

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 26 AUGUST 1969

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

QUESTIONS**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)?

Answers:—

(1) "I table a list of the number and location of Commonwealth Science Blocks undertaken in each financial year since the implementation of the scheme."

(2) "The value of buildings and equipment is shown on the list referred to in (1) above."

(3) "I table a list of the schools included in the present triennium. It should be noted that work has commenced on six of these blocks."

(4) "\$3,164,100 is the total allocation from the Commonwealth for the present triennium from July 1968 to June 1971."

(5) "\$237,491."

Papers.—Whereupon Mr. Fletcher laid upon the Table of the House the papers referred to.

ESTABLISHMENT OF BUREAU OF
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Davis for **Mr. Wright**, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

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?

Answers:—

(1) "No. I would point out however that the Queensland system of subsidies for capital works, not found in other States, is an incentive to providing the necessary conditions to help decentralisation."

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

(3) "No."

(4) "Staff has been authorised to commence the study of regional development in the State and to develop regional plans. This staff will work in the Co-ordinator-General's Department and initially under *"The State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1964."*

(5) "The existing Regional Development or Research and Promotion Bureaux will not be incorporated into the State organisation."

OIL-DRILLING OPERATIONS, REPULSE BAY AREA

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

Is he aware that during an election meeting in Cairns on April 28, 1969, he was reported as saying that, as far as he was concerned, there would be no drilling for oil close to the Great Barrier Reef? If so, how does he reconcile this with the Government's decision since the election to permit Japex to drill near the Reef off Mackay?

Answer:—

"I suggest to the Honourable Member that he read the *Cairns Post* newspaper as it is printed—not as he desires to interpret it. In reference to drilling near Mackay the Honourable Member knows that a commitment was made by the Government five years ago and that the Government does not repudiate agreements."

WITHDRAWALS FROM TRUST ACCOUNTS
OF GERIATRIC PATIENTS, TOWNSVILLE
GENERAL HOSPITAL

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

(1) Further to my Question of October 18, 1968, what was the collective amount withdrawn from the trust accounts of people who occupied beds in the geriatric ward at the Townsville General Hospital at any time during the period November 1, 1968 to August 15, 1969?

(2) What was the collective amount withdrawn for the period January 1, 1968 to November 1, 1968?

(3) What number of people was involved in each period?

Answers:—

(1) "\$4,974.03."

(2) "\$5,658.64."

(3) "In respect of the period November 1, 1968 to August 15, 1969, twelve persons were involved and for the period January 1, 1968 to November 1, 1968, fourteen."

AUSTRALIAN EQUITY IN UTAH
CONSTRUCTION CO.

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

Is he aware that before the 1969 General Election Utah Construction, the company controlling the Goonyella coal enterprise, announced that it would make a local share issue? If so, what are the details of this issue and what percentage of shares will be available to Australians and at what face value?

Answer:—

"I am aware of this announcement. I am informed it is still the company's objective to bring Australian equity participation into its Queensland coal activities."

RAIL TRANSPORT OF CATTLE, FORSAYTH
AND MUNGANA LINES

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

How many cattle were trucked in 1967, 1968 and 1969 to date, from Forsayth, Einasleigh, Mt. Surprise, Mungana and Almaden?

Answer:—

	" Financial Years ended 30th June		
	1967	1968	1969
Forsayth	9,230	11,608	13,691
Einasleigh	2,425	5,996	3,653
Mount Surprise	11,388	4,476	7,704
Mungana	10,861	14,693	10,988
Almaden	672	1,004	620

REMOVAL OF TAILINGS, IRVINEBANK
STATE TREATMENT WORKS

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

Further to my previous Questions relating to the removal of tailings from the Loudon Dam—

- (1) Have any tailings been removed and, if so, what quantity?
- (2) What was the original date for the commencement of their removal and what were the subsequent dates?

(3) If none have been removed, what action does he intend to take to have the contract completed?

(4) How much has the successful tenderer paid to the Department for the tailings?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "Within 200 days of July 12, 1966. Commencing date since extended to July 15, 1967, then July 1, 1968, and July 1, 1969."

(3) "Consideration is being given to calling tenders again."

(4) "\$2,000 was lodged as a guarantee."

HOUSES FOR ABORIGINES, MITCHELL
RIVER AND EDWARD RIVER

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

With reference to houses for Aborigines at (a) Mitchell River and (b) Edward River—

- (1) How many have been built since January 1, 1968?
- (2) How many new houses are needed for those not provided with new homes since the 1964 cyclone?
- (3) How many built since the cyclone have been provided, and how many remain to be provided with fly-screening?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) Seven and three others under construction. (b) Seven and three others under construction."

(2 and 3) "A survey has indicated that there is a need for more homes on both Mitchell River and Edward River and as I have already made known, specifications are in the course of preparation to provide a further fifteen homes for Mitchell River and ten homes for Edward River. When these are completed the position will again be reviewed, but as I have indicated to the Honourable Member, the needs of Mitchell River and Edward River must be considered in the light of existent circumstances and equally pressing needs at many

other centres throughout the State. Consequently, although the question of additional homes and their fly-screening, as well as the fly-screening of existing residences is constantly under review, the Department considers that the provision of adequate housing takes priority over universal fly-screening in the North and West of Queensland, where this amenity is desirable but, for financial reasons, cannot be actively pursued at this time."

RESIGNATIONS OF RESIDENT MEDICAL
OFFICERS, TOWNSVILLE GENERAL
HOSPITAL

Dr. Crawford, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

In view of his Reply on August 20 to Questions regarding the resident staff of the Townsville Hospital, which flatly states that these doctors are guilty of serious ethical, moral and professional misdemeanours—

(1) What inquiries were conducted on the basis of the allegations he made and what evidence was offered at such inquiries, if any?

(2) What form of judicial or other duly constituted administrative finding, if any, was made to substantiate his charges?

(3) If no proper inquiries were held, no formal evidence heard and no form of judicial findings made, will he apologise to the House for the ruinous effects of his statements on the social and professional standing of all medical staff concerned?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "In my reply on August 20 to questions regarding the resident staff of the Townsville Hospital, I indicated that over a period six resident medical officers had resigned from the staff of that hospital. Of these, one, a third year resident, had moved into private practice. Of the others, three had resigned following reprimands by the Medical Superintendent, and the remaining two had been asked to resign following the receipt of evidence of serious misdemeanours. It is assumed that the Honourable Member's enquiries are directed to the circumstances of these latter two resignations. I am advised that the Medical Superintendent of Townsville Hospital reported to the Townsville Hospitals Board that he had asked the two resident medical officers to resign and related to the Board the reasons he had done so. The chairman of the Hospitals Board, who is a senior stipendiary magistrate, has advised that the Board regarded both incidents as being of a domestic nature and falling primarily within the province of the Medical Superintendent. There was no need to call a special Board meeting to deal with the problem, nor any need for any judicial enquiry. The resident medical officers

concerned later made to the Director-General of Health and Medical Services admissions which confirmed the grounds upon which the Medical Superintendent had acted. Arrangements were then made for both doctors to be appointed to other hospitals in Queensland so that they could complete their compulsory pre-registration year and have an opportunity to rehabilitate themselves. Any further controversy will undoubtedly prejudice their efforts to achieve this rehabilitation, and I register an earnest plea to the Honourable Member for Wavell to refrain from creating further difficulties for these two young doctors for whom, notwithstanding all the circumstances, I have some measure of sympathy. With particular reference to part (3) of the Honourable Member's Question let me say that the present situation is not of my making. It is the result of Dr. Crawford's ill-advised intrusion into the affairs of the Townsville Hospitals Board and the reaction it produced from the Honourable Member for Townsville South. I therefore flatly reject any suggestion that I owe any apology about this matter."

ALLEGED SMUGGLING, TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS

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

Has he received any reports that smuggled goods from New Guinea are being sold on any of the Torres Strait Island reserves and, if so, will he give details?

Answer:—

"I have not received any such reports but I am concerned at just what prompts the Honourable Member to ask this Question and can only assume that he has some information of smuggling. In view of my particular interest and responsibility for the Torres Strait Area, and his responsibility as a citizen of the Commonwealth and a Member of this House, I feel I must invite him to furnish me with details so that the allegations can be fully investigated and appropriate action taken through the relevant authorities."

MINISTERIAL VISIT TO CAPE YORK

PENINSULA AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS

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

(1) Further to his Answer to my Question of August 21, if he and the Director, Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs, were carrying out their responsibilities, what was the reason for the presence of the Country Party candidate for Cook?

(2) As I have been advised that many Torres Strait Islanders and Aborigines believed that the Director's presence at Country Party election meetings signified departmental approval of the candidate, does this action prejudice the traditional impartiality of the Public Service?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "I am horrified and shocked that the Honourable Member would direct such a question, with its obvious imputations and reflections on a senior officer of the Public Service, particularly as the Honourable Member has also been a member of the Public Service. The facts are that a Country Party candidate accompanied me on a trip, and I invited him in my capacity of Minister-in-Charge of the Department as I did on one similar occasion when a Labour Party candidate, in the person of the Honourable Member, accompanied me. Because of the remoteness of the electorate and the difficulty of travel and because of my sympathetic nature, had the Honourable Member been sufficiently interested to have approached me he might have had the opportunity of travelling with me on a second trip. In fact, one other candidate did do this and was extended the courtesy of an invitation to join my party, which included the Country Party candidate, but he declined for personal reasons, thus there can be no suggestion of any sinister intent in any of the visits. I repeat my feelings of repugnance at the unwarranted imputations against the Director, and the fact that he accompanied me. It is quite obvious that the Honourable Member, is, as usual, blindly following the party dictate in this question because there is nothing original in the theme at all. Had he been sufficiently interested in his electorate to even inquire of events during the election only three short years ago, he would surely have known that the then Leader of the Opposition accused the Director of like activities on behalf of an independent candidate—accusations shown publicly to be false, of course, to the embarrassment of the Leader. Let me say that the Director is esteemed, not only by the Government which respects him as an impartial and loyal officer, but had the Honourable Member been aware of the feelings of his electorate, particularly amongst Islanders and Aborigines, he would realise that during nearly thirty years close association, the Director has earned the respect of Aborigines and Islanders because of his impartiality and the fact that on every occasion he has been requested to advise on party political matters he has deliberately insisted that party politics are matters for personal choice and judgment. The Honourable Member will no doubt recall that at Aurukun when the Honourable Member and a Country Party candidate joined me on a public platform to address the Aurukun people, on my invitation to join the group the Director declined, indicating his desire to be totally impartial and stating his view that he is employed by the Government and not by a political party. In my experience he has preserved this image, and the Honourable Member would be well advised to acquire a more real appreciation of the Islanders

and Aborigines whose electorate he represents if he wishes to gain their votes in future, because apparently he imagines that they are so naive and ignorant that they cannot make up their own minds in political matters. In my experience I have found both Islanders and Aborigines to be people who are quite capable of determining the merits and demerits of a situation, and I feel that the Honourable Member's Question is insulting to the Islander and Aboriginal groups within his electorate. Let me say further that the Government has the highest respect for the impartiality of the Public Service, and absolutely refutes any suggestion of party political bias on the part of the Director or the vast majority of public servants. I am reluctant to mention this but the Honourable Member's attitude compels that I remind him of a recent occasion when the Director personally went to considerable trouble to ensure information was conveyed to the Honourable Member to avoid a situation which could have and would have been embarrassing publicly to the Honourable Member. Surely this is some slight indication of impartiality. As the Honourable Member is young to this House, may I suggest that as a former public servant he should be amongst the first to defend the traditions of the Service rather than hope to embark upon a political career originating in a smear campaign based on false premises, because the electors of Queensland, including the Islanders and Aborigines, are quite perceptive in their judgment and will speedily terminate a career, no matter how promising, if the advocate is only interested in politically scoring off persons unable to defend themselves in this House."

SCHOOL OF THE AIR, CHARTERS TOWERS

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

(1) Is he aware that there is a distinct possibility of the Royal Flying Doctor Base being moved from Charters Towers?

(2) Should this eventuate, will he give an assurance that the School of the Air, which functions satisfactorily from this base, will continue to operate from Charters Towers?

Answers:—

(1) "I am aware that the Queensland Section of the Royal Flying Doctor Service has decided in principle that the Charters Towers Base should be transferred to Cairns. The final decision to do this has not yet been taken."

(2) "Schools of the Air are dependent technically upon the broadcasting and transmitting facilities of Royal Flying Doctor Service Bases, and cannot function independently of such Bases. Officers of my Department are giving their attention

in conference with representatives of the Royal Flying Doctor Service to the report of a recent communications survey which affirms that the proposals under consideration will not in any way interfere with the provision of the School of the Air facilities. When this report has been fully considered, a determination concerning the Charters Towers School of the Air will be made."

AUTHORITIES TO PROSPECT, KYNUNA OPAL FIELD

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

In the interests of the small prospector, will he refuse to grant any further authorities to prospect for gems in Queensland and the Kynuna opal field in particular?

Answer:—

"I desire to assure the Honourable Member that I am at all times conscious of the needs of the small gem prospector and rockhound. Although large size titles have been held or sought on gem fields, I have arranged for suitable areas to be set aside for small operators. This was done at Agate Creek where only claims can be held over an area of some 39 square miles. The same action was taken in respect of gem bearing areas in the Anakie, Willows, Glenalva localities, where areas aggregating some 158 square miles have been similarly set aside. In respect of Kynuna, similar action has already been initiated and the company holding the Authority to Prospect has been informed that before an area can be taken to lease, prospectors will have sole use of some 10 square miles. The Government wishes to attract tourists, prospectors and amateur gem hunters to the gem fields and therefore I am always prepared to consider any concrete proposal from persons or organisations for the reservation of suitable areas for gem fossicking and small-scale mining. I feel that in these circumstances further action at this stage is not necessary."

TENNIS COURTS, BUNDABERG HIGH SCHOOL; NEW HIGH SCHOOL, NORTH BUNDABERG

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

(1) Has consideration been given by his Department to the replacement of the Parents and Citizens' Association's tennis courts at the Bundaberg High School, which were demolished to make space available for the building of the new Commonwealth science block? If not, when will some move be made to provide new tennis courts for the students?

(2) When will consideration be given to the building of a new high school for North Bundaberg to relieve the present conditions of overcrowded temporary classrooms and substandard army huts at the Bundaberg High School?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes. Action is now being taken to acquire additional land on which to build the new tennis courts."

(2) "The unsatisfactory features of the accommodation at the Bundaberg High School are recognised and will be removed as funds become available. The erection of a new high school at North Bundaberg has been considered. It is felt that, at present, no secondary students in the Bundaberg area are inconvenienced by lack of secondary school facilities. It was found, during the planning of the current works programme, that all available funds were required for projects with a more urgent priority. The erection of a new high school at North Bundaberg, however, will be kept under constant review."

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS, COMMONWEALTH WATER RESOURCES PROGRAMME

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

In view of the statement on August 12, 1969, by Mr. Fairbairn, Minister for National Development in the Commonwealth Parliament, that four applications for grants for projects under the Commonwealth Water Resources programme were received from Queensland, namely, Emerald-Nogoa River scheme \$25.2 million, Kolan River scheme \$24.8 million, Burnett-Isis scheme \$30.0 million, Bowen-Broken River scheme \$25.6 million, and that reports were received only on the first two projects—

(1) Was the Minister for National Development correct in his statement?

(2) Why did the Minister refer to the Kolan-Burnett-Isis scheme as two different schemes?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes, as at the time when 'the so-called short list of projects selected for closer examination was compiled' which was about May 1968. Two separate schemes to serve the Bundaberg Region were then envisaged, namely, the Kolan and Burnett-Isis Schemes whilst the detailed investigations for the Burnett-Isis Scheme were still in progress."

(2) "The comprehensive report on 'Water Conservation, Underground Water Supplies and Irrigation—Bundaberg Region' superseded the original Kolan Scheme. When it was transmitted to the Commonwealth, Queensland's request for assistance was changed from a request for assistance for

two separate schemes to one for assistance for the comprehensive Bundaberg Region Project. There can be no doubt that Mr. Fairbairn is aware that Queensland is now seeking financial assistance for the comprehensive Bundaberg Scheme in lieu of the original Kolan and Burnett-Isis Schemes."

FABRICATED STEEL FOR GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, NORTH QUEENSLAND

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

(1) Are steel fabricated trusses or bearers used in the construction of schools and other State buildings purchased in Brisbane by the State Stores Board or other instrumentality and railed to the North?

(2) If so, why cannot these fabricated bearers be made in North Queensland and why are North Queensland steel fabricators not given an opportunity to quote or tender for them?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "North Queensland steel fabricators are given opportunity by invitation of quotations in the press to submit their quotations for supply of my Department's stock holding requirements of steel fabricated portal frames."

WIDENING OF FORGAN SMITH BRIDGE, MACKAY

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

Further to his recent announcement of the proposed alterations to the Forgan Smith Bridge—

(1) Will the work be carried out by the Main Roads Department or will the Mackay City Council be the constructing authority as for previous work on the bridge?

(2) Will the Mackay City Council and the Pioneer Shire Council be responsible for any of the cost of the proposal?

(3) How long will the proposed widening remain effective?

(4) Has his Department investigated alternative sites for additional crossings of the Pioneer River between Mackay and North Mackay?

(5) If not, will the proposed regional survey of roads in the Mackay district cover investigations into the possibilities of additional crossings of the Pioneer River within the urban area?

Answers:—

(1) "No decision has as yet been made."

(2) "As the Main Roads Department is taking over a footpath for traffic purposes, it is proposed that the cost of the new footpath will be free of charge to the Mackay City Council and the Pioneer Shire Council."

(3 to 5) "The Answers to these Questions will depend on the findings of the transportation survey which will shortly be started. One of the specific matters to be investigated is the need for and the location of any additional crossings of the Pioneer River and the priorities for construction. I can assure the Honourable Member that, whatever the findings of the transportation survey, the widening of Forgan Bridge as is now proposed is necessary to cope with the tremendous development which is taking place in North Mackay and the traffic to the Harbour, and will provide a very great improvement in traffic conditions especially at the Mackay end of the bridge."

LOCAL AUTHORITY BOUNDARIES

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

(1) Is he aware that—(a) disputes have arisen between many cities in Queensland and their surrounding shires on the question of boundaries, (b) development projects such as Blackwater and Goonyella have created boundary problems between many shires, (c) as at the last Commonwealth census, 70 of the State's 112 shires have had decreases in population, (d) many local authority areas in Queensland have changed considerably since their creation in aspects such as types of industry, means of transport and dependency for commerce and (e) many Queensland local authorities are experiencing difficulties in forward planning because of boundary restrictions?

(2) If so, will he give consideration to the setting-up in Queensland of an independent boundaries tribunal to investigate the anomalies of local authority boundaries?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The matters raised by the Honourable Member are presently under consideration."

ENFORCEMENT OF PACKAGING REGULATIONS

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

(1) What is the number of complaints and/or prosecutions made in relation to false packaging since the implementation of legislation controlling same?

(2) Is any departmental check made periodically to ascertain whether the packaging regulations are being complied with?

(3) What is the name of the appropriate department which handles such enquiries?

(4) What is the number of personnel in this department?

Answers:—

(1) "None. The appointed day for the operation of 'standardisation provisions' is January 1, 1970, for packing and May 1, 1970, for selling; for 'marking provisions' May 1, 1970; for 'prohibited expressions' November 1, 1969."

(2) "Yes and packers in Queensland have been visited and are being continually advised of requirements of the legislation."

(3) "The Sub-Department of Weights and Measures of the Department of Labour and Tourism."

(4) "The strength of the office of the Chief Inspector of Machinery, Scaffolding and Weights and Measures, and Occupational Safety within my Department is 191. This includes the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, 24 Inspectors of Weights and Measures and four Cadet Inspectors of Weights and Measures; of these, ten Inspectors are in Country districts."

SALE OF UNROADWORTHY VEHICLES

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

(1) Over the last four years, how many vehicles offered for sale by Government departments have been in an unroadworthy condition?

(2) Over the same period, have many vehicles offered for sale in used-car yards been found to be unroadworthy?

(3) What conditions do the Government impose on used-car dealers, where cars are found to be defective, before allowing such cars to be sold?

Answers:—

(1) "This information is not available to my Department."

(2) "Repair Orders were issued against 4,131 motor vehicles of which 899 were unroadworthy. Approximately 500 of these were de-registered. Spot checks by motor-vehicle inspectors of these yards are a continuing function."

(3) "Defective vehicles have to be repaired to the satisfaction of the Department and are re-inspected before being sold."

ALLOCATION OF COMMONWEALTH
GRANT FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES

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

(1) Has the format for the distribution of the Commonwealth library grants to schools been finalised? If so, what amounts are available to (a) secondary and (b) primary schools?

(2) In what manner is the finance to be distributed in these school libraries, on (i) buildings, (ii) fittings and (iii) books, etc.?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes. (a) \$977,100 per annum for the triennium January 1, 1969 to December 31, 1971, for Government secondary schools; \$337,800 per annum for the triennium January 1, 1969 to December 31, 1971, for non-Government Secondary schools. (b) The *States Grants (Secondary Schools Libraries) Act* 1968 stipulates that the grants will apply only to those schools at which some or all of the students who attend are taught at a secondary level of education. Consequently, primary schools will not receive any assistance from this grant."

(2) "In 1969, allocations of the grant to state secondary schools are as follows:—\$658,900 for buildings; \$60,000 for furniture; and \$258,200 for books stocks in all State high schools and secondary departments."

INCAPACITY BENEFITS, PUBLIC SERVICE
SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

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

(1) How many State public servants were granted sick leave without pay last year?

(2) Of these, how many were not paid incapacity benefits from their superannuation cover?

(3) Has any circular been distributed amongst public servants explaining to them their entitlement to financial assistance from superannuation once their paid sick leave has expired? If so, when and if not, will this matter be given urgent attention?

Answers:—

(1) "This information is not readily available and to obtain it would involve considerable clerical time, the expenditure on which is not considered justified."

(2) "Incapacity benefits arising from the granting of sick leave without pay are paid to all officers who claim and are entitled to such benefits."

(3) "When the present Superannuation Scheme was introduced in 1959, the Public Service Superannuation Board arranged for the printing of an Explanatory Memorandum booklet outlining the Scheme and Departments were requested to furnish a copy of this booklet to each officer and to each new appointee who was eligible to contribute to the Public Service Superannuation Fund. The booklet included information to the effect that incapacity benefit is payable to a contributor to the Public Service Superannuation Fund who is on sick leave of absence without salary. Departments were also requested to make available a form of application for incapacity allowance to each officer granted sick leave without pay who is a contributor to the Public Service Superannuation Fund. Similar action was taken in 1965 when salaried officers of the Railway Department, Hospitals Boards, and certain other groups of officers were required to contribute to the Fund. The attention of Departments is periodically drawn to the above requests, the last such reminder being forwarded to all Departments on June 13, 1969."

RETENTION OF MARRIED WOMEN
IN PUBLIC SERVICE

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

(1) Is the new regulation covering the continued employment of married women in the State Public Service being flouted?

(2) How many women who have married have made application to remain in the State Public Service since the regulation became effective and how many have been accepted?

Answers:—

(1) "Applications by female officers of the Public Service who intend to marry and desire to be continued in permanent employment after marriage have been determined in accordance with the appropriate Public Service Regulations."

(2) "The numbers of female officers who applied to be continued after marriage and who were so continued are as under—

	No. who applied	No. continued
Public Service (excluding Teaching Service)	82	80
Teaching Service	151	147"

PROPOSED SILKWOOD DRAINAGE
SCHEME

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

As the farmers in Spanos Road and Stevenson's Road areas in Mourilyan Electorate are under extreme difficulties with water covering the majority of planted areas and most objections to the proposed Silkwood drainage scheme have been withdrawn, when will the scheme be commenced?

Answer:—

"A proposed Drainage Scheme for the Silkwood (Spanos Road and Stevenson's Road) Area was submitted to landholders in August, 1968. Twenty of the 44 landholders (45 per cent.) objected to this scheme at that time. Because of the large number of objections the Irrigation Commission deferred further action on this scheme, although inquiries into individual objections were initiated. Early in August, 1969, a group of 10 landholders indicated withdrawal of their objections, but two further landholders lodged objections. The current situation is that there are 12 objectors out of 44 (27 per cent.) landholders involved in the scheme. Under these circumstances consideration is being given by the Irrigation Commission to the desirability of recommending to the Governor in Council that the scheme be proceeded with, possibly subject to minor modification. If this proposal is proceeded with, administrative requirements for election of the Board, raising of funds, preparation of detailed designs and calling of tenders for construction works would delay commencement of construction for a minimum of three and up to five months."

AUTONOMY FOR INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY

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

(1) Is it proposed to grant autonomy to the Queensland Institute of Technology? If so, when will autonomy be granted?

(2) What will be the position of staff members in regard to superannuation and other Public Service benefits after autonomy?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "A measure of autonomy is planned, but enabling legislation is required before it can be granted. It is anticipated that autonomy will be granted during the triennium which begins in 1970. The position of staff members with respect to superannuation and other Public Service conditions is receiving consideration. I am unable, however, at this time, to make a definite statement on the matter."

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE

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

What was the expenditure from (a) Consolidated Revenue, (b) Loan Fund and (c) all State Government sources in (i) Brisbane metropolitan area and (ii) the rest of the State, for each of the years 1956-57, 1959-60, 1963-64, 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69?

Answer:—

"Expenditure is not dissected on the desired geographical basis and the expense of attempting such a dissection would not be justified."

DISPOSAL OF UNCLAIMED GOODS

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

(1) Is there any statute in this State which will allow for the removal or disposal of unclaimed goods from a property purchased by a person who is unable to find the owner of the goods?

(2) Does "The Disposal of Uncollected Goods Act of 1967" apply in these matters or does section 39 of the *Justices Act 1886-1968* or section 67 of "The Police Acts, 1937 to 1964" apply?

(3) Does section 101 (1) of "The Public Curator Acts, 1915 to 1957," give the Public Curator power to take action under these circumstances and does it completely cover a person who may be inconvenienced when he purchases a property and finds that there is a boat under construction on the premises?

(4) Has he received any request for a provision in the statute law to prevent people being inconvenienced in this regard?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "Yes, section 101 of The Public Curator Acts generally and particularly where there is an owner and it is not known who he is."

(3) "No."

(4) "See Answer to Question (1). Similar matters are raised from time to time but they have been fewer since "The Disposal of Uncollected Goods Act of 1967" has been passed."

TOOWOOMBA-HELIDON CO-ORDINATED
BUS SERVICE

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

(1) Were tenders called for the Toowoomba-Helidon Co-ordinated Bus Service for this financial year? If not, why not?

(2) If tenders were called, how many were received, who was the successful tenderer and what was the tender price?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "No. The present five-year contract terminates on June 30, 1971."

FINES, BREATHALYSER TESTS

Mr. Bousen, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister or Justice,—

What amount has been collected in fines from Queenslanders since August 1, 1968, for offences involving the breathalyser test?

Answer:—

"No separate record is kept by any State Department, which will enable this amount to be readily ascertained. Information obtained from the Police Department reveals that from August 1968 to July 1969, a total of 2,139 such cases were before the Courts at 14 towns in this State."

DOCTORS' FEES, BREATHALYSER TESTS

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

(1) How much has been paid to medical practitioners in Queensland to conduct breathalyser tests since August 1, 1968?

(2) Who are the doctors who have received payment and how much has been paid to each?

Answers:—

(1) "The amount paid from August 1, 1968, to July 31, 1969, to medical practitioners for breathalyser tests was \$48,380."

(2) "Details of the above payment are—

Medical Practitioner	Amount Paid
	\$
J. B. Lynch	13,360.00
B. S. Pursey	6,800.00
A. J. Tonakie	3,780.00
M. M. Harvey	2,040.00
R. Green	1,220.00
H. P. Palethorpe	20.00
Redlands Clinic	1,620.00
M. Hishon	1,360.00
B. McMenamin	880.00
J. P. McKeering	1,200.00
E. Margulies	1,900.00
J. W. Follent	1,160.00
L. P. Kelly	40.00
A. Farrow	40.00
G. K. Hawkins	1,260.00
G. A. S. Douglas	20.00
G. G. Stuart	380.00
J. A. Stephenson	260.00
H. S. Patterson	340.00
J. F. Howes	240.00
P. McTaggart	140.00
W. Mirosh	140.00
J. A. M. Shera	100.00
T. B. Walker	160.00
D. I. McCracken	2,440.00
J. A. R. Lockwood	140.00
R. D. Powe	220.00
J. F. O'Duffy	60.00
D. Everingham	120.00
J. E. Rees	1,880.00
L. Halberstater & J. K. Joyce	900.00
C. R. Joyner	260.00
D. E. Milliner	900.00
J. C. Ramsay	1,420.00
S. P. Leong	1,500.00
Barkly Medical Centre	20.00
P. Mareudy	20.00
J. E. G. Channon	40.00
Total	\$48,380.00

Honourable Members should also be made conversant with the fact that because of my Government's awareness of the imbalance in the amount of fees paid to private medical practitioners a Cabinet-appointed committee has examined the position and a final report is now in hand."

TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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

Will he give details of the numbers of teacher scholarships and fellowships to be offered next year?

Answer:—

"2,305 Teacher Scholarships and Fellowships will be available as from the beginning of 1970. Details are:—Primary Scholarships—1,300. Two-thirds of these will be of three years' duration. Secondary Scholarships—815, made up as follows:—General, 615; Commercial, 80; Homecraft, 90; Art, 30. Fellowships—190, made up as follows:—University, 100; Institute of Technology, 75; Conservatorium of Music, 15."

LIBRARY STAFF, INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY

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

(1) How many library staff are employed in institutes of technology?

(2) How many are (a) qualified and (b) unqualified?

(3) What qualifications are needed for library staff to be considered qualified?

(4) Are unqualified library staff not confirmed in their appointment until they are qualified?

(5) What qualifications are unqualified staff requested to obtain?

(6) What facilities or courses are available for unqualified staff to obtain qualifications?

(7) Is he aware of difficulties facing such staff in finding suitable courses of study?

(8) Is he aware of the financial disadvantage which faces unqualified staff who are studying for advancement, when their salaries are compared with similarly employed staff in other places?

(9) Is there to be any revision of his Department's requirements and, if so, what are they?

Answers:—

(1) "Eighteen full-time and one part-time."

(2) "Qualifications vary according to the level of librarian position held. A degree plus the Registration Certificate of the Library Association of Australia or its equivalent is required to reach the top level of Librarian—Scale A in the Institutes. For Librarians—Scale B the Registration Certificate of the Australian Library Association is required. For Library Assistant matriculation is required. Of the 19 employed in institute libraries one holds a university degree plus registration certificate; two hold registration certificates; four hold university degrees and have partially completed registration certificate requirements; twelve are studying university subjects or registration certificate subjects."

(3) "The Registration Certificate of the Library Association of Australia or its equivalent is the basic qualification for a librarian."

(4) "Librarian Assistants must pass in two of the first three papers of the Registration Certificate before being confirmed in their appointment. Librarians—Scale A who are graduates must pass in the first three papers of the certificate before their appointments are confirmed."

(5) "See (4) above."

(6) "The Registration Certificate of the Australian Library Association requires passes in nine subjects. These subjects may be undertaken by private study. Tutorial classes in certain library subjects are conducted at the Central Technical College. Those students who are not graduates and are seeking promotion to Librarian Scale A may undertake University studies as evening or external students."

(7) "Yes."

(8) "Yes."

(9) "Consideration is being given to the creation of courses for librarians at the Institute of Technology, Brisbane. Once such courses are established they will undoubtedly be accepted towards qualification requirements."

ESTABLISHMENT OF PINEAPPLE CANNERY, CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

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

In view of the unsatisfactory answer given to the honourable member for Callide about the economics of a pineapple cannery for Central Queensland, will he have the feasibility report tabled in Parliament so that all interested parties can study it?

Answer:—

"No. This is a domestic departmental document and such documents are not normally tabled in Parliament."

ALLEGED CHARGING OF RAILWAY DEPARTMENT FOR PRIVATE PRINTING

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

(1) Was the printing cost of a number of invitation cards for a private function at a Brisbane hotel charged to the Railway Department?

(2) Did the person concerned make a refund to the Department after the error was discovered by a Government auditor? If so, what was the amount and who was the person concerned?

(3) When was the original account charged to the Department?

(4) When was the error discovered?

(5) When was repayment made?

Answer:—

(1 to 5) "The circumstances are not known to me."

USE OF COMPOUND 1080 IN ERADICATION OF DINGOES

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

(1) Have there been many protests against the use of the poison 1080, used in the eradication of dingoes?

(2) If so, (a) how many protests have been received, (b) how many complaints, as distinct from protests, have been received, (c) what have been the bases of the complaints and (d) what is the Departmental attitude on the use of this poison?

Answers:—

(1) "No. Those received have been far outweighed by the large number of messages praising the scheme and the increasing number of applications by landholders throughout the State to participate."

(2) "(a) Ten protests have been received. (b) Six of these have been complaints from landholders, one each from the following Shire Areas:—Bungil, Taroom, Banana, Jericho, Emerald and Landsborough. (c) Complaints have been based on claims that domestic dogs have been poisoned on properties adjoining others where Compound 1080 baits were laid. In addition, it has been claimed that birdlife has been adversely affected. The latter claim has been refuted conclusively by the hundreds of reports to the contrary furnished by participating landholders and is not supported by interstate and overseas investigations. (d) Based on the great number of favourable reports by individual landholders, Shire Councils and pastoral organisations and the sharp reduction in dingo bonus payments in eleven adjoining Shires baited last year, the Co-ordinating Board representative of all rural Local Authorities and all the major rural producer organisations, strongly supports the scheme. The undertaking is one

of co-operation between the Co-ordinating Board and individual landholders and is aimed at assisting the latter to comply with the provisions of "The Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Acts, 1944 to 1967," requiring the laying of poisoned baits on all dingo infested lands during the months of May, June and July of each year."

SUBSIDIES ON EQUIPMENT FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

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

(1) What subsidy is received by
(a) independent primary schools and
(b) independent secondary schools on
(i) duplicators, (ii) typewriters, (iii) television sets, (iv) overhead projectors, (v) library books, (vi) pianos, (vii) lawn mowers, (viii) microscopes, (ix) movie projectors, (x) slide projectors, (xi) playground equipment and (xii) sporting equipment?

(2) Are independent schools permitted to purchase school needs from the State Stores?

(3) Are independent schools permitted to purchase the new primary mathematics text books in bulk from the Education Department and, if so, is a discount given?

Answers:—

(1) "Subsidy is available to independent schools on the purchase of (a) 16 m.m. movie projectors; (b) 35 m.m. film strip projectors; (c) Radiograms; (d) Television receivers; on the same basis as for State schools."

(2) "Yes."

(3) "Primary Mathematics text books are not available for purchase from the Department."

NET LICENCES AND PRODUCTION, FISHING INDUSTRY

Mr. Davies for **Mr. Wright**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Primary Industries,—

(1) How many licences were issued in Queensland to (a) master fishermen and (b) employee fishermen during each of the last five years?

(2) How many such licences are at present held by aliens?

(3) How many exclusive licences have been issued during each of the last five years?

(4) How many persons not holders of either a master fisherman's licence or an employee fisherman's licence have been fined during each of the last five years for (a) having possession of a net, (b) using or assisting in using a net for taking fish for sale and (c) using or assisting in using a net for taking fish other than for sale?

(5) What was the yearly catch along the Queensland coast by Australian master fishermen during each of the last five years?

(6) What was the known yearly catch by Japanese fishing interests along the Queensland coast during each of the last five years?

Answers:—

(1, 3, 4 and 5) "I would refer the Hon. Member to the Annual Reports of the Department of Harbours and Marine and the Fish Board."

(2) "Nil."

(6) "No information available."

SEGREGATION OF INMATES, BRISBANE PRISON

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

(1) What is the present practice with regard to the segregation of (a) first offenders and (b) young offenders from recidivists at the Boggo Road Prison?

(2) If no such practice exists, have plans to meet this need been formulated and, if so, what are they?

(3) Is it a present practice to segregate known homosexuals from young prisoners? If so, how is such segregation achieved?

Answers:—

(1) "Due to the obsolescence of Brisbane Prison from a physical and structural sense it is not practicable to provide proper segregation of first offenders and young offenders from recidivists. However, so far as is practicable first offenders are segregated from older recidivists. Many of our recidivists are young offenders as there are very few old men, apart from vagrants, in prison. Some of our worst offenders are young men and these add to the difficulty. However, the broad principle applied, so far as is practicable, is to keep first offenders separate from repeated offenders, or under close supervision in selective association, where this is not practicable. Many people in prison for the first time are not actual first offenders. The number of actual first offenders received into prison does not form a very high percentage of the total receptions."

(2) "The practice of segregation cannot be implemented in full, but in the rebuilding plans for Brisbane Prison improved areas of segregation will be provided to give a practicable effect to classification and segregation. Prisons built by this Government have been modernly designed to provide full opportunity for segregation of various classes of offenders."

(3) "It has never been the practice in Queensland to segregate known homosexuals. However, known homosexuals are placed in such areas of work or of exercise where they are under complete supervision, and the practice of homosexuality in prisons over the years has been restricted almost to the extent of non-existence, and when it does occur the offenders are prosecuted in open Court. Most of the cases of homosexuality which have occurred in prison have occurred amongst young prisoners, some of whom have not had any previous history of homosexuality."

PAYMENT OF FEES FOR STUDENT AT
QUEENSLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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

(1) With regard to the case of Malcolm Richard Rowe, a senior student attending the Queensland Agricultural College at Lawes, is it a fact that his mother, a widow pensioner, will be or has been charged for college fees during this year and that his student allowance has been withdrawn because he has completed his third-year post-Junior course?

(2) Is this student still in attendance at the college?

(3) Has Malcolm Richard Rowe successfully completed all post-Junior courses which he has undertaken?

(4) Should the financial position of his widowed mother make it impossible for her to meet the expense of maintaining her son at the college, will this affect the son's prospects of matriculating for a university degree in subjects affecting primary industries?

(5) What action can this young lad now take to further his studies?

(6) What action can the mother now take to (a) have a student allowance granted for her son's senior year by the Government or (b) persuade the Government to relieve her of payment of college fees?

(7) Is higher education in this field to be the prerogative of those who are able to afford the cost as against this case where the student allowance has been used to complete a certificate course and where the young man can now be prevented from completing his matriculation because of a lack of Government sympathy?

Answers:—

(1) "This student failed in the old diploma course at the end of 1966. As a special concession he was permitted to enrol in the certificate course in 1967 with full privileges. Student allowance at away-from-home rate, amounting to \$164 was paid during 1966 and at the rate of \$208

per annum during 1967 and 1968. This allowance assisted in the payment of boarding fees during the three years. He completed the certificate course at the end of 1968, and was therefore not eligible for the payment of student allowance in 1969. Boarding fees have been charged but he was permitted to attend the college without payment of tuition fees."

(2) "Yes."

(3) "No. As I have indicated in reply (1) above he failed the first year of his course in 1966."

(4 to 6) "The one-year matriculation course now being undertaken by this student is available in Brisbane where a day-time class is conducted at the Evening Class Centre at Kelvin Grove. The student could therefore reside at home while undertaking the course. Should it be desired that he not continue at the Agricultural College, I am prepared to permit him to enrol at Kelvin Grove without payment of tuition fees."

(7) "This is not a fair interpretation of the Department's attitude in such cases. The position is that this student was not entitled on completion of one post Junior course, to a further extension of the payment of student allowance at the Agricultural College. His desire to change his course after early difficulties was sympathetically treated. As I have said earlier, if he does not wish to continue at the Agricultural College, he may attend day-time classes at Kelvin Grove without payment of tuition fees."

SPECIALIST SERVICES, HERVEY BAY
HOSPITAL

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

In view of the Government's stated policy of extension of medical services to the homes of aged people and considering the large number of aged persons, including those on social service pensions, residing in the Hervey Bay area, will he arrange for the extension of periodical specialist services to the Hervey Bay hospital to avoid the hardship of aged persons travelling to Maryborough hospital for these services?

Answer:—

"Whilst it is policy to appoint part-time specialists to country hospitals so that as many people as possible may avail themselves of their services, they are best appointed where special facilities such as pathology and X-ray departments are available. In cases of definite financial hardship and where the local superintendent has recommended the need for specialist services, the Department provides free transport to the nearest base hospital where these services are available."

REPOSSESSION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Mr. F. P. Moore for **Mrs. Jordan**, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Justice,—

With reference to repossession of motor vehicles—

(1) Is it legal for those firms carrying out repossessions to take a vehicle from the street without notice when the owner has temporarily parked it in a shopping area?

(2) Where and how can repossessions be carried out?

(3) What redress has the owner of the vehicle concerned in relation to private possessions which are in the vehicle taken by the people carrying out repossession?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "The right of the owner to repossession is governed by the hire purchase agreement. Before the goods can be repossessed notice of repossession must first be given as required by section 13 of *"The Hire Purchase Agreement Act of 1959,"* in most circumstances."

(3) "Either retake the goods or sue the person who has possession of them for the recovery of them or damages."

ISSUE OF CLOTHING, BRISBANE AND WACOL PRISONS

Mr. F. P. Moore for **Mrs. Jordan**, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Justice,—

With regard to Boggo Road and Wacol Prisons, what is the weekly issue to prisoners of (a) shirts, (b) underclothing, and (c) sheets?

Answer:—

(a to c) "There are no weekly issues, as such, of clothing at Brisbane Prison. When a prisoner enters the prison, he is issued with a complete set of clothing, including pyjamas, flannel undershirt if he wishes, and sox, but not underpants. Approximately half of the prisoners arrive in not wearing sox, and quite a number without footwear. This issue of clothing, generally, is exchanged for clean clothing at least weekly. Cooks, bakers, medical orderlies and a number of others have a change of clean clothes daily. Prisoners are inspected daily and if a prisoner's clothes are dirty he is directed to and receives a change of clothes immediately. If he requests a change of clothes this is also acknowledged and approved. Prisoners may wear underclothing on approval of the medical officers. This has been the practice for years. Sheets are not issued at Brisbane Prison, but clean pyjamas and pillow-cases are. Blankets are laundered frequently. In previous years under an A.L.P. Government prisoners were not issued with pyjamas or pillow-cases. At Wacol Prison where prisoners work longer days and work harder they are issued with two

full changes of clothing each week. Prisoners employed in the kitchen, bakery and dairy are issued with clean shirts daily and prisoners who may soil their shirts on a particular job are issued with a fresh shirt as, and when required, but not less frequently than twice weekly. All prisoners are inspected daily by senior officers and this is one point for observation. Underclothing is not a general issue but prisoners on request to, and approval by, the medical officer may wear underclothing. Each prisoner is issued with two clean sheets per week, clean pyjamas and a clean pillow-case."

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

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

(1) How many industrial accidents causing injuries were recorded in each of the years 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968 to the latest available date?

(2) How many of these caused (a) death and (b) permanent disabilities in each of these years?

(3) What were the major causes of these accidents?

(4) What was the time lost in calendar days during each year because of these accidents?

(5) How many of the injured in each of the periods were Government employees?

(6) In how many Acts are safety laws and regulations contained?

(7) (a) How many prosecutions were instituted under these Acts, (b) how many were successful and (c) who were the employers concerned?

Answers:—

(1) "1966-67, 42,758; 1967-68, 42,967; July-September 1968, 8,401."

(2) "(a) Death—1966-67, 80; 1967-68, 78; July-September 1968, 19; and (b) Permanent disability—1966-67, 902; 1967-68, 929; July-September 1968, 215."

(3) "Handling objects without machinery, 33 per cent.; falls, 20 per cent.; struck by moving objects, 14 per cent.; hand tools, 9 per cent.; striking against objects, 8 per cent.; using machinery, 5 per cent."

(4) "1966-67, 801,052 calendar days; 1967-68, 786,142 calendar days; July-September 1968, 153,214 calendar days."

(5) "The statistics for industrial accidents do not separate Government employees. The amount of computer time required to obtain this information would not be justified. (Information available to the Inter-departmental Standing Committee on Occupational Safety would indicate that in both 1966-67 and 1967-68, the lost time injuries were approximately 5,300.)"

(6) "Safety laws and regulations are included in the *Factories and Shops Act 1960-1968*, "*The Inspection of Machinery Acts, 1951 to 1966*," and "*The Inspection of Scaffolding Acts, 1915 to 1966*," which come within my purview. It is known that there are Acts administered by other Departments which contain safety requirements."

(7) "(a) 66; (b) 50; and (c) Ferro Construction Pty. Ltd., Beavis and Bartels Pty. Ltd., Frank Masinello, Kevin Bagnall, Warren Taber, Robert William Simpson, Peter Wieseler, Motel Chain Pty. Ltd., Neville Keith Collins, Donnell Joseph Dooian, Angelo Maorandi, Lincoln Contractors Pty. Ltd., Melwire (Qld) Pty. Ltd., Todd & Co. Pty. Ltd., Terazzo Tile Co. Pty. Ltd., George William Hatchett, Edward John Smith, A. H. Hodge & Son Ltd., Reginald Talbot Richards, J. Wilkinson & Sons Pty. Ltd., Ulf Selke. The other prosecutions included actions against an employee for a breach of the Safety Rules and against owners of motor vehicles under "The Inspection of Machinery Acts"."

SAFETY STANDARDS, MOTOR VEHICLE SEAT BELTS

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

(1) Has he studied the South Australian legislation with regard to safety standards of motor vehicle seat belts?

(2) Is he aware that the Royal Automobile Club of Queensland considers that this legislation is most satisfactory and could be used as a model for all States?

(3) As many seat belts on sale and also installed in certain vehicles do not meet with the requirements of the Standards Association, will he immediately introduce legislation based on the South Australian Act and thereby assist in reducing the tragic road toll?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "No."

(3) "The Queensland Traffic Regulations already provide that seat belts shall comply with the Australian standard for seat belt assemblies as issued by the Standards Association of Australia."

FINES AND REHABILITATION, DRUG-USERS

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

(1) How much has been collected by the Government in fines from drug-users and offenders in each of the years 1967-68 and 1968-69?

(2) Has any of this amount been spent on treating and rehabilitating drug-users? If so, how much and how has it been spent?

(3) If no money has been spent for rehabilitation purposes, what are the reasons?

Answers:—

(1) "Clerks of the Court are not required to maintain details of the amounts collected as penalties for each of the various types of offences or breaches of duty. The information requested by the Honourable Member could be obtained only by means of a lengthy examination of the records of each Court and the expense involved could not be justified."

(2 and 3) "The cost of treatment and rehabilitation of patients addicted to drugs is included in the overall costs of maintaining institutions where facilities and services for this purpose are provided. Such institutions are the Wacol Rehabilitation Clinic, the Wolston Park Hospital, the Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital at Chermiside, Lowson House, Royal Brisbane Hospital, and the Psychiatric Clinic in Mary Street. Separate costs of such treatment services are not kept by the Department of Health nor by the Hospitals Boards involved."

QUALIFICATIONS OF PUBLIC SERVICE JOURNALISTS

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

(1) How many journalists and photographers are employed by the State Public Service?

(2) Are they required to be members of the Australian Journalists' Association? If not, what check is made by the Government on their *bona fides* before employment?

Answers:—

(1) "There are 43 officers doing work of a journalistic and photographic nature in the State Public Service."

(2) "No. These positions are generally advertised with prescribed qualifications and applicants are required to submit evidence of their experience and suitability to a competent interviewing panel."

REST PERIODS, TOURIST COACH DRIVERS

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

(1) During the past twelve months have any drivers of Redline Coaches had their log-books checked to ensure they are receiving required rest periods?

(2) What prosecutions, if any, have been taken by the Department in this regard?

(3) Is there a regular check on bus companies performing charter, long-distance, and safari tours to ensure that the drivers are receiving required rest periods?

(4) What prosecutions, if any, have been taken by the Department in this regard?

(5) When routes and time-tables are submitted to the Transport Department for approval, what action is taken by the Department to ensure the safety of the travelling public and that time-tables can be adhered to and speed limits observed?

Answers:—

(1) "It is the duty of the driver of a vehicle to correctly complete the particulars in his authorised log book. Part of the duties of officers of the Department of Transport on patrol throughout the State is to check log books of drivers of both trucks and passenger coaches and submit reports of any breaches detected to the Commissioner. If a breach is not disclosed a report is not submitted."

(2) "In appropriate cases prosecution action is taken against the offending driver. A considerable amount of departmental time would be involved to search through the records for the past twelve months to identify any driver prosecuted as an employee driver of Redline Coaches."

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

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

(5) "Routes and timetables submitted to the Commissioner for Transport are carefully examined and amended where necessary before approval is given."

LAND BALLOTS, GOONYELLA AND HAY POINT AREAS

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

Regarding land areas or parts of areas concerned in the Goonyella and Hay Point projects—

(1) How many land ballots have been held in the past five years, when was each held and what area was involved?

(2) How many applicants were there and who was the successful applicant in each particular case?

Answers:—

(1) "None."

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

GRAIN STORAGE FACILITIES, STATE WHEAT BOARD

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

(1) What is the estimated harvest in Queensland this year of (a) wheat and (b) barley?

(2) What is the total capacity of permanent storage that can be provided by the State Wheat Board?

(3) What are the stocks of all grains currently stored by the Board?

(4) What extra storage capacity does the Board plan to build?

(5) When will this storage be available?

(6) In view of a trend indicating increased acreages, why has more not been done to provide storage?

Answers:—

(1) "(a and b) In view of the severe drought conditions, it is not possible to give a firm estimate of this year's wheat and barley harvest. If favourable rains are received within the next few weeks, the harvest could reach 32 million bushels of wheat and 8 million bushels of barley. However, it now appears unlikely that these figures will be realised."

(2) "The total capacity of permanent storage that can be provided by the State Wheat Board is 34.6 million bushels. In addition provision has been made for 3.5 million bushels on temporary open sites. In total a crop of 38.1 million bushels could be stored in bulk and bags from this year's harvest."

(3) "Stocks of grains currently in storage at State Wheat Board depots are 12.9 million bushels of wheat and 1.05 million bushels of barley."

(4 and 5) "The State Wheat Board plans to erect in addition 3 million bushels of pre-roofed temporary storage in the immediate future. This will be for use during the coming harvest and will increase total storage capacity to 41 million bushels. Plans are not yet finalised for additional permanent storage to be constructed in the current financial year."

(6) "The State Wheat Board has provided as much storage as possible within the financial resources available and as will be seen from the Answers to Questions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, storage will be adequate for the 1969 harvest including carryover."

CHILDREN AND YOUTH THEATRES

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

(1) Has any action been taken by the Director of Cultural Activities, Mr. Creedy, to foster a children and youth theatre? If not, why not?

(2) Has the Director taken a survey of the potential for a youth theatre in Brisbane? If not, why not?

(3) Has the Director been made aware of the Brisbane Children and Youth Theatre already in existence in Brisbane? If so, has he shown any tangible interest in it other than attending any of its productions merely as a member of the general public?

(4) Will he impress upon Mr. Creedy the urgent necessity of fostering and encouraging the development of children and youth theatres throughout the provincial cities and towns in Queensland?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes. A survey of the State's cultural resources and needs is at present being completed and special attention is being paid to children and youth theatre. The basic idea is that these activities shall be co-ordinated and integrated with adult theatre."

(2) "The interests of the youth are being safeguarded in the setting up of the Queensland Theatre Company. It is not intended at this early stage that there shall be a separate youth theatre."

(3) "The Director is aware of children and youth theatre activities already in existence in association with the little theatre movement and the activities of the Arts Council of Queensland, together with the college players. He has shown a tangible interest by attending rehearsals and discussing artistic and administration problems with officials."

(4) "In the terms of his appointment his attention was drawn especially to cultural activities of the youth of Queensland and, as general policy, he is proceeding deliberately towards encouraging such activities."

TRANSPORT OF FLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES

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

With reference to his statement in *The Courier-Mail* of August 15, concerning the implementation of new regulations covering the transport of flammable liquids,—

(1) On what date will the regulations come into operation?

(2) What are the particular movement times for tankers using the Victoria and Story Bridges?

(3) Are there any special regulations covering the transport of compressed gases, flammable solids and corrosive substances? If so, what are the details and, if not, will any be made? If not, why not?

(4) Have all drivers of such tankers been thoroughly trained in fire prevention and fire-fighting methods and, if not, why not?

(5) Will he table a copy of the new regulations covering the transport of flammable liquids?

Answers:—

(1) "The Regulations are now in operation."

(2) "This is not within the ambit of these Regulations."

(3) "No. Regulations to cover the substances mentioned are to be drafted in a similar form to those now covering flammable liquids."

(4) "The training of drivers in fire prevention is the responsibility of employers, and from information available oil companies do train their drivers in the use of fire extinguishers and other fire prevention procedures."

(5) "It would appear that the Honourable Member takes no interest in the business of the House. Otherwise he would be aware that these Regulations were tabled by me on August 19, 1969."

POLICY FOR FISHING INDUSTRY, GULF OF CARPENTARIA

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

What was the outcome of the meeting of Commonwealth and State officers held in Brisbane on May 15 last concerning the policy to be adopted in respect of fisheries in the Gulf of Carpentaria?

Answer:—

"This meeting recommended the adoption of a system of licensing of fish processing facilities in Queensland and put forward proposals as to the legal machinery necessary as respects both the State and the Commonwealth. This recommendation has been accepted by Cabinet and the Commonwealth is being advised accordingly."

CONTROL OF CROWN OF THORNS STARFISH

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

In view of his statement in the House on August 19 last concerning control of the Crown of Thorns starfish, that the primary suggestion for discussion is a programme of individual slaughter of the starfish *in situ*, on the reef, by divers, until such time as more effective means can be devised, will he give early consideration to declaring a bounty as an incentive for destruction of the starfish in the interim?

Answer:—

"Future action as respects the Crown of Thorns starfish will be decided following receipt of the report of the conference with the Commonwealth which has been arranged for Tuesday, August 26, 1969."

OIL EXPLORATION, GREAT BARRIER REEF WATERS

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

(1) Further to my Question on August 20, will he give specific details of all off-shore oil leases, permits, or authorities involving the Great Barrier Reef and neighbouring waters off the Queensland coast north of Gladstone?

(2) Who holds these leases, permits or authorities and when was each granted or renewed?

Answer:—

"No leases or licenses for production of petroleum off-shore have been issued. The information requested by the Honourable Member is voluminous. It is set out in a statement which I now table for his information."

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

APPLICATIONS BY PRISONERS FOR PAROLE

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

(1) Will he table the questionnaire which is used when a prisoner makes application for parole?

(2) What is the professional status of each member of the Parole Board?

(3) What is the professional status of each member of the Classification Board?

Answers:—

(1) "The form of application is a form (Form J) prescribed in the Schedule to "The Offenders Probation and Parole Regulations of 1959" which is readily accessible."

(2) "The Honourable Member is referred to the Report of the Parole Board for the year 1968-69 which was ordered on August 19 last by this Assembly to be printed."

(3) "The new Classification Committee being formed comprises the Deputy Comptroller-General of Prisons, as chairman, the Chief Parole Officer, the Visiting Medical Officer to the prison, and either a psychiatrist or a psychologist. The latter may be alternated at discretion or availability."

EDUCATION FACILITIES, BRISBANE PRISON

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

With regard to (a) primary and (b) secondary school education facilities available to prisoners at Boggo Road—

(1) On how many days per week is instruction available and for what duration?

(2) What are the academic qualifications of the tutors?

(3) Is it intended to replace the present voluntary tutors of secondary subjects with tutors paid by the Education Department?

Answers:—

(1) "Primary school classes are held on Tuesdays and Fridays each week and are of two hours duration. These are carried out by the Education Department teachers.

Secondary school classes are held on Wednesday and Thursday each week and are of two hours duration."

(2) "The qualifications of those engaged as teachers and tutors are as follows:— Primary Teachers—Mr. L. McCasker, Class 1, Division 1, Head Teacher of a Class 1 School; Mr. Ian Emmerson, Class 2, Division 1, Certificate of Remedial Education and Diagnostic Testing. Secondary Teachers (Voluntary Group)—Mother Shanahan, M.A.; Mrs. Budtz-Olsen, B.A., U.E.D.; Mrs. Ffrench, B.A.; Dr. Howard, Ph.D.; Sister Donelan, Teacher Training Cert., Vict., 2nd Year Arts U/grad.; Sister Edmunds, Teacher Training Cert., Vict., 3rd Year Arts U/grad. Tutors—Mr. B. Hurley, B.E.; Mr. L. Brown, B.E.; Mr. D. Stephensen, Senior (Hons. Maths.); Mr. Ian Taylor, Senior (Hons. Maths.); Mr. R. Livingstone, Senior (Hons. Maths.); Mr. G. Kratzmann, Senior (Hons. English). All prisoners attending school, either primary or secondary, are assessed by Messrs. McCasker and Emmerson, the teachers recommended by the Department of Education and employed as part-time teachers in the prisons."

(3) "It is anticipated to replace the voluntary teachers of secondary subjects, with teachers supplied by the Education Department but paid by the Prison Department. It is expected that this will occur at the beginning of the 1970 school year. No classes properly organised by the Education Department were ever thought of under the A.L.P. Government."

RATE AND RENT REBATES AS DROUGHT RELIEF MEASURES

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

Is he fully aware that the escalation of the drought in the west of Queensland has reached terrifying proportions? If so, will he give urgent and earnest consideration to a rebate on rates and rents to graziers making an application, as some measure of drought relief?

Answer:—

"No one is more aware than I am of the tragic extent of the current drought. In 1968 the State Government introduced a scheme for rebates of a proportion of Local Government rates and for waiving of Crown rentals. This scheme was financed entirely by the State Government and was introduced at a time when the Commonwealth Government met the whole cost of other drought relief measures such as freight rebates, carry-on loans, grants for relief of unemployment created by drought. In seeking drought assistance for the current financial year, the State Government submitted a written case to the Commonwealth Government

on the various drought measures to which it desired to give consideration. Remission of rentals and assistance towards Local Authority rates were again listed as desirable relief measures. These submissions were fully discussed between Commonwealth and State officers on June 27. The Prime Minister advised on July 29, 1969, that the Commonwealth would continue to assist the State in 1969-70 in financing those relief measures in which the Commonwealth Government had previously joined. However, it refused to include the cost of remission of rentals or granting assistance towards the payment of Local Authority rates. The Commonwealth agreed to share with the State equally the cost of approved drought relief measures up to \$4 million and agreed to meet all costs beyond that figure. I would, however, emphasise that this offer referred only to schemes approved by the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth has been generous in its contribution towards those measures in which it has agreed to participate for these are estimated to cost some \$9.8 million in 1969-70. However, the State also has a heavy burden to bear in 1969-70. It has to meet \$2 million of the cost of the measures approved by the Commonwealth. It also has a liability in respect of measures carried over from 1968-69 and estimated to cost some \$1.25 million. Moreover, the State Budget must carry the losses of State revenue occasioned by the drought and those losses will be heavy, particularly in so far as railway freights are concerned. In view of the heavy drought cost that the State Budget for 1969-70 will have to bear, I regret that it is not possible for the State to grant and carry the cost of financing any general assistance by way of remission of rentals or towards payment of Local Authority rates. As I have already said, the Commonwealth Government has refused to finance such schemes."

WATER STORAGE, BORUMBA DAM;
IRRIGATION, MARY RIVER AND
TINANA CREEK

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

(1) What percentage of water is still held in the Borumba Dam on Yabba Creek and what quantity has been used during the last twelve months?

(2) (a) How many primary producers between Gympie and the mouth of the Mary River irrigate from the Mary River, (b) how many applications for irrigation permits have been received from (i) this area and (ii) Tinana Creek area during the last twelve months and (c) how many acres in (i) this area and (ii) Tinana Creek area are irrigated?

(3) What are the charges to those having irrigation permits?

(Originally asked on August 20, 1969)

Answers:—

(1) "(a) Borumba Dam, as at August 19, 1969, was storing some 16,370 acre feet or 47.5 per cent. of its capacity. (b) In the 12 months ended June 30, 1969, a total of 19,500 acre feet of water was released from Borumba Dam and 5,410 acre feet of water was pumped by licensed irrigators in the streams supplemented from the Dam."

(2) "(a) Along the 62 miles of river from Gympie to the upper limit of tidal effect near Tiaro, there are 41 primary producers irrigating from the Mary River. Along the 48 miles of the Mary River and Yabba Creek between Gympie and the Dam, there are a further 77 primary producers irrigating from the stream. (b) (i) Four applications for irrigation from the Mary River downstream of Gympie; and 13 applications upstream of Gympie to Borumba Dam. (ii) Nine applications received for irrigation from Tinana Creek above tidal limit and excluding tributaries. (c) (i) Between Gympie and upstream limit of tidal effect some 550 acres are irrigated from the Mary River. (ii) The area irrigated from Tinana Creek above tidal limit, excluding tributaries is some 620 acres."

(3) "The charge is \$2.50 per acre foot for irrigation water pumped from the supplemented sections of Yabba Creek and the Mary River below Borumba Dam. There is no charge for irrigation from Tinana Creek."

PAPERS

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

Reports:—

Commissioner of Land Tax, for the year 1968-69.

President of the Industrial Court of Queensland, for the year 1968-69.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamation under the Acquisition of Land Act of 1967 and the State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1964.

Orders in Council under—

The City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1967.

Water Act 1926-1968.

FORM OF QUESTIONS

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Quite a deal of the hon. member's question would appear to have been answered in a ministerial statement earlier in this session.

Mr. MARGINSON (Ipswich East) having given notice of a question—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I inform the hon. member for Ipswich East that in asking a question he cannot seek any comment.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The question is not in order.

Mr. DAVIS (Brisbane) having given notice of a question—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The last part of the question appears to be outside the responsibility of the Minister to whom it is directed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The question is not in order. It seeks a preview of Government policy.

Mr. R. JONES (Cairns) having given notice of a question—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The question is out of order.

DEATH OF MR. A. COBURN

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (12.54 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

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

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

Honourable members on both sides of the House were shocked on the last sitting day when you, Mr. Speaker, announced the sudden death of Mr. Arthur Coburn, who had been a very familiar and highly respected personality in this Chamber for approximately 20 years.

The late gentleman was elected to the 32nd Parliament at the general election in 1950 as the independent representative of the new electorate of Burdekin, and he remained as its representative until his retirement after the final rising of the 38th Parliament in December, 1968. He therefore served the State of Queensland continuously in seven Parliaments, and he arrived with a background of community service to justify his place in this Legislative Chamber.

The late Arthur Coburn was born in the then thriving gold-mining town of Ravenswood. After completing his primary education, he joined the teaching service in that town as a pupil teacher in 1911. The greater part of his 38-year teaching career was spent in the Lower Burdekin district, where he made his mark as a stalwart of his profession and an ardent advocate on many public bodies for the advancement of that district and, indeed, of North Queensland generally. He was one of the pioneers of the Queensland State School athletic movement and for many years, until his election to Parliament, had been President of the Lower Burdekin Branch of the Queensland Teachers' Union.

In public activities he campaigned strongly for improved communications between the northern region and the South. He was a vigorous advocate for the construction of the high-level bridge across the Burdekin River between Home Hill and Ayr, which virtually ended the isolation of North Queensland in years of abnormal flood. He was a champion of tropical agriculture and, of course, a stout friend of the sugar industry. Until relinquishing his parliamentary duties before this year's election he constantly supported arguments for additional water conservation in the North to promote diversified crop production. Indeed, I think I can say that in recent years water conservation was the late Arthur Coburn's chief objective, and on several occasions he asked me, as Premier, to meet groups of people with Mr. Val Bird to discuss that issue in the Burdekin area.

Although the late Mr. Coburn had no party affiliations, he was respected in this Chamber as a forceful but courteous debater and a man of deep sincerity in all his parliamentary activities. I do not think that any hon. member would question that statement. During all the years of his parliamentary service, I, as did many other hon. members, came to hold him in high regard. I always admired him for his high Christian principles and the consistency that he displayed in upholding his ideals. He never failed to state his views and let people know where he stood on a particular issue.

My regard for Mr. Coburn was such that I felt constrained to go to Ayr with my wife less than a month ago to join with hundreds of citizens of his home district in a dinner of appreciation for his services as a member of this Assembly and for what he had contributed to northern progress and development. On that occasion the late Mr. Coburn was in excellent spirits and drew on his fund of knowledge to tell of some of his experiences in Parliament. He spoke that night for about 20 minutes or so to the audience, which included Mr. Val Bird, to their great pleasure.

I and the other members of this House who knew Mr. Coburn hold his memory in high regard for the contribution he made to the advancement of his electorate and of

the State generally. My sympathy, and I am sure the sympathy of all hon. members, goes out to Mrs. Coburn at this very sad time.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (1 p.m.): On behalf of the Opposition, I desire to second the motion moved by the Premier. I agree with his statement that Arthur Coburn was well respected by every member of this House. Most of us who have been here any length of time got to know him reasonably well and the better we knew him the more we appreciated his qualities as a man.

He would not be known as well as some members of this House for his speeches because I do not think he spoke as often as some others do. However, I can say with truth that when he did speak he commanded the attention of the great majority of members of this House, because when he spoke it was of matters in which he was personally interested and of which he had an extensive knowledge. Therefore, all hon. members, and particularly those from North Queensland, were interested in what he had to say. Also, as the Premier has said, when he spoke, he did not do so with any animosity towards others but according to the situation that existed at the time. He spoke about what he believed to be right although, by the same token, when the occasion demanded that he should hit hard in debate, he was quite capable of doing so.

I think one of the great regrets about Mr. Coburn's passing and the loss to his wife is the fact that, like many other men and women who devote long periods of their lives to public service, he had so short a period of retirement in which to enjoy the fruits of his labours and the companionship of his wife, and to do the many things which I am sure everyone in public life wished he had time to do.

With those remarks, on behalf of the Opposition I join with the Premier in the feelings he expressed for Mr. Coburn's widow and in appreciation of his contribution to this State.

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (1.2 p.m.): If I were to speak for several days, which of course I am quite capable of doing, I would not be able to pay to the late Arthur Coburn all the compliments and encomiums he deserved. I first heard of him, although I had never met him, in the 1944 election campaign. If my memory serves me rightly, in those days there were only 62 seats in the Queensland Parliament and many electorates covered very large areas. I was standing for the Mundingburra seat, which extended along the coast from the middle of Townsville right down to the Burdekin River. I heard that Arthur Coburn would be one of my opponents—ultimately there were five in the field—and everybody told me what a really fine fellow he was.

I went down to Ayr and found he was even a much finer fellow than I had been told. In that election, which I suppose was typical of those that were waged at that time—I am not going to excuse myself for any part I played in that part of it—Arthur Coburn's campaign came as a clean and fresh breeze. He was a gentleman throughout, and he ran a very good race. As a matter of fact, had it not been for the soldier vote, which of course was regimented at that time—soldiers had to vote either for the Leader of the Opposition or the Premier—Arthur Coburn would have run second.

He again contested the Mundingburra seat against me in 1947 in a three-cornered contest between the A.L.P., Arthur Coburn and myself, and again his campaign was just as the man himself was—clean, open and honest—and, if I may use the vernacular, he nearly toppled me.

In 1950, after the redistribution of seats, Arthur Coburn shifted into the Burdekin electorate and I shifted further back up into Townsville, into the Mundingburra electorate, which had been reduced in area. He came into Parliament in 1950 and from the day he entered this Assembly we shared the same office. We had several offices, of course, as after each election members are shifted around from one place to another.

In the six years that I was the member for Mundingburra, which embraced the whole of the Ayr district, I came to know Arthur Coburn quite well because, as the Premier has said, he was an indefatigable worker. I do not know the number of local organisations which he led and belonged to in the Ayr district. There was a developmental organisation known as the A.A.P.S. A.I.D.A.—I think those initials are the correct ones—and the last two initials stood for "Development Association". Believe me, he kept everyone on his toes. I understand that he was also chairman of the old hospitals board. Everywhere that one went in Ayr one realised the feeling of confidence in and respect for Arthur Coburn. And so it was that he entered Parliament.

As I have said, Arthur Coburn and I occupied the same office. I am not going to be facetious, but one man recently paid him the greatest tribute when he said, "Arthur Coburn occupied the same office in Parliament House as Tom Aikens for 19 years and remained uncorrupted." He was a tremendous fellow in every respect. I have never known a man who was so dedicated and intense. I really think that it was the intensity of his dedication that finally brought about the heart condition that resulted in his death so shortly after his retirement.

It was an infinite pleasure to know him. He was a very devout Christian in his own particular denomination, as is his good wife, but he was by no means a wowser. He was a man possessed of quite a lot of worldly

knowledge, and he had an infinite sense of humour. I can remember one occasion when the present Minister for Education was Speaker of this Assembly and he had to stand and rebuke the hon. member for Burdekin, as he then was—and it is the only time that Arthur Coburn was ever rebuked in this Chamber—because he could not control his laughter at some remark that I happened to pass to him. The then Speaker said to him, “The hon. member for Burdekin has the most risible sense of humour in the House.”

Not only was Arthur Coburn intense with regard to his own work but he also offered to do the next man's. In the room that we occupied together he frequently came to me and said, “Is there anything I can do, Tom? Is there any way I can help?”, and, owing to my somewhat indolent nature, I frequently accepted his offer of help. On many occasions I was not too loath to pass over to him some of my more or less stereotyped work, and he was always eager, anxious and happy to do it for me. Such was the friendship between us that when he was absent from the House I opened his correspondence, personal or official. It really did not matter because there was nothing in Arthur Coburn's correspondence, personal or official, that he was not prepared to let anyone see. And of course when I was away he opened my personal and official correspondence. Once or twice he might have got a shock and he might have raised his eyebrows, but he never commented and never criticised. Such was the integrity and honesty of the man that it is almost impossible to describe him by mere words.

As the Leader of the Opposition so truthfully said, Arthur Coburn retired from this House hoping to live a long time in retirement to enjoy the fruits of the work that he did so well and for so long. He had a particularly happy and satisfying home life. I have never known two people who were so attached to each other as Mr. and Mrs. Coburn. Consequently she will feel his passing very deeply indeed.

On several occasions Arthur Coburn spent a considerable amount of time and went to a good deal of trouble to look up facts and figures for speeches that I was going to make. He rarely made speeches in this House, but when he did, as the Leader of the Opposition said, everybody listened to him with respect. I can remember one speech that took him not less than six months to prepare. He travelled everywhere throughout the State wherever there were sub-normal children or sub-normal children's organisations or hostels and went through all the documents that he could obtain from the Library and elsewhere, and he made what I think was one of the most striking speeches delivered in this Chamber. Whenever he made a speech he made it from very copious notes. His speech on that occasion was such a tremendously fine one that the then Premier, Vince Gair, stood up and complimented him on it. Such is the decadence that we have seen in the Press in recent years that on the following morning

Arthur Coburn's speech was brushed off with two inches in a single column, whereas a shockingly vulgar, uncouth and uncultivated incident in the Chamber was headlined and covered four or five columns extending over half a page. Of course, that was the fault of the Press—it was typical of the standard of the Press, TV and radio—not of Arthur Coburn.

I miss Arthur Coburn very much indeed. I used frequently to slip down to Ayr with one of my grandsons who was not blessed with 100 per cent. health. It was an event in his life to think that he was going down to see his old mate, Mr. Coburn. My grandson died in April and one of his last remarks to me was, “When are we going down to see Mr. Coburn again?” He did not go down to see Mr. Coburn; he went to the crematorium on 18 April. It was my very sad duty to assist in carrying Arthur Coburn's coffin into the crematorium on Friday last so at least they are together in the crematorium or wherever they go to from there.

I join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in expressing deep regret at Mr. Coburn's passing, and offer my sincerest condolences to Mrs. Coburn. I sincerely regret that he did not live as long as he really expected to live to enjoy all the fruits of retirement that he so richly earned.

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

[Sitting suspended from 1.12 to 2.15 p.m.]

SUPPLY

VOTE OF CREDIT—\$217,000,000

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. SPEAKER read a message from His Excellency the Administrator of the Government recommending that the following provision be made on account of the services for the year ending 30 June, 1970—

“From the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland (exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account), the sum of \$88,000,000;

“From the Trust and Special Funds, the sum of \$99,000,000; and

“From the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account, the sum of \$30,000,000.”

COMMITTEE

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

Hon. G. W. W. CHALK (Lockyer—Treasurer) (2.16 p.m.): I move—

“That there be granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1969-70, a further sum not exceeding \$217,000,000 towards defraying the expenses of the various departments and services of the State.”

The Bill before the Committee is the first of two Appropriation Bills which will be introduced in this session of Parliament. The sums sought in the Bill cover the necessary provision of Supply until the second Appropriation Bill is introduced into this Chamber. This will occur, of course, after the Budget has been presented, debated and approved by this Parliament.

The Appropriation Act passed by the House in November of last year provided Supply for 1969-70 of \$131,000,000—\$59,000,000 for Consolidated Revenue Fund, \$58,000,000 for the Trust and Special Funds, and \$14,000,000 for the Loan Fund.

The purpose of the present Bill is to provide the further sum of \$217,000,000 of which \$88,000,000 is required for Consolidated Revenue Fund, \$99,000,000 for the Trust and Special Funds, and \$30,000,000 for Loan Fund. Hence the total Supply available for 1969-70, pending the passing of the Budget, will be \$348,000,000—\$147,000,000 for Consolidated Revenue Fund, \$157,000,000 for the Trust and Special Funds and \$44,000,000 for the Loan Fund. At the corresponding time last year, the amount available was \$315,000,000. The increase of \$33,000,000 covers normal escalation in administrative expenditures, expanded services and increased outlays in our capital works programme.

Most hon. members will know that it is usual, in presenting an Appropriation Bill, for the Treasurer to comment upon any significant economic events that have recently occurred. In continuing this practice I draw the attention of hon. members to the importance to the State of the increase in interest rates in the recent Commonwealth loan and the consequential flow-on into the debenture field.

The long-term bond rate was steady at 5½ per cent. from April 1965, up to November 1968. In November 1968 the Commonwealth Government took the opportunity to remove the income tax rebate of 10c in the dollar that had applied for many years to interest earned on Commonwealth securities. Obviously, the removal of this rebate made Commonwealth loans less attractive to lenders than previously, and the interest rate was accordingly increased by .15 per cent. to 5.40 per cent. per annum.

The main reason for removing this rebate was that a process known as "rebate washing" had developed. This involved the purchase of securities nearing maturity purely for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the 10c in the dollar income tax rebate. This practice not only deprived the Commonwealth Government of substantial amounts in taxation, but also resulted in a marked increase in the percentage of maturing securities being redeemed rather than being converted. This, in turn, placed an additional burden on the Commonwealth in financing the governmental works and

housing programme for the States, since more new raisings had to be used for redemption rather than for new capital works.

Since the Commonwealth Government benefited by abolition of the rebate, both as regards tax revenue and redemption of securities, that Government decided that it would compensate the States for the additional interest costs incurred as a result of the increase of .15 per cent. in interest rates.

It is now history that the long-term bond rate increased in July 1969, from 5.4 per cent. to 6.0 per cent. The main reason for the increase was the Commonwealth Government's need to stimulate subscriptions to Commonwealth loans. This need was aggravated by four main sets of circumstances. The first was a background of the increasing borrowing programme for State works and housing. The next was the very high total of existing securities maturing in July.

Again there was a need to repatriate certain loans maturing on overseas markets where re-borrowing was considered unpractical because of very high interest rates in such countries. The last factor was the generally uncertain prospects of substantial overseas borrowing in the current financial year at reasonable rates and conditions. In addition to these factors there would also have been the fact that a rise in interest rates generally is one of the means of controlling the economy to prevent inflation.

The States have a vital interest in the level of interest on Commonwealth stock, since practically all Commonwealth borrowing is on behalf of the States. Apart from special borrowings such as loans for aircraft, the Commonwealth does not normally borrow for its own capital purposes. When bond rates rise, the States incur higher costs not only on the new borrowings for the year but also on loans converted during the year.

Mr. Houston: Did the Commonwealth discuss this with the States?

Mr. CHALK: Yes. The situation was discussed at a meeting of the Loan Council.

The cost of interest on the public debt of this State has been increasing by over \$4,000,000 per annum, but with interest at its present high level, the increase this year will be much higher than normal. Thus, this increase in interest rates has been a sad blow to the State's finances.

In further reply to the Leader of the Opposition, when we had the discussions with the Commonwealth we knew that certain increases were to occur. It is correct to say that, at that stage, no definite figure was available to us but we had our own ideas about what it might be.

The increase in the long-term bond rate was quickly followed by increases in debenture borrowing rates. These rose by fairly comparable amounts, giving public debenture

loan rates of 6.0 per cent. for seven years, 6.2 per cent. for 10 years and 6.25 per cent. for 15 years. Private debenture loan rates increased to a maximum of 6.40 per cent. for a term of 15 years or longer.

I believe that the States cannot object to increases in interest rates that are necessary to raise the bulk of the loan programmes. Hence I have no real criticism of the decision to increase interest rates as I feel that the increases were unfortunately unavoidable. However, I do see some real points of criticism which the States can, and do, raise. It is common knowledge, of course, that the States have to take all the borrowed money, whilst the Commonwealth carries out its capital works from surplus revenue. To put it another way, the States are required to pay interest on funds required for their capital works and must also repay the sums raised. On the other hand, the Commonwealth pays no interest on the moneys used by it for capital works and actually makes no repayments. Surely there should be some equitable scheme for the sharing of the cheaper money between the two arms of government. Moreover, it is not reasonable that the States should have to bear the cost of increases made for economic-policy purposes as part of the economic management of the nation. Under such conditions the Commonwealth should bear the increased cost but at this stage, however, there is no agreement to do so. The position is not, of course, limited to the State. These movements in interest rates flow into the field of local government and must affect the cost of basic, essential services.

Having put the State's point of view I should now like to discuss the general question of interest rates a little further. The increase of .6 per cent. in the long-term bond rate may appear to some observers to be an unduly large increase. However, when interest rates have to rise, personally I believe it is better to make a substantial and lasting adjustment rather than a small adjustment which would have to be followed by further increases. A small adjustment which investors think is not the final adjustment merely encourages them to hold off to secure even higher rates. It has been proved that this only accentuates the problem since subscriptions may be lower than before the first increase.

Apart from the effect upon governmental finances, the movement in the bond rate usually has considerable significance for the economy. The long-term bond rate has been a key rate, and movements are quickly followed by movements in bank deposit and lending rates, and other interest rates generally. On this occasion, the bank overdraft rate has been adjusted upward by one-quarter per cent. to give a maximum rate of 7½ per cent. The Reserve Bank, at the same time as it approved this increase, called for another one per cent. of deposits to be put into the statutory reserve. These moves are

in accordance with the Commonwealth's policy of dampening down any excess demand in the economy.

It was obvious at the meeting of the Premiers' Conference and Loan Council towards the end of June that the Commonwealth Government was very concerned about the developing pressure on resources. Average wages had risen by about 6½ per cent. over the previous 12 months, and the trend of registered unemployment in relation to the numbers of unfilled vacancies registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service indicated that the economy was heading towards a state of over-full employment. Although retail prices themselves have not risen excessively, there are signs that their rate of increase could speed up. It is generally considered that a rate of price increase much greater than 3 per cent. per annum cannot be tolerated, particularly in a country like Australia, which is heavily dependent upon selling its produce on overseas markets at prices that unfortunately are not related to the Australian cost of production. It is easy to price ourselves out of overseas markets, thus causing balance-of-payments problems. I believe that all hon. members will agree that our dependence on trade makes us sensitive to economic trends overseas as well as at home.

I want to say that I have no doubt that a policy designed to prevent inflation is the correct policy for Australia at present in the light of the pressures that are developing on employment and other resources. Later I shall have something to say on whether this situation applies uniformly throughout Australia, but I have no hesitation in saying that inflation cannot be allowed to develop unchecked in this country.

Honourable members may have noticed recent references in financial papers to the high level of interest rates overseas. A recent British Government raising had a 9 per cent. coupon rate. The British bank rate is 8 per cent. and the American prime domestic bank lending rate is 8½ per cent. Recent borrowing in Eurodollars overseas is reported to be at rates up to 11 or 12 per cent.

While we do not have to follow what appear to be extravagant trends in interest rates overseas, it must be remembered that we cannot insulate ourselves entirely from their effects. There are at least two areas in which these overseas rates will affect Australia. One is in the provision of short-term export financing. Obviously, if the finance for, say, wool purchased on the Australian market can be arranged in Australia, it will be cheaper than from overseas. It appears already that demands for this type of finance are rising and it would be unfortunate if this affected our capacity to provide finance in other desirable directions.

Another way in which Australia can be affected by high overseas interest rates is in a slowing down in the rate of overseas investment in this country; in other words,

the higher external rate makes it more profitable to keep money at home than to export it to Australia for developmental purposes. Honourable members will recall the balance-of-payments problems that Australia experienced some years ago. In recent years, however, the adverse balance on current account has been offset by a substantial inflow of capital, which has allowed our overseas reserves to remain at a healthy level. The net apparent capital inflow, as reported by the Commonwealth Statistician for 1967-68, was \$1,203 million and for 1968-69 it is provisionally estimated at \$1,149 million.

Should the rate of capital inflow be substantially reduced, it could be, I say very sincerely, a very serious matter for this country, and even for this State. Yet that is a risk we run when overseas interest rates are so much higher than ours. There comes a point when the increased earnings available overseas must offset the stability and other factors that investors find so attractive in Australia, particularly in the short term.

It is difficult to understand the reasons for such high rates overseas. To some extent they reflect inflationary trends at a stage where costs, like interest, can quickly be compensated for by rising prices. If this is so, then I say that this Committee must support whatever action is necessary to prevent such trends developing in Australia. The higher external rates may also reflect the fact that much of world development today is capital intensive and capital is becoming a much-sought-after commodity, with rising costs of interest showing the effects of such excess demands. Another factor is that fixed-term lending is not very attractive in an inflationary climate, and the move to higher interest rates is an offset to some of the effects of a decrease in money values. However, whatever the position, the situation is one for some concern, and any dampening down of capital inflow into Australia can have serious national effects.

I think it is fair to say that the recent rise in interest rates in Australia is not a reflection of galloping inflation, but is one step in a policy to counter inflation. It is not suggested that an increase in interest rates will, by itself, be a sufficient and effective counter to inflation, but in Australia a flexible-interest-rate policy is only one of the measures adopted for controlling the economy, along with other monetary and fiscal policies. Under these conditions, I believe that an increase in interest rates can play its part.

I feel that most thinking people will recognise that the Commonwealth Government has been very successful over a long period in keeping the economy at a high level of activity without undue pressure on prices. If a moderate increase in interest rates now will assist it to continue doing this, then we should not object provided the burden of interest is eventually charged to the correct sector of the public purse.

Mr. Hanlon: You say that this is one step. What is the next one—a "horror" budget in February?

Mr. CHALK: I do not think so. That is Labour Party propaganda during the present political campaign.

I said earlier that I would return to the question of whether economic pressures are being exerted equally in all States. On the information available to me, I would say that they are not.

One indication of rising pressure on employment is the relationship between the number of unfilled vacancies and the number of registered unemployed. Figures for the individual States at the end of June show that Queensland had more than five registered unemployed for each unfilled vacancy, which was about twice the level of the next highest State and more than three times the Australian ratio. In New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia the number of registered unemployed was only marginally higher than the number of unfilled vacancies, but in Queensland the labour situation was much easier.

These figures and other related statistics were presented by the Premier and myself at the last meeting of the Loan Council, but they did not prevent Queensland from suffering the same restrictions upon loan programmes as other States suffered. In view of the trend towards over-full employment, the Commonwealth took the view that there should be only a moderate increase in governmental programmes. I accept this decision as the correct policy for Australia as a whole, to avoid any undue additional calls upon the nation's resources. Nevertheless, I feel that in Queensland's case, where the labour situation was much easier and the drought situation was a further offsetting factor, a higher increase could have been absorbed without difficulty. These views were strongly put to the Commonwealth but did not succeed in achieving any special consideration for the State.

This attitude of treating all States on a uniform basis, irrespective of differing circumstances, is a feature of dealings with the Commonwealth Government. The same situation existed when the credit squeeze was introduced in 1960 and this State was forced to take what might be described as a dose of the same medicine as other States although our symptoms were quite different.

While I appreciate that the Commonwealth must consider the effect on Australia as a whole, I nevertheless think that I would be shirking in my responsibility if I did not attempt to get a better deal and to get greater flexibility in the Commonwealth's relations with the States, thus allowing account to be taken of differing circumstances in individual States. I have this in mind especially when the central Government is engaged in an exercise of dampening down the economy. We do not wish

to see a situation in Queensland in which a dampening down would take effect to the disadvantage of the State.

It is unfortunate that Commonwealth-State relations have developed on these lines, where the Commonwealth takes only the over-all view and each State takes only its narrow State view. I am sure that real progress could be made if agreement could be reached to apply selective measures according to the particular circumstances applying in the various States.

I have made these observations to the Committee in an endeavour to express some constructive views on matters to which, quite candidly, there are no simple answers. Nobody wants to see rising interest rates; but, equally, nobody wants to see inflationary trends develop unchecked.

Hon. members will be interested to know that, during my recent visit overseas, I had very important discussions with bankers and financiers in both the United States of America and Canada. From these discussions it is clear that our problems are also their problems. The United States, for instance, is drawing billions of dollars from the economy in the hope of preventing further inflation and a continued rising of interest rates. When we find in such a prosperous area as the United States of America a security such as General Motors being called upon to pay 8½ per cent. for normal overdraft, housing loans in the course of normal home building being quoted at 12 per cent., and hire-purchase credit at 15 per cent. to 18 per cent., I think it is time we take heed in this country and do what we can to prevent such circumstances developing here.

The Canadian situation is very similar to ours on a Federal-Province relationship. The central Government commands the scene in taxation and is the collecting authority—although the Provinces still have individual corporation and wage-taxing rights—and, therefore, over-all taxation varies from Province to Province.

However, I am firmly convinced that from the experience of Canada, Australia can borrow knowledge to advantage, and I look forward to advancing some of the Canadian approaches when the next meetings are held between the Commonwealth and States dealing with Commonwealth-States financial relationships.

On the whole, I believe that economic matters in Australia are under reasonable control but such, nevertheless, does not warrant that I should close my eyes to those things to which I consider Queensland has reason to object. I raise them for the purpose not only of having them recorded in "Hansard" but also of making known my views on this very important matter of financial relationships between the Commonwealth and the States.

I commend the motion to the Committee.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (2.47 p.m.): I am sure that all hon. members listened with great interest to the Treasurer's remarks, and I feel that they will give his statements and thoughts due consideration.

I think we are all aware that the situation in this country is reaching the stage when all thinking men will have to put their heads together to see exactly where we are going. The Treasurer mentioned many factors which I do not wish to go over again but I think it is true to say that although one might listen with interest to such a speech as his, it requires analysing and digesting to really get the true impact of the message he is trying to convey.

I believe that, owing to circumstances that have now developed in the Australian political scene, where there is arrogance that we have never witnessed in this country before—this becomes particularly evident when one refers to statements made by Commonwealth Ministers during and after conferences with State Ministers and at the Premiers' Conference, and later when the Commonwealth Treasurer brought down the Federal Budget—it has become very clear that the Commonwealth now looks upon the States as being of no great importance, except politically around election-time. When this State Government's attitude and actions must be designed to help the Commonwealth Government retain power.

Mr. Aikens: They regard us as a glorified local authority.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is very true. I think we can go even further than that. I do not think they even regard us at all to any great extent, except when an election is imminent. We saw this very clearly in 1961, when the Commonwealth Government's attitude to Queensland was very similar to what it has been over the last few months. Of course, when the jolt came through the ballot-box the Commonwealth Government rendered some assistance to this State.

On analysing the Prime Minister's speeches and statements and his answers to questions at various conferences of Commonwealth and State Ministers, it has become obvious that the Commonwealth lays down what is good for the States and then uses its financial powers to make the States its servants. Unfortunately, the State Premiers have not been prepared to stand united against the Commonwealth's dictatorial attitude.

It is true that Sir Henry Bolte and Mr. Askin, up to a point, put up some sort of fight for their States. It is also true that Mr. Reece, the then Premier of Tasmania, fought for his State, but I am sure we all agree that Tasmania's problem, in the size of that State and its finances, is different from those of the mainland States. From reading the documents that were made available it is evident that the Commonwealth

is relying on its old attitude to the mainland Premiers of "Divided, they will fall". Apparently by various ways and means, and particularly by offering special assistance here and there, the Commonwealth is able to keep the State Premiers divided. One of the first things that the States have to do to obtain some semblance of justice in financial matters from the Commonwealth is to have their Premiers work together as a united team against the Commonwealth.

Mr. Porter: You have your party's policies.

Mr. HOUSTON: I am afraid that the hon. member for Toowoong is as badly informed on the Labour Party's attitude as he is on many other matters. He has not the faintest knowledge of A.L.P. policy. In fact, he does not even know what his own Liberal Party's policy is.

Let us restrict our thoughts to Commonwealth-States relations. When uniform taxation was introduced—in fact, when Federation was accomplished—it was never intended that the central Government would turn the States into virtual local authorities. However, the way things are going today, unless there is a drastic change, within a decade we will find that the State Governments have been reduced to the status of local authorities.

As the Treasurer said, the Commonwealth carries out most of its works programme with funds obtained from revenue, whereas the States have to use loan moneys. Surely we cannot allow this situation to continue year after year. Statistics show very clearly that every year the Commonwealth debt is decreasing whereas the debts of the States are increasing. Where will this finish? Unless some drastic changes take place the States will be going to the Commonwealth with their hands out, pleading for money that they are rightly entitled to in order to carry on their normal activities.

I should like to mention the matter of employment. I completely oppose the Federal Treasurer's attitude that one of the ways of overcoming inflation is to create an unemployment pool. This attitude of the Liberals to have an unemployment pool to overcome the ills of inflation is certainly well known, and the Australian Labour Party is completely opposed to it. We believe that every person who desires to work should have the opportunity to do so. Surely there is something wrong with a nation and the thinking of its leaders if they believe that the only way, or even one of the ways, of overcoming inflation is to have a certain amount of unemployment. How this nation's leaders can reason that way, I do not know. I have never been able to find statements made by those people that give us facts and figures to support their argument. However, I do believe that perhaps if there is unemployment men and women will not bargain for higher wages and better conditions. Perhaps the leaders of the nation believe

that it is all right to give increased interest rates to those who invest their money but it is not all right for the men and women who have only their labour to sell to bargain for increased income for it.

Over recent years the Commonwealth Government has denied the States millions of dollars to which they are justly entitled. Every time the workers of Australia receive an increase in their income, whether it is due to the higher cost of living or is granted by the courts because of the productivity of the State or the nation, the Commonwealth Government enjoys an increased return through its various fields of taxation. The higher the price of the article purchased, the greater the amount of sales tax it obtains; the higher the wage obtained by the employee, the more he or she pays in taxation. To document this point I will give a couple of simple examples. I think the Treasurer said in his introductory comments that the increase in wages represented about 7 or 8 per cent. for the 12 months. I do not dispute that.

Mr. Chalk: It was about 6½ per cent.

Mr. HOUSTON: I accept that. Quite a few years have passed since the taxation rate in Australia has been changed.

Firstly, I refer to a man who, 12 months or more ago, received \$40 a week. No-one could suggest that he was overpaid or that he received an income that would permit him to live other than a very simple life. Certainly he would not have anything left to save for the future. On the basis that he has a wife and two young children at school, and realising that deductions for income-tax purposes would naturally vary from family to family, I think we can assume that there are certain fixed deductions that can be used.

For instance, we can allow \$312 for the wife, \$308 for the first child and \$156 for the second child. Naturally he would have to contribute to some form of medical benefits schemes, and for this I allow \$70. Then he would have to pay union fees of, say, \$20. He would have to pay insurance, and perhaps superannuation which would be about \$300. He would have to pay rates, which in many cases would exceed \$100. I have allowed \$200 for education expenses, and, taking into account the medical benefits refunds, he could still have to pay \$50 in medical expenses.

Taking all those figures into account I think it reasonable, without in any way exaggerating the position, to suggest that the allowances he could claim for income-tax purposes would total about \$1,400. Taking the deductions into account, on \$40 a week his income would be \$2,080, giving a taxable income of \$680, which, according to the scale for the last few years, gives the Commonwealth \$22.61 in income tax.

If this man's income over a period of years, through Court determinations or the generosity of the employer, increased by \$5 a week, his income would rise, but it is not likely, on that small increase, that his deductions would vary to any great extent. However, his taxable income would increase to \$940 a year, giving him a tax payment of \$48.19, which, even with that small increase, would give the Commonwealth twice the return it received on his previous income of \$40 a week. If his income was increased by \$10 a week to \$50, his taxable income would increase to \$1,200, with a tax payment of \$80.46. In other words, because his total annual income has increased by \$520 a year—in most cases this would be due purely and simply to increased living costs or legitimate wage increases by way of court determination—the Commonwealth Government receives an increase in revenue of approximately \$58 a year.

In the case of a man whose salary increases from \$50 to \$60 a week, his tax payment jumps by \$80, from \$80.46 to approximately \$162. The Commonwealth gains the advantage of \$80, through no effort on its part, simply because the taxation system has not been altered. The same inflation that has caused us to allocate more money to the Crown this year than in previous years is certainly giving the wage-earner a higher gross income and in fact the Commonwealth is receiving more by way of taxation payments. Of course, the higher the base income of the employee—I have instanced a \$10 a week increase in wages or salary—the more the Commonwealth gets.

I now take the case of a man whose taxable income is \$3,000 a year, which, allowing for the same general deductions, yields a tax of \$462.78. If his weekly salary was increased by \$10, his annual salary would become \$3,520. His income tax would then become \$615. In other words, if the man received an extra \$10 a week, the Commonwealth Government would receive an extra \$153 a year from the employee, or approximately \$3 a week. The wages and salaries of public servants are, in the main, paid out of Consolidated Revenue, so that every time public servants receive an increase, the Commonwealth Government virtually gets a rebate on the money available to the State from Commonwealth sources.

This would not be of any importance if the Commonwealth Government gave the States a fair share of the increased revenue it receives from the various fields. However, as I said at the outset, it does not. It gives the States the minimum amount necessary, according to the various formulas, and the States are forced to accept it.

The Treasurer made it clear that a well-documented case was presented to the Commonwealth Government at the recent Premiers' Conference. I do not argue at this

point of time how good a case it was because I do not know the exact submissions that were made. But all State Premiers would have endeavoured to get the best they could, and it is obvious that they were not very successful. However, they must have considered that the money was available.

I believe that the whole system must be changed. It is also my honest belief that while the Commonwealth and State Governments are of the same political colour, matters will get worse and not better. It is obvious that the Liberal Party in the State field, particularly in this State, is now only a party in name with no background, backbone, or determination. All it is interested in is holding some political seats.

Of course, the Commonwealth Government is intent on making money available in certain fields just before a Federal election. If the Senate and House of Representatives elections were held in conjunction, the big spending period would be once every three years. Now, with an election every 12 months, money is coming out more regularly, but this benefit is offset by its being directed to fields in which the Commonwealth believes there is some political gain. This situation can be changed only when, first of all, there is a change in the Federal Government, and, secondly, when the State Governments start to stand up for their rights. This is not happening at the present time.

I believe that the States must get tough with the Commonwealth Government and now is the time to get tough. At present, the Commonwealth Government is looking for votes. I believe that State leaders should stand up to the Commonwealth Government and tell the Prime Minister and the Federal Treasurer exactly where the States stand in the matter. One State, unfortunately, is prepared to sell another State out when it is offered a small plum. Over all, each State is losing out. The Commonwealth Government is becoming more powerful every day because it controls the purse-strings, and this is not in the interests of national development.

Surely issues should not depend on the whim of the political party in power in Canberra. This State and nation have to develop according to their needs. State Governments know best what is required in their own States. Certainly the Commonwealth Government should co-ordinate, but it should at all times fall into line with the desires of the States, provided they are not contrary to national planning. If they are, the Commonwealth Government should not stall and make all kinds of excuses. If what the States request is against national planning, the Commonwealth Government should, there and then, give the full reasons to the people of this State and let them know the true position.

I am sure that the recent slugging match between the Treasurer and the Postmaster-General—both Liberals—was regretted by

the people of Queensland because it was not getting them anywhere at all. The State Government must convince the Commonwealth Government of its needs. The States must get together and keep together. I am, of course, referring to the controversy over the power-house for this State. I know that over the years, many people have advocated a major power-house for Queensland. In my earliest speeches in Parliament, being closely associated with the electrical industry I advocated the building of power-houses near coal-fields and the building of large power-houses somewhere in the State. Any person associated with the electrical industry knows that to have cheap power, we must have large power-houses.

Over the years my pleas were not heeded, and at long last the State decided to advocate a large power-house in Central Queensland. It is to be regretted that at this point of time it is not well under construction. The records will show that in other States the Labour Party, in Opposition and in Government, supported the concept of a major power-house in Queensland.

I remind the Government that it is a very simple matter to generate electricity at one point and transfer it, if needed, from one power-house to another, or to the point of need. All that is needed for this is a common frequency, and all power-houses in this State generate electricity at the same frequency. Power generated in any part of the State can therefore be transferred by land line or underground connection to any other part of the State, and, as electricity travels at the rate of 189,000 miles a second, it is easy to see that no delay is caused by the switching of power from one point to another. All that is needed is for the operators of the system to agree that a load has to be transferred from one power-house to another. Those who were associated with the electrical industry in Brisbane during the war years know that at certain times of the day it was common procedure to transfer the load from the Brisbane City Council power-house to the power-house of the Southern Electric Authority.

I believe that every Queenslanders supports the construction of a massive power-house in this State. In addition to assisting in the future development of Central Queensland, the power generated there could be used in any other part of the State. There is no reason why power generated at Collinsville could not be used in Brisbane, or why power generated at Swanbank could not be used in any other part of the State. That is the main reason why we say that, except in very special circumstances, there is no justification for differing power charges in various parts of the State. After all, one of the basic needs of the State is a power supply where it is required. If people and industries are to be encouraged to move to other areas, all efforts must be made to provide power for them.

I have a feeling that the Federal Government will finally see the wisdom of supporting the construction of such a power-house, if not for the State's benefit certainly for its own political benefit.

Mr. Porter: It will be because of the persuasive efforts of the State Government.

Mr. HOUSTON: If that is the case, the State Government would have had it approved before the State election. Do not let us kid ourselves on that. There were many rumours going around then. The point I make is that when this power-house is built I want its benefit to be felt throughout the State; I do not want it to be only for the overseas industries that the Government is trying to attract here. We want all Queenslanders who are in this State now to get the benefit of it.

During my Address-in-Reply speech I began to mention something that is of great importance to the State, but I was not able to complete what I wished to say. I refer to pollution of our creeks and streams. I urge the Government to bring down during this session a Bill to prevent people, once and for all, from polluting streams and rivers. Such a step is absolutely necessary. If anyone really wants to find out about the pollution problem, I suggest that he telephone me any evening at all and I shall be pleased to give him a trial run of five minutes so that he can appreciate what the people of Murarrie have to suffer and live with.

I know it could be said that it is the responsibility of the local authority. Unfortunately, the local authority prosecuted in one instance and a fine of \$80 was imposed by the court. I am not criticising the court—I did not hear the evidence—but I think it is obvious that one prosecution a year that costs it only \$80 is a cheap way for a company to get out of the damage that it is doing. There are 500 or 600 homes in the area, and their value today would be virtually nothing. Who would want to buy them under the existing conditions?

Not only is there pollution of Bulimba Creek; there is also a build-up of pollution in the Brisbane River. On investigation, one finds that there is an increase of 3 inches a year in the level of mud in the Bulimba Reach of the river. Years ago, before the big dams were built, the river would clean itself out when heavy rainfall occurred. But because man has decided to store water—the Opposition has no fight with that decision—the river does not clean itself out and the mud is building up. The stage is now being reached at which people living in properties on the Bulimba Reach cannot use their jetties. All they have in front of their properties at low tide is mud, which in some cases is 12 or 18 inches deep.

I know that dredging is no longer the responsibility of the Treasurer, but I take this opportunity to say that people interested in sailing are very grateful for the assistance

that he gave when they made requests for dredging. The dredging that was needed in that instance was not peculiar to that reach of the river, and the river generally has to be dredged so that it can be used to the advantage of the people of this State. I am glad to see that the Minister for Local Government and Marine Activities is in the Chamber. I know that he will take note of what I am saying.

The problem that we face today is this: when we interfere with nature's normal actions we must be prepared to spend money to compensate for that interference.

(Time expired.)

Mr. W. D. HEWITT (Chatsworth) (3.12 p.m.): Among the many subjects to which the Leader of the Opposition made passing reference was one on which he dwelt for a while—the structure of tax rates applicable to wage earners in this country. I interpret his comments to mean that he believes that there are reasons why there should be an urgent overhaul of these rates. Let me say to the hon. gentleman at this stage that we find ourselves on common ground. I believe that few things are needed more urgently than a review of tax rates, particularly those applicable to the middle-income earners, and I hope that the Commonwealth's indications that it is moving upon this will be matched by action and that a tax structure more in keeping with the higher rates of income that people now enjoy will soon be evolved.

However, on a few other matters with which the hon. gentleman dealt I am bound to say that we find ourselves poles apart. He projected some thoughts about the States, their structure, their rights, and their sovereignty, and I say to the hon. gentleman, if he presents himself as a "State's righter", "Please join the club." On the question of Federalism and how it will work better, we will be happy to meet him on a non-partisan basis, because it is one of the great problems of the seventies in this country, to make sure that, in fact, the Federalism that has been propounded for so many years will work to the better advantage of the people and for the sake of better government.

Mr. Houston: If you are fair dinkum on this, let us start on a non-party basis and have a look at the operation of our own Parliament in this House.

Mr. Murray: That would be well worth while.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: I take it that the hon. gentleman is now offering some criticism of the working of this Parliament?

Mr. Houston: Yes.

Mr. W. D. HEWITT: Again I do not run for cover. If the hon. gentleman cares to read the first speech that I ever made in this Chamber, he will see that I made significant criticisms of the workings of this

Assembly, and he knows that I have not departed on any occasion from any proposition that I then advanced.

We should nevertheless look at this question of State rights and the sovereignty of the States. If the Leader of the Opposition now projects himself as being a defender of State rights, he will find himself in an area of some confusion even within his own party, because the significant fact is that continuing Labour policies have constantly spelt out a trend towards centralism. He will find that the present Leader of the Opposition in South Australia, in a significant television programme, entered criticism of the State structure to such a degree that it could be interpreted in no other way than to say that he believes that the States should disappear. In all fairness, I refer to another Leader of the Opposition in Victoria who recently was reported to have said that there should be ways of finding a return of powers to the State. Let us, in all charity, say that the situation that prevails in the Labour Party today on the question of Federalism is at least one of confusion.

The hon. gentleman also made some reference to the question of unemployment and he made the allegation that Liberals are still wedded to the outmoded concept that we enjoy better economic stability when there is a continuing pool of unemployment in the community. While he said this in broad terms he did not tell me who said it. I can recall no policy consideration in conferences that I have ever attended where this has ever been spelt out; I know of none of my colleagues who contribute to such a proposition and, for myself, I say that I repudiate such a proposition totally and utterly. But against that, where there is no evidence of a Liberal speaker having said this, I refer the hon. gentleman to the previous Federal Member for Parkes, Leslie Haylen, who, on one occasion, said that for all practical purposes a 5 per cent. unemployment pool could be considered as full employment.

While we talk about the question of unemployment, I recall to his mind the fact that the late Dr. Evatt said on one occasion that the right to choose his own vocation will be one of the rights that the Australian will have to forego. If we want to start talking about employment, I think the record of my party is significantly superior and, before we depart from this subject, it should be said that the record of this Government in this State is highly creditable. We inherited a situation in 1957 when the economy of this State was almost entirely wedded to primary production and the employment scale year by year was identified by great fluctuations—rises and falls—but, because of the continuing policy of this Government to industrialise this State we saw 12 months ago for the first time the happy situation when the income enjoyed from secondary industry exceeded that from primary industry. The effect

of this has been that the peaks and hollows in the unemployment graph have been ironed out and unemployment in this State now is a pretty static 1.8 per cent. This is certainly not good enough for my book, but at least it is ironed out to a greater degree than it has ever been before, so I am very happy to talk about employment performances and the creditable record of this Government in this field.

Now, the Treasurer, in dealing with the introduction of the Appropriation Bill, made continuing references to Commonwealth-State relationships. Many of the things that he said will be easier to comprehend when we read them, but it is nevertheless true that it was a useful speech to hear.

The Minister knows without my reminding him that next year the Premiers and the Commonwealth will propound a new financial agreement. Significantly, for the first time since Federation all of the men who sit round the conference table will be men of the same political complexion. They belong to a party that believes in the Federal system, and therefore they will be presented with an opportunity, seldom before realised, of getting on with the job of making Federation work. I do hope that each and every one of them accepts this challenge.

If the Treasurer wants to hear one criticism from a humble back-bencher, I make reference to the continuing practice of the Commonwealth of making matching grants. I take some exception to it. Under the present agreement, each State enjoys disbursements year by year, but in recent years the Commonwealth has made additional funds available for specific projects on the understanding that the States match the expenditure. The effect of this is that not only are the States dependent on the Commonwealth for their disbursements in the first place but also they allow the Commonwealth to dictate to them the scale of priorities. I believe that priorities of different order may emerge from different States. I would like to see more funds made available from the Commonwealth to the States on an unconditional basis. I hope that if the Treasurer contributes to this point of view we may see something worth while happen when the next agreement is propounded.

Once again, the Treasurer's Appropriation Bill is introduced with the background of drought. No other thing has plagued this Government more since it came to office than drought. Its record is all the more creditable when it is realised that it has been able to do so many things in spite of this constant scourge that forever troubles it. Without doubt, drought has the greatest single impact upon the economy of this State, and its cumulative effect year by year reaches almost crippling proportions. There are probably few countries with short histories like ours that have suffered so severely from the impact of drought. One can only conjecture about the lost cash over the many years as a result of this scourge and

conjecture about what we could have done with that cash. Australia could have been one of the richest and most highly developed countries in the world if losses had not been incurred year after year after year from drought. It is amazing that after all of these years Governments of all political complexions have failed to propound continuing policies to meet the effect of drought. It seems to be a continuing situation: in the lush years we forget it, our senses are dulled and our memories become dimmed; and it is only when another drought is upon us that suddenly we are seized with its urgency. As surely as the sun rises tomorrow, when this present drought is over there will be another and another and another. Surely some means exist in our financial consideration of cushioning the effect of drought.

There are others who on occasions are lulled into some sense of false security. Even the Vernon report, which was compiled in the lush years of the early 1960's, made the observation that many are confident that drought will never again be severely felt—although, in fairness to the authors of that document I want to say that they did not agree with that contention.

To evolve a policy on drought it is necessary, first of all, to dispel some popular misconceptions. For some strange reasons that I have never been able to understand, we group drought with natural disasters such as bush-fires, cyclones, tidal erosion, and other things that happen from time to time. I suggest that the problem is not similar to those created by natural disasters and that it should be treated in an entirely different category. The other blights that I have referred to are not predictable or long-term or widespread as drought is in its accepted terms. They are not expensive in the same comparable terms as drought.

I certainly do not disregard for a moment the great personal loss and expenses experienced when flood, cyclone or bushfire plagues an area, but, against all of these, some precaution can be taken. Effective counter measures can be implemented and relief can be provided quickly. Because these scourges hit suddenly and tragically they contain a high emotive content. But drought is the exact antithesis of all of these. Drought is predictable; it is widespread; it is expensive; and, by virtue of its vast extent, it is not easy to implement counter measures.

In trying to propound drought policies, I believe it is important to isolate the problem and identify it as the greatest single challenge to this State today. It is true that the city man, in his supreme innocence, fails to comprehend the magnitude of the problem or its real impact. Indeed, all too frequently one hears the city man blame the country man for improvidence and over-stocking. However, there has been a far departure from the Dad-and-Dave concept. I shall make some reference to that subject in a moment.

I confess to the Committee that at the recent Liberal Party convention held at Toowoomba, one delegate observed that the four greatest tragedies hitting the country man were the blow-fly, the dingo, the bushfire and city politicians, and he ventured to suggest that the city politician rated highest priority. I disregard that rather cynical comment and I hope that as long as I am in this Assembly I can be considered a friend of the country man and a supporter of his endeavours.

I think some dissent must be registered against those who make the allegations of improvidence. I think we would readily concede that there are those who over-stock and over-spend, and do not plan accordingly, but they are in the infinite minority. I accept that there is a responsible and sensible approach from the great majority of country men.

The primary industries in this country today are confronted with peculiar problems which people in secondary industries do not experience. On the one hand, they are oppressed by the rising cost structure and, on the other hand, their selling prices are governed by situations that they can do little to control. They have the situation also where their industries are much more capital-intensive than they were 15 or 20 years ago. The best evidence of their capacity to husband their resources and ride out droughts can be gained by a reference to a book by Don Campbell simply called "Drought," wherein the author tries to relate the cattle deaths in drought-time to the total cattle population. While his figures are not as recent as I should like, nevertheless they are significant. He points out that in the 1926 drought 24.7 per cent. of the cattle population died. In the 1951 drought the percentage dropped to 12, and I am told that this is a continuing process.

There is ample evidence that the husbandry competence of the grazier is improving year by year. The greatest single, though not exclusive, answer to the drought problem is undoubtedly the storing of water. In a continent where the average rainfall is 16.5 inches we are left with only 10 per cent. of storable water, contrasted with 50 per cent. in Canada and 30 per cent. in the United States. In our own State of Queensland, even taking into account the eight water-conservation schemes implemented since 1957, the three presently under discussion, and the seven projected storage schemes, we will still irrigate only 6,000,000 acres of the States 420,000,000 acres. That gives some indication of the immensity of the water problem. It is obvious that only massive capital participation will minimise this problem that besets our primary industries. The \$250,000,000 Burdekin catchment scheme will, of course, play a useful part in this.

I presume to suggest to the Treasurer that there must be continuing budgetary provision not confined merely to the drought years. It is, to me, almost unbelievable that, after 100 years of recorded history of

drought encompassing our entire nation, no continuing financial structure has been written into our Budgets and no substantial measures to combat it have been devised. I make that comment not unmindful of the millions of dollars spent in drought relief, the generous concessions given on freights, the remissions that are made from time to time, the extensive research, and the more recently implemented drought bonds. Nor do I overlook the various useful methods for provision of water resources.

I suggest, with great respect, that nothing less than a continuing provision is good enough. We should pay for drought in the lush years, not in the drought years. By virtue of its recurring nature, drought, while often talked about, seems to attract action only when it is with us.

I believe that we should be able to establish the amount paid in direct aid over, say, the past 20 years. That, of course, would disregard the indirect costs and the losses of revenue. I believe that when the good seasons ultimately return we could at least determine an average annual cost of drought. This should be set aside in a continuing trust so that a fund is readily available when this State finds itself on hard times. The effect of this would be that funds would be available forthwith for loans, fodder purchase, agistment, freights, and the host of other avenues in which primary producers are in need of help. With such an annual specified provision, we would cushion the effect of drought on our State's economy. I do not think that that point is insignificant.

The problem of drought needs to be fragmented. I have already made some reference to water shortage which, surely, is the greatest single problem facing the agriculturist. In addition to water shortage, the grazier is faced with the other problems of feed shortage, quick transport and finance. I believe that water shortage is a specific problem. It is receiving its share of attention. There is little I can add to what is presently under consideration. I do hope, however, that before too long deed will act word in some of the matters being looked at.

The point most laboured by the 1966 Drought Mitigation Committee relative to feed was the question of on-property production and on-property storage of fodder. It is unfortunate that the terrifying cost of its provision is probably a deterring factor, stopping Governments from looking at this matter closely. The report estimated that to provide feed for a drought nucleus of 200 days in fodder storage would cost something like \$28,000,000, made up as follows:—

	\$
Sheep industry	12,500,000
Beef-cattle industry	10,500,000
Dairy industry	5,000,000

Those figures were propounded in 1966, so there would have been an escalation since then.

In ways of direct participation I doubt whether the Government can do much about this. However, it can look into the question of continuing long-term, low-interest loans. I believe that the fund I have referred to, after storing some "fat" away, could possibly be sufficiently buoyant to at least help with this problem. Surely it would be common sense to offer continuous special rail freight rates for fabricated parts for fodder storage. If we can help when a drought is with us, we can help to mitigate its effects in the better years.

It is certain to me that there must be continuing budgetary provision against drought; there must be massive Commonwealth participation in the provision of water resources; there must be ambitious educational programmes, particularly on fodder storage; and there must be expanded advisory services. There is no other one thing that has a greater impact upon the economy of this State or retards our progress more than drought. There is no other one thing that is more predictable; there is no other one thing that should be grappled with in an effective fashion as urgently as possible.

Mr. HANLON (Baroona) (3.35 p.m.): As the Leader of the Opposition observed, anyone who has any real interest in the development of the nation, particularly the development of Queensland, must share the concern voiced by the Treasurer at the rapid escalation in interest rates, particularly the bond rate. I do not think that anyone would deny that real development at the public level can be achieved only with comparatively cheap money; no development of any great order can be achieved with dear money. Although I do not propose to hark back in history, I might mention that it was this point of view that led Mr. Chifley, as Prime Minister and as Federal Treasurer, to be so dogmatic in his views and some of the actions that he took, prior to the return of the Menzies Government in 1949, to try to steer Australia into a situation in which the country would have the benefit of cheap money for development.

Nevertheless, as the Treasurer observed, once we get into this stream of high interest rates, we are more or less carried along with it whether we like it or not. It is true, as the Treasurer pointed out, that we have probably been somewhat spoilt, and continue to be spoilt, by the interest rates applicable in this country compared with those operating overseas. The long-term bond rate has increased from 5.25 per cent. in November 1968 to 6 per cent., and local authorities such as the Brisbane City Council are at present obliged to offer 6.25 per cent. and, from all accounts, are not getting a great deal of response at that figure in current loans. We also see the bank rate increasing to 7.75 per cent. Whilst we might be fortunate that these

rates are less than the figures of 8 per cent., 9 per cent. and up to 11 per cent. mentioned by the Treasurer as overseas rates, it is nevertheless a matter of concern to those interested in development.

As is often the case when Appropriation Bills are being debated, it is not so much what the Treasurer states as what he does not state that is perhaps of greatest interest. When Sir Thomas Hiley was Treasurer, he adopted the tack during debates on Appropriation Bills of more or less steering the Committee into a discussion of matters that he thought might be appropriate for the Committee to debate. I was surprised, particularly in view of the strong remarks of the Treasurer on his return from overseas about the financing of the proposed Central Queensland powerhouse, that he did not at least make some reference to this subject today. Unfortunately, as the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, the public of Queensland—and the Commonwealth, for that matter—are becoming rather "browned off" at the way in which this subject is developing more into a dogfight between the Commonwealth and the State over who is at fault in any delay that might have occurred than into an attempt to decide the financing of it. I was pleased to see the Premier and the Treasurer taking a stronger stand with the Commonwealth on this matter than they have taken in the past, but this will be of value only if it leads to some constructive follow-up that will resolve all the matters in dispute between the two Governments and enable the job to proceed.

When he stepped off the plane on his return from overseas, the Treasurer referred to a specific industry, although he did not name it, which he said was interested in a potential investment of \$60,000,000 in this State, and he said that the end of this month, which is now only five days away, was the deadline set by the company for an assurance on power that would be available through the proposed powerhouse. The end of the month is approaching, and so far all that we seem to have heard between the time of the Treasurer's return from overseas and now is argument and counter-argument between Commonwealth spokesmen, whether they be the Postmaster-General, to whom the Leader of the Opposition referred, or, further down the line, the hon. member for Moreton, who appears to be the latest put up as the Commonwealth Government's spokesman in this State to answer the Queensland Government and their Liberal and Country Party colleagues here, on the delays that have occurred in this matter.

Mr. Bromley: And he was pretty dodgy, too.

Mr. HANLON: I watched the hon. member for Moreton on "Meet the Press". When I began watching the programme, there was someone on the screen talking about theatre or ballet. I did not think it was the hon. member for Moreton, and the monitor said

that a mistake had been made and that the following week's "Meet the Press" programme had been put on. If that programme had continued, one probably would have learnt as much from the gentleman concerned with the theatre as one learnt from the hon. member for Moreton as to why the Commonwealth Government has taken so long to reach a decision on this matter.

I do not know what remarks the Treasurer made at the Liberal Party Convention at Toowoomba at the week-end, but I think that he should have taken the opportunity today, in this Chamber, to deal with an issue that he has described as being of vital importance to this State in so many directions. As the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, the matter is of importance not only to the localised area of the site of the powerhouse and to industries that might be established in the vicinity and use the power generated; it is of importance also in the supply of power to other parts of the State. With due respect to the Treasurer's remarks relative to the escalating rate of interest on long-term bonds, I think that he had an obligation to take the Committee more into his confidence on this matter.

I remind the Treasurer that stories about the State's responsibility are filtering down the grapevine, and those stories would seem to emanate, at least at some levels, from Commonwealth sources. I refer particularly to the stories that are circulating that the case has been badly presented and badly handled by the Queensland Government. It may be easy for the Opposition, with the State election behind it, to be a bit noble in this context, but the Leader of the Opposition has made it clear that the Opposition has no argument with the Government in its desire to see the powerhouse become a reality. Hon. members on this side of the Chamber are not concerned so much about the delays that have occurred in the past as they are about assisting, if possible, to find a solution to the problem.

One story that has filtered through—no doubt the Treasurer has heard it—is that the case presented has been a fragmented one, that it has not been presented and handled as a total case. It is said that the Commonwealth Government expects to consider a case in which, if clarification is needed on some particular point, it can speak to someone who can quickly provide it with an answer. On the "Meet the Press" programme, the hon. member for Moreton said that there was a big lag between September and March when the Commonwealth asked for further information.

Mr. Chalk: That is not true.

Mr. HANLON: I am pleased to hear the Treasurer say that it is not true. But why did he not tell the Committee that it was not true when he opened this debate today, instead of embarking on an academic discussion that, although important, is not of importance to this project?

The insinuations that are coming through to this State on the grapevine—I do not wish to be associated with them for the narrow advantage of scoring off the Government—reflect on not only the State Government but also the public servants of this State. They suggest that the officers have not been capable of presenting a complete case. I disagree entirely with those insinuations. As the Leader of the Opposition said in the Address-in-Reply debate, the Opposition regards officers of the Public Service in Queensland as being equal in efficiency to those in the employ of the Commonwealth Government or any other State Government. Members on this side of the Chamber do not think that they are incapable of presenting a case to the Commonwealth.

However, stories have been circulated that the Commonwealth received the case and that it was not being handled on a Government-to-Government basis. The claim has been made that when cases have been presented by other States, the Commonwealth has quickly been able to disclose to those States the matters with which it disagrees, or, if the Commonwealth requires some further information, it is quickly available to it. It is suggested that those matters have been handled on a Government-to-Government basis and that the Commonwealth can quickly get an answer and then proceed to the next point. The claim is that that has not been so in the case of the powerhouse proposal, that for the Commonwealth it has been like dealing with a football team, with the ball being passed backwards and forwards across the field; that matters have been referred to the Department of Industrial Development, to the State Electricity Commission, to the Treasurer, and then to the Premier. Frankly, I do not believe this. I believe that the Treasurer, the officials of the Government, the Government itself and the public servants backing them up in this matter would not have a case prepared in this haphazard fashion, and that it was co-ordinated and presented in such a way that the Commonwealth Government could quickly get responses to it.

I invite the Treasurer to take this Parliament into his confidence and tell us the real story of what has happened so far as the power-house project is concerned; to tell us what the present situation is in regard to this \$60,000,000 industry that he said had set a deadline at the end of August. I think in Gladstone, not so long ago, he mentioned some \$600,000,000 as being the potential investment related to this powerhouse when it comes to fruition. I think the Parliament is entitled to know these things, not only for its information because of the importance of the matter but also in fairness to the Treasurer's own officers, who are being down-graded and sold down the line by indirect references to them by Commonwealth sources as to their preparation of the case. If he does not want to defend himself or his own Government, or if he thinks he is at fault in some way and is not prepared to defend

the Premier or his own statements in the matter—as I say, I am not going along with that criticism—at least he should do it for the sake of the officers and State public servants who were associated with the presentation of the case.

Mr. Hughes: Whether the case will stand up or not, you must admit that Queensland is entitled to it.

Mr. HANLON: I do not think there is any disagreement on that point. That is the sort of fortuitous statement the hon. member for Kurilpa always makes. It sounds very good but it means very little. Everybody is agreed on that point. What we want today is not an assurance that all Queenslanders agree that we should get a power-house, but for the State Government, instead of merely shaking its fist and making side remarks at the Commonwealth Government, to tell the people of Queensland, who will be voting in an election on October 25, the facts. The Treasurer said on a "Meet the Press" programme that he realised this, so he should be telling the people what is going on so that they can exert their own pressure on the Commonwealth Government if it has fallen down on the job of helping Queensland.

I want to refer now to more mundane matters and to deal with something that has been presented to me as of some concern to people within the jurisdiction of the Treasurer. It refers to the operations of the General Medical Board within the State Government Insurance Office. As you know, Mr. Ramsden, in 1966 the Workers' Compensation Act was amended to provide that the general manager, at his discretion, could refer cases to various specialty boards that were set up and also to a General Medical Board which would handle matters that did not fall within the ambit of one or other of the specialty boards.

At the end of the last session—as a matter of fact it was on the last day, 11 December—I sought to get some statistics from the Treasurer in this matter by asking him for the number of cases that have been handled by the various boards and the number of rejections, because I had had some complaints about the General Medical Board in particular. The figures he gave me were: in relation to the Cardiac Board, which had been in existence since 1961, 2,116 cases were dealt with—all cases are referred to them—and there were 564 rejections. In the case of the Skin Diseases and Dermatology Board 243 cases were submitted and 83 rejected. For the General Medical Board there were 343 cases and 216 rejections.

It is this to which I want to direct the attention of the Treasurer. Even if we agree that many cases are accepted by the General Manager and are not referred to the General Medical Board—that only the doubtful claims are referred to it—exactly the same thing applies to the Skin Board.

Only the doubtful claims are referred to it, and it would seem that the statistics at least suggest that there should be some review of the operations of the General Medical Board to ascertain just why there is such a high rate of rejection by it.

A number of people, including prominent unionists and advocates who appear for claimants before the General Medical Board, have expressed concern about difficulties that they have experienced when appearing before it. Probably I will not have time to go into all the details of these matters, but I will provide them to the Treasurer later so that he can examine them. I feel that he will recognise that a number of the difficulties that we suggested might arise do seem to be arising in matters that are taken to the General Medical Board. We have no objection to the concept of medical issues being divorced from the duties of an industrial magistrate and referred to a panel of doctors for examination; but when it was proposed to set up these boards we expressed some reservations about cases that mixed facts with law coming before these boards in that they would be distinct from the matter of medical facts involved in the cases and referable to the board. Of course, under the Act a claimant has no right of appeal against the decision of the board once his case is referred to it by the General Manager of the S.G.I.O.

The particular case to which my attention was directed was that of an employee who worked for the Central Queensland Cement Co. at Rockhampton. He sought compensation for a period that he was off work because of sinusitis that he alleged had developed as a result of his inhaling dust in one of the limestone tunnels that he, as a miller's assistant, had to clean out at the plant. The union to which the employee belonged and the advocate who appeared before the board for him at the union's request prepared an extensive case and obtained medical evidence and factual evidence from witnesses of the influence of dust on the claimant. In addition, they obtained evidence of a very haphazard preparation of the brief by the claims clerk in the S.G.I.O. They drew the attention of the board to errors that appeared in the brief that was presented to the board. I am not saying that those errors were made deliberately. The employee's union and his advocate went to a considerable amount of trouble to adduce medical evidence and factual evidence, but they were rebuked and dismissed by the board with the statement, "It is the opinion of the board that the claimant has been suffering from recurring respiratory tract disease for many years. There is no evidence"—and this is the point to which I draw attention—"that he has worked in dusty conditions, as the claimant states. The board recommends the rejection of the claim."

That claimant has no right of appeal. If the board had said that it rejected the evidence and gave reasons for the rejection, as a magistrate would, there could be no argument with that procedure; but this sort of bald statement that there was no evidence presented in the case suggests to me that the board, being a medical board, had not the opportunity of examining matters of fact, as the industrial magistrate had. I therefore wonder whether the Treasurer might give consideration, as we suggested in 1966, not to a right of appeal on medical grounds, because I think that, as we agreed in 1966, if a matter is referred to a specialist medical panel it is rather ridiculous to appeal to another medical panel, but to providing some avenue of pre-consideration of matters of fact and law by the magistrate before the matter is referred to the medical board, or alternatively to some limited right of appeal in the claimant only on these aspects if his claim is rejected by the General Medical Board.

Another matter that causes me concern is that, as we stated when it was intended to set up these medical boards, they would succeed—and we acknowledged that the Cardiac Board has succeeded very well—only if the personnel who constituted the boards were completely judicial and unbiased in their approach to compensation. I do not want to level a personal attack at the chairman of the General Medical Board, but it is regretted that he had been called previously by the S.G.I.O. to express certain strong opinions against the concept of aggravation of an injury being a matter for which compensation should be paid. In other words, if the man had some respiratory troubles in previous years and went to work in a place where his complaint was aggravated by the dust inhaled it should not be recognised as compensable because of the existing deficiency which made him more prone to this trouble than someone who did not have such a medical history. The actual injury within the meaning of the Act arising through the aggravation of his condition by his work is thus disregarded.

As I say, in the case of the General Medical Board, it has been put to me that the medical practitioner who is chairman of the board holds a certain opinion. I do not object to his holding it, nor am I suggesting that he is not entitled to hold that opinion which he has expressed rather strongly in the past when called as a witness before an industrial magistrate. He apparently does not recognise the validity of aggravation as a compensable element for a claimant. His attitude has created the suspicion that the board in looking at these claims has a closed mind relative to aggravation whereas other boards and the industrial magistrate could accept such cases or recognise them as arguable, whether there was agreement with the argument presented by the claimant or not.

It has also been put to me that the General Manager of the State Government Insurance Office—and I use that term in relation to the position and not to the individual—has developed the trend of often by-passing some boards that appear to have a more favourable acceptance of claims record than the General Medical Board. There has been a fairly high rate of referral of claims to the General Medical Board by the State Government Insurance Office, bearing in mind that this is a matter which, under the Act, is within the discretion of the Insurance Office and that the claimant has no say in whether it is referred to the board or to an industrial magistrate. It has been suggested to me that there has been a tendency to by-pass the Orthopaedic Board. Some of the figures I quoted relating to that board indicate a fairly high rate of acceptance of cases referred to it. Of the 47 cases seen to 6 December, 1968, only five were rejected. It may be true, as the Treasurer pointed out, that many cases had actually been accepted previously, and that the Orthopaedic Board was concerned only with the P.P.D. assessment. Nevertheless, as that board has a rejection rate of only five out of 47, any tendency to by-pass it could reflect some feeling of the management of the Insurance Office that with referrals to that board there is a greater chance of a high rate of acceptance than is the case with claims put before the General Medical Board. The claimant, instead of being referred to that board, is sent along to a nominated specialist of the Insurance Office. If there is a rejection the claimant can appeal to the industrial magistrate but he has to appeal against the rejection. He has no choice in whether his case should be referred to that board. It has been suggested to me that the board has been virtually by-passed in a doubtful case because of its favourable reception of claims compared with the figures I quoted relating to the General Medical Board.

I know that my time has almost expired but I wanted to place this case concerning the Central Queensland Cement Company employee before the Treasurer. I will send him the details of it. I request him to examine the operations of these boards under the Act. Other than the Cardiac Board, they have been functioning since the end of 1966. I ask the Treasurer to review their operations and perhaps consider an amendment to allow some limited right of appeal, not on medical issues but on issues of fact and law, either as a right of appeal or as a preliminary consideration, if the claimant so desires, before the matter is referred to a board.

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (4 p.m.): I am particularly pleased that the Minister for Works and Housing, who is in charge of the Police Department, and the Minister for Justice, who has control of art unions, are in the Chamber. I hope that they do not leave before I am finished, although I

feel sure that the odour I shall create might make them feel that they should go outside for a breath of fresh air.

I want to deal with an art union conducted recently by an allegedly reputable organisation. Had it been conducted by anybody else the Fraud Squad would have descended like a wolf on the fold, and those responsible for conducting the art union would have been brought to book. This art union was either a deliberate, calculated fraud or it was conducted by people who are so naive, gullible and credulous that they should never be permitted to conduct another one.

The art union to which I refer was conducted by the Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association. It was drawn in December last year. I have here a ticket in it. It shows that the first prize was a big motor-car valued at \$5,275 and that the third prize was a motor-car valued at \$2,168. The second prize was Aladdin's Record, a 3-year-old brown filly, unraced, by My Aladdin, ex Court Record, fully insured, and a Trailco horse float, type No. 9030S, fully registered, of a total value—the letters and the figures are large—of \$2,600. Later on I shall show that the float was valued at \$600 and the filly at \$2,000.

This prize was won by Mr. W. J. Hunt, a railway guard, who lives at Garbutt in Townsville. On 30 December, the secretary of the Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association wrote to Mr. Hunt saying—

“I have pleasure in confirming telegraphic advice of the 23rd instant to the effect that ticket No. 222614 in the name of W. J. Hunt, won the second prize in the Mammoth Art Union conducted by the Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association.

“The prize is—Aladdin's Record—3-year-old filly and Trailco Float, valued totally at \$2,600.

“At the present time the filly is at Cotswold Hills Stud, Toowoomba, where it can remain, free of agistment charges, until arrangements can be negotiated by you for its delivery. The filly is described as—Brown filly by My Aladdin ex Court Record, foaled 10th August, 1965, referred to in the 1967 Yearlings catalogue as No. 130, and its value is estimated at \$2,000. The filly is fully insured.

“Would you kindly advise as soon as practicable your intentions in so far as taking delivery of your prize is concerned.

“Yours faithfully,

“R. J. McVie,

“General Secretary.”

I stress the word “value”. It is mentioned on the ticket, in the letter and everywhere else that the filly was valued at \$2,000. I mention that because the attitude of certain top-ranking police officers today is one of miserable, contemptible subterfuge and deception. They are now saying, in response

to representations I made to them, that they claimed only that the filly was insured for \$2,000, not that it was valued at \$2,000.

I have here photostat copies of the official documents. They are available to anyone who cares to look at them.

Naturally, on 2 January this year Mr. Hunt wrote to Mr. McVie, thanking him for his letter. Among other things, he said—

“I find however that I have no facilities here in Townsville to look after the horse and float. In view of the circumstances would it be possible for your association to let me have the cash value for the horse and float or if this is not possible to sell same for me as this seems the only course open to me in the present circumstances.”

The Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association wrote a letter to Mr. Hunt in reply on 7 January, again signed by Mr. McVie. They acknowledged receipt of his letter and went on to say, in the second paragraph—

“Unfortunately we cannot assist you in this regard other than to suggest that you contact by letter Mr. Bill Kenny of Australian Estates Co. Ltd., 100 Creek Street, Brisbane, who will advise you of the requirements in offering your filly for sale.

“The float has been purchased and is at present in the hands of the manufacturers awaiting delivery instructions.”

Here now is something that the Minister for Justice could well listen to—

“My Association regrets any experienced difficulty as a result of your win and although it appreciates the problems associated with the prize, it is compelled by Justice Department regulation to meet the prizes as advertised.”

If they are compelled to meet the prizes as advertised, and that compulsion is placed on them by the Justice Department, surely the Justice Department is under some obligation to see that the prize as advertised is worth the monetary value advertised. Apparently the Justice Department never lifted a finger to prove that particular point.

Then, of course, there is the next letter, of 11 January, in which Mr. Hunt says—

“I am in receipt of your letter of the 7th instant for which I thank you. With regard to the sale of the horse and float, I have been in contact with Australian Estates of Brisbane and the matter is now in their hands.

“I told them to get in touch with you for any further details which they may require.

“Thanking you,

“Yours faithfully,

“W. J. Hunt.”

I mention that it was the association which ran the art union that put Hunt in touch with Australian Estates, because now, as a miserable, contemptible subterfuge, they are suggesting that Australian Estates “touched” Hunt in the money that they sent him as

a result of trying to sell the filly and the float, yet he only went to them at the suggestion of the association.

Mr. Hunt then received a letter from Australian Estates, dated 7 February. It read—

“Dear Mr. Hunt,

“We enclose a copy of a letter received from Mr. P. S. Ryan, of Laidley. This is the only definite offer to inspect we have yet received.”

The letter, of course, contained an offer to inspect, and the maximum price that Mr. Ryan would pay was \$300. The letter goes on—

“A Mr. K. Mulligan of Wynnum has submitted an offer of \$240 for the single horse float.”

Bear in mind that the value, which I suggest should have been checked by the Justice Department, was given as \$600. And so the game goes on.

Then Mr. Hunt, who is a very reputable citizen of Townsville, was “tipped off” that there was something very smelly about the whole business, so he wrote to Australian Estates and had them get a reputable veterinary surgeon examine the horse. I do not want to embarrass the Treasurer or the hon. members from Toowoomba. However, this horse was examined by Mr. W. R. Mills, Bachelor of Veterinary Science in Toowoomba. Incidentally, Mr. Hunt had to pay \$8 for this examination, which he did not mind doing. Mr. Mills said of the horse—

“This filly is in good health and condition. Abnormal wear of the leading edges of the incisor teeth and displacement of the off upper lateral temporary incisor tooth indicates a chronic wind-sucker. This is confirmed by Stud-master C. Waugh. This filly is quiet and handled to lead. A muscular depression on the off side neck is of no practical significance.”

Hunt therefore paid \$8 to Mr. Mills to find out that the horse was absolutely valueless.

Let us go on. Australian Estates then got in touch with the veterinary surgeon who had examined the horse for the Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association, or whatever they call themselves. This is where the racket was worked. This is a letter from Australian Estates to Mr. Hunt, dated 6 May—

“With reference to your letter of the 28th instant, we enclose Mr. Pascoe’s Veterinary Certificate relating to your My Aladdin filly, together with the account and his explanation of the first soundness examination.

“Mr. Pascoe asked us to point out to you that he examined the filly for the Police Club for insurance purposes only, and therefore he did not mention her wind infirmity. He also made it known that he was most upset calling another vet in to examine the mare.”

As a matter of fact, it was not a mare, it was a filly. But that does not matter. No wonder he was upset.

The letter continues—

“The filly was inspected again last Sunday, but unfortunately to no avail. As Mr. Waugh is most anxious to have the filly removed from his property, could you please let us know what you intend to do with her?”

This is the certificate given by Mr. Pascoe, who, incidentally, was the man employed by the Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association to examine the filly in the first place and to certify, according to the association, that it actually was worth \$2,000.

I invite hon. members to listen to this—

“1st May, 1969.

“Attention Mr. David Chester

“Dear Sir,

“Please find enclosed certificate for ‘My Aladdin’ filly examined on the 9th April, 1969, at Mr. C. Waugh’s ‘Rushlands’ property, Hodgsonvale.

“This filly is definitely a wind-sucker. I previously examined this filly at Cotswold Hills Stud, Toowoomba, late in 1968, for insurance purposes only, not for soundness.

“At the time of examination, the filly was held by the studgroom, and at no time showed any indication of wind-sucking. Wind-sucking is not a condition which affects insurance examination—only soundness examination.

“Yours sincerely,

“R. R. Pascoe (M.V. Sc.)”

So here is a man who admits in his certificate that the filly was held when he examined it. He did not even satisfy himself that she could walk; he did not examine her mouth, as he should have done. If he had examined the filly’s mouth, he would have found the wear on the incisor teeth, typical of the wind-sucker, that Mr. Mills found on his later examination. He said in the certificate that he did not examine the horse for soundness; he did not examine it to see how much it was actually worth. He examined it only for insurance purposes, and I suggest to the Minister for Justice and to the Minister in charge of police that he was instructed to examine it only for insurance purposes.

There may be some people who will say—I shall interpolate a couple of documents at this stage—that no insurance company would insure a horse for \$2,000 if it was not worth \$2,000. What bunk and flapdoodle that is! That was an argument put to me by top-ranking police officers.

On 17 April, 1969, after Hunt had proved that the filly was absolutely worthless, after he had proved by the certificates of two veterinary surgeons that she was a wind-sucker, unsaleable, and not worth a bumper, he received this letter from the Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association, with the appropriate form, asking him to

renew the insurance on the filly for \$2,000 after it had been proved to be a crock. I have the documents in front of me.

Let me go further. On 21 April, Hunt wrote again—I remind the Committee that this is the filly that he was told he could leave on the property until it suited his convenience to move her—and said—

"I would like to advise you that I find it impossible to sell either the horse or the float. I have been trying unsuccessfully all this time. It has been in Australian Estates hands and they even put it in McTaggart's hands and they were unable to sell. I have been told by the Stud Master when I was talking to him by phone last Wednesday morning that I have to have the horse off Rushlands Stud Farm this week."

They did not wait for him to give his permission for the filly to be taken off Rushlands Stud Farm, although he had been assured that he could leave her there until he disposed of her. They shifted her off Rushlands in a float for which Hunt had to pay. Hunt wrote to them and told them what he thought of them. He told them that he thought he had been diddled—I would have used stronger language—and they wrote to him again on 2 June, 1969, through his solicitors, Messrs. Wilson Ryan & Grose. The letter is from Trout, Bernays & Tingle, and all hon. members know Sir Leon Trout, a pillar of the Liberal Party. It reads—

"Dear Sirs,

"Re: Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Association and W. J. Hunt
Your Ref. JC/MT

"Your letter herein of the 29th April last addressed to the General Secretary, Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association, has been handed to us with instructions to reply to the same."

They ran for the funk-hole; they went to a solicitor. The letter continues—

"Our client association instructs us that the prize mentioned in your letter was in no manner whatsoever misrepresented."

Holy smoke! It wasn't misrepresented? They advertised it and congratulated him on winning a prize worth \$2,600, and the best he could get for it through reputable firms like Australian Estates and Mactaggarts was \$300 for the lot yet they have the nerve to say it was not misrepresented.

The letter goes on

". . . and in point of fact the filly was not a windsucker at any time prior to its transfer to Rushlands Stud.

"An opinion given by one expert in this regard is that possibly boredom or a change of agistment may have attributed to the wind sucking development.

"Our client Association regrets that it is unable to help Mr. Hunt in the matter."

So there are Messrs. Trout, Bernays & Tingle wiping him off.

Now let us have a look at the real value of this My Aladdin filly. We all know, of course, that sires go to stud and mares are taken to them, and when the progeny are sold everybody in the racing game knows the sire and the dam. To give hon. members some idea of the real worth of the best of My Aladdin stock, I have here a cutting from "The Toowoomba Chronicle" of Saturday, 12th July, 1969, dealing with the sale of My Aladdin progeny. None of these were wind-suckers or crocks. They were all in best possible racing condition, and these are the prices they brought in open competition—

"Lady Aladdin (My Aladdin-Incal) foaled 1962, \$200, Mactaggarts.

"Aladdin's Nymph (My Aladdin-Scotch Nymph) foaled 1965, \$50, C. and C. Z. Thorogood, Minden.

"Aladdin's Joy (My Aladdin-Phoney War) foaled 1965, \$250, Brideson and Sons, Oakey.

"Aladdin's Pearl (My Aladdin-Incal) foaled 1965, \$250, C. and C. Z. Thorogood, Minden."

There we have the My Aladdin stock, in the very best racing condition, bringing only \$250 at a sale where there would be men who know all about racing stock and racehorses, yet the association had the nerve to advertise that the horse in question was valued at \$2,000 and the float at \$600.

I do not want to embarrass anyone in this matter but, as a competent carpenter, the hon. member for Belmont will know that the float would have been made of pine laths and very thin hardboard stuck together with brads. This \$600 float was finally sold for \$200, the filly was finally sold for \$100 through a reputable firm and all that poor old Mr. Hunt got out of it from this allegedly reputable organisation was about \$200. He had total phone calls to Brisbane, Toowoomba and Oakey costing \$40.22; veterinary fees for Mills and Pascoe, \$16; Australian Estates, Brisbane, commission, \$15; transfer fees of horse to Cotswold Hills Stud from Rushlands Stud, Hodgsonvale, \$8, and I remind hon. members that that was done without his knowledge or consent, because he had been assured that he could leave the horse at Rushlands for as long as he liked. His total expenses so far total \$79.22 and he was to receive \$300 from Australian Estates. He would be lucky if he cleared \$200 as the result of this stunt.

I could say much more about this matter. In my young days when I was a member of the A.L.P. we raffled a chesnut racehorse in Cloncurry. An old bagman won it—a fellow who used to go round with the hand shears to shear the stragglers that were left over after the shearing. When he won it he was very elated. He said, "It will do me to ride from shed to shed." When he went out to the common to get it he found an old bay horse that was dead and he had

to pay someone £1 to drag it away and burn it. But at least we had sufficient decency to pass around the hat and to get the poor old bagman a few pounds to mollify him.

Both the Minister in charge of police and the Minister in charge of art unions are present, and I think I have the right to demand on behalf of all decent, clean-living, honourable and honest citizens of Queensland that, in view of this fraudulent action taken, wittingly or unwittingly, by the Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association, Hunt be paid the full advertised value of the second prize. He would have been better off if he had won third prize, because he would have won a Cortina car worth \$2,000. He would have been better off even if he had won the fourth prize or the fifth prize. In fact, when one considers all the trouble and worry that faced him he would have been better off if he had not won anything at all.

We would expect this sort of practice from "con" men, go-getters and no-hopers—and the police would have been on them like a ton of bricks—but in this case all that I can get from top-ranking police officers is evasive and smart-Alec talk that I would expect to hear only from crooks and "con" men.

I demand on behalf of all decent citizens that Mr. Hunt be paid the full value of his prize and that until he is the Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association be not permitted to conduct any further art unions. At the same time I suggest to the Minister for Justice that no live animal at all be offered as a prize in any art union unless the tickets contain a condition that the winner can get money equivalent to its advertised value. I have seen too many rackets worked, and I wonder why they are still allowed to be worked.

The chap at the Cotswold Hills stud, which gave this filly that was allegedly worth \$2,000, immediately would claim a taxation deduction of \$2,000 and send along the art union ticket to support his claim. Of course, he would have had the \$2,000 allowed as a taxation deduction. The man who made the trailer would claim a \$600 deduction for the trailer, and that claim would be allowed on the basis of the ticket. I notice that the "ginger group" are laughing and guffawing their heads off. I have no doubt that they concur with this sort of practice and that this is the type of smart-Alec fraud that those in the Liberal Party practise if they get the chance. I would say that the exposure of this fraud in a Brisbane Sunday newspaper has evoked a good deal of comment and created a good deal of dissension in the community.

These are the days in which we are asked to build up a friendly image of the police among the citizens, and the citizens are asked to trust the police. We are supposed to go out to the schools and tell the children that the policemen are their friends. In most cases the policeman

is the children's friend, and in most cases the policeman is the citizens' friend. But how in the face of this incident can we tell the people that all policemen are men of honesty, probity and good repute?

I have some other documents here that are available for either or both Ministers concerned to peruse. They are available for the Leader of the Opposition or any other hon. member, or anyone in the Press gallery, or anyone else, for that matter, to peruse. I would say that I have disclosed and exposed one of the most putrid frauds that has been perpetrated on anybody in Queensland, and it was perpetrated by an organisation that should have been the last to do so. The only thing that I can say in that organisation's defence—and this is only problematical—is that perhaps it did not know that it was perpetrating a fraud and that its members were gullible, credulous, naive, and walked into this with their eyes closed.

Something should be done to recompense Mr. Hunt for the prize that he won and to rehabilitate the image of the police in Queensland. At present most people think that the police "stink" or are "on the nose", and that opinion is held of policemen who do not deserve it because most members of the Police Force are decent fellows; but they are "on the nose" now because of the exposure of this fraud, and both the Minister in charge of police and the Minister for Justice are duty bound to do something about it.

Mr. DAVIES (Maryborough) (4.24 p.m.): We grow sick and tired of statements by members of the Government on the various financial matters and problems that we discuss here in debates. The Treasurer mentioned one or two matters and said, "I must place these thoughts on record." But what is he going to do about them? He made no attempt to find any solution to our problems. How much better it would have been for the people of this State if we had seen an indignant Treasurer fighting for the rights of Queensland? But, we know we cannot expect that, even though Queensland is the Cinderella State. Today, more than ever, election campaigns are very expensive. The cost of TV programmes, wireless and newspaper advertising and circulars is tremendous. We know that immense sums were spent in the last State election campaign, particularly in the Maryborough, Isis and Bundaberg electorates. That expenditure was far beyond the purse of the local Queensland Government parties. We know that over the years they have depended on finance from the South. That is why the Treasurer and the Premier are not prepared to stand up to Mr. Gorton and the Commonwealth Government. We are led to believe, according to the Press, that there is more fight in Mr. Askin and Mr. Bolte than there is in the Treasurer and they express more indignation about the actions of the Commonwealth than he does. We do not find our Treasurer joining Mr. Askin in demanding

a conference with Mr. Gorton in an effort to come to some understanding on State-Commonwealth relationships and so safeguard the interests of the State.

On the subject of finance we have the statement of the member for Townsville South which we are prepared to believe, that the prefabricated steelworks in Townsville was closed because southern interests were granted concessional rail rates to Townsville. We believe that they will be granted for the Goonyella project as well. We are quite prepared to believe the statement that \$7,313.26 was placed in the Liberal Party chest for the recent State election campaign. No doubt this course has been followed throughout the industrial development in Queensland. In the Address-in-Reply debate I intend to develop more fully my case on the Government's failure to decentralise industry. The Government's efforts are not even meeting with the success that has been evidenced by recent happenings in New South Wales.

It is hard to realise that no statement emanated from the meeting in Toowoomba, an important provincial city of this State, of the Prime Minister, Mr. Gorton, the Premier and the Deputy Premier. I am not sure if the Premier was admitted to the Liberal Party conference or whether he was present on any occasion, but in any event Mr. Gorton and the Treasurer conferred in Toowoomba without making any pronouncement about very important matters that are causing electors in general so much concern, such as the power-house scheme, the water-conservation projects, and further and greater drought relief for the State.

It was political effrontery for these people to meet in such a fashion, without making some statement to the people of Queensland. We can well imagine their sitting around the coffee or tea table and Mr. Gorton saying to our Treasurer, and the Premier, if he was there, "Well, a Federal election is looming; evidently there is great indignation on the Queensland coastline about what is going to happen to the wonderful reef. I did not say anything during the State election campaign, but personally I am against these developments; I believe the reef should be preserved. A Federal election is coming up and the electorates of Herbert, Capricornia and Dawson must be considered; I will have to make a statement. I will make it rather quietly, something after the fashion in which you make your protests against the treatment handed out to the State in financial matters." Mr. Gorton made his statement against drilling on the Barrier Reef, but where was he during the last State election when this matter was of great concern in the North and South of Queensland? If the Prime Minister has such a vital interest in our reef waters why did he fail then to express his opinions on the policy of the Queensland Government, and to try to influence the Queensland Government in this matter?

The Federal election campaign commences shortly. The Treasurer and the Premier will go out onto the hustings in this State, not making the statements they make in this Chamber, but making false and untrue statements, as they did in the last election campaign, on water-scheme money being available, drought relief, which has been such a failure, and decentralisation.

I shall now place on record some figures concerning a matter raised by the Leader of the Opposition. The public debt of the Commonwealth and of the States, as at 30 June, 1966, is evidenced by the issue of securities and the White Paper "Government Securities on Issue". Any figures more recent than these would further emphasise the problem mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition. The Commonwealth debt amounted to \$3,144,519,000 whereas the States' debt, at \$7,494,623,000, was more than double the Commonwealth's debt. The total debt of local, semi-governmental and other public authorities, including debt owing to Governments, is published by the Commonwealth Statistician in a bulletin entitled "State, Territory and Local Government Authorities' Finance and Government Securities." As at 30 June, 1964, the latest date for which full information is available, the total debt was \$4,973,512,000.

The percentage increase, using the figure at the end of the previous financial year as the basis, was—

	Per cent.
Commonwealth	0.3
States	5.7
Local semi-governmental and other public authorities	8.4

This is a matter that could be discussed by some of the Country Party representatives in this Parliament in the interests of their local authorities. But we never hear this subject raised in a way that might prompt the Commonwealth Government to deal with it.

In 1953, the Commonwealth Government's share of the national debt amounted to \$3,892,000,000; by 1963 it had fallen to \$3,121,000,000, a decline of 19 per cent. in 10 years; or almost 2 per cent. a year. In 1953, the States' share of the national debt amounted to \$3,288,000,000; by 1963 it had jumped to \$6,314,000,000, an increase of about 92 per cent. in 10 years. It almost doubled in 10 years. The position of local, semi-governmental and other public authorities is even worse. In 1953, their share of the national debt was \$286,000,000; by 1963 it had jumped to \$690,000,000, an increase of 140 per cent. in 10 years, representing 14 per cent. a year.

There are one or two matters I should like to mention relative to the Federal electorate of Wide Bay.

Mr. Chalk: Where is that?

Mr. DAVIES: I hope the Treasurer finds out where it is and comes to that electorate, because the more frequently he visits it, the greater will be the victory of Brendan Hansen, the Federal member for Wide Bay, particularly in the area that is represented by the hon. member for Condamine, stretching over Porter's Gap to the Bunya Range and as far as Kumbia. The Country Party candidate for Wide Bay was severely trounced in the recent State election for Bundaberg. As a matter of fact, he gained fewer votes than the previous Country Party candidate.

As I said, I have one or two thoughts I should like to express relative to the water schemes that are of interest in the Wide Bay area, in which the hon. member for Burnett has taken interest, without any results.

The point that I want to make is that during the State election campaign Ministers, together with Country Party representatives and the Liberal Party representative in Maryborough, endeavoured to convince the people of those electorates that \$47,000,000 had been made available by the Commonwealth Government. The advertisements read, "\$47,000,000 for Bundaberg. How much for Maryborough?" "The Maryborough Chronicle" stated—

"The \$47 million scheme announced last week to eliminate drought hazards and augment water supplies in the Bundaberg-Childers-Gin Gin areas is a dramatic example of a new spirit in the approach to problems that go back to the beginnings of settlement."

That appeared in "The Maryborough Chronicle" just before the State election in an endeavour to win votes for the Government.

We also find that Mr. McEwen, who is retiring in twelve months, rushes in before each election and, with tongue in cheek, makes promises that are never kept. He said at about the time of the election that he would "wring" this money out of the Commonwealth. He said that last May, so he has been "wringing" for more than three months and the \$47,000,000 is still far away. The Government is going to ask the people to support the Country Party candidate for Bundaberg against an experienced man, Mr. Brendan Hansen, who has won the confidence of the people of the farming areas of Gayndah, Mundubbera and Biggenden. Because of his grasp of the problems of the man on the land, the way in which he fights for water conservation and the confidence that the people have in him, his figures improve at each election. His ability is known among the 14,000 electors in the Barambah electorate, and also in the Kumbia area in Condamine.

In 1949 we had another instance of this type of thing when Artie Fadden said at Boonah, "The Burdekin scheme will not be pigeon-holed. We will proceed with it."

Mr. McEwen, who followed him, is now making the same type of comment about the Kolan-Bundaberg-Isis scheme. He said to the Country Party member for Burnett, "Come down to Canberra and I will fight for you down there." They are going down on about 15 September, just before the Federal election, to state the case.

Attempts were made to defeat the members for Bundaberg and Isis by spreading false propaganda about the water scheme by means of radio, television and the Press. In spite of all those efforts, the hon. member for Isis increased his majority from 15 per cent. in the by-election to about 16 or 17 per cent.

The case for the water scheme has been prepared by respected citizens, experienced cane-growers, and the chairman of the Bundaberg and District Irrigation Committee, backed up by Mr. Haigh, a man for whom we all have a tremendous respect. Recently Mr. Haigh went to Childers and addressed a meeting of over 300 indignant farmers. His Minister was unable to give him any definite statement about when money would be made available for this scheme. These people were told that even if the money was available it would take two years for plans and specifications to be prepared and another 12 years to have the scheme working, making a total period of 14 years. One farmer stood up and looked round the hall and said, "How many of you will be here to benefit from this scheme?" This is the scheme that the Country Party candidate during the last State election told the people of Isis would give them water in two years. That is typical of the statements that were made throughout those areas.

The first grant of Commonwealth money to Queensland went, I might mention, to the Emerald scheme. I do not propose to discuss the merits of that scheme or its priority over those required in the Wide Bay area. However, we have it on good authority that this scheme was never discussed by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, which will consider the Isis scheme, and that it was a political decision. It was a political decision, and the first grant to Queensland of Commonwealth money went into the Emerald scheme. The Minister for National Development, Mr. Fairbairn, said that the Kolan scheme was not considered because the State had given preference to the Emerald scheme. Anyone who knows this part of the Wide Bay area, which so greatly concerns the Maryborough farming area and the Bundaberg farming area, realises how sad the situation there is at present. I shall leave it to the hon. member for Bundaberg and the hon. member for Isis to dwell on that subject, possibly in the Address-in-Reply debate.

The Kolan scheme was investigated in 1964 and a committee was formed composed of representatives of the local authorities, local

branches of the Queensland Cane Growers' Council, and the six sugar mills in the area. The cane-growers alone put \$20,000 into the research work for the preparation of the case to place before the Commonwealth Government. Now the hon. member for Burnett, Mr. Wharton, and the Country Party candidate for Wide Bay are going to see Mr. McEwen and other Country Party Ministers, members and Senators to support the Bundaberg and District Irrigation Committee. Just imagine what the result of that meeting will be! I remind the Committee that it will take place before the Federal election and that we shall hear the usual election catcheries.

Mr. Haigh, the Commissioner of Irrigation and Water Supply, said that a ballot of the farmers in the area has to be taken before the scheme can proceed. One wonders why the ballot has to wait till the money is available. If money is made available and the farmers vote against the scheme in the ballot, the scheme will not proceed and the negotiations will have been a waste of time.

This is one of the biggest schemes that the State has considered, because 1,460 farmers are concerned in it. In the Ord scheme, costing \$45,000,000 only 350 farms are involved. In the Bowen-Broken River scheme there are 200 to 250 farms, and in the Emerald scheme, which had priority over the Kolan scheme, only 130 farms are involved. In this instance there will have to be a ballot of 1,460 farmers, and I ask the Government why that ballot cannot be taken. The tremendous majority that it would reveal might assist the Government, if further influence is needed. However, it is very doubtful whether the Government wants assistance.

The Minister for Local Government and Marine Activities confirmed the statement by Mr. Haigh to which I referred earlier when he said, in a statement reported in the "Bundaberg News-Mail" on 21 July, that the proposals would have to be put to individual landholders to ascertain whether they desired to proceed with the scheme, and that it would not be proceeded with if the ballot was not in favour of it.

As I said earlier, people are going to Canberra to place the case before Mr. McEwen. What influence has Mr. McEwen with Mr. Gorton now? He has announced that he is resigning and retiring in 12 months, and it has been proved on previous occasions that his promises are not worth anything.

The hon. member for Burnett is going to Canberra as the Country Party representative, and already he has misled the Bundaberg and District Irrigation Committee with an incorrect statement and has had to be reproved by Mr. Anthony, the Federal Minister for Primary Industry, who said—

"A report that the Bureau of Agricultural Economics had 'not even begun to study' a report on the Bundaberg region irrigation scheme was not correct..."

Mr. Chenery, the secretary of the Bundaberg and District Irrigation Committee, said that Mr. Wharton had stated that he was in weekly contact with Mr. Anthony. That

is the kind of information that is given out at election time. Unless one confronts people with the truth, a false statement wins votes for the people disseminating it, because the electors cannot imagine that the representative of any political party would place incorrect and misleading information before them.

Mr. Bromley: Do you think that Mr. Wharton is a fibber?

Mr. DAVIES: The reply from Mr. Anthony is that the "B.A.E."—that is the Bureau of Agricultural Economics—"cannot undertake an examination of the report until requested by the Prime Minister, and the Prime Minister has made no such request." Then, as I have said, we had a statement from Mr. Anthony on 23 August in which he said that the bureau had in fact studied in considerable detail the report tendered to the Commonwealth by the Queensland Government. He said, "Suggestions that the report had not been studied were completely incorrect."

These are the people who are fighting against the Labour Party in this area of the State. The Minister said—

"I told Mr. Wharton that no decision had been taken as yet as to whether the scheme should be examined in detail by the bureau."

Take note of that statement. That comes from Mr. Anthony, yet during the last election campaign we had to fight in these three electorates to get statements that the \$47,000,000 was there. It was dishonesty. He said—

"I assured Mr. Wharton that should such an examination be considered necessary, it would be undertaken as quickly as possible."

Notice the "ifs" and the "buts"! He said—

"So the situation is that the Queensland Government's report has been, and is being, very closely studied, but there has been no decision as to whether the B.A.E. should be asked to make its own independent investigation of the scheme."

How far have we advanced? The cane-growers in this area, in Wide Bay and between Bundaberg and Maryborough, are putting \$20,000 into the investigation of this scheme. They have not sat down and waited for the Government to do everything. They themselves have been active and we can be very proud of what they have achieved. But this Government has not played its part, nor has the Commonwealth Government.

The Treasurer is not prepared to discuss the power-house scheme. There has been no mention today of that. The Minister for Local Government and Marine Activities, the Hon. Nev. Hewitt, said that the power-house is so important to Central Queensland that we will go it alone. He said—

"The objective of the \$200,000,000 Gladstone powerhouse project is the

supply of cheap power for the establishment of \$600,000,000 worth of new industries in Central Queensland."

The Bundaberg and district irrigation scheme is not going to cost \$200,000,000. I am not saying that the power-house should not be built, but if the Government can find the money to go ahead or start that scheme, why does it not start on this water scheme? We have responsible men like Mr. Ben Anderson and Mr. G. Chenery, Secretary of the Bundaberg and District Irrigation Committee stating—

"The Bundaberg District Water Conservation and Irrigation Project on the other hand is estimated to cost \$47,000,000 and is designed to stabilise the economy of the district sugar industry and safeguard an existing investment of some \$250,000,000 in that and other district industries, private and public buildings and community services."

This district is going to lose \$17,000,000 as the result of this drought; Isis district is going to lose \$5,000,000 to \$6,000,000; the manager of the sugar mill in Maryborough estimates a loss of \$2,000,000. This is a terrific drought and the situation is very serious. We have reports from many of the banks that these farmers are finding themselves right up against it. The Minister for Local Government and Marine Activities is confused; all the Ministers are confused. One Minister is attacking the Premier and other Ministers are contradicting each other. The Minister claimed we would go it alone. Then, speaking later, he is reported as saying—

"The State Government could proceed with planning the Burnett Scheme only if financial assistance was given by the Commonwealth Government."

We do not know just where we are going in this business.

I have a report here from the "Bundaberg News-Mail". I will quote only one thought from it. It says—

"It would not seem beyond the capacity of the State Government to do this if Cabinet Ministers were really as enthusiastic about the project as they claim."

The people in these areas have shown a complete lack of confidence in them. Isis and Bundaberg were two of the star seats they hoped to win at the last State election, and the Government's defeat there was so staggering that they have not recovered from it sufficiently—

Mr. Jensen: And they will wake up to Wharton next election, too.

Mr. DAVIES: That is a certainty. The information we have received from reliable citizens, including members of the Bundaberg Skin Divers' Club, will be dealt with later by the hon. member for Bundaberg. I will have to forgo the remarks I intended to make on the Barrier Reef. It should be placed on record immediately that the Bundaberg Skin Divers' Club and those people

associated with it have found no evidence that the "Crown of Thorns" starfish is any more prevalent than it was years ago.

(Time expired.)

Mr. LICKISS (Mt. Coot-tha) (4.51 p.m.): On the occasion of the introduction of the first Appropriation Bill during the term of this Parliament the Treasurer has rightly made some very frank comments on the State's economy and some of the problems that will possibly face this State in the ensuing months.

It is passing strange that a Treasurer who accepts this responsibility—and surely this is a matter that is of great interest to the public and to this place—comes under attack from members of the Opposition because he has not commented on certain facets of other irrelevant matters that they would like to hear about. Later I shall deal with a number of the critical remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition, but at this stage it is appropriate to remark that following the Federal Budget our Treasurer advised Parliament and the people of Queensland about some of its effects on the State's economy.

We all know that interest rates were increased to dampen down what one might describe as a mild inflationary trend in the economy. This policy has shown its benefit in stabilising the nation's economy over the years. Under it, it is possible to dampen down, and so avoid, the troughs and peaks that were part and parcel of bygone days and upon which the Opposition used to capitalise so often and for so long. The Treasurer has drawn attention to the impact of the increased interest rates on our State's economy. I think it is true to say that when the interest rates are increased the net result is a positive flow of revenue to the Commonwealth, but, if I might describe it as such, a negative flow in terms of revenue from the State. This prevails down the line to local-government and semi-government financial activities. We cannot gloss over these things; they are of great moment to the State and to a Treasurer, who has to try to balance the Budget, as it were, in terms of his own State's economy.

It has been rightly pointed out that when corrective action is taken at the Commonwealth level, such action must be taken on a broad pattern. Again it has been correctly pointed out that all States are not similarly situated at any given time in terms of their financial status. For instance, with the southern States, industrial activity plays a greater role in their economy than does primary industry. I do not wish to go back in history, but members of the Opposition have nothing to be proud of in relation to our own State's situation and the balance between primary industry and secondary industry. It is on record that when they were in Government they did everything in their power to discourage the establishment of secondary industry in this State. In fact, when Labour

had taxing powers it had a reputation for imposing the highest incidence of company tax of all States in the Commonwealth.

While I do not wish to retrace history, I say to the Leader of the Opposition that far from being critical of this Government's activity he must admit that at least we have reached the stage in our history where very severe droughts such as we have suffered do not have the same adverse impact on the State's general economy as in the days of Labour. We can blame part of our troubles on Labour's Clarrie Fallon and all those who knew of the approaching war between the craft unions and the A.W.U., and so on. That is why Queensland has suffered over the years. Fortunately, this Government has been able to encourage secondary industries, which have not done a bad job. We face a situation which is not quite as serious as it would have been had Labour been on the Government benches.

Mr. Houston: How do you know?

Mr. LICKISS: The A.L.P. would have followed its old policies. The A.L.P. is still having its battles between the right-wing and left-wing unions which have had injurious effects on the State's economy.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr. LICKISS: The A.L.P. in Queensland let all the other States get a flying start and Queensland had to start from a very bad last. We are now overtaking the lag, although this goes against the Opposition's grain.

The general situation is that when a dampening down of the economy takes place at the Commonwealth level it has to apply evenly to the economies of all States. I mentioned previously that the States are not in identical situations. For the greater part of the occupancy of the Treasury benches by the present Government, Queensland has been plagued by rather severe droughts. Of course, the Queensland economy does not have to be damped down because we have inbuilt restraints at the moment. In fact, at this point in time, we actually need an injection of capital. The general effects of the increased interest rates will have a severe impact unless corrective action is taken to help some of our primary producers who are already in debt because of the drought. The Treasurer has outlined the difficulties here in very frank terms.

In criticising the system, the Leader of the Opposition said that the States are becoming merely the agency of the Commonwealth. In answering an interjection by my colleague from Toowong, who asked what Labour's policy would be, he said that we were living in the past, and that we would not know what Labour's policy is. I should like to know just what Labour's policy is in relation to Commonwealth-State relationships.

Mr. Houston: You have been told on many occasions since November last year.

Mr. LICKISS: If the Leader of the Opposition has a later edition outlining Labour's policy than I have, or if he denies his own Federal platform—

Mr. Houston: It is out of date.

Mr. LICKISS: There is one easy way out of this. I would vouch for the honesty of the hon. member and I feel that he is an honourable gentleman, but will he let me know where his policy has changed in relation to the implementation of the platform of the Australian Labour Party? The hon. member spoke about the State being the agency of the Commonwealth. Where has the Australian Labour Party policy changed in relation to Method iv 3 (a) (i), on page 10 of this document that I have here, which reads—

"To clothe the Commonwealth Parliament with unlimited powers and with the duty and authority to create States possessing delegated Constitutional powers."

Where has the A.L.P. changed its platform policy on that matter? Opposition members are harking back to the good old days of Mr. Calwell, who advocated 57 States for Australia, all puppet administration centres of the central Government. All that the Leader of the Opposition is endeavouring to do—and he is making a very poor attempt—is to hop onto a popular band wagon at the moment, because certain responsible members of the community, in both the Federal and State governmental spheres, are looking into State-Commonwealth relations. Let me point out that the Labour platform is set up to virtually destroy the Federal system.

As the Constitution stands, the powers of the Commonwealth Government are limited, and therefore any negotiations between State and Commonwealth are regulated by a document which stands in law. The Commonwealth is limited in many respects. For the sake of argument, we can implement an Act of Parliament, because of our sovereign powers, in terms of the acquisition of land on such terms as we deem to be desirable. But the Commonwealth Government cannot do that. It is bound by the Constitution to acquire land on just terms. Therefore, the Commonwealth does not have a "free go." There has been some misinterpretation of Commonwealth-State arrangements. These are matters which can and will be sorted out under the existing Commonwealth Constitution.

I do not think that it does the Leader of the Opposition any good in terms of his own party to try to hop onto this popular band wagon and accuse the States of becoming agencies of the Commonwealth when in fact this is set out among the aims and objects of the Australian Labour Party.

Mr. Houston: You cannot even read.

Mr. LICKISS: I said that the Leader of the Opposition can deny the truth of this, but he knows that he cannot. All he can do is blush and hope that the general public will not wake up when the A.L.P. draws its red herrings across the trail.

It has been said that it is desirable to have a balanced economy. But economists have already shown, and I think history has proved, that the economy is not necessarily healthy when it is balanced at a static level. In modern-day budgeting, slight inflationary tendencies are acceptable provided safeguards are inbuilt into the economy.

I do not think that Opposition members want to see the economy of this nation run riot. I believe they should co-operate with the Treasurer by expressing views on this State's needs in terms of developmental capital, bearing in mind that in this modern day and age development takes place by capital intensive rather than by labour intensive. They would show a far more responsible attitude if they dealt with this less on a political basis and more on an appropriate basis which would accord with the interests of this State.

I compliment the Treasurer for taking this opportunity to highlight some of the problems that he sees ahead in matters which will affect his budget programme. The State's economy, bearing in mind the adversities we have suffered, is in a very healthy condition. I look forward to the presentation of the Budget and hope that, on that occasion, Opposition members will display a far more responsible attitude.

Hon. G. W. W. CHALK (Lockyer—Treasurer) (5.5 p.m.), in reply: As is usually the case during debates on Appropriation Bills, hon. members have taken the opportunity to raise quite a number of matters for discussion. It is not my intention this afternoon to try to reply to those things that are not directly associated with the economy or finances of the State. However, I do appreciate the fact that some members have made direct references to my remarks concerning the need for a new financial relationship between the Commonwealth and the States, and particularly do I appreciate the basis on which Opposition members have accepted my suggestion that it is necessary in times of inflation to have regard not to the whole of Australia but rather to an examination of the problems of the various States. I assure the Committee that I was quite sincere in saying that, and I will use every available opportunity to endeavour to advance this thinking in the proper places when it comes to hammering out, as it were, at Commonwealth and State level a new approach to the financial relationship between the two arms of government.

The Leader of the Opposition, quite naturally, saw an opportunity to try to drive a little wedge between the Commonwealth and the State. I expected him to do that at this time of the year. However, I may say that the attitude of the Commonwealth Government has at all times been to endeavour to prevent the inflationary trends to which I referred. I do not accept the assertion of the Leader of the Opposition that the Federal Treasurer believes that there should be a pool of unemployed. I do not believe that the Federal Treasurer

has at any time uttered words that would allow such an impression to be gathered. It is true, however, that in some areas of the Commonwealth at present there is a situation that might be described as over-employment, and, because of that, demands are being made in certain directions which are not in the best interests of Australia as a whole. I therefore feel that the approach to the circumstances as I see them is something that should be left to the thinking people of this State, and when the Commonwealth and the States meet I shall play my part in endeavouring to ensure that the State viewpoint from Queensland is well heard.

It is true, of course, that discussions at the Commonwealth and State level are not just family affairs. The Commonwealth has one point of view. Unfortunately from the State's point of view, because of our different approaches and different circumstances, it is extremely difficult to get what might be called a unity case among the States for presentation to the Commonwealth. Most of us, I suppose, have played cards in our time, and I might say, in the language of the card-player, that it is a question of playing one off against the other. This is one of the difficulties.

I agree with my colleague from the Government side (I know there was an interjection on this matter from the Opposition), who said that the next meeting of the States and the Commonwealth will be rather unique in that all the Governments will represent one political line of thought. That is not going to be easy, and I do not think that the financial deliberations will be made any easier because we all think along the one political line. Unfortunately, my experience, both at the Loan Council table and at the Premiers' Conference table, has been that each State goes in to bat for itself, and that is one of the difficulties. Irrespective of the political outlook of the Premiers and Treasurers sitting round the particular table, I believe that each man is sincere in his efforts for his own State. I had a tremendously high regard for Mr. Eric Reece, the Labour Premier of Tasmania, who never revealed at the table what his politics were. He was prepared to fight in the interests of his little island, and I believe that every Premier and every Treasurer must do that when he goes to Canberra to deliberate on the vitally important problem of finance for the States.

Mr. Houston: Don't you agree that the State representatives will eventually have to get together, irrespective of their State affiliations, and tell the Commonwealth what they want?

Mr. CHALK: That is exactly what I am endeavouring to say to the Leader of the Opposition. However, my experience over the years has been that that is impossible. The sooner the States realise that they must get together, the better. It is expected that

on this occasion all States will have the one line of political thinking. Because of that, it may be possible for us to get together. I hope that it will, because in the next few years the various States of Australia will face serious financial problems. One can go to Western Australia and see the changes that are taking place; one can travel through Queensland and see the need for additional finance. I do not believe that there is an hon. member in this Chamber this afternoon who does not want to see more and more expenditure in Queensland, because such expenditure creates more employment and greater stability in the future. However, the point on which the States differ is the basis on which the money comes. The point I make is that I hope that, when we get together to hammer out a new financial arrangement between the Commonwealth and the States, it will be possible for the representatives to think of what will be for the betterment of the community as a whole rather than of what will be for the betterment of one State.

The hon. member for Chatsworth has taken a good deal of interest in the activities of the Treasury Department since he came into this Chamber.

Mr. Houston: Watch him!

Mr. CHALK: I will not watch him; I will help him. Some day I may not be Treasurer, and I believe that, both on the Opposition side and on the Government side of the Chamber, there should be members who take an interest in particular departments. It does not say that a member who takes such an interest will be the successor of the Minister in office, but it means that if a Minister goes out of office, either by death or for some other reason, there is someone who has made a study of the department and who can at least advise the person who is chosen or elected to carry out those responsibilities. As I said, the hon. member for Chatsworth has taken an interest in the activities of the Treasury Department.

Mr. Hanson: He is a nice chap. I don't think he would ever give you a bait.

Mr. CHALK: I know that he is a nice chap. As far as giving me a bait is concerned, many people would like to give me a bait; but it would come from the other side of the Chamber, not from over here.

I agree with hon. members that there is a need for an overhaul of the interest rate. I think the hon. member for Baroona touched upon this subject in his remarks, indicating that the interest rate not only plays a very vital part in the financial set-up of a State, but is also important to its borrowing capacity. While we do not want to get into a period such as has happened in the United States and Canada, I think we need to be warned of the circumstances that can arise. There has to be a look at the basis of this and at the basis of taxation.

It is true, as the hon. member for Chatsworth said, that the middle-income bracket is something that must be looked at. But as Treasurer, I know the difficulty of trying to grant a concession somewhere, at the same time facing rising costs in the administration of all departments. When one frames a Budget, whether it be Commonwealth or State, it is easy enough to bend a little to those who are asking for something but it is extremely difficult to replenish the Treasury coffers from some other source.

The policy on drought is something which I think all Governments must look at. If we could find some means of establishing a fund to meet the exigencies of drought and at the same time find sufficient money to meet every-day needs, it would be ideal. Unfortunately, however, nothing has been put away for what might be described as "a rainy day" but what is, in fact, a time of drought.

Mr. Newton: You took over in a drought period.

Mr. CHALK: We have had our problems.

The hon. member for Baroona challenged me because I did not say something about the major power-house proposal. I think hon. members know where I stand on this matter. Together with the Premier and my other colleagues, supported by our own members, I am thoroughly and wholly behind the proposal. I watched the television programme in which the Federal member for Moreton featured and I felt that perhaps he was not entirely accurate in his remark that nothing had happened between September and March. The Premier has made it clear through statements in this Chamber that our case was submitted in September and that it was March before there was any real basis of getting together. We had approached the Commonwealth on several occasions, and I went south myself during that period with the idea of seeing certain persons in authority in the hope that we could get this thing off the ground more quickly.

There was no lack or lag so far as our officers were concerned. All our dealings were on the basis that four top executive officials met in my office, or in the office of the Minister for Mines or the Minister for Industrial Development, and each application from the Commonwealth was handled at that level. It was not until we got to the basis where the Snowy Mountains Authority came into the matter that we were able to get this thing off the ground.

Only yesterday the Premier and I had a conference and made a submission to Cabinet and we now have submitted to the Prime Minister a concrete proposal on how this proposal can, or should, be financed. We are asking the Commonwealth Government to help us, and I am quite hopeful that it will indicate to us that the proposal we have put forward is acceptable. If this is the case, we will get this major requirement

off the ground fairly rapidly. It is in the interests of this State, and, what is more important, it is in the interests of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Mr. Davies: When do you expect an announcement to be made?

Mr. CHALK: Fairly promptly. The point of the matter is that it is in the interests of the Commonwealth as well as of the State, and the case that we have now put forward is one that I am certain the Prime Minister and his ministerial colleagues will handle carefully.

Mr. Houston: You will do better in your argument than you did on the Barrier Reef.

Mr. CHALK: I am not coming into the argument with the Prime Minister on the Barrier Reef. He made a statement while he was in Toowoomba. It was not made to the convention of the Liberal Party but privately, and it was reported by a newspaper reporter. I said that I regretted that the remark had been made at a time when the Liberal Party was holding its convention. Approximately 350 delegates were gathered at the convention—they were drawn from all parts of the State—and I believed that they would discuss this matter in a calm way and that I would get an indication from the convention of the thinking of the ordinary person.

Mr. Davies: You are not going to deny the Prime Minister the right to make the statement?

Mr. CHALK: Of course not. I would not deny even the hon. member for Maryborough the right to make a statement—and his statement would not be worth much if he made one. What I said was that I was sorry that the statement had been made at that time. I believe that the Prime Minister's statement was ultimately helpful in that people really sat down and seriously considered the matter, and when I had outlined to the convention the full facts and circumstances it reached a decision that was unanimous with the exception of only one vote.

The hon. member for Baroona mentioned the S.G.I.O. General Medical Board. I have known Dr. Aaron, who is the Chairman of the General Medical Board, for a long time, and I believe that he and other members of the board are conscientious men and carry out their duties as professional men would and should. The case that has been mentioned by the hon. member for Baroona seems to contain some facts that are in his possession only, so if he will place the papers in my possession I am prepared to have a look at them. It is true that a claimant has no right of appeal from a decision of the board, but at present I am not convinced that the Act should be amended to provide for a right of appeal. But, as I said, I am prepared to have a look at the papers in

the possession of the hon. member for Baroona because I do not want to see an injustice done to any worker or to any person who, through some misfortune or circumstance beyond his control, becomes an invalid.

The hon. member for Townsville South raised the issue of a filly that was won by a Mr. Hunt. As far as I can gather, it was raffled by the Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association. I have spoken to the Minister for Justice and the Minister in charge of police, and they have informed me that if the hon. member will put in their possession the papers that he has they are prepared to have a look at this matter.

The hon. member described the filly as a "wind-sucker". I have been in the racing game one way or another over a number of years, and I know that some "wind-suckers" can gallop. I know, too, that in North Queensland the hon. member for Townsville South is described as a "wind-blower", and he is not a bad "galloper" himself. However, this particular matter has been given an amount of publicity and therefore I think that we should look at its circumstances. It may be that there is nothing wrong with the basis on which the art union was conducted. I am sure that those who conducted it would have done so in absolute good faith. I do not think that we should condemn those who can be termed as the promoters of the art union, or even the donors or those people who were associated with it, unless there exists absolute proof that the art union was conducted not on the basis of good faith. I have sufficient confidence in those associated with it to believe that this was the case, consequently it is a matter of trying to decide what is a fair basis for settlement.

Mr. Hanlon: If the horse had turned out a winner of the Melbourne Cup, the Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association would have got nothing out of it.

Mr. CHALK: That is another way of looking at it. There is an argument about the value of the filly. If somebody enters a sale ring and pays a certain price for an animal, there is no guarantee that it will turn out to be a champion. It may turn out to be a complete dud. When a filly is raffled in this way a gamble has to be taken.

The hon. member for Maryborough seems to have discovered the Great Barrier Reef 200 years after Captain Cook did. That is the only conclusion I could draw from his remarks, because he did not put forward anything constructive. We listened to a tirade concerning the Wide Bay area, with comments on what was said during the last election campaign and what was not said. I do not know why the hon. member got to his feet other than to formulate a little propaganda for the coming Federal election campaign.

The hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha, in his usual way, assisted us with his contribution to this debate. I appreciate the interest that he takes. Sometimes I do not see eye to eye with him in our discussions, but we want members in this Chamber to take an interest in these affairs because I believe that the times ahead of us will bring about many changes. Only those members who are prepared to come here and work hard, and take an interest in what is going on, will be able to play their part successfully. I thank the hon. member for his contribution to the debate.

The Appropriation Bill always affords an opportunity for a little discussion about various matters without very much attention being paid to the actual financial matters contained therein. This motion relates to the expenditure of a substantial sum of money. It represents the allocation by the State of a large sum of money for various purposes, consequently I have much pleasure in commending it to the Committee.

Motion (Mr. Chalk) agreed to.

Resolution reported, received, and agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE

VOTE OF CREDIT, \$217,000,000.

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

Hon. G. W. W. CHALK (Lockyer—Treasurer): I move—

“(a) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1969-70, a further sum not exceeding \$88,000,000 be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

(b) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1969-70, a further sum not exceeding \$99,000,000 be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

(c) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1969-70, a further sum not exceeding \$30,000,000 be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.”

Motion agreed to.

Resolutions reported, received, and agreed to.

APPROPRIATION BILL No. 1

ALL STAGES

A Bill founded on the Resolutions was introduced and passed through all its stages without amendment or debate.

The House adjourned at 5.36 p.m.