

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 30 JULY 1970

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Works Department for remodelling the premises occupied by OPAL in Ann Street, cost of which is the responsibility of the OPAL organisation."

(2) "No similar request has been received."

OPERATIONS OF MOURA—GLADSTONE RAILWAY

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

Regarding the Moura to Gladstone railway, during the year ended June 30, 1970, what was (a) the total tonnage of coal carried, (b) the total tonnage of other commodities carried, (c) the total cost of operating the line, (d) the total income from the line and (e) the actual profit earned?

Answer:—

"(a) I refer the Honourable Member to the Answer I gave him to a similar Question on November 13, 1968. (b), (c), (d) and (e) The figures are not kept in the form the Honourable Member is seeking."

DROUGHT RELIEF RATE REBATES

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

As some misunderstandings exist relative to the rebates of 50% to landholders for rates to local authorities where those local authorities qualify under the drought grants scheme—

(1) Does the two-year period in the two droughts of 1965-67 and 1969-70 commence on January 1, 1965?

(2) What is the situation where portion only of a local authority qualifies or where individual properties qualify within a local authority that itself does not qualify?

(3) Where the local authority raises its rates for 1970-71, does the landholder still qualify for 50% in 1970-71 or does he qualify for 50% of the lesser 1969-70 rate but applicable to the 1970-71 year?

(4) Are share farmers whose home is within a local authority that qualifies entitled to the 50% rebate?

(5) When is it anticipated that further drought unemployment grants will be made to eligible local authorities?

Answers:—

(1) "No. The period commenced April 7, 1965."

(2) "When a significant portion of the shire has been declared drought-stricken, for the purpose of determining eligibility

THURSDAY, 30 JULY, 1970

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

QUESTIONS

REMODELLING OF OPAL HEADQUARTERS

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

(1) What is the basis on which the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs is undertaking remodelling of OPAL headquarters in Brisbane?

(2) Has any other basically Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander organisation been supported to the same extent? If so, which organisation and at what total cost?

Answers:—

(1) "The Government has provided technical advice and assistance in the invitation of tenders through the State

for the rate grant, the whole shire has been assumed drought-stricken. No provision has been made for individual properties as such for the reason that individual properties are not separately declared. The question of assistance to individual properties in marginal areas has been taken up with the Commonwealth."

(3) "In these circumstances, the landholder would qualify for a grant equivalent to 50% of his 1969-70 rate assessment towards the payment of his 1970-71 assessment."

(4) "There is no provision in the scheme for non-rural properties."

(5) "The question of further drought unemployment grants to local authorities is under consideration."

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROCESSING
PLANT, STANTHORPE DISTRICT

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

Relative to the feasibility study at present being conducted by officers of the Departments of Primary Industries and Industrial Development and members of the Stanthorpe Factory Committee into processing on the Granite Belt—

(1) Does the committee require any further time to reach a well-considered recommendation?

(2) Further to such advice, when will the report be available?

(3) As the Honourable Member for Toowoomba West endeavoured in this House on July 28 to deny Stanthorpe the location of such factory in favour of Toowoomba, what are the terms of reference as they apply to the location of any processing plant that may be recommended?

Answers:—

(1) "The committee's investigations have been completed and their report is in the final stages of preparation."

(2) "The report will be submitted to Cabinet for consideration before release."

(3) "The committee's terms of reference relate to the feasibility of establishing a fruit processing plant in the Stanthorpe district."

RAILWAY GRIDDLE CARS

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

In relation to the "Griddle" cars being put into service on long-distance passenger trains—

(1) What will be the hours for the serving of food?

(2) Will the same hours apply to the sale of liquor and, if not, what hours of trade are intended?

(3) Will it be permissible to take liquor into the sitting cars or sleeper cabins?

(4) Can a passenger be refused liquor and, if so, on what grounds?

Answer:

(1 to 4) "The hours of operation of the car have not been finally decided, but they will cover the greater portion of the 24 hours. If the Honourable Member has any suggestions which he thinks will provide an improved service from the Griddle car I would be pleased to forward them to the Commissioner for Railways for his consideration."

REMOVAL OF TAILINGS, IRVINEBANK STATE
TREATMENT WORKS

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

Further to his Answer to my Question on March 12 concerning the removal of tailings from the Loudon Dam at Irvinebank, what has been done since that date in relation to tenders and other relevant factors?

Answer:—

"Tests for treatment of this ore are now being carried out by the University of Queensland. At the conclusion of these tests a decision will be made on the feasibility of treatment and whether the tailings can be treated at the mill or if tenders should be called."

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, MITCHELL RIVER
COMMUNITY

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

With reference to the 240-volt generating plant which is now in operation at Mitchell River Community—

(1) Have all dwellings been connected? If not, how many have not been connected and for what reason?

(2) Are residents required to pay a connection fee?

(3) Are charges made for current used and, if so, on what scale?

(4) Has power been provided for the State school?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) "The plant at Mitchell River has been energized and work is proceeding to connect all premises requiring electricity. An initial connection fee is not charged and the Department is meeting the total

cost of installation excluding, of course, those premises which are not the responsibility of the Department. The charges for current used will be on the basis of the Cairns tariffs of the Cairns Regional Electricity Board in respect of staff and other persons who are in receipt of the basic wage applicable to the area or greater, while a rate of one-fifth of the tariff will apply to assisted Aboriginal residents on lower incomes. The school will be included in the reticulation programme."

WILBUR SMITH PLAN, NEW FARM AREA

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

(1) When is it envisaged that the Main Roads Department will be in a position to effect that part of the Wilbur Smith plan which affects the New Farm area?

(2) Has a final decision been made on the location of the New Farm—East Brisbane river crossing?

(3) Is it yet known whether the residents on both sides of the river will be relieved of the noise and other nuisance properties connected with the present siting of the Evans Deakin shipyard?

Answers:—

(1) "Preliminary planning is in progress on the Central Freeway in the New Farm area but has not developed to the stage where I am in a position to announce the final location or the time when construction is likely to start."

(2) "No."

(3) "A feasibility study is to be undertaken concerning the height of the proposed bridge in the New Farm area and the effect of the location of the present shipyard."

ALLEGED ASSAULTS ON CIVILIANS BY POLICE OFFICERS

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

(1) How many departmental inquiries are in progress and/or pending into alleged assaults by police on civilians?

(2) What were the areas in which these assaults are alleged to have taken place?

(3) When is each inquiry expected to be completed?

Answers:—

(1) "Nine."

(2) "Brisbane (2), Thargomindah, Roma (2), Gold Coast, Woombye, Toowoomba and Cairns."

(3) "No definite date can be given at this stage. The Acting Commissioner has directed that these investigations are to be completed with a minimum of delay."

UNHYGIENIC DELIVERY OF BREAD

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

Further to his Answer to my Question on July 28 in which he requested full details of alleged breaches of "The Health (Food Hygiene) Regulations of 1957", as such details were forwarded to his Department by the Transport Workers' Union on March 20 and June 12 and the letters were acknowledged by his Department of June 16, what action did his Department take to investigate these matters?

Answer:—

"The correspondence referred to contains no reference to unwrapped bread. The other matters raised are being attended to."

LEAGUE OF RIGHTS

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

(1) Is he aware (a) of increased activity recently by the notorious League of Rights organisation in South-west Queensland and (b) that this organisation, by its statement, has shown itself to be racist and anti-Semitic?

(2) Will he have an investigation made to ascertain to what degree this Fascist-type body has infiltrated political and other organisations?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) No; (b) See Answer to (a)."

(2) "No."

ALLEGED NEGLIGENCE, IPSWICH HOSPITAL

Mr. R. E. Moore, pursuant to notice, asked The Minister for Health,—

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the reply of the Ipswich Hospitals Board to comments of Mr. J. Melloy, M.L.A., alleging neglect at the Ipswich Hospital?

(2) Is there any explanation for the Honourable Member and his colleagues on the A.L.P. Health Committee having been misled on this matter?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "Yes, I have read the news item to which the Honourable Member refers but regret that I am unable to enlighten him with any certainty as to the reason why the A.L.P. Health Committee should have presented such a biased and distorted picture of the situation in this and other hospitals they have visited recently. I hope to have an opportunity at a later date in this House to examine in detail and to refute some of the exaggerations and misrepresentations which have emanated from the A.L.P. Health Committee."

ABORIGINAL SECONDARY GRANTS AND
TERTIARY EDUCATION SCHEMES

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

(1) Is he aware that the Aboriginal secondary grants and the tertiary education schemes apply only to children who are of full- or part-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island descent and that children of South Sea Island descent are officially excluded from the schemes?

(2) Is he aware that in some areas of Queensland, such as the Mackay district, coloured people of South Sea Island descent exceed those of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island descent by three to one?

(3) As people of South Sea Island descent are equally as proud and dignified respecting their ancestry, heritage and culture as are those of all groups that comprise our nation, will he investigate the matter with a view to removing the anomaly so that students of South Sea Island descent may participate in the schemes?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "The Aboriginal Secondary Grants and Tertiary Education Schemes are Commonwealth programmes wholly administered by the Commonwealth, and therefore the Honourable Member is advised to make his inquiries at the Commonwealth Department of Education and Science, Howard Smith Building, Eagle Street, Brisbane. Should any apparent injustice to an Aboriginal child be known to the Honourable Member I would be pleased to investigate it and endeavour to rectify the position."

GUARANTEED LOANS FOR INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT

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

When is it envisaged that legislation will be brought down for the promised increase guarantee from 66½% to 75% in the case of industrial projects located outside the metropolitan area?

Answer:—

"During the present Session it is proposed to introduce a Bill to amend "The Industrial Development Acts, 1963 to 1964," in certain particulars."

THIRD-PARTY INSURANCE ON
UNREGISTERED VEHICLES

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

Is a third-party insurance policy valid if taken out on a vehicle or tractor if the vehicle or tractor is unregistered?

Answer:—

"It is not possible to give a precise Answer to this Question without a full knowledge of the individual circumstances applying to the case. Generally speaking, third party insurance can be effected on an unregistered motor vehicle or tractor by arrangement between the owner and an insurance company. Such insurance does not necessarily fall within the scope of the Motor Vehicles Insurance Act."

MEAT EXPORT QUOTAS

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

(1) What percentage of Australia's annual meat quota to the United States of America has already been delivered?

(2) Does he envisage that these quotas will run out before the end of the quota year and that producers marketing stock towards the end of this twelve months' period will be denied this market as was the case last year?

Answers:—

(1) "Approximately 80%."

(2) "Under Australia's system of voluntarily restricting exports to the United States of America to keep within its quota, it is not considered at this stage that this quota will be exceeded or, if so, by any significant amount. Shipments to the U.S.A. for the 1971 calendar year will start to be made in the latter part of 1970. If the pattern of last year is followed, there was even some small stock-piling before then in anticipation of the following year's shipments and it is doubted if producers marketing stock towards the end of 1970 will be adversely affected by the completion of the 1970 quota before the end of the year."

HOUSING COMMISSION RENTAL
ACCOMMODATION, TOWNSVILLE

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

What is the present number of applications for rental accommodation lodged with the Housing Commission, Townsville, and what is the number in each priority?

Answer:—

"125 as at July 1:—for houses—100 points, nil; 80 points, 1; 60 points, 1; 40 points, 6; nil priority, 113; and for flats—100 points, nil; 80 points, nil; 60 points, nil; 40 points, 1; nil priority, 3."

POLICE NUMBERS, TOWNSVILLE DISTRICT

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

(1) What is the number of police now in the Townsville district and what are their ranks?

(2) Is the Townsville district up to full strength and, if not, what is the present position?

Answers:—

(1) "The number of police attached to the Townsville police district at this date is 196, in the following ranks:—Inspector 1; sub-inspectors, 3; senior sergeants, 10; sergeants 1/C, 14; sergeants 2/C, 32; constables, 136."

(2) "The Townsville police district is up to full strength."

TOWNSVILLE GENERAL HOSPITAL

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

(1) What is the approximate value of buildings and equipment at the Townsville General Hospital?

(2) What is the value of additions presently approved to be made in the next few years?

(3) What is the number of employees now employed at the hospital?

Answers:—

(1) "Records are not maintained in respect of the value of the items mentioned by the Honourable Member. The final costs of the new Outpatients Department building recently opened, are anticipated to be \$1,290,000."

(2) "The estimated final cost of the new ward block is \$2,544,347 and a new nursing home which is to be erected is in the vicinity of \$250,000. The estimated costs of a new dental clinic, new child guidance unit and remodelling of the kitchen block are unknown but could be of the order of some \$700,000."

(3) "The secretary of the Townsville Hospitals Board has advised that the total number of employees as at July 29, 1970, was 547."

DECLARATION OF SHIRES AS DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREAS

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

Are negotiations still being pursued by the State Government with the Federal Government with a view to having more shires declared which will qualify for a remission of 50% of local authority rates?

Answer:—

"The matter is presently the subject of further negotiation with the Commonwealth Government. We have proposed a scheme which provides for relief to necessitous property-owners located in shires which are marginal in relation to the formula previously agreed upon by

the two Governments. The present position is that a reply is awaited from the Commonwealth."

FARM BAILLIFF'S RESIDENCE, BAILLIE HENDERSON HOSPITAL

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

What is to become of the residence at Baillie Henderson Hospital which was previously occupied by the farm bailiff?

Answer:—

"The residence formerly occupied by the farm bailiff is presently unoccupied. Consideration is being given to its use as part of the over-all rehabilitation programme for patients at the Baillie Henderson Hospital."

MILK SUPPLY, BAILLIE HENDERSON HOSPITAL

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

(1) What was the cost of rebuilding the dairy and supplying machinery at the Baillie Henderson Hospital, Toowoomba, the date it was completed and the value of the dairy herd at the time?

(2) Have all dairy cows and livestock been sold? If so, who was the purchaser or purchasers and what amount was received?

(3) If the dairy herd has been sold, from whom will milk required for the hospital be purchased and at what price?

Answers:—

(1) "Construction of the new milking shed and holding yard and installation of equipment at Baillie Henderson Hospital was completed in December 1968, at a cost of approximately \$19,286. The value of the 148 cattle in the herd at that time is not available. I would inform the Honourable Member that equipment and buildings associated with the dairying enterprise are to be transferred to the Department of Children's Services, at no cost, for use at Westbrook Training Centre."

(2) "No. I am informed, however, that the Public Curator has arranged for the disposal of four horses and approximately 137 head of cattle by public auctions to be held on July 30, 1970, and August 3, 1970."

(3) "Arrangements have been made for the supply of bulk pasteurised milk to the Baillie Henderson Hospital and the Rockville Training Centre by Downs Co-operative Dairy Association Ltd., Toowoomba, at a cost of 57.6 cents per gallon ex factory."

HARRISTOWN STATE HIGH SCHOOL

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

(1) When was the Harristown State High School allocated a Commonwealth Government grant for a library building?

(2) Is he aware that the construction steel for the building has been lying idle in the school grounds for some months?

(3) When will work commence on the building?

(4) Will he ensure that construction of the library will be completed before the 1971 school year?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) "Harristown State High School is one of a number of high schools at which library buildings are to be provided during the 1969-1971 Commonwealth Grant triennium. As standard designs are involved, structural steel was purchased on the basis of a bulk tender and allocated to various sites. Having regard to control of expenditure of these special funds, it is anticipated funds will become available to allow commencement of the project early in 1971."

PICTURE THEATRES AND FILMS
COMMISSION

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

(1) Who are the members of the Picture Theatres and Films Commission?

(2) What is their method of determining public reaction to applications for a picture theatre licence?

(3) Can members of the public and community leaders give evidence before the Commission when hearings are held in the area concerned with the application? If so, what procedure is necessary to secure such appearance?

(4) Is he consulted before any decisions are made by the Commission?

(5) When making a decision on an application for a picture theatre licence, does the Commission issue a judgment setting out its reasons for the decision?

(6) What grounds exist for appeal against decisions of the Commission and what court would hear the appeal?

Answers:—

(1) "John Shannon, member and chairman; Thomas Edward Leaber Hill, member and deputy chairman; Archibald Archer, C.M.G., member."

(2) "By notification published in the *Gazette* and once in a newspaper circulating in the area of the local authority to which the application relates, of the fact that the application has been received by the Commission. The notice appoints

a date on or before which objections to the granting of the application may be lodged with the Commission. A copy of the notice is served upon the local authority of the area in question."

(3) "Yes, either as witnesses called by any party appearing before the Commission, or as persons who have lodged valid objections with the Commission."

(4) "No."

(5) "No."

(6) "An appeal may be made to the Supreme Court on the ground of error or mistake in law but not otherwise."

"I propose to seek an amendment of the law vesting power in me to review the decisions of the Films Commission. This power was previously contained in the Act."

ELECTORAL ROLL POLICE CANVASS

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

(1) As approximately one-third of the people who contact me for assistance in one way or another are not listed on the roll for my electorate and as this probably applies to other areas, when did the last house-to-house electoral canvass by police officers take place?

(2) Is this canvass conducted simultaneously throughout the State?

(3) When is it expected that the next canvass and roll check will take place?

(4) What liaison has the State Electoral Office with the Federal Divisional Offices?

Answers:—

(1) "It is customary to have a canvass of the State electoral rolls in the year preceding a general election. The last check was commenced on July 8, 1968, and consisted of a police canvass for all country areas and a roll check in the major cities and the metropolitan area by civilian review officers. The civilian check was carried out in conjunction with the Commonwealth Electoral Office and the review officers were employed by that office."

(2) "The roll check was commenced for all areas on the same date. Police canvassing had finished about August 31, 1968, but some civilian checkers were continued for a few months after that date."

(3) "In the ordinary course of events a roll check could be expected next year, but in view of the likelihood of boundary changes, the proposed time may be altered to suit the circumstances."

(4) "Apart from the combined roll check in the metropolitan area and provincial cities and certain aspects of enrolments and erasures, no connection is maintained between the State and Commonwealth offices."

DAIRYING INDUSTRY

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

(1) How many dairy farmers were operating in Queensland at June 30, 1957, 1966 and 1970?

(2)—

	1956-57	1965-66	1969-70
Butter	41,089 tons	31,334 tons	22,415 tons
Cheese	7,137 tons	7,866 tons	9,075 tons
Market Milk	32 million gallons	40 million gallons	47 million gallons (estimated) "

MIGRANTS

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

(1) How many persons migrated to Queensland during each of the years 1967, 1968 and 1969?

(2) From what countries did they come?

(3) What is the Commonwealth target for 1970 for (a) assisted migrants and (b) non-assisted migrants?

Answers:—

(1) "The information sought by the Honourable Member is not available from the records of the State Immigration Office. In this connection I would mention Queensland receives many categories of migrants including full fare paying passengers, British assisted passage migrants under both Commonwealth and State Government processing, and European migrants under Commonwealth Government nomination. However, the following figures appear in Volume III of Australian Immigration Consolidated Statistics:

Settler Arrivals by State or Territory of Intended Residence

Year	Queensland
1966-67	9,088
1967-68	9,202
1968-69	11,492"

(2 and 3) "These are matters which come within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Department of Immigration."

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

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

As local authorities have extreme difficulty in drawing sufficient revenue from ratepayers to meet their requirements, will he call a conference of State Governments for the purpose of meeting the Federal Treasurer to discuss ways and means of providing local government finance apart from rating?

(2) What was the amount of each of the various dairy products produced in each of those years?

Answers:—

(1) "1956-57, 19,885; 1965-66, 12,805; 1969-70, 8,826."

Answer:—

"In Answer to a Question in this House on March 17 last I stated that, if local authorities prepare an appropriate case for submission to the Commonwealth Government, I would be prepared to forward such submission to the Prime Minister. I am still prepared to take that action. I feel that an approach on behalf of local authorities would be more effective if the authorities in each State prepared and presented a case through their respective Premiers. This could well set the basis for a discussion of the subject at a Premiers' Conference, which I believe would be preferable to calling the conference suggested by the Honourable Member. I understand that approaches for discussion on this subject at a Premiers' Conference have been made in at least one other State."

DEATH OF BABY, IPSWICH GENERAL HOSPITAL

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

With reference to the recent death of a baby at the Ipswich General Hospital and the allegations of the parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. Springall, that the hospital on several occasions over a number of days resisted efforts to have the child admitted to the casualty department, will he have an investigation conducted into all the circumstances of the case and a report made available?

Answer:—

"No. An inquest into cause and circumstances surrounding the death of Jo-ann Jean Springall was held by the coroner, Ipswich, who at the conclusion of the examination of witnesses announced his findings in open Court. The parents of the deceased child and their solicitor were then present in Court."

NEW KITCHEN, IPSWICH GENERAL
HOSPITAL

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

(1) When will the inadequate, dilapidated and unhygienic kitchen at the Ipswich General Hospital be replaced by a new kitchen block?

(2) Is he aware that the present kitchen was planned for replacement in 1957 and that no improvements have been made in the interim?

(3) When is it likely that other projects listed by the Ipswich Hospitals Board in the *Queensland Times* of July 29 as planned projects, will be carried out?

Answer:—

(1 to 3) "A sketch plan for a new kitchen/dining room block is presently being examined. The Board's proposal is that this section will form part of the overall developmental plan for the hospital. It is proposed that this new block be constructed subject to the availability of finance as soon as improved X-ray and Pathology facilities have been provided. The priority of developmental works at the hospital was determined by the Board and approved by the Department, following discussions by the Board with its architects and departmental officers on a comprehensive programme of remodelling and new building construction. I have been advised that minor amendments to the working drawings for the alterations and extensions to the Maternity Hospital are being carried out and date of commencement will depend on the availability of finance. The approved projects mentioned in the *Queensland Times* will proceed in accordance with available finance. Other projects listed have only recently been submitted by the Board for the consideration of my Department and will require detailed examination."

STAFF, TOOWOOMBA BASE HOSPITAL

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

(1) What is the establishment figure for all staff at the Toowoomba Base Hospital?

(2) What is the present staff situation?

Answers:—

(1) "The total approved staff at the Toowoomba Hospital is 476."

(2) "Vacancies exist in the following categories:—Medical staff, 3; nursing staff, 7; dentist, 1; physiotherapy staff, 1."

REGULATIONS UNDER CHILDREN'S
SERVICES ACT

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

When will regulations under the Children's Services Act be issued?

Answer:—

"Regulations under "The Children's Services Act of 1965" were made on July 14, 1966, and these regulations have been amended on June 20, 1968, October 17, 1968, and September 25, 1969, and are currently operative. As the result of the passing of the *Children's Services Act Amendment Act 1970*, it is proposed to proceed with further regulations relating to the standards, management, control and supervision of day care centres. These regulations are now being prepared and it is anticipated that same will be promulgated in the near future."

VISITS BY MATERNAL AND CHILD
WELFARE SISTERS TO ABORIGINAL
COMMUNITIES

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

(1) How many visits have been made by Maternal and Child Welfare sisters to Aboriginal communities?

(2) What are the communities visited?

(3) What is the average length of time spent at each community?

(4) What Aboriginal communities were visited by School Health Service sisters in the last year?

Answers:—

(1) "270."

(2) "Burketown, Normanton, Domadgee, Mornington Island, Dajarra, Boulia, Urandangie, Coen, Mitchell River, Edward River, Aurukun, Weipa, Lockhart River, Birdsville, Mount Isa camp, Kajabbi, Cloncurry, Yarrabah, Woorabinda, Cunnamulla."

(3) "Duration of the visits varies from one to eight hours."

(4) "Mitchell River, Edward River, Bamaga, Cowal Creek, Yarrabah, Palm Island, Bloomfield River, and Hopevale. Visits were also made to schools at Thursday Island, Normanton, Butchers Hill, Dunwich, and Kuranda which have a large Aboriginal population."

FREE SPECTACLE FRAMES

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

Are free spectacle frames as supplied at general hospitals restricted to nickel types by any condition of tender by his Department or is the restriction applied solely by the successful tenderer?

Answer:—

"There is no contract with this Department for optometrical services and each country Hospitals Board invites its own tenders and enters into its own contract. The State Stores Board acts on behalf of the North and South Brisbane Hospitals Boards."

RELEASE-TO-WORK SCHEME FOR PRISONERS

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

Since the implementation of the release-to-work programme—

(1) How many prisoners have broken the terms of their release and have not returned to the prison as required at the completion of their day's employment?

(2) How many prisoners have participated or are participating in the release-to-work scheme?

(3) What percentage of these prisoners has escaped?

(4) How many of the escapees are still at large?

(5) What safeguard has the public to ensure that only special types of prisoners are permitted to be released to work?

Answers:—

(1) "Eight prisoners have broken the terms of release, four of whom are still missing."

(2) "One hundred and fifty-two prisoners have participated since the inception of the scheme in March last year."

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

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

(5) "In the normal course of expiry of sentence, the public has no protection, but the release-to-work scheme provides a settling-in period prior to the completion of the sentence, with a return to prison each night and the opportunity for a steady and remunerative job. This, in itself, is an advantage to the community and the prisoner. Only prisoners considered to be suitable for the type of employment available and who are also considered will benefit by the scheme, are selected to participate in it."

EYE SPECIALIST FOR ROCKHAMPTON GENERAL HOSPITAL

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

As the Rockhampton General Hospital has now been without the services of an eye specialist for more than a year and a-half and patients are required to make an 800-mile trip to and from Brisbane if specialist

treatment is required, will he give this matter special attention and, if necessary, advertise the position throughout Australia?

Answer:—

"The Medical Superintendent, Rockhampton General Hospital, has advised that frequent approaches have been made in order to persuade one or both specialist ophthalmologists residing in Rockhampton to accept approved positions. The Rockhampton Hospitals Board has the necessary authority to advertise the positions throughout Australia."

MINISTERIAL PUBLIC RELATIONS STAFF

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

(1) Did he state in this Parliament last August that he knew of no plan to attach public relations officers, Press officers or publicity officers to most Cabinet Ministers?

(2) How many Ministers had public relations, Press or publicity officers at the time of his statement and how many have them now?

Answers:—

(1) "Not at all. I presume the Honourable Member refers to a Parliamentary Answer given on August 20, 1969, which advised that the matter of attaching Press Secretaries, etc., to Ministers had not been considered."

(2) "In August, 1969, four; at present, nine."

AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL RIGHTS ON MINING LEASES

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

In the case of mining operations such as Weipa, Blackwater and Goonyella, are any rights bestowed on the companies concerned in regard to grazing or farming on the land not required for mining?

Answer:—

"In regard to Weipa, there is provision for the granting of Special Perpetual Mining Purposes Leases for agricultural or pastoral purposes in connection with the town. The Honourable Member's attention is directed to clause 27 of the Agreement made in pursuance of "The Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty. Limited Agreement Act of 1957." In the cases of Blackwater and Goonyella, it is suggested the Honourable Member direct the enquiry to the Honourable the Minister for Lands."

POLYUNSATURATED DAIRY FATS

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

(1) Did he note a Press statement in the early part of this year wherein it was stated that the C.S.I.R.O. had a plan to manipulate the fat content of cows, claiming the technique as a major advance?

(2) As Mr. Roberts, Chairman of the Dairy Produce Board, commented that it will allow butter to be produced with a high content of polyunsaturated fats, has he or his Department any further knowledge of this alleged revolutionary discovery?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "The 1969 Annual Report of the C.S.I.R.O. Division of Dairy Research reported results of experimentation in collaboration with the Division of Animal Physiology. Feeding spray-dried powder containing linseed or safflower oil coated with sodium caseinate increased the content of polyunsaturated fats up to 40 per cent. against the normal 3-4 per cent. The practical application of these findings and their economic importance has still to be determined."

UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR WINES

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

(1) Have there been to his knowledge any moves over the last few years for the establishment of common standards for wine-making and has his Department received any draft from the industry itself and the National Health and Research Council seeking uniformity?

(2) Are there any stringent regulations applicable to nomenclature, labelling and sale of wines?

(3) As a proportion of wines at present sold as champagne are in fact wines which have been bulk-fermented contrary to the spirit of the champagne process and if there are stringent regulations appertaining to manufacture, what are the regulations applicable to bottle-fermentation as in the case of real champagne as opposed to the addition of CO₂, or both?

(4) Can legislation be introduced soon to establish the position of uniform wine regulations so that the public will know whether a chemical procedure is adopted to produce the bubbles in the wine?

Answers:—

(1) "A copy of recommendations for a uniform standard for wines adopted by the National Health and Medical Research Council at its 69th Session in November 1969, has been received by the State Health Department. The Federal Wine and

Brandy Producers Council of Australia Incorporated was later advised to submit proposed comment on this standard to the National Health and Medical Research Council."

(2) "Standards for wines are included in the present Food and Drug Regulations."

(3) "There is no specific standard for champagne in the existing regulations. However, sparkling wine is defined as 'wine surcharged with carbonic acid gas produced only by the process of fermentation.' Every package containing wine to which any carbon dioxide has been added shall be labelled with the word 'carbonated'."

(4) "The Department is waiting on the outcome of consideration of the proposals submitted by the industry. Close examination will be made of the final recommendations which no doubt will refer to the points raised by the Honourable Member."

SHAREHOLDING BY MINISTERS

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

In view of his statement on a television programme on April 27, 1969, and reported in *The Courier-Mail* of April 28, 1969, that he thought it advisable not to hold shares in any company with which the Government had dealings, when did he change his attitude on this matter?

Answer:—

"The Press report was not entirely correct since my comment was not reported in its full context. However, if I had any doubt at that time as to public opinion on the question of share holding, such was removed by the overwhelming vote of confidence accorded to the Honourable the Premier following on the scurrilous attack which the A.L.P. made on him at the time of the last State election."

STAFF, INNISFAIL DISTRICT HOSPITAL

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

What is the present situation at the Innisfail District Hospital with regard to staff (a) medical, (b) nursing, (c) domestic, (d) dental clinic and (e) administrative?

Answer:—

"The Secretary of the Innisfail Hospitals Board has advised that the actual numbers employed as at 29th July, 1970, are:— Medical staff, 2; nursing staff, 73; domestic staff, 28; dental clinic staff, 3; administrative staff, 7."

WEEKEND GAOL DETENTION SCHEME

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

(1) As the weekend prison detention scheme for convicted persons is due to commence on August 1, have guidelines and policy been established for the conduct of the system, particularly relating to the type and nature of offence and character and type of offender eligible for the beneficial considerations of this system?

(2) Are the administrative machinery, accommodation and all other relevant aspects in readiness to implement the scheme?

(3) What consideration has been given to the problems which will be created should a weekend detainee prisoner breach the trust and terms of sentence?

(4) What is the legal position if a weekend detainee absconds interstate and can the State obtain an extradition order once the offender is apprehended?

Answers:—

(1) "The Court within the meaning of the *Weekend Detention Act 1970*, is given by that Act the power of imposing a sentence of weekend detention when it is of the opinion that such a sentence is appropriate in the circumstances of the case."

(2) "Yes—as regards the Prisons Department."

(3) "This is governed by section sixteen of the Act."

(4) "As a result of section sixteen, the position would be the same as that relating to any other escaped prisoner."

FIRE IN NATIONAL HOTEL, BRISBANE

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to Press reports relating to a most serious fire which occurred in the National Hotel, Brisbane, on July 24?

(2) Had the Licensing Commission inspected and placed orders on the hotel relative to safety and other requirements? If so, what were the orders, when were they placed and on what date were they to be carried out?

(3) What are the details relative to this matter and the result of any investigation or considerations subsequent to the fire?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2 and 3) "An order in regard to the installation of certain fire-fighting equipment, fire escapes etc., was issued by the Commission in respect of the National

Hotel on September 10, 1969, such work to be completed by January 10, 1970. In fact, after the issue of the order, the managing director of the owner/company had discussions with the then Deputy Chief Officer of the Brisbane Fire Brigades Board concerning the Commission's order and the matter of alternative suggestions, particularly in regard to fire escapes. At the time of the fire, certain parts of the order had been completed following the lodgment of certain plans with the Commission. There still remains certain other work concerning fire equipment and fire escapes, to be completed and an inspection of the premises had actually been made by a Commission's inspector on the Monday prior to last Saturday's fire, and it has been ascertained from the Secretary of the Licensing Commission that a letter had been written to the owner/company, during the same week, regarding its intentions concerning the outstanding work. A further communication has been forwarded to the owner/company, since the fire, concerning the urgency of carrying out the work and the reconstruction of the fire-damaged section."

SURVEY OF FIRE PRECAUTIONS IN WOODEN LICENSED PREMISES

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

(1) As there are a number of wooden licensed premises in Queensland, some of which could constitute fire and death traps, will he have the Licensing Commission carry out a special survey to ascertain the adequacy of fire-fighting equipment and the methods of escape that are available to patrons and guests of such establishments?

(2) If so, will he have the report fully considered and urgent remedial action taken to correct anomalies, hazards and possible sources of danger to persons and property?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The Licensing Commission carried out a special survey in regard to the adequacy of fire-fighting equipment and methods of escape available to patrons and guests of hotel licensed premises in 1961 and, at that time, extensive orders were issued in respect of premises which warranted the installation of fire-fighting equipment, methods of escape and suitable notices to be displayed where these were considered necessary. All hotel premises are regularly inspected by the Licensing Commission inspectors and the Commission has kept in mind, since the special survey in 1961, the matter of fire-fighting equipment, fire escapes, etc. being kept up to a suitable standard at all times. Fire in hotel premises, especially old wooden hotels, has certainly been the concern of the Commission."

TENNIS COURTS, BUNDABERG STATE
HIGH SCHOOL

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

Further to his Answer to my Question on July 29, will he consider compensating the Parents and Citizens' Association for any rental of tennis courts owing to the long delay in the construction of replacement courts?

Answer:—

"As my Department will be meeting the total cost of replacing these courts, I am not prepared to grant assistance towards rental incurred in the intervening period."

SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER RECRUITMENT FROM UNITED KINGDOM AND UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

In view of recent and frequent public statements that there is a grave teacher shortage impending in the area of secondary education and that the Government has despatched a recruiting agent to the United Kingdom—

(1) Who is the recruiting agent?

(2) How much has been allotted to the recruiting campaign?

(3) In which areas and/or cities of the United Kingdom has the agent been directed to recruit?

(4) How long is it intended that the campaign will last?

(5) Has the agent been directed to observe a minimum standard of qualification, training and experience for acceptability and, if so, how does it compare with the present standards in Queensland?

(6) Has the recruiting agent been directed to give preference to applicants with specified subject qualifications and, if so, what are they?

Answers:—

(1) "The Deputy Director-General of Education, Mr. G. J. Black, is at present in the United Kingdom interviewing applicants for teaching positions in Queensland."

(2) "No specific sum was allotted."

(3) "Prior to Mr. Black's visit advertisements were placed in the eight leading newspapers in the United Kingdom, weekly for six weeks, calling for applications for teaching positions in Queensland. The Office of the Agent-General for Queensland arranged for Mr. Black to interview suitable applicants in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow and Belfast."

(4) "Mr. Black will complete his interviewing in England on Tuesday, August 4, and will leave for the United States where he will interview American applicants in New York and San Francisco. He will leave San Francisco on August 18."

(5) The minimum standard of qualification, training and experience of teachers selected will be the same as applies in Queensland at the present time."

(6) "Preference will be given to graduate teachers in mathematics and science."

OVERSEAS TEACHERS IN EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT

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

(1) How many teachers from overseas education authorities joined his Department in the areas of primary and secondary education during 1969-70, how many still remain, how many who have left received unsatisfactory reports and how many were dismissed?

(2) Is an orientation course given to teachers from overseas who enter these two areas and, if so, how long is the course, when was it introduced and where is it carried out?

Answers:—

(1) "Entrants to the teaching service are not grouped according to places of origin. To obtain the information the Honourable Member seeks, it will be necessary therefore to examine the basic documents of several hundred teachers. Officers of my Department are at present carrying out this work. I shall provide the Answer to this Question on Tuesday, August 4."

(2) "Wherever practicable, teachers from overseas are given an orientation period of some two weeks in a school before being required to undertake full teaching responsibilities."

DRUG-DETECTION COURSES FOR TRAINEE
TEACHERS

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

In view of alarming public announcements concerning the growing use of drugs amongst pupils and students, what courses are available to teacher trainees to assist them in drug use detection, what are the qualifications of the instructors who take such courses, are any of the courses open to practising teachers, how many courses are open and how many teachers have taken the courses?

Answer:—

"Special courses on drug abuse in isolation from more generalised courses dealing with personality development and health problems of significance to youth are not favoured at teachers' colleges. It is considered that behavioural problems associated with drugs are best dealt with by teachers' college lecturers in educational psychology and health education courses. From time to time, however, specific attention is given to drug abuse in lectures by visiting speakers from the Department of Health and the Queensland Health Education Council. Following the International Congress on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence held in Sydney in April this year, a seminar for teachers responsible for teaching the unit 'Drugs: Use and Abuse' within the health education course in high schools was held at Mt. Gravatt Teachers' College. The following literature produced by the Queensland Health Education Council has been distributed to all State and non-State primary and secondary schools in Queensland in sufficient numbers for the use of every teacher:—(a) 24-page booklet 'Drugs, the Queensland Scene'; (b) Reproduction of World Health Organisation Report on 'L.S.D.'; (c) Reproduction of an Article by the United States Commissioner on Narcotics on 'Marijuana'; (d) Reproduction of an article by Dr. C. M. Rosenberg from the Medical Journal of Australia, June 15, 1968, 'Young Drug Addicts: Addiction and its Consequences'."

TRAFFIC LIGHTS, MUSGRAVE STREET,
NORTH ROCKHAMPTON

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

Has a survey for the installation of traffic lights at Musgrave Street, North Rockhampton, taken place? If so, will traffic lights be installed and at what intersections?

Answer:—

"Preliminary investigations indicated that the warrant for traffic lights was not met."

COAL EXPORTS AND ROYALTIES

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

(1) What was the tonnage of coal from this State exported overseas during 1969-70?

(2) What was the amount of royalty received by the Government for such coal?

Answers:—

(1) "5,651,363 tons."

(2) "Royalty is at the rate of 5 cents per ton."

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, AUGATHELLA
HOSPITAL

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

(1) Is he aware that hospital equipment supplied to the doctor at Augathella is badly in need of replacement and showing obvious signs of age and deterioration?

(2) Because of the importance of such equipment, will he take immediate action to examine the position so that faulty equipment may be replaced?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The Medical Superintendent at Augathella has advised that the medical equipment at that hospital is considered satisfactory. Provision is being made within the budget of the Charleville Hospitals Board for any new or replacement equipment which may be required in this financial year."

PRIME-HARD WHEAT

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

(1) Is the bulk of Australia's prime-hard, high-protein wheat grown in Queensland and is sufficient being produced here to satisfy local and overseas orders?

(2) Is there any possibility of further development and production of this wheat?

(3) Is the wheat subject to quota and will it stay subject to quota similar to that of other varieties produced in Queensland?

Answers:—

(1) "Queensland and New South Wales produce the bulk of prime-hard wheat in Australia, with the major proportion coming from Queensland."

(2) "Yes. But this will depend to some extent on the clearance of Australian stocks."

(3) "Yes."

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS, WYNNUM-
MANLY AREA

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

(1) How many medical practitioners are in private practice in the Wynnum-Manly area?

(2) How many are in clinical partnerships?

(3) How many are registered specialists and in what section of medicine do they specialise?

(4) How many of the clinical partnerships consist of two, three, four, five, or more than five doctors?

(5) How many of these clinics employ one or more than one registered nurse?

Answer:—

(1 to 5) "Lists of registered medical practitioners and specialists are published annually in the *Queensland Government Gazette*. The latest list of specialists was published on July 29, 1970, and it is understood that a new list of medical practitioners will be published shortly. The other information requested by the Honourable Member is not available in the State Health Department."

BRISBANE TOWN PLAN

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

With reference to the report in *The Courier-Mail* of April 2 headed "Town Plan decision to take months"—

(1) Has the revised City Council's Town Plan been received? If so, on what date?

(2) Has the Departmental Committee made any recommendations on the draft ordinance Chapter 2? If so, what are they?

(3) Has any decision been made in relation to Chapter 2? If so, what is it and, if not, when will a decision be made?

(4) When the Government has made a decision on the revised Town Plan, will it be placed before Parliament? If not, what is the reason?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes on January 29, 1970."

(2) "I am not aware of any such Departmental Committee. Draft ordinance Chapter 2 is presently being reviewed."

(3) "No, when the review is finalised."

(4) "No, there is no such requirement in law."

SOCIAL WORKER, CAIRNS BASE HOSPITAL

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

(1) Is he aware that the position of social worker at Cairns Base Hospital has been vacant since January, 1970?

(2) When is it expected that an appointment will be made and the appointee will take up duties?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The engagement of staff at hospitals is the responsibility of the individual hospitals Boards and not my Department. The Secretary of the Cairns Hospitals Board has advised however that the position of social worker at the Cairns Hospital has been vacant since January, 1970. He has further advised that the position has been extensively advertised but no applications have been received. It is the Board's intention to continue advertising the position."

PROSPECTING AND EXPLORATION PERMITS, GREAT BARRIER REEF

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

With reference to his pre-election statement appearing in the *Cairns Post* on March 26, 1969, will his representatives appearing before the Great Barrier Reef Royal Commission provide the information on the six Barrier Reef permits, leases, or applications for off-shore prospecting, which were reportedly locked in a safe at the Mines Department on that date?

Answer:—

"The Honourable Member will recall that my Press announcement said that the Queensland Government will not issue any new Prospecting Permits for the Great Barrier Reef area until further knowledge of possible damage or pollution is known and it is our aim to give all possible protection to the reef and adjacent areas. Under these circumstances it was decided that the names of the successful tenderers for the Exploration Permits would not be announced."

ANSETT AIRLINES SERVICE TO NORTH QUEENSLAND

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to full-page advertisements currently appearing in the metropolitan and provincial city newspapers, inserted by Ansett Airlines, claiming that their jet planes to North Queensland operate on "through" flights?

(2) Is he aware that Ansett Airlines frequently dump northern passengers from these alleged "through" flights at Mackay to enable the jet plane to return south on schedule and later send a small propeller-driven plane from Townsville to Mackay to pick up the stranded passengers for transportation to their various northern destinations, hours late and often without their luggage? If so, will he take appropriate action to protect North Queenslanders who are often the victims of this fraudulent advertising by Ansett Airlines?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "These allegations have not been brought to my attention, nor have any complaints of this nature been received by the Commissioner for Transport. I am having enquiries made into the Honourable Member's complaint."

ALLEGED FORCIBLE ENTRY OF RESIDENCE
BY POLICE, HOLLOWAYS BEACH

Mr. Bennett asked the Minister for Works,—

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an incident at Holloway's Beach, near Cairns, on June 19 when two policemen forcibly and illegally entered a house rented by a Mr. J. Dryburgh?

(2) As a result of force by one policeman, was one of the two women present admitted to the Cairns Base Hospital for two days and was this woman seven months' pregnant at the time?

(3) Was an apology from Inspector Hore passed on for disruption to property in the house?

(4) Has any compensation been paid to the woman involved and any action taken against the police concerned?

(5) Will he give an assurance that in future the police will carry out their work in accordance with the law?

(Originally asked on July 28)

Answers:—

(1) "Yes. Inquiries show that two police did enter Mr. Dryburgh's residence at Holloway's Beach on June 19, 1970, in the course of their duties, namely to serve a summons on one of the occupants. It has been suggested that the police did forcefully and illegally enter the residence but this is denied by the police concerned. This aspect, together with a number of aspects connected with the visit of the police to Mr. Dryburgh's residence, is forming the basis of a thorough and detailed investigation by a commissioned officer."

(2) "One of the women present when police visited Mr. Dryburgh's residence on June 19, 1970, was in an advanced state of pregnancy and she was admitted to the Cairns Base Hospital for two days. Inquiries so far made have not definitely established for what purpose this woman was admitted to hospital. This aspect will also be encompassed by the inquiries being carried out by the commissioned officer."

(3) "No."

(4) "No."

(5) "The Commissioner of Police and I have followed a very firm policy of insisting that police carry out their duties in accordance with the law. We have no intention of departing from that policy."

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamation under the Acquisition of Land Act 1967-1969 and The State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1964.

Orders in Council under—

Health Act 1937-1968.

Factories and Shops Act 1960-1968.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE—FIRST ALLOTTED
DAY

Debate resumed from 23 July (see p. 78) on Mr. Heatley's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (12.2 p.m.): On behalf of the Opposition, naturally, I wish to place on record our continued loyalty to the Crown and the person of Her Majesty and to concur with the general sentiments expressed by the mover and seconder of the motion. I also desire to express our pleasure at having the Royal visitors here earlier this year. I believe that their visit did a lot to cement the friendly relationship between Australia and the Crown and the British Commonwealth generally. I am sure that those who had the privilege of meeting Her Majesty and the other members of the Royal family were very pleased to have that opportunity, and felt assured that we had as the head of the monarchy a person who was very well accepted by all sections of the community.

I must say that I regret that in the arranging of the celebrations that were a feature of the Royal visit, politics apparently were brought in. I say that because Her Majesty is the ruler not only of this Parliament and of the Cabinet Ministers and yourself, Mr. Speaker, but also of the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and other officers of this Parliament. As our salary structure recognises the position of Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I believe that in the organising of the Royal visit he should have received all courtesies that should be extended to his office, not as Percy Tucker, the hon. member for Townsville North, but as the Deputy Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition, a title that is quite often bandied around here.

I refer particularly to Her Majesty's visit to Townsville—and I imagine that the details of the tour would have been approved by the Premier and Cabinet—where the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was not invited to be on the wharf to meet Her Majesty as a representative of part of Townsville.

Mr. Hanson: Shocking.

Mr. HOUSTON: It is true that the wharf is 100 yards within the boundary of Townsville South. I have no objection, therefore, to the member for Townsville South being there and having the pleasure of welcoming Her Majesty and the other Royal visitors to Townsville. I believe that is only right and proper. Without splitting any hairs, I believe that the hon. member for Townsville North, whose electorate boundary is within

100 yards of the wharf, should have been asked to be there, not only as the hon. member for Townsville North, but more important still, as the holder of the responsible, designated position that he holds in this Parliament of Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I inquired to try to avoid any embarrassment, and I thought that my inquiry at the last moment would have made those in authority realise that an oversight had occurred. I would have forgotten the incident but for the reason given why Mr. Tucker was not invited to be there, that is, that the wharf was in the Townsville South electorate and that it was the policy to have members meet Her Majesty according to the electorate in which she arrived. At Brisbane, where Her Majesty first arrived in Queensland, the hon. member for Merthyr was not the one who first walked up the stairs at the wharf to welcome her; quite correctly, she was welcomed by the Governor and the Premier on behalf of the State.

I am sure that the hon. member for Townsville North himself would not have mentioned this matter. I mention it now to draw the attention of the House to the fact that on the occasion of future official visits to this State, we expect positions such as that held by the hon. member for Townsville North to be recognised in the proper way. I trust that this type of thing will not happen again.

Dealing now with the Governor's Opening Speech, may I say that I quite agree with his delivering a speech that is not too long. After all, what has to be said in the Opening Speech can be said in a short time, provided it contains all the information that it should. Of course, one reason for such a short speech on this occasion was that His Excellency had not much to talk about in praise of the Government.

In his Opening Speech, His Excellency listed 13 Bills that are to be brought before the House, but it looks as though we will have the usual build-up towards the end of the session this year, just as we have had in previous years. I understood that the idea of starting the session early—I have no quarrel with an early start—was to allow the House to consider important legislation over a period of time. It was certainly the Opposition's idea that when legislation is introduced, hon. members, and others possibly affected by it, should be given every opportunity to consider it. Two weeks after the assembling of Parliament there has not been any notice of even one of the 13 Bills listed by His Excellency. I suppose the real reason for this is the fighting and squabbling going on in the Government parties. Neither Party can make up its mind what it wants. We had a classic example of that when the Minister for Justice—I am glad to see that he is present—and the Premier indicated that they did not want to give 18-year-olds a vote. They gave various reasons, such as that they were too young, they were still immature

and still going to school. They had all sorts of reasons. The public accepted this as the Government's attitude and it did not bring forth any submissions to the contrary through the Press or other news media. Yet, when the Cabinet sat at Hughenden, for some unexplained reason they changed their minds and came out with the statement that 18-year-olds were to be given a vote.

Mr. TUCKER: It might have been the western air.

Mr. HOUSTON: As the hon. member for Townsville North says, it might have been the western air. Of course, it could have been election jitters because I announced that we supported giving a vote to 18-year-olds.

Mr. R. E. MOORE: They won't vote for you.

Mr. HOUSTON: I am not interested in the way the individual votes; I am interested in the justice of the case for giving 18-year-olds a vote. Let that be clearly understood. However, the young people are awake to the shortcomings of this Government, so I think it is fair to say that most of their support would go to the Labour Party. But that is not the point at issue.

When the matter got back to caucus the Government parties quickly told the Cabinet members that they did not know what they were talking about, that they had made a complete mess of the whole deal, and now the decision has again been reversed. If that is not a series of contradictions, I do not know what is.

It is a fact that even simple measures that have to be brought before this Parliament cannot be decided upon by the Government parties. They are so divided that at the moment we have in Government two separate parties each pulling against the other. They cannot get together on the proposed redistribution Bill and, from the answer given by one Minister this morning, he appeared to sound out whether or not there will be a redistribution after the end of this session. On the other hand, His Excellency indicated that this would be one of the Bills.

In addition, two or three years ago the Labour Party moved the adjournment of the House to discuss the wisdom of then introducing a Bill to allow a redistribution, and the Treasurer gave an undertaking that a redistribution would take place. Unless the Government gets on with the job in the very near future it will be another rush job. The only way that we can have an honest redistribution in this State is by carefully considering the legislation that is introduced and allowing the tribunal that will have the responsibility of carrying out the redistribution the opportunity of doing the job correctly. If redistribution is to be rushed through, it will not be in the interests of democracy or this State.

In the few words that I have already said I have indicated that the Opposition is not at all happy with the Government, so, on behalf of the Opposition, I move the following amendment:—

“Add to the Address the following words:—

‘However, it is the opinion of this Legislature that your advisers have, by their actions, shown themselves unworthy of the high office they now hold and, as a result, they no longer hold the confidence of the people and this House.

For the following, and other, reasons they show they are unworthy of their high offices:—

Acceptance by some Ministers of a preferential share offer by Comalco; expressed satisfaction by the Premier of the Commonwealth’s treatment of Queensland at the last Loan Council and Premiers’ Conference in the face of the fact that there is a grave need for more money for housing, development of electrical power, water conservation, drought relief, flood mitigation, provision of adequate hospital and dental services, provision of more normal and special schools and kindergartens and modern teaching aids; their failure to bring industrial harmony to our State; their failure to take active steps to halt the sharply rising costs of living and exploitation of consumers; failure of Ministers to obtain for this State a just return for the State’s natural resources and allowing exploitation and destruction of many of our natural assets, such as the Cooloola Sands Mass and surrounding areas; their failure to curb rising costs and take practical steps to find payable markets for our primary products; their failure to take effective steps to stop pollution of our air, water and land; their failure to resolve the question of freight discrepancies throughout the State and to implement a system of encouraging decentralised development; failure of your advisers to provide security for all Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders and to recognise them as fellow Queenslanders; their failure to deal with the intolerable situation which has developed within the Police Force under their administration; their failure to conduct a full public inquiry to allay public disquiet over the operations of the T.A.B. and its investments; failure to legislate to give long service leave conditions to all workers in industry, irrespective of their employer or calling.’”

The list of reasons is a long one, but I could add to it many more shortcomings of which the Government has been guilty over the last 12 months. For example, I could add the Treasurer’s threat to impose further heavy taxation burdens on the people of this State.

To begin, I wish to refer to the acceptance by various Ministers of the preferential offer of shares by Comalco. Let me make it very clear to the Treasurer, who replied when the matter was debated previously, that I did not say that the Ministers received preference shares; I said that they received preferential treatment. As he knows, there is a tremendous difference between preference shares and preferential treatment. Even some Government members have said quite openly that it was wrong for the Ministers to accept this preferential offer. I do not want to rehash all the matters that we raised in that debate, but I must reply to some of the completely inaccurate statements that were made.

A Minister of the Crown, as a private citizen, has certain rights, but when a member accepts the high office of Minister of the Crown, he accepts obligations and surely it is not asking too much of him to make certain sacrifices. After all, none of us is forced to enter Parliament. We are given an opportunity to serve our people and one of the oaths we take is to serve our State and our people. It is therefore wrong for Ministers to say that they are entitled to the same treatment as private citizens. Because of the positions that members of Parliament hold they are invited to certain functions and obtain information that is not available to the ordinary public.

In this light, may I refer to the position of judges. When a man is made a judge restrictions are imposed on him concerning investments. We passed a Bill in this Assembly—with which I agreed—whereby long service of judges is recognised, and we provided generous retirement benefits for judges to ensure that they would not be tempted. In fact, I remember that certain Government members and Ministers used such terms when the legislation was introduced. On that basis I believe that when a member becomes a Cabinet Minister he should be prepared to make some sacrifices one of which, I suggest, being the right to invest in companies which the public and private members of this House enjoy.

When speaking to the Opposition motion on Minister’s shareholdings, the Premier did not deal with the question at all. He simply cried out about the strikes that were in progress and looked for communists under every chair in this Chamber.

Mr. Armstrong: You ought to be doing a bit of that, too.

Mr. HOUSTON: I have found the people I am looking for. The League of Rights people showed very clearly the hon. member’s association with that organisation. I do not have to look for communists at all.

The Premier stated that the Opposition should have raised industrial harmony as its first issue. It will be seen that we treat industrial harmony as a very important issue; it is in the forefront of our thinking.

It is important to remember that only a few minutes before the Premier spoke on my earlier motion he told a number of ladies in the lobby that it would be unwise for him to make any statement at all on the industrial situation because at that time the parties associated with the industrial unrest were meeting. I agreed with him and, on that basis, we decided to allow the tribunals of our land to deal with it. The Premier's statement that the first issue was the welfare of the people and how they were affected, and that that was what we should have discussed, was completely contradictory of his previous statement in the lobby. I agree that the welfare of the people and how they are affected are most important matters, but surely honest government is of the highest importance. That is the most important matter of all.

I regret that the Premier and other Government members who spoke to my motion tried to detract from the importance of the debate. The motion dealt with Ministers' shareholdings. It did not deal with people outside this Chamber—public servants, or private members of Parliament.

The Treasurer referred to political hand-outs. He also stated that elections cost political parties a lot of money, which is true. Unfortunately the laws of this land restrict the means by which political parties can make money to fight their campaigns. Everyone knows that it costs money to run a campaign. We do not get dodgers and TV, radio or Press coverage for nothing. Political parties require money and it is unfortunate that the more money a party has the more propaganda it can issue, and the greater its chance of persuading the electors that it should be supported. I am not sorry that the Treasurer raised this. Firstly, we must ensure that our laws allow political parties to obtain money openly through legitimate channels. I regret that something may have happened donkey's years ago.

Mr. Hinze: Name one of those legitimate channels you are talking about.

Mr. HOUSTON: There is nothing wrong with running an honest raffle.

Mr. Chalk interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: As a matter of fact, it is quite legal to do that. If a political party runs a function, it can have a liquor booth quite legally now.

A Government Member: You can't run a raffle.

Mr. HOUSTON: I know, and I would not dare advocate it, while it is illegal. But if we are to keep politics clean and above board, we must ensure that political parties have these various means available to them.

Let us look at what it costs, and I make no apologies at all in this regard, because I know where Labour Party money comes

from. People who are honest will admit that most of it comes from our members' contributions.

Mr. R. E. Moore: And your raffles, and you know it.

Mr. HOUSTON: I do not know that at all.

Mr. R. E. Moore: Well, I do.

Mr. HOUSTON: If the hon. member knows what his party does, that is his business. I know all about that.

Mr. R. E. Moore: I am talking about your party.

Mr. HOUSTON: I am talking about our party, too.

We have a commercial undertaking, which is station 4KQ. It is our station, and we use it as we see fit. But where does the Country Party get its money? The Treasurer raised this matter of party funds. As we know, members of the Country Party live in country areas.

Mr. Hinze interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: I know that the hon. member gave \$5. I know that was his donation, so he need not worry, because I am not having a go at him.

The whole point is that members of the Country Party claim that they are broke. They say that the drought has put them into such a financial position that they have to get hand-outs from this Government and the Federal Government. I do not argue with the fact that they need assistance. However, if it is true that they are in this position—and I have no doubt that they are—and they are not contributing at all to Country Party funds, where does this money come from?

Mr. Armstrong: Out of our own "kick".

Mr. Ahern: We make contributions.

Mr. HOUSTON: Those who are broke? The "boy" comes in on this. The Treasurer does not say where Liberal Party money comes from.

Mr. Chalk: We do not get the wrong cheques in the wrong envelopes, either.

Mr. HOUSTON: And we do not turn up at a Liberal Party meeting thinking we are at a Labour Party meeting.

The Country Party was able to spend thousands of dollars in its campaign for the recent State election. A fellow named Bingham was employed as a public relations consultant at a salary of \$10,000, and he was given money to run all round the place making Press statements for the Premier.

Mr. Hinze: Tell us what Stanaway gets.

Mr. HOUSTON: It does not come from drought-stricken graziers.

In addition, the Country Party had a weekly advertisement in "Sunday Truth" for three months at a cost of \$250 for each advertisement. In other words, \$3,000 was spent in that direction. That was something else written by Mr. Bingham. The Country Party had two full-page advertisements in "The Sunday Mail" at a cost of \$1,650 for each advertisement, so another \$3,300 was spent there. The party is reported as having spent nearly \$10,000 in Mt. Isa to get rid of Alec Inch and, as we know, Alec was returned. Another \$8,000 was spent in Tablelands. These are figures obtained from Country Party supporters in those areas where they were crying about how much was being spent. Approximately \$8,000 was spent in an attempt to unseat the hon. member for Tablelands.

Mr. Miller: I would like to mention John McEwen House.

Mr. HOUSTON: What do you get out of that? Peanuts! During the Albert by-election over \$12,000 was spent. That is big money.

Mr. Wharton: How do you know?

Mr. HOUSTON: Country Party officials tell us; that is how we know. We also know that the Country Party spent \$30,000 to \$35,000 on the last campaign. I mention these facts because the Treasurer referred to political funds. Where is the money coming from? I believe it is coming from companies, that are in that way virtually buying political patronage. This is completely wrong.

Mr. Miller: Does the A.L.P. get any money from companies?

Mr. HOUSTON: No. (Government laughter.)

Mr. Chalk: Don't be silly. Be fair.

Mr. HOUSTON: The Treasurer can laugh if he wishes, but let us look at what he said. I think this is most important. He said that I should have thought back a little further to some of the things that happened in the great mining development of this State some 10 or 20 years ago, and thought of the names of certain people.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member is apparently quoting from a statement made by the Treasurer in a previous debate during this session. Is that correct?

Mr. HOUSTON: No. I am saying what I believe he said.

Mr. SPEAKER: I draw the hon. member's attention to Standing Order No. 120 which reads—

"A member shall not digress from the subject-matter under discussion, or comment upon expressions used by another Member in a previous Debate of the same Session;"

I do not propose to allow this debate to develop into a rehash of the debate held the other day on the motion of the Leader of the Opposition. A member cannot quote a statement made by another member in a concluded debate of the same session.

Mr. HOUSTON: I am not doing that. I shall not be mentioning Comalco at all.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The Standing Order distinctly states that a member shall not comment upon expressions used by another member.

Mr. HOUSTON: I shall not talk about his expressions at all. I know that the Treasurer is very concerned about what happened 10 to 20 years ago. I say to the Treasurer that 20 years ago, and up to 13 years ago, he was a back-bench member of this Parliament. I have been through his speeches, and I have found that not once during that period did he raise any query about a Cabinet Minister's dealing with mining companies, or any public servant's dealing with them. I think the Treasurer will agree with that statement. Therefore, between the period of 13 to 10 years ago, during the term of his own Government, the Treasurer was worried about what was happening in the mining field.

I am worried, too. I should like to know why bauxite is allowed to be taken out of the State at 10c a ton. I know that the Treasurer claims that the benefit is obtained by the State through the Railway Department. I point out that the railways are not carting bauxite. All that Queensland gets out of its bauxite is a miserable 10c a ton.

Mr. Chalk: Haven't you heard of Gladstone? Marty has walked out; he is disgusted.

Mr. HOUSTON: I am referring to what the State is getting.

There is work for the people, but the taxation on the money that comes to them in wages goes back to the Federal Government. As far as the company is concerned—and do not let us forget that the company at Gladstone is not showing any profits—it is a non-profit organisation.

Mr. Chalk: It is pouring money in.

Mr. HOUSTON: The Commonwealth Government is not getting anything out of that.

Mr. Chalk: But the State is.

Mr. HOUSTON: The point is that the State is providing the Weipa development. The State is providing the harbours. The Minister for Transport refuses to give the House information so that we can check the statements made by the Treasurer. I think that is completely wrong. The Treasurer says the railways are showing a profit.

Mr. Chalk: Of course they are.

Mr. HOUSTON: I asked this question in the House—and I think it was quite a legitimate one—

“Regarding the Moura to Gladstone railway, during the year ended June 30, 1970, what was (a) the total tonnage of coal carried.”

Surely every member of this House, and the public, is entitled to know the total amount of coal carried on that railway line. What is wrong with that? For the Minister to come in here and say that the information was privileged and that it would be wrong for me to know—

Mr. Wharton: The A.L.P. would declare it black.

Mr. HOUSTON: The hon. member would say something stupid such as that.

I also asked what was the total tonnage of other commodities carried. What is wrong with that? The next question I asked was the total cost of operating the line. The Minister said that he did not know. What kind of Government is this? How are our affairs being run when a supposedly responsible Minister cannot tell us the cost of running a railway line that goes direct from one point to another with no diversions?

An Opposition Member: Shocking.

Mr. HOUSTON: I also asked the Minister what the total income from the line was; and again in this House, only today, he said he could not tell me. Of course, the fact is that he knows that if he did give me the truthful answers to these questions it would become known that there is very little profit from this railway line for the Railway Department.

Mr. Chalk: Like hell!

Mr. HOUSTON: Per ton.

Mr. Chalk: Be blowed!

Mr. HOUSTON: Why don't you tell us? Why don't you come clean?

Mr. Chalk: For a very good and sound reason: I do not want a request for a reduction in the freight on coal.

Mr. HOUSTON: Rubbish!

Mr. Chalk: If you cannot see that, I cannot make you.

Mr. HOUSTON: You are not going to tell me that. Thiess Bros. just got an extra 75c a ton. Don't try to tell me that it will interfere with anything at all. The only thing it would interfere with is the assertion that the money comes to the State through the railway freight. We would be able to blow sky high that statement by the Treasurer.

Mr. Chalk: We would otherwise have been broke as a State in the last 12 months.

Mr. HOUSTON: Under the Treasurer's mismanagement, yes.

Mr. Chalk: No.

Mr. HOUSTON: Yes.

Mr. Chalk: Are you saying that I organised the drought?

Mr. HOUSTON: Let us have another look at this acceptance by some Ministers of Comalco's preferential share offer, which I included in my amendment. I wonder why the Minister for Electricity was offered 1,500 shares and others only 1,200 shares. Why the difference? Is there some handicap to being married? Is that the reason, or is it that we are getting a power-house and the price to be charged for the electricity is a very important matter to the company concerned? Of course, the Minister for Industrial Development came forward and said that the share issue to him—if my memory serves me right, he indicated rather than said—was a gesture of goodwill, which is a common practice throughout the land. It was not a bad gesture of goodwill. I know many poor people who would welcome a similar gesture of goodwill. Those who work for Comalco and received an offer of 150 to 200 shares would not have minded the extra goodwill.

Of course, the Minister tried to draw a red herring across the trail by suggesting that members of Parliament receive free passes into racecourses. I am sure that the people who control racecourses do not give passes to members simply to give them an opportunity to look at horse races. The intention is to give them an opportunity of betting on the course.

The Minister also suggested that the Royal National Association gives members free passes. That shows how little he knows about it. The R.N.A. does not give free passes to all members. The only ones who get them are the privileged Cabinet Ministers and myself, and I do not accept mine because I have been a financial member of the R.N.A. for so many years that I would give my age away if I said how many. There is no comparison between the one case and the other.

I wish now to refer to one final statement. I regret very much that the Treasurer saw fit to attack Senator Georges on the fact that he changed his name. I had the privilege of knowing George Georgouras when we went to school together, and I know he stood as candidate for the seat of Windsor as George Georgouras. The people who on that occasion went around the Windsor electorate saying, “You can't have this New Australian as your member of Parliament,” were members of the Liberal Party in Windsor. One after the other they went around the electorate saying this about a man who was born in Australia and was educated at the Brisbane State High School.

Mr. R. E. Moore interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: The hon. member who interjects was the leader of the gang. I think it was a pretty low tactic and a reflection on other people in the community who, for various personal reasons, have seen fit to change their names. It is not unusual to Anglicise one's name. The Premier himself does not always use his own name. I have a newspaper report here in the name of "Joh Petersen". That is not his name. I will not read what he said about the Liberal Party except that it should keep its nose out of Country Party affairs. I am referring to a report on the Albert by-election.

I could speak on many matters today—but other members on this side will be doing so—but I particularly want to make some reference to industrial relationships and industrial harmony. No-one regrets more than I that there is not continuous industrial harmony in this State and nation. I am sure that nobody here likes strikes and no-one likes to see men and women who are willing to work not being able to do so. The two great scourges of our nation today are, I believe, unemployment and continuous industrial unrest. Unfortunately, until only recently, Governments throughout this nation singularly had only one thought in mind. The exception, of course, is South Australia and that State only became an exception recently.

The anti-Labour Governments in office throughout Australia, including the Commonwealth, have always seen fit, in times of industrial problems, to blame the trade unions and those associated with them. But let us have a look at the reasons for, and causes of, this industrial unrest. When we are considering workers we are considering responsible men and women, people who are responsible enough to carry out the jobs allotted to them in their particular industries; responsible enough to be able to manufacture some of the most complicated electronic equipment; responsible enough to hold high positions in banks and insurance companies.

The industrial strife that has been occurring in this State and nation recently is not occurring in only one small section of the community. Every day one can see statements from unions or associations about their intention to seek increases in wages and salaries. Only recently, insurance employees threatened to go on strike, and a few months ago bank officers issued the same threat. From those happenings, surely the Government realises that strikes and the threat of strikes do not occur in only one section of commerce.

(Time, on motion of Mr. Inch, extended.)

Mr. HOUSTON: I thank the hon. member for Burke, and the House, for giving me extra time.

Responsible organisations are asking for higher salaries and incomes. Why are they doing this? Surely it is to keep pace with the cost of living. That is their

base worry and trouble. Recently I referred to Federal taxation. I do not want to go over that matter again.

Let us look at what happens to workers' wages. No sooner are workers granted an increase than an industrial tribunal considers it justified than prices and the cost of services rise. There is not one responsible Government in the nation that is prepared to take some action to combat that state of affairs, except, once again, the Labour Government in South Australia. It is taking action in an endeavour to correct the situation.

Mr. Miller: What action is it taking?

Mr. HOUSTON: Firstly, it has imposed price control on some commodities and, secondly, it is conducting thorough investigations into the prices of others.

Mr. Miller: What commodities?

Mr. HOUSTON: Petrol, for one. The hon. member can make his own speech; I have given him a lead.

The next matter that should be considered is hire-purchase. It is known that working people rely very heavily on hire-purchase to buy the many commodities that they need. In fact, our society is built up around the idea of obtaining something when it is needed and allowing the future to pay for it, with the belief and understanding that the purchaser will be in a position to earn the required money. If the hire-purchase system were to break down overnight the nation would be faced with industrial chaos. Men and women would be thrown out of work in so many industries that a catastrophe would occur.

Hire-purchase is part and parcel of our way of life, so it is unfortunate that hire-purchase charges are rising consistently. Without restriction, hire-purchase companies are making increasing profits. Recently I read that A.G.C. had made a record profit of \$10,000,000 and that Custom Credit Corporation had made a profit of \$5,728,497. Many other hire-purchase companies are making huge profits. Does not the Government think that the ordinary working people read these things? Does not the Government think that when womenfolk find they have not sufficient money to go round they complain to their husbands? When that occurs, the husband takes the only action that is available to the worker today.

The great tragedy is that the industrial tribunals, perhaps because of legislation that has been introduced, do not foresee what will happen. They are not one jump ahead. I am aware of legitimate applications for increased wages by trade unions and of the fact that certain unions face problems with employers and cannot have their applications heard unless their members go on strike. That is a sorry state of affairs.

Surely through our industrial tribunals we should be able to contemplate these matters and foresee what will occur. When employees

realise that money is being taken from them and given by way of profits to people who are merely investors and contributing nothing to the nation—people who are interested only in buying and selling shares in the hope of profit—they naturally believe that they are entitled to a greater share of the national wealth. We must arrange the system so that they can feel they are not being milked to provide large profits for people who are contributing very little to the development of our nation. The members of the community who are really contributing are those who use their brawn and brain to benefit the nation, whether they be in the white-collar, blue-collar, or any other class.

I give full credit to the professional man, the administrator, and the man who is sweeping the street. Each contributes in his own way; each is contributing, not simply sitting back reaping the benefits.

We were told recently that the prices of over 700 consumer items had increased. While it is true to say that production costs in various fields have increased, an article in today's Press substantiates the statement I made the other day that one of the contributing factors is the increase in Federal and State taxation. When workers read in the Press that G. J. Coles and Co. Ltd. made a profit of \$11,100,000, surely they are entitled to ask, "Why are articles so dear?" That is a legitimate question, but big companies keep on making higher and higher profits.

When a 50c share is traded at \$4 the directors realise that, to make worth-while repayments to the shareholders and to ensure that the price of the shares remains buoyant so that those who want to trade in shares can make a quick dollar, the profit margin must be higher than 10 or 20 per cent. If a share price is eight times the share value, they realise that they must make eight times the ordinary profit to give a reasonable return. This vicious circle is causing all the trouble.

Mr. Ahern: What about the position of the small shopkeeper?

Mr. HOUSTON: To be quite honest, I do not know how he exists. He has my complete sympathy, because he is essential in the community. I am old enough to remember something about the hard times, and I do not wish them to return. Even today, if a worker is feeling the financial pinch as a result of sickness, or even a strike, he cannot go to the big chain stores and say, "Book me up a couple of dollars worth." Families in financial straits depend on the corner store. The little storekeeper in the metropolitan area and many country towns is carrying the financial burden, because the Cut Price stores and others are interested only in ready cash.

Mr. Ahern: If prices drop in the big stores, the little fellow will be put out of business.

Mr. HOUSTON: I cannot see the reasoning in that assertion. If the cost price is genuine, the little fellow can compete, but he knows that the main problem lies in the big stores buying from the wholesaler or manufacturer at one price while he is buying at three times that price. That is the trouble with the system. The little fellow is behind all the time. If the hon. member wants to achieve something worthwhile, I suggest that he investigate these problems.

Today, unfortunately, owing to the encouragement given by the Government, this nation worships profit rather than human endeavour. The Treasurer gave us the lead today, when he was questioned about shares and what not, by saying that he had changed his mind and considered that, because the Premier had shares, and the public apparently accepted that fact, it was all right for him. Now certain people in our community are saying, "If one person is getting away with making a mint of money for no effort, why can't we?" Of course, if the going gets a bit tough, they yell out "inflation". But it is not the big fellow who is hit. The profits I mention have resulted from trading over the past 12 months. The Federal Government put a squeeze on, but who is being hit—not the big fellow, and not the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. P. Wood: Two Toowoomba builders went bankrupt last week.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is right. Those being hit are the people who are providing the essentials for the community, and the community itself.

According to "The Courier-Mail" of 16 April, 1969, before the squeeze was applied, Mr. McMahon, who was then Federal Treasurer, was worried. He is still a senior Minister in the Federal Cabinet and is, I think, the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party; he is a prominent Liberal in our community.

The article reads—

"Inflationary trend alarms McMahon.

"We are now getting very close to the stage of overfull employment . . . We would not like this trend to continue for any great period of time."

If he does not want over-full employment, he must want unemployment. What kind of man is he to advocate a certain number of unemployed? Of course, while the workers are fighting for jobs, the unions can be kept under the thumb.

May I suggest that the only real way to overcome the industrial problem is to do what I have suggested, namely, look at our taxation and ensure fair prices. That is why, in last year's State election campaign, the Labour Party advocated consumer protection councils with full power to analyse prices. That would take care of both the big man and the little man who are buying goods.

Mr. Ahern: That has been announced, hasn't it?

Mr. HOUSTON: The Government has been sitting on it for 18 months. The Liberal Party announced that it would introduce consumer protection councils a week after I announced it on behalf of the Labour Party. We advocated a policy and said how we would do it and how it would work, but the Liberal Party came out with nothing. And for 18 months the coalition parties have been trying to get together and come up with an idea.

Mr. Ahern: The Government said this.

Mr. HOUSTON: This is needed. I know that the Government said it, but this session started two weeks ago and not one Bill has been introduced. When the House rose last March, there was still legislation on the Business Paper. I do not know what has happened to it; it has not been re-introduced. Of course, the reason is that the coalition parties started to fight amongst themselves between March and July.

What we need in this State is a thorough understanding of the thinking of those who are governing our nation. As many Ministers know, I have attended numerous official, and unofficial, functions in this State connected with Government departments and other bodies. At them, I have been able to meet leaders of industry and discuss with them—perhaps out of school—matters of mutual importance to them, and, I believe, the State. But invitations to these functions are not extended to union leaders.

If Ministers got to know union leaders so that they could meet them on terms of close acquaintance, even if not close friendship, many of the present difficulties could be ironed out. I suggest that the Minister for Labour and Tourism should go to the Trades Hall and meet those who are in charge of the various unions. Let him go to The Australian Workers' Union and meet their officials. Let him go to the Queensland Teachers' Union, and to other places where unions meet and where union officials will be found, and get to know these men and women.

Mr. Kaus: I tried to.

Mr. HOUSTON: I know that the hon. member for Hawthorne tried to attend an A.L.P. meeting. He was genuine, too. What he really wanted was to join the A.L.P., but unfortunately he started to stutter and stammer and got out before he could pick up nomination papers. I can assure him, however, that they are in the post and on their way to him. I received his message, and we will now see what happens.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ramsden): Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

Mr. HOUSTON: It is important to the State to have good industrial relations. What is needed is an understanding not only of

those who represent the employers but also of those who are in charge of unions. The Premier's crying out at every opportunity, "He's a Communist", is degrading to the State, and does nothing to solve any problem. The Premier, of course, says that the Labour Party does nothing about getting rid of Communists in unions. I can well ask how many Liberal or Country Party candidates have ever opposed Communists at elections. It is well known that on the few occasions on which Communist preference votes have been counted, the majority went to the Liberal or Country Party candidate. That cannot be denied. (Government laughter.)

In the few remaining minutes of my speech I shall deal with a matter that, although it is nearer to home, is still very important. It concerns the statement made in the Press by the hon. member for Hawthorne, whose electorate adjoins mine, which indicated that there was something wrong with the electoral rolls. I do not know whether the hon. member intended to imply that the Labour Party was responsible for whatever was wrong, but that was certainly the impression conveyed by the article. I did not reply at the time because I did not have the facts. I thought that something may have been wrong, and, if it was, we would want it exposed.

Let us analyse the position. When a person enrolls, he fills in a card and sends it to the State Electoral Office. That office registers the enrolment and sends the card back to the person concerned, indicating to him that his name is on the roll. If such a card was not delivered, surely it would be returned to the State Electoral Office as an unclaimed letter. I believe that if there is to be any argument about inaccuracy of the rolls because they contain names of people who do not exist, we should be asking questions, and I suggest to the hon. member for Hawthorne that he ask the State Electoral Office what happens to cards that are not delivered. I can see no reason why postmen would not carry out their duties properly.

The address in question was 42 Lindsay Street, where there is a street intersection. Reference to the Federal electoral roll shows the address of the people concerned, both the man and the woman, as 112 Lindsay Street. I shall not mention their names, because I do not think that that is relevant. If "112" was written carelessly, it can readily be understood how the street number could be recorded as "112" at one office and "42" at the other. That is the great mystery of someone living at an intersection.

Mr. Hanson: And he knew it all the time.

Mr. HOUSTON: If he did not, I give him less credit than I have till now.

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

Mr. HOUSTON: Before the suspension of the sitting I was speaking about the electoral rolls. I mentioned the Hawthorne roll particularly, but I was more interested in electoral rolls generally. It was suggested today that after redistribution a check would be made of electoral rolls. That is completely ridiculous. Surely if we are going to have an honest redistribution, we should know the exact enrolment of the State and where people are enrolled.

So that the distribution can take place, I suggest to the Government that it immediately carry out a roll check. I know that the police have done it in the past, but I feel that there are plenty of retired people in our community who could do the job. I have in mind those citizens who are employed by the Commonwealth to carry out the census. I believe that these men and women, who are of retirement age but still have all their faculties, should be used where they themselves desire to be employed by the State to make a definite and accurate check of electoral rolls so that, when redistribution does come round, the electoral system can be accurate.

I do not want to happen what sometimes has happened in the past, when someone will go to my home, for example, and say, "Who lives next door? Who lives two doors down, or three doors down?" If someone fails to mention the person's name, the name is wiped off the roll and no-one is any the wiser until election time. We do not want that type of thing. I am sure that all members of this House would be very happy to know that at election time candidates went into the election fight knowing full well that the rolls were accurate and that only those who had a legitimate claim would be given a vote. We do not want elections won or lost on dishonesty or carelessness in the preparation of the rolls.

I know that the hon. member for Hawthorne raised this issue, but I am sure that he will agree with me that win or lose, whether it be a win by four votes or a loss by four votes, he would be a much happier man if he knew that he won on a clean electoral roll and that no carelessness or inaccuracy was associated with its preparation. I am sure that he will agree with me that there would be no justification for suggesting that the A.L.P., particularly, would try to "doctor up" any electoral roll. The point I want to make is that I am sure he will agree that his allegation with regard to the Hawthorne roll was in no way a reflection on his political opponents, whoever they may have been.

Mr. Kaus: I have not mentioned any political party.

Mr. HOUSTON: I know the hon. member did not, and I give him credit for that; but he will agree that the report of his complaint could have been taken to imply other things. I take it that he completely

dissociates himself from it and that he agrees with me that the A.L.P. was in no way associated with any of the statements that he made concerning the roll.

I want to come now to a matter that I believe is of grave public importance, that is, the Police Force. I have no intention of going into the various problems of the Police Force—other members of the Opposition will do that—but I am greatly concerned with the number of unsolved crimes in Queensland. Unfortunately, this State is getting the reputation of being wide open to criminal attack. We have seen what happens in Victoria and New South Wales, and we do not want that here. Surely the most important thing outside social services, education, and hospitals—it is equally important with them—is the protection of people and their property.

When one considers the numbers of crimes committed—the number is growing every year, particularly in the breaking and entering of dwellings, the number now exceeding 6,000 in this State—one cannot help but realise that criminals are deliberately endeavouring to enrich themselves by breaking into other people's homes and taking money and property belonging to them. This conclusion is strongly supported when one adds the fact that buildings other than dwellings—factories, shops and the like—were broken and entered on more than 3,000 occasions during the last year.

The only time the criminal element in Australia has the heart to work in any State or area is when it believes that its chance of being caught is negligible or minute. I asked for these figures and they show quite conclusively that a criminal has better than a 4-to-1 chance of getting away with breaking and entering. Only those of us who have had the misfortune to suffer a breaking and entering can realise the effect it has. It is not only the loss of personal belongings; it is the feeling of insecurity that it leaves in the womenfolk, the uncertainty as to whether someone might break in whilst they are alone in the home.

To my way of thinking, the Government has to tackle this problem in two ways. Firstly, there are not enough policemen and policewomen in this State; I think there is a ready opening for a major increase, particularly in the number of policewomen. In fact, every indication points to the desirability of increasing police personnel generally.

It has been suggested that we are not getting recruits. If that is so, we have to ask ourselves why. One reason is that many young people do not look upon the Police Force as a worth-while occupation. Certainly the work is interesting, particularly for those employed on investigations, but I should imagine that some jobs within the Police Force can be rather monotonous.

I do not wish to "knock" the new Acting Commissioner—I believe that we should give him every opportunity and encouragement

to do a good job—but surely a Police Force, no matter how well administered, can operate only within Government policy. Therefore, I believe that Government policy should be in favour of a substantial increase in police personnel. I also believe that we have to do much more in the training of these men. I know some young men in the force who are already becoming frustrated. Some of them joined the force with a Junior education and some came in as cadets. They have gone through all the training asked of them and have qualified in every respect but out they go, day after day, directing traffic. It is frustrating them and I think they should be allowed to work in other branches of the service.

The number of unsolved crimes definitely indicates a great need for more policemen on the investigation side. If this were done it would open up opportunities for many more of our young people to join the force. More importantly, it would clearly demonstrate to the criminal element of this and other States that if they come here and commit crimes they will quickly finish up in gaol. In addition, it will make Queensland a better place in which to live and rear a family. After all, those who have decided to make Queensland their home are entitled to the full protection of the State and the forces available to it. I was shocked to learn that more than 50 per cent. of crimes in this State remain unsolved.

(Time expired.)

Mr. MELLOY (Nudgee) (2.25 p.m.): I rise to second the amendment to the Address in Reply which has been moved by the Leader of the Opposition. The amendment is a very worthy one because the Address in Reply, as moved and seconded by Government members, is, in addition to being unacceptable to the Parliament and to members of the Opposition, totally unacceptable to the people of Queensland. It is incumbent upon us, as members of the Opposition, to move the amendment, and we believe that it can be properly applied to the Government of this State.

The amendment is based on a number of grounds, but I propose to relate my remarks only to hospital and dental services. This matter is very important because, in the opinion of members of the Opposition, hospital services in this State during the present Government's term of office have deteriorated to an alarming extent, and the situation can be described only as chaotic. Sufficient grounds exist for condemning the Government and its hospital policy.

I intend to refer to many matters in support of our contention. Firstly, I refer to the reply given by the Minister for Health this morning to a question. He said that he would take the opportunity at a later stage to refute my suggestions, which he referred to in a disparaging manner and ridiculed. I assure him that my statements about

hospitals are factual, and no amount of equivocation or evasion will lessen or refute the charges that I have made and will make today.

Of course, the Minister might rely on figures and statistics to some degree. I am afraid that he will have to do so because he is not able to rely on personal experience. I suggest to him that if he had spent his three months "pre-retirement leave" visiting hospitals in this State instead of gallivanting around the countries of Europe, America and wherever else he visited, he would be in a much better position to deal honestly with the charges that have been laid against Queensland's hospital services. I will supply him with plenty of information and make sufficient charges for him to answer when he chooses to make his statement on our hospitals; but whatever his statement might be, he will not be able to deny or refute the factual claims that have been made by the Parliamentary Labour Party Health Committee.

Before dealing with that matter, however, I should like to comment on an issue that has been raised during the last couple of months by the hon. member for Wavell. He has conjured up finance that would relieve the situation in our hospitals. It seems that he can get about \$30,000,000 from somewhere in the State which no-one heretofore has been able to locate. I feel sure that the Treasurer is quite capable of nosing out any sources of available finance in the State, but apparently he has not the ability of the hon. member for Wavell, who has up his sleeve this \$30,000,000 with which he will retrieve the hospital situation. I gained an indication of the source of the finance that the hon. member for Wavell envisages, and it appears to me that under his scheme we will no longer have a free hospital system in Queensland—everyone, by one means or another, will pay for hospitalisation. I suggested to the Minister earlier today that he should examine the possibility of this additional finance being available, although I do not agree that it is.

I now have some general comments to make about Queensland's hospital system. An inspection by Labour members of a number of hospitals revealed that the standard of hospitalisation has deteriorated considerably, particularly over the last 10 years. Wherever we went, we found that bed accommodation was inadequate, that buildings were in a state of disrepair and that the general service offered to hospital patients was substandard. It seems that a make-do policy is being implemented by the Government, which apparently is prepared to accept substandard conditions in our hospitals. It is tragic that, in the hospital system today, the Government is accepting low standards as normal. The Government will not adjust its policy to accord with enlightenment in medicine today, nor will it adjust its policy to advances in hospitalisation and provide proper and adequate hospital services.

One of the main problems is overcrowding in wards at every hospital in the State. In some cases, wards meant to accommodate 12 beds contain 18 beds. Beds are placed in passageways, between beds that were close enough to one another in any case, and at the ends of wards. Wherever beds can be pushed in they have been pushed in, with the result that overcrowding exists in 90 per cent. of hospital wards in Queensland.

Mr. Campbell: Would you like me to tell you—

Mr. MELLOY: The staffing position in hospitals throughout Queensland is alarming.

Mr. Campbell: Would you like me to tell you what—

Mr. MELLOY: The only way to deal with the problem—

Mr. Campbell interjected.

Mr. MELLOY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the chickens are going to cheep like this, you should either put them in another pen or put them out to the chopping-block.

Mr. Campbell: Mr. Melloy,—

Mr. MELLOY: I am not going to deal with you.

The present staff shortage in hospitals has resulted in the working of long hours by doctors, sisters and matrons. Doctors in our hospitals are working 18-hour shifts simply because there is insufficient staff to allow shorter rosters for them. If a doctor works 18 hours a day he is not in a fit state, at the end of that period, to carry out adequately the work entrusted to him, and this naturally lowers the standard of the service that can be given to patients. This situation cannot be tolerated in institutions like hospitals where it is sometimes a matter of life and death.

I shall now deal with the condition of the buildings at most of our hospitals. I grant that some new buildings have been erected, but the number is not sufficient to overcome the serious shortage of hospital buildings.

Mr. Campbell: Which we inherited.

Mr. MELLOY: That is a very pertinent remark from the Minister. It shows that, after 13 years, these buildings are in the same condition as they were 13 years ago, and worse. If the buildings were inherited, and they are now in this dilapidated state, it is a poor reflection on the amount of work this Government has done in our hospital system during the past 13 years. The Government should have set about correcting any deficiencies that existed 13 years ago, but it has not done this. On the contrary, it has allowed the buildings to further deteriorate until they have reached their present condition—completely unacceptable as hospital buildings.

Admittedly, money is being spent on rebuilding, renovating, painting, and repairing these old buildings, but many of them are unsuitable for the installation of modern, sophisticated surgical or medical equipment. Most of the wards we saw on our inspection are outdated and in need of repair.

I realise that these are serious allegations, but we cannot afford to have this situation existing in our hospital service. I invite the Minister for Health, if he speaks to this debate, to challenge these statements. I am prepared to give him evidence of anything I saw. I am quite sure that he will be unable to refute the statements that I have made.

I propose to deal now with certain individual hospitals, and I shall start with the Royal Brisbane Hospital. It has grown out of all proportion to the ability of its administrators to control it. It has become too big. Despite the transfer of many patients to the Princess Alexandra Hospital some years ago, the Royal Brisbane Hospital is beyond the control of those who administer it. I feel that there has to be a greater decentralisation of hospital services in the metropolitan area.

Mr. Campbell: Have you been to Chermerside?

Mr. MELLOY: The Minister is merely wasting his time. One of the answers to the present situation is the provision of perimeter hospitals. They would take the workload off base hospitals which, of course, will always be needed for serious operations and the provision of specialised services. But for ordinary run-of-the-mill patients, and patients who are recuperating, perimeter hospitals are essential.

Mr. Campbell: Like the one at Chermerside.

Mr. MELLOY: The Minister has been bleating ever since he entered the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Houghton): Order! I ask all hon. members to refrain from persistent interjections, and to allow the hon. member for Nudgee to make his speech.

Mr. MELLOY: I now want to deal with the over-crowding at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. It was at that hospital that we found overcrowding to be the most pronounced, with patients again accommodated on verandas. The purpose of verandas is to allow patients to get out of bed and receive the benefit of sitting in the sunlight, but they are not able to do that at the Royal Brisbane Hospital because beds have been placed on the verandas. In fact, in most hospitals that we visited verandas were being used for ward purposes. Verandas were never intended to be used in that way, and they should not be used for that purpose.

I now want to direct some attention to the staffing position at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. The establishment for student nurses is 604. The actual number of student nurses at the Royal Brisbane Hospital is 398, which represents a shortage of 206. There is an establishment of six cadet nurses, but they actually number 94. They are girls of only 16 years of age. The deficiency in the number of student nurses is also made up by the employment of assistants in nursing. Their establishment is 11, and 39 are employed.

The cadets and assistants in nursing are carrying out work that should be done by first-year student nurses. That should not be allowed.

Girls of 16 are not sufficiently mature to accept the responsibilities that they are called upon to accept at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. They are not able to understand the emotional disturbances of patients in hospital, and they should not be saddled with the responsibility of attending to patients in this way. The same remarks apply to student nurses who are carrying out the duties of qualified nursing sisters at the Royal Brisbane Hospital and other hospitals. These girls are not in a position to undertake the responsibilities that they are called upon to accept in the treatment of patients, and they should not be asked to.

The position in relation to trained sisters at the Royal Brisbane Hospital is that they are under the establishment. I think the establishment for sisters at the Royal Brisbane Hospital is 160. This includes the Royal Women's Hospital and the Royal Children's Hospital. Actually the strength of trained sisters at the Royal Brisbane Hospital is about 140, which is about 20 down on the establishment. This is how our hospital system is being carried on today: not by trained staff but by student nurses and by completely unqualified assistants-in-nursing and cadet nurses who are not as yet old enough to be trainee or student nurses.

Whilst we are on the problems of the Royal Brisbane Hospital, I want to say a few words about the Royal Children's Hospital, which is in a shocking state. I think that it would be one of the poor relations of the Royal Brisbane Hospital concept. It is pushed away up on a hill, out of sight, out of mind, and unless some form of autonomy is given to it this state of affairs will continue.

One of the objectionable aspects of the Royal Children's Hospital is the old buildings and the dilapidated departments in them. I have already drawn attention to the fire hazards that exist in the Raff Ward and the McConnel Ward. Although the hospitals board was told by the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board that these wards should be evacuated immediately, no action was taken until the fire risk became public knowledge. Then, very reluctantly, the children were removed from the wards in question.

This is the sort of thing that was brought to our notice throughout our tour—the unwillingness of the Government to provide staff and adequate facilities in every form of hospitalisation, and reluctance on its part to accept advice tendered to it in relation to the various hospital buildings.

One of the depressing features of the Royal Children's Hospital was the kitchen itself. Of all places in a hospital, the one that should be the acme of cleanliness and perfection is the place in which the food is prepared. This does not apply at the Royal Children's Hospital. It is in a shocking condition, and it should be replaced immediately. The necessary facilities are not there, and I doubt whether food can be properly prepared in a kitchen of such a nature.

I refer now to the casualty and out-patient sections of the Children's Hospital. Here is the greatest schemozzle anybody would want to see in a hospital. Both of these sections are overcrowded, the facilities are poor, and there is always a state of confusion brought about by the inability of the staff, because of a lack of numbers to cope adequately with the number of patients who attend for treatment.

Mr. R. E. Moore: It was like that in your day.

Mr. MELLOY: These are the things that exist.

Mr. R. E. Moore: It was like a stable, and you know it.

Mr. MELLOY: The hon. member gets the answer he deserves.

I now propose to deal individually with some of the hospitals we were able to inspect. I propose to start with Cooktown, because it is a fairly typical example of a country hospital—a fairly typical example of a run-down, dilapidated hospital. The Cooktown hospital should be closed and a new one provided. Because of the water situation in Cooktown, water is not completely reticulated throughout the hospital. In many cases it has to be carried in pails to the various points where it is used. We saw only two sinks at this hospital.

During the dry season—I do not blame the hospital administration for this, because it applies also to the town—water has to be carried to the hospital in tanks on trucks. This, I think, costs somewhere in the vicinity of \$600 to \$800 a year. What more serious situation could one have in a hospital that provides treatment for sick people?

In Cairns we found circumstances that were not entirely desirable. The equipment at this hospital was out of date and, in many cases, in need of repair. The kitchen really amazed us—in fact, it alarmed us—despite the many efforts of the two members from the Cairns area to have something done about

it. Asking this Government to do something about our hospitals is like talking to a deaf mute.

The nursing and domestic staff situation in Cairns is also serious. We found many student nurses in the hospital carrying out work that is normally performed by domestic staff. That is one of the matters disturbing the Royal Australian Nursing Federation relative to student nurses—the fact that they are compelled to carry out duties that are not, and never should be, part of a student nurse's duties.

We found another serious situation at the Mackay hospital, and I should say that a new hospital at Mackay is required immediately. I am sure I will gain support in this from the hon. member for Mackay, who will outline at a later stage some of the requirements of this hospital. Again we encountered a policy of renovating old wards at a cost of thousands of dollars which could well have been put towards the provision of new ward blocks. These are essential. If we are to provide the hospital service that is necessary in this State, we cannot afford to have old buildings which, in their turn, will encourage a deterioration of the service given to the patients in them.

The bathrooms at the Mackay hospital pose another problem. Although very clean they are old and shabby, and quite inadequate for the needs of the patients.

In the pathology laboratory at Mackay we found a very serious situation, because in a room about 10 ft. by 10 ft. three pathologists were working at adjacent tables carrying out entirely different types of work. Blood-matching was done at the table at which bacteriological tests were being carried out, and the head attendant in the pathology laboratory told us that there was always a risk of cross-infection occurring between those two activities.

Here, too, the shortage of nurses was pronounced. We were informed that on occasions nurses who were on duty in the operating theatre were called away during an operation, sometimes to attend lectures, and no replacements were provided, simply because no-one was available as a replacement. That means that frequently the theatre team was at least one short owing to the absence of a nurse.

I do not intend to recount all the situations that we found at approximately 18 hospitals that we visited. I now intend to refer to the Ipswich hospital. Recently we visited that hospital and found that the situation there was not what one would expect at a hospital close to the metropolitan area right under the nose of the Minister—not that that would mean anything, I suppose. Over-crowding occurs, and members of the staff are forced to work in cramped spaces. As well, the dental clinic is not large enough to accommodate the new reclining chairs that are to be installed. The maternity block

was quite inadequate, and, although a considerable amount of money is to be spent on adding to it, I am told that those additions will provide room for only four extra beds. That will not make much difference to the present accommodation. In addition, patients were being placed on the solariums, or sun verandas, which were intended to be recuperative rooms for those patients who were able to leave their beds. Instead, they are being used as wards. The situation is alarming.

Mr. Hanlon: The Government has been made aware of it over the years by the members from there.

Mr. MELLOY: That is true. The area has received scant recognition from the Government, in spite of the representations of the hon. members for Ipswich East and Ipswich West. The Ipswich hospital has been absolutely neglected.

It has been contended that my statements have been refuted by the chairman of the Ipswich Hospitals Board and the medical superintendent. They indicated that money would be spent on remedying the faults that I have pointed out, so they have confirmed that a bad state of affairs must exist at the hospital. They said, "We will spend so much on this and that. We will spend money on the laundry, the kitchen and dental clinic, and provide new ones." They have confirmed that the existing facilities are substandard; yet at the same time they have tried to refute our charges about the hospital.

Mr. R. E. Moore: You have never taken a course in logic.

Mr. MELLOY: And you have just never taken a course.

I have a few comments to make about the nursing service. First, I suggest that the Government should establish a college of nursing similar in constitution to the Teachers' College.

Dr. Delamothe: How can you teach nursing away from a hospital?

Mr. MELLOY: The Minister has been out of the medical game so long he would not know. He has forgotten. He is completely out of his depth. He is one of those responsible for the situation in our hospitals today. He is responsible for the deterioration. As a medical man, he should have known better when advising the Government on its hospitals policy.

Dr. Delamothe: I have never heard such rubbish.

Mr. MELLOY: The suggested college of nursing is endorsed by the Royal Australian Nursing Federation.

Dr. Delamothe: It is still rubbish.

Mr. MELLOY: I will pass the Minister's message on to the Royal Australian Nursing Federation.

Mr. Hinze: How can you take nursing away from the hospitals?

Mr. MELLOY: The hon. member had better shut up, unless he has something sensible to say.

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

Mr. MELLOY: The problems in our nursing will not be successfully remedied until we provide for student nurses conditions that will encourage them to complete their training. In the first year of nursing there is a 60 per cent. drop-out. Young girls enter the nursing service full of ideals, but after five, six or 12 months they realise how students and trained nurses are treated, and are discouraged from completing the course. Many nurses who complete their training leave nursing for other employment because they are dissatisfied with the conditions of nurses in hospitals. Nurses who complete their training do so because they say, "We are committed to it; we will see our training through." But that is the end of it.

Nurses are worried and alarmed by the responsibility that they are required to shoulder. In many instances there is only one sister in a ward, and she is confined to her desk for 95 per cent. of her time while the actual nursing is carried out by student nurses. Nurses attend lectures and are supposed to implement their instruction at the bedside, but no sister is in the ward to ensure that they carry out their instructions according to the lectures.

Every ward should have two sisters and, if necessary, a clerical assistant to handle the charts and other clerical work so that the sisters can carry out nursing duties. At present, trained sisters are wasted when they are so badly needed in the wards. Frequently, on night duty only one sister is in charge of two floors. The remainder of the staff is composed of assistants in nursing or student nurses in their first or second year who are responsible for 30 or 40 patients in a ward.

I now wish to emphasise the need for a children's hospital on the south side of Brisbane. On the north side, the Royal Children's Hospital provides some 200 beds. On the south side, the Mater Hospital provides the only children's hospital service. It provides 105 beds and has outpatients' and casualty sections.

(Time expired.)

Mr. AHERN (Landsborough) (3.9 p.m.): I rise to oppose the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition, and to support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, which was moved by the hon. member for Albert and seconded by the hon. member for Burdekin.

As this is the first opportunity I have had to do so this session, I express, on behalf of myself and the electors of Landsborough, our loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen.

I congratulate the Government on its achievements in many fields while Parliament was in recess.

The hon. member for Nudgee went to great lengths to criticise the Government on one area of its administration. He avoided giving credit where credit is due in many areas of hospital administration throughout the State, and he used only those arguments which best suited his party-political purposes. I intend to go a little further than that and give credit where it is due. In the difficult environment in which the State Government has had to operate since the last election, it has done an excellent job, particularly when one looks at the tremendous costs that drought has brought to Queensland.

The drought has cost Queensland dearly, and its effect on the State's revenue is almost incomprehensible. The Government has also had very great problems arising from steep increases in wages, and the continuing problem of Commonwealth-State financial relationships. Within this very difficult financial framework, I believe that the Government has pursued the correct policies and has much of which to be proud.

During the last couple of months the Government has come under a great deal of criticism, and I believe that this has clouded many of its great achievements. In the Governor's Opening Speech, His Excellency outlined the programme of expenditure which is to be undertaken during the year, and also the policy proposals that are to be considered by Parliament. I was particularly pleased that His Excellency referred to the Government's forward-thinking education proposals, which I believe will be well received throughout the State. He also outlined new proposals for tackling the very difficult problems of rural industry. I believe that in the future we will have to search for new solutions to the old problems that have been confronting the primary producers of this State.

Mr. Hanlon: What are you doing about the costs of primary producers?

Mr. AHERN: In the past, I have gone to great lengths to outline what the Government is doing, and ought to be doing, in the field of primary producers' costs, and I intend to say more about that subject today. I believe that the Government, in the face of much criticism by uninformed people, is facing this most difficult problem with courage and experience, and is tackling these production problems as they ought to be tackled. This has to be done. It is very easy to argue that it is not necessary to approach this problem of production restraints, and to say that if 20 years ago primary producers were able to earn a living, they ought to be able to do so today. That is simply not facing facts, having regard to the world situation in which we live. It

is a world of commodity surpluses in which many primary producers have to compete. That is a fact of life.

I have previously discussed cost measures, research and extension, and the problems of agricultural economics in industries in Queensland. I rather believe that hon. members may feel that I am perhaps pursuing this subject ad nauseam. Today, I want to concentrate a little more on the marketing side of industry. In today's environment of rural industry, marketing is no longer merely selling. Nor is that the position in primary industry only. New arrangements are necessary to establish new selling procedures, and presentation of product, packaging, advertising, promotion, arrangements for feed-back from market retail sources, and the development of whole market services by industries, are having to be considered in a very serious way by all primary producers.

Mr. Hinze: They have done a good job in developing markets in South-east Asia.

Mr. AHERN: They have done a very commendable job there. I think that most industries are tackling this problem, and I know that the Government is assisting with it. Certainly it is one of the most urgent and challenging changes facing rural industry today. It is one that is exercising the minds of all of us. One might ask why there are so many changes being thrust upon primary producers, and why they are being thrust upon them so quickly.

I believe that basically the position can be summed up under two headings in the marketing field. I mention, first of all, the new attitudes being developed in the society in which we live today, not only here in Queensland but in the markets that our products have to tackle in overseas countries.

There is no doubt that today we live in an affluent society, one which is sophisticated, one in which the influence of the super-market is very great and in which mass media, packaging, and advertising have a very great influence. It is a society that is demanding a great difference in its food products from those of a very few years ago. In the community we hear very much about new sets of values and being "with it". This has provided dramatic changes in the food-marketing situation.

Most of our primary industries are food producers, and, apart from the new attitudes of society, new and dramatic changes are taking place in food technology. Food technologists are geared to changes greater than ever before. Food technology is now described as "food engineering". I should like to quote a short article that I read when

I was preparing this speech. It is from the journal of the Institute of Food Technologists of America. It says—

"The theme for the food technologists this year will be 'Food Technology—Go! Go!'. Names make news, food professionals make facts happen. Discoveries—basic and applied—are made and put to work as innovations in the food industry. Facts make changes, names and news. They change things radically. Today we are living in the midst of a knowledge explosion."

That is very much the situation in which we are operating today. This has produced a massive range of products in the food line, and I believe that our own primary industries have done a lot in the food-research field. They have so much to do. They have been assisted by Governments also—that cannot be denied. This new aspect of food technology has produced a range of new products which is giving new and important challenges to all in the food industries.

Mr. Jensen: They are importing from overseas beef made from beans.

Mr. AHERN: If the hon. member will sit there quietly he will learn a little as time goes by; and, Heaven knows, there is room for it.

This combination of new attitudes in society and this food technological explosion have been brought together cleverly by a large advertising campaign to produce some interesting situations. I believe that these must be studied by primary industry, food processors and hon. members as members of the Government to see, firstly, that fair play prevails.

I do not want to see processors unduly disadvantaged in this new climate that has emerged in our society. I do not believe that in this country we can afford the luxury of a multitude of bankrupt primary producers, or that we should add to the problems that they already have today. I also believe that the consumers should be given what they require and should not be deliberately misled. I do not deny they should be given the advantages that new technology is bringing, provided they know what they are buying—and I hope to cite today many instances where they do not.

We live in a country that has wonderful advantages for ourselves and for our children. We have lots of good food products to provide a healthy food environment in which to bring up children. We have a number of primary producers actively employed in earning a living, and I do not believe that all the great advantages this gives should be thrown over ruthlessly by a few enterprising individuals. Admittedly there are not many of them. I do not believe that this should be thrown over in the interest of some fairy story about freedom of commerce, non-interference with commerce, freedom of choice, or some similar catchcry.

I believe that this new situation in the society in which we live today has produced one great challenge for the food industry in the future—that is, substitute foods. It is this subject to which I want to devote a little time today. Fortunately, in Australia the situation is not nearly as severe as it is in overseas countries—Europe, the United Kingdom and the United States of America—so that some little time is available to us in which to adjust, to plan and to get ready for the onslaught so that we in this country—producers and consumers alike—are not unduly disadvantaged.

In my research on this subject I found it interesting to look at a recent United States Department of Agriculture publication, "Synthetics and Substitutes for Agricultural Products, A Compendium". It is in the Primary Industry Department's library. The introduction to this book says—

"Industrial producers have long viewed agricultural markets as a vast untapped outlet for their products. Producers of synthetic products have successfully penetrated some agricultural markets. In others, their success has been limited. Currently, they are devoting an increasing amount of their research, development, and promotional resources towards increased penetration of agricultural markets."

I believe that contains a message for primary producers in this country, as well as for consumers. This book, which is very interesting, goes on to describe the problem that imitation and substitute dairy products have caused on the United States market. I do not want to concentrate on this subject too much today, but it is interesting to look at the impact they have had. From 1940 to 1967, margarine sales in the United States of America increased from 2.4 lb. per head to 10.5 lb., whereas butter sales during the same period decreased from 17.2 lb. to 5.5 lb. Fortunately for Australia the situation here is not as bad as that yet.

Again the wide use of mellorine, or ice-cream substitute, is increasing in the United States. Coffee whiteners—fluid milk substitutes—are just emerging. Cereal substitutes, meat and poultry substitutes are marketed under such names as "fri-chick", "white chick", "turkey" and "nut meats". These products are big business in the United States today, and hon. members might be interested in a comment on the subject contained in a recent food technology journal. This is the last word on "meatless meat". It reads—

"Those ultimate ingrates who question whether scientific research is, on balance, of benefit to mankind have lately been forced to bite their spiteful tongues by the news that from the laboratories of an American food firm there has come to the market the first meatless turkey roast complete with plastic wishbone. It has not been indicated whether this man-made merry-thought is notched for easy

breakage, but, if not, there are likely to be more dislocated little fingers about than dreams come true next Thanksgiving Day.

"The meatless turkey is made, like almost everything else, from soy-bean substitute. Food scientists have found means to flavour and texture the high-protein soya-mush so that it looks and tastes like meat. Heralded as the food of the future, it is already lurking incognito in the U.S. supermarkets as extra bulk to make meatier the flesh ration in frozen ravioli for T.V. dinners. Sales of this ersatz masquerade are estimated at about £4,000,000 this year, tripling the figure of five years ago, and all concerned look forward confidently to a prosperous future on beefless beef, hamless ham, cheeseless cheese and—one frabjous day! Callooh! Callay! soybeanless soya-mush."

Mr. Hughes: It is cheaper than the real thing. That is the point.

Mr. AHERN: I shall come to that point in a minute. I am outlining these substitutes as they emerge so that hon. members will be aware of just what substitutes there are in existence.

In the sugar field, new and important substitutes are being used. In the United States of America dextrose is being used as a substitute for sucrose. The use of saccharin and cyclamates had shown a dramatic increase up till last year.

Substitutes for leather and fibre have been well known for years, and protein has been manufactured from petroleum.

I wish to refer specifically to synthetic citrus drinks that have been marketed in the United States. The situation is summarised in this way in the report to which I have been referring—

"Synthetic citrus drinks are marketed in the form of frozen concentrates or powders. The solids used in these products are similar, but the proportions vary among the brands and over time. A typical formulation on a dry solid basis consists of approximately 45 per cent. sucrose, 22.5 per cent. glucose, 22.5 per cent. fructose, 4 to 8 per cent. citric acid, and 2 to 6 per cent. other materials, including artificial colouring, vitamins, gums, vegetable oils, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, orange pulp, sodium citrate, and calcium phosphate."

Then—

"Since their introduction to the retail trade in the late 1950's, synthetic citrus products in the form of dry powders and frozen drinks have captured about 5 per cent. of the fruit beverage market (of the United States of America)."

Those statistics are of great interest.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ramsden): Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. I am sure that the Hansard reporters are finding it increasingly hard to hear the hon. member.

Mr. AHERN: The results that have been achieved in the United States of America will be of great interest to industry and consumers in this country.

Having studied the situation overseas, I then had a look at the situation in Australia, and particularly in Brisbane, in the marketing of citrus juices. Some time ago I assessed it to be a serious situation and concluded that there had been fraudulent advertising associated with the use of citrus drinks. Quite a lot of drinks advertised as pure citrus juices are substitutes only, and pretty poor ones at that. To determine the truth of that statement a group of interested individuals decided quite recently to hire an industrial chemist to analyse selected products and compare them with the natural product, and then relate them to the advertisements that appeared throughout Brisbane.

The chemist who was employed was Mr. Kenneth G. Pope, M.Sc., F.R.A.C.I. He is a consulting chemist and bacteriologist, of 77 Hawthorne Road, Hawthorne. Any hon. member who knows him will realise that he is a very efficient chemist. He went to a good deal of trouble to investigate many products that are sold at the householder's door and are marketed as "fruit juice" drinks.

It is relevant to know the names of the products that were investigated. One group consisted of Tempo Orange, Tempo Diet Orange, and Golden Girl. These products are marketed by Pleasant Foods Pty. Ltd, of 111 Albert Street, Brisbane. The directors of the company are Mr. Adrian Frank Axelsen, Mr. Andree Garland Axelsen and Mr. Donald Clemence. On 21 December, 1967, the company was registered as Clemence Foods Pty. Ltd, but changed its name to Pleasant Foods Pty. Ltd. on 10 January, 1969.

Another product that was analysed was Mr. Juicy Orange. Mr. Juicy (Qld) is registered as an orange-juice drink manufacturer, and its address is 43 Nariel Street, Breakfast Creek. Many hon. members will know that "Mr. Juicy" is on the road at the present time with 18 trucks selling thousands of gallons of this cordial, which is the only way it can be described. By implication it is clearly advertised as orange juice, and 99 per cent. of Brisbane women think it is pure orange juice. The company is registered as an orange-juice drink manufacturer and the places of business are 184 Moggill Road, Taringa, and 193 Stratten Terrace, Manly. The names in full of the persons carrying on the business are Rex Harry Crisp, Beverley Anne Crisp and John Ellis Crisp. Those were basically the products that were analysed.

Dr. Crawford: Who is responsible for saying whether it is fraudulent or not?

Mr. AHERN: That matter comes under the Minister for Health, who administers the food and drug regulations.

The chemist analysed a product called "Orchy", which was found in all respects to be real orange juice as advertised. It was used as a control in the experiment. Real oranges were also tested.

Hon. members may be interested to know the results of the tests. It was decided that vitamin C or ascorbic acid ought to be the criterion for establishing how much orange juice was in a product. There were good reasons for doing this, and that is why it was decided that it should be used as the criterion of how much pure fruit was in these preparations. A tinctorial-ability test was carried out to see how much colour was used.

I now wish to relate the results that were achieved to the advertisements to show how much fraud was associated with the advertising of some of these products in Queensland. Later on I wish to say something about the food and drug regulations covering this sort of thing so that hon. members may see that there is need for a review as the present set-up no longer meets the needs of the situation that has been created. First, Tempo Orange was advertised as—

"Nature's source of vitamin C. Keep refrigerated. Preservative added. The fast refresher."

The chemist's description of this was, "Very misleading advertising." Tempo Diet Orange was advertised as—

"No sugar added for diabetic and low-calorie diet. Contains sodium cyclamate and sodium saccharin and non-nutritive sweetening mixture. Keep refrigerated. Preservative added."

The chemist said, "Claim re 'Nature's source of vitamin C' would not be in relation to this product." With reference to Golden Girl, it was advertised as "Top quality orange drink. Nature's source of vitamin C. Keep refrigerated. Preservative added." The chemist's remarks were: "Very misleading advertising."

Under the food and drug regulations a product can be labelled as fruit juice only if it contains more than 30 milligrammes of ascorbic acid per 100 millilitres. That is how it is defined in the Act. Actually, several real oranges that were tested, at the present time of the year, revealed between 45 and 75 milligrammes. The ones that were tested had only to rate at 30 milligrammes, but Tempo Orange rated at about eight. That means that, effectively, Tempo Orange was between 20 per cent. and 30 per cent. fruit juice. Tempo Diet Orange rated at about 14 compared with between 60 and 70 for Joppa oranges. Golden Girl rated at nine. Quite obviously these drinks were advertised as pure orange juice and,

by implication, all of the advertisements directed towards these products said that they were real orange juice, whereas in fact they were only between 20 and 30 per cent. pure, and even that was suspect.

Mr. Juicy has 18 trucks on the road and is selling thousands of gallons of this product in Brisbane during the week-ends.

Tempo Orange was advertised as—

"Glucose enriched. Orange drink that makes thirst a pleasure. Artificially coloured with preservative added. May be diluted for children."

It rated out at 9, which means it was between 20 and 30 per cent. of the pure product.

The chemist's comment was that this was misleading and that the word "natural" was not blocked out very well. It has a high concentration of dye, according to the chemist.

A recipe was included with each bottle of Golden Girl purchased. I have one here.

It reads—

"Golden Girl

Natural Orange Juice Recipes

Summertime Orange Punch:

Use $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon of Golden Girl Orange Juice as a base."

If that is not fraud, I am not standing here.

Another recipe reads—

"Golden Girl Orange Souffle:

Take 1 pint of Golden Girl Orange Juice."

On the back of the card there appears—

"Golden Girl

Fresh Cold

Natural Orange Juice Drink is Made from Selected Valencia Oranges."

That is fraud.

It continues—

"A Natural Source of Vitamin C. Free from Seeds and Pulp."

That is not true, either.

It continues—

"The Ultimate in taste—children love it.

Cheaper and more convenient than Oranges.

Use it

As a substitute for fruit.

As a thirst quencher.

As a source of Vitamin C to guard against colds and flu."

And it rates at nine, as against 70 for the natural juice.

Mr. Jensen: Read what the Minister for Justice wrote back.

Mr. AHERN: I shall get around to that. I ask the hon. member to sit back and keep quiet. I am having a good deal of trouble with him today.

We did test the Orchy product and we found it real in every detail. It tested out at 34; in other words, it complied completely with the food and drug regulations.

We also tested the dry powder orange-drink-flavoured drinkbase called "Start". It is marketed by Cottee's General Foods Ltd. of Liverpool, of New South Wales. It was claimed—

"4 oz. net makes 1½ pints. Tart-sweet orange flavour breakfast drink. Start is a delicious breakfast drink that's ready in seconds for the whole family. The secret is in the flavour crystals that burst instantly with water to give you a fruity-fresh tart-sweet flavoured drink that provides the family with as much natural energy as an equal amount of fresh orange juice. Artificially coloured."

I wrote to the Minister for Health on this matter and asked for clarification on whether this product was used in Brisbane hospitals. In his reply the Minister said, *inter alia*—

"A report has now been received from Dr. Powell, Medical Superintendent of Princess Alexandra Hospital, in which he advises that the main purpose of this powder is to provide a known amount of ascorbic acid.

The dietitian at Princess Alexandra Hospital has advised Dr. Powell that the ascorbic acid content of oranges depends on the season of the year whereas the preparation used does not vary in its content."

It does not vary because it has not got any. The value which Mr. Pope gave us for Start was .3 milligrams per 100 mills of made-up juice. In other words, a person would have to drink 16 pints of this preparation to get as much vitamin C as he would get in one small Joppa orange, which can be bought at the markets at the present time.

Having this in mind, I call on the Minister for Health to investigate this matter and to call tenders for the supply of fresh orange juice to the hospital each day. If he did this, he might be surprised at how cheaply he could get it.

There is another product marketed by "Betty Sydney" Allied Grocery Products, New South Wales, called "First". It was tested and found to have .5 milligrams of vitamin C per 100 mills.

Hon. members might be interested to know that medicinal products called Vitapirina, Lempril, Allenbury's Medicinal Orange Juice Compound and Vicks Medicated Cough Drops were also investigated. They were found to be true to label, except that the investigators reported that they felt that the advertising programme "went overboard" in saying, "Don't buy lemons. Don't buy orange juice," but buy this product. That was felt to be more than a little unfair.

Mr. Jensen: That is why the citrus industry is going broke.

Mr. AHERN: The hon. member for Bundaberg would not have a clue. If we put together what the hon. member and I know, I would not know a single thing more.

With regard to the colour test, Mr. Juicy was the only product that showed up significantly, and it showed quite definitely to have the coal tar red dye carmoisine present in significant proportions, and the yellow dye sunset yellow. That might be of interest to consumers also. The other products obviously used carotenes that came from the skins, pulp and rags used in the products, which are by-products of other fruit-juice factories, to colour the products.

Mr. Pope's survey clearly showed that these products had at most 30 per cent. of juice, yet their advertising clearly implied that they were fresh fruit juices. A woman claimed that in door-to-door advertising she had been told that Mr. Juicy was made from Florida oranges, and she asked if this was so. Clearly it is not so. On these products there is clearly a fraud being perpetrated, and the unfortunate thing is that, through advertising campaigns, at least 90 per cent. of the housewives of Brisbane sincerely and consciously believe that Mr. Juicy, Tempo Orange and other products are genuine fruit juices. There is therefore no doubt at all that a fraud has been perpetrated on the housewives of Brisbane.

I have much information here from people who complain that they were misled in regard to Golden Girl. One lady phoned one of the "Open Line" radio sessions one morning and asked a well-known personality what the preservative was in Golden Girl juice. She was told that it was pure juice; that the only additive was a normal additive; and that, anyway, all juices were watered down. That is quite nonsensical. These products are adulterated with peel and rag, which is well known in the trade overseas; the 30 per cent. is in no way pure juice. A publication "Analytical Problems with Fruit Products," which I have just received, sets out the adulteration that occurs through the peel and rag used in these products.

My time is running out, but there is another matter that I wish to mention quickly. The chemist stated in his report to me—

"In my opinion if the following products are classified as fruit drinks, then their sale should be prohibited on the grounds that they have a non-permitted additive, namely added flavour. This flavour does not come from the orange solids present. The following have, in my opinion, flavour additives and therefore should be prohibited from sale as 'fruit drinks'. Properly these products would have to be grouped

under section 59 of the regulations and so described on the label. These products fail to meet the requirements of section 54:

Tempo Orange
Mr. Juicy Orange Drink
Tempo Diet Orange
Golden Girl Orange Drink."

I call on the Minister to investigate this allegation. I believe that there is a desperate need for an all-embracing inquiry into every aspect of this problem; I think that it is more than just a matter for the Consumers' Protection Council. I think it will require a full inquiry and legislation—an Act on its own—to review the situation of synthetics and additives. If people want to drink cordials, they can, provided they know these things.

I wonder about the health aspect of the matter. I suppose someone more competent than I am will comment on that. Should the citrus industry, faced with over-production, be asked to compete with this? I know that it must meet its competition, but this is ridiculous.

The situation requires a thorough overhaul and inquiry to set reasonable guidelines for consumers and reasonable protection for primary producers; not to deprive the people of these products if they want to drink them, but to introduce a code of ethics in this industry which will establish effectively the patenting of the names of natural primary products.

The facilities of our own laboratories ought to be improved to meet the situation—and it is a very serious situation. The facilities of our laboratories are far from adequate in this situation.

The inquiry that I believe we need is similar to the one which resulted in the Food Standards Committee Report on Claims and Misleading Descriptions in the United Kingdom, the recommendations, 29 of which, I believe, are shortly to come into force. The report goes into great detail to set out all aspects of advertising, the establishment of a code of ethics in door-to-door selling, advertising, labelling, and so on. The report defines the word "natural" in these words—

"We consider that the word 'natural' should only be used without qualification in two senses: first, in the case of products such as colours and flavours, which belong to a class of which many members are synthetic, to indicate that the product is produced from biological material; secondly, to mean a raw, unmixed . . ."

It goes on to define the words "pure", "home-made", "made of" and "made from", the use of diet supplements, slimming products, and so on. This is the sort of inquiry that we urgently need here in Queensland. It is no amateur's game.

Overseas, the situation is a very technical one, and in the United Kingdom there has been established a special industry, the flavouring industry, with its own publication to carry out, inter alia, an assault on the

natural primary products. So that we have time in this country. We ought to take time now to make sure that producers and consumers are not exploited in this situation.

I have no brief for the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition and seconded by the hon. member for Nudgee. I definitely could not support it in any way so that, with pleasure, I support the original motion moved by the hon. member for Albert and seconded by the hon. member for Burdekin.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ramsden): Order! Before I call on the next speaker, I want to make it abundantly clear that I have been very tolerant this afternoon. It has been laid down that when an hon. member is speaking it is his right to accept an interjection. If he does not want to do so, he is not to be submitted to a continual barrage of interjections. I previously warned the hon. member for Bundaberg. I now warn him a second time.

Mr. F. P. MOORE (Mourilyan) (3.48 p.m.): I rise in support of the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition and seconded by the hon. member for Nudgee. I know I can present a case to support it. Initially in this speech I should like to outline a problem that confronts two of the shire councils in the electorate of Mourilyan. We have heard of the present problems of the western shires, and I wholeheartedly sympathise with these people. The problem that I refer to involves the exact opposite—too much rain.

Last year we found that in my area, which has an average annual rainfall of 172 inches—and this must be the envy of the western people, I am sure—we had problems with the sugar harvesting. The point I want to bring out today is that roads have to be built in this wet-belt area. It is the wettest belt in Australia, and the cost of providing roads is substantial. It has been said that the cost of providing a road in this area is 1.5 times as great as in any other area, but authentic data I have been given shows that it costs at least 1.75 times as much as in any other area of the State.

Experience is as necessary as knowledge to engineers who are building roads. Admittedly, engineers who come to the Mourilyan area have qualifications, but they definitely lack practical knowledge of the area. I concede that roads laid by local shire councils, supervised by local shire engineers, are not everlasting, but because of the local knowledge possessed by the engineers building them, they outlast roads laid by people with little or no experience of the area.

Early in my term in this Parliament I mentioned the roads in my area and the particular matter raised was duly rectified by the Minister. I firmly believe that the roads built by the shires are lasting, and will last, better than any roads built by the Main Roads Department. However, my main point is that the cost of laying a road

in this area is much higher than it is elsewhere, as the engineers realise, and I ask the Minister for Main Roads today whether he will consider granting to the two shires I have in mind road-building loans based on the fact that it costs more to build roads in this area than in any other area in Queensland. I request the Government to seriously consider increasing the allotment to the two councils. As I have already pointed out, the problem is immediate.

Passing to another subject relative to my area I should like to mention the necessity for increasing the length of the rail siding at the El Arish railway station. Bananas are being loaded at this station and, at the moment, the assistant stationmaster is doing a fantastic job having in mind the length of siding available to him.

I should like to quote some statistics which I believe will prove the necessity for the installation of further rail at this station. The peak of the season in this area is in the August-September period and I feel that on the figures the Railway Department should not hesitate to grant this improvement. If hon. members listen carefully they will see beyond doubt that the figures warrant the extra outlay.

The tonnage railed from this point in 1967 was 2,167 tons bringing freight payments to the Government of \$43,200 from the small group of farmers in the Mission Beach and Silkwood areas. In 1968 the tonnage increased to 2,840 tons with freight revenue of \$56,800. Last year, 1969, the tonnage rose to 3,535 tons and the freight revenue to \$74,700. Owing to the tonnage that this area has produced and the fact that the freight payments to the Government have increased by from \$13,000 to \$15,000 each year since 1967, I feel that the Government should be sympathetic towards the people in that area and construct the extra length of rail.

Of greater importance is the local issue of Mourilyan Harbour. In the "Evening Advocate" of 31 March, 1970, under the heading "State Opposed to General Cargo Port at Mourilyan", the Premier is reported as saying—

"The agreement between the Harbour Authority and the Sugar Board to lease the Mourilyan Bulk Sugar Terminal provides that sugar shipments have priority in the use of the wharf.

"This means, in effect, that other shipping interests engaged on regular and punctual shipping schedules will have only very limited opportunities for wharf usage."

He goes on—

"Cargo handling facilities for general goods have not been provided, and the port is not served with a rail link to the main railway line."

I refuted that statement and claimed that the Premier's announcement was amazing.

In February, 1953, the then Leader of the Country Party, Mr. Nicklin, now Sir Francis Nicklin, was reported as saying that the establishment of Mourilyan Harbour as a first-class port was a "marathon question". His statement appeared in the "Evening Advocate", and the edition was well preserved by people who were fighting long before my time for the establishment of a general cargo port at Mourilyan. The people in my electorate deserve the freight reductions that are enjoyed by people who are served by other ports. Mourilyan Harbour is the only natural harbour in Queensland that does not require dredging.

In 1953, probably before an election, Mr. Nicklin said—

"You have a credit balance at the Treasury of an amount approaching £200,000, and your harbour dues are, I think, the lowest in Queensland. Nevertheless, your cost of living is high because you have no direct shipping from the South and your commodities have to be transhipped, which adds considerably to their cost.

"If elected on 7 March, our Government will immediately create a Mourilyan Harbour Board for the Innisfail district and transfer to that Board the credit balance of your harbour fund."

Where is the justice here? We have heard what happened under a Labour Government, but what has happened to Mourilyan in the last 13 years? The Government has twisted again. As we know, the Premier is the twister. He has performed so many somersaults since I have been in Parliament that I cannot follow him. He tries to evade the issues presented to him in other debates by telling us that we are a communist dominated party, controlled by the Trades Hall. Our leader made an excellent observation this morning when he said that it would not do Government members any harm to meet the various union leaders.

Mr. Wharton: It would not do us any good.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: The hon. member may learn a little more.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: That was not sufficiently emphasised.

There were many interjections while our leader was making his contribution to this debate, and he did not present the fact that in 1961 Mr. Menzies was definitely elected on Communist Party preferences. If Killen, who stood for the seat of Moreton, had not won his seat, the Menzies Government would have fallen and it is a pity it did not fall.

I return now to the Premier's statement on the rail link to the harbour. It is a two-foot line.

Government Members interjected.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: For the information of hon. members, it is the only paying line in Queensland. A check of statistics will prove that that is correct.

I asked a question on the state of the line and the Minister said he would investigate the deterioration at crossings. Under the bitumen and cement on crossings there are broken rails and rotten sleepers. The trams and the engines have to slow to walking pace on the intersections. The main point is that there is a link. In 1953, Mr. Nicklin said that Innisfail Harbour would be a first-class port connected by a 3-ft 6-in. railway line with the main northern line. His words were "I give you my assurance." He must have failed when he presented his submissions to Cabinet in 1957.

Mr. R. E. Moore: Are you sure you have not got the year wrong?

Mr. F. P. MOORE: I would like to put this document right beside the hon. member's silly head, because it is there in black and white.

I would not pass this up to "Hansard" if it were not there. I would not dare to polish the hon. member's head with it anyway.

Mr. Nicklin failed, and the present Premier has somersaulted as usual, and has refused to do it. This is a terribly disappointing situation for the people who have worked so hard for many years to bring this project to fruition. In 1953 it was a "marathon question", but it is much worse than that now.

I have submitted requests in this Chamber for the development of the "H" road across the Kirrama Range. This matter was referred to me by the local shire council even though it is in the area represented by the Minister for Primary Industries. It is a forestry road across the Kirrama Range and is the closest link with the inland beef roads. If the Government believes in decentralisation, it should develop the "H" road across the Kirrama Range and link the inland beef road at Mt. Garnet with Mourilyan. That link would help to expand this great port, the best port in Queensland. However, my requests have fallen on deaf ears. Perhaps the Minister will decry my suggestion, but I am sure the council has presented the same argument to him. And I am equally sure he would have made representations.

I am not trying to defeat Townsville in this matter. A glance at a map shows that the same road could be used for the Greenvale project when it is developed. Mourilyan is a harbour that is connected to the Tablelands by the Palmerston Highway, and it could be connected to the inland beef road by the "H" road across Kirrama Range.

"The Courier-Mail" of last Tuesday, reported the Minister for the Navy—the fellow who in 1961 scraped into Parliament on Communist preferences—as saying—

"A clear case existed for the extension of naval patrol boat facilities to North Queensland."

He also made the statement on Northern television that he envisaged naval patrol boats every half mile. On that basis I am quite sure that Mourilyan cannot miss out, because they will be everywhere.

Strategically, Mourilyan Harbour is the best in Australia and it needs no dredging. It reminds me of a fiord in Northern Europe. In the war, the Germans were able to slip in and out of fiords without any trouble at all. This Government should be presenting arguments for the establishment of naval bases in North Queensland, and in particular at places like Mourilyan. If the Government believes in decentralisation, this is where they should be. At the present time Townsville has not enough water to supply its people. Cairns has the lovely Barron River, coming from my birthplace, and it will always supply sufficient water to Cairns. I present this case and ask the Government to press that these naval patrol bases be established at other ports in Queensland.

I do not want to go too far into the Comalco issue. I asked a question in the House yesterday. It was apparently regarded as quite personal. However, I feel I must elaborate on this matter because it represents another twist or somersault.

"The Courier-Mail" of 28 April, 1968, just prior to the State election, reported—

"Government Ministers would be asked not to hold shares in companies directly associated with the Government, if Liberal Party Leader (Mr. Chalk) was Premier."

I included that quotation in my question. I pointed out that Mr. Chalk, who was speaking on "Meet The Press" on Channel 7, was reported as saying:—

". . . he had no shares in any company with which the Government was dealing and he thought this was advisable.

"He once had held shares in a firm with which he realised the Government would be dealing, so he had disposed of them."

That question was answered today. The Treasurer said he was not reported correctly. He again said that the Premier had been attacked because he had shares but that he had won the election with a handsome majority. We know what the majority was. The Labour Party had the majority vote; there is no doubt about that.

In the past session, the Treasurer again made the statement to various people. I think he was reported by the Press as saying that the majority of the people supported the policy of the A.L.P. on liquor, and that, therefore, the majority wanted the new liquor legislation. This shows beyond any

doubt that the Treasurer is now in the same category as the Premier, because he has entered the field of sharedealing.

According to this article he said that he had once held shares in a firm with which he realised the Government would be dealing, so he disposed of them. Why then does he not get rid of his Comalco shares? Or are they too good? The point is that he is just as big a somersaulter as the Premier.

To introduce another point of interest, it has been said in various circles that no restrictions apply in other Parliaments. In the latest edition of "The Parliamentarian", the Journal of the Parliaments of the Commonwealth, there are some interesting facts. One passage reads—

"And it was in fact the revelation in a newspaper of a Member's employment by a public relations firm that was acting for the military regime in Greece that sparked off the Government's Motion of 26th March, 1969, to set up a select committee 'to consider the rules and practices of the House in relation to the declaration of Member's interests and report thereon.'"

So Queensland is not the only place in the world in which this matter has been raised. A select committee was set up at Westminster, and, in an article "The Member's Financial Interests", the chairman of the committee, the Right Honourable George Strauss, presents a good case. That article also appears in this issue of "The Parliamentarian". The author quotes one of Professor Richards' statements in his book "Honourable Members", and then says—

"He concludes that there is one safeguard which is simple if drastic. Members should be required to make a public return, listing any business, trade union or other association from which they receive payment."

The same article goes on to state—

"The Guardian" on 27th March, 1969, advocated 'a register in which Members of Parliament and Peers would declare their interests openly once and for all'."

It also states—

"The Times", which previously had taken a contrary view, commented on 7th March that, while a register would be unpleasant, 'a position has now been reached where it is regrettably necessary to risk this unpleasantness for the sake of Parliament's good name.'"

Further down the column the article states—

"Shortly afterwards the Liberal Party members, as a gesture, established a voluntary register of their own which it was hoped would be the precursor of a scheme to embrace the whole House."

That select committee at Westminster came to a code which is summarised in this resolution—

“That in any debate or proceeding of the House or its committees or transactions or communications which a Member may have with other Members or with Ministers or servants of the Crown, he shall disclose any relevant pecuniary interest or benefit of whatever nature, whether direct or indirect, that he may have had, may have or may be expecting to have.”

Such a code would not go astray if established in this House.

I now move to the position in a small country, namely, Malaysia. The Malaysian Parliament was established just over 10 years ago. In an article in the same issue of “The Parliamentarian” on pecuniary interests of Ministers and members in Malaysia, this appears—

“When the House or Committee of the House (Senate or Committee of the Senate) is considering a matter in which a Member has ‘a direct pecuniary interest’, the Member concerned cannot: (a) take part in the discussion thereon unless he has previously disclosed the extent of his interest;”

He must make his disclosure prior to the discussion, not after it. According to our Standing Orders we find out the position afterwards—if it is possible to find it out—and then his vote is null and void.

An Opposition Member: Is there any definition of “direct pecuniary interest”?

Mr. F. P. MOORE: This is the rule in Malaysia, and I emphasise that it says “whether direct or indirect.” That is in the article, “The Members’ Financial Interest: Select Committee at Westminster”. I am quoting from the provision.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ramsden): I have been rather tolerant in allowing the hon. member to develop his point. The Speaker, of course, has already ruled on the matter, and it would appear to me that in pursuing his course any further the hon. member will be referring to two previous motions that have been dealt with in this present session.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: I have dealt with the position in England and Malaysia, and I was about to refer to the rule in Singapore. At the present moment I am speaking to the amendment, and I think I am entitled to do so.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! You have made your point. I have been tolerant enough.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: I will send this material up to “Hansard” and they can take it down if I cannot go any further. (Government laughter.)

Since I am not allowed to go further into this matter, I will turn to a problem associated with the high school at the fair City of Innisfail. This high school has a major problem with regard to playing fields. I have made representations to the Education Department and to the Works Department concerning an area of cane land that was resumed and allocated for playing fields for this high school. This matter was an issue before I was elected to Parliament; indeed, it has existed for about eight years. The cane was removed and a rotary hoe was put through the land, but that is the extent of the progress.

The parents and citizens’ association of this school asked me to ascertain whether, if the area was not going to be developed immediately, it could continue to grow cane on it so that the profits from that cane could be used for the development of this playing field. This was not permitted. Cane has not been grown on the area, and the high school still has not got its playing field. It is too late to cry over the cane not being grown, but if it had been allowed, the parents and citizens’ association itself would have developed these playing fields with the money obtained from the cane grown on this 10 acres of good cane land.

I appeal again to the Government to develop the area. It is a Class 1 high school, and the attendance is increasing each year. It is now in the vicinity of 1,000 and suitable playing fields are urgently needed.

Children in North Queensland deserve treatment similar to that accorded children in the south. Playing fields are very important to them because in the north, away from the pollution in the southern areas, we produce true sportsmen.

Since it was originally constructed this school has not been painted. I stress the need for maintenance of schools. Not enough is being done in this area—the wettest belt in Australia—where deterioration occurs very quickly. I have previously suggested here that a team of men be stationed in each electorate solely for the purpose of maintaining schools. The saving to any Government, irrespective of party, would be tremendous.

Since I have been in this Parliament I have seen the walls of some of these buildings become so soft that one can poke one’s finger through them. When this occurs a new wall has to be erected. The Innisfail High School is in extremely poor condition. In this very wet belt there is a great build-up of moss, mildew and so on, and if maintenance is not kept right up to scratch problems are soon encountered.

With those remarks I strongly support the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition and seconded by the hon. member for Nudgee.

Dr. CRAWFORD (Wavell) (4.23 p.m.): It was with some sorrow that I listened today to the chairman of the A.L.P. Health Committee give his rather confused interpretation of the many matters which I attempted to bring before the House earlier this week to justify the need for an extra \$30,000,000 for our health services and to bring to the attention of hon. members the necessity to find ways and means of raising this money. These are not, as was envisaged in the hon. gentleman's question this morning, mythical millions; they are millions which we need to expand our health services at the present time. If we were able to secure later figures which would incorporate the new awards recently promulgated in this State, we would probably find that that large sum of \$30,000,000 had already escalated quite considerably.

In his question this morning the hon. member asked whether this additional finance was to come from the pockets of Queenslanders. I should like to record here that both in personal conversation with the hon. member and in the House this week, I attempted to spell out in great detail that this money, or at least a large part of it, could only come, in my view, from a combination of Commonwealth funds and funds of medical benefits organisations—provided partly by the Commonwealth Government and partly by medical benefits organisations. Queenslanders have the responsibility of taking out health insurance to enable complete implementation of my ideas. It is a shame that the hon. member for Nudgee adopted the attitude that he did today relative to our health services.

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: His attitude was that he should not spoil a good case with the facts.

Dr. CRAWFORD: That is a reasonable statement. I am the first to acknowledge that gross deficiencies exist in our health service—and I intend to point out those that have not been aired previously in this Chamber—but we must have some form of constructive effort in raising extra funds. I issue an open challenge to any hon. member to produce a practicable form of financing.

Mr. Davis: Gough Whitlam's scheme wasn't too bad.

Dr. CRAWFORD: Gough Whitlam's scheme would have left us in exactly the same situation as nationalisation of health services has left the British public. In Britain the costs escalated from £Stg.70,000,000 in 1948 to £Stg.2,000 million last year. That scheme implies financing by taxation. The only practical way of obtaining the best possible health service is by employing some form of insurance by which all members of the population bear the burden equally.

The hon. member for Nudgee said that he had visited hospitals throughout Queensland. I visited many of the same hospitals, and I have no doubt that the observations that he recorded in "Hansard" today are, generally speaking, factual. But it is of little avail for us to list a series of deficiencies unless we are prepared to make constructive suggestions for their improvement and the correct suggestions for their removal.

Mr. Wright: Change the Government.

Dr. CRAWFORD: I can assure the hon. member that the establishment that has functioned in this State since 1936, and introduced by the then Labour Government, is the basic responsibility of every hon. member. It is completely immaterial whether the Minister for Health is a member of the Country Party, the Liberal Party or the Labour Party, and it is also completely immaterial whether the Director-General of Health and the Under Secretary are the present incumbents of those offices or not. The system will remain until the basic premises and tenets, which were introduced in 1936, are altered. Those factual statements were brought before this House last year by me and other hon. members, and I venture to suggest that the hon. member for Nudgee and other hon. members did not believe the facts that I brought forward at that time. We face the gravest difficulties in the over-all development of this State in health matters particularly.

The hon. member referred to the Royal Children's Hospital. That hospital has existed since the last century, and in its roof abound birds, cockroaches and dirt. In the mid-1940's the same dirt was there and the birds and cockroaches that are there today are the descendants of those that were present in the mid-1940's.

A Government Member: Conservation!

Dr. CRAWFORD: We are conserving those; there's no argument about that at all.

The fire risk that is there now is the same as the one that existed in the 1940's. I decry completely the recent remark of the chairman of the hospitals board that he understood that the report of the fire brigade was confidential, and then admitted that it had been in his possession for nine months. I repeat that at the time the fire report was received it should have been made public. The situation has not changed. As Governments have changed in this State, the same situation has remained. It is only by adopting a non-parochial attitude that we will be able to alter it.

Over the years progressive reports have been made to the management of the Royal Brisbane Hospitals Board by various doctors about the Royal Children's Hospital. A few years ago a report was made and, subsequent to that report, my colleagues who were responsible for it made very angry noises when one whole year passed before it was even acknowledged. When the management

of the hospital was approached again at that time the doctors were told, "There was no point in acknowledging it; we cannot do anything about it." That attitude is identical to the one that has been present in Queensland for 30 years. It is only by concerted action that we will be able to make any real improvement in the facilities.

I have mentioned previously in this Assembly an incident relating to me, again in the 1940's, when I had the audacity, according to the authorities, to bring to their notice the fact that tuberculosis in nurses was not being treated, whereas in South Australia, at the same time, such nurses were allowed to go off duty and were paid to rest at home—there was no other treatment at the time—so that their tuberculosis could be controlled. I was castigated by the authorities of the day for daring to criticise this facet of hospital administration. The comment was, "What are a few nurses? They are expendable."

Mr. Casey: Are you trying to say that the Labour Government gave you a worse deal than the present Government?

Dr. CRAWFORD: It is the identical deal, because the system is identical.

Mr. Casey: That is not what the Minister read out last year.

Dr. CRAWFORD: I am not interested in the history that the Minister read out last year. It is of no importance whatsoever. That pamphlet has been a "party piece" that has been used to promote hilarity in the various circles in which I move. It is unimportant. I repeat that it does not matter who the Minister is or who the administrators are in the Department of Health; the system remains, and, until we alter the system, we will not be able to hold our heads high. There are people in both our party organisations who find it difficult to believe that these things exist. There is a member of the Liberal organisation who just cannot see that nurse education needs to be altered in any way.

An Opposition Member: Why don't you name him?

Dr. CRAWFORD: It would avail nothing.

Recently at a meeting I was talking about nurse education and this gentleman who does not appreciate the problem adopted an attitude which has been prevalent in our State for many years by stating that the only thing wrong was that doctors kept admitting patients to the hospitals. What are hospitals for?

An Opposition Member: Was it Dr. Delamothe?

Dr. CRAWFORD: No, it was not Dr. Delamothe.

Over the years the situation has been repeatedly confused by the administration which was put in power by the authorities in 1936. I am the first one to admit that

it has been condoned by the organisation of which I am a part. We must fix this trouble at its root source.

I feel that the term "By their work rather than their words they shall be known" is an apt aphorism. It is certainly paradoxical that one needs to defend truth without necessarily having the opportunity to transmute words into deeds. True facts must be presented accurately without fear or favour, and the right to do this must be defended as liberty itself must be defended. This is axiomatic and the basis of our democracy, and if we do not defend these rights we are very poor citizens indeed.

The legislation about which I have been talking could be considered as an analogy to the Seven Ages of Man, with three ages only being substituted, namely, conception, birth and death. The legislation as we function under it is ill-conceived, iniquitous, ignorant and ignominious. Following its hesitant birth pangs, after the process of parturition, subject down the years to maladministration and inefficiency because of that root cause, it will finally, unless we can alter this ourselves at this stage, be interred in the rocky ground of financial instability.

As far as the over-all situation of any form of restrictive legislation is concerned, I remind the House that, after the defeat of the recent Labour Government in England, a former Labour Minister announced publicly that he had been bitterly disappointed at the fact that an industry which was under complete Government control was just as liable to strike and to run inefficiently as one which was not under Government control.

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: Would you say that that is one of the basic principles that should be allowed to seep in?

Dr. CRAWFORD: This is very true indeed.

Since making statements in the House last year, I have been "rubbished" by the experts, and again I make no apology. One must accept situations in life. As the French say, "C'est la vie". However, there is no point in being disturbed about this. But I do become disturbed when I find that somebody is attempting to "rubbish" or interfere with me by hurting other people. This is something I deplore as a recent development in this scene.

I am extremely grateful to those Government departments which, during the time I have been a member of this House, have been extremely helpful to me. Very good examples, I think most hon. members will agree, are the Department of Education and the Department of Works and Housing. I pay a tribute to the respective Under Secretaries and the Ministers of those departments for unfailing courtesy in their attempts to elucidate problems of concern.

However, without any equivocation, I say that the attitude of the Department of Health to the political scene is one which is governed by legislation. In effect, the officers of that department are doing what the legislation makes them do. This is the difficulty. I was warned by departmental authorities before I made my maiden speech last year, without any equivocation, that I was now dangerous, and, quite recently, a colleague of mine in this House was approached by a gentleman who was prepared to make a statement at any time to the House or to any interested parties that a certain high official in the Department of Health had actually said to him, "You will not take any notice of these — politicians."

Mr. Hughes interjected.

Dr. CRAWFORD: I am not saying that they are worse members at all. I say that they are acting under legislation and have to uphold the legislation. I have heard them say many times that they have to look after the Act, adjudicate on the Act, and act the way the Act tells them to, and that there is no alternative.

Mr. Bromley: They are probably frightened of the Minister.

Dr. CRAWFORD: I will not comment on that. I do not think they are frightened of the Minister; maybe they are.

The reforms that need to be brought in in this context are legislative, administrative, and financial. It is not supercilious to say that it is completely immaterial who are the officials of the department at a particular moment, or who is the Minister.

It may surprise some members, including the Minister for Health, that I now wish to hand out some bouquets. The appointment of the flying surgeon has brought to the people in the outback areas of the State—country members on both sides of the House will appreciate this—a very good service which is life-saving, and enables them to obtain major surgery in their own communities and hospitals. Being in a magnanimous mood, I am prepared to concede that my good friend the Minister for Health was responsible for that.

The home nursing service, which has recently been introduced in this State, is also something of which we can be justifiably proud.

Mr. Bromley: It needs expanding.

Dr. CRAWFORD: That is true. I might say in this context, however, that one girl who made application to join the service was foolish enough to mention that she had my recommendation, and the Health Department then did not bother to acknowledge her application.

So far as the nurses' curriculum is concerned, the word "obfusatory" describes the action taken there by the Health Department.

That word comes from a Latin root which means "to darken, to confuse, to bewilder." And that is exactly what has happened over the last 12 months on the introduction of the new nursing curriculum. There is no doubt at all that such a new curriculum is necessary, and the nurses themselves want it.

On 1 May, 1969, the three-year course was introduced. That was a good thing. At the beginning of this year, and subsequently in March, the hours of training were extended and, at the same time, the situation was altered so that the new curriculum was brought into being. With the basic drastic shortage of nurses, politicians, irrespective of party, are by no means popular with the nursing profession; the new arrangements resulted in there being an immediate necessity for an increase of one-third in the number of nurses over the next few months to staff hospitals to ensure continuation even at the reduced rate under which they were functioning previously.

The Minister knows this, as I have argued the matter with him. Unfortunately he has not seen his way clear to correct some of the other anomalies that I mentioned first. It is most important to remember that it is not possible to wave a magic wand to produce places in which nurses can be taught, pilot schemes that run properly and correctly for regional training, and all the other paraphernalia necessary before a new curriculum is introduced. Those things were just not provided. Again, the making of these decisions comes back to the organisation in the department itself.

I have recently had representations made to me concerning anomalies in the pharmacy regulations. In promulgating these regulations, the department has not seen fit over the years to accept the recommendations of experts. If Parliament debates the Bill that I understand is to be introduced dealing with drugs and drug addiction in this State, I shall probably take the opportunity to analyse the pharmacy regulations in some detail. They need drastic revision. At the moment the experts are of the opinion that danger exists in these anomalies.

As far as psychiatric matters are concerned, there has been some discussion in this House previously with regard to psychiatry and psychiatric services. We do need a large number of acute psychiatric beds, in spite of the various things which have been said over the years about the co-ordinating of psychiatric beds with general medical beds. This has its own advantages, but it does not preclude the fact that we need psychiatric beds for the many acute emergency cases. Lowson House is a disgrace and is quite inadequate to meet acute psychiatric needs.

As to legislation which is concerned with psychiatry, it is possible for a patient to be admitted compulsorily to hospital either if he is found by a police officer to behave in an abnormal fashion or if information

is laid before a magistrate, who then signs an order for the patient's admission. The alternative but rarely used method is for two doctors to sign the required order. There seems to be no provision in the practical working of this Act authorising a police officer to remove such a person to hospital should he be reluctant to go following medical recommendations. On the other hand, an order by a magistrate certainly empowers a police officer to act; and they do so, often with considerable embarrassment to the patient and his or her family. Whether police should in fact be used for this purpose, undoubtedly a good case could be made for establishing a force of mental welfare officers along the lines of the organisation for this purpose in England.

Mr. Murray: Do you mean to say that somebody can be extracted from his home on somebody's say-so and put away at what—the Queen's pleasure?

Dr. CRAWFORD: That is so.

Mr. Bennett: By an officious police officer at times.

Dr. CRAWFORD: Without actually being examined by a doctor.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Dr. CRAWFORD: Once a patient is in hospital it may be necessary then to transfer him to Wolston Park or some other establishment for a long stay, and lengthy periods of time have occurred in this manner.

Statements made by medical officers also can be inadequate for the implementation of complete justice. The fullest possible documentation of the patient's symptoms and behaviour, without resorting to technical terms such as hallucination and delusion, should be made at all times, and, having been made, these papers should then be scrutinised by some such authority as the board of control in England. If the board does not feel that the statement is sufficient, it sends the documents back for amplification by the doctors or orders that the patient be discharged.

A good case could be made out for establishing a statutory body of this type which is required to examine all patients before their compulsory admission to hospital. If this body was not satisfied with the recommendations, it could ask the responsible medical officers to amplify their earlier statements, or alternatively, if they were not satisfied with these papers, the authority could order the patient to be discharged.

A recent case, which is a very good example of these precepts, occurred when an altercation broke out between a patient and his wife in their home. It is always difficult to obtain the full truth in these cases, but the patient claimed that he believed his wife was about to make a suicidal attempt and he said that he restrained her forcibly.

Mr. Bennett: I know a doctor who did that, too.

Dr. CRAWFORD: This man was not a doctor.

The wife disclaimed any such intention and argued that the husband attacked her violently. Documentary evidence existed in this case that the patient's wife had made suicidal attempts. As a result of the disturbance police were summoned, and the patient was put in the watch-house on the grounds that he was using obscene language. The patient remained in the watch-house over the weekend, and during this time his wife made the application to the magistrate for his detention in hospital on the grounds that he was suffering from a mental illness. There was nothing in the depositions on which expert opinion could find that the patient was mentally ill.

Having looked at the 1962 Act, it does not appear that the magistrate himself is required to examine the patient and satisfy himself that the patient is, in fact, suffering from mental illness; he merely has to listen to the sworn statements and, on the basis of what he hears, sign a warrant ordering that the patient shall be removed to, or detained in, hospital.

In Great Britain it is necessary for the magistrate to actually see the patients and their relatives before signing such an order. In the situation as it exists in Great Britain, the magistrate puts questions to all the persons concerned, including the medical officers, and satisfies himself beyond a reasonable doubt that the patient is mentally ill and needs treatment. In Queensland, on the basis of statements by an emotionally involved and, indeed, often disturbed person, a man or woman can be deprived of his or her liberty until such time as a psychiatrist in the hospital to which he or she has been removed, and the Government Medical Officer, can say that the person no longer needs to be kept in hospital.

It is important that this matter be resolved correctly and completely and that doctors—including at least one psychiatrist—see the patient early in the piece and that their statements are properly examined by the certifying authorities.

Mr. Murray: How long has this situation existed?

Dr. CRAWFORD: For years.

Mr. Hughes interjected.

Dr. CRAWFORD: But this occurs because the law is not adequate in the matters I have outlined.

We have had recent examples in this State of another form of autocratic dictatorship which again is everybody's responsibility. I have previously cited the situation which existed in the Student Nurses' Association in 1967 and 1968, when nurses were told that they either resigned from their organisation or

would be removed from the hospital. In this context I quote a recent nurse publication wherein the lady writing used a paragraph from Shakespeare's Henry VIII—

"I will not wish you half my miseries,
I have more charity,

But say, I warned ye;

Take heed, for Heaven's sake, take heed,
lest at once

The burden of my sorrows falls upon ye."

She went on to say that unless the whole situation of nurse training was attended to and the difficulties alleviated so that nurses could enjoy their work in a congenial atmosphere, it would become worse and worse.

I recall that after the recent Festival Hall meeting of nurses, attended by at least 3,000 nurses, there was no attempt by any member of the hospital or health organisation to deal with them. This, of course, underlines the principle that if people act in unison they are not then disciplined, to use the most moderate of words available.

I want to refer to a doctor in North Queensland who was involved inadvertently on the fringe of the troubles in Townsville last year. He has given 25 years of satisfactory service to this State mostly in impossible backwaters where it is difficult to get medical help. I am pleased to report that on my visit to Townsville I felt that the authorities there were making real progress in improving their local situation. I talked to members of the hospitals board, to authorities in the hospital and to the doctors in the town, and I am very pleased indeed at the reception I received. I am grateful to them for it. I am also pleased at their practical approach towards solving their problems. As I said before, I believe that if we had a hospital commission in this State which could go outside of the auspices of the Department of Health as an adjudicator and arbitrator when troubles occur, we would have very many fewer altercations than we now have. Although the situation in Townsville has now been corrected in virtually all respects, the persons who were accused of various infringements of the rules at the time are still under a cloud, no doubt, and need to have some form of recompense made to them.

The particular doctor I mention, who is not such a young man and who was then on the fringe of this trouble, was removed from his work there. No doubt the board had reasons for that. Subsequently the health authorities in Brisbane promised him that he could be re-employed if he applied elsewhere in the State. He did that on the recommendation of the Director-General, and his application was acknowledged, but no attempt was even made to interview his referees. He still has not received employment through the State health service, even though he had served in outback areas faithfully and well for 25 years.

With the young doctor employed in the State service, the system works like this—and this may be happening now or it may have happened five years ago (I am not selecting any times or dates, although I have evidence to support what I say): a doctor may have spent 18 months or 2½ years in a hospital in Brisbane or in a provincial city and decides that he wishes to leave that employment in the middle of a year because he wishes to start specialist training, perhaps as an anaesthetist, a pediatrician or a psychiatrist—

Mr. Bromley: Or a member of Parliament.

Dr. CRAWFORD: Yes, perhaps he could get into Parliament if he talked well. Having made up his mind, he goes to the authorities and says, "I wish to leave this job. I have applied for such-and-such a position, and they have accepted me." He is told that this is not the thing for him to do and that if he does this and subsequently comes back to this State, whether he is a trained specialist or consultant at that time or not, the fact that he left his job when it was inconvenient to the department would be held against him if he applied for another job. Hon. members can put any connotation they wish on this.

The final case that I wish to mention concerns the lady who, after discussion with a number of hon. members, decided to make the facts clear about her situation as a radiographer who had been refused re-employment. She is of the highest possible integrity and is professionally trained, having undergone many years of technical, practical and theoretical training. When the controversy was raging last year she wrote to the Press and claimed that there were some troubles in the department in which she worked. Now that her baby is old enough to be left in the care of another person she has applied for casual employment in her old department. She rang her former boss, who told her that a job as radiographer was available. Hon. members are aware of the drastic shortage of radiographers throughout the State. However, a few hours later he rang her again and told her that the chairman, manager, or some official, of the hospitals board had been gravely disturbed by the letter that she had written and that no job was therefore available.

In view of the facts that I have outlined I ask these questions, and they are not rhetorical—

1. Would any member of the health authority detail to the House the criteria by which it is decided who are to be punished for contravening the regulations governing Health Department employees under the Health Act?

2. How is it decided which employees or ex-employees are not to be further employed?

Mr. Bennett: It depends on whether or not they join the Liberal Party.

Dr. CRAWFORD: It does not.

3. Whose decision is it to so judge—Under Secretary on recommendation of the Director-General, or vice versa, or are others involved; for example, the hospital chairman or manager in a local area?

4. Is the process of banning always a permanent matter or in some cases temporary and revocable?

5. Could the spokesman describe this process as discipline, black banning or victimisation when an employee has written one letter to the paper pointing out organisational deficiencies in the Health Department and is then refused re-employment?

I make the statement in this context: the people who were responsible for so doing it in that hospital had to act in that way under the existing legislation or be disciplined themselves. One point that has not been brought forward in this House is that under our existing legislation if a member of a hospitals board authorises expenditure beyond the budget in any financial year he can be made to put that extra money back into the coffers from his personal funds. If anybody has any doubt about the anachronism in our health department legislation, surely that is a final arbiter.

All these conditions give rise to an attitude of complete lack of esprit de corps. Many members in this Chamber have sons, daughters and relatives connected with the medical profession and their paramedical services. How would they like their son, daughter, or son-in-law to be treated as shown in the examples I have cited today?

Finally in this context, I quote J. S. Mill on Liberty. This is what he said—

“The worth of a State, in the long run, is the worth of the individuals composing it: a State which dwarfs its men, in order that they may be more docile instruments in its hands even for beneficial purposes—will find that with small men no great thing can really be accomplished: and that the perfection of machinery to which it has sacrificed everything will in the end avail it to nothing, for want of the vital power which, in order that the machine might work smoothly, it has preferred to banish.”

I have no doubt that, in future, we must adopt an entirely new concept in our Health Department and our health organisation, commencing with revision of legislation.

I now wish to draw attention to certain facts relative to abortion. We all face the situation, in the present social atmosphere, of having to make up our minds whether we are or are not in favour of “abortion on demand”, in the modern term and concept. I have undertaken a detailed study of the situation as revealed in the United Kingdom for the last two years. I have listened to an eminent gynaecologist from the United Kingdom who is involved in the implementation of the legislation. I have corresponded

with him, and I have read everything I can find in the British medical journals in an effort to ascertain the true state of affairs. In 1967 and 1968, when this matter was discussed in the United Kingdom—the present abortion law has been in force in that country since mid-1968, or just over two years—the first thing that happened was that because of Press propaganda in London the whole matter was thrown out of proportion.

(Time, on motion of Mr. Murray, extended.)

Dr. CRAWFORD: I thank the hon. member for Clayfield.

The newspaper of the day that was most avid in recommending that there be liberalisation of abortion was the “Sunday Observer”. A correspondent connected with that paper named Paul Ferris repeatedly put forward in his columns wildly extravagant claims that huge numbers of criminal abortions were being carried out in England and Wales. He said that as a result of these unskilled operations many women were dying or being maimed. He stated that up to 500,000 women were being aborted each year. This is an example, as I shall point out in a moment when I give the figures, of most irresponsible journalism.

Subsequently, the legislation was brought forward in the form of a private member’s Bill, no doubt with the best possible intentions. It appeared, and was so worded, that it purported only to liberalise matters so that people could really be looked after in the best sense, for example, with two doctors acting together in good faith, which is the usual legal terminology.

After it had passed through the House, it was again so brought to public notice by irresponsible journalistic attempts to augment it and make news articles out of it that its implementation has been turned virtually into legalising abortion on demand. It is now quite well recognised, as far as Westminster is concerned, that if this fact had been known when the legislation was before the House—and we can draw parallels in our own legislation here—no abortion Bill would have been passed by the House.

This has been law now for two years. Available statistics are true figures because, by law, the abortion has only to be notified, and the official reason, which has to be given, is unimportant. Therefore it is to nobody’s advantage not to notify any particular abortion. In the first six months abortions were performed at the rate of about 37,000 a year; in other words, 18,500 abortions were carried out. During the next 12 months, the number increased to over 50,000. Those figures were given at the lecture I mentioned earlier. They were considered by this gynaecologist as not being particularly unreasonable, because there were 800,000 births per year in the United Kingdom, and 50,000 compared with 800,000 was

not too bad. In the past six months, the number has risen to over 80,000 per annum. This is a frightening state of affairs. Only 6 per cent. of these women came from outside the United Kingdom.

The situation has now arisen where women who need urgent gynaecological attention for cancer and other diseases are not receiving it, because more than one-third of the patients attending the average gynaecologist's clinic are women demanding abortion. There has been no reduction at all in illegal abortions, back-yard abortions or abortions carried out for money in private establishments. In other parts of the world the situation has reached the parlous state where the abortion rate has overcome the birth rate. Therefore, with all the best intent in the world, the abortion laws introduced in the United Kingdom have done irretrievable harm.

Quite recently—I think this is the most damning indictment of all—a politician—and I do not care which party he belongs to, and I did not inquire—had the utter hide and gall to stand up and say, “Wasn't this magnificent. We have saved 20,000 illegitimate births this year,” as if illegitimacy carries some form of stigma in this modern age.

In addition to those facts, there are other quite interesting matters to consider. The situation will become progressively worse and will reach the stage where abortion on demand could become uniform throughout the United Kingdom. One-third of all abortions are carried out by 10 per cent. of gynaecologists. Nurses are in revolt against the whole repulsive situation. It has been mentioned in the Press that experiments are being carried out on foetuses that are being provided from some establishments. There is no way of looking on this matter as anything but infanticide. If we condone legislation of this type in the name of liberalisation of some fantasy, before long we will be condoning euthanasia, leaving our children out for exposure and death as was done in Mosaic days, and finding ourselves back with the cave-dweller level of morality. There is no doubt whatever that this must be condemned now in all of its evil aspects.

Mr. Porter: Do you think the word “reform” is the wrong one to use in this context?

Dr. CRAWFORD: It is a completely wrong word to use.

I am sure the Minister for Justice will agree that there is now under present legislation sufficient legal protection in most instances to cover legitimate surgical procedures. It may be necessary to make a small amendment or alter a regulation, but under no circumstances will I ever condone the development in this State of a situation similar to that which has arisen in the United Kingdom. I understand that those who acted, admittedly with the best possible intentions, to change the law in South

Australia are very sorry that they became so involved, although there have not so far been many abortions in that State; I think the number is about 300 or 400 in the five months since the legislation was passed.

We must stand firm on moral principles in matters such as this one. Unless we confine our thinking to clear precepts and concepts, we will not be able to stand up against the type of publicity that occurred in England. I make a plea for that to be remembered, because it is important. I ask particularly that we remember the political gentleman who, in the greatest ignorance, congratulated the law for removing 22,000—I think previously I said 20,000—illegitimate children from society.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Hanlon, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5.14 p.m.
