

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 27 AUGUST 1969

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

APPROPRIATION BILL No. 1

Assent reported by Mr. Speaker.

QUESTIONS**OFF-SHORE OIL EXPLORATION PERMITS**

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

(1) When was each of the off-shore Petroleum Exploration Permits numbered Q1P, Q2P, Q3P, Q4P, Q5P, Q6P, Q7P, Q8P, Q9P, Q10P and Q11P granted, and for what period of time?

(2) Were any new conditions put into the permits that had not applied to authority to prospect licences?

(3) When was each tender invited for off-shore areas, viz., Q1PA, Q2PA, Q3PA, Q4PA, Q5PA, Q6PA, Q7PA and Q8PA?

Answers:—

(1) "The eleven Exploration Permits for Petroleum mentioned in the Question were transitioned from existing Authorities to Prospect, in existence at the time of proclamation of *"The Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act of 1967,"* on April 1, 1968. Their present term is for six years in the first instance, with provision in the Act for renewals of terms of five years on a reduction of area of 50 per cent. in each case. The date granted is, for Q/1P through to Q/8P, inclusive, September 1, 1968, and for the other three October 1, 1968."

(2) "New expenditure conditions were negotiated in each case and were put into the permits. A condition that the permittee should not recover petroleum from a permit area except as a result of production testing of a well was included in the permit. Certain reference was made to the payment of royalty and the measurement of production for that purpose. Another condition not previously included in Authorities to Prospect was that the permittee must obtain written authority from the Designated Authority or a person authorised in writing by the Designated Authority before he can construct any installation or instal any equipment in the permit area. The approval of the Designated Authority or a person authorised by the Designated Authority to abandon a well is another new condition of the permit."

(3) "Applications for Exploration Permits for Petroleum Q/1PA through to Q/8PA, inclusive, were called in the *Queensland Government Gazette* dated October 5, 1968."

PETROL SUPPLY FOR CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

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

Referring to his Answer on August 21, 1969, regarding the Queensland Associated Cattlemen's Co-operative Ltd., as no price control exists in Queensland how can he justify the cutting-off of supplies to this co-operative, which is prepared to pay cash for the petrol at the wholesalers' price?

Answer:—

"I am informed that petrol is supplied to re-sellers so as to allow them a margin of 6.4 cents per gallon. This Co-operative, it would appear, was not buying direct from oil companies but from a transport operator and the Co-operative was giving buyers ten cents merchandise for each gallon sold to them. However, this source of supply to the Co-operative has now dried up, but I am informed by an oil company that it is prepared to supply the Co-operative under the normal conditions."

SCHOOL SCIENCE BLOCKS

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

Which (a) State schools and (b) private schools in Queensland (i) have had Commonwealth science blocks built since 1966 and what was the enrolment at each school at the time of construction and (ii) are to have such science blocks built within the next twelve months and what was the enrolment at each school when the decision was made for such construction?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) I table a list showing enrolments at the time of construction of the schools provided with Commonwealth Science Laboratories since the commencement of the 1966-1967 financial year. (b) Records show that most private schools received financial grants towards the construction of science laboratories or the provision of equipment but there is no information in my Department to indicate when science blocks were completed. Details of enrolments in individual private schools are not available to my Department."

(2) "(a) Plans for the construction of Commonwealth Science Laboratories at State high schools are made on the basis of a triennium. I table a list showing the enrolments of the schools at which it is anticipated Commonwealth Science Laboratories will be provided during the remainder of the present triennium. (b) It is not my Department's responsibility

to determine which private schools are to receive Commonwealth assistance in the provision of Science facilities."

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

PAYMENTS TO MR. PERCY RAYMUND SMITH

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

(1) Did a Percy Raymund Smith serve as a member of this Parliament and, if so, for what period?

(2) If he did serve, is he entitled to a weekly payment from the Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Fund and, if so, how much and for what period?

(3) Is he the same Percy Raymund Smith who was appointed as a member of the Law Reform Commission and, if so, what will be his weekly salary as such and from what date?

(4) Will he be paid both this salary and his entitlement from the Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Fund and, if so, for how long?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes—11 years 7 months and 7 days."

(2) "Yes—\$51 per week plus bonus addition which currently is \$1.29 per week, from date of resignation as a member of Parliament and during his lifetime."

(3) "Yes—\$219.72. March 1, 1969."

(4) "No."

SUBSIDIES TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

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

(1) What amount of subsidy in all categories has been paid by the Queensland Government to local authorities for the financial years 1950-51, 1957-58 and 1968-69?

(2) How do these figures compare with subsidies paid to local authorities by other Australian State Governments?

(3) With percentage reductions in subsidies for certain works in the 1969-70 year, how will the amount of subsidy available to Queensland local authorities this financial year compare with total subsidies for previous years?

Answers:—

(1) "The information is as follows:— 1950-51, \$2,550,002; 1957-58, \$8,976,484; 1968-69, \$16,111,026."

(2) "No other State has a subsidy scheme of comparable dimension."

(3) "Subsidy paid in 1967-68 totalled \$13,656,695. The figure for 1968-69 was \$16,111,026. Anticipated figures for 1969-70 are not yet complete."

RURAL EMPLOYMENT

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

(1) Has the percentage of people engaged in rural pursuits dropped from 12 per centum to 9 per centum in the last ten years?

(2) If so, will he consult his economic advisers as to whether this trend is expected to continue and by 1980 the percentage could be as low as 6 per centum with the consequence of land aggregation, closure of entire townships and mass migration from western areas to the cities?

(3) Is he aware that Mr. John Park, Principal of Longreach Pastoral College, has stated that there should be a revised attitude in our education system to prepare our western children to adjust to city life at some future date because outback communities provide only a relatively limited environment and there will be a need for training the children to mix and integrate?

Answers:—

(1) "Permanent full-time male workers on rural holdings represented 9.2 per cent. of the male population of the State at March 31, 1959. By March 31, 1968, this percentage had fallen to 7.4 per cent. It should be made quite clear, however, that these figures do not represent total rural population."

(2) "It is typical of a developing economy that productivity per man in agriculture tends to increase at a faster rate than the population increase. This results in a steady decline in the percentage of the population engaged in rural pursuits. Some land aggregation can be expected in closer settled areas but it is not likely to be significant in pastoral areas nor is there likely to be any mass migration from western areas. The population in these areas is expected to remain relatively stable, but increases in the State population are more likely to be absorbed in expanding secondary and extractive industries."

(3) "I am advised that, in opening a teachers' seminar at Longreach, the Principal of the Longreach Rural Training School made the following comment and I quote:—'If sociological trends in Australia follow those which appear to have occurred in Canada and America, and statistically this would appear to be the case, teachers in primary schools in Western areas should be aware of this progressive decline; they should put their

teaching in a kind of social situation which would enable children who are involved in this population change to adjust to a different kind of environment.' I am further advised that the Principal gave as an illustration the arrangements made by the Department of Education for children of Western areas to attend seaside camps."

APPOINTMENTS OF CLERK-TYPIST AND GROUNDSMAN-JANITOR, EMERALD STATE SCHOOL

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

When will (a) a clerk-typist and (b) a groundsman-janitor be appointed to the State school at Emerald?

Answer:

"Provision is being made in the Draft Estimates for 1969-1970 for the employment of clerk-typists in Class II primary schools and janitor/groundsmen in Class I and Class II primary schools, as from the beginning of the 1970 school year. Emerald State School will be included in this provision. Appointments to Emerald State School will be dependent upon the availability of suitable candidates for these positions."

AREA OF LAND FREEHOLDDED

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

Does the total of land freeholded plus the land in the process of being freeholded approximate 48,000,000 acres? If not, what is the total?

Answer:—

"Some time ago, I announced that the aggregate area of land alienated by Deed of Grant and the area of leases and purchases proceeding to issue of Deed of Grant was about 48.5 million acres. By reason of the continuing recording of further conversions and sales the figure now stands at approximately 49.4 million acres."

LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE, OFF-SHORE OIL EXPLORATION

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

As the latest estimate of damage caused by the blow-out at Santa Barbara is considered to be in the region of \$100 million—

(1) In the event of a blow-out occurring in the off-shore areas being drilled or likely to be drilled, (a) are the companies concerned obliged in law to accept responsibility, both financially and otherwise, for any damage caused and (b) can he give an assurance that they have the financial capacity and have made provision to meet such an eventuality, however remote?

(2) What is the paid-up capital of Japex Australia?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) There have been conflicting reports concerning damage caused by the Santa Barbara blow-out. It is possible that when damage is finally assessed it will be found to be surprisingly less than that quoted by some people. Regarding the liability of the company for damages, this is the same as that of any other company or person in Queensland. Generally speaking, if the oil spillage is due to negligence or is deliberate, then the responsible person would be liable to pay compensation for damage caused as a result. The Question comprehends a great number of specific questions, and it would not be possible to give a short answer fully dealing with a question of law of this nature. (b) As far as the Government is concerned, the proposed well Mackay No. 1 is to be drilled under right of Authority to Prospect 162 held by Ampol Exploration (Queensland) Pty. Ltd. The holder of the Authority to Prospect is regarded as responsible for the consequences of things done under this right."

(2) "Paid-up capital of Japex (Australia) Pty. Ltd. is \$644,450. Authorised capital is \$1,500,000. However Japex is merely earning an interest in the Authority to Prospect which is held by Ampol."

"ALCOTEST" DEVICE

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

(1) What is the reason for the gazettal on August 8, 1969, of a changed wording regarding the type of device "Alcotest" under section 16A of the Traffic Act?

(2) Does the omission of reference to a reagent mean some change in the method of breath testing?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "No."

LIBRARY CATEGORIES, STATE HIGH SCHOOLS

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

(1) What is the definition of Library Type B as approved for the Cavendish Road State High School?

(2) What other types of libraries are available to high schools throughout the State and how are the types arrived at?

Answers:—

(1) "The type B Commonwealth Library is designed to meet the requirements of State high schools with enrolments of up to 1600 students."

(2) "The only other type of Commonwealth Library designed at this stage is the smaller type A library for a school with an enrolment of up to 1200 students."

SUGGESTED INQUIRY INTO HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION

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

In view of the State-wide discontent with the administration of the Health Department and the damaging effect it has on our hospitals, will he set up a committee of enquiry to investigate all the ramifications of the Department mentioned and thereby afford the public and the medical and nursing professions the opportunity to come forward and give evidence?

Answer:—

"I am not aware of any "State-wide discontent with the administration of the Health Department" as referred to by the Honourable Member, and consequently there is no basis for considering the setting up of a Committee of Inquiry as he has suggested."

BUNDAMBA RAILWAY STATION PLATFORM

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

Is it a fact that the "up" platform at the Bundamba railway station is not long enough to accommodate a passenger train of eight suburban coaches and that passenger trains of this length regularly stop at this station each day? If so, will action be taken to have this platform lengthened?

Answer:—

"The 'up' platform is not long enough to accommodate eight carriages and the question of lengthening this platform is being investigated."

QUEENSLAND COAL BOARD ALLOCATIONS, ROSEWOOD COALFIELD

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

(1) Has the Queensland Coal Board advised collieries on the Rosewood coalfield of a reduction of 400 tons per week in coal requirements?

(2) Is this reduction made up of (a) 200 tons per week by the South Brisbane Gas Company as from August 25 and (b) 200 tons per week by the Railway Department as from September 1, 1969?

(3) Will this reduction of coal allocations mean the dismissal of 13 additional coal miners on this coalfield?

(4) Did the Queensland Coal Board indicate some time ago to the colliery proprietors on the Rosewood coalfield that an annual allocation of 40,000 tons of

coal would be made available to these collieries as part of the coal requirements for the Southern Electric Authority? If so, will action be taken immediately to implement this undertaking and, if not, has he any plans for alternative employment in the coal-mining industry for the coal miners who may be dismissed as a result of the latest reduction in coal allocations?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "I have been informed that the Queensland Coal Board has furnished this advice to collieries on the Rosewood coalfield. The reduction in the order by the South Brisbane Gas Company was envisaged many months ago. That gas company, due to the progress being made in its conversion to the use of natural gas is now supplementing its reduced requirements of new coal by withdrawals from its own coal stockpile. It is anticipated that in the near future coal intake by this consumer will completely cease. The Railway order of 200 tons per week, which is to be cancelled from September 1 next, was a temporary one only made in mid-June last, and it was well known to Rosewood owners that the duration of this order would be a short one."

(3) "I am not aware of what reductions in manpower will be entailed in the inevitable reduction of allocations referred to, but the Coal Board's records indicate that when in mid-June the unexpected Railway order of 200 tons per week was received, no additional men were employed, as this unexpected order offset a reduction of a similar tonnage in the requirements of the gas company at that time."

(4) "It is a fact that the Queensland Coal Board some time ago intimated to the colliery proprietors on the Rosewood field that it was hopeful, based on the forward estimates it then had of the requirements of the Southern Electric Authority, that it would be in a position to allocate 40,000 tons of coal per year from the Rosewood mines to that consumer. However, due to seasonal conditions and other factors beyond control, the requirements of the Southern Electric Authority are now lower than were previously anticipated, and as a result it is not possible to allocate the 40,000 tons per year to the Rosewood district without making reductions in allocations to the mechanised mines in the remainder of the West Moreton district, disproportionate to the powerhouse trade being held by those mines. The number of persons who can be employed in the coal mining industry in the State as a whole, and in any individual district is controlled solely by the demand for coal from the State or from that particular district."

FOOTPATH SAFETY RAILS, VICTORIA BRIDGE

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

In view of the hazards and the dangers of traffic to pedestrians using the new Victoria Bridge, will he instruct the appropriate authority to authorise or arrange, as a matter of urgency, the provision of adequate permanent safety rails, guards or devices on the footways of the bridge, thus taking the action necessary now to prevent an accident and possible tragedy?

Answer:—

"The height of the kerb in city streets, the Story Bridge approaches and on William Jolly Bridge is six inches. Victoria Bridge, where traffic conditions are no worse, has been provided with a barrier kerb eleven inches high as a safety measure. Additional safety rails are therefore considered unnecessary."

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL, TALLEBUDGERA CREEK

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

In view of the considerable time that has elapsed since the controversy over the development of the Tallebudgera Creek area and the absence of a Government statement concerning the settlement of such dispute, has any solution been arrived at and, if so, what are the terms of settlement?

Answer:—

"The question of the application for the development of part of the south bank of Tallebudgera Creek in conjunction with adjoining freehold land was considered by Cabinet early in the year with the result that the Minister for Lands was to discuss the whole situation with the Gold Coast City Council. This meeting took place on February 12, 1969, when it was resolved that certain aspects of the whole situation of retaining the south bank of the Tallebudgera Creek in its natural state should be the subject of further talks between the Gold Coast City Council and the developing company and this is where the matter rests at this stage."

SALE OF UNROADWORTHY GOVERNMENT MOTOR VEHICLES

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

(1) How many motor vehicles offered for sale to the public by Government departments were in an unroadworthy condition?

(2) What were the major faults in these vehicles?

(3) Are these vehicles available for purchase by any citizen or is their sale confined to motor-car dealers?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) "The statistics required by the Honourable Member have not been maintained and a deal of research would be necessary to give a complete answer; I do not consider the time and expense involved would be justified. However, for the Honourable Member's information, I advise that the number of vehicles offered for sale in an unroadworthy condition is very small. It is Government Policy to offer such vehicles for sale for spare parts only. In regard to motor vehicles generally all faults which affect the safety of a vehicle are listed and in addition any other known defects are also specified."

(3) "All vehicles auctioned are available for purchase by any citizen present."

KILLING OF KANGAROOS; SALE OF PET FOODS

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

(1) Will he table a return of the yearly harvest of kangaroos in each of the statistical divisions from 1965 until the present time?

(2) Is he aware that research has isolated the salmonellac microbe from kangaroo meat?

(3) How many types of pet foods, of which kangaroo meat is a component part, are being sold in shops retailing foodstuffs for human consumption?

Answers:—

(1) "The data requested are compiled only on a five-year basis in order to establish trends for conservation purposes. The previous compilation was for the period 1961-1965 and this information was published as were earlier similar data. When the figures for the next period 1966-1970 are collated these also will be published. Copies of these publications will be made available to the Honourable Member if he so wishes."

(2) "Yes, on isolated occasions. This bacteria is readily destroyed in the cooking process."

(3) "One only, i.e. Canned pet food."

RAIL FREIGHTS PAID BY BREWERIES

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

(1) Has he seen reports in the *Cairns Post* that Northern Australian Breweries Limited, Cairns, have called public tenders for the supply of a number of heavy motor transports?

(2) Is it a fact that Northern Australian Breweries have expressed dissatisfaction with rail freights for their products *ex Cairns* and now intend to supply Innisfail, Tully, Ingham and towns further south by their own road transport?

(3) Did Northern Australian Breweries pay \$734,000 and the Carlton Group as a whole pay \$2.25 million to the Railway Department last year? If not, what were the amounts?

(4) What revenue does the other principal brewery in Queensland pay the Railway Department?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "There is no knowledge that Northern Australian Breweries have expressed dissatisfaction with rail freights for their products *ex Cairns*. Dissatisfaction is in respect of the freight rate from Brisbane."

(3) "Neither of the figures is correct. I do not intend to reveal information which is confidential between the Commissioner and his customers."

(4) "See Answer to (3). There is no restriction on the carriage of beer by road and if it suits Northern Australian Breweries Limited to do so they are quite free to send their products by road in preference to rail. It is a question of a policy decision by the Company. Since 1959 it has been the policy of the Government to encourage road transport and it is the responsibility of the Commissioner for Railways to endeavour to retain the business to rail. He has the authority to do this. I have supported the use of road transport wherever possible as I believe it is one of the reasons for increased development throughout the State and it encourages private enterprise of which I am an advocate."

SAFETY OF MOTOR VEHICLE WINDSCREENS

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

Will he initiate an inquiry to determine whether the windscreens most commonly fitted to motor vehicles sold in Queensland are of a sufficiently safe standard, or whether a special requirement should be made to prevent the use of the type of windscreen which completely obscures the view of the driver when it is struck by a stone or other object?

Answer:—

"The intention of Australian Design Rule No. 8 is to specify the performance requirements of glass used for glazing in motor vehicles which will ensure adequate visibility under normal operating conditions, will minimise obscuration when shattered, and will minimise the likelihood of serious injury if an occupant comes in contact with the broken glass. At its meeting in February, 1969, the Australian Transport Advisory Council recommended to Commonwealth and State Governments that all motor vehicles, except motor cycles, manufactured on and after January 1, 1970, be equipped with safety glass complying with Australian Design Rule No. 8—Safety Glass, wherever glass is used in windscreens, windows or interior partitions. Action is in hand to make the necessary amendment to Regulation 68 of the Queensland Traffic Regulations."

SUBSIDIES FOR SCHOOL SWIMMING POOLS
AND ASSEMBLY HALLS

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

(1) Does the Government subsidise the erection of swimming pools and assembly halls at secondary schools by parents and citizens' associations and, if so, to what extent and under what conditions?

(2) Are any such subsidies granted for similar projects undertaken at primary schools and, if not, why not?

(3) If the Government does not subsidise the erection of assembly halls and swimming pools at primary schools, will it guarantee the bank overdraft or give any other type of guarantee to parents and citizens' associations who are prepared to undertake these projects?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes. Subsidy is available on a \$ for \$ basis to a maximum subsidy of \$30,000 on assembly halls and \$25,000 on swimming pools."

(2 and 3) "Subsidy is available to primary schools on the same basis on the provision of swimming pools and activities rooms, with a maximum subsidy of \$20,000 on a swimming pool and \$15,000 on an activities room."

IMPROVEMENTS, CRESCENT LAGOON
STATE SCHOOL

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

With regard to the Crescent Lagoon State School—

(1) How many new classrooms will be (a) built in the 1969-70 financial year and (b) ready for the commencement of the 1970 school year?

(2) When will construction begin?

(3) Has the section of the school which was originally brought from Mt. Morgan in the 1930's been condemned?

(4) When is it planned to replace this section of the school?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) Two. (b) Two."

(2) "In approximately two months."

(3) "No."

(4) "No indication can be given at this stage as to when the section of the school referred to in (3) above will be replaced."

TRAINING OF PRISON OFFICERS

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

(1) What is the minimum education standard required for prison officers?

(2) Does the course of instruction given to all new officers include (a) management, (b) penology and (c) psychology?

(3) What is the professional status of the lecturers who give the instruction in question?

Answers:—

(1) "Presently Grade 8. If applicant has not a pass in the now defunct Scholarship Examination he is given a practical test in English and Arithmetic. Some of the old officers bordered on illiterate. This standard is being revised with the object of raising the entrance standard to that of the Public Service—Junior Standard."

(2) "(a) "Yes. (b) Yes. (c) Yes."

(3) "The initial training course is four weeks with refresher courses. This will be extended to six weeks with refresher courses. The Training officer is a former Deputy Superintendent of Brisbane Prison. Lecturers include the Comptroller-General, the Deputy Comptroller-General, Superintendents of Prisons, the Chief Probation and Parole Officer and the Administration Officer of the Prisons Department. It may be of interest to note that until the present Government came into office there was no entrance examination other than a medical examination nor was there any training programme. The present programme is being reviewed and improved to provide a higher entrance standard and a wider training programme."

FACILITIES FOR DROVERS ON STOCK
TRAINS

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

(1) In view of the fact that each year throughout the meat season, drovers in charge of stock trains are sometimes forced to travel in vans without proper lighting, washing or toilet facilities, what plans has his Department to improve this accommodation?

(2) Is he prepared to travel on a cattle train from Winton to Rockhampton in one of these vans selected by the drovers?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "A wash basin and toilet are provided in the drover's compartment of stock trains. One livestock brake van fitted with electric lighting was placed into service on June 4, 1969, for trial purposes."

EXPENDITURE ON DROUGHT RELIEF

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

What is the total amount expended to date on drought-relief assistance during the current drought in Queensland?

Answer:—

“Expenditure from July 1, 1965, to date has totalled \$23,108,816. In addition remission of Crown land rentals to date total \$1,333,343. These figures have no regard to loss of State revenue generally because of drought.”

RE-FORMING OF ROAD TO KURANDA RAILWAY STATION

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

Further to his Answer to my Question on August 21, relative to the road through railway property at Kuranda—

(1) Is he aware that it is impossible to use this through road owing to the huge pile of earth left by the road plant?

(2) Did work on this road cease some time ago and, if so, when is it expected that work will be resumed?

(3) Will he give consideration to the widening of this road throughout its length between the grids?

Answers:—

(1 and 2) “The road referred to is not a through road, but leads from the township to the Railway goods shed and to the timber storage rack beyond the goods shed. An unformed road exists from the goods shed in a southerly direction at a higher level than the road to the goods shed, but this latter road is in poor condition and is seldom used. The pile of earth is situated between the goods shed and the timber storage rack within the railway yards. The rack is no longer required as the Department is not receiving log timber. The pile of earth was left when a departmental bulldozer engaged on Railway drainage improvement works was withdrawn on July 28, 1969, following a track defect. A relief bulldozer is being sent forward at the end of this week to complete the work. The work was not associated with the road, but with Railway drainage.”

(3) “Because of drainage problems and the steep slope of the land, widening of the roadway would be expensive and funds are not available.”

WATER SUPPLY TO ABORIGINES AT KOAH, MANTAKA, OAK FOREST AND KOWROWA

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

In view of the number of Questions relating to a water supply for Aborigines living at Koah, Mantaka, Oak Forest and Kowrowa dating back to September 17, 1963 and his letter dated August 14, 1969, stating that this matter was being followed up but it was not possible to indicate when finality might be reached—

(1) How many homes are in question?

(2) How many people are housed in these homes?

(3) Will he expedite the present negotiations to give these people a water supply for which they have waited so long?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) “As has been indicated on a number of occasions to the Honourable Member the question of providing a water supply for persons living at Koah, Mantaka, Oak Forest and Kowrowa, is a matter for the Local Authority and any interest by the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs is in the nature of support to the Local Authority. It would be an impertinence for Departmental Officers to intrude into the homes to ascertain how many people are residing there. As indicated in a letter referred to by the Honourable Member dated August 14, the proposals attract a tenement charge of \$89.90 for a minimal service and this cost appears too high for occupants to meet. Alternative avenues are being explored in the hope of providing some assistance to the Mareeba Shire Council to implement the project at a cost within the ability of the residents to meet and it is repeated, that whilst assuring a follow-up of the whole question, it is not possible at this time to indicate when finality might be reached. The Honourable Member is again informed that the Local Authority is the responsible body.”

ELECTRICITY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, MITCHELL RIVER ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

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

(1) When is it expected that the 240-volt electricity generating plant at Mitchell River will be in operation?

(2) Has provision been made for the building of a new coldroom and butcher shop? If so, will he give consideration to providing sufficient refrigeration space to cope with a fish supply in addition to beef?

(3) Will equipment, which could greatly assist in the maintenance of vehicles and equipment, be provided in the mechanic's shop powered by the new supply?

Answers:—

(1) "240-volt generating equipment is programmed to be installed at Mitchell River prior to the onset of the wet season."

(2) "Yes, however it is not possible to include refrigeration for fish in a butcher shop complex under the Meat Industry Acts and Regulations."

(3) "In keeping with the Government's policy of maintaining modern equipment, garage facilities necessary for work normally carried out at Mitchell are already provided, and when 240-volt power is available this will be extended in the light of the then existing circumstances and the overall financial position."

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

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

(1) What is the number of people suffering from multiple sclerosis in Queensland?

(2) Is this crippling disease increasing in Queensland?

(3) Has a State-wide campaign been initiated drawing attention to the disease and its symptoms? If not, will consideration be given to initiating such a campaign?

(4) Is there a clinic or centre established anywhere in Queensland for the treatment and rehabilitation of multiple sclerosis sufferers? If not, will he agree to establishing such a clinic or centre?

Answers:—

(1) "The Medical Professorial Unit at the University of Queensland, in an article published in 1962, estimated that the prevalence rate of multiple sclerosis in Queensland was 13 to 15 per 100,000 of total population. On present population figures this would mean approximately 265 sufferers in Queensland."

(2) "I am advised that there is no evidence of an increase in the prevalence rate. The actual numbers may be increasing in accordance with the general increase in population."

(3) "I am advised that the value of such a campaign is doubtful."

(4) "No, I am informed that adequate treatment for sufferers of this disease is provided at Queensland hospitals."

COMMONWEALTH-STATE NEGOTIATIONS, CENTRAL QUEENSLAND POWER-HOUSE PROJECT

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

(1) On what date was the first approach made by the State Government to the Commonwealth Government for financial aid towards the Central Queensland power-house project?

(2) What are the dates of subsequent approaches and submissions on the matter?

Answers:—

(1) "September 4, 1968."

(2) "December 9, 1968; April 24, 1969; June 12, 1969; July 11, 1969; July 25, 1969; July 29, 1969; July 30, 1969; August 12, 1969; August 14, 1969; August 15, 1969; August 25, 1969 (2); August 26, 1969. In addition, there have been several meetings between Commonwealth and State officials and, in particular, two major ones on March 10, 1969, in Canberra, and May 23, 1969, in Gladstone. Further, there have been numerous telephone conversations between such officials."

TOURIST INDUSTRY, GREAT BARRIER REEF AREA

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

(1) What is the estimated amount of money that enters Queensland each year because of the tourist industry in the Great Barrier Reef area?

(2) How many people are employed in connection with this section of the tourist industry?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "This information is not available at present. However, the Government of Queensland, in co-operation with the University of Queensland and the Bureau of Census and Statistics in Brisbane, is at present undertaking research to establish trends of the industry in this State."

PROVINCIAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOOLS AND CLASSES, SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND

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

Where have opportunity schools or classes been established in Southern Queensland, outside the metropolitan area and Toowoomba and what is the enrolment at each of these schools or classes?

Answer:—

“Opportunity schools and classes have been established in Southern Queensland as follows:—

Opportunity Schools	Enrolment at 1-8-69
Gold Coast	40
Ipswich	130
Redcliffe	64
Maryborough	61
Opportunity Classes	Enrolment at 1-8-69
Beaudesert	33
Caboolture	40
Cleveland	43
Bundaberg Central	60
Gympie Central	40
Nambour	42”

POLICE OFFICERS ON BEAT DUTY, BRISBANE INNER-CITY AREA

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

What was the number of police on beat duty within the Brisbane inner-city limits at 11.30 p.m. on Friday, August 15 and at 12.30 a.m. on Saturday, August 16?

Answer:—

“I do not propose to give details in Answer to this Question for obvious reasons, the main one being assistance to law breakers. It is not in the public interest to reveal the number or the disposition of police, but the Honourable Member may be assured that there was within the Brisbane inner-city limits at the times referred to an adequate police coverage.”

LEGALISING OF HOY AND BINGO

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

In view of the publicity that the playing of hoy is illegal and as this game is used by highly-respectable church, charity and women's organisations for fund-raising purposes, will he consider legalising the games of hoy and/or bingo?

Answer:—

“No.”

DISPOSAL BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES

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

(1) Is he aware of the many hundreds of abandoned motor vehicles that are left indiscriminately on roadsides throughout the State?

(2) Are there any powers under the Local Government Acts by which councils can remove these vehicles or must they receive a notice in writing, signed by a member of the police force, that the vehicle is no longer a motor vehicle within the meaning of the appropriate motor traffic Acts?

(3) If there is no adequate provision for the removal of abandoned vehicles, will he consider some action which could expedite the work of councils and obviate the present unnecessary delays?

Answers:—

(1) “I am aware that, on occasions, vehicles are abandoned on roads.”

(2) “Subsection (7) of section 44 of the *Traffic Act 1949-1968* provides, *inter alia*, that when there is on a road within a Local Authority Area any vehicle in respect of which there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the same has been abandoned, the Local Authority of such area may remove and detain, or cause to be removed and detained such vehicle at a place of safe keeping and may deal with it in the manner provided in that subsection.”

(3) “See Answer to (2).”

EFFECT OF DEVALUATION OF STERLING ON PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

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

(1) Are any primary industries in this State suffering because of the Federal Government's decision in relation to the devaluation of sterling?

(2) If so, is it because of the Federal Government's decision to refuse compensation on the grounds that such industries should have provided, by way of insurance, against such devaluation?

(3) Has he been asked by any industry or group for assistance in this matter by way of representation to the Federal Government?

Answers:—

(1) “Queensland has fared very well, receiving 5.244 million dollars for sugar and \$5,000 for the Butter Marketing Board. In addition we have shared in the general distribution to Australian Boards such as the Australian Wheat Board and the Australian Dairy Produce Board.

Amounts distributed by the Commonwealth to various Australian Marketing Boards were as follows:—

Name of Board	\$ Million
Australian Wheat Board ..	28.652
Australian Dairy Produce Board	12.662
Australian Apple and Pear Board	2.351
Australian Canned Fruits Board	4.261
Australian Egg Board ..	0.189
Grain Pool of Western Australia	0.235
Papua-New Guinea Copra Marketing Board	0.236
Honey Pool of Western Australia	0.005
Australian Honey Board ..	0.130
Australian Dried Fruits Control Board	0.217
Various other Exporters ..	0.058

It is estimated that a further 30 million dollars will be paid out for 1969. This will lift the total assistance to approximately 88 million dollars."

(2) "See Answer to Question (1). All our major rural industries were either covered by export insurance or shared in the distribution of compensation payments by the Commonwealth. The only two major exceptions were the Beef and Wool Industries. However, meat prices have held up very well despite devaluation, and the effect of devaluation on the world market for wool has not been of major significance."

(3) "Immediately upon sterling devaluation, my colleague, the Minister for Primary Industries, made representations to the Commonwealth Government with respect to all Queensland rural industries. In fact, a detailed report on the likely effects of devaluation on Queensland rural industries was submitted to the Commonwealth Government shortly after devaluation."

IMPROVEMENT OF RAIL SERVICE, BRISBANE-IPSWICH LINE

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

(1) In view of increased passenger usage of train services between Ipswich and Brisbane by people in the morning and afternoon peak periods, will he give consideration to providing trains express to and from Ipswich and suburbs at these times?

(2) Will he also give consideration to running more express rail-motors during the day from Ipswich to Brisbane and return, thus providing a faster service between the two cities?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The train services available to residents of Ipswich include:—Monday to Friday—From Ipswich to Roma Street: Morning—Three express trains Ipswich to Roma Street, two express between Corinda and Roma Street, one express between Chelmer and Roma Street. Afternoon—Three express trains Ipswich to Roma Street, one express between Corinda and Toowong. From Roma Street to Ipswich: Morning—One express Roma Street to Ipswich, two express between Roma Street and Corinda. Afternoon—Two express between Roma Street and Corinda, one express between Roma Street and Darra, one express between Roma Street and Graceville, one express between Wacol and Ipswich. No further express services can be provided. Consideration will be given to more rail-motor services when new rail-motors are received."

NEW RAILWAY STATION, IPSWICH

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

Has any recent consideration been given by the Railway Department to the provision of a new railway station at Ipswich to replace the very old structure presently existing? If so, when is it anticipated that a new station will be provided at this centre?

Answer:—

"I refer the Honourable Member to my Answer to her Question on March 29, 1968. There has been no change."

RETENTION OF MARRIED FEMALE EMPLOYEES IN SPECIAL HOSPITALS

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

In view of the gazettal on July 12, 1969 of regulations providing for continuation and recognition after marriage of female employees working in public hospitals, is it intended to extend these regulations to cover female employees working in special hospitals in Queensland? If so, when is it intended to implement such a decision?

Answer:—

"Approval already has been granted to extend to females working in special hospitals and other departmental institutions in Queensland the principles of the regulations relating to the continuation in employment of females after marriage. The commencing date of seniority of those currently employed, and who apply for permanent appointment, is to be determined."

AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE
ORGANISATION AND STATE
SPECIAL POLICE

Mr. B. Wood, pursuant to notice, asked
The Premier,—

(1) Does the Queensland Government exercise any control over the activities in the State of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation?

(2) What liaison exists between the State special police and the A.S.I.O.

(3) What personnel is attached to the State special police?

(4) What are the duties of the State special police?

(5) What was the cost to the State in the last financial year?

Answer:—

(1 to 5) "The Special Branch of the Police Department was established in Queensland by the Labour Government in 1948 to assist in maintaining the security of Queensland and the Commonwealth. The objects and functions of this Branch have not materially altered since its inception and rather than jeopardise the security of the State and the Commonwealth, I do not propose to further discuss the operations of the Special Branch."

TEACHERS, ABORIGINAL AND TORRES
STRAIT ISLAND SCHOOLS

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

Is it the intention of his Department in due course to staff all schools in Aboriginal and island areas with graduate teachers? If so, what will be the position of present Aboriginal and island teachers?

Answer:—

"Schools in Aboriginal and island areas under the control of my Department are staffed by graduate teachers. When these schools were taken over from the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs, the services of available Aboriginal and island teachers were retained in the capacity of teacher-assistants. The position of Aboriginal and island teachers now employed by the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs is a matter for determination when their schools pass to the responsibility of my Department."

AIR STRIPS, TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS

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

(1) Has his Department given any encouragement or support to Islanders who attempted to construct air strips on Badu and Yorke Islands?

(2) How far has this work progressed?

(3) Has the Department of Civil Aviation surveyed the islands of the Torres Strait and reported on the feasibility of air strips? If so, will he table the report?

Answers:—

(1) "The Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs has given encouragement as well as financial and technical support to Islanders in their efforts to construct air strips on Badu and Yorke Islands."

(2) "General clearing is complete. However, it appears necessary for some heavy machinery to be transported to the islands for further work. This is under consideration."

(3) "Yes. As details of the information sought are contained in a number of files and correspondence, etc., it is not possible to meet the Honourable Member's request. In any case this information is substantially confidential to the Department."

SURVEY OF CROWN LAND, BRISBANE—
BUNDABERG AREA

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

As the large area of land between Brisbane and Bundaberg at present under a survey and utilisation study by officers of the Departments of Lands and Forestry includes many soil types other than wallum, have officers of the Department of Primary Industries been included in the survey team? If not, will he arrange for representation on the survey team of these experts to assist with recommendations for the best utilisation of the various soil types?

Answer:—

"My Department and the Department of Primary Industries act in close and constant consultation in respect of the release and utilisation of Crown land in the Wallum belt as, indeed, they did in respect of land in other parts of the State. The Honourable Member can rest assured that the specialised services of the Department of Primary Industries are being availed of and will be taken into account in framing a future policy in respect of the release of further blocks in the Wallum belt."

WORLD FREE MARKET SUGAR PRICES

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

What was the World Free Market price for sugar on the London market on or about August 25, 1967, 1968 and 1969?

Answer:—

"The price of raw sugar per ton c.i.f. on the London market was as follows:—
August 25, 1967, £16 10s. sterling;
August 26, 1968, £17 5s. sterling; August
25, 1969, £28 sterling."

OIL-DRILLING OPERATIONS, REPULSE
BAY AREA

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

Further to his answer to my Question on August 19, wherein he stated that no additional protective measures have been taken for oil-drilling in Repulse Bay following the Santa Barbara blow-out—

(1) Did he notice an article in *The Sunday Mail* of August 24, under the name of the Senior Engineer of the Mines Department, wherein he stated that extra precautions had been taken for drilling in Repulse Bay following the disastrous blow-out at Santa Barbara?

(2) If so, does he desire to alter his Answer to my Question?

(3) If he desires his Answer to stand, will he explain the reasons for the difference of opinion within his Department?

Answer:—

"In my reply on August 19 to the Question of the Honourable Member, I did not state that no additional protective measures had been taken for oil drilling in Repulse Bay following the Santa Barbara blow-out. I stated that there had been no additional protective measures and safeguards incorporated in any agreements with the operating company. The Acts and Regulations give adequate power for issuing directions on protective measures, in addition to the requirements of existing regulations. The statement in *The Sunday Mail* on August 24 that "because of the Santa Barbara blow-out, precautions for the Queensland oil drill are being made even stricter" is correct. The notice of intention to drill is being examined by petroleum engineers of the Mines Department and conditions to ensure the safe drilling of the well will be determined. For example, it is our intention to have a Departmental Inspector on location while the well is drilling. In addition to stocks of drilling mud considered as adequate for the operation, additional mud stocks will be stored on board the drilling vessel. These will include enough weighting material to allow for increasing the weight of the total mud volume to a weight capable of holding back a formation pressure gradient considerably higher than has been known to occur in Queensland or Queensland waters. Casing design factors have been examined and found to exceed those required by the American Petroleum Institute. The cementing of each casing string will require that the cement fill reaches to the previously cemented casing, whereas on-shore this is usually only required for the surface string."

REHABILITATION OF PASTORAL INDUSTRY

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

Because of the growing magnitude of the drought in Western Queensland and the concern of the western grazier for his now doubtful future, what action is intended by the Government to assist the re-development of the wool-growing industry and the drought-ravaged pastoral industry in general, towards rehabilitation?

Answer:—

"The wool industry is passing through a very difficult period but it must be recognised that this is an Australia-wide problem and its solution does not lie with the Queensland Government alone. However, the State does assist in every way possible. At the present time substantial assistance has been made available with Commonwealth support for helping graziers carry on through this very disastrous drought. Up to July 31, loans of up to \$2,000 were provided to help necessitous graziers maintain their drought-stricken properties over that period. Since then further loans to a maximum of \$6,000 have been made available to provide carry-on finance through 1969-1970. When the drought breaks assistance will be provided for re-stocking. In addition to those loans for necessitous graziers many forms of drought assistance are provided mainly through road and rail concessions on the transport of stock and fodder. In order to help retain an employment pool in the western areas, the Government has made available drought relief employment grants to Shires. The Government is looking beyond these immediate problems and is conducting land-use investigations of the south-western areas of the State to assist in planning more efficient utilisation of the area. The Department of Primary Industries is developing a very extensive research programme based on Charleville, Cloncurry, Blackall and the Toorak Sheep Research Station near Julia Creek. At the new Charleville Pastoral Laboratory agristologists are investigating the management of native pastures and fodder trees, the introduction of improved pastoral grasses and legumes and fodder cropping. A mulga feeding trial has been set up to evaluate usefulness of supplements with mulga. In the Blackall area, besides research on productivity and management of buffel grass, studies are being made on the effect of stocking rate of production. At Toorak studies on grazing habits are being undertaken associated with a major research effort into the causes of low reproductive rates in the tropics. The feasibility of irrigating grain and fodder crops with water stored in shallow dams is also being studied. All this research is designed to improve the long term productivity of the sheep industry which will always face droughts and must develop a

capacity for even more rapid restoration of numbers and production per head than it has shown in the past."

APPLICATIONS FOR DROUGHT-RELIEF LOANS

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

(1) Is he aware that the much publicised drought-relief loan of \$6,000 to drought-affected graziers is too stringent in its demands and that relatively few graziers have been able to take advantage of this loan?

(2) How many graziers have taken advantage of this loan for the years 1966, 1967 and 1968?

Answers:—

(1) "All drought relief assistance is made available under the provisions of the Drought Relief to Primary Producers Acts which provide that, to be eligible for relief, an applicant must be in necessitous circumstances as a result of the drought, have no liquid resources of his own, be unable to obtain further credit through normal channels and have a reasonable chance of continuing in primary production, if assistance is granted. These provisions apply not only to graziers but to all other primary producers. The Honourable Member mentions a loan of \$6,000. Assistance up to this amount for graziers was approved by the Government at the beginning of August, 1969, so it is too early to gauge the extent graziers will seek assistance under this new scheme. Up to July 31 last, drought relief assistance for graziers was limited to \$2,000 and, at that date, 265 graziers had been approved assistance under the scheme introduced in March last."

(2) "Year	New Applications Approved
1966	560
1967	9
1968	9

The scheme closed on September 30, 1968."

ACCIDENTS INVOLVING POLICE VEHICLES

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

(1) What is the number of (a) police vehicles in Queensland and (b) accidents in which these vehicles have been involved within the past twelve months?

(2) How many of these accidents were the fault of police officers?

(3) What prosecutions arising out of these accidents have been against (a) civilian drivers and (b) police drivers?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) As at July 31, 1969: 547 four wheel vehicles; 157 motorcycles; total, 704. (b) As at July 31, 1969: 520, which includes broken windscreens."

(2) "114 accidents in which police drivers were considered, as a result of investigations, to be at fault."

(3) "(a) 92. (b) Two."

ATTENDANCES AT TEACHER-LIBRARIAN SEMINARS

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

With reference to the Answer to my Question on August 21—

(1) With regard to the Townsville Seminar—(a) how many teachers were accommodated by the Department, (b) where were they accommodated, (c) what was the cost of the accommodation, (d) what other costs were involved, (e) what contribution did the Commonwealth make towards expenses, (f) how many eligible schools failed to nominate a teacher to attend the seminar and (g) how many teachers nominated failed to attend?

(2) With regard to the Sydney Seminar—(a) what form of transport was used between Queensland and Sydney, (b) was travel assistance provided by the Government and, if so, what assistance, (c) from which State high schools were teachers selected to attend and (d) by what methods were teachers selected?

(3) What time allocation is made for library duties for teacher-librarians?

(4) What plans does the Department have for other seminars for teacher-librarians?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) 34. (b) St. Paul's College, Townsville University College. (c) \$16.50 per week per person—total \$1,093.78. (d) Nil. (e) Commonwealth Department of Education and Science paid cost of fares of teachers from outside centres plus an allowance of \$2 per day for all participating teachers plus allowances and fees for special lecturers. (f) and (g) The Seminar was organised by the Regional Director of Education in Townsville and this information is not available at short notice."

(2) "(a) Air. (b) Commonwealth Department of Education and Science paid cost of fares of teachers plus an allowance of \$2 per day. Queensland Department of Education paid teachers a daily allowance of \$8. (c) Brisbane, Yeronga, Mitchelton, Mt. Gravatt, Salisbury, Kedron, Toowoomba, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Pimlico, Trinity Bay. (d) The Commonwealth Office of Education and Science advised this Department on November 17

that the course was to be held. This did not give time for inviting applicants. Teachers were selected on the basis of some school library experience and the recommendation of the Principals of the schools concerned."

(3) "Principals are permitted to allocate teachers to duties in the library for periods considered appropriate. More definite provision will be made for the servicing of the libraries when the new Commonwealth library blocks are available."

(4) "The Department has planned another fortnight's seminar similar to the one held in Townsville. This will commence on September 1 and will be attended by metropolitan teachers. A series of afternoon seminars will be held at Mt. Gravatt Teachers' College. Principals have been given permission to arrange one-day seminars in their localities as they feel they are necessary. Consideration is being given to the selection of a number of teachers who will undertake a full-time course in school-librarianship."

NEW POLICE STATION, WYNNUM

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

As the Wynnum police station has been partly demolished to enable the completion of the Wynnum court house, thereby leaving a very small and cramped area for members of the criminal investigation branch and uniform staff to carry out their normal police duties, and as sketch plans for a new police station at Wynnum are in existence, will he give urgent consideration to having plans and specifications drawn up with a view to having a new police station built at Wynnum during the current financial year?

Answer:—

"The inclusion of the new police station at Wynnum in the current financial year's Loan Works programme was considered but the priority of this project did not allow for provision to be made in the programme having regard to the financial allocation and the total police building requirements."

ENLARGEMENT OF GROUNDS, MANLY STATE SCHOOL

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

(1) Have any approaches been made to his Department in relation to the purchase of one, two or three properties adjacent to the Manly State School for the purpose of enlarging the present very small and inadequate playing grounds?

(2) If so, will he give urgent consideration to acquiring these properties as they are the last and only properties which can be made available for this very urgent and worthy cause?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Negotiations are proceeding. One only of the owners of the three properties has at present indicated his willingness to sell."

ESTABLISHMENT OF TEA FACTORY, NERADA AREA

Mr. F. P. Moore, pursuant to notice, asked The Premier,—

Has he given consideration to the request by Dr. A. P. Maruff of Innisfail regarding the problems he is facing in the establishment of a tea factory in the Nerada area?

Answer:—

"If the Honourable Member will be more explicit, I shall attempt to answer his question."

OFF-SHORE OIL EXPLORATION AGREEMENTS

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

Will he table all agreements between the Government and companies concerning off-shore oil exploration in the area north of Gladstone? If not, why not?

Answer:—

"There are no agreements between the Government and companies concerning off-shore oil exploration in the area north of Gladstone. Under the provisions of division 7 of *"The Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act of 1967,"* permits have been granted in place of Authorities to Prospect previously held under *"The Petroleum Acts, 1923 to 1962."*

BREACHES OF FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACT

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

Have there been any complaints or prosecutions in the last ten years under section 85 of *"The Factories and Shops Acts, 1960 to 1964"*? If so, what are the details?

Answer:—

"Departmental records are available back to 1961. Since that year, fourteen complaints have been received alleging false advertising of products for sale and all of these were investigated. A warning was issued in one case in 1966, when the manager concerned promised to take appropriate action in regard to the member of his staff responsible and also promised to take immediate action to ensure that all future advertisements were clear and definite in regard to the article being advertised for sale, and that the clerical

error in this case was not repeated. The promise given by the manager has been honoured. In two cases the wording and layout of the advertisements were immediately altered to correct any defect or ambiguity and both of these firms stated they had no intention to offend against the law. No breach could be detected in regard to the remaining eleven cases."

CONSTRUCTION OF DEVIATION,
TOOWOOMBA RANGE ROAD

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

(1) When will construction work begin on the proposed deviation between the foot of the Toowoomba Range and the Helidon Spa?

(2) Will the work be carried out by the Department of Main Roads?

Answers:—

(1) "Following representations from the Honourable the Treasurer, in whose electorate this road is, it has been decided that as design work in connection with this scheme is now almost completed, it is proposed to call tenders by the end of October next, with the Main Roads Department as the constructing authority, for at least the earthworks and drainage involved."

(2) "Representations have been made by Gatton Shire Council to be allotted the work of supplying and placing the pavement material, and this matter is currently under consideration."

PATIENTS AND STAFF, BAILLIE
HENDERSON HOSPITAL, TOOWOOMBA

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

With regard to the Baillie Henderson Hospital, Toowoomba, for the last year for which figures are available—

(1) What is the daily average of (a) in-patients and (b) out-patients?

(2) How many (a) full-time and (b) part-time medical officers are employed?

(3) What other professionally qualified staff are employed (a) part-time and (b) full-time?

(4) What other staff is employed?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) 1968-69—972. (b) No records of out-patients' visits are maintained."

(2) "(a) Four. (b) Two."

(3) "(a) Nil. (b) "One psychologist. One social worker. One occupational therapist. One dispenser."

(4) "310 nursing staff; 112 other staff."

RECRUITMENT OF NURSES

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

(1) Has he seen the statement by the Queensland President of the Royal Australian Nursing Federation, Mrs. U. M. Hall, in *The Courier-Mail* of August 26, 1969, that the staff situation involving both trained and student nurses was not improving and that the position had been deteriorating for a number of years and is slowly continuing to do so?

(2) Is the situation as outlined by Mrs. Hall correct? If so, what steps are being taken to attract suitable staff?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "No. Statistics furnished by hospitals boards indicate that at June 30, 1969, there were sixty-four more trained nurses and fourteen more student nurses employed in State-controlled hospitals in Queensland than at June 30, 1968. Although recruitment and employment of nursing staff is the responsibility of the respective hospitals boards, my Department, on request, does assist hospitals boards wherever possible with staff recruitment."

PLANTINGS AND PRODUCTION, TUAN
FORESTRY AREA

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

(1) How many acres were planted at Maryborough Tuan Forestry (a) last year and (b) this year?

(2) How many acres have been planted and what area may be planted next year?

(3) What volume of superficial feet of thinnings is available in this area?

(4) Are any negotiations taking place for use of this available timber?

(5) Are any other areas in the Maryborough, Howard and Hervey Bay districts being reserved for forestry development?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) The area planted in late summer and winter 1968 was 2,514 acres; and (b) The approximate area planted in 1969 was 2,800 acres."

(2) "Including the 1969 winter planting a total area of approximately 19,500 acres has been planted at Tuan. The area programmed for planting next year is 2,500 acres."

(3) "It is estimated that the quantity of thinnings now available from Tuan on a sustainable basis is: mill logs (over 27 inches girth breast high), 1.5 million superficial feet per year; pulpwood, 10 million superficial feet per year."

(4) "A number of enquiries have been received in respect to the timber available from the plantations at Tuan and at Toolara which adjoins it to the south. These two areas form the major plantation complex in Queensland and together could ultimately sustain a pulp and paper industry."

(5) "It is taken that this Question refers to areas for softwood plantings. Planting programmes are current in the Gregory-Bingera area (400 acres per year of exotic pines) and at State Forest Reserve 8, Doongul, near Brooweena, where 150 acres per year is planted with hoop pine."

MAINTENANCE OF SCHOOL TRANSPORT BUSES

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

What control is exercised by his Department over school children's transport buses in regard to general service and maintenance?

Answer:—

"Periodic inspections of school transport vehicles are made by officers of the Machinery Department to ensure that they are adequately serviced and maintained at a high mechanical standard. In addition, the local Police Superintendent of Traffic furnishes a general report on each service to my Department whenever a change of contractor occurs."

HORROR FILMS, MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

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

With regard to so-called "horror films" relating to accidents, which have been televised and also recently shown at the Royal National Association Exhibition—

(1) Is it considered by the Road Safety Council that films of this type have a sobering and thoughtful effect on viewers, particularly drivers of vehicles?

(2) Will he use his persuasive powers with the oil companies and endeavour to have them pool a portion of their advertising allocation of finance, so that these films, in association with the advertisement of their products, may be shown fairly regularly on television channels with the ultimate aim of increasing road safety and decreasing the shocking road toll?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The films to which the Honourable Member refers were exhibited continuously during the recent R.N.A. exhibition and attracted a total of approximately 20,000 viewers. I will refer and discuss this subject with my colleagues on the Queensland Road Safety Council.

The Road Safety Officers in attendance at the show received many unsolicited comments from adult viewers, many of whom thanked the officers and expressed the view that the films were very good and should be shown more often and more widely. Officers of the Australian Broadcasting Commission also made a test from viewers at the show and programmed the result on the ABC programme 'Today Tonight'. There was also an article on the subject published in *Sunday Truth* of August 17 under the caption 'Horror on Show'. The result of this information satisfies me that these types of films have, as the Honourable Member suggests, a sobering and thoughtful effect on viewers, particularly drivers of vehicles. I am not certain how long this effect lasts."

CONCESSIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES FOR MINER'S PHTHISIS PENSIONERS

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

With regard to the 50 per centum reduction in motor vehicle registration fees recently granted to certain classes of pensioners—

(1) Are people in receipt of miner's phthisis pensions entitled to receive this benefit? If not, why not?

(2) If they are not entitled to the concession, will he arrange for these well-deserving people to become entitled to it?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Miner's phthisis sufferers who have been granted a full age or invalid social service pension are eligible to receive the concession on their motor vehicle registration fee. The position of those not receiving social service pensions is being examined."

STATE ASSISTANCE FOR DESERTED WIVES

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

(1) Will the increase in widows' pensions announced in the recent Federal Budget be paid to deserted wives, etc., during the period before the Commonwealth takes full responsibility for payments to these people?

(2) What is the average length of time from the date at which the husband leaves, before a deserted wife receives the pension equivalent to the Commonwealth's Class A Widow's Pension?

(3) How many deserted wives with children in Queensland are receiving State Government assistance of less than the equivalent of the Commonwealth Class A Widow's Pension?

(4) What are the rates at which this assistance is given?

Answers:—

(1) "This matter is yet to receive consideration."

(2) "In the majority of cases, the full amount of assistance is paid immediately an application is lodged, provided there is nothing to suggest the applicant is other than a *bona fide* applicant and her financial circumstances otherwise entitle her to this assistance."

(3) "It is presumed that this question relates to deserted wives within the first six months of desertion. Very few do not receive the full amount of assistance, due to a limited income being received from other sources. The exact number is not readily available."

(4) "There is no prescribed rate. The amount of assistance payable in the relatively few cases concerned would be at the discretion of the Director, Department of Children's Services, in accordance with the power vested in him under section 41 of "The Children's Services Act of 1965"."

LIGHTING OF TROTTING TRACKS

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

(1) Are Queensland trotting clubs answerable to and controlled by the Queensland Trotting Control Board in the matter of the construction and lighting of their trotting tracks?

(2) Did the Brisbane Club call tenders for the lighting of the Albion Park track and, if not, why not?

(3) What firm installed the lighting at this track?

(4) Will the Townsville Trotting Club be allowed to call tenders for the lighting of the Townsville track and, if not, what firm is to carry out the work and will this be at the instigation of the Trotting Control Board?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) "Trotting clubs are responsible to the Queensland Trotting Board in relation to the construction and lighting of their trotting tracks in so far as they must satisfy the Board that the track, lighting and other amenities are of an appropriate standard, and that proper concern has been shown for the safety of participants and the public generally. The Board is not concerned as to whom the club engages to carry out the work provided that the completed facilities are satisfactory. The selection of a contractor and the arrangement of an agreed price are matters entirely within the individual club's domestic administration and are not matters for the Board. Each club is responsible to its own members for its finances."

MT. SPEC NATIONAL PARK

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

(1) What percentage of land in Queensland is presently reserved for national parks?

(2) What is the area of the Mount Spec National Park and is the Paluma Dam included in this area?

(3) If not, what areas adjacent to the dam have been reserved for the conservation of flora and fauna?

Answers:—

(1) "One-half per cent."

(2) "17,850 acres. Paluma Dam is not included in Mt. Spec National Park."

(3) "Reserves for the conservation of flora and fauna come within the province of the Minister for Primary Industries. However there are National Park and State Forest Reserves totalling 86,210 acres in the vicinity of the Paluma Dam. National Parks and State Forests are sanctuaries for the purposes of the Fauna Conservation Act whilst on National Parks there is total protection not only of fauna but also of flora."

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF MOUNT ISA MINES LTD. EMPLOYEES

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

(1) In view of the stated staff shortage at the Townsville General Hospital, what doctor or doctors employed full-time at the hospital carry out medical examinations to determine the fitness or otherwise of intending employees or employees of Mount Isa Mines Limited?

(2) Are these examinations carried out in hospital hours and what fee is charged?

(3) How many persons have been so examined to date and what has been the net return to the hospital?

(4) If the examinations are made outside hospital hours, are such made with the approval of the Board and his Department and what amount to date has been paid by Mount Isa Mines Limited for this service?

Answers:—

(1) "Board Officers have advised that the Medical Superintendent, Dr. N. R. Scott-Young, has carried out medical examinations of intending employees of Mount Isa Mines Ltd."

(2 and 3) "The Medical Superintendent advised the Board that these examinations have been carried out in the evenings or on week-ends. No fee is charged by the Board for such examinations. The Board

does, however, raise charges for any X-ray examinations which form part of such medical examination and an amount of \$4,784.65 has been received from Mount Isa Mines Ltd. in respect of one thousand and thirteen persons."

(4) "Following consideration of a report from the Medical Superintendent, dated March 7, 1967, detailing the arrangements for the conduct of these examinations, the Hospitals Board resolved 'That the matter be closed'."

CAPTAIN COOK BI-CENTENARY
CELEBRATIONS

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

(1) When can it be expected that his Government will announce arrangements for Queensland celebrations for the Captain Cook bi-centenary year?

(2) Have Victoria and New South Wales already announced their plans and, if so, did Queensland participate in consultations regarding co-ordination of dates?

(3) Has cognisance been taken by the Central Co-ordination Committee in Brisbane of the need for outlying committees at the centres of Cairns and Rockhampton to receive early announcement to enable local organisation to be put in hand?

Answers:—

(1) "The Queensland Government has determined that the Bi-centenary of the voyage of Captain Cook along the Queensland Coast should be marked by appropriate celebrations throughout the State and it has been decided that the celebrations be from May 16, 1970, to August 24, 1970, the actual period Captain Cook spent along the Queensland coastline. An announcement to this effect was made on March 10, 1969. However, as Her Majesty the Queen will visit Queensland between April 12 and April 23, 1970, consideration is being given to advancing some of the more significant events in the celebrations to coincide with the itinerary for the Royal Visit."

(2) "It is understood that Victoria and New South Wales have announced some plans for their States. Queensland did not participate in consultations regarding co-ordination of dates but an effective liaison exists between the State and Commonwealth officials involved."

(3) "The need for an early announcement to enable outlying committees to plan for their particular celebrations is fully realised."

IMPROVEMENT OF CAIRNS-COOK-
TOWN ROADS

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

(1) Have any plans been made to improve road access from Cairns to Cooktown, in anticipation of the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to Cooktown for the Captain Cook bi-centenary celebrations in 1970?

(2) Has any approach been made to the Commonwealth for assistance in this regard and, if not, why not?

(3) If the Answers to (1) and (2) are in the affirmative, what is the extent of the proposed works on (a) the Mulligan Highway and (b) the coastal road via Bailey's Creek—Cape Tribulation?

Answers:—

(1) "Plans have not been made to improve road access between Cairns and Cooktown for the specific purposes set out in the Question, but between 1967 and 1974 some \$500,000 to \$750,000 per annum is programmed for expenditure from the Commonwealth Beef Roads and Main Roads Funds. It is not practicable to increase this rate of development."

(2) "No approach has been made to the Commonwealth since funds have already been allocated under the Beef Roads Act and the road would qualify also for expenditure under the *Commonwealth Aid Roads Act of 1969*."

(3) "(a) It is assumed that by Mulligan Highway the Honourable Member refers to the Peninsula Developmental Road and the Cooktown Developmental Road on which an amount of \$630,000 is programmed for expenditure during the present financial year. (b) The coastal road to Cooktown is not declared under the Main Roads Acts. However, an amount of \$20,000 has been allocated under section 19 of the Main Roads Acts for expenditure on a crossing of Noah Creek between Bailey's Creek and Cape Tribulation."

LADY NELL SEEING EYE DOG SCHOOL

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

(1) Has the Lady Nell Seeing Eye Dog School in Brisbane been taken over by a similar organisation in Melbourne? If so, under what authority?

(2) How much money stood to the credit of the Queensland organisation at the time of any takeover?

(3) Is this amount of money still available in Queensland? If not, why not?

Answers:—

(1) "The Lady Nell Seeing Eye Dog School in Brisbane is a branch of the Lady Nell Seeing Eye Dog School and Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind conducted by the Guide Dog Owners and Friends Association which I am informed is incorporated in Victoria."

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

GYMPIE SEWERAGE SCHEME

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

(1) Did the Gympie City Council obtain approval for the installation of sewerage? If so, what was the estimated cost per pedestal per tenement to the householder?

(2) If ratepayers now allege that charges to them will constitute revenue-producing by the Gympie City Council over and above costs, what action is open to them?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The Gympie City Council was authorised by the Governor in Council to raise debenture loans towards the cost of the sewerage scheme for Gympie, the first such loan being raised by the Council in 1962. Substantial Governmental subsidies were granted towards such cost. Prior to the preparation of plans, estimates, etc., for the scheme, a preliminary report thereon was prepared by the Council's consulting engineer. This showed an estimated sewerage charge for private residences of \$40 per annum. A copy of the budget adopted by the Council for the current financial year discloses that a balanced budget has been provided as required by law. The sewerage charge applicable to private residences for the current financial year is \$44."

QUALIFICATIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS OF SCHOOL TEACHERS

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

With respect to the qualifications and classifications of teachers in the employ of his Department—

(1) What is the number on the two-year trained scale and how many of these (a) have no University subject unit qualifications, (b) have three units and (c) are employed in primary, secondary and special education sections respectively?

(2) What is the number on the new three-year scale and how many of these (a) have four units of University subjects,

(b) have nine such units and (c) are employed in primary, secondary and special education sections respectively?

(3) What is the number on the new four-year trained scale (a) on the first step, (b) on the final step and (c) employed in primary, secondary and special education sections, respectively?

Answers:—

(1) "Excluding teachers on probation, and those holding classified positions, the numbers of teachers on the two-year trained scale at the time of introduction of the new system of classification this year were:—

Primary Schools	..	..	5,984
Special Schools	..	..	240
Secondary Schools	..	..	1,526

Information regarding the numbers of University subjects held by teachers is not readily available."

(2) "Apart from those on probation and those holding classified positions, the numbers of teachers on the three-year trained scale at the time of introduction of the new scheme were:—

Primary Schools	..	..	458
Special Schools	..	..	28
Secondary Schools	..	..	944

Details of the numbers of University subjects held by teachers are not readily available."

(3) "Details regarding numbers of teachers on the four-year trained scale were:—(a) 91. (b) 235. (c) Primary schools, 3; Special schools, 30; Secondary schools, 626."

EMPLOYMENT OF TEACHERS, CRASH-COURSE TRAINING SCHEME

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

(1) How many of the forty or more trainee teachers who started the crash-course training scheme in 1968, (a) completed their relevant training courses and (b) commenced full-time teaching in 1969?

(2) How are their numbers distributed on the three new scales?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) 45. (b) 43."

(2) "Six of the 43 have resigned. The remainder have been classified as follows:—Two-year trained, 27; Three-year trained, 2; Four-year trained, 8."

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under—

The State Electricity Commission Acts, 1937 to 1965.

The Southern Electric Authority of Queensland Acts, 1952 to 1964.

The Explosives Acts, 1952 to 1963.

The Ambulance Services Act of 1967.

Regulations under—

The Health Act 1937–1968 (Barbers' Shops Regulations).

FORM OF QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a tendency on the part of some hon. members when giving notice of questions to impart more information than they seek. I advise hon. members, particularly new members, that the purpose of a question is to seek information, not to impart it. It will be necessary for me to have a good look at some of the questions. This morning the hon. members for Rockhampton South, Toowoomba West, Port Curtis and Mackay were offenders in this respect.

OFFICIALS IN PARLIAMENT ACT
AMENDMENT BILL

SECOND READING

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (12.36 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

In moving this motion, I should like to repeat that the Bill is a simple one containing only a single provision, namely, to increase the number of Ministers from 13 to 14. During my introduction of the Bill I outlined the reasons for bringing it forward. To do so, of course, I had to have the support of Cabinet and the Government parties. The principal reason for doing so is the need to cope effectively and efficiently with the scale and spread of development now taking place, and proposed, in Queensland.

One obvious conclusion from the debate during the introductory stage was the complete ignorance of members of the Opposition of the duties, responsibilities and work-load of a Minister of the Crown. The contradictions that were made by hon. members opposite were really quite amazing; their complete ignorance was crystal clear. To quote just one example, the Leader of the Opposition stated that the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General was one of the few Ministers who could claim that he had had a heavy programme during the past three years. On the other hand, the hon. member for Nudgee stated that the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General was nothing more than a mouthpiece for his departmental

officers, and that if he were to take 12 months' leave it would not even be necessary to appoint a temporary Minister to this portfolio. That was an extraordinary statement, but it is only typical of the utter lack of knowledge displayed in this House by the Opposition. The Minister for Justice is responsible for the administration of over 130 Acts of Parliament. He also controls the Justice Department, Prisons, Public Curator Office, Titles Office, Electoral Office, Registrar-General's Office, Solicitor-General, Fair Rents, Registrar of Companies and Commercial Acts, and so on. He is also responsible for advising the Government on all legal questions and, in so far as the Public Service Acts are concerned, for the control of the Supreme Court, District Courts, Circuit Courts and the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Melloy: They are all departments that run themselves.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: In spite of what the hon. member's Leader has said and in spite of what I have tried to convey to him, the hon. member for Nudgee adheres to his statement. That clearly shows how completely ignorant he and many other hon. members opposite are concerning what transpires in a Minister's department. I have just outlined the very large field of responsibility of this Minister, for whose existence the hon. member said there was no need or justification. He is the Minister who the hon. member for Nudgee said could be done without for at least 12 months, and that no-one would miss him. The hon. member for Nudgee made quite a number of amazing statements, which only showed up starkly his lack of knowledge of this subject.

A great deal was said by Opposition members about the number of Bills introduced here during the past three years. That is only one aspect—a minor aspect—of the work undertaken by Ministers. This point, among others, was referred to by the former Premier, Sir Francis Nicklin, when he introduced the legislation to increase the Ministry in 1963. The introduction of Bills is but one of the minor responsibilities of Ministers, of which they have many. Bills are not introduced purely for the sake of increasing the size and number of the statutes, or to create records. They are brought forward by this Government as and when there is need.

The hon. member for Toowoomba East stated that I did not present any arguments to justify the increase in the size of the Cabinet, and that I had not given any specific details of what ministerial changes were envisaged or what administrative alterations would be made.

That, of course, is not the question. The matter before the House is to decide whether or not it is desirable to increase the size of the Ministry by one. If Parliament favours the principle, and if the Bill

is passed and receives Royal Assent, the question of ministerial portfolios and administrative arrangements will then receive due consideration.

Another point which was raised during the introductory debate was the cost that would be involved in the appointment of an additional Minister. Some exaggerated figures were mentioned. There was certainly no great cost associated with the creation of the portfolio of Local Government and Conservation in 1963. The only additional staff required was in the Minister's private secretariat, which involved a private secretary, two typists and a chauffeur. The salary of these four officers today would be in the vicinity of \$13,000 per annum. The provision of a motor vehicle for the Minister and certain other minor contingencies would be additional, but the total cost would not be exorbitant; certainly not when it is related to the extra service and attention given to the State and to the public, which is an important aspect in the appointment of an additional Minister.

The hon. member for Townsville North was another to make some amazing statements. He obviously is of the opinion that Cabinet Ministers should travel as little as possible throughout the State. In other words, he implied that he would like to see a return to what we called the "Queen Street" Government when Labour was in power prior to 1957.

I place on record that Townsville would be the poorer today if Ministers had not visited that city as they have.

Mr. Aikens: We do not see them often enough.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I appreciate what the hon. member for Townsville South has just said. I, as Premier, and many other Ministers, have worked together with the hon. member to the advantage and benefit of Townsville. I could cite many instances of the great benefits that have resulted to that city as a result of the visits that Ministers have made there and the discussions they have had with responsible people.

I repeat that I make no excuses whatsoever for my Ministers visiting various parts of the State. Indeed, I consider that this is their duty, and I expect it of them.

The work of running the State, whether it be New South Wales, Victoria, or Queensland, must be comparable and would differ only in the additional area to be covered and the population to be served. The work of the Government, whether it be in health, education, or main roads, must still go on, and the comparison of 18 Ministers for New South Wales, 15 for Victoria and 14 for Queensland does not indicate any great disparity.

I make no apology whatever for introducing this Bill. I believe it to be in the best interests of the State that the number of

Ministers should be increased slightly to enable us to continue and to cope with the great development drive which has been initiated by this Government.

For the reasons I outlined at the introductory stage, and now in the second reading, I submit that the Bill is a most desirable one and I commend it to the House.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (12.45 p.m.): I am afraid that the Premier has been even less convincing in his second-reading speech than he was at the introductory stage. No matter what argument he advances in this House, he will not convince the people of Queensland that this move is for any purpose other than to make the Country Party dominant in Cabinet. That is the sole reason for the Bill, and the one thing that the Premier has not mentioned. Will the Premier deny that when the size of Cabinet was last increased the argument was that it was necessary because of extra work and the like? On that occasion, of course, there were two additional appointments, one from the Liberal Party and one from the Country Party. On this occasion the Country Party has completely dominated the scene, and after the new appointment there will be two more Country Party Ministers than there are Liberal Party Ministers.

Let us look again at some of the facts, and the position in other States. Since 1963 there has been an increase of three in the number of members of this Parliament. It is worth recalling that to establish three additional electorates the Government of the day reduced the number of country electorates by one and increased the number of metropolitan seats by four. The new Cabinet appointment will therefore mean that three additional Ministers have been appointed in the same period in which the House has gained three more private members.

Mr. Aikens: What did your mob do in 1950?

Mr. HOUSTON: The hon. member for Townsville South is always living in the past. I suggest to him that he be what he pretends to be—a Labour man—and stop being one of the worst Tories in the House. Whenever the Government finds itself without an argument, the hon. member is always willing to come to its assistance. He never misses. It is quite significant, of course, that he is never opposed by the Liberal and Country Parties. The day when he is, he will cease to be a member of this Parliament.

Other Governments in Australia operate quite effectively with fewer Ministers in relation to members than we have; they operate quite effectively with fewer Ministers per head of population than we have. On a population and area relationship, which is the basis on which reimbursement grants are

made by the Commonwealth to the States, again it will be found that Queensland has relatively more Cabinet Ministers than has any other State.

Let us look at the position in the other States. In New South Wales there are 94 Members of the Legislative Assembly and 60 in the Upper House. Although the Premier said that there are 18 Ministers in New South Wales, I think the correct figure is 15. That represents one Minister for every 10.34 members. In other words, 9.7 per cent. of elected members are Ministers. On a population basis, it is one Minister for approximately 297,000 people.

In Victoria there are 73 Members of the Legislative Assembly and 35 in the Upper House, making a total of 108. There is in that State one Minister for every 7.2 members; in other words, 14 per cent. of members are Ministers. There is one Minister for approximately 225,000 people.

In South Australia there are 39 Members of the House of Assembly and 20 in the Upper House, making a total of 59. There are nine Ministers. Certainly South Australia has a population a little lower than ours and is smaller in area than Queensland, but it is a State that is developing and it is operating effectively with nine Ministers.

Mr. Sullivan: Didn't you say during the election campaign that if you became the Government you would set up a ministry and department of decentralisation?

Mr. HOUSTON: There again the Minister for Lands is wrongly informed. Never have so many incorrect statements on so many issues been made in this House by Ministers as are being made now.

Mr. Sullivan interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: The Minister asked me a question and I am telling him the truth. I said during the election campaign that there was no justification for an increase in the size of the Ministry. The Premier said, when talking to Logan Sligo, as reported by him, that there would be no increase in the Ministry. That is what the senior parties said to the electors. The only party that did not make any comment was the Liberal Party. I do not know what its views were at that time, but at present it is supporting the Government, I believe wrongly.

As I have just said, in South Australia there are 39 members of the House of Assembly and 20 members of the Upper House, a total of 59. There are nine Ministers in that State, or one Minister to 6.6 members—15 per cent. of the members in the House—and on a population basis there is one Minister for each 127,000.

Mr. Ahern: It would be different if we had an Upper House here.

Mr. HOUSTON: It would not make any difference in the number of Ministers. The hon. member does not even understand the position.

Mr. Ahern: You should use a complete ratio.

Mr. HOUSTON: I have used a complete ratio. When the Upper House was abolished in Queensland, the number of electorates was increased for the Legislative Assembly. If the hon. member knew his history, he would know that.

In Queensland there are 78 members of the Legislative Assembly and 13 Ministers, or one Minister for six members; 17 per cent. of the members are Ministers, and there is one Minister for each 135,000 people. With an additional Minister, the ridiculous situation will be reached in this State of one Minister for every 5.6 members. That will be the lowest ratio in the Commonwealth—lower even than the figure in Tasmania, which has a small area, and lower, on a population basis, than the figure in South Australia.

I invite hon. members to consider the history of this State and see what has happened over the years relative to increases in the number of Ministers. No-one can convince me that the Ministers of this Government are working any harder than did Ministers in Governments in earlier years. On the other hand, Ministers in this Government can truthfully argue that they have at their disposal more modern methods of transport. They can move very quickly from place to place.

Mr. Ramsden: Even you have a car now.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is right. I am not denying it.

Mr. Ramsden: When Labour was in office, the Leader of the Opposition didn't have one.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is right, because he did not ask for one.

Mr. Ramsden interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: The hon. member says that he did. I have asked for additional staff. At least we now have an admission from the Government that when hon. members opposite were in Opposition they asked for the things that I have now asked for on behalf of members of the Opposition. If hon. members on the Government benches believe they were necessary then, why does not the Government grant my requests now? I have asked for additional staff for the Opposition; I have asked, on behalf of the Opposition, that members be given clerical assistance in their own electorates.

Mr. Knox: Why?

Mr. HOUSTON: Because I want the members to do the work as they believe they should do it. That is why I asked for it.

Mr. Camm: It is the same with Cabinet Ministers. The work is increasing.

Mr. HOUSTON: Then, the Government should grant members of this assembly clerical assistance in their own electorates. Hon. members opposite want it only one way, for propaganda purposes. All they are interested in is getting an additional Minister who can be used to carry propaganda to all parts of the State.

Mr. Aikens: Why didn't you go before the Done Committee and support me on that point?

Mr. HOUSTON: Perhaps I shall on a later occasion. I am not living in the past; I am living in the present.

Mr. Sullivan: You ought to be ashamed of the past.

Mr. HOUSTON: Let us have a look at the past. As I said earlier, the present proportion of one Minister to each six members is the lowest in modern times.

Mr. Sullivan: Those figures do not mean a thing.

Mr. HOUSTON: They are against the Minister's argument.

Mr. Knox: Be a bit modern.

Mr. HOUSTON: I am. The Minister's are taking advantage of modern methods of travel, computers, and other things that are available, and they still want an additional Minister.

In 1932, when there were 62 members of this Assembly, there were 10 Ministers in Queensland. In 1950, when the number of seats was increased to 75, there were 10 Ministers, or one Minister for each 7.5 members. During the Gair administration Cabinet was increased to 11, giving a ratio of one to 6.8. In 1960, when the number of members was increased to 78, the relationship, with 11 Cabinet Ministers, was one to 7.1. In 1963, with the increase in the number of Ministers to 13, the ratio dropped to one to 6 and, as I said at the outset, equalled that in Tasmania. This further increase brings the ratio down to the ridiculous figure of one to 5.6.

So far as the Government is concerned—this is very enlightening and interesting to members of the Government—the chance of hon. members opposite becoming Cabinet Ministers, provided they do the right thing by their leaders—they are the ones with whom they have to keep on side because they select members of the Cabinet—is one in 3. One in three Government members can look forward to the prospect of becoming a Cabinet Minister.

Mr. Aikens: Your only chance of ever becoming a Minister is to turn your collar back to front.

Mr. HOUSTON: At least that is a chance; the hon. member has no chance at all. I said at the introductory stage that no-one could say that some Ministers have not handled a tremendous legislative programme and I stick to what I said earlier. I believe the facts, based on the number of Bills that the various Ministers handled in this House, show that certain Ministers, including the Minister for Justice, spoke quite a lot and had to guide through this House quite a large number of Bills.

Dr. Delamothe interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: When the redistribution comes I will be interested in having a good look at it too. So far as the hon. member for Nudgee in concerned, he will present the case as he sees it. On the other hand, as I pointed out, there are some portfolios, covering Industrial Development, Transport, and Works and Housing, where the amount of work done by the Minister concerned surely indicates that there is no need in these areas for a Minister's full responsibility. That is the point that the hon. member for Nudgee was making, and it is the point I want to make. There are some departments today that could be switched from one Minister's control to another's. No-one suggests that the departments are not needed.

For the information of the Minister for Lands, what I said during the election campaign was that we would have a complete review of ministerial responsibilities and the allocation of departments, and that there was no need to increase the number of Ministers. There is a great need to review the allocation of ministerial responsibilities, and I would support any move by the Premier to re-allocate the work because I feel that some Ministers are overloaded while others have very little to do.

Mr. Ahern: You said you were going to create an extra portfolio.

Mr. HOUSTON: I did not say that. Do not let us start quoting what some back-bench members opposite have said here in contradiction of each other, or I will start quoting what the Treasurer said about the hon. member for South Coast over a period of time. However, the South Coast argument is not a matter for this debate. Departments are important in Government activity, but, once policy is laid down, the Director of Industrial Development, the Commissioner for Transport, the Commissioner for Railways and the Commissioner of Housing, all very capable and highly-paid officers of the Public Service, actually run the departments I mentioned. Certainly they do it in accordance with Government policy, but

there has been no evidence in latter years of any great change in Government policy in the handling of these departments.

Mr. Knox: Rubbish!

Mr. HOUSTON: If the Minister thinks there has been great change, he can stand up and tell us about it.

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

Mr. HOUSTON: Before lunch I had referred to the number of Ministers in the various States, and I said that the New South Wales Cabinet consisted of 15 Ministers. In fact, it consists of 18. I apologise to the House and to the Premier for my mistake because I do not want any of my statements to be inaccurate with my knowledge. I should like to explain the circumstances under which my mistake was made, because I think that they are important.

The Australian Year Book, No. 54, from which I obtained my information, listed the number of the New South Wales Ministry as 15, because after the death of the Honourable A. D. Bridges on 23 May, 1968, the portfolio of Child Welfare and Social Welfare was added to the Ministry of Health until 3 September, 1968. In other words, the Ministry originally contained 16 Ministers and at that time the number was reduced to 15. In fact 16 Ministers were listed with their portfolios. At some time since that date—I did not have the opportunity of ascertaining the exact date—two assistant Ministers were appointed.

I want to qualify the Premier's statement on that point. Surely we are not going to regard Assistant Ministers without any designated portfolios as actual Ministers in the sense that we know them in this State. It is apparent that if a Minister was overseas on duty or absent through illness one of the Assistant Ministers would be given some work to do.

Mr. Porter: They have a role to play.

Mr. HOUSTON: I am not doubting that.

Mr. Porter: They are not there just to fill in.

Mr. HOUSTON: The New South Wales Government would use them instead of combining two portfolios, as it did in 1968, and reducing the Ministry to 15. I imagine that by having the extra members available as Assistant Ministers they would be specified not as Ministers but as Assistant Ministers, and their position would be different from that of a full Minister.

As I say, in actual fact, the Ministry in New South Wales consisted of 16 Ministers and two Assistant Ministers. I suppose that the Assistant Ministers would be provided with staff and accorded certain privileges, so that the Ministry contains virtually 18 Ministers. Even with 18 Ministers, the relationship of New South Wales Ministers

to members of Parliament is still one to 8.6, which is far in excess of the ratio of one to 5.6 that is envisaged in this State. On a population basis the ratio is one Minister to 246,000 people. Again that is far in excess of what is proposed in this State.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen: You are taking the two Houses.

Mr. HOUSTON: Yes, but I do not think it matters when considering ministerial responsibilities whether a State has one House or two Houses. As the Premier knows, in New South Wales there are 16 Cabinet Ministers. Two of them are from the Upper House, so that the Lower House contains 14 Ministers. The point is that all the Ministers have full ministerial responsibilities, irrespective of the House in which they sit.

In relation to distances in this State, we must realise that in these days a person can fly to any of the main towns in Queensland within two hours. In fact, on some occasions a person spends a longer time waiting at the airport, or in travelling to it from the city terminal, than in the actual journey between cities. I think it is true to say that any part of this State can be reached by air, or by other methods of transport that are available, in four hours.

In the Premier's reply at the introductory stage he made a number of comments that I should like to quote. First of all, he said—

"I say that members of the Opposition would have no idea about what goes on at Cabinet meetings."

That is true. We do not know what goes on at Cabinet meetings. We do not know whether Ministers simply sit there and drink grog, or whether they get down to some hard work. The Premier did not tell us. All he said was that the Opposition would not know. He then said—

"No vote is taken in Cabinet and numbers do not come into it; we are a united team."

I remember that some time ago in this House we heard an entirely different story. It related to the chiropractors' legislation, on which the Cabinet was so divided that, when the numbers were counted, it was decided that there should be a free vote on the matter in this Chamber. Surely the Government will not suggest that every Cabinet decision is unanimous. Surely there must be differences of opinion, although no doubt when Ministers go to the combined caucus meeting they vote en bloc, which means that Cabinet has a block vote against any back-benchers, such as the "ginger group", who want to stir things up and argue the point. Therefore it surely is not true to say that no voting takes place in Cabinet to indicate opinions.

Mr. Hanlon: Do you think they will be able to control Wally Rae in Cabinet?

Mr. HOUSTON: No. As a matter of fact, his odds have risen quite recently, although I was reliably informed last night that another member was celebrating his proposed elevation to Cabinet.

We know from what the Premier said about rail freights in North Queensland during the election campaign that he had had a difference of opinion with his colleagues. That is fair enough. He indicated quite clearly that there was a difference of opinion in the Cabinet. He knew that he was the only one who opposed the suggestion of freight increases. How could he have known that if a vote had not been taken?

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen: No vote was taken.

Mr. HOUSTON: Then the Premier could not say with truth that he was the only one who opposed the suggestion.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: I am quite willing to allow the Premier to interject on this issue. It was well known that the Treasurer had a few words to say on the matter, again indicating that there was some way by which members of Cabinet knew what each other thought. Either there was a vote, or on that occasion the Premier only surmised the position.

Mr. Sullivan: You don't think we are all dumb, do you?

Mr. HOUSTON: Or Cabinet members have expressed their views.

Mr. Sullivan: Of course we did.

Mr. HOUSTON: It is therefore true for me to say that the Minister for Mines, the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Primary Industries spoke strongly in favour of freight increases on the North Queensland railways.

Mr. Camm: Don't be so stupid.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is right. The Minister's colleagues indicated by their voices where they stood. The Minister cannot run away from it. His colleague the Minister for Lands clearly stated what the position was.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition is wasting quite a deal of time by referring to irrelevant matters.

Opposition Members: This is not irrelevant.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! It is irrelevant for the Leader of the Opposition to say that somebody has been selected for Cabinet, or is to be selected.

Mr. HOUSTON: I did not say that.

Mr. Hanlon interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: This Bill is designed to increase the Ministry.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HOUSTON: The Premier said—I did not say it—that a vote is not taken in Cabinet. If that is so, how did he know certain facts? I think the Minister for Lands has made it very clear that the other Ministers expressed their views in Cabinet, and what the Premier said was only an indication of what they themselves have said. It is very clear now to everyone exactly where these Ministers stand.

Let me deal a little further with what the Premier said. He said—

“A good deal has been said about the cost of appointment of an additional Minister. It was said that I should give the cost of such an appointment. This is no responsibility of mine or of Parliament.”

What an extraordinary statement. Surely, before the Premier decided to increase the size of the Ministry, he discussed the cost at Cabinet level or with the Treasurer. I cannot believe that the Premier would want to increase the size of the Ministry without having some idea of the cost of doing so. It is the responsibility of Cabinet to know how much any change in administration will cost. The Opposition considers that it is the responsibility of Parliament, and that the members of this Parliament are entitled to know what it will cost.

We will have the details when the Treasurer introduces his Budget. We will then have a look at the matter, but at that point of time it will be discussed by hon. members and the Treasurer. However, I cannot accept the Premier's statement that the cost of an additional Minister is no responsibility of his or of this Parliament.

In moving the motion for the second reading, the Premier referred to a difference of opinion between the hon. member for Nudgee and me. Let me make it clear that members of the Australian Labour Party are free, at any time, to express their views on any matter. However, if, as Leader of the party, I speak on a subject, then my views are the official views, and the views of other members are their private views, which they are entitled to express. It is no use the Premier or anyone else claiming that anybody else is the Labour spokesman in this House on matters on which I speak. If the Premier makes a statement, either in Parliament or outside it, his statement is the official one. If the position is anything but that, let him say so. I am sure that some of the statements made by back-bench Government members are not the official view of the Government.

Mr. Hughes: We are entitled to express an opinion.

Mr. HOUSTON: Of course.

Mr. Hughes: What about Opposition members on chiropractors and fluoridation?

Mr. HOUSTON: The registration of chiropractors is an issue that we have already defeated. I am surprised that the hon. member for Kurilpa should mention it, because if my memory serves me correctly, that was the first time in many years that a Bill introduced by the Premier was defeated on the floor of the Chamber because Government members voted with the Opposition.

It is important that we know who makes the official statements. If the Premier's attitude is correct, we can assume that what the hon. member for Wavell said about the Department of Health is Government policy.

Mr. Houghton: Why?

Mr. HOUSTON: The Premier's reply to our case was based on that attitude. The Premier will find that the A.L.P. has one policy on all issues, whereas the Government has the Liberal Party policy, the Country Party policy, the Liberal Executive policy, the Federal policy and the State policy. And they are all different! Anybody who doubts that they are different should look at the different policies espoused by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Premier on drilling for oil on the Great Barrier Reef. Their policies are completely different.

I have already stated that in the Opposition's view there is no need for the appointment of an extra Minister. I have named at least four Ministers who could, I believe, accept more responsibility and do more work. We saw today in the answering of questions two typical examples of Ministers not being prepared even to analyse questions in order to give correct answers to the House. I refer to a question asked by the hon. member for Belmont. I know that he will not mind my referring to it. The hon. member asked the Minister for Transport this very simple question—

"(1) What is the reason for the gazettal on August 8, 1969, of a changed wording regarding the type of device 'Alcotest' under section 16A of the Traffic Act?"

The Government Gazette laid down that there was to be a change in the wording of the regulation, and we expected the Minister to say that, because of some legal technicality or for some other reason, it was decided to change the wording. But what did the Minister answer? He gave a straight-out, "No." In other words, his answer means that there was no reason at all for a change. Surely if a Minister goes to the trouble and expense of changing regulations under various Acts of Parliament, he should know why the changes are being made. I believe that the people of Queensland, and certainly members of the Opposition, are entitled to know why regulations are changed.

There is another device that the Opposition could have used. We could have moved the disallowance of regulations in order to

get this information from the Minister. However, as the Premier knows, that could involve the House in a couple of hours' debate, and the Opposition does not desire to delay the House. The hon. member for Belmont referred the matter to me and I said, "Go ahead and ask the question and I am sure we will get the answers." When a Minister merely says, "No", I think he is either being ridiculous or telling a deliberate lie. I am sorry the Minister is not in the House to hear what I am saying, but the situation is not of my making.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition knows that he is using unparliamentary language when he says that it was a deliberate lie.

Mr. HOUSTON: Then I shall say it was a deliberate untruth. There must be some difference, but I do not know what it is.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition says, "There must be some difference." There is some difference—one expression is unparliamentary and the other is not.

Mr. HOUSTON: I will accept the parliamentary words; I do not wish to use any word that is unparliamentary. In any case, I am sure the Minister gets my meaning. These things happened today, and they were not of my making.

The other question to which I wish to refer is No. 33 asked this morning of the Minister for Works by the hon. member for Nudgee. The question was—

"What was the number of police on beat duty within the Brisbane inner city limits at 11.30 p.m. on Friday, August 15 and at 12.30 a.m. on Saturday, August 16?"

He replied—

"I do not propose to give details in answer to this question for obvious reasons, the main one being assistance to law breakers. It is not in the public interest to reveal the number or the disposition of Police, but the Honourable Member may be assured that there was within the Brisbane inner City limits at the times referred to an adequate Police coverage."

Mr. Hodges: What was wrong with that?

Mr. HOUSTON: What was wrong was that the date, 15 August, had passed. Surely to tell the House how many police were at a particular place on a particular date that had passed would not help law-breakers. The Minister could alter the procedure tomorrow, and who would know? The only ones who would know how many police were about the place would be the ones who would deliberately break the law.

Mr. Hodges interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: I am not telling the House, because a member of the Opposition asked the question.

Mr. Hodges: You are condoning thievery, condoning law-breaking.

Mr. HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! the House will come to order. I ask the Leader of the Opposition what he objects to. I did not hear the remark.

Mr. HOUSTON: The Minister said that I condoned thieving. I ask that he withdraw the remark and apologise.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The words definitely are offensive; they also are unparliamentary. I ask the Minister to withdraw them.

Mr. Hodges: I withdraw the words.

Mr. HOUSTON: It is the view of the Opposition that Ministers are using the words "it is not in the interests of the State" or "it is not in the interests of somebody" to avoid answering questions.

Mr. Hodges: The question is answered.

Mr. HOUSTON: It is not answered.

Mr. Hodges: It is answered.

Mr. HOUSTON: It is not answered. The Minister may have given an answer, but he has not answered the question.

I make it very clear to the House that members of the Opposition are just as keen as are members of the Government that Queensland should be a law-abiding State.

Mr. Hodges: Apparently you are not.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is only the Minister's opinion. He has not the power to determine what the Opposition should or should not know, and members on this side of the Chamber believe that they are entitled to know where the police were. Of course, the answer could be that there were no police in the inner city. If that is so, I want to know.

Mr. Hodges: Do you want me to say they were up at the Foco Club?

Mr. HOUSTON: I want the Minister to say, if there were no police in the inner city area, that there were no police in the inner city. If they were up at the Foco Club, I want to know what they were doing.

Mr. Hodges interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: If they were up there, they were sitting down doing nothing.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HOUSTON: I do not want the Minister to interject along those lines. Ministers are showing by their actions that

they are not doing their homework. They are brushing off questions with an arrogance that I have never before seen in this Parliament.

The Opposition still says that there is no need for an additional Cabinet Minister, and hon. members on this side of the Chamber will vote against the Bill.

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (2.38 p.m.): When the oral turbulence subsides, I hope to bring a little tranquillity, sanity and responsibility to this Chamber.

First, I cannot accept the arguments, if I can call them arguments, advanced by the Premier today as to why an additional Minister should be appointed.

Mr. Wright: Will you vote against it?

Mr. AIKENS: I will vote against it.

Mr. Wright: You were not here last time.

Mr. AIKENS: Whether I voted against it or not does not matter. I expressed my opposition to the proposal. I was probably on my way back to my beloved Northland. If the hon. member spent as much time in his electorate as I do, his electors would be much happier than they are now. Ever since he has been elected he has been a Brisbane city slicker, according to what I have heard from Rockhampton South.

Quite a number of fallacious arguments were advanced at the introductory stage by the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. In the first place, the Leader of the Opposition claimed that the additional Minister was not needed because Ministers did not bring down a certain number of Bills. Surely he has been here long enough to know that one cannot judge the work of a Minister by the number of Bills that he brings forward. He may bring forward only one Bill in a year but it may contain more clauses and be a much more important Bill—and take up the time of this House for a longer period—than perhaps a dozen Bills brought forward by some other Minister.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, of course, put forward the most amazing proposition that the Ministers did not have time to do their work in Brisbane because they were galloping all over the country. He cited the case of two Ministers being together in Townsville recently. For my part I cannot see Ministers often enough in the country. I am sick and tired of the Queen Street type of government that we had for so many years and which, fortunately, is being eroded away.

I want to say that I have been able to do quite a lot for my electorate and for Townsville simply because Ministers have come there; I have been able to see them and take them around and show them the things that in my opinion needed to be done. That does not apply only to the Ministers of the present Government. Not very

many Ministers of the previous Government ever got away from Brisbane, but I should like to remind the hon. member for Townsville North, and anyone else who may be interested, that there probably would not have been a Currajong school for many years after it was erected had the then Minister for Education, the late George Devries, not come north and visited Townsville at my request in order to see me. I went out to where the Currajong school is now. It was then in my electorate; it is now in the electorate of Townsville North. However, we went out with the present Director-General of Education who was then only the Regional Director of Education in Townsville, and we convinced Mr. Devries on the spot that a school for Currajong was necessary. And at the same time he was able to settle the contentious question of the flagpole at the Townsville West State School, a very small but very important question on a matter of principle.

And consider the tremendous expansion that has taken place in the sphere of education in Townsville since this Government came to office! Without breaking a lance for myself I am going to say that most of that expansion in educational activities in Townsville came about because of the fact that the then Minister for Education, the late Hon. J. Pizzey, frequently came to Townsville—often at my request. I would go to Garbutt to meet him and we would travel around and actually see what needed to be done. Nobody knows better than the hon. member for Townsville North that the Hermit Park Infants School was the result of Jack Pizzey and I one Sunday morning, just after he came off the plane, getting down and drawing mud maps on the footpath with a piece of stick; that the Wulguru School was the result of it; and that the new Pimlico and Townsville High Schools were the result of it. I took him all over Townsville and showed him just where the schools could, and should, be erected.

For my part, I repeat that Ministers cannot come there often enough. Only recently, the Premier came to Townsville. I know there is quite a lot of acrimonious criticism about this by members of the A.L.P. He went through Townsville to open the Hughenden show and, on his way through, I got in touch with him about another matter concerning a boy in the Public Service. The matter had reached an absolute stalemate; nothing could be done about it by correspondence, and I went to the Premier, put the position of the boy to him, and he accepted my solution and we got a settlement there and then. Incidentally, while he was there, the Premier said to me, "Tom, I am going out to open the Hughenden show. Would you like to come out with me?" I said, "Look, I have already paid Hughenden the highest compliment I could pay that town by having

been born there, and I have no intention of adding any further lustre to Hughenden." And I did not go.

We have this complaint from the Labour Party about State Ministers doing the job that I think they should do and getting around the State and actually meeting the people face to face; yet we have no complaint from members of the A.L.P. about the hordes of Federal politicians who come to the North every winter, to partake of a luxurious tour, the salubrious winter climate and everything else they can gorge and guzzle "on the house" while they are there. A.L.P. members have no objection to those hordes of Federal politicians coming north because there are quite a number of A.L.P. politicians among them. They have no objection to Gough Whitlam, Murphy and Cohen coming to Townsville; they have no objection to A.L.P. organisers coming there. One of them was there for six weeks and he went knocking on every door trying to get a candidate against me. They have no objection to that. Their only objection, of course, is to State Ministers of this Parliament going up and doing the job they are paid to do and the job that they should do. They want to put the Ministers back, as they were for so many unfortunate years, into what is called the "Brisbane funk-hole".

We know that much of the time of this Parliament is taken up with party-political-propaganda piffle—and it comes from both sides of the House—so it is indeed fortunate that the people of Queensland have me here to put forward a balanced view on every measure that comes before this House. I do not know of any man who makes more political "booboos" than does the Leader of the Opposition. Fancy him talking about extra seats being created in Brisbane as a result of the last redistribution by this Government! Of course they were, and I bucked about it—but he did not. What about the last redistribution by the Labour Party in 1950, when an extra four seats were created in Brisbane? I bucked about it, but nobody else did.

These paragons of political honesty went all round the southern and central portions of the State during the last election campaign and talked about "one vote, one value". But they did not have the simple, ordinary, honest guts to talk about "one vote, one value" all the time that they were in North Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition did not mention it, and Gough Whitlam did not have the guts to mention it the other day in Cairns when he was talking about the development of the North. As these people envisage "one vote, one value", it means that four more seats will be taken away from North Queensland, where three-fifths of the wealth of the State is produced, without which Brisbane would probably be a collection of bag-and-bark humpies along the Brisbane River. They did not have the guts to talk about "one vote, one value" in

the North, because under their redistribution system four seats will be taken away from North Queensland and the whole of North Queensland will be left with only nine seats, and another four seats will be added to this overgrown rat-ridden dump of a city called Brisbane.

When the Leader of the Opposition talks about the Labour Party's policy, I would like to know what it really is and who has the authority to enunciate it. We know now that the hon. member for Nudgee, since his rather fortuitous elevation to the front bench of the Australian Labour Party when he beat the hon. member for Port Curtis in a photo finish for the last position in the A.L.P. executive, enunciated the Labour Party policy when he said that he wants the police called in on those women who have an innocent game of bingo or hoy to raise a few "quid" for their church and charitable organisations. He is a police pimp.

Mr. MELLOY: I rise to a point of order. The hon. member for Townsville South has called me a police pimp and accused me of promoting the idea of police coming in on bingo games. If the hon. member had been aware—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member should not make a speech when he rises to a point of order.

Mr. MELLOY: I inform the hon. member for Townsville South that I asked the Minister to repeal the law that prevents the playing of bingo.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The words used by the hon. member for Townsville South are offensive to the hon. member for Nudgee, and I ask him to withdraw them.

Mr. AIKENS: Which words are offensive to the hon. member? I am surprised that any words could be offensive to him.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. AIKENS: I will withdraw any words that he considers to be offensive. I did not know that any words could be offensive to him.

My real objection to this measure is that the Ministers of the Crown—in this Parliament at any rate—have not learned the secret of administrative success, and I suggest that they might go into conference with the members of the Liberal Party "ginger group", who do know something about administrative business ability.

Today there is something that is known as the delegation of authority. We have not seen our Ministers implement it to the extent that they should. I can remember when I was elected deputy mayor of Townsville in 1939. The first time that I was called in to act as mayor, the town clerk and the accountant and others came in with great bundles of papers, vouchers and

documents and put them all on my table. I said, "What the hell are these?" They told me what they were and I said, "You take them back to the accountants, the clerks and the engineers, and to the people whose job it is to deal with them, and bring me only matters that are in dispute or matters that require a determination of policy." That is what a Minister should do. Far too many Ministers are engaged in little tiddly-winking things which, frankly, they should delegate to somebody under them.

If we need a prime example of the delegation of authority, I do not think Ministers could follow a better example than that of the Leader of the Opposition. He is supplied by this Parliament with a top-ranking public servant who is very highly paid, very efficient and very courteous. He is also supplied with a senior stenographer who is equally efficient. He also has his back-room office at the Trades Hall. He sits all day in his opulent, affluent office here, and his staff simply bring the material to him and say, "There you are, Mr. Houston; it is all typewritten for you." Jack Egerton sends his material down with the messenger boy with one eye.

Time and time again in this Chamber we hear the Leader of the Opposition very painfully, and sometimes ungrammatically, reading from these typewritten screeds that are supplied to him by the officers to whom he has delegated the authority. He therefore has quite a lot of time to do the things that he thinks should be done. He has quite a lot of time, as does the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, to traipse all over the State and referee party dogfights within the A.L.P.

Let us have a little delegation of authority; let us take away from Ministers all the little tiddly-winking formal business that they try to do today. If that is done perhaps there may not be any need for an extra Minister and, above all things, there may not be any need for what was referred to in the Press today—I think this can be tied up with the debate today, but even if it cannot be I am going to try to include it—namely, the Premier's limiting questions at 12 noon because there are too many of them and they are delaying the business of the House. Many questions contain a lot of party-propaganda piffle, and there are some members who are notorious for thinking that because they can ask three questions every day they are duty bound to ask them, whether they are sane or silly, just as some members who have 40 minutes to speak in an open debate such as this, or 25 minutes in Committee, think that they should speak for the full time whether they have anything sensible to say or not.

However, apart from cutting out the piffing questions, I really think that if some of the Ministers were to put a bomb under some of the officers in their departments

whose job it is to answer correspondence we would not find it necessary to ask so many questions. I will not particularise, although I will do so if I am goaded into it or if I get any more of the delays that it has been my unfortunate lot to encounter lately. Some Ministers are notorious for the fact that when we write a letter to them we commend our soul to God when we post it. Then we sit down and wait for an acknowledgement while our beards grow, our grandchildren grow up, and our friends die. Ministers should take a tip from the Premier. If we write him a letter, at least we get an acknowledgment almost overnight. That remark applies also to one or two other Ministers but I will not now pick and choose among them.

If Ministers do not ginger-up some of their officers who are responsible for answering correspondence, I will have something more acrid to say than I am saying now. God knows, Ministers have sufficient staff. If we go into any Government department in Brisbane we can see veritable hordes of staff, males and females, standing nattering and chattering. We wonder what they are doing there and we say, "I will not be a nark; I will not draw the crabs on the marble so-and-so, as the saying is; I will not be an informer like the hon. member for Nudgee; I hope that they are doing what they are supposed to be doing——"

Mr. MELLOY: I rise to a point of order. The words used by the hon. member are objectionable to me and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member for Nudgee has risen to a point of order. He says that the words used by the hon. member for Townsville South are objectionable to him. I ask the hon. member to withdraw them.

Mr. AIKENS: I withdraw them, Mr. Speaker, but I put to the Ministers that they should look personally at the correspondence sections of their departments. They should remember how they felt when, as private members, they wrote a letter to a Minister and waited over seven weeks to receive an acknowledgement. They know, as we all know as rank-and-file, back-bench members, that when an elector or other person comes along to a member of Parliament and puts a proposition to him that he wants aired on a Ministerial level, the member of Parliament says, "All right, I will do that for you. I shall write to the Minister." Naturally the member tells the elector that a letter has been written. Then, week after week, the elector comes back to the member or writes him another letter saying, "Have you received a reply to your letter yet?" Of course, the member has to say, "No, nothing has come along yet."

I suggest that Ministers do that. They should not forget that there is not another election for two years and there is nothing to stop me now from getting "right up them", and I will, too, if some of them do not take a tip from what I am saying. I have "laid off" them during the past 12 months, but the period of sacrosanctity is over, for a time, anyway.

Now we have the final statement of the Leader of the Opposition. He said that the Government is concerned about doing this and that to offenders and that the Opposition believes in upholding the law. I suppose the Opposition believes in the upholding and enforcement of several laws, but what is its attitude to the upholding and enforcement of the law as it applies to serious motor-car offenders, potential killers, drunken drivers and dangerous drivers? Every time the Government takes any action against such potential killers, the Opposition rushes in and says, "This is just another revenue-raising stunt. Leave them alone. Do not give them tickets or haul them before the courts. Do not fine them." The Opposition wants to create a special preserve for the motor-car offenders, the drunken drivers, the dangerous drivers and the potential killers. But it says, "Punish everybody else. Clamp down like a ton of bricks on the poor women who play bingo and hoy. But leave the potential killers alone." That is the attitude of the Opposition.

I want to make it perfectly clear that I am under no obligation to put myself out by remaining here and listening to all this party-propaganda piffle until it suits somebody's convenience to call for a division. I say for the edification and information of the hon. member for Rockhampton North that if it suits my convenience and that of my beloved electors to be here when a division is taken, I shall vote against this Bill. In case I am not here, I record my opposition to it because I do not consider that an extra Minister is required. All that is required is a reorganisation of the present Ministry.

Mr. Wright: Will you vote against it?

Mr. AIKENS: If I am here, yes. If I am not, the hon. member can go to hell. I will be here if I want to be.

Mr. PORTER (Toowong) (2.58 p.m.): I thought that there would be general agreement on this matter, but after listening to the Leader of the Opposition, in his introductory and second-reading speeches, one could doubt that agreement could be reached on anything. But I think that we would all agree that the machinery of Parliament needs an occasional overhaul. What was suitable yesterday is perhaps not suitable today. Times change rapidly and the role of government changes vastly. I think that it is altering at a rapid rate at the present time.

We must accept that we have entered the era of big government in all spheres, State and Federal. This gives rise to a good deal of uneasiness among people because big government means big taxes—it has to be paid for—and the bigger the taxes the less control there is over the spending of a person's own income. All of this gives rise to a great fear among many people that, as government gets bigger and its role becomes more complex, there is a danger that the real power and responsibility rests not so much with those the people choose to represent them in Parliament but perhaps with those who have the major role of being permanent public servants. It is not a role they seek from choice; it is forced on them by the complexity of government. To the extent that this Bill enables that fear to be allayed, it is a useful measure. The House should be aware of what is happening in this regard. Hon. members most certainly should not blind themselves to the fact that many people are worried about the bigness of government in these days.

The Public Service in Australia has grown enormously over the last few decades. The Commonwealth Public Service, of course, has expanded more than has any other Public Service; from 1939 to 1968 it increased by 344 per cent., or almost fourfold. In the same period the Public Services of all States expanded by 117 per cent., and the local government bureaucracy, if one can call it that, expanded by only 68 per cent.

It is important to realise, when considering the role of government and the responsibility that Ministers of the Crown must exercise, that the stage has now been reached when Government employees of all categories in Australia represent 83 per 1,000 of population. In 1939 the ratio was 58 per 1,000 of population; in 1958 it was 78; and in 1968, which is the latest for which figures are available, it was 83 per 1,000 of population. Those figures clearly demonstrate the growth and complexity of the role that all Governments, including State Governments, must play. Here is one equally obvious reason why we must from time to time recast the role of the Ministry, the number of Ministers, and the parts that they have to play.

Mr. Aikens: I hope you emphasise recasting of the roles.

Mr. PORTER: That may come on another occasion. The Leader of the Opposition seems to be obsessed with numbers. He seems to feel that there should be some formula by which one can ensure that the Ministries of various Parliaments are all relatively of the same size; in other words, the Ministry of Queensland should bear an exact arithmetic relationship with the Ministry in

New South Wales, and Ministries elsewhere. He told us that there were so many members to each Minister in the other States, and said that, therefore, we should have so many Ministers for so many members.

What the Leader of the Opposition does not say is that there are many other factors that have to be taken into consideration. Queensland is the most decentralised State in Australia, and I should think that this would have a great deal to do with the roles of Ministers. Let the Leader of the Opposition produce statistics to prove that this is not so. The plain fact of the matter is that the capital city of Queensland has less than 40 per cent. of the population of the State; in the other States, the average runs between 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. No other State has anything remotely approaching the degree of decentralisation of this State. In terms of administration, development and industrial progress, this means a vast difference between ministerial roles in Queensland and those in other States.

It was also said by interjection when the Leader of the Opposition was speaking that this Parliament has a unicameral system; we do not have an Upper House. The Leader of the Opposition says that this does not mean anything. Of course, it does. It means that Ministers have a vastly different role to play, as there are not the checks and balances provided where there are two Houses. Ministers therefore have the extra responsibility of ensuring that the work they do is properly done and that the decisions they make are good decisions, because they cannot be looked at again in another place.

Mr. Aikens: Would you like to see the Upper House restored?

Mr. PORTER: As a matter of fact, if there were an Upper House in Queensland I would not vote against its abolition. But equally I accept practical political realities, and I would not advocate its return at this stage.

The other point made was that by enlarging the Ministry there would be a substantial addition to the cost of government in this State. What the Leader of the Opposition did not say is that Queensland has the cheapest Government and Parliament in Australia. We cost only a little more than the Government and Parliament of Tasmania. As a Parliament and Government, we cost, in the amount of money paid to Ministers, back-benchers and officials, less than does any other Parliament in Australia with the exception of Tasmania. When anyone tries to run slide rules over these matters and attempts to reduce them to statistical formulas, let him remember that there are slide rules to use other than the one used by the Leader of the Opposition.

I was rather amazed to find the Leader of the Opposition, I think it was, making some play at the introductory stage on the fact that Parliament was not being allowed to operate efficiently. Crocodile tears were being shed that more money should have been spent on things other than the Ministry. That is a little hard to take when one recalls that, over the last few days, there has been a concentrated barrage of phony questions that have frustrated and stultified the work of this Parliament and denigrated the purpose of Parliament. Most of the questions are asked, of course, simply for propaganda purposes. They are questions the answers to which can be found in publications or could be obtained by writing a letter to a Minister. The role of Parliament is to debate, not to be a glorified question box, and I believe that the Opposition serves Parliament very ill, and the causes that it proclaims very poorly, when it denies Parliament, by this farce of an avalanche of questions, an opportunity to perform its proper role.

The Leader of the Opposition complained also of the fact that a Government members' committee had been set up to consider streamlining this Parliament. I would have thought that he would have been only too happy to see signs of a practical move towards improving some of the traditional methods of operation in this House, which we, of course, have inherited from Labour Governments. I do not suggest that the Opposition is to blame for that—we are to blame for having borrowed them and carried them on—but the fact that we are moving towards substantial changes would, I thought, have had the very strong support of the Leader of the Opposition. The fact that the Government parties want to clear their minds before the question goes to the Standing Orders Committee and then to the House is, I think, quite proper. There is no need for the Opposition to cry over what is being done at the moment; rather would I have expected hon. members opposite to support it.

I am one of those who feel quite strong apprehension—I share with many others suspicions and doubts—about the role of big government, and I believe that anything that can strengthen the role of Parliament, vis-a-vis the Cabinet and the Public Service, is well worth while. I think everyone, both here and in the community outside, is concerned about the waning power of Parliament itself. That is true not only of this Parliament but also of every Parliament in the Western World. Hon. members on this side of the Chamber believe that the stronger the protection that can be given Parliament, as Parliament, as a bulwark against any rise in the power of a bureaucracy, the better. Without doubt, the greatest

bulwark is the provision of able, knowledgeable and politically seasoned Ministers. They are men who can bring to the problems of government that sound horse sense and political wisdom that I think more technical and more expert advisers are perhaps unable to bring to them.

So, Mr. Speaker, to the extent that this Bill provides for an able Ministry, which will in its turn ensure that Parliament is more effective as a Parliament, and particularly because there is no Upper House in this State and we must rely entirely on the work done in this Chamber, I commend the Bill to the House.

Hon. G. W. W. CHALK (Lockyer—Treasurer) (3.9 p.m.): I think it is necessary for me to enter this debate, even if only briefly, to clear up for all time any idea that the proposal relative to the appointment of another Minister was approved other than by a unanimous decision made within the Cabinet of this State.

Mr. O'Donnell: You do not make unanimous decisions in Cabinet.

Mr. CHALK: The hon. member knows so much about Cabinet that he will never get there. His own colleagues will see to that.

Let me examine the situation. I have never heard, in a debate of this nature, so much tripe talked about and around a particular issue. The issue before the Chamber is simply whether or not there should be an additional Minister in the Cabinet of this State. I think it was the hon. member for Salisbury who got up here the other day and talked about plain bastards and I do not know what else.

Mr. Sherrington: When?

Mr. CHALK: The other day.

Mr. SHERRINGTON: I rise to a point of order. I dislike the Treasurer's distorting the truth. It is obvious that he has not done his homework. The matter he refers to was the subject of a question I asked yesterday; it was not used in this debate at all.

Mr. CHALK: Well, he spoke about plain turkeys. So far as this Chamber is concerned there is only one issue, and I believe that members are entitled to argue whether or not there are grounds for the appointment of an extra Minister. Only within the last few days one could pick up a newspaper and find in it a request from one particular organisation for a Minister solely for tourism. One could turn to another page of the same paper and find a request for the appointment of a Minister solely for conservation. These are the views of the people of this State. These are the people who feel that Ministers should be devoting their time to single, particular issues.

I recall on my visit to North Queensland a request for a Minister for northern development. As I say, these are requests coming from the people, and I am surprised that the Opposition would rise in this Chamber and argue against something which not only the people of this State are asking for but which I believe is for better government of Queensland.

Let us have a look at some of the things that are taking place in our community at the present time. Not one member of the Opposition is prepared to rise in this Chamber and claim that this State is not developing rapidly. At the same time, with this development comes grave responsibility not only upon the Government but upon those who are charged, as Cabinet Ministers, with the administration of the affairs of the various departments.

The hon. member for Townsville South surprised me. It is not that he does not very often do that, but he surprised me when he advocated that we should put a bomb under some of our public servants.

Mr. Aikens: The correspondence sections.

Mr. CHALK: My experience of dealing with people is that it is not the clerk in the office, or the correspondence clerk, with whom they want to deal. Most people today want to get as close to the head of Government as they can, and consequently people are asking more and more to see Ministers. I believe it is the responsibility of the Government that we see these people to our utmost, but how can we then administer the affairs of our various departments unless we have the necessary time?

I say quite openly that I requested the Premier to relieve me of some of the duties that were attached to my portfolio. I had responsibility for harbours and marine, for the Agricultural Bank, and for fisheries. After all, I believe it is the responsibility of a Treasurer to have control of those things which are financial matters of the State and that he should not be worried about fisheries or some other similar activity. Because of that, I asked to be relieved of those responsibilities.

I know also the responsibilities that were on the Premier. He had a number of small departments attached to his portfolio which I believed should not have been. In fairness to a department a Minister must devote some time to these things, so I felt that the Premier's proposal for the appointment of one new Minister was a good one.

The claim has been made here that this is the result of a desire for majority control by the Country Party. If I took that attitude I could have said to my party, "We will agree only on the basis that we get another Minister also." But I did not say that because although I believe that there is room for one additional Minister, I do not believe that there is any need for two additional Ministers.

The Leader of the Opposition said that the Bill is designed to give the Country Party a majority in Cabinet. At Cabinet meetings every Minister looks at matters not on a party-political basis between the two arms of the coalition but on the basis of what is best for Queensland. There is no such thing as a majority in Cabinet meetings. On some occasions there might be a majority in the joint-party room—and there would be one in the Labour Party room, too—but the members of Cabinet are selected by the Leaders of the coalition parties and backed by the parties. When the Ministers go into the Cabinet meeting they go in with Queensland as their chief concern and not their parties. In my whole time in Cabinet I have not seen one vote taken.

Mr. Newton: What about in an election campaign?

Mr. CHALK: In an election campaign, yes, that is quite true. What a heel I would be to my party if I did not go forward with that in an election campaign. After all, during an election campaign members of the Opposition allege that they fight the Communists—but they play with them afterwards.

Mr. NEWTON: I rise to a point of order. The remarks made by the Treasurer are offensive to me and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr. CHALK: I accept what the hon. member has said. I withdraw my remark. I know that he is not like some of his colleagues in that respect.

I was pointing out that very often Cabinet deliberates upon a matter for a very long period of time. However, it has always been accepted as a principle that ultimately we agree among ourselves.

The Leader of the Opposition mentioned the Chiropractors Bill. That was one matter on which Cabinet was not in full agreement. And what was the result? The matter was left to a free vote within the Government parties and among Cabinet Ministers. From my point of view there were no hard feelings between the then Premier, Sir Francis Nicklin, and myself when, for the first time, I found myself sitting on the opposite side of the Chamber to him. That was an indication of the freedom that exists within my party and within Cabinet when members of the Government could not reach an ultimate agreement.

Mr. Houston: On the matter of liquor you will all be unanimous again.

Mr. CHALK: When that matter is decided upon in our party room we will bring it into this Chamber. I believe that there will be some difference of opinion within Cabinet on the matter of liquor, but we will hammer it out in what we believe are the best interests of the community, and not play politics, as members of the Opposition have endeavoured to do on this Bill.

This Bill was discussed in Cabinet and within my party, and we believe that it is in the best interests of Queensland to appoint an additional Minister because we know that that appointment will relieve each Minister of some of his responsibilities. That, in turn, will give each person who requests a Minister to visit his area a better chance of having his request met. The hon. member for Townsville North said at the introductory stage that he does not want Ministers visiting Townsville. On the next occasion that I receive a request to visit Townsville I will feel like replying, "I would be delighted to come, but I am attaching a copy of the speech made by the hon. member for Townsville North." If he feels that his views are those of the community as a whole I would ask him not to extend an invitation to me.

I propose to support this measure, and I want to make the views held by the Liberal Party quite clear.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier) (3.20 p.m.), in reply: There were a number of questions to which I was going to reply very fully but they have been completely answered by my colleague the Deputy Premier. He has set out very clearly the position concerning certain issues that have been discussed during this debate. I therefore do not intend to labour those points. In my mind not the slightest doubt exists that there is every justification for this measure. It is in the interests of the State, as the Treasurer has said.

I will reply to only one point raised in the debate. The Leader of the Opposition attempted to make much of the number of Ministers in Queensland compared with the number in New South Wales. That was quite beside the point. The Leader of the Opposition also said that there were two additional Ministers in New South Wales, and he tried to qualify that statement by saying that they were only "Assistant Ministers". He is not even correct in saying that because I have here a copy of the New South Wales Parliamentary Debates wherein Mr. Askin said—I do not know where the Leader of the Opposition got his figures from.—

Mr. HOUSTON: I rise to a point of order. I am afraid that the Premier is misquoting the official document that I have here. They are described as "Assistant Ministers" in this document.

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: It is reported in "Hansard" that Mr. Askin spoke at the introduction of the measure bringing the total number of Ministers in the State to 18. He then said that the Ministry of 18 would compare with 26 Ministers in the Commonwealth. If the Leader of the Opposition were to read as a whole the debates that took place, the issue would be quite clear. However, the point is that the Liberal Party and the Country Party are unanimous about the need for an

additional Minister, and about the benefits to be gained by the State through the appointment of an additional Minister.

Question—That the motion (Mr. Bjelke-Petersen) be agreed to—put; and the House divided—

AYES, 40

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

NOES, 31

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

PAIR

Newbery	Bennett
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Resolved in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE

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

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Clause 2—Amendment of s. 3 (1); Governor may declare what Ministers may sit in Legislative Assembly—

Mr. RAMSDEN (Merthyr) (3.31 p.m.): In view of the division called for by the Opposition, I merely rise to ask whether we can be given a categorical assurance by the Leader of the Opposition that, in the unlikely event of the A.L.P.'s becoming the Government, the number of Ministers will be reduced immediately to 13.

Clause 2, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

THIRD READING

Bill, on motion of Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, by leave, read a third time.

The House adjourned at 3.33 p.m.