matter of blow-ups. This matter, too, has been treated far too lightly. The majority of blow-ups have occurred because of faults in ovens. It was found that a number of ovens had been converted to natural gas without even a thermometer being used to ascertain their heating content. In some cases the ovens blew up when the housewives lit them. One woman had her eyelashes burned and her hair singed.

Only last Sunday night a consumer of natural gas rang me at half past 10. He told me that he had a gas geyser in the bathroom and that because it had not been

de-sooted it caught fire. The pipes from the geyser did not go out through the roof but only into the ceiling, and if this person had not the presence of mind to put the fire out with a hose the house would have been burned down.

On the day that the deputation met the Minister for Mines a woman who was wearing a nylon dressing-gown lit her stove and found that her dressing-gown had ignited. Fortunately she was able to get the dressing-gown away from her body. If she had not been able to do that she would have been badly burned. As the Minister has indicated, other instances of gas appliances blowing up have occurred and have not been reported.

I will now refer to some of the costs involved so that hon. members may know what is happening with the use of natural gas. A pensioner who used 600 cubic feet of coal gas, or 3.18 therms, received a bill of \$1.84 for a month. With natural gas, for 600 cubic feet, or 5.905 therms, the cost was \$3.27. Hon. members can work out the difference for themselves. In June, for 600 cubic feet of natural gas, the therms used rose to 6.45 and the cost rose to \$3.49. These facts relate to a pensioner who is struggling to exist.

Another case relates to a housewife on a moderate income. Over a period she used about 1,600 cubic feet of coal gas a month, equal to 8.48 therms, and her gas account came to \$4.32. With natural gas, using 1,600 cubic feet, or 16.11 therms, the gas account was \$7.42. The difference can be worked out arithmetically quite simply.

Another case concerns a woman who used 1,900 cubic feet of coal gas in May, with 11.46 therms, at a cost of \$5.96. With natural gas she used 2,100 cubic feet—admittedly an increase of 200 cubic feet—with 22.57 therms, at a cost of \$11.44. Those cases provide a clear example of what is happening.

After the deputation met the Minister for Mines, and he on behalf of the Government was given a grand opportunity to tell the people, particularly the consumers, about their rights in relation to the conversion, and the fact that they had the right of appeal to him, it seems amazing to me that only a small item appeared in the Press. The Minister stated that he had met the deputation, that the problems were expected, and that many had already been investigated by the Government. He said that Mr. Noume and his staff would look after the complaints raised by the deputation. The Minister said that the company had a policy of pausing after the conversion of an area before going to the next stage, which allowed faults to be ironed out. It is a pity that no statement was made after the deputation had seen the Minister. If the assurances given by the Minister had appeared in the

Press, many of the problems of conversion would have been solved. This is a summary of what happened—

1. The Minister agreed that all complaints received by him or his departmental officers concerning faults and accounts received from month to month would be investigated fully by Mr. Noume and his staff.

2. He stated that his departmental officers would work full-time whenever necessary to see that the safety factor was fully carried out to protect consumers and that while accounts can be adjusted the position with life is an entirely different one.

3. He stated that he was in constant contact with Mr. Savage of the South Brisbane Gas Company on all aspects raised concerning the conversion.

4. He stated that the account received at Holland Park and raised with Mr. Noume would be amended.

5. He stated that complaints can be rung direct to Mr. Noume or your representative—meaning, of course, the local State representative.

6. He stated that complaints raised at week-ends must be rectified by the conversion company or the gas company.

7. He stated that no consumer would have his gas disconnected where a dispute was involved concerning faults and accounts received.

8. It was stated that there were not sufficient licensed gas fitters in the State to carry out the conversion. That is why other personnel were being schooled and used.

9. It was indicated that personnel are continuously being schooled on faults found and rectified by Government gas engineers.

10. The thermal unit is not a statutory unit for measuring natural gas. It was stated by the Government Gas Engineer that it is a fluctuating unit measured by the heating content at the gate house, which can vary from month to month according to the current calorific value of the gas.

After the assurance from the Minister that the gas supply to any consumer's house would not be cut off while an account was in dispute, on 14 August, 1969, a consumer's natural gas supply was disconnected because she disputed her June account for \$11.35. Her previous coal gas account was \$6.69. Her July account for \$8.30 and her August account for \$7.77 had been paid, but she disputed the June account.

She received an amended account showing that \$1.43 had been deducted. However, knowing her rights, she wrote to the company stating that she was still not satisfied and was still disputing the June account. Finally, she received a further amended

account from the company stating that if the amount was not paid by 6 August, 1969, her gas supply may be cut off.

But the matter was still in dispute, and there was this assurance from the Minister that the supply would not be cut off while the matter was in dispute. When this woman was absent from her home on 14 August, 1969, the gas supply was cut off. This left her and her family without gas for the evening meal that day and for breakfast the next morning. I drew the Gas Engineer's attention to this, and the gas was reconnected about 2.30 p.m. on 15 August, 1969.

Since then, a letter has been received from the gas company apologising for the inconvenience, and a further amended account has been received deducting another \$2.50 which, together with the \$1.43 deducted on the earlier account, and a discount of 88c, if the amount was paid before 2 September, 1969, left an amount of \$6.54 owing.

That is a clear example of the daylight robbery and blackmail I spoke about earlier. It is a clear case of victimisation. It will be interesting to hear the Minister say, on behalf of the Government, what he intends to do about this type of treatment of gas consumers in this State.

In my opinion, the greatest racket of all is revealed by what appeared in the "Telegraph" yesterday and "The Courier-Mail" this morning. The company, realising it had to do something following the number of complaints raised by me on behalf of consumers not only in my electorate but also in adjoining electorates, brought out a formula under which the company will give tariff cuts. A consumer using 600 cubic feet of coal gas, 3.18 therms, would pay \$1.84, whereas a consumer using 600 cubic feet of natural gas, 5.90 therms, would pay \$3.27 without the tariff cut. Under the new scheme, the charge is 58c per therm for the first five therms, and 40c per therm over five therms, or \$3.30 for six therms; and, if the account is paid within 18 days, 10 per cent. discount is allowed, and a consumer with an approved gas hot water system is allowed a 50c reduction. This would bring the account back to \$2.52.

If the company can do this at this stage, the pensioner whose case I was discussing earlier has been "touched" for 50c a month or \$1.50 for three months, and the monthly account is still 68c higher than it was for coal gas.

Consider the position of a housewife using 1,600 cubic feet of gas. Her account for coal gas would be \$4.32, whereas her account for natural gas would be \$7.42. However, working on the new formula, the total cost would be \$7.30, less 50c for hot water and 68c discount, which would bring the account back to \$6.12, so that this consumer would have been "touched" for \$1.30 a month or \$3.90 for three months. And the account for natural gas would still be \$1.80 a month higher than that for coal gas. The whole

business of new tariffs is merely another cover-up job for the South Brisbane Gas and Light Co. Ltd. I warn the House that this company has the franchise not only for suburbs on the south side of the Brisbane River but also for Toowoomba and Gatton.

Mr. P. Wood: Do you think the same situation will arise in Toowoomba?

Mr. NEWTON: I hope it does not after what I have said today. As mines are closing down, miners are being retrenched, and coal gas has double the heating content of natural gas as well as being 100 per cent. cheaper, it is the Government's responsibility to see, if natural gas is to take the place of coal gas, that the conversion should work in the interests of the consumers.

Mr. R. E. MOORE (Windsor) (3.11 p.m.): I desire to associate myself with the message of loyalty to the Crown and to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

I congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply on their contributions to the debate. I also offer my sincere congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, on your re-election, and associate myself with the remarks of all the previous speakers who have congratulated you.

I also take this opportunity to thank, on behalf of the electors of Windsor, my predecessor, Mr. P. R. Smith, who effectively represented this electorate for 12 years and who has now been elevated to the Law Reform Commission. He is certain to make his mark on law reform legislation which will come before this House from time to time. During my calls on the electors of Windsor I was delighted to note their high regard for Mr. Smith. None had a bad word to say against him, and some asked me if I could in my maiden speech mention their high regard for him and wish him well on their behalf. Compliments from the man in the street, when received, must be well deserved.

To the people in the electorate of Windsor I would like to pledge my loyalty, as I pledge it to any just cause which they want me to espouse. Throughout my adult life I have always had a soft spot for the man in the lower-income bracket, and I am conscious of the difficulties of some of these people in raising and educating their families, with ever-increasing costs. I hope by my contributions in this House that I will be able to make their lot a little easier.

This can be done in many ways, one being the industrial field. This is a subject upon which I will now elaborate. What is required to bring about stability in industry and wage justice to the employee is a complete review of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts, together with co-operation from the unions in reaching agreement before enactment.

There is from time to time among unionists great dissatisfaction with wages and conditions. This is to some extent brought about by the number of wage-fixing tribunals in this country. We have the Federal Government, with its Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, Public Service boards, and so on. We have the State, with various State wage-fixing boards. The wage-fixing bodies in this State are the State Industrial Commission, the Commonwealth Industrial Commission, and the Public Service boards, now both State and Federal, all of which are bringing down judgments affecting the various employees in this State.

The average worker considers himself to be an Australian rather than a Queenslander or a member of any particular State when it comes to rates of pay. This is one matter on which he considers himself to be an Australian, and, when he sees his counterpart in another State getting what he considers is a better deal, he approaches his union, often as an individual, and complains and asks why his wages or conditions are not comparable with those of his opposite number in the other State.

However, he does not have to look over the border for anomalies. In quite a number of instances one finds, for example, the clerk working for private industry receiving one wage and the clerk in Government employ receiving another wage, one obtaining his rises from decisions of the court, the other from the particular commissioner or the Public Service Board, with the result that very great anomalies exist.

In the case of Government employees, one finds various commissioners agreeing to wage or salary rises by negotiation for one section, requiring only ratification by the Commission, and the reaction to a request for a wage rise for another section of employees is not agreement, as in the first instance, but a blunt reply that it is not in the commissioner's province to grant a rise for that section, that it is a job for the Commission. The same Government employer agrees, on the one hand, to a certain wage rise for one section and says, on the other hand, to the other section, "Go to the Commission".

The Act is a conciliation and arbitration Act, and it should operate in that order—first, conciliate; then, if no agreement or compromise can be reached, take it to the independent arbitrator, which in this State, under State awards, is the State Industrial Commission.

Now, to get down to the function of that Commission—and, indeed, to the function of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission—to dispense real justice, it should have two functions—as a court, and as an investigating body. The mere fact of a union's having a weak advocate should not preclude it from getting wage justice. The Commission should be enlarged and have an investigating staff to investigate quite impartially the worth of the employees seeking the rise.

I have decided over the years that what really is needed is, for want of a better name, a points index, or points system, based on a formula of so many points for skill, so many points for education necessary to do the job, for brain fag, for the amount of continuing study that is necessary to keep up one's proficiency, with loadings for noxious fumes, dust, danger, and all the other things that make a job uncomfortable, added to the base rate as an extra loading. It can rightly be claimed that we have some of these things in one form or another; but what the various wage tribunals will not do is allow comparisons with unlike work. They will not allow a union to present a case to show how a certain section has been left behind when compared with another section with which it was at one time comparable, when in some cases the section left behind deserves more because its members have had to do additional study to keep up with modern technology, for example, while their brother workers in another calling have gone from rise to rise with no additional study, simply because they have the luck or good fortune to be in a calling the wage for which is fixed by a commissioner or board or is tied to some other section. The poor fellow in the other section has to go to the Commission for his rise, and the Commission will not allow the advocate for his section to say, "Let us compare, for example, the clerical side with the technical side at a given date and then compare it as it is today, to show the great wage variation that has taken place."

I fully realise that, for real wage justice to come about, it needs not only the wage-fixing tribunals to be uniform in judgments based on qualifications, aptitude, skill, efficiency, etc.; it requires also the unions to get their heads together to help work out a formula under which there will be a union of unions. At present there is a union of individuals, all, or most, of them going their own way; but the unions are not in agreement as to the differential that is justified between wages.

If we had a union of unions, we could eliminate this consistent jockeying by unions for a little advantage over their fellow unionists, thus setting up a spiral of claim and counterclaim. To solve this problem, I should like to see set up a body comprised of unions, employers, and the wage-fixing tribunals, to institute a formula or points index which could be reviewed every few years to see if amendment was necessary to retain wage justice and to stop ever-increasing price and wage spirals.

If we continue to have wages chasing costs and other wages we will perpetuate this inflationary spiral by which the pensioner, the man on a fixed income and the person with money in the bank and not wisely invested, will find their savings, pension or income eroded away as they are being eroded today, not to mention the adverse effect this has on our exports and balance of payments. There would be great advantages in having

a just wage for all based on a formula such as I have proposed. Then, if one section got a rise, every section would get a rise. As the gross national product increased, percentage-wise, every citizen would benefit.

I know it is asking a lot to get people to agree to remain underdogs forever. Most workers basically believe in a fair go and do not want more than their fair share for the effort they expend, but they do want to be allowed to earn more by a bonus for extra effort, or efficiency, or by overtime.

Many workers in the low-income groups are victims of circumstance. Some of it is their own doing and some because the opportunity was not there. Some of it is because of lack of drive or ambition. Some of them woke up too late to the fact that opportunities they had for the grasping had passed them by. But most of these are worthy citizens with families to educate, and they want better opportunities for their children than they themselves had.

To condense what I have said so far into a few words, I want to see reform take place in the wage-fixing bodies in this State and in the nation, and I want to see unions act responsibly to bring it about. I want also to see close liaison between employer and employee and only one re-formed wage-fixing body to hand down judgments on all wages and conditions based on a formula agreed upon by all three—the unions, the employers and the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, or whatever body is set up to arbitrate.

This is as good a time as any to put on record my attitude to unions and unionists. I mentioned earlier that the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act needs amendment. I should like to see this happen and to have included the other changes I have mentioned. First let me say that unions are here to stay and are an essential part of our way of life. They are a safeguard for the rights of the individual in individual matters.

The fact that most unions are party political is to be regretted. I think they would play a more effective part if they were perhaps political but not supporting any particular political party. They would play a more effective part if they used their knowledge, ability, training and good sense to obtain for their members the very best wages and conditions that industry can justly afford, negotiated on a more friendly basis than is achieved today. However, what I should like to see happen—that is, as long as unionism is compulsory or there is preference to unionists—is compulsory secret ballots with compulsory voting before any industrial stoppage or go-slow action takes place, and compulsory ballots at fortnightly or some other set intervals while a dispute exists.

As long as unionism is compulsory, or there is preference to unionists, union fees should not be more than one day's salary per annum with facilities to contract out of levies if levies are applied. These safeguards would not be necessary if there were

no compulsion or preference, but they are very necessary to allow justice to the employee who is a member of a union because of coercion or compulsion. Under our present system, if such a person was not a member his livelihood could be taken away by others refusing to work with a non-unionist. As I said, I favour unionism. We cannot do without it but it, too, can become a monster and should not be allowed the freedom to be lord and master over its compulsory members.

Let us consider what would happen if there were no trade unions. It would not be long before certain employers made inroads into wages and conditions of the workers. How could we have wage justice, and how could anyone put his case to the "hard" boss? The first fellow who did would be dismissed. It could be said that courts of appeal could be set up to hear that sort of case; but what worker would be able to afford counsel to represent him, and how many workers could present their own cases in a satisfactory manner?

There is no doubt that unions are here to stay, so I should like to see the rank-and-file members having a say in union affairs. The rank-and-file member should have a say especially in matters that concern him, such as industrial disputes and the election of union officers. It can be said that he has this right—that he can attend his union meetings and vote as he likes. But rules and regulations, and his lack of knowledge of union matters, often prevent him from doing these things. Perhaps apathy on the part of the legislators is the reason for the present state of affairs, but apathy is no excuse. The legislators should not be permitted to sit back and allow the State and the nation to suffer. If the situation is to be improved, secret ballots should be introduced for the election of officers and for the resolving of matters during industrial disputes and stoppages.

I now mention "wild-cat" strikes and a possible way of preventing them from occurring. From time to time "wild-cat" strikes will occur, but generally strikes are held for a cause. I suppose that if men walk off the job in defiance of their union's direction there is not much that can be done about it. Every worker has the right to withhold his labour, and that right extends to any group of workers. Perhaps the unions can lessen the possibility of a "wild-cat" strike occurring by imposing a penalty on those who take part in it. If the union was a voluntary organisation it could expel its members who take part in such a strike, and under compulsory trade unionism the unions can fine their members. That state of affairs is acceptable if all the union office-bearers are elected by secret ballot and are doing their job efficiently. In some instances the reason for the walk-off by the workers could well be sheeted home to the inefficiency of the union office-bearers.

When a strike is justly described as a "wild-cat" strike, the employer has his rights and can sack the workers if he so desires. But, of course, that often creates chaos.

From my close association over the years with trade unionists I have found that, in the main, workers are reluctant to go on strike; firstly, because they have to justify the smaller pay packet to their wives; secondly, because the hire-purchase men are standing over their families; and, in addition, because their children have to go without a number of the amenities of life. I have found very few strikes that have occurred without cause. Exceptions are the political strikes, and they can be identified by the resolutions that are passed at the mass meetings of the unionists who take part in those strikes. Where an individual trade union is involved, there is generally a good cause for a strike. More often than not there has been fermentation over a lengthy period of time, with the employer taking little heed of the complaints of his workers. This situation is frequently found in Government and semi-government employment, owing mainly to the impersonal nature of the section head or commissioner. It is not found very much in private enterprise, where there is a closer liaison between employer and employee and employers explain to their workers why they cannot agree to certain demands that are made. However, one finds that the larger the private employer becomes the more he emulates the top decision-making public servant. Quite often he finds himself faced with a problem that, owing to his apparent lack of appreciation of the true situation, is hard to solve. If he had had his ear to the ground like the smaller employers, that sort of situation would not arise.

I come now to demarcation disputes. These are a real problem and the hardest to handle because those taking part are nearly always 100 per cent. behind the stoppage. That is because there is a very natural instinct in every one of us, namely, self-preservation, and that is what demarcation disputes really are—men trying to retain security, some by diversification of the particular job, and others by not allowing any inroads into what they consider to be their province, all with an eye to the future. This is quite difficult where some new process or technique or material is established.

In the case of a new technique, the employee usually engaged with similar material in another calling often says, "This is my job," and gets up in arms. He approaches his union and a dispute takes place. This will become less and less prevalent as time passes and job opportunities increase, and as the unions and populace at large accept re-training schemes to overcome redundancy. That is why we as a Government must establish re-training centres on a full-time, full-pay basis, even if the course is accelerated to some extent by cutting out the less important matter which is part and parcel of most training courses.

When one mentions this type of course to some of the unions whose industry will be affected, the motives of the Government are suspect. They are worried mainly by dilution. This can be overcome by having a course of sufficient duration, on an eight-hour-per-day basis to completely cover the syllabus of the apprentice or trainee in that calling. With a course covering twelve months of eight hours a day, the student will have had approximately 1,440 hours of training, which is more than the amount many apprentices receive. The implementation of a full-time re-training scheme costs money, but the lack of re-training costs more money both by the resultant wastage of the potential worker, and by the industrial disputes that are indirectly caused by it. But, of all things, it is necessary not only to do justice to the people concerned, but also to convince them that justice is being done. If we do that we will go a long way towards creating industrial peace and harmony.

The next subject I would like to refer to is the death toll on the roads and some of its causes. To my knowledge nobody has ever been killed by a stationary vehicle unless perhaps he has been underneath it and the jack has slipped, or some similar thing has occurred. But on the roads the speed of the vehicle is the problem. Over the years, under this Government and previous Governments, and under other State Governments, we have seen legislation brought down to reduce road deaths. Some of the legislative provisions would be effective if they were obeyed by the motorist, but only if the rules were obeyed to the letter.

But, human beings being what they are, there is little chance of that happening, penalties or no penalties. Extreme penalties may have an effect, but I do not want them. It is necessary to think about it, and realise that people do behave in a certain way. It is no good saying, "If only the people obeyed all the rules there would be no accidents." We have to accept the fact that people are not going to obey all the rules, so it is necessary to get around that difficulty in another way, and make it harder for them to break the rules.

We have been using penalties, severe or less severe, to deter the erring motorist, and the motorist in turn says, "What are the chances of getting caught if I drive faster than I should?" If the road is open, or there appear to be no radar traps or traffic policemen, the fellow puts his foot down. On some of the lonely straight stretches many drive at speeds up to 100 miles an hour. Some do 70, others 80, and some 85.

One hears them talking at various places where people congregate and, depending on the person to whom they are talking, one hears the truth about the speed at which some people drive motor-cars. Around the suburbs one sees the motorist doing 45 or 50, especially at night, and more especially after

midnight. We have all this restrictive legislation with its associated penalties, but the road toll continues to rise.

We have had in the past, and still have, radar traps. One used to be in Hamilton Road just at the bottom of a gully between two short steep hills where there was no danger to anyone, and some poor unsuspecting motorist would accidentally exceed the speed limit by 6 or 7 miles per hour and there, halfway up the next short steep hill, would be a policeman. He had no trouble stopping the cars because, by the time they reached him, they were all doing under 35 whether they saw the radar trap or not. Because of the steepness of the grade it was nearly impossible to do more than 35 miles per hour.

Yet I have seen many motorists whom I call innocent victims caught at that spot, and it appeared to the motorist that the trap was just a good revenue-earner. In fact, I have heard it said, "Well, they may have been accidentally speeding there but they were in fact only receiving justice for the times that they did not get caught." There seems to me to be a degree of unfairness in the present set-up.

I should like to see every car in Queensland, and in Australia for that matter, fitted with a governor to govern wheel speed and not in any way affect the horsepower or pick-up of the vehicle.

This can be done simply off the speedometer cable or the tail shaft on the fail-safe principle under which, if anything goes wrong, the governor disengages and the car reverts to manual operation. This can be done quite simply. Should a driver have his foot to the floor, relying on the governor to keep him at the desired speed, he would have to release the accelerator before he could take over again. If he did not, the car would reduce speed and eventually stop. This is not difficult to design. I could design it, and I am sure it would not pose any great problem to our engineers to devise an even better governor than that which I have in mind.

I should like to see all cars, when driven in built-up areas, governed at 35 miles per hour and for the open road at 60 miles per hour, the maximum speeds now permissible. A simple governor would be one that could be engaged by the motorist, with an indication light on the car to show that it was engaged, and then anyone unlawfully switching it off could be detected easily and dealt with. I do not like penalties for accidental breaches of the Traffic Act, but deliberate breaches are quite another matter, and switching off a governor could be likened to tampering with a taxi meter.

My proposal may seem to be a little revolutionary, but if we are honest about decreasing the number of deaths on the road, it will be seen to be the only way, because if we do not reduce the speed of the motor-car we will have to accept the

road toll and stop adding further penalties which are not effective and only annoy and frustrate the motorist.

To the people who say that you need speed to get yourself out of difficulties, I say that you need speed to get yourselves into difficulties.

If cars were governed at 35 in the built-up areas and a driver realised he was getting into difficulties, he could simply put his foot on the brake and steady down or stop, and the other driver would do likewise because it would be a natural reaction. If he knew there was no way of getting more speed it would be natural for him to reduce speed, and he can do this quicker than he can increase speed. And even if an accident did occur, the rate of impact would be reduced considerably, and it is rate of impact that does the damage.

I believe that what I am suggesting will come about one day and I hope our Government will be the leader in the field. We could have a far more elaborate form of governor than the manually-controlled type that I suggest. It could be controlled by a radio signal or short transmission from the roadway with a conductor emitting a signal which would shut down or open up the governor on the fail-safe principle.

You have seen, Mr. Speaker, radio-controlled model aeroplanes carrying out many manoeuvres and aerobatics which require two or three signals or combinations of them, so, if it can be done on a model aeroplane with all its attendant weight problems, it can be done to open or close the throttle of a car.

If we were far enough advanced in this type of action the speed of cars could be governed at, say, 35, 45, 60 miles an hour, or any speed desired, depending upon the speed zone in which the car was being driven, by having different signals for different speeds. This State and country are sufficiently advanced technically to do this, but I wonder how long we are going to wait before we get realisation that the real cause of the road toll is speed and nothing else.

It is true that drinking, mechanical failure, carelessness, inattention, arrogance, impatience and many other factors contribute. But they only contribute, and, when one gets down to cases, there could be all of those things and no speed and there just would be no accidents. It can therefore be seen that in all road deaths there is one common factor, and that is the velocity of the vehicle.

We can look around us and see Queen Street and Adelaide Street packed with cars containing a good cross-section of the public with all the qualities, good and bad, that the motorist has, and we can ask ourselves how many deaths there have been, excluding those of pedestrians, in Queen and Adelaide Streets as a result of car accidents. From the research that I have done, there do not appear to have been any. That should make

it obvious that it is speed and nothing else that causes deaths on the road. As I have said, there are just as many drinking drivers, arrogant drivers, and careless drivers in Queen Street and Adelaide Street as there are anywhere else, yet there are no fatal accidents because speed is not possible.

It is claimed that bad roads are a cause—and so they are—but most accidents happen on good roads on straight stretches when someone decides, as it is termed in present-day jargon, to “have a burn”. Where the farmer turns off the good road or highway onto the bush track where he is unable to speed, there are just no deaths. More than likely the track would be tortuous, full of stumps, holes, erosion and all the other hazards that are part and parcel of a bush track, but, because speed is impossible, no deaths due to speed occur. As a matter of fact, the bush track was far more hazardous in the days of the horse and sulky because, if the horse shied or bolted, as some did, and took to the scrub, an accident could occur when the sulky or trap came in contact with a tree. However, few such accidents were fatal. Most of those fatalities occurred because the person became impaled on a branch or, as there was no outside protection as there is with the modern car, hit his head on the limb of a tree. With the modern enclosed car fitted with safety belts and operating at below the speed limits, there should be few fatalities indeed.

The average motorist believes that in a 35 miles per hour zone he must drive at 35 miles per hour, whereas that is the maximum permissible speed. One finds that if one drives at anything below the speed limit the following motorist becomes extremely impatient. It is my view that this, too, is another natural instinct that man has retained. When he relied upon his own muscle power, his impatience was only of short duration; if he was impatient and hurried, he simply got leg weary and slowed down. But to get speed today we do not need muscular power and the expenditure of energy; all we have to do is sit in armchair comfort and depress the accelerator. I therefore do not suppose that my suggested governor would cure impatience below the speed limit, but it certainly would above the speed limit, because the motorist would have no option but to comply.

There is another factor in road safety that should be considered. I refer to the number of disused white lines that are allowed to remain on the road and are painted out only to reappear and confuse the motorist. Around the suburbs of Brisbane there are many instances in which double lines, single lines and traffic islands have been allowed to remain when they have been superseded. I have noticed that some have been removed by an abrasive device that apparently is unsatisfactory. However, removed they should be, because they certainly cause confusion.

Another change that must take place is in the right-of-way rule. The Act states that one must give way to the vehicle on the right if the occasion is such that a collision could occur if both vehicles proceed, or words to that effect. What can, and quite often does, happen is that one sees a vehicle travelling along a road and another vehicle stopped at a "Stop" sign on its right. In my book, that should allow the moving vehicle to proceed. But often one is confronted with a situation in which the fellow who has stopped accelerates away at dangerous speed, and although the driver of the first moving vehicle is immediately placed in jeopardy, he is guilty of an offence because he has not given way. I do not believe that this section of the Act needs great change, but it should spell out in clearer terms just what it really means and state that the man on the right has no absolute right of way, that it is incumbent upon him to show caution and, in fact, give way if an accident is likely to occur if he proceeds.

No doubt some emotional attitude of mind is tied up with many car accidents. I have seen drivers who have had a row with the boss, a row with an employee, or a family argument, drive very erratically. I have seen drivers who on some days are the absolute personification of courtesy and on others the antithesis. On these irrational occasions they speed, pass other cars at the wrong time, are impatient, and so on. Most hon. members will have seen situations of a type similar to those that I have mentioned. The governed motor vehicle would not prevent the fellow at the "Stop" sign on one's right accelerating to 35 miles an hour and ramming one's vehicle, but it would, I submit, help prevent the emotionally disturbed fellow from getting into serious trouble.

Over the years there have been all sorts of hand signals for drivers of motor-cars. We used to have the "pat the dog" signal for slowing down and hand signals for stopping and turning. One hand signal that I would like to see retained and encouraged is a hand signal in daylight for stopping. The present system of relying upon the stop light has its limitations, because in most instances the vehicle is already stopping when the light appears and one receives no warning of intention. On the other hand, the hand signal shows the intention and the driver following is prepared for the action and can begin to prepare to brake his own vehicle.

Another great advantage of the hand signal in daylight is to the pedestrian at, say, a pedestrian crossing. He can then see that the approaching vehicle intends to stop and he can step off the pavement with less apprehension than he has under the present circumstances. At present, pedestrians do not know the intention of the approaching driver almost until he stops.

In relation to "Stop" signs, I should like to see them replaced with "Give-way" signs other than in the odd place where they may be

necessary, and the signs should then read "Stop and give way". There are quite a number of "Stop" signs in situations where there is clear vision, and the motorist who fails to stop because there are no cars around often finds himself pulled up by a policeman for failing to stop and fined, with a subsequent loss of points.

Mr. F. P. MOORE (Mourilyan) (3.49 p.m.): On the occasion of my maiden speech in this Assembly, it is my pleasing duty to associate myself, as have other hon. members, with the Address in Reply to the Opening Speech of the Administrator. I wish to express and convey on behalf of the people of Mourilyan continued loyalty and affection to the Throne and the Person of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

I should also on this occasion like to extend congratulations to the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply and to support those hon. members in thanking the Administrator for his Opening Speech.

Through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should like to thank Mr. Speaker, although I had a little trouble with him this morning, for his wonderful welcome to me to this Assembly and for the guidance he gave me on taking my seat. I am sure that this important office is accorded dignity in the traditional manner by his occupancy of it.

I should like to place on record my appreciation of the electors of Mourilyan for the confidence and trust they have placed in me. I am quite conscious of my duty to represent not only those who cast their vote for me as the endorsed Australian Labour Party candidate, and I trust and pray that I will do my utmost for the majority by diligent representation of all the 20,000-odd residents of the Mourilyan electorate. I am conscious of the honour accorded me and fully aware of the duties and responsibilities now imposed on me as the member for Mourilyan.

With regard to my election, I am indebted to the late Mr. Ted Owens who, with Mr. Jack Neilsen, my campaign director, helped me to establish myself as a suitable candidate to be elected to the position. I am extremely grateful to the campaign director, whose office I used as headquarters. I am indebted also to my electoral executive committee, A.L.P. branches, the Young Labour Association members and others who manned the booths in the election, my Leader, Mr. Jack Houston, M.L.A., my Deputy Leader, Mr. Perc. Tucker, my very good friend Ray Jones, Mr. Bill Fulton, Jack Melloy and Senator Keeffe. Also, I am grateful to the trade unions who supported me, all of whom, in the true spirit and tradition of the A.L.P., followed our motto, "Unity of labour is the hope of the world" and committed themselves to my assistance as voluntary helpers throughout the election campaign and on election day.

This election gave me an absolute majority of 554 votes over my two opponents. If I may say so, that is a fair effort for an unknown candidate at his first attempt. I know that many members in this House would welcome such a result in their electorates, in particular the ones the Government won in the Far South.

At this juncture, I should like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Mr. Peter Byrne, who, from what I can gather here, was a well-respected person in Parliament and also in the electorate of Mourilyan. Peter has conveyed to me the pitfalls in Parliament and spoken many words of wisdom from a person who spent 20 years of his life in this Assembly. I congratulate Peter on his wonderful effort and trust that he will have a long and happy retirement. I will always welcome advice from this excellent gentleman, and add that I doubt whether I can emulate his efforts with a cue.

I have the honour to represent the most picturesque electorate in Queensland, one with possibly the greatest potential for tourism in this State, an electorate with beaches that could not be surpassed anywhere in Australia and islands with no peers. Mourilyan has access to the tourist areas on the Atherton Tableland by means of the Palmerston Highway, which I am glad to say is being widened, and this adds to its potential. We also have a harbour, Mourilyan Harbour, which is one of the few natural harbours in Australia. In these modern times it has been discovered that the constant dredging of harbours causes serious damage to the ecological cycle of plant and animal life.

As scientists have stated, eventually we will be looking to the sea for food for the ever-increasing population on this planet. Planning for the future must be undertaken and consideration given to greater use being made by shipping companies of harbours like Mourilyan Harbour. In 1957 Sir Francis Nicklin promised that a harbour board would be set up for Mourilyan. He made that statement at Innisfail in a pre-election promise, and it was recorded in the local "Evening Advocate". I urge this Government to consider using Mourilyan Harbour to a greater extent, and I would be very pleased if it established Mourilyan Harbour as one of the Federal marine bases, not only for its natural state but also for its strategic situation.

These points lead me to say that where dredging has been undertaken it has caused serious damage to the inner reef. The Great Barrier Reef must be preserved at all costs. It is a great attraction to tourists. Would any hon. member risk a return of many millions of dollars to Queensland for a return of only a few million dollars from the liquid hydro-carbons that might lie below the earth's crust off the coast of Queensland?

This morning I heard the hon. member for South Coast say that there is no evidence of damage to reefs in my electorate. If he wishes to peruse some articles that I have with me, published by the University of California, he can cross the Chamber at any time and look at them. I have the evidence from people who know.

Santa Barbara represents a disaster area and has caused untold worry to the powers that be in California and also in the whole of the United States of America. In a recent issue of "The Courier-Mail" the area of pollution caused by oil spillage was described as extending for only 100 miles. According to the report that I have, the area extends for 500 miles on each side of the blow-out and oil is still spreading.

I have in my possession a copy of a letter sent by the Professor of Zoology at the University of California to the Right Honourable John Gorton, Prime Minister of Australia. Mr. Gorton has taken no action towards accepting his responsibility as leader of this great nation.

Mr. Wallis-Smith: What was the professor's name?

Mr. F. P. MOORE: Professor Joseph H. Connell, Professor of Zoology at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

In addition, I have reliable information from the Zoology Department at that university that coral has been affected to a depth of 100 feet. Can any hon. member visualise the Great Barrier Reef being reduced in depth by 100 feet and what effect the resultant wave action from the great South Pacific Ocean would have on our coast?

Mention has been made of the "Crown of Thorns" starfish being a bigger threat to the reef than drilling. I believe that mention of the starfish is only a diversionary move designed to lead us from the main issue. There is no evidence that the "Crown of Thorns" starfish had reached plague proportions off the Queensland coast, although there is evidence that its numbers have increased. To me this is only an ecological problem that nature will work out for itself. If man can help nature, then he should go ahead and help.

Last week I was speaking with a Thursday Islander named William Friday and I asked him what he thought of this matter. He claims that for most of his life he has dived for beche-de-mer. I would suggest that if a bounty was placed on the "Crown of Thorns" starfish a great number of Thursday Islanders who presently live on the mainland could rid us of the starfish.

Mr. Chinchin: Over 80,000 square miles?

Mr. F. P. MOORE: The hon. member does not know the reef. We should remember that the "Crown of Thorns" is a echinodermata which possesses the property of regeneration.

Mr. Chinchin interjected.

An Opposition Member: This is the hon. member's maiden speech. Give him a chance.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: I will put up with the hon. member.

Who is to say that the increase in numbers is not the result of man's own doing, possibly caused by people of the calibre of the hon. member? We know that the prawn fishermen thought that they were destroying the starfish they dragged up by cutting them up, but in fact they were increasing the numbers, as each part of the starfish cut up formed a new one. Hon. members should all know that both the starfish and corals are animals and are included in various food chains as sources of food. I feel sure that the balance of nature will rectify this problem in time.

I ask hon. members, in following sessions in this House, to consider seriously the consequences of the probable destruction of our reef. If it is destroyed, so will be the nearby holiday resorts on our islands and our beaches, and thus our areas in the North will be considerably reduced in the quality of their appeal to tourists. Any decisions to be made should be debated between two people, namely, the Ministers for Tourism and Mines. I have not heard the Minister for Tourism as yet, but if either of these Ministers has his portfolio at heart exciting debating should occur. When facts are presented by either Minister, they should be substantiated with proof. The pros and cons should be weighed and, with due respect to both Ministers, I am sure the Minister for Tourism will, with confidence and the correct information, end on top of the Minister for Mines.

In the last decade the people in North Queensland, particularly in the electorate of Mourilyan, have been denied the essential convenience of electricity. In one area in my electorate six farmers are so placed that electricity is in close proximity to either end of Stevenson's Road, on which they are settled. These people have contributed \$2,000 towards the cost of the road and they are now asked by the Cairns Regional Electricity Board to contribute \$1,580 to a loan for a period of 15 years and, on top of that, pay a guarantee of \$130.50. One of the farmers has found that he does not want to abide by the conditions of development to which he agreed. Although he has built something resembling living quarters on his property, he has not settled there. He has no intention of applying for electricity. Because of this, the others have to pay his share of the scheme. The price to them will now be \$2,000, which they will have to borrow at an interest rate of over 7 per cent., although they will receive only 5½ per cent. from the regional board.

There are many other people in my electorate who have electricity passing their properties, only 50 to 100 yards away, and who are asked to contribute about \$600 in some cases and up to \$1,050 in others.

There is no doubt that people living in the country and, as I said, in North Queensland, are being treated by this Government as second-rate citizens. After all the palaver during the last election campaign about decentralisation, there is no doubt that the Country Party in particular gives only lip-service to this principle. It is about time that the Queensland Government realised the problems confronting the country people of North Queensland and subsidised the regional board to alleviate the expenses of people who are trying to settle on the land.

We are told that this Government wants people to settle on the land, but people are paying too much for land. We all know that the people who are obtaining the blocks are moneyed people, or "blinds" for the moneyed people. Even these people are finding it much harder, because if access roads are required they are asked to contribute to the cost of construction.

What chance has a young man with tons of natural ability on the land, firstly, of obtaining a block and, secondly, of contributing to the incidentals? The local councils in North Queensland are not making ends meet to the extent that this Government does not face up to its responsibilities in this field. When it does, it favours greater expenditure in the South and in the provincial cities. As we heard only a few days ago, subsidies to local government are being reduced even further.

I should now like to deal with the schools in my electorate. The Innisfail State High School has nowhere near enough accommodation. I am told that two rooms will be built, but this is not enough. On behalf of the parents and citizens' associations in the electorate I have made representations to the departments, and I say "departments" because the building of schools is the responsibility of the Department of Works. I must say that the Department of Education does a wonderful job with the amount it obtains from the Government. But it must have more control over moneys allocated for buildings.

The Tully State High School has similar problems. The general laboratory is used by all grades. Senior classes in P.S.S.C. physics courses, chemistry study courses, and B.S.S.C. biology courses require a possible 36 periods a week practical, and in every high school in this State there are only 37 periods available. Two periods are used for sport and one is used for religious instruction. This makes a total of 40 periods.

What happens in the junior schools, with only one period available for science practical? The principal and the deputy principal are forced to have senior and junior classes reduced in allocations. Equipment for all high-school laboratories is available at Tully, but where can the Tully High School store it? There is only one answer to the problem, namely, build at least two laboratories at this high school.

The high school was opened in 1964. Since then the children taking manual training or domestic science have had to travel from that school through the main part of Tully township to the primary school for their lessons. The problems arising from this separation are, firstly, loss of teaching time and, secondly, loss of discipline to a great extent. One would think that after nearly six years the children of Tully should not have to suffer this inconvenience any longer.

Just prior to the May election, notice was given that fans would be supplied in all northern schools, but schools that had called tenders for the supply of fans, and had accepted them, have, by all accounts, lost any chance of subsidy on them. I have received complaints on this point from nearly every school in the electorate. If that is how the Government honours its promises, the general public will wake up sooner or later.

Making every post a winning post, the Government, through the Department of Works supervisor in each region, informed all schools to expend as much as possible before 30 June. However, after the election, the schools were asked to curtail expenditure. All hon. members know that the people of Queensland look to this Parliament for sincere representation and, I for one, expect supposedly intelligent beings to use common sense in their decisions.

There are schools in my electorate which are falling far short of others. The Mourilyan State School and, to a lesser degree, the Silkwood State School, are examples of this Government's neglect of education. The State primary schools in Innisfail are examples of "Get through with what you have." For proper education there must be suitable surroundings and facilities. Whilst on this subject, I congratulate head teachers for their patience with the Government. I ask the Government first to standardise schools before providing more facilities for those already well equipped.

We are led to believe that in this State great progress has been made in education. With an increasing population progress was inevitable, but the short-sightedness of Government policies has made this progress inadequate. Education is probably the most essential basic industry; some economists claim that no other industry can produce a greater increase in the gross national product.

I feel that the Government is reluctant to invest in this industry; rather is it allowing it to be an avenue for quick and easy profits. Queensland spends less per head on education than does any other State. With Queensland's tremendous area, one would expect the cost of maintaining an efficient service to be greater here than it is in any other State. The spread of population in the Northern Territory, which is controlled by the Federal Government, is perhaps comparable with that in Queensland. I wish

to quote the amount spent on education per head of population in these two areas. In 1966 Queensland spent \$25.07, whereas \$41.68 was spent in the Northern Territory. In 1967 the comparable figures were \$26.10 for Queensland and \$45.11 for the Northern Territory.

Expenditure per pupil was as follows:—

		Queensland	Northern Territory
		\$	\$
1966	153.87	202.33
1967	161.54	214.30

For the information of the House, those figures were obtained from the Commonwealth Year Book for 1968, at page 527. How can the Government account for those marked discrepancies?

Let us now compare Queensland with a compact and more easily controlled State, such as Victoria. Whereas Queensland spends less than one-fifth of its taxation earnings on education, Victoria spends one-third. For the sake of interest, I might mention that the average income tax paid in Australia is \$204.07. Queensland contributes approximately one-tenth of its taxation payments to education, which is a ridiculously low figure compared with the amounts spent in other countries with a comparable standard of living. I am also concerned at the price race that is developing in Queensland in the sale of textbooks for secondary education. Soaring prices are placing an increasing burden on parents who are already straining the family budgets so that their children will not be deprived of schooling opportunities.

The Government has also introduced new syllabuses, which in my opinion will be of great benefit, but in many cases it is impossible to implement them satisfactorily because of inexcusable delays of three months or more in the delivery of textbooks. Whether the fault lies with the department or the publishers is immaterial; the Minister for Education has an obligation to ensure efficiency and to watch the growing needs of education.

The matter of accommodation for public servants is also very contentious. I believe that any man or woman who is working for the Government should be supplied with suitable accommodation. If public servants are married, they should have houses to move into if transferred to other areas. Two striking examples of shocking accommodation are the residences of the sergeant of police at Mourilyan and the head teacher at Cardwell.

During the last election campaign I visited the residence of the sergeant of police at Mourilyan and, being associated with education, I visited also the residence of the head teacher in Cardwell. The house in which the sergeant of police at Mourilyan lives with his

wife and family is nothing but a tin shack, lined to make it at least somewhat livable. The house at Cardwell is nothing but the shell of a once stately structure. One can put one's finger through the timber, which has been attacked by white ants. Both of these buildings are a disgrace and a reflection on our Australian way of life. A Government should at all costs maintain and paint its buildings periodically to keep their value.

Depending on tenders is, as has been found, not very successful. I think that the various tradesmen should be situated permanently in the respective areas and that maintenance, etc., should be their responsibility. Large sums of money must be lost to the Government because of lack of maintenance.

The police stations at Innisfail and Tully have far exceeded their life-span, and I would say that if conditions such as these exist in other parts of Queensland, it is little wonder that the Police Force finds difficulty in obtaining recruits, as it is definite that they are working and living in conditions that are substandard. I implore the Government to investigate these problems and consider rectifying them as soon as possible.

My predecessor in the Mourilyan electorate, Mr. Peter Byrne, spoke quite often in this Chamber about the sugar industry, on which a large number of the electors of Mourilyan are dependent. I now follow him in this field.

Let me state now that I consider the recent massive expansion of the sugar industry was undertaken wholly at the financial risk of the producers. Other than legislating for the implementation of the expansion, the Government did not do anything to assist financially that major development of the industry. What has the Government done for American and Japanese interests? Are not our old and new sugar farmers worth backing? They are Australian, mind you, even though originally they may have come from other countries.

A joint deputation from the Queensland Cane Growers' Council and the Australian Sugar Producers' Association met the Premier at 3 p.m. on 31 March to discuss financial assistance for necessitous cane-growers. The basis of the Q.C.G.C.'s approach was a request for funds for sustenance and working expenses, and for funds to obtain full production, which could include replacement or additional plant. The Premier agreed to recommend the formation of a consultative committee to consider the situation, and the news in the last couple of days has been quite good. The committee has been formed, but up to this stage nothing has been granted to the necessitous growers.

I have in my electorate many cane-farmers who urgently need assistance, as the banks seem reluctant to give any aid. One farmer, with a peak of 5,600 tons, had an overdraft of \$28,000 and outstanding accounts amounting to \$5,600 at the end of June. He finds

that he cannot obtain any relief from his bank. The effect of this is that any money he does get from the bank goes solely into harvesting expenses and, thus, he has no money available to obtain fertiliser, etc., for the planting of the 1970 crop. I know numbers of new growers who have overdrafts as large as that on farms with peaks of only 1,200 tons. They seem to be able to obtain finance to that extent because they can be sold up, but farmers in the category of the one that I mentioned find that, although they are established, they are left to go to the wall.

I believe that this Government has "conned" the cane farmers into believing that they would obtain financial assistance and thus obtained their votes under false pretences. The sugar industry has done more than enough for this State, but what has this State done for this industry? It is about time the Premier made some definite statement on what the Government intends doing about rendering financial help to necessitous growers.

At present the growers and millers in my area are finding the delay in the early part of this season's crushing to be very serious. The wet weather has already delayed most mills for from five to seven weeks, and at the early stage of the season men left the area because no wages were coming in. Because of the continued wet, growers have found their cane flattened. This has caused serious losses to them and has also added to the problems of harvesting. With the southern areas of the Queensland sugar industry suffering seriously from drought and the northern areas affected by the consistent rain, it is about time the Queensland Government took steps to ensure the future of the sugar industry in this State by a monetary grant.

Mr. WHARTON (Burnett) (4.21 p.m.): I have very much pleasure in joining in the debate on the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I congratulate the Administrator Mr. Justice Sheehy on the manner in which he delivered his Opening Speech to Parliament. On behalf of the electors of Burnett I am very pleased to reaffirm our loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen.

An Opposition Member: Speak up.

Mr. WHARTON: If hon. members opposite would listen they could hear me. I know the A.L.P. is "toey". They have been "toey" ever since the election.

I congratulate the hon. member for Balonne and the hon. member for Wavell on the manner in which they moved and seconded the motion, respectively, for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Administrator's Opening Speech. It was a very good speech and I will later comment on it.

The hon. member for Balonne made a very good speech. However, I should like at the outset to pay tribute to the work done by Ted Beardmore when he sat in this House

as a member. He was a grand old man of the West and I am glad to know that he has recovered from his serious accident. I hope he will experience many more enjoyable days with us in and around the House of Parliament.

I congratulate the hon. member for Wavell on his speech. It did spark off a few comments, but I think we all agree that in any Government, just as in anything else, it is team work that counts, and if we get a bit of team work on this side of the House we will be here, as a good team, for a long, long time.

I should like to say in passing that the Chief Justice Sir William Mack is very closely associated with my electorate. He was born in Mount Perry. He now owns Wetheron Station where my father worked as a lad many years ago, so I feel that we can claim fairly close association with him.

I should like to congratulate all hon. members, including the new members, on their election. We occupy positions of high office, and I congratulate hon. members on both sides of the House. A member can choose the party that he represents, but the people choose the party that will represent them in Government. That state of affairs should be allowed to continue. The freedom of the people should be preserved. They should have the right to elect their representatives in Parliament.

I thank the electors of my electorate for their continued support. They returned me to Parliament with an increased majority, so I hope that during this session I will be able to achieve something for them as a reward for their support.

I am a member of the Country Party, which is a middle-of-the-road party. It is different from other political parties in that it is not too far to the Right and not too far to the Left. It is a good party and one with a hard core of members who represent the primary producers and those people who depend on primary production. It can represent this State better than any other party can because it can attract to its ranks people who represent the great majority of persons in this nation. The Country Party has the most to offer to the greatest number of people because it represents people in primary industries and business. In addition, it can look after the workers, and it does this. The Country Party knows best how to look after the workers. The Labour Party has forgotten about the workers and is trying to get the farmers to support it. That party knows that the Industrial Commission will look after the workers and grant quarterly wage adjustments, so it is now trying to interest farmers in becoming members of the Australian Labour Party. Of course, it is doing this mainly by innuendo and by making critical statements that are not true.

The Country Party is very glad to have Joh. Bjelke-Petersen as its leader. He is a new leader and he achieved much by leading the Government to victory at the recent election. I pay him a great tribute. He has been assisted by his wife, and together they will go a long way in promoting the interests of the Country Party and, in turn, our great State.

I also congratulate Neville Hewitt upon his elevation to Cabinet rank. I know that he will undertake his duties seriously and will do his job well in furthering the development of Queensland.

I was greatly disturbed by the election campaign conducted by the Labour Party against my leader. It seems that all the Labour Party wants to do is to make personal attacks upon this man, who is a great leader. Why would the Opposition want to do that? There was no reason why the Opposition should introduce personalities.

Mr. Bennett interjected.

Mr. WHARTON: The Labour Party made many personal attacks on our Leader that were very unethical. We won on our policy; we did not try to undermine the Opposition by making personal attacks.

Mr. Davies interjected.

Mr. WHARTON: Whatever attacks we made were true.

I was speaking about the Premier and the way in which the Opposition attacked him personally. That was most unethical. At least Government members are ethical in the things they say. We must be factual.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I am finding it most difficult to listen to the interesting contribution by the hon. member.

Mr. WHARTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like hon. members to listen to these words of Sir Richard Livingstone which I relate to the qualities of the Premier—

"Many things go to the making of man, but essentially it is the training of three aspects of man; body, mind and character. And neither mind nor character can be made without a spiritual element. That is just the element which has grown weak, where it has not perished, in our education, and therefore in our civilization, with disastrous results. Nothing can be done till that element is restored."

Mr. Bennett: Are you reading Aristotle?

Mr. WHARTON: No, I am quoting Sir Richard Livingstone. The hon. member would be the only man who would know Aristotle.

I said that our party is ethical in its statements but that remark does not apply to the attitude of the A.L.P. I was very disappointed in the trash and piffle advanced

by the A.L.P. in its effort to win the election by any means. Even the Leader of the Opposition the other day made a spectacle of himself when making his speech. He thought that the A.L.P. was trying to get into orbit, but I consider that he only got his head into the clouds.

Mr. Cory: He did not leave the tarmac.

Mr. WHARTON: That is right, he did not leave the tarmac.

I have been most interested in the attitude of the A.L.P. and the number of Questions asked, 89 on one day, 81 the next, and so on. Opposition members have been complaining about the long Parliamentary recess but obviously they have not been doing any research. They are doing it all now, which proves emphatically that they know nothing at all. (Laughter.)

Mr. Davies interjected.

Mr. WHARTON: I will talk a little about Isis.

Mr. Davies: And Bundaberg, too?

Mr. WHARTON: Yes. The former member must have done a pretty good job because the new member has not asked a question about Bundaberg. He is worried about things in my electorate, wanting to know this and that. He has not done any research; he does not know anything, and he has not yet done anything for Bundaberg. He does not know what he should seek for Bundaberg because it is well looked after.

Mr. Bennett: That is a cowardly attack on a new member.

Mr. WHARTON: Whether he is a new member or not, he showed that he was an old hand at electioneering. He did not say anything factual. He was like the hon. member for Isis. Labour spokesmen condemned the sugar industry and said that we would never get an international sugar agreement. They said that the tourist industry was depressed. They spoke about the poor old farmer. But they did not say anything factual. And the hon. member for Bundaberg was very well aided by the hon. member for Maryborough.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr. WHARTON: The people of Isis will wake up one day, and that will be a good day for the electorate. Nobody can get on by using distorted facts. He can for a start, but after a while people realise that what he is saying is incorrect. They want something factual and they give credit where credit is due.

The hon. member for Mourilyan said that sugar-cane farmers have been given no drought relief. I give credit to the hon. member's predecessor who always spoke factually. Drought relief has been accorded cane-farmers to the extent of \$3,000. The hon. member for Mourilyan spoke in that

way, and it is reported in "Hansard", but the Government has done something about it. This Country-Liberal Government has done more for cane-farmers than any other Government. Anyone who doubts that should ask the sugar-cane growers. It is no good asking members of the A.L.P. because they do not tell the truth.

I shall now refer to irrigation. I have said this once before, but apparently nobody heard me. Irrigation is so important that we should have a Minister for Irrigation.

Mr. Bennett: Not another Minister! There is a Minister for Irrigation now.

Mr. WHARTON: I mean a Minister controlling only irrigation, because it is a most important feature in the development of this State. We are plagued with drought. There are two droughts in every seven years. The present drought is a particularly devastating one, and I believe that we should plan and irrigate to mitigate the effects of future droughts. It is such an important matter that there should be a Minister appointed to control it and nothing else.

Mr. Bromley: Don't you think the present Minister is doing a good job?

Mr. WHARTON: Yes, I do.

Mr. Bennett: Then why do you want to change him?

Mr. WHARTON: I do not want to change him. I said that irrigation is such an important matter that it should be the sole responsibility of one Minister. I hope that in the reshuffle of portfolios this can be done, so that one Minister can dedicate himself to this important field of endeavour. This Government has done a good deal in irrigation. I shall not say too much about it because I will be dealing with irrigation at a later stage.

The Government spent \$750,000 on the survey of the Burnett-Kolan irrigation scheme. Top priority was given to this scheme for Commonwealth financial assistance. I shall be going to Canberra with members of the irrigation committee later this month to see if we can influence the National Development Commission to pressure those in authority to provide funds for this important scheme. We have gone so far and will not stop now. I hope that the State will continue with the planning of the various weirs and dams encompassed by the scheme. If this is done, and if some finance is provided in future Budgets, the scheme can be started and we can influence the Federal Government to provide more finance to complete the work.

Mr. Bennett interjected.

Mr. WHARTON: We will speak to everybody in due course and I am sure that something will be achieved. The State cannot be accused of doing nothing, because it has planned this scheme. Opposition members might think that I am talking through my

hat, but six sugar mills are concerned in this. Their production is down to nearly half.

Mr. Bennett: What is the reason for that?

Mr. WHARTON: That is the type of question I expect from the hon. member and I think I would be wasting my time if I answered it. This area is suffering seriously because of a lack of water. We have farms, farmers, businesses, a good city and a good community, but no water. The present problem has been brought about by continuous drought which has affected not only the sugar industry but the city and all parts of the electorate. We are having a pretty torrid time at present, just as other parts of the State are suffering, too.

Mr. Bennett: Is there any water in Barambah Creek?

Mr. WHARTON: Yes, a dribble, but there is very little in the Burnett, from which most of the water for irrigation is drawn. For the hon. member's information, people using irrigation are now digging 20 to 30 feet in the sand and using diesel motors to pump water from one hole to another to get it to where their electric equipment is situated so that the water can be used. The cost of this can well be appreciated. They have survived this year, but the future will be very difficult for them because orchards have suffered considerably from lack of water and are not in a good condition to withstand prolonged dry conditions. We must have rain, but we also need an irrigation scheme, and I am pleased that the State has at least done something. I appreciate the Premier's action in seeking funds from the Commonwealth Government to try to advance this scheme. It is a little beyond the resources of the State.

Mr. Davies: What chance have you of getting it?

Mr. WHARTON: A good chance if the hon. member will only get "on side" and try to help. If he would only forget about all the political "jazz" we would get on well. He is merely playing politics. This spoils our chances of getting anything in Bundaberg, and in Isis, too. During the election campaign our opponents said, "You won't get water for five years." That is the sort of thing we heard from Dr. Patterson, who, whilst I have a lot of respect for him, is really a great "paper" man—we read a lot about him, but we never see him. All that these people say is, "You won't get this" and, "You won't get that". They are nothing but "knockers" of the water scheme. Yet the moment they are returned and anything is done, they say, "We got it for you". I do not come here to play politics. I am not like the hon. members for Bundaberg and Isis. I am fighting for water for the people who deserve it.

Mr. Blake: During the election campaign the Country Party said that there would be water in Isis in two years if the Country Party was elected, whereas Commissioner Haigh said that it would be 12 years.

Mr. WHARTON: I am sure it was never said that that would be done in two years. That is typical of the hon. member for Isis. That is the type of statement that some hon. members opposite make at election time. They are always trying to harangue the people and "get them in" by inferences and incorrect statements. The hon. member for Maryborough, too, had a good hand in this; he educated them in this respect. I would not go back to Hervey Bay if I had said some of the things that he said there. How much richer are they since the hon. member for Isis was returned? They have not received anything more.

Mr. Houston: He has really got you worried. You have done nothing but complain all afternoon.

Mr. WHARTON: The Leader of the Opposition does say some silly things. The point I am making is that some members of the Labour Party win elections by misrepresentation and incorrect statements.

Mr. Davies: That is not appreciated by your colleagues.

Mr. WHARTON: That is quite wrong. Hon. members opposite make a lot of incorrect statements and try to get away with them. These things were said—they were in the Press—and now hon. members opposite want to try to get something from the Government after trying to slice its throat.

I now wish to move to another matter which concerns me, and that is finance for drought assistance. A symposium was held recently at Gayndah.

Mr. Melloy: It doesn't matter; forget about it.

Mr. WHARTON: The hon. member can say what he likes. I worry about the drought and those who suffer as a result of it. One hon. member opposite who interjected has a good hotel. I will bet there is no drought there.

As I said, a symposium was held recently at Gayndah, and I shall read the findings to hon. members because I believe they are important. They were—

1. Long-term development loans are needed in order to stabilise the industry to withstand drought and cheapen production costs.

2. A scheme similar to the I.W.S.C. Farm Water Supplies Act was needed to provide finance for fodder and fodder storage facilities on exactly the same lines.

3. Wheat should be available at \$1 a bushel.

4. Fodder storage should be tax exempted.

5. Fodder storage should be subsidised in some way.

All those matters are important, but in my book finance is most important in any aspect of farm work. Today one sees a blanket cover, with a lowering of overdraft limits and an increase in interest rates, and that is not in the best interests of farmers. I appreciate the Treasurer's reply to a question that I asked in the House and the fact that the Premier has taken the matter up with the Commonwealth Government. When primary producers are struggling against the effects of a drought, lower advances and higher interest rates are very undesirable.

Another difficulty faced by primary producers arises from the setting of a common price and the fact that they have to withstand ever-increasing costs of production as a result of increases in wages and other charges. I am not blaming anybody in particular for this. The Industrial Commission has five members—

Mr. Davies: Why mention only wages.

Mr. WHARTON: I did not mention only wages, but wages have an influence on all costs.

Mr. Davies: You mentioned it, and you hit the worker.

Mr. WHARTON: I have never heard so much nonsense. I would be the last person to hit the worker.

The Industrial Commission makes regular adjustments of salaries and wages, on application, and they are made almost automatically. As I said, the Commission has five members, some of whom represent the manufacturing section of the community, some of whom represent the union section of the community. I have no quarrel with that, but I point out that there is no-one on the Commission representing the primary producers.

Mr. Davies: On the Industrial Commission?

Mr. WHARTON: Yes.

Mr. Davies: Are you blaming the Industrial Commission?

Mr. WHARTON: The hon. member for Maryborough knows the point that I am making. I am saying that there are five members of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, not one of whom represents the farmers' interests or has come from the ranks of primary producers.

Mr. O'Donnell: You should insist on it.

Mr. WHARTON: I am seeking justice. If an alteration of the Act is necessary, I can make an application in this Assembly. In this debate I am speaking about only a few items that are of great interest to farmers.

Primary producers have to accept the same price, year in year out, for their products. There is a consumers' protection council—

Mr. Houston: No, there is not.

Mr. WHARTON: It will come. I think there should be a farmers' protection committee, too, and I believe that there should be an advocate representing farmers or primary producers who could put submissions to that committee. We have a system of adjustment of wages, which have some reflection on costs, yet we have no way of putting a case for the farmer because the attitude of the Commission and Court is to base wages on the capacity of industry to pay.

Mr. Bennett: That is very fair.

Mr. WHARTON: It is not.

Mr. Bennett: Have you ever tried to put a case before a court?

Mr. WHARTON: No, I have not and I would not get the hon. member to put one for me either. A wage granted on the capacity of industry to pay is all right for the manufacturer or the retailer, because he can pass it on, but the farmer cannot and that is the point I want to make today.

Mr. Bromley: Why don't you go on strike?

Mr. WHARTON: We have higher principles than that. I want to make the point finally that I think one of the most essential steps for primary producers is to appoint an advocate to watch their interests. We could have a primary producers' protection committee, too. That would be a very good thing, but I think we should have representation on the Industrial Commission so that the interests of primary producers are safeguarded, as are those of other workers.

Mr. MARGINSON (Ipswich East) (4.52 p.m.): I welcome the opportunity to speak in the early stages of the session even though the hour is late, as I have a number of matters that I wish to submit to the House. They are matters that affect not only the city of Ipswich but, I believe, this State generally.

At the outset, however, on behalf of the electors of the Ipswich East electorate, and for myself as well, let me express in this Chamber our loyalty to the Sovereign, our Most Gracious Lady, Queen Elizabeth II. We also express the hope that the many unnecessary conflicts between nations in the world today will be brought to an immediate end, that the rights, customs and needs of all nations, no matter how small, no matter how large, irrespective of colour or creed, will be recognised and acknowledged, and that tolerance, patience and understanding will be given a much higher priority so that peace may eventually come to all of our people.

Naturally, I am deeply appreciative of my election as a member of this Assembly and I extend my thanks to the electors of the Ipswich East electorate for the honour they have accorded me and the overwhelming confidence they have shown in me.

Home-building in my electorate has, during the past few years, been at a very high tempo and this, coupled with the many industries within my electorate, such as coal-mining, railway workshops, woollen mills, hardboard factories, brick and pipe factories and many others, makes one proud to be the representative of such an advancing electorate. To those people who assisted me and helped me to become a member of this Assembly, I want to say, "Thank you very much." I refer particularly to my campaign director, Mr. Tom Easterbrook, the members of my campaign committee and the members of all my A.L.P. branches. I want also to assure them that their work and assistance to me have been, and are, greatly appreciated by me.

The electorate that I represent today has remained loyal to the Australian Labour Party since the year 1915, a period of some 54 years. During that time it was represented for many years by the late Honourable Frank Arthur Cooper and later by Mr. Jim Donald, who recently retired. Both of those gentlemen attained very high office during their terms in Parliament. The former was a member of the Ministry of this State for a considerable time, and he later became Premier of Queensland. Mr. Donald was a member of this Assembly for approximately 23 years, and for a period was Leader of the Opposition.

I cannot let this occasion pass without paying a tribute to Mr. Donald for the able manner in which he carried out his duties in this Parliament. I am sure that he was well known to all hon. members and to his electors as a conscientious and hard-working member. I am sure that all hon. members join with me in wishing him and Mrs. Donald a happy and healthy retirement. Our thanks go out to him for the valuable contribution that he made in the interests of the people of Queensland.

I desire to express my thanks also to those people who have welcomed me here, both inside and outside this Chamber. I am very grateful for the assistance that has been given to me by my Parliamentary colleagues on this side of the Chamber, and I thank all of them for their welcome. In addition, I thank the staff of Parliament House for the help and guidance that they have at all times made available to me. Let me assure them that I do appreciate their assistance.

I regret to learn of the illness of the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr. Johnson, and I express the hope that he will soon be restored to good health.

I listened with great interest to the Opening Speech of the Administrator of the Government on the occasion of the opening of

this Parliament. I was very disappointed with it, firstly, with what it did contain and, secondly, with the many things that it did not contain. To me, most of the things that it did contain were a repetition of subjects about which we have heard and read time and time again for many years. Little or no attention was devoted to what I would consider to be important subjects. I have in mind price control, the cost of living, hospitals and health, education, industrial conditions, and even the Government's own industrial relationships.

There exists an ever-growing and widening gulf between those who have and those who have not. Over the years this Government and the Federal Government have allowed that gulf to widen even further. I draw the attention of hon. members to an article that appeared in "The Courier-Mail" of Monday, 4 August, 1969, under the heading "Brisbane leads poverty cities". The article reads—

"Poverty was probably worse in Brisbane than in any other Australian capital city, a senior social worker with the welfare and counselling organisation Life Line said yesterday.

"He was backed by a Queensland University lecturer's revelation that in Brisbane the proportion of people mainly dependent on social service benefits was 50 per cent. above the national . . . average."

The lecturer from the Queensland University is Dr. C. P. Harris, the senior lecturer in economics; the social worker is Mr. L. F. Hayes.

Mr. Hayes said that research in Melbourne had found that one in every 16 families in Melbourne was living below the poverty line, and he defined the "poverty line" as a total family income of \$35 a week. He then said—

"I think our situation here is likely to be even worse than in any other capital city.

"Queensland has the . . . highest unemployment rates."

Mr. Harris, a university lecturer, said that a survey showed that we also have a far larger proportion of lower-income people than the other States of Australia. He then said that about one person in eight in Brisbane depended for the major part of his income on some form of social service benefits, whilst the national figure is one in 12. While conditions like those exist in Brisbane and in Queensland, we, as hon. members, should not pretend that we are living in an affluent society.

I congratulate the mover, and the seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply on the manner in which they presented their respective views. I do not desire that to be taken as an indication

that I agreed in toto with what they said. The comments of the hon. member for Wavell—I am very sorry that he is not here—

A Government Member: He is here; he is downstairs.

Mr. Houston: That is not here.

Mr. MARGINSON: The comments of the hon. member for Wavell about the hospital system in Queensland were of particular interest to me. For the past 32 years I have held the position of secretary of the Ipswich Hospitals Board. Consequently, I feel that I, too, having some knowledge and experience of hospital administration, can add something to this debate. I do not agree entirely with his submissions, but I do believe that he did not tell the whole story. He either deliberately avoided some aspects of it or else they were not known to him.

Let us first acknowledge that we must retain our free hospital service in this State. Let us also resolve that we will not place any unnecessary financial burden on our hospital system that can be used as an excuse by some, particularly those in the medical profession, for destroying the free hospital service. Let me strike this note of warning: there are in our midst a number of people who would like to see this system destroyed.

The hon. member referred to the ability of hospital administrators. This is one of the matters on which I do not agree with him. He stated that almost a Gilbertian situation existed at the present time. I have no doubt that he was referring to the secretaries of various hospitals boards and endeavouring to place the blame on the shoulders of those administrators.

He suggested, I think, that persons with economics and commerce degrees from the university, or people with accountancy qualifications, should be appointed to these positions. I assure him that there are many people already holding these positions who have qualifications of this nature. Is he not aware, however, that his Government is the only one in the Commonwealth that does not recognise a university degree from the New South Wales University within the Institute of Hospital Administration of Australia? Surely he should have known that. The hon. member first pursued his course of argument intent on blaming what he described as "outmoded" legislation. I felt that in hiding behind this accusation of outmoded legislation, he was at that stage—though I think it has gone further now—endeavouring to avoid an open clash with the Minister for Health. Surely he realises that any change in this outmoded legislation must be made by his own Government and his own Minister. His Government has had 12 years in which to amend this alleged outmoded legislation.

If the hon. member is correct in his contention that the legislation is outmoded and belongs to the horse-and-buggy days, why

does he not put the blame fairly and squarely on the shoulders of his Government and his Minister and not on the hospital administrators, who can only carry out the policy, instructions and demands issued to them by the Minister for Health through his department.

What is wanted in our hospital service today is the allocation of more finance. More finance should be allocated to the hospital service. The purchase of necessary items by hospital boards, in my experience—and I know it is continuing—has to be deferred because of lack of money. Urgent building programmes are held over from one year to another because of insufficient allocations of loan raisings. Decisions on requests by hospital boards are deliberately delayed and approval for certain items or plans is deliberately delayed so that the expenditure will not be incurred in a certain period, and in some cases they have been deferred so that expenditure will not be incurred in a certain financial year.

The hon. member for Wavell also referred to the composition of hospital boards. He advocated that they should comprise, in the main, doctors, lawyers, accountants, etc. There are many men and women in other fields of activity who, as hospital board members, have made, and are making, valuable contributions to hospital administration. Boards with which I have been associated have, on a number of occasions, had a medical man as a member, though the hon. member for Wavell is advocating it now.

We must not lose sight of the fact that it is established custom, and has been for many years, for the medical superintendent, the medical officer of a hospital, the matron and the secretary to attend all hospital board committee meetings and all hospital board meetings, where their advice and guidance are readily sought. In virtually all cases, their recommendations have been accepted.

However, I believe that the Minister restricts, and has restricted over the past few years, the activities of hospital boards to such an extent that they have little or no authority whatever to carry out the tasks that were originally entrusted to them. Almost every decision arrived at by a hospital board today, no matter how small or how large, must be referred to the Department of Health for approval, and this invariably results in long delays and record periods of procrastination.

Some of the shortcomings of our present hospital system are months of delay in the out-patients' department—there was a question on this subject only today—in having an operation in a public ward, and in receiving dental treatment. There was also a question on that matter today. These things could be overcome if the Government would provide extra staff for hospitals and additional accommodation, which means, after all, more finance.

The hon. member for Wavell advocated a ring of small hospitals in the outer suburbs to relieve the pressure on larger hospitals. That was A.L.P. policy at the last election. The hon. member also called for an inquiry into various aspects of the hospitals system. That also was part of A.L.P. policy in relation to hospitals.

He also referred to the honorary medical officer system in hospitals. For many years there was throughout public hospitals an honorary system. In fact, the Ipswich Base Hospital was the last hospital in a provincial city in Queensland to stop the honorary system. For that system was substituted one of specialist medical services on a sessional basis. This gave both in-patients and out-patients at the Ipswich Base Hospital at that time the opportunity to consult recognised specialists on the medical staff.

One point that the hon. member for Wavell did not make—he may have a reason for not doing so—is that medical officers attached to public hospitals, whether full-time or part-time on a sessional basis, are the only ones allowed to treat patients in the public wards of general hospitals in Queensland. This has been a great bone of contention with quite a number of people associated with hospitals. I trust—I say this advisedly—that his motive in bringing this forward is solely for the welfare of patients and those who work in hospitals. If his motive is, in particular, the welfare of the patient, I shall be one who will help wherever I can to have corrected the shortcomings of hospitals in Queensland as they exist today.

In conclusion on the subject of hospitals, I say to the hon. member, "Do not hide behind the excuse of outmoded legislation, and do not hide behind the excuse that the fault lies with hospital administration." The responsibility for what shortcomings there are lies fairly on the shoulders of Ministers and the Government.

With particular reference to the hospital at Ipswich, I should like to place on record that five or six years ago the Minister for Health agreed to a building programme at Ipswich, which was to be spaced over a number of years. However, for the last two years there has been little building activity there. I hope that the Minister will use his endeavours to see that that building programme starts very soon. The hospital is very much in need of a new kitchen and dining-room block. Additions and renovations are required to the present maternity block. These things have been promised for many years. The hospital was opened in 1945, and there has not been one addition to the maternity block since then.

A new dental clinic is also most urgently required. I heard today that there was a waiting period of up to 10 or 12 months for treatment at the dental clinic. More staff is required, but at present additional staff would be of no use because there is no accommodation in which to place

them. Additional pathology laboratory extensions and X-ray accommodation are also needed.

I turn now to some matters associated with my electorate, Ipswich East. For some time past the people of Ipswich have suffered great inconvenience because of the action of the Minister for Transport relative to the demolition of two railway bridges in the Ipswich area, one in High Street, Ebbw Vale, and the other in Ellenborough Street, in the electorate of the hon. member for Ipswich West. I shall deal first with the High Street bridge.

That bridge was situated to the west of the Ebbw Vale railway station, close to the Ipswich-Brisbane Highway and on top of the hill. Mr. Speaker, just listen to what happened. The Main Roads Department decided to construct a four-lane highway parallel to the railway line and to reduce by 12 feet or more the height of the hill where the bridge was. Plans for the new highway construction provided for a deceleration lane off the new highway across what was to be a new bridge over the railway line. So it was admitted that there was going to be a bridge at that location, and the deceleration lane was planned, constructed, and in fact exists. The highway has been completed.

When the road works were begun, the Railway Department began to demolish the bridge. At the same time, provision was made in the loan programme of the Railway Department for loan money to meet its share of the cost of the new bridge. No doubt the inference there was that the department was going to build the bridge, because it applied for loan moneys for that purpose. Furthermore, the Ipswich City Council, which had to pay a certain proportion of the cost, applied for, and was granted by the Treasurer, approval to borrow loan money to meet its share of the cost of the bridge. In fact, it borrowed the money and had it waiting for the new bridge.

When the road works were nearly completed, the Ipswich City Council inquired of the Railway Department when the construction of the new bridge would begin. It was advised by the department, and later by the Minister, that it was not intended to replace the structure. The council was advised that, because no protests had been received against the demolition of the bridge, a bridge was not warranted. That is what the council was told, although, as I said earlier, plans were made for a deceleration lane, the Railway Department applied for loan moneys for a bridge in its loan programme, and the council applied for, and was granted, approval to raise a loan, and in fact raised it. To put it mildly, that was the greatest confidence trick that has ever been played upon the people of this State, and particularly upon the people of Ipswich, by any department of the Crown.

Let us turn now to the Ellenborough Street bridge in Ipswich. Before the bridge in Ellenborough Street was closed, 2,000

vehicles a day crossed it. It was situated about 200 yards from the main section of the city of Ipswich, and it connected the business centre of the city with the near north-western suburbs. The Railway Department closed the bridge to road traffic on 1 October, 1966. Since then there have been many requests, deputations and negotiations, not only by the Ipswich City Council, but also by the people of Ipswich, to have the bridge reopened or replaced. It was recently demolished, and provision has been made for a temporary footway for pedestrians. This bridge existed on this site, I understand, for over 80 years and was, as I have already indicated, used extensively. If a bridge was warranted at this site in 1890 or thereabouts, surely it is required more today.

A deputation waited upon the Minister for Transport at Ipswich—he was kind enough to visit there one day—and he made it quite clear to us—I was one of the deputation—that he was not interested in the city's problems and that he wanted, as he put it, to spend his money on revenue-producing projects. He was not concerned about the problems of the people of Ipswich; he was not concerned about the inconvenience he was causing to the people of Ipswich; and, above all, he was not concerned about the traffic problems that his action had created in our main street by first the closure and then the demolition of this bridge. I find it most difficult to reconcile an attitude of that kind with a person who preaches so much the gospel of road safety.

Before there was any suggestion that this bridge should be closed and demolished, the Ipswich City Council engaged Wilbur Smith and Associates to undertake a transportation study for the city of Ipswich. That was before we were given any indication that it was intended to close the bridge. This report indicated the necessity for a bridge at this point to provide for the present and future traffic flow.

In May last, the Premier wrote to the editor of the local newspaper, "The Queensland Times", in reply to the editor's representations to him. This is what the Premier's letter said, as it appeared in the newspaper—

"It was considered that any inconvenience caused as a result of the closure of the overbridge was of a minor nature only, and was not sufficient to warrant the substantial expenditure necessary to construct a new bridge."

This was a bridge that carried more than 2,000 vehicles a day, a bridge that had been on the site for over 80 years with the traffic flow increasing week after week, and the Premier says that it is only a minor matter.

The Ipswich City Council in its efforts to have the bridge rebuilt, although not legally bound to make any payment, then offered, in the interests of the people, to make a payment of half the cost of the bridge. It was prepared to spend some of

its ratepayers' money in the hope that it might induce the Government to replace the bridge. As I say, the Ipswich City Council made an offer to the Railway Department to bear a half-share of the cost of replacement of the bridge. However that offer was rejected.

It is high time, I think, that the Minister for Transport realised that he has certain obligations and responsibilities in connection with both of these bridges. Surely he appreciates that the necessity for the bridges in the first place was brought about solely through the construction of his railway tracks through our area. The bridges would not otherwise have been necessary. I make an appeal to the Minister—I suppose he will not listen to me now—to re-examine these two questions in the hope that at least the people of Ipswich can be assured, through the hon. member for Ipswich West and myself, that at some future early date these bridges will be replaced. As Deputy Mayor of the city, I can assure him that I will see that the offer of the council to meet half the cost of a bridge will remain in force for a reasonable time awaiting his answer.

Let me now make reference to another matter of importance to my electorate and to the city of Ipswich generally. At Gailes, which is on the boundary between the city of Ipswich and the city of Brisbane, a weighbridge has been established, and road transports that use the highway must be checked at this weighbridge when entering or leaving the Brisbane area. Industry in the Ipswich area is being strangled by the operations of the weighbridge and the ridiculous restrictions that are imposed on the carriage of goods between Ipswich and Brisbane.

A Government-sponsored industrial estate has been established at Wacol, which is on the Brisbane side of the weighbridge, and consequently industry in that estate can transport goods to and from the port of Brisbane or anywhere else within the metropolitan area without having to comply with the requirements of this weighbridge, whilst industry situated immediately to the west of the weighbridge and in the area of the city of Ipswich must meet these requirements. When I remind hon. members that, with the exception of vehicles carrying coal and sugar, road transports from Ipswich are free of road tax, surely they must admit that a gross anomaly exists if those transports have to pass through the weighbridge on every trip that they make. Ipswich transport operators are forced to wait up to 50 minutes for each truck to pass through the weighing area, and on many occasions that period of time is longer than the actual running time involved in the journey that the trucks have to make. This delay means extra costs in transport, and those extra costs are passed on to the Ipswich-based industries. It is contended that this weighbridge is proving to be the biggest single drawback to the establishment of further industries in Ipswich because prospective

industrialists closely examine transportation costs when considering sites at which to establish their industries.

Owing to the absurd axle-load regulations and interpretations, goods that are carried from Ipswich to the Brisbane wharves or other places in the metropolitan area often have to be carried on two vehicles, whereas similar loads from the Wacol Industrial Estate can be carried on one vehicle because that vehicle does not have to pass through the weighbridge. The situation will be aggravated further with the advent of containerisation because the transport driver will have no control whatever over the distribution of his load weight. If a transport driver takes delivery of a container he cannot specify where the actual weight distribution within the container will be, and he could run foul of the regulations that apply to axle loads even if the over-all weight is below the maximum allowed.

In the short time that I have left I must deal with another very important subject, and I hope to make a further reference to it later. In April of last year the Government amended the legislation relative to the retired mine workers' pension. Prior to that amendment the mine workers' pension rates were increased whenever the Commonwealth Government increased the social service benefits, and they were increased by an equal amount. The amendment pegged the mine workers' pension rates, with the result that when the Commonwealth Government increased the social service rate in October of last year the mine workers' pension rate remained at its previous level. In fact, in many instances the miners' pensions were actually reduced. In December of last year a miners' tribunal recommended to the Minister that social service increases be passed on to pensioners in the age group from 60 to 65 years and also to those pensioners whose pensions had been reduced in their mine workers' pension rates. I have noted with considerable interest that it is proposed to amend this legislation, so I will reserve further comment on the matter until that occasion arises.

Lastly, I want to refer to an article that appeared in the Press on Monday, 4 August, which reported that the Treasurer, on his return from overseas the previous week-end had said—

"Mining strikes and rail delays had lowered the prestige of Queensland coal suppliers to Japan."

Here is another unwarranted and unfair attack by a Minister on the coal-miners and railway workers. But what was the position in effect? The Treasurer read in "The Courier-Mail" the following day the following statement which was made, I believe, by the chairman of the Gladstone Harbour Board—

"Port authorities are concerned about a growing stock on Gladstone wharves of Central Queensland coal bound for Japan. The stock has reached 240,000 tons."

The Treasurer was blaming the coal-miners and the railway workers, yet there was a quarter of a million tons of coal on the wharves. Apparently he did not know what was there because he had been gallivanting around other parts of the world. My point is that the coal was there and that shipping was not available to take away the coal which the miners had sent there and the railway workers had taken there.

Debate, on motion of Mr. W. D. Hewitt, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5.32 p.m.
