

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 3 AUGUST 1971

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

MERTHYR AND MARYBOROUGH
BY-ELECTIONS

RETURN OF WRITS

Mr. SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to inform the House that the writs issued by His Excellency the Governor on 1 July 1971 for the election of members to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral districts of Merthyr and Maryborough have been returned to me with certificates endorsed thereon by the returning officers of the election, on 24 July 1971, of Donald Frederick Lane, Esquire, and Gilbert Alison, Esquire, to serve as such members, respectively.

MEMBERS SWORN

Messrs. Lane and Alison were introduced, took the oath of allegiance, and subscribed the roll.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamations under—

The State Transport Acts, 1938 to 1943.
Litter Act 1971.

Orders in Council under—

The Harbours Acts, 1955 to 1968.
The Brisbane City Council Business and Procedure Act of 1939.
City of Brisbane Act 1924–1969.

Regulations under—

The Sewerage, Water Supply, and Gas-fitting Acts, 1949 to 1967.
Litter Act 1971.
Local Government Act 1936–1970.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

REPORT ON ADMINISTRATION, WESTBROOK TRAINING CENTRE

Hon. S. D. TOOTH (Ashgrove—Minister for Health) (11.6 a.m.): I have received the report of Percy Desmond Peel, Stipendiary Magistrate, who was directed by Order in Council dated 3 June 1971 to make inquiry with respect to the truth or otherwise of matters referred to in the statements published in "Sunday Truth" newspaper on 23 May 1971 and 30 May 1971, respectively, concerning the administration at Westbrook Training Centre, and particularly into the truth or otherwise of allegations of the planning of mass escapes and the planning of violence to training officers by inmates; of unreasonable or excessive drill and punishment of, and violence to, inmates; of homosexuality among inmates, including the extent thereof; and of the standard of food provided to inmates.

The report comprises:—

- (a) A summary of findings, paragraphs 1 to 13 inclusive.
- (b) The report of the inquiry, paragraphs 14 to 39 inclusive.
- (c) Conclusions, paragraphs 40 to 65 inclusive.
- (d) Recommendations, paragraph 66 (a) to (h) inclusive.

The summary of findings and the balance of the report should be read as a whole. As an example, paragraph 7 in the summary of findings referring to homosexuality must be read in conjunction with paragraph 54 of the conclusions.

Mr. AIKENS: I rise to a point of order. As you have ruled from time to time, Mr. Speaker, that only a certain amount of time is available every day for formal business, including questions, and the Minister's reading of this report in detail will take up most of that hour, can I move that the report be tabled? Otherwise, we will not have an opportunity to ask questions.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I presume the Minister is only dealing briefly with certain sections of the report. It is entirely up to him whether or not he tables it.

Mr. TOOTH: Whilst the findings are that "there was a certain amount of homosexual activity at the centre but not a lot—it could not be said to have been rife", paragraph 54 of the conclusions reads as follows:—

"The evidence is that there was some homosexuality going on between the inmates but not a lot—it could not be said to have been rife. The sexual activity was mainly masturbation and not sodomy."

An examination has already been commenced of the recommendations made by the stipendiary magistrate, and some have already been implemented.

A recommendation that a seminar for training officers on drilling and physical exercise be arranged under the supervision of a qualified physical educationist will be implemented as soon as possible. Administrative directions have been issued with respect to those recommendations where administrative action is required.

I table a copy of the magistrate's report.

Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid the report on the table.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

REPORT, ISIS LAND USE STUDY COMMITTEE

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

- (1) Has the report of the Isis Land Use Study Committee been received?
- (2) When will the report be made available to Parliament?
- (3) When will land administration matters, which were suspended pending receipt of the report, be dealt with?

Answers:—

- (1) "Yes."
- (2) "It has not been decided whether the report is to be made available or, if so, when."
- (3) "These matters will be dealt with when final decisions are made by the Government on the matters in the report."

WORKERS' COMPENSATION PREMIUMS AND BENEFITS

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

- (1) With regard to the Workers' Compensation Fund, what was (a) the premium income, (b) the cost of claims and associated expenses, including provision for claims expected and in course of settlement, (c) the underwriting surplus after allowing for management expenses, stamp duty, etc.

and (d) the net surplus after addition of investment income, for the year ended June 30, 1971?

(2) In view of calls that have been made in this Parliament and through the trade union movement for weekly compensation to be matched with actual earnings, the recent Building Trade Award inclusion of accident pay by the employer in New South Wales to fill the gap and reports that New South Wales insurance companies have suggested that they could cover this weekly payment gap by an increased premium of 75 cents per worker from the employer, has the S.G.I.O. made any estimate of the increase in premium required to pay actual earnings in this State, having regard to the surplus already evident in this fund? If not, will he have this matter examined and inform the House accordingly?

Answers:—

(1) "The information is not yet available. It will be tabled in the House in due course."

(2) "No estimate is presently available of the increase that would be required in Workers' Compensation premiums to pay the rate of actual earnings in this State. Although some 92,000 claims are involved, the feasibility of making such an estimate is being examined by the State Government Insurance Office. It is worth noting that the percentage of the basic wage payable as compensation was increased from 66½ per cent. to 75 per cent. in 1949 and from 75 per cent. to 80 per cent. in 1964. While there is no reason why the percentage of earnings payable as compensation should not continue to be lifted from time to time, it has generally been accepted that there should be some margin between compensation and actual earnings as an incentive for an injured worker to return to work as soon as he has fully recovered. The Honourable Member refers in his Question to the inclusion of accident pay in the Building Trade Award in New South Wales. I take it that he is not suggesting that the Workers' Compensation scheme be replaced by provisions in industrial awards, which are not suited to the operation of a complete scheme of Workers' Compensation. It is in the interests of the workers themselves to retain the protection and the benefits of the Workers' Compensation Acts."

**TENDER BY AUSTRALIAN HOMES FOR
HOUSING COMMISSION HOUSE**

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

Has his attention been drawn to the speech made by the Honourable Member for Ithaca, Mr. C. J. Miller, in the Address in Reply debate on August 25, 1970, when he stated that in the previous month the

Housing Commission accepted a price of \$6,843 submitted by Australian Homes for a three-bedroom home with a tiled roof, battens under the house and fencing included? If so, what are (a) the respective dimensions of the three bedrooms and the floor area of the home and (b) the location of the home and the area of the land?

Answer:—

"Yes. (a) 13 feet by 11 feet 6 inches; 13 feet by 9 feet; and 11 feet 6 inches by 9 feet 6 inches; floor area 997 square feet; (b) Woodridge; 28.1 perches."

**MALPRACTICE IN ISSUING DRIVERS'
LICENCES; POLICE OFFICER'S
RESIGNATION**

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

(1) Who was the police constable who resigned following investigations into the issuing of driving licences in exchange for exorbitant prices on the sale of "bomb" cars?

(2) Did the police officer concerned receive full retirement allowance and a payment from the superannuation scheme and, if so, how much?

(3) What action will be taken against this man?

(4) If no action is to be taken, will the reason be explained or, unlike any normal citizen, is his resignation being regarded as a sufficient punishment for the crime?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) "An investigation has been carried out into the irregular issue of drivers' licences at Cleveland Police Station. On June 25, 1971, the matter was referred to the Solicitor-General, Brisbane, for advice as to whether any charge or charges should be preferred against any person arising out of that investigation. The matter is presently under consideration at the Solicitor-General's Office. It is considered that at this stage it would not be proper to name the ex-police officer who resigned following the commencement of that investigation. The ex-police officer was paid the surrender value of his superannuation units as provided for by the *Police Superannuation Act 1968-1970*. Should sufficient evidence be obtained, charges will be preferred."

**ALLEGED ROBBERY BY POLICE OFFICERS,
MUSGRAVE PARK**

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a claim made in the *Telegraph* of July 26, and *The Courier-Mail* of July 27, to the effect that a top-level police inquiry is

investigating the alleged bashing and robbery of a part-Aboriginal soldier at Musgrave Park on Saturday night, July 24, 1971?

(2) If so, has Acting Inspector F. McKellar yet made any report on the matter, interim or otherwise, and, if so, what does the report reveal?

(3) Were the two police officers involved in the Musgrave Park bashing the same two officers who bashed Foster Cuthbert Joseph Swain earlier this year following facetious remarks he had made about a sergeant's conduct with a coloured woman at the Adelaide Hotel?

(4) If the two policemen are not the ones again involved, will he name the present assailants?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "Constable Peter John Hewitt and Constable Kenneth Lance Von Blanckensee appeared in the Magistrates Court, Brisbane, on July 29, 1971, on two charges of robbery. The matter is therefore *sub judice*."

(3) "A writ has been issued out of the Supreme Court of Queensland claiming damages for defamation against Foster Cuthbert Joseph Swain. This matter is therefore also *sub judice*."

(4) "See Answers to (2) and (3)."

STABILISATION WORK, CURRUMBIN CREEK ESTUARY

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

(1) What is the progress of the model test at the Queensland University concerning the stabilisation of the Currumbin Creek estuary and the provision of training walls?

(2) If the investigation has been completed, will he make provision in his Estimates for sufficient funds to commence the building of some structure in this area, as it provides the only safe entry to the open sea for the ever-increasing number of pleasure craft?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The model tests of Currumbin Creek estuary are proceeding. Various configurations of training walls have been tested with the conclusions firstly that it is not possible by training walls alone to ensure that sand from the littoral drift will not enter any dredged basin and secondly that a sand bar would always exist at the harbour entrance. Further tests are now in hand with the object of determining the configuration of training walls that will facilitate the trapping of sand from the littoral drift in areas removed from the access channel or moor-

ing basin and from which areas the trapped sand can be by-passed by pumping. Upon completion of these tests the financial viability of the scheme will be investigated."

TRANSFER OF EXTRANEOUS DUTIES FROM POLICE FORCE

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

(1) What duties, classified as extraneous and normally done by police personnel, have now been taken over by other Government departments in each category, as requested by himself, the Commissioner of Police or the Department, as from July 1, 1970 to June 30, 1971?

(2) What other Government departments in each category are yet to be approached to relieve police personnel of extraneous duties?

(3) What special services, including escorts to outside organisations by police personnel, have been eliminated in each category as from July 1, 1970 to June 30, 1971?

(4) What other special services and escorts to outside organisations in each category are still under consideration for elimination?

Answers:—

(1) "Appointments of Pig Inspector cancelled. Not taken over by any other department. Supply of returns to Taxation Department of licences issued under Traffic Act and Second Hand Wares Act discontinued. Not taken over by any other department."

(2) "A survey is at present being carried out of work performed for Main Roads Department, Transport Department, Justice Department and the Department of Children's Services."

(3) "None."

(4) "The practice of using police vehicles on escorts of vehicles carrying wide dimension loading is under review."

FACILITIES FOR INMATES AT POLICE WATCH-HOUSES

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

What type of beds, bedding and other facilities are made available to (a) females and (b) males held in watch-houses at police stations overnight, for week-ends or for longer periods?

Answer:—

"As the Question refers to police stations, it is not possible to provide detailed information which will cover all police stations throughout the State. However, in regard to (a) females—beds and bedding

are provided at some of the main cities, whilst mattresses and bedding are supplied at other larger centres. At smaller centres with few, if any, female prisoners, no special facilities are provided for females; blankets only are supplied. Toilet, showering and washing facilities are also available, the type depending upon the centre concerned and available installations. Exercise areas are also provided. With regard to (b) males—beds and bedding have been supplied to a few centres, with mattresses and bedding at larger centres and blankets only at the smaller stations. Toilet, showering and washing facilities are available, the type depending upon the centre concerned and available installations. Exercise areas are also provided.”

MOUNT GRAVATT SOUTH STATE SCHOOL

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

Have plans and specifications been drawn up for a new library and alterations to the administration block at the Mount Gravatt South State School? If so, what extra accommodation will be provided in the new administration block?

Answer:—

“Plans and estimate of cost are practically complete and, when estimate is available, consideration will be given to approval in the light of funds available for works of this nature. Plans provide for improved office accommodation for the principal, deputy principal and clerk typist, a larger library-reading room and a new health services room.”

**FUNDS FOR PAMPHLET PUBLICATIONS,
QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Crawford, pursuant to notice, asked
The Premier,—

(1) What are the sources of the money currently being spent on pamphlet publications at the University of Queensland?

(2) Can the exact amount being so spent be ascertained on a monthly basis?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) “For many years, the University of Queensland Union was principally financed by compulsory membership fees collected with tuition fees by the University. About twelve years ago, a variety of separate fees was combined into a single course fee. Since that time, the University Senate has made an annual grant, at present \$22 per full-time student and \$11 per part-time student, to the University of Queensland Union and \$10 and \$4 respectively to the University of Queensland Sports Unions. Approximately 60 clubs and societies receive grants from the University of Queensland Union; many of them produce pamphlets. I am informed

that \$1,225 of the clubs’ and societies’ administrative grant has been spent to date and that \$554 has been spent on theatre handbills. Apart from this, the University produces pamphlets advertising various activities and its weekly news sheet.”

**ROYAL COMMISSION INTO DISRUPTION,
QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Crawford, pursuant to notice, asked
The Premier,—

In view of the repeated episodes of turmoil and disruption at the University of Queensland and the fact that the majority of students are attempting, in spite of the subversive elements, to continue with their studies, will he establish a Royal Commission into the functioning of the University to determine (a) who are responsible for the many extra-curricular activities aimed solely at the disruption of the University functions, (b) the identities, occupations and affiliations of these persons who, having no connection at all with the University, are constantly involved in radical student and staff affairs, (c) the sources of income of the non-university personnel active in this matter, (d) the identities of the University staff involved and also the quality of teaching ability and real university responsibilities taken by those whose major activities of recent months have been extra-curricular and (e) recommendations necessary to ensure the restoration of harmony at the University?

Answer:—

“The Government, as I stated last week, looks to the Senate to provide for the orderly working and management of the University. It has asked to be advised if help is required but the Government, at this time, does not consider it appropriate to take the action suggested by the Honourable Member.”

**ALLOWANCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR
RURAL TRAINING SCHOOL STUDENTS**

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

(1) Are students attending pastoral colleges eligible for any allowance?

(2) Will he consider extension scholarships for such students who are eligible to obtain them at secondary schools?

Answers:—

(1) “Students attending rural training schools are eligible to receive the normal privileges available to any student in grade 11 at a secondary school, viz. student allowance, remote area scholarship, textbook allowance, rail passes.”

(2) "This has been considered. As the Honourable Member knows, my Department's vote includes an allocation to meet the running costs of these schools. If tuition fees were paid on behalf of enrolled students the school's allocation would be reduced by a corresponding amount."

NURSING STAFF, ROYAL BRISBANE AND ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS

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

How many student nurses, cadet nurses, assistants-in-nursing and/or nursing aides and qualified sisters, apart from sisters in charge of wards, were employed at the Royal Brisbane and Royal Children's Hospitals at June 30, 1971, and what was the staff establishment in each category in these hospitals at the same date?

Answer:—

"The North Brisbane Hospitals Board has advised that the approved nursing staff in the various categories and the actual numbers employed as at June 30, 1971, were—

—	Approved Staff Establishment	Actual Numbers Employed
<i>Royal Brisbane Hospital—</i>		
<i>Trained Sisters—</i>		
Full time	184	207
Part time	2	15
Student Nurses	616	396
Cadet Nurses	6	85
<i>Assistants in Nursing—</i>		
Full time	47	160
Part time	15	13
Total	870	876
<i>Royal Children's Hospital—</i>		
<i>Trained Sisters—</i>		
Full time	44	39
Part time	Nil	11
Student Nurses	152	119
Cadet Nurses	Nil	8
<i>Assistants in Nursing—</i>		
Full time	20	34
Part time	Nil	1
Total	216	212

Of the staff employed at June 30, 1971, there were 33 charge sisters employed in wards at Royal Brisbane Hospital and nine at the Royal Children's Hospital. It will be noted that in certain categories the number of staff actually employed exceeds the approved establishment and in other categories the number employed is less than the approved figure. The Hospitals Board has authorised the General Matron to do this in order to provide greater flexibility in staffing arrangements."

MEDICAL STAFF VACANCIES, COUNTRY HOSPITALS

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

(1) Which hospitals, outside the Brisbane metropolitan area, had vacancies in the medical staff at June 30, 1971?

(2) How long have these vacancies existed?

(3) How many country hospitals have medical staff due for annual leave and unable to take this leave owing to the unavailability of relief or replacement staff?

(4) What is the longest delay in this regard affecting any medical officer?

Answers:—

(1) "Medical staff vacancies at July 30, 1971, existed for (a) medical superintendents with right of private practice at Aramac, Caloundra, Cracow; (b) resident medical officers and registrars at Atherton, Ayr, Bundaberg, Charters Towers, Gympie, Innisfail, Ipswich, Mackay, Mount Isa, Mount Morgan, Thursday Island, Townsville, and Warwick."

(2 to 4) "Details concerning the length of time that medical staff vacancies have existed and particulars concerning recreation leave entitlements of medical officers are recorded by the various hospitals boards throughout the State. The information sought by the Honourable Member is not readily available in this Department."

IN-PATIENTS, ROYAL BRISBANE AND ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS

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

How many in-patients were at the Royal Brisbane Hospital, public and intermediate, and the Royal Children's Hospital at June 30, 1971?

Answer:—

"The North Brisbane Hospitals Board has advised that the number of patients remaining in hospital as at June 30, 1971, were—Royal Brisbane, public 855, intermediate 37, total 892; Royal Children's, public 160, intermediate 6, total 166."

NATIONAL PARK, COOLOOLA AREA

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

What is the present position regarding the declaration of a National Park at Cooloola?

Answer:—

"At the request of Cabinet I prepared and submitted last December a subdivision of the Cooloola area into proposed national park and State forest. This was examined by Cabinet and it has been decided to defer until June 30, 1972, any further action in the declaration of the national park. The reason for this deferment is that a large section of the area proposed for national park reservation is covered by an authority to prospect which does not expire until that date. It is not

possible under the Forestry Act to declare a national park over an area covered by a current authority to prospect."

LICENCES TO SUPPLY WARM MILK

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

(1) How many warm milk supply licences are in operation in Queensland?

(2) Can any of these licences be sold and transferred to another person or persons?

(3) Are warm milk supply licences in Queensland to be abolished? If so, what form of compensation, if any, will be payable to the holder of such a licence?

Answers:—

(1) "There are 260 warm milk supply licences including producers and retail vendors in operation in Queensland."

(2) "Licences are transferable."

(3) "Abolishing such licences is not contemplated."

RAILWAY RUNNING STAFF, CHINCHILLA

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

What was the composition, in each classification, of Railway Department running staff stationed in Chinchilla, as at June 30, 1969, 1970 and 1971?

Answer:—

"The Honourable Member's interest in this matter which is outside his electorate is not exactly clear as the men concerned have already approached the Honourable Member for Condamine whose representations to me are being examined. The details are—

—	Drivers	Firemen ¹	Guards	Total
30-6-1969 ..	12	13	10	35
30-6-1970 ..	12	13	10	35
30-6-1971 ..	11	9	9	29"

MEMORANDUM TO SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
ON SUGGESTED EDUCATION
COMMISSION

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

(1) Did he send a memorandum headed "Re Education Commission" dated May 7, 1971, to school principals, requesting them to bring the memorandum to the attention of all teachers?

(2) Was this memorandum part of his reply to the Teachers' Union campaign for an Education Commission?

(3) In view of the way in which his Department criticises the Queensland Teachers' Union when it communicates with its teachers through school principals, how does he explain his use of school principals to distribute his anti-union political propaganda rejecting an Education Commission?

(4) Were the costs of distributing the memorandum borne by the Country Party or by the Department of Education?

(5) Will he give an assurance that in future he will refrain from making any use of Departmental channels for disseminating anti-union propaganda?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "The memorandum was to advise teachers of the wording of a section of the S.A. Karmel Report and to invite them to draw their own conclusions of that committee's views. The section of the report did, in fact, refer to the committee's views on the Queensland Teachers' Union proposal for an Education Commission, therefore my memorandum was in this sense associated with, rather than part of my reply, to the Teachers' Union campaign."

(3) "I have at no time caused to be distributed any item of propaganda or indeed anything which might reasonably be labelled anti-union political propaganda. To seek to inform and correct one or more statements made by a person or organisation is not to say one is anti that person or organisation. Indeed, it is surely an act of friendship and understanding to point out gently where an error is or may be being made."

(4) "As in the case of all non-political departmental correspondence pertaining to the welfare of teachers and/or informing them in matters of interest to them, cost of such distribution is borne by the Department. It so happens that in this instance, the memorandum to principals was generally enclosed with other matter normally circulated and a similar circular to parents and citizens' associations was also enclosed with other matter. Thus there was no real cost, certainly no additional cost as each letter was covered by minimum postage."

(5) "There is no question of anti-union propaganda. I was ensuring that teachers and parents were properly informed in matters of initial particular to them."

HIGH SCHOOL FOR BLACKWATER

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

(1) As almost 100 students from Blackwater now travel to Emerald for secondary studies and as this number will be nearer 200 at the beginning of 1972, will he

urgently consider the establishment of a high school at Blackwater for the commencement of the 1972 school year?

(2) What was the total departmental subsidy paid for the two buses used to transport children from Blackwater to Emerald during the last financial year and what subsidy is estimated for 1971-72?

Answers:—

(1) "It is not possible to provide a high school at Blackwater for the commencement of the 1972 school year."

(2) "1970-71, \$11,000; 1971-72, \$21,000."

ROCKHAMPTON FIRE BRIGADE BOARD

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

(1) What were the total contributions paid to the Rockhampton Fire Brigade Board by (a) the State Government, (b) local government authorities, (c) insurance companies and (d) others, during the 1970-71 financial year?

(2) What was the total cost of running the Rockhampton Fire Brigade for each of the last five fiscal years?

(3) What was the total amount paid to employees in overtime during 1970-71?

Answers:—

(1) "(a) \$51,375; (b) \$51,375; (c) \$308,247; and (d) \$8,850."

(2) "1966-67, \$204,248; 1967-68, \$240,436; 1968-69, \$269,328; 1969-70, \$318,408; and 1970-71, \$408,979."

(3) "The financial returns made by the Rockhampton Fire Brigade Board to the State Fire Services Council are not dissected to such an extent to indicate the amount paid for overtime worked. These details are held by the Rockhampton Fire Brigade Board."

RUST-PROOFING OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to a report of the British Automobile Association claiming that rust-proofing of new vehicles is possible for a cost of little more than \$1.00 per vehicle?

(2) Will he investigate the advisability of requiring all companies manufacturing motor vehicles in Queensland to rust-proof vehicles prior to their sale?

Answers:—

(1) "No."

(2) "Following on representations made to me in April by several Honourable Members of this House, I arranged for the question of rust proofing of cars to be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Vehicle Performance of the Australian Transport Advisory Council for consideration at a national level."

STUDENT WAITING LIST, IPSWICH OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL

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

(1) How many students at primary schools in the Ipswich area are awaiting enrolment at the Ipswich State Opportunity School?

(2) What is the current waiting time before admittance of such students to this school?

(3) Will he take steps to expedite admission so that these students will receive the extra attention so necessary and beneficial to them before it is too late?

Answers:—

(1) "Fifty-four."

(2) "There is no fixed waiting time, as this depends on vacancies caused by pupils leaving. Cases in urgent need of special education however are usually admitted with a minimum period of delay."

(3) "Investigations are being made at present into the possibilities of providing additional facilities for slow-learning pupils in the Ipswich area."

AMBERLEY STATE SCHOOL

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

(1) Have steps been taken by his Department to have the Amberley State School sound-proofed since he advised me that it was being considered?

(2) Have further negotiations taken place between the Department of Air and his Department for the re-siting of the Amberley School to a site farther away from the Air Base than the present one, where it is extremely difficult to carry on the work of the teachers and students because of excessive noises caused by aircraft in taking-off and landing and in warming-up on the tarmac?

Answers:—

(1) "At the request of my Department, the Department of Works is currently investigating the possibility of sound-proofing and air-conditioning the existing buildings."

(2) "The Commonwealth Department of the Interior has advised the Department of Works that, due to Commonwealth Treasury restrictions, it is unable to continue negotiations for the present."

TEACHER INSPECTION APPRAISALS

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

(1) In respect of appraisal inspections of teachers by the Education Department, will he give a definition of what constitutes an unsatisfactory inspection appraisal?

(2) Is such a definition available or has it been available at any time since 1960?

(3) As all teachers having a degree are paid a degree allowance, why are they not employed by the Department in the field which their degree covers?

Answers:—

(1) "A rating of "unsatisfactory" under any of the four headings by which teachers are appraised constitutes an unsatisfactory report."

(2) "This definition has been available since February, 1956."

(3) "Teachers are not paid a degree allowance. Teachers holding a degree or equivalent qualification are paid on a separate scale. Degreed teachers are employed, if they are otherwise suitable, in any field for which they are successful applicants."

BECKINGSALE REPORT ON RAIL FREIGHT RATES

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

(1) Has the result of the investigation and report on Queensland's rail freight structure been presented to Cabinet?

(2) If so, will the Beckingsale report be released as a public document and, if not, will the result of the Beckingsale inquiry be made available, in whole or part, to Members of this House?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "It was made clear from the outset of the study of rail freights by Beckingsale Management Services Pty. Ltd. that the reports would not be public documents because the investigators would be seeking confidential information from private individuals and organisations throughout Queensland. On this assurance and reassurance, the organisations willingly co-operated and provided extensive and valuable information which would not have otherwise been received. To publish the reports now would be a breach of trust. It is important to note that action has been taken on the recommendations of each report, either at Government or Railway Department level. To date 39 volumes of reports have been received (the first of which was made in March 1970) with more yet to come. Only three anomalies have been discovered so

far. These were attended to some time ago, and those concerned have been advised. It is mentioned that many of the matters referred to Beckingsale Management Services Pty. Ltd. were raised by the Railway Department itself in connection with its review of freight policies."

BYPASS ROAD, BALD HILLS-BURPENGARY

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

(1) When is it planned to commence construction of the Bald Hills-Burpengary bypass road?

(2) What is the estimated cost of the project and what is the planned date of completion?

Answers:—

(1) "It is planned to call tenders on the first stage from Roghan Road to Strathpine Road early this financial year."

(2) "The total cost of the project is estimated to be approximately \$11,000,000. It is planned to complete this project in stages. The first stage to provide a two-lane road from Bald Hills to Redcliffe Road is planned for completion in 1974-75. The date of completion of the full four-lane project to Burpengary depends on the availability of funds."

TEACHER ACCOMMODATION, MOUNT GARNET

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

Further to my Question of March 3 relative to teacher accommodation at Mt. Garnet—

(1) Has the investigation been completed and, if so, with what result?

(2) Will he consider providing new accommodation for two male and two female teachers, thus overcoming the serious accommodation position which exists at present?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The investigation has been completed and has resulted in a recommendation that accommodation for single teachers should be provided."

FISH-STOCKING OF TINAROO FALLS DAM

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

Are any investigations being carried out into the types of fish suitable for Tinaroo Falls Dam? If not, will he consider such investigation with a view to stocking these waters with suitable varieties of fish?

Answer:—

"In answer to a Question on March 24, on research carried out into stocking Tinaroo Falls Dam with fish, the Honourable Member was advised that: Apart from experiments with the introduction of a number of fish species into the Tinaroo Falls Dam in conjunction with the Tableland Anglers' and Acclimatisation Society and the Department of Harbours and Marine no research has been carried out and no recommendation has been made concerning suitable varieties. While experiments with the introduction of fish have been carried out at Borumba and Moogerah Dams, results have been inconclusive. Recently a trial breeding pond has been established at Callide Dam with a view to obtaining a larger number of young fish to introduce into the storage. There are no proposals to carry out further trials at Tinaroo Dam at this stage. Pending further information from the current trials at Callide Dam, further investigations or trials in respect of Tinaroo Falls Dam are not proposed."

ABORIGINAL INFANT MORTALITY

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to statements by Dr. McFarlane in *The Courier-Mail* of April 3 concerning the malnutrition death-rate of Aboriginal children in Queensland?

(2) Will he consider the upgrading of hospitals at Aboriginal communities with a view to overcoming the high rate of infant mortality?

(3) Will he arrange for a wide distribution of Dr. McFarlane's booklet amongst staff members and others?

(4) What are the infantile mortality rates in the various areas referred to?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2) "I am informed that the infant mortality rate is dependent on many factors other than hospital services. Programmes have been introduced to improve the housing, nutrition, and health of Aborigines. In respect to hospitals, in the past year new hospitals have been completed or are nearing completion at Mitchell River, Bamaga, Lockhart River, and Hopevale. The following hospitals are conducted with trained staff: Cherbourg, Woorabinda, Palm Island, Yarrabah, Bloomfield River, Hopevale, Lockhart River, Bamaga, Weipa, Aurukun, Edward River, Mitchell River, Mornington Island, Doomadgee. Clinical services are provided to the Cape and Gulf communities on a monthly basis by the Royal Flying Doctor Service. At Yarrabah, a medical officer from the Cairns Base Hospital visits the community fortnightly to conduct an

outpatients' session. At Palm Island full-time medical service is provided by rotation of staff from the Townsville General Hospital. Woorabinda receives a weekly visit. The medical superintendent from Murgon Hospital visits Cherbourg community twice per week to conduct outpatients' sessions. A medical officer from Thursday Island Hospital visits Bamaga on a fortnightly basis to conduct an outpatients' clinic. Daily radio medical clinics are provided by the medical superintendent, Thursday Island Hospital, for the remote Cape York communities and Torres Strait Islands."

(3) "I am informed that the booklet has been distributed by the Commonwealth Health Department to 2,800 medical practitioners in Queensland during June, 1971. Some distribution has also been made by the Division of Maternal and Child Welfare and the Queensland Health Education Council."

(4) "As no specific areas are referred to in the newspaper article or booklet and as the Bureau of Census and Statistics does not distinguish amongst Australian citizens on racial or ethnic grounds when compiling vital statistics, it is not possible to Answer the Question."

MOTOR VEHICLE REAR-VISION MIRRORS

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

(1) Has his attention been drawn to an article in *The Courier-Mail* of July 29, headed "Concrete truck driver cleared"?

(2) Following Judge Moynahan's remarks in this case, what steps does he propose to take to have all vehicles presently equipped with mirrors, which create blind spots, altered so as to overcome existing danger?

(3) What does he propose to do to lessen the danger to persons and property caused by the type of vehicle mentioned in this case?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes."

(2 and 3) "The actual reasons for the jury's decision are not known and it would appear that no evidence was submitted that the rear vision mirror fitted to the vehicle concerned was illegally fitted, and I quote His Honour Judge Moynahan in uncorrected transcript of the proceedings in the case 'The Queen v. Robert William Hines' in the District Court, Brisbane, on July 28, 1971—"Before I discharge the accused I would just like to say this; I do not quarrel with the jury's verdict, it was open to them whatever they wanted to do. It was their opinion on the facts. I only hope that, since, apparently on the evidence, there are so many of these trucks equipped with this type of mirror, I hope that this

type of submission to a jury will not be regarded by other truck drivers using this type of mirror who may find themselves in accidents. I hope it will not cause them to be over-conscientious with the handling of their vehicles. It would be a tragedy from the point of view of the community if truck drivers got any such ideas. I also would like to say this before I discharge the accused: Yes, fair enough, this does not seem to be a very good idea of a reversing mirror, and I think the authorities should pay very close attention to it. It seems to me a matter only of common sense that some better scheme to avoid this blind spot could be, without any great difficulty, evolved. Why on earth it cannot be put forward where it could not possibly interfere with the vision of the driver I do not understand, but I am not an engineer. I think the authorities should certainly give very, very close attention to the matter, because, if the same evidence and the same arguments are submitted to a jury the effect of this will mean complete immunity to any truck driver from the consequence of his driving, because he has a mirror that gives him a blind spot. This is a possibility, and with the road toll and the density of the traffic on our roads today it just horrifies me.' In view of His Honour's remarks this matter will be brought before the Advisory Committee on Vehicle Performance of the Australian Transport Advisory Council as a matter of urgency."

MILK SUPPLIERS AND PRICES, BRISBANE AREA

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

(1) How many farms are engaged in supplying milk to the Greater Brisbane area?

(2) What proportion of their total output, expressed in gallons, is used in the bottled-milk trade and how much is diverted for manufacturing purposes?

(3) What price in cents per gallon is returned to farmers for milk used for bottling and for milk diverted for manufacturing purposes?

(4) Since this milk is produced from the same cows under identical conditions of nutrition, costs and hygiene, why is there a price difference between milk used in the bottled-milk trade and that diverted for manufacturing?

Answers:—

(1) "Milk is supplied direct from 355 farms in close proximity to Brisbane and from 13 country factories to the Brisbane wholesaler. These 13 country factories obtain milk for sale as market milk from 1,774 of their suppliers."

(2) "In the 1970-71 financial year the Brisbane wholesaler received a total supply of 29,566,022 gallons of milk of which 22,197,279 gallons were distributed as market milk and 7,368,743 gallons were used for manufacturing purposes."

(3) "The current Milk Prices Order issued by the Brisbane Milk Board fixes the minimum price to be paid to producers for milk for use as pasteurised milk in the Brisbane Milk District at 52 cents per gallon, delivered Brisbane. There is no statutory provision for the price to be fixed for milk used for manufacture. This is purchased on a butterfat basis and the prices paid are 52.5 cents per pound butterfat for use as fresh cream and 50 cents per pound butterfat for use for other purposes."

(4) "To avoid the possibility of shortages to consumers occurring during adverse seasons, there must be some incentive for milk produced for the market milk trade to be available in adequate quantities throughout the year to meet this regular and steady market. Production during the winter months is more difficult and costly than during the warmer parts of the year since it involves unseasonal calving, supplementary feeding and very strict attention to production methods. This market being limited and controlled, therefore, commands a stabilised price based on production costs which is of overall benefit to both producers and consumers. Manufacturing milk, on the other hand, is used to supply an uncontrolled market and can only command prices in accordance with prices which can be realised for dairy products manufactured therefrom."

TESTING OF BULK MILK SUPPLIES, MOUNT ISA

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

(1) What tests are carried out by officers of his Department on bulk milk supplied in tankers to Mount Isa?

(2) Are tests made regularly?

(3) Have any impurities or foreign matter likely to prove injurious to public health been discovered by such tests? If so, what action has or will be taken to safeguard the public?

Answers:—

(1) "The following range of tests are conducted by departmental staff on tanker milks supplied for the pasteurised milk trade—Total bacterial count; Thermoduric bacterial count; methylene blue reductase test; butterfat content; solids-not-fat content; total solids content; adulteration; and extraneous matter content. An extensive laboratory and field advisory service is provided by the Department to all milk processing companies in the State. This service has evoked favourable comment from inter-State interests."

(2) "Yes. The rate of sampling will be increased in all areas of the State where circumstances warrant."

(3) "No."

COMMISSIONED OFFICER STAFFING,
POLICE DISTRICTS

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

(1) Why was it necessary to remove the second commissioned officer from all police districts in Queensland except Maryborough, Mount Isa, Bundaberg and Mackay?

(2) As previous Commissioners saw fit to have two commissioned officers in these areas, will he ask the present Commissioner to have a good look at these areas to ascertain whether his step in removing these officers was in fact a bad move?

Answer:—

(1 and 2) "The re-assignment of commissioned officers from the Warwick, Roma, Innisfail, Longreach and Charleville Police Districts, forms part of the overall re-organisation of the Police Force. It has enabled a more even workload to be established for commissioned officers generally and is a factor in achieving greater efficiency within available resources."

COMMONWEALTH AID FOR PRIMARY
SCHOOL LIBRARIES

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

In view of an announcement in the April edition of *Australian Library News* that the Commonwealth Government intends to introduce legislation allowing \$30 million to be spent on secondary school libraries, whilst once again allocating absolutely nothing to primary school libraries, will he make an urgent request to the Commonwealth Government for consideration to be given to primary school libraries in the proposed legislation?

Answer:—

"At its recent meeting in Brisbane, the Australian Education Council, which consists of the Ministers for Education from the six States discussed with the Commonwealth Minister the possibility of introducing a scheme of financial aid for libraries in primary schools. We acknowledge with gratitude the considerable financial assistance already given by the Commonwealth Government, and hope that sometime in the future the question of financial aid to primary school libraries may again be considered."

RAIL FREIGHT RATES ON GRAIN

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

(1) Is he aware that the Queensland Graingrowers Association has drawn the attention of the Railway Department to the high cost of grain freights in Queensland and has advised that the cost of rail freight from Dalby to Pinkenba was much more than the ocean freight from Pinkenba to Japan?

(2) Is he aware that on a ton-per-mile basis Queensland rail freights are almost double the average of those in other States and that this places Queenslanders at a disadvantage when competing for markets?

(3) Why has the Beckingsale Inquiry report not been released and why has the grain industry not been viewed to the same degree as mining-orientated freights?

(4) Can costing figures from the Railway Department substantiate the high rail charges on grain freights or is a substantial profit being made, thus subsidising low freight charges to mining organisations?

Answers:—

(1) "A number of submissions on grain freights has been received."

(2) "The freight rate in Queensland is not almost double the average in other States. The figures are—

	Australian Average	Queensland
1968-69 ..	\$6.97	\$9.06
1969-70 ..	\$7.20	\$9.06

New South Wales has recently announced increases in freight rates of 50 per cent. overall. There has been no change in Queensland rates since 1968 and it will be recalled that for wheat in the last season a 75 cent per ton rebate was made to help the industry."

(3) "The recommendations of the Report are being considered by the Railway Department. No promise was made to publish the report. Grain freights cannot be compared with special freights agreed for regular shipments on special rail lines. These freights cover all costs plus a margin and there is provision for escalation."

(4) "Contrary to what the Honourable Member says, no substantial profits are being made on grain freights and, as mentioned above, mineral freights need no subsidising."

HANDLING OF APPLICATIONS UNDER
RURAL RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME

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

(1) Has the efficiency and expediency of the Rural Reconstruction Board been hampered and impaired by the lack of staff qualified to handle the many applications for rural relief? If so, what steps have been taken to obtain the necessary staff?

(2) What is the average time before applicants for assistance will be advised of their fate?

Answers:—

(1) "The question of staffing of the Rural Reconstruction Board has been dealt with by the Public Service Board. In the establishing of a new statutory organisation it can be expected that some staffing problems will arise."

(2) "Initially two to three months, but this time will be reduced."

EXPORT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS TO JAPAN

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

(1) Are Queensland's dairy exports to Japan increasing and, if so, what effect will the phasing-out of dairy farms and the amalgamation programme have on this market?

(2) Does his Government expect to cut or lose dairy trade with Japan?

Answers:—

(1) "Yes, mainly cheese exports. It is not envisaged that the Marginal Dairy Farms Reconstruction Scheme will adversely affect Queensland trade in dairy products with Japan. The purpose of this scheme is to improve the overall efficiency of the dairy industry and to allow those farmers who wish to leave the industry to do so."

(3) "Trade in dairy products with Japan is expected to increase. The Australian Dairy Produce Board has been sponsoring trade with Japan in anticipation of offsetting any losses which could be sustained should the United Kingdom enter the European Economic Community."

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

PREVENTION OF VANDALISM IN METROPOLITAN
SCHOOLS

Dr. CRAWFORD: I ask the Minister for Education: What steps is the Department of Education taking to prevent vandalism in schools in the metropolitan area?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! A similar question was asked last week. However, I will leave it to the Minister.

Mr. FLETCHER: This matter was discussed here a few days ago. In conjunction with the Department of Works and the Police Department, every effort is being made to protect what is a rather worrying area because of the valuable equipment with which schools are now being endowed. I cannot say any more than that.

EFFECT ON DAIRY INDUSTRY OF GREAT
BRITAIN'S ENTRY INTO EUROPEAN
COMMON MARKET

Mr. HOUSTON asked the Premier: What effect will the entry of Britain into the European Common Market have on our dairy products, and what action has the Government taken in recent times to protect this vital industry?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: Both the Government and industry leaders are naturally very concerned about Great Britain's possible entry into the European Economic Community. Very close and intense representation is being made to the British Government by Federal as well as State Ministers, and also by Queensland's former Agent-General, Sir Alan Summerville, who has visited Great Britain repeatedly in connection with this matter.

I can assure the honourable member that every possible action has been taken to prepare for this eventuality. Naturally, the industry itself, together with the various Governments, is taking whatever action is possible to find alternative markets for its products.

COMMONWEALTH GRANTS FOR LOCAL
AUTHORITY RATE REMISSIONS TO
PENSIONERS

Mr. CASEY: I direct a question to the Minister for Local Government and Electricity. Has his department made approaches to the Commonwealth Government in an endeavour to obtain special grants for Queensland local authorities to cover part or the whole of the moneys remitted by them to pensioners as rate concessions? If not, and in view of current Budget submissions, will he make a direct approach to the Commonwealth Government to have such grants instigated?

Mr. RAE: I could answer the question, although it contains a good deal of detail. We have made approaches to the Commonwealth Government, but they were not as successful as we would have liked them to be. Nevertheless, the Commonwealth Government has recognised Queensland's plight and has been generous in many ways. The matter of pensioners is an old one that is brought up constantly, and we cannot get it through to the Commonwealth Government that it should accept it as far as State activities are concerned.

TEACHER-TRAINEE ALLOWANCES

Mr. WRIGHT: I ask the Premier: In view of the renewed concern amongst parents and students over the miserable allowances paid to students at teachers' colleges, will he advise if it is still intended to review these allowances with the intention of increasing them, either in or before the forthcoming Budget?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: As the honourable member should be aware, this is a matter that will be dealt with by the Treasurer in Cabinet when it is discussing the presentation of the Budget.

TELEVISION SCREENING OF FILM,
"THE CHILD MOLESTER"

Mr. WRIGHT: I ask the Premier: With regard to my question of 6 April last in which I asked him if he would give special consideration to having the film entitled "The Child Molester" shown by all commercial and A.B.C. television stations, has he discovered if the film is available and was my request considered? If so, what was the decision?

Mr. BJELKE-PETERSEN: I could not quite follow the details of the honourable member's question, and I am not aware of the matter to which he refers. I ask that the question be put on notice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HANLON (Baroona) (12.11 p.m.), by leave: I wish to refer to an article which appeared in the Brisbane "Telegraph" of Saturday, 31 July, under the heading, "QCE v. M.L.A. Clash May Split Labor".

There is no need for me to quote the article. I feel that honourable members are familiar with it, and with the statements therein attributed to Mr. Egerton, as State A.L.P. president, and to that anonymous Q.C.E. member who invariably appears on hand to add to anything that Mr. Egerton says.

I can only describe as a particularly vicious form of lie—or I suppose I should say, in parliamentary terms, "untruth"—the suggestion that I or any other member of the State Labor Caucus intended or sought to censure Mr. Houston. It is patently clear that Mr. Egerton has made such a suggestion for the express purpose of harming me and some of my colleagues as Labor members of this Parliament. He has completely disregarded the obvious slur it would impose on Mr. Houston if it were accepted by the public as in any way true, coming as it did as a comment on a Press report of a very narrow vote in caucus.

On the contrary, a unanimous motion commending Mr. Houston's leadership was the first action of the Labor Caucus following the recent by-elections, and my Parliamen-

tary Labor Party colleagues here well know that I was instrumental in the submission of that motion.

As to the reference in the article to threats of loss of party endorsement for myself or any of my Parliamentary Labor Party colleagues, I say as clearly and as forcefully as I am able, "I have nothing but absolute contempt for this pathetically crude attempt at intimidation". Indeed, I feel sorry for persons who apparently subscribe to a very peculiar form of apartheid of their own—that is, that anyone who disagrees with them must be segregated.

Mr. Aikens: You know you are going to get the axe, don't you?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Townsville South will get the No. 123A axe if he is not careful.

WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION

DISALLOWANCE OF PROCLAMATION AND
ORDER IN COUNCIL

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition): Owing to yesterday's happening and the laying on the table by the Premier of an Order in Council this morning, I ask leave of the House to withdraw the motion standing in my name.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

Debate resumed from 28 July (see p. 22) on Mr. Muller's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. HOUSTON (Bulimba—Leader of the Opposition) (12.15 p.m.): On re-reading the Opening Speech of His Excellency the Governor, I felt that although he was, naturally, speaking on behalf of the Government, on a good many points he was apologising for the Government's poor performance over the last 12 months. However, I shall have more to say about that as I progress.

As is customary at the beginning of each parliamentary session, I reaffirm, on behalf of the Opposition, our complete loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen and to the British Throne.

I notice that in his Opening Speech His Excellency said—

"During the past year my wife and I have visited a number of rural areas which have been adversely affected by drought and depressed wool prices.

"I have been most impressed by the fortitude shown by the country men and women under such conditions, and I hope that some means will be found to keep them on the land which has been their lifelong interest and occupation."

I may say that I completely endorse those remarks of His Excellency. I, together with all my parliamentary colleagues, have over the last few months taken the opportunity of travelling through many miles of our State and having discussions with people in all walks of life on their problems and ways and means of overcoming them. I do not believe that it is good enough to leave everything to Nature in the hope that Nature itself will solve all our problems. I do not believe it is good enough for a Government to allow others to tackle these problems and then sit back and say, "We cannot do very much. We will give you a little money, but otherwise it is up to you to solve your problems."

There is too much of this leaving of things to others; the Government should take a lead in solving problems as they arise, irrespective of what they are. I expect the Government of the day to show some responsibility and act forcibly to assist those who need help. In my travels throughout the State I found that people living outside the metropolitan area were completely disgusted with the Government's performance over the last 12 months. I know that the Government can say that it has won two recent by-elections, but I shall have more to say about that later. The point is that no matter where we went the same things were heard by my colleagues and me. We were constantly asked, "What can you do to help us? The Government has left us flat. It has left us to look after ourselves." One man, a wool-grower, produced to me documents which showed that his debt exceeded \$250,000. How can that man be left to his own resources? In my view, he should never have been allowed to get into that situation; help should have been given to him much sooner.

Mr. Bird: Have you read the A.L.P. rural policy?

Mr. HOUSTON: The honourable member for Burdekin cannot even read. He could not tell me anything about the rural policy of the A.L.P. I know it backwards, and in my view the only thing that can save country people is its implementation.

Let us look at some of the things of which the Government has been guilty. High rail freights are one of the things that are killing the country people of this State. Honourable members opposite believe that every Government activity must show a profit. All they are concerned about is making a profit, irrespective of who suffers. In the days of Labor Governments, the railway system was used as a means of decentralisation. The policy of Labor was that service to the people in country areas, not making a profit, was the important thing.

When the Government came into office, that policy was changed. The Government called in "experts" to advise it. It called in Yanks to tell it how to run the State. Now, people in country areas are burdened

with freight rates that they cannot afford to pay. The sooner the Government looks at its freight-rate policy, the better it will be for Queensland and Queenslanders. It is over two years since the Government said it would have an inquiry conducted into rail-freight rates. I well remember the Premier saying publicly that when this matter was raised in Cabinet he was the one man who criticised freight rates.

Mr. Tucker: He was the Lone Ranger.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is right. Two years ago a freight-rate inquiry was initiated, yet today the people living outside Brisbane still suffer as a result of the present high rates.

Honourable members were told also that the Government was trying to reduce road taxes. However, road taxes have not been reduced and people in country areas are saddled not only with the cost of taking their products to the market but also with the cost of bringing from the city all the commodities that they use in their ordinary, every-day living and in their business.

Why are people living in country areas compelled in many instances not to support local enterprises? When they want a certain product, they buy it in Brisbane and have it transported to the area in which they live. They can buy it more cheaply in Brisbane because freight rates work against the local producer in a country area who has to buy the material he needs, pay freight on it, and eventually charge a higher price. That is not desirable and, despite all the talk that one hears from honourable members opposite about attempting to assist people living in country areas, in practice the Government is not assisting them.

Mr. Hughes: Labor raised rail freights nine times in nine years. What do you say about that?

Mr. HOUSTON: The honourable member should look at the percentage and the total amount. There is a great difference. He refers to the number of times that Labor Governments raised freight rates. The one change made by a Country-Liberal Government did more damage than all the action taken by Labor Governments during their time in office. Labor's policy was, and still is, service before profits in the field of decentralisation.

I remember that 14 years ago, which was just about the time that a Country-Liberal Government first came to power in this State, great play about the state of country roads was made in the Address-in-Reply debate by new members representing country electorates. I remember the promises that were made of a bitumen road to Mt. Isa in five years, a bitumen road right through from Longreach to the Far West, a bitumen road connecting Cunnamulla and Charleville and a bitumen road from Hughenden through Longreach to Winton. All these promises were made in a short period of years.

Mr. Bird interjected.

Mr. HOUSTON: The honourable member should keep quiet. There will soon not be an electorate for him to contest.

As far as roads in country areas are concerned, I might ask where the Minister for Mines and Main Roads was when a recent very important meeting of Cabinet was held at which it was decided to declare a state of emergency. Reports say that his car was bogged on a main road near Ingham. Honourable members talk a lot about main roads. The bituminising of main roads from the coast to country areas must be given priority over the rebuilding of other roads.

Mr. Bird: Must they take precedence over Brisbane?

Mr. HOUSTON: The financial situation is different. Apparently the honourable member for Burdekin wants country local authorities to pay for roads in their areas. What a lot of nonsense! The State Government should pay for them. If the honourable member knows so little about the situation in Brisbane, let me tell him that the great majority of roads in the Brisbane metropolitan area are provided and paid for by the Brisbane City Council.

Let us look at some of the roads in country areas. Outside Nambour one finds a six-lane highway built a few years ago by a Country-Liberal Government. How much traffic does it carry when the main roads coming into and leading out of Nambour are only two-lane highways? I have no fight with a policy of building good main roads, but I believe that the present priorities are completely wrong. There must at least be bitumen roads to the main areas of the State. They are a "must", and work on them should take priority over the remaking of what are now fairly good roads.

In my recent trip round the State, I travelled over mile after mile of road which, although not perfect, was in reasonably good condition. However, mile after mile of it was being torn up and a new highway was being built.

What is going on in the Government? Apparently the spoils are going not to the victors but to certain members of Parliament, because in some instances the worst roads are in electorates held by Country Party members. I instance the road to Mt. Isa. The first part of it is not too bad, and out in the area of the honourable member for Burke it is still not too bad. It is in the areas held by Country Party members where we find the most trouble. The Government has to get on with the job of improving these roads.

I refer now to the cost of living in country areas. Cigarettes can be purchased in any part of the West at the same price as in Brisbane. That applies to other commodities, too, but why cannot this practice be extended to many more of the popular commodities?

Mr. Tucker: Including foodstuffs.

Mr. HOUSTON: Mainly foodstuffs and clothing. Some of the items that are required in a house, pillow-cases for example, have a fixed price throughout Australia, no matter where they are bought. That is the sort of thing we need. As private enterprise is involved, the fixed price has to be negotiated. It is a matter for negotiation between the Government and private enterprise. We just cannot leave it to somebody else. The Government must play its part. It must come into this matter and negotiate with private enterprise.

I turn now to the cost of production. The cost of living is a vital factor, as are freight rates and so many other things. I realise that the first cry of Government members relates to wage costs. That is the greatest lot of nonsense of all time. Labour costs would be one of the lowest items involved in the cost of living in country areas. We want country towns to prosper and grow, but to bring that about it is necessary to pay the appropriate wages to people who are prepared to live in them or obtain services from them. If the Government tries to get a stable economy by denying those people wage justice, it will defeat the whole purpose of decentralisation. Surely decentralisation means that we get people to live in areas throughout the State.

Let me now speak for a moment about markets. The wool market is currently in the news. Apart from drought, the low price of wool is the main factor contributing to the many problems of wool-growers, the shearers who work for them, and those who live in the towns and service those who work on the properties. Fundamentally, what has to be improved is the price of wool. The Australian Labor Party is doing a tremendous job through its Federal members in endeavouring to find solutions to these problems. What concerns me is not only what is happening now but what can happen in the future.

My concern has been expressed by others who have had years of experience on the land. They are getting worried because of the number of people who are switching from sheep to cattle production, which of course is a very wise move. If one commodity is not paying, it is natural enough to go in for something else and we have no fight with that at all. In many instances the land is not suitable to make the switch from wool-growing to cattle production, but if the land is suitable I believe that these people are doing the right thing by making the switch. However, they are doing the right thing only if responsible people in other sectors do the right thing by them. I am referring now to the need to get markets for them. It is necessary to get markets for all our primary products.

While on that subject, I completely endorse and commend the action of the Labor team that went to China looking for markets for Australian products. It was the greatest lot

of nonsense I ever heard when some people said that they prejudiced our markets when then went overseas.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen: Did they get any markets?

Mr. HOUSTON: They certainly opened doors. The Premier will not get markets from behind closed doors, no matter what he does. He has not got the markets.

The Premier should assist those who are trying to work for Australia. He should not play party politics and, because it happens to be China, say he wants nothing to do with that market, when he knows full well that we have been selling wheat and other commodities to China for years. As a friendly gesture to the Premier, I offer him a word of advice. Instead of comparing the Labor leader with a Pekinese dog he should at least have used the correct expression. In what he said, he was way off beam from what he intended to imply. Whether we like it or not, China's politics and her desires as to her place in the world are completely tied up with trade. We might not like the idea, but that is the position. China's trade and politics go together.

I remember reading the other day that wool-growers threatened the Federal Government with a block adverse vote if something was not done to subsidise wool prices or to provide some other assistance to the industry. I have no doubt that this threat would have been carried out, and evidently the Federal Government thought so, because it did something about it. In today's "Telegraph" I notice headlines reading, "U.S. will Back Red China for United Nations Seat". This is what Red China is after. She wants a seat in the United Nations. We may not agree with it, but the point is that China is using trade as a means of encouraging other countries of the world to support her in this direction.

So far as I am concerned, I am interested in trade and in selling the commodities that our people produce. If we encourage people to produce, we have to do something as a State Government to help them find markets. I do not believe it is our duty to sell the commodities, but we should be out finding markets. As I announced three years ago, I believe that trade offices should be set up in Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore with the object of exploiting these markets. The Premier endorsed my actions by saying that he was going to set up a trade office in Tokyo, but then we witnessed the rumblings and fighting within the Cabinet and, when the Minister for Works and Housing said that he wanted the job, the idea was apparently scrapped.

I stress that the solution to many of our trade problems is to have representatives in such areas. The person in Singapore could look after the Malay Peninsula and Indonesia. As the Premier knows, we recently had a visit from the Ambassador for

Indonesia. The Premier spoke to him, as I did, and I imagine he spoke on much the same subjects. In my conversation the whole emphasis was on trade. The Ambassador for Indonesia wants trade, but we do not want it one way; we want to be able to sell the products we produce.

If I can make any plea in this debate, I exhort the Government for God's sake to get out and sell. Unfortunately, we have been leaving everything to the primary producer. I do not care what manufactured product we speak about, whether it be a refrigerator, a radio, a TV set or anything else, it is first of all designed by an engineer and then manufactured by tradesmen, but the person who manufactures it does not go out and sell it. Trained, experienced salesmen are employed to go out and sell these goods. They have only a very minute knowledge of the construction details, but they know how to sell and they know what the article can do. I believe that this is what we should be doing in all fields.

Mr. McKechnie: You would not criticise the Wheat Board? It is doing a very good job.

Mr. HOUSTON: I am not criticising anyone on the job he is doing, but I do say that, good though the work of the Wheat Board is, in today's international economy and the political desires of countries as to joining or not joining the United Nations, the day is past when we can simply leave these things even to genuine people, without backing them up in the field with a top sales-promotion team.

One of the things I discovered in my visit overseas last year was that people overseas criticised the Australian Wool Board's standard of pure wool or nothing. This just did not go over, because many persons who wanted to buy our wool were desirous of using synthetics and other fabrics in combination with wool. They told me they did not like Australia condemning the use of their products, and that they would therefore buy their wool from other sources. Whether they do that or not, I do not know, but their argument is logical and sound. By all means the Government should set up wool boards, wheat boards, grain boards and other boards to market our goods, but at the same time it should employ experts to assist those boards.

Primary industry is not the great employer of labour that it was years ago when masses of men and women were engaged in it. These days, owing to the use of modern machinery and methods, the number of employees in primary industry has been greatly reduced. But that is no reason why our towns and cities should be allowed to die. In America a great number of States are without outlets to the seaboard, yet they are flourishing States. That is simply because they have created secondary industries complementary to primary industries, and in many instances

their secondary industries depend upon the primary industries. However, Queensland's industry is still centered on the eastern seaboard, particularly the Brisbane area.

During my visit to Charters Towers I visited the State battery. It is in a disgraceful state of disrepair and only a small portion of it can be used. The local people want a new battery to be established in their town, so I believe that the Department of Industrial Development should look at the matter to determine whether or not the establishment of a new battery is feasible. It is not necessary that a new battery make massive profits; as long as it is giving good service and can be paid for, it should be assisted. It would create work and hold people in the area.

The word "battery" brings to mind my visit to Longreach where one man had a complete set-up for manufacturing storage batteries. I am sure that the Minister for Local Government and Electricity is aware of this. He manufactured batteries and supplied the whole of the local area; however, with low production he could not compete with the large southern manufacturers, so he was forced to close down his workshop. What did that mean to the area? It meant that the bread-winners in three or four families were unemployed. This is the type of thing the Department of Industrial Development should look at.

During my recent tour of the Darling Downs I visited Killarney, which is well known to all of us as the town that suffered the devastation of a cyclone. It was days before the Government realised that there had even been a cyclone, and when it did, its first work in repairing the cyclone damage, and within 24 hours of sending assistance to the area, was on the building that housed the local T.A.B. so that it could operate again. I suppose the people of Killarney will never forget that.

For years a business known as Hancock Meats has operated in Killarney. It now employs 17 men and its annual turnover is estimated to be \$1,000,000. It is well known in the area that that business will close down before September. I ask the honourable member for Warwick, who is a Country Party member, what he has done to prevent the closing down of that business. When I have finished my speech he should jump to his feet and tell us what he has done on behalf of the people of Killarney to help keep the meatworks operating.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen: What would you suggest?

Mr. HOUSTON: First of all, as the Premier knows, Hancock's want money and at a low interest rate. If time permits, I shall deal with interest rates. Country areas should be looked at not from the viewpoint of profit and loss but from that of keeping the local people there. I am convinced that markets will improve, but market improvements alone

will not keep people in the country. If the Government allows the Killarney meatworks to close down, it is virtually saying to the 17 families who rely on the meatworks for their income, "O.K., pack up your traps and go somewhere else." Does not the Government realise the effect that that will have on other people? If 40 people are lost to an area, the number of pupils at the local school will fall, as will the number of people who buy clothing and food in the area. It is not good enough to sit idly by and let an industry die.

I am glad that the honourable member for Carnarvon is in the Chamber because I have a few comments to make about the dumping of fruit. I do not decry the honourable member's efforts in trying to get a cannery established in the Granite Belt. As he knows, I have always supported him. He attended a meeting that I addressed in that area, and I pay him credit in that he said to me afterwards that he supported my advocacy of a cannery although he did not agree with some of my other comments. It is useless for the Government to say, "We have not got the money". Queensland cannot afford not to have the money. We can argue about money being available and not being available, but it should be noted that, when the Brisbane Cricket Ground Trust wanted to construct some buildings and a dog-racing track—and everyone knows I favour dog-racing—the State Government Insurance Office came to the party and, on occasions, other organisations come to the party when finance is needed. The Government has a responsibility to help country people, including people in the Granite Belt area, to get projects under way that are important to them.

Mr. Casey: The Government has gone to the dogs.

Mr. HOUSTON: The way matters are going it seems that everything is going to the dogs.

With reference to the state of emergency declared recently by the Government, I believe that statements made prior to the visit by the Springboks to Queensland were deliberate exaggerations with an eye to the then forthcoming by-elections. The Government quickly framed the stunt phrase, "Law and Order". I thought I remembered that phrase and, going back in history, I found that the same one was used in exactly similar circumstances by the German political party which became known as the Nazi Party. Members of that party used it when "conning" people into supporting them in their early days in Germany. They demanded "law and order"—exactly the same phrase—and they were successful. It did not take me long to discover where the Liberal and Country Parties in Queensland got this phrase. It is evident that the Government's attitude is getting ever closer to the lines of the Fascist doctrine. That is why we are terribly worried about the future of this State.

The provision in the State Transport Act covering the issue of proclamations such as the recent one was designed to meet situations when the Government believed there was a state of emergency, or when it feared that the Government of the day was threatened. But how was it used on this occasion? The Premier made many statements about why it was being used. He said it was being invoked to make sure that the football teams had somewhere to play. In all seriousness, if I invite someone to stay the night at my home and then find that I have not enough beds or food, would I be right in approaching the Government or someone else and saying, "My next-door neighbour has plenty of food and beds; take them over for me because I want to use them?" That is exactly what the Government did.

Mr. Porter: That is so naive it is almost unbelievable.

Mr. HOUSTON: That is all very well. I heard the honourable member arguing for the Government in a recent debate and he was "done like a dinner". On the two occasions when Cabinet Ministers were asked, firstly, by the news media and, secondly, by the University Staff Association, to defend the Government's action, not one Minister would do so, and I compliment the honourable member for Toowong on stepping into the breach. It is rather ironic that a person who was, a few months ago, so much off side with Cabinet was the man Cabinet relied on to carry its torch. At any rate, it made very little difference.

Mr. Miller: Name one Cabinet Minister who was asked.

Mr. HOUSTON: I know the honourable member is a prospective Cabinet Minister. He should ask Cabinet who declined, or he could ask the honourable member for Toowong, who is sitting next to him, because he would know.

At any rate, the Government decided to introduce this state of emergency. The Premier made some wild and woolly statements, according to the Press. We know that we cannot always believe what we read in the Press, but, because his statements were repeated from time to time and not denied by him, I take it that, if they were not his exact words, he meant the implication they conveyed. He said, among other things, that he had evidence which indicated that we would be raided by massive numbers of disrupters who would come up here and virtually turn the football match held last Saturday week into a blood bath. He said that all kinds of vicious weapons were being made and that, all in all, anarchy would reign in Brisbane—all planned and all deliberate.

I said at the time, and I repeat, that if the police had any evidence of the manufacture of weapons or anything else that would injure people, arrests should have been made.

The A.L.P. is completely opposed to anything that leads to injury to any person or animal. We would have been completely on side with the Government if it had taken action through the Police Department to arrest those responsible. I claim that, because no arrests were made, and because, right up till now, no-one has been able to put the finger on any group of people who made these things, it was only raised as an excuse to introduce the state of emergency. That was not the real reason at all. The reason it was wanted, which was finally admitted, was to take over the Royal National Association showground.

The Government did not care whether it rained or not over that four days. Many of us can recall what happened when football matches were played at the Exhibition oval some years ago. It cost the Royal National Association thousands of dollars to repair the damage done to that oval.

Mr. Hodges: If it had rained, it need not have gone on.

Mr. HOUSTON: The Minister did not make that statement when the question was put point-blank to him. It is all very well for him to say that, now that the match is over and the weather was fine.

Mr. Hodges: It was understood.

Mr. HOUSTON: The Minister said, on an open programme, that under no conditions would the tour not go on. He said that under no conditions would the tour be stopped. Therefore it is so much nonsense to say now that if it had rained the match need not have gone on.

Mr. Hodges: Get your facts straight.

Mr. HOUSTON: I have my facts exactly right.

Mr. Hodges: You have got Jack Egerton's story.

Mr. HOUSTON: I have the right story. The Minister knows that he and I discussed it, so do not let us have any doubt about it.

What really matters is the reason the state of emergency was introduced. The Government was determined that the match should go on. Of course, the A.L.P. had a different attitude. We back the United Nations idea. It is no good claiming to be against apartheid and then doing everything possible to encourage it. And that is what the Government did. Other parts of the world so interpreted the Government's action.

A Government Member: How do you know?

Mr. HOUSTON: I can read; the honourable member cannot. I do not know what people think apartheid is if they do not regard it as the segregation of people. I have evidence of what I am saying, although I have not the time to read it all. "The Catholic Leader"

came out with the statement that South African blacks are deprived of their basic rights. That publication sets out the position in detail, and I commend a reading of it to honourable members opposite, irrespective of their religions.

If honourable members opposite do not like that, let them consider what was said by the Reverend Dr. Scott McPheat, a Presbyterian minister who recently returned with three other Presbyterian ministers from a fact-finding study of racism in South Africa. He labelled as "naive" the attitude that politics and sport do not mix. He said that Australians could not afford to adopt that attitude any longer, and that they should "demonstrate their moral indignation by demonstrating non-violently." Those are the words of a man of some repute, surely, in our community, with nothing to gain politically.

The Labor Party objected to the Springbok tour, and I do not apologise for its attitude. We believe that encouraging such tours is in effect saying to South African whites, "Carry on as you are." I am quite convinced that white South Africans want their present Government, whose policy will not be changed till the people of that country realise that the rest of the world wants nothing to do with them. And one of the things that matter to them is sport.

I am not alone in my view. I refer to "The Courier-Mail" of 28 July 1971, in which it is stated—

"The United Nations special committee on apartheid decided on Monday to protest to the Australian Government against any tour of Australia by South African sporting teams selected on basis of race.

"The 17-nation committee agreed to lodge a protest deploring the Australian tour by the Springboks Rugby Union team, and expressing indignation and shock that in October a South African cricket team is scheduled to tour Australia."

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: Only three of those countries elect their Governments by democratic process.

Mr. HOUSTON: Is the honourable member concerned about all those things? I am rather surprised that he has come in to back his Government. He knows what he said recently, and I quite agree with it. I believe that the Government deliberately set up a situation to enable it to declare a state of emergency. I gave notice of my disallowance motion on Wednesday last. It could have been debated on Thursday. However, the Government chose not to debate it on Thursday, and lifted the state of emergency yesterday. I do not believe that the declaration of a state of emergency was necessary.

There is one other matter to which I wish to refer and which is, I believe, of major

importance. We hear much talk about law and order. But what about our own laws?

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen: Are you going to tell us about the 18 Commos who were up there with your chaps?

Mr. HOUSTON: There may have been 18 Communists there, but there were also 24 members of the Country Party and 62 members of the Liberal Party. They were up there, too. What has the Premier to say about that?

What I am concerned about is the Premier's talk of law and order. We of the Labor Party believe in truth and justice. Never mind about the "Nazi" cry; let us have a look at the law-and-order situation in our own State. In the first six months of 1969, 885 dwelling-houses in the metropolitan area were broken and entered. For the first six months of 1971, the number of offences increased by 66 per cent., to 1,469. Yet the Premier talks about law and order! What about some law and order in the protection of people and their property? Of the 885 crimes of breaking and entering, only 193 were solved. This year, of the 1,469 cases, only 202 were solved. Although there was an increase of 66 per cent. in the number of offences of breaking and entering dwelling-houses, there was only a very small increase in the number of crimes solved.

In the metropolitan area in 1969, there were 2,259 offences of breaking and entering buildings other than dwelling-houses, and of those crimes only 471 were solved. This year, two years later, the number of similar crimes has increased to 2,733, of which only 458 have been solved. In other words, whilst there has been an increase of 21 per cent. in the number of breaking-and-entering offences, fewer of them have been solved. In the remainder of the State there were 376 breaking-and-enterings in 1969, only 79 of which were solved.

Recently the Government brought a large number of police from country areas to Brisbane. It did not care two hoots what happened in the rest of the State as long as it was able to bring the police here for the by-elections in Merthyr and Maryborough and show how forceful it was. In the first six months of the year, 719 houses outside the metropolitan area were broken into and ransacked, but only 127 of those crimes were solved.

(Time expired.)

Mr. CORY (Warwick) (12.56 p.m.): I am very pleased to take part in the Address-in-Reply debate. Before dealing with other matters, I thank His Excellency the Governor for opening this session of Parliament and congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion on their contributions to the debate.

I also take this opportunity of welcoming personally to this Chamber both the new

member for Merthyr and the new member for Maryborough and wishing them a very long, happy and rewarding stay in Parliament.

I was not present when the Leader of the Opposition spoke, so I do not know what he said about the Killarney abattoir. However, it is obvious that the honourable gentleman does not know of the negotiations and discussions that have taken place relative to this abattoir over the last four years, particularly in the last six months. When any of my constituents discuss their problems with me, their personal business is confidential and it is not my intention to discuss their private affairs here.

I shall deal now with a couple of matters that are very important to me. Although they do not come within the direct responsibility of the State Government, one of them is administered by a State Government instrumentality.

Anomalies have arisen in the administration of two rural assistance schemes, the scheme relative to the amalgamation of dairy farms and the \$30,000,000 emergency scheme for the wool industry. The intention of both schemes was good, and many people are being given assistance under them. However, a number of anomalies have become evident in their operation and I believe that they are far too inflexible and that nothing has been gained from the lessons learnt in the initial stages of their implementation.

In my opinion, the anomalies are due solely to a lack of flexibility. Schemes of this type, which deal with human beings and the finances of human beings, should be looked at from a personal point of view and, if possible, administered on a personal basis. Honourable members know that one learns many lessons the hard way as one goes through life, and a sensible person benefits from those lessons and does better the next time he is confronted with a similar problem. In exactly the same way, use should be made of the lessons learnt in the implementation of the schemes to which I refer. Neither of the schemes existed before, so no-one can be blamed for not foreseeing all the problems that might arise in their implementation. But once any scheme gets off the ground and we learn from experience and become aware of anomalies, there should be flexibility in administration so that people can be assisted in the way intended when it was introduced.

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

Mr. CORY: Before the luncheon recess I was referring to what I believe to be anomalies that are showing up in the operation and administration of two of our rural reconstruction schemes. In particular, I was referring to anomalies that have become evident in the marginal dairy farms reconstruction scheme, which, of course, is part of the over-all picture. I am hopeful that the basis on which these schemes were set up will allow for greater flexibility so that

advantage can be taken quickly of what has been learned by experience and, in this way, speedily remove the anomalies that have shown up. It was not surprising that these anomalies should have shown up, as none of us had had previous experience with this type of administration. With our lack of experience we were not to know all the circumstances that were likely to arise. Now that they have arisen, we should have a policy and an organisation to cope with them.

I congratulate the officers of the Lands Department who are administering the marginal dairy farms reconstruction scheme. They have done a very good job, so much so that although the scheme has been operating for only nine months they have already spent more than 12 months' allocation from the Commonwealth Government. That is an indication that they got going without delay. They were able to receive and process applications and get the scheme operating very quickly. Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Eaton and Mr. Parker deserve our congratulations for what they have been able to do.

I wish to mention in detail what I consider to be a set of circumstances that is completely tying the hands of these gentlemen. I refer to the terms of the scheme as laid down by the Commonwealth Government. Persons who receive 50 per cent. or more of their income from the manufacture of dairy products are eligible for assistance. On the face of it, it does not sound too bad as it means that the scheme is available to the person who is mainly dependent on the manufacturing side of the dairy industry, and he is the dairyman who is in the worst position. However, I will be able to point out how many others who are providing a percentage of whole milk and a percentage of manufacturing milk are not getting a fair deal with the break-off point at 50 per cent.

The price received for manufacturing milk is approximately half that received for whole milk. Therefore, it is obvious that a supplier does not have to produce a great percentage of his total output for the whole-milk market to obtain more than 50 per cent. of his income from that source. In effect, less than one-third of production would give more than 50 per cent. of income, yet the other 50 per cent. of such income would be attracting a 66½ per cent. of cost. It can be seen from these figures that a person who is only getting 50 per cent. from whole-milk supply is not in the position where there should be a break-off point from aid under a scheme such as this.

I believe that the scheme should be based not on income received from the various percentages but on the percentage of production that goes to these various sectors of the industry. After all, costs bear a relationship to production. Therefore, I think the eligibility under the scheme should similarly bear a relationship to production. The costs in these industries make it necessary for schemes of this type to be introduced,

and I think we should bear in mind the relationship between production and costs. The only way we can do that is to work on a production basis.

As I say, if a person is receiving half his income from the manufacturing side of milk, he has to supply two-thirds of his production to get that half income and in doing so he incurs two-thirds of his costs. I think the matter must be looked at in this way. Therefore, I believe that the cut-off point in this scheme is too low. I think that if we put it at 50 per cent. of production instead of 50 per cent. of actual income we would find that the proportions would be round 70 per cent. and 30 per cent. rather than 50 per cent. and 50 per cent., and, looking at the economy in the industry as it affects the individual, I think we would be nearer the point of helping most of those in need.

Just as a matter of interest, for a given quantity of milk produced, if the whole production went to manufacturing purposes we could expect to get a return of, say, 2, whereas if the same production went into the whole-milk and pasteurised-milk market the same production would be valued at 4, or exactly double. If we took the various percentages into which the production is broken up at any stage in between, we would get variations in the income from the identical production on which, of course, identical costs are incurred.

I believe that if we could make this eligibility break-off point above the figure of 50 per cent. of income and correlate it to 50 per cent. of production, the scheme would be able to assist, where necessary, two-thirds of those in the industry, whereas at the present time it appears to be assisting less than one-half. In my area, quite a number of farmers are caught in this predicament. Less than 50 per cent. of the production of those who supply the Warwick factory goes into the bottle-milk and whole-milk trade. It varies during various times of the years. Obviously in winter, when the supply is low, it may reach over the 50 per cent., but on the average it is well below 50 per cent. As a matter of fact, it is nearer 30 per cent. The income they receive from that quantity of milk is in excess of 50 per cent. of their total income, yet it is quite obvious that they are the ones the scheme should be designed to assist. Perhaps there is another answer to the problem, but the obvious one is the correlation of eligibility to production instead of to income.

I know that the Commonwealth Government has been made aware of the problem. In fact, my complaint is that it has been aware of the problem for nine months and still has not done anything to solve it. The scheme is weak in that it is inflexible and does not allow for good working. That weakness was realised in October 1970, and in the following month the officers of the Lands Department who administer the scheme made representations to the Commonwealth Government to obtain assistance for seven

dairymen who, because of their circumstances, deserved special consideration. The Commonwealth Government was asked to regard them as special cases. Five months later, on 5 March 1971, an officer from Canberra came to Brisbane to discuss these cases with State officers. The discussions concluded with the State officers feeling happy about the outcome.

It had been announced that what had been said during the discussions would be confirmed by letter in the near future. Three months later, either late in May or early in June, the State officers were promised that they would receive written confirmation by the end of June. The end of June came and went without any letter being received from the Commonwealth. Now it is early August, and still no letter has been received.

I should like to know why it takes so long for the administrators of the scheme to decide whether or not assistance should be given to certain needy cases. It is completely unforgivable for officers who are paid salaries and do not have their own capital involved to hold up the granting of assistance simply because they are waiting for a ruling on whether the applicants are eligible for it. In some instances the dairymen are using up their own capital while they are waiting for a decision. In fact, one dairyman has begun to sell his machinery to try to keep going. It is completely unrealistic to expect people in dire financial straits to wait 10 months for a decision on their applications.

Mr. Sherrington: What has the Minister done about it?

Mr. CORY: To my knowledge, he has phoned Canberra four times, and in the last three months his officers have rung more frequently.

Anyone who knows the circumstances of dairymen will realise how rotten the situation is. It would have been better to tell the applicants for assistance that they were not eligible so that they could seek financial aid elsewhere. Honourable members can understand how unrealistic it is to keep a prospective purchaser of a property waiting for 10 months and then expect him to be still keen to buy.

As 10 months have elapsed, there is an obligation to accept these applications. After this period it would be a complete breach of ethics to rule that the applicants are ineligible. A rejection in such circumstances would be an irresponsible act against people whose capital is in jeopardy pending the conclusion of a successful deal, and the scheme itself would suffer, as would also the reputation of the Federal Government, in the event of any such action.

I commend the action taken by our Queensland departmental officers. Queensland is the only State in the Commonwealth that has looked like spending its allocation. I think only one other State has spent part of its allocation, while Queensland has

spent more than its allocation in less than a year. Our Queensland officers are prepared to process the applications and get on with the job, but they cannot make decisions on eligibility, and are therefore unable to get on with the job in all cases.

Without flexibility in the operation of these schemes, their value to the industries they are designed to help will be lessened. If the present situation is not overcome, the industry will lose confidence in this scheme, which was originally well founded on the idea of genuinely rendering assistance. In such circumstances, bad publicity is likely to fall, unjustly, on our State administrators who, for the last 10 months, have been completely powerless to act on these special cases. I repeat, the Minister and his officers have pressed Canberra weekly in an effort to alleviate the problem. I raise this matter to bring once again to the notice of the powers that be, and the public, that something must be done.

It is important to realise that people who are waiting for their applications to be dealt with under this scheme are ineligible for assistance under the rural reconstruction scheme. Many of them do not know whether they are eligible for assistance under one scheme or the other. If an application is pending under one scheme, it automatically follows that benefits cannot be obtained under the other scheme. That is reasonable. Because applications are pending under the dairy farms amalgamation scheme, those concerned are ineligible for assistance under the rural reconstruction scheme although it may be available if their applications under the former scheme are refused. It may have been better to tell them initially that they were ineligible so that they could make other arrangements for conducting their business. The delay has been so prolonged that it would not be ethical to reject the applications at this stage. The applicants have missed the chance of holding businesses and capital together, which would have been available had they received assistance earlier. They have lost a lot of earning time, and a rejection under the scheme at this stage would be very unfortunate and quite unethical.

Another scheme that is brought to my notice wherever I go is the \$30,000,000 emergency wool scheme, which also is controlled by the Commonwealth. I have had a good deal to do with individual applications which have been rejected, and I have had a considerable amount of success in obtaining assistance from this scheme for people whose circumstances and figures did not at first glance seem to comply. Their applications were re-assessed and many of them received an allocation.

However, some people are not getting their just deserts from this scheme simply because no machinery is available to overcome certain technicalities. Information is required as to when a person bought or

sold sheep, how he operated his own personal business over the years 1968-69 and 1969-70, whether he held wool over or had some unshorn sheep at the end of June, and so on. If a scheme like this is to operate to the benefit of those it is meant to assist, it must be flexible enough to allow those people administering it to act on their thoughts and findings immediately and not have to adopt a long, drawn-out procedure.

I know of a particular case, and, if anybody needed help, this person did. We would all consider that he was prudent in what he did in trying to keep out of trouble. He set out to obtain finance to buy more stock to build up his income. He obtained this finance on the condition that, as soon as the sheep were ready to shear, he shored them and then sold them so that the finance would be available to repay.

This arrangement suited him. He bought the sheep, kept them, shored them, and sold them. But he did this in one calendar year, and this is where the technicality arises. Because he did it in a calendar year, and not in a financial year, he was not eligible for assistance from the scheme. Yet he was genuine in his attempt to get himself out of his income problem by using his own initiative and working hard. Had he bought nothing and simply sat on his bottom, he would have been eligible to obtain \$1,500 from the scheme simply by filling in a form. However, because he wanted to do more than sit on his bottom he made himself ineligible.

These matters must be looked into. We hope that this type of scheme will never have to be used again. But we know that we will have more droughts in the future, that prices will rise and fall, and that we may have to implement such a scheme again. Therefore, we must keep in mind all the anomalies in this scheme and ensure that they are ironed out before it is pigeon-holed. It would then be more or less up to date, and future anomalies would be avoided.

I wish to refer now, before the Budget is finalised, to land tax, particularly as it applies to rural land, and the progressive increase in the level of exemption. If the whole State were revalued at a given date, it would be quite simple to set an exemption rate at that time. It would then be known who would have to pay land tax, who would not have to pay it, and the classes of landholder and areas of land to be included within the tax provisions. Because valuation is a constant process in one part or other of the State, it is impossible to have such a definite line.

I hope that the next Budget contains considerable concessions aimed at lifting the level of exemption for land tax, particularly for primary producers. I mention primary producers specifically not merely because they are primary producers but because of the extent of the land component in their industry. Land tax is a far greater problem

to persons on the land than it is to those in other industries, because of the amount of capital involved in the ownership of the land. A person in a manufacturing business may have an income exactly the same as that of a primary producer, but he makes his income from what is, compared with the position in primary industry, a very small piece of land, which has a comparatively lower value in his whole enterprise. Although the per-acre value of land used for business purposes would be higher than the value of land used for primary production, its value would be very small indeed compared with the total value of the business enterprise.

Farmers and graziers are in a very different position. Their land is the major component of their enterprises, and a land tax is a tax on the largest component in those enterprises. For the primary producer, land is not merely something on which to build something else; it is in fact the very enterprise, and on how it is managed depends the amount of money that can be made from it. In many areas in the last three years there have been steep rises in valuations, which means that there are many people whose land is approaching the land tax bracket. People whose incomes and areas of land are such that they should not have to pay land tax are being caught in this web. It is not the intention of the Government, nor has it ever been, that they should be caught in this way. Progressive increases in the level of exemption have in most cases kept it ahead of higher valuations, and there has been a decrease in the number of primary producers who pay land tax, but I can see that the wheel is turning a little more and that the stage is being reached when people who were released from land tax quite a number of years ago are now again being brought within its provisions.

I hope that the next Budget will provide a substantial increase in the level for land tax exemption. I know one person with 540 acres who could come within the land tax provisions next year. It will not happen this year because the land has not yet been revalued, although it is presently in the course of revaluation. Admittedly it is a good piece of dirt, but I do not think that anyone owning 540 acres, even if it is the very best farming land available, should have to pay land tax. It was never intended that a man with such an area of land should pay land tax.

Another matter that I wish to mention relates to information that I have received from the Federal Minister for Shipping and Transport. From time to time the Minister for Transport in this State has attended meetings of the Transport Ministers of the Commonwealth and States. Various decisions have been made at those meetings, and one that triggered my thoughts related to uniform liability for road carriers. In my opinion, a uniform code dealing with the liability of road carriers is very necessary. It has been

spoken about for many years, but today, with people moving interstate more freely than ever before and with improved means of communication between the States, the more uniformity there is in rules and laws, the better it will be.

The Transport Ministers have met and considered quite a number of subjects, and I am surprised that they have not given greater consideration to variations as between the States. One anomaly that comes to mind arises from the differing axle-loadings applying in each State. In many cases the axle-loadings applying that are permitted appear similar, but there is in fact a difference in each State. Since I received the information to which I referred earlier, the Commonwealth department has changed its axle-loading in the Northern Territory. Not only are there differing axle-loadings; there are differing tolerances and differing ways of expressing tolerances. Because of that, a road-haulier may be operating legally in one State. If he crosses the border and goes into the next State, he may be operating illegally, only to be operating legally again when he crosses another State border. Because of the way in which interstate transport operates today, I do not think that is sensible, and the situation could easily be overcome by the Ministers agreeing to exactly similar axle-loadings and tolerances in all States.

To illustrate the point I am making, I point out to honourable members that the gross weight at 40 feet in Queensland is 27 tons 10 cwt. In New South Wales it is 29 tons 13 cwt.; in Victoria 31 tons; in Tasmania 27 tons 10 cwt.; and in Western Australia 23 tons 4 cwt. How can an interstate haulier operate on figures such as those?

Mr. Jensen: It might depend upon the state of the roads in each State.

Mr. CORY: It has nothing to do with the state of the roads. Roads are built for transports, not transports for roads. What does the hon. member think the Main Roads Department officials are doing? They want to know the axle-loadings in order to estimate how long the roads will last. I think that even the road to Bundaberg is fairly good.

Mr. Jensen: It is better than the boggy roads out your way.

Mr. CORY: I sometimes wish the roads in my area became boggy more often.

Speaking seriously, Mr. Speaker, I raise this matter because I believe that, on a matter such as this, it would not be difficult for Transport Ministers to agree on a uniform figure for all Australian States. The transport industry would then know where it stood. Road-hauliers would know that they could load their vehicles and that they would be able to use the roads in any State without problems arising. Transport operators who do not travel interstate regularly do not know where they stand at present.

(Time expired.)

Mr. F. P. MOORE (Mourilyan) (2.50 p.m.): So far in this debate we have heard two Country Party members speak, and they have complained about the plight of the country areas. Even Country Party members are now realising that the coalition Government has thrown the country areas of the State to the wolves. Every country area in the State is going backwards. Can any honourable member here point to one country area that has grown since this Government has been in office? Possibly Gladstone, because of its good representation, is the exception. Apart from that, all country areas are in a state of deterioration.

Mr. Tomkins: The Roma electorate is going well.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: If it had a better member it would do much better.

On 29 July last I asked a question of the Minister for Primary Industries concerning the establishment of a statutory fishermen's organisation. In his reply he said—

"I am aware that there is a proportion of fishermen in all districts who are not full-time."

He did not answer my question in regard to numbers. In my question I indicated that in the Innisfail district there are only 12 full-time fishermen out of 51 licensees.

I also asked the Minister whether this problem arises in other areas. I received no reply to that question. The only answer I got was—

"Appropriate action is being taken by industry bodies to ascertain the extent of support for the formation of a statutory fishermen's organisation. Further action must await the outcome."

On 11 November 1970 the same Minister issued a Press statement in which he said that he had fully considered the proposals put to him by a deputation from the fishing industry organisations the previous week for the establishment of a statutory commercial fishermen's organisation. He also said—

"This is a most progressive move, and one I am fully prepared to support."

That was on 11 November 1970. He concluded by saying that he would be submitting the proposal to Cabinet shortly for approval in principle with a view to the preparation of enabling legislation as soon as possible. That has not occurred as yet.

The answer that I received was quite inadequate. The present position is very disturbing to the fishermen throughout the State. In the eyes of the Australian Labor Party, the fishing industry is a primary industry. We must consider the plight of the fishermen.

The Minister also said that fishermen must have a unified voice, and an authority that could speak for the industry and to which the Government could look for advice on the industry's problems.

The secretary of the Innisfail Master Fishermen's Association has received a great deal of correspondence from Mr. J. A. Jones, secretary of the Council of Agriculture of Queensland. Mr. Jones referred to the receipt of 183 signatures. He said—

"I understand that there are about 1,709 Master Fishermen Licences, and if we assume something like 400 to 500 of them to be part-time, it leaves about 1,200 to 1,300 as bona fide fishermen."

That is totally wrong. From the figures in the Innisfail area alone, only a little more than 20 per cent. of the total number of licensees are full-time fishermen. So how in the name of goodness could anyone get 1,200 signatures from a total of 1,709 fishermen?

I asked the Minister if this situation applied in other areas, and I discovered by way of interjection from the honourable member for Bundaberg, and from discussing the matter with him subsequently, that it applies in his area and that most of the licence-holders are farmers and only part-time fishermen. The main point is that the full-time fishermen are not receiving justice from decisions by the Council of Agriculture and the Minister. In fact, I think the Minister is stalling.

Fishermen in North Queensland, particularly in the Innisfail area, have a problem regarding supply to the board. They have to chase the fish. They are not able to fish in Innisfail waters for a considerable part of the year, yet they are compelled to pay 11 per cent. commission towards the upkeep and maintenance of the board. On top of this, a 5-cents levy on the market price is imposed. This is unjust.

It is a fact that this Government, for every year of the past 14 years, has postulated that it believes in decentralisation. It says that it believes in settling people in country areas. However, this has not occurred, and I am sure country people are now waking up to what is going on. Here is an instance where a plant could be established in North Queensland to process the catches of fishermen in the area. With a little dredging in the Johnstone River they could go up the river. Sugar lighters previously came up this river but, because of lack of control, the mouth has silted up so that, although trawlers can get in, they can only just get in. As well, we have available the finest harbour in Queensland—one that requires no dredging. I refer to Mourilyan Harbour, which the Government has not seen fit to declare as a general cargo port.

I appeal to the Minister for Primary Industries to get cracking on this matter and to stop adopting delaying tactics. He will never get 1,200 signatures to form a statutory fishermen's association. In fact, 20 per cent. of the number would suffice, because only 20 per cent. of the licences in my area are held by full-time fishermen. Twenty per cent. of the total licenses would represent about 300 or 400.

Other honourable members might elaborate on the position as it exists in their areas, but I believe it is necessary that a statutory body be formed. Its formation is part of the platform of the Australian Labor Party, and it was promised during the last election campaign. However, the Government does not recognise fishing as a primary industry. It treats fishermen as second-class citizens, as it does most North Queenslanders.

I shall now refer to some of the points mentioned by my leader. On the subject of main roads, one important main road in North Queensland is the Palmerston Highway, which is a link between the Atherton Tableland and the coast. This highway, together with the road to the port of Mourilyan and the one going south towards Townsville, is in a bad state of disrepair. In fact, it is a disgrace to any Government as almost the entire production of the Tableland is transported over it. It comes over what is known locally as Henderson Drive on to South Johnstone Road, across the Johnstone River at South Johnstone, through Boogan and on to either Mourilyan Harbour or Moresby, on the Bruce Highway.

Not one vehicle that travels down the Palmerston Highway goes directly onto the Bruce Highway at the Innisfail junction. The road from South Johnstone to the Bruce Highway is in such a bad state that the Government makes a matching grant to the Johnstone Shire Council; yet the road is a main road for which the Government should accept full responsibility.

Local authorities are in serious financial difficulties, and the Johnstone Shire Council is no exception. At present it has a deficit in excess of \$100,000, yet all it can obtain from the Government for a road that carries all the traffic from the Atherton Tableland is a matching grant. That is ridiculous.

Construction is in progress on a bridge to cross the Johnstone River and to connect two sections of the Bruce Highway. The Jubilee Bridge at Innisfail cannot cater for the sugar traffic, so that all the traffic from North Queensland bypasses Innisfail and goes along the South Johnstone Road and over the South Johnstone Bridge. Again the Johnstone Shire Council is forced to support all the vehicular traffic until the new bridge is completed. Today's Press contains a report that the workers engaged on the construction of the new bridge are seeking a site allowance because they cannot stand the stench from the heavy pollution in the river, which is caused by waste from the sugar mills. The bridge is nowhere near completion, so the responsibility for the road that connects the Palmerston and Bruce Highways should be that of the Government and no-one else. I am forced to travel along that road on my way to the airport at Innisfail. It is so pitted with pot-holes that small cars suffer severe damage when they traverse it.

Mr. Lee: Why would that be?

Mr. F. P. MOORE: The road between Boogan and Mourilyan is a bitumen road, so I suppose the Government could say that it should be used. In fact, the Boogan-Moresby road could be closed and the road from South Johnstone to Boogan could be brought up to a satisfactory state of repair so that small vehicles at least could travel along it. At present, all the heavy vehicular traffic is forced to use that road. The honourable member for Yeronga is supposed to be an engineer. I would like to show him that road and put his nose in the pot-holes. Even his ears would be in the pot-holes—and honourable members know how big his nose is.

Northern local authorities should not be asked to bear the heavy cost, with only matching grants, of maintaining these roads. In fact, they are main roads.

I would now like to consider that the success of the tea plantation in North Queensland, started by Dr. Alan Marouf and now known as the Nerada Tea Estate, is very important to the area.

Mr. Lee: You were condemning it during the last session.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: The honourable member should get his facts straight. I did not condemn the project. I condemned the completely irresponsible granting of freehold land to New Guinea companies, not to Dr. Marouf, who has proved beyond doubt what can be done. At the Labor Party convention I advocated support of tea-growing in North Queensland. My point is that it seems that cattle will be grazed on the properties released by the Government for tea-growing.

Recently, I asked Mr. Speaker if he would accept some tea from this plantation. I have brought some of it down with me, and I understand that he will accept it so that honourable members can try it.

Mr. Lee interjected.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: It will not be corrupted. I assure Mr. Speaker that it will be quite pure.

Mr. Lee: Don't you handle it.

Mr. F. P. MOORE: I have been told that on the honourable member's property, whose carrying capacity he has increased by 300 per cent., he drinks nut-grass tea. He is the Liberal nut-grass farmer from Yeronga.

The tea plantation supplied the tea, and I trust that the Premier will try a little pure Australian tea produced by a pure Australian company. It is being sold to tea-brokers at the highest price paid in Australia. If the Premier wishes to check on that statement, he is at liberty to do so. The tea factory, established with the aid of Burns Philp, an Australian company, is working only two hours a day because of the limited area of the plantation. More land is needed to get

the factory working to capacity. When I first entered this Assembly I asked the Government to assist Dr. Marouf in establishing his factory, but it refused to help this industry in its embryo stage. Again the Government was not concerned about a primary producer in the form of a person who has devoted his life to establishing a tea industry in Australia.

More land is essential to make this factory viable, and if sufficient land is acquired, it can get into full production. Quite close to the Nerada Tea Estate is a block of land of about 3,200 acres. I have been reliably informed by officers of the Department of Forestry that after the department has cut its forestry requirements from this block it may become available. I can see no reason for not making it available to Dr. Marouf.

I have heard of acres of land being granted to people in this State for services rendered to industry. I do not want to embarrass anyone in this regard, but in a couple of instances the person granted this land has got rid of it for other purposes. This new industry will make a great contribution to Queensland and to Australia. Even in its infancy it has provided employment for people in its district and, with further development which will allow the factory to achieve full production, it will add greatly to the potential of the area.

Others who have seen the success achieved by Dr. Marouf are forming companies in areas adjoining the tea estates. The honourable member for Yeronga claims unpolitely that I condemn them. I condemn the tea plantation outside Tully. This involved a grant of 4,000 acres to a company which has no more than 80 acres under tea. It has only 18 months in which to put 750 acres under tea and provide a tea factory. I am anxious to see what will happen in 18 months, because the Minister for Lands has informed me that, if the conditions are not complied with, the lease will be cancelled.

Dr. Marouf has done a fine job. His work has been featured on every television channel in this country. "The Australian Women's Weekly" and other periodicals have published articles on his tea estate. It is a wonderful sight. That can be verified by many honourable members on this side of the House, and will be admitted by any honest members on the Government side.

Many school-teachers attend seminars. I have always believed in the in-service training of teachers because, if we are to rectify the problems that exist in education, we cannot start at the wrong end, that is, with syllabuses; we must start at the right end, that is, with the teachers, and then introduce the syllabuses. The ruling in some parts of Queensland is that certain teachers are not allowed to attend these seminars. I consider the rulings given by the Education Department to be ridiculous, on three counts. The teachers left on duty at the schools

which remain open are able to act only in a supervisory capacity as the numbers under their care make it impossible for them to do anything else, and so the day is wasted. The children will not learn anything on that day from the skeleton staff, so why not take the full staff?

Any person of normal intelligence must realise that the teaching time of a teacher in a one, two or three-teacher school is much more valuable than that of a teacher in a larger school. The larger schools are placed in the invidious position of having only skeleton staffs when teachers are absent at seminars. The children at those schools are not taught properly when teachers are away, and the schools should be closed for those days. The small schools are even greater losers when teachers are away, because teaching time in such schools is more valuable than it is in larger schools with a teacher to each class.

The denominational schools are aware of this problem. On looking at the position this year, it will be seen that denominational schools have closed and sent all their teachers to the State primary schools where the seminars were held. If they realise the importance of adopting this course, why cannot the State schools do the same? The children would not be disadvantaged by the closing of schools for in-service training of teachers, because the time lost would be more than counterbalanced by the benefit to the teachers from such training. If a teacher missed a seminar because he was not nominated for it by his principal, how could he learn anything second hand from one who did attend it? If seminars are to be included in the education system, schools should be closed and all teachers should be allowed to attend.

It will be found that primary schools will be more involved than secondary schools in this matter. Secondary schools are more specialised to the extent that they can be run whilst certain teachers are away. Primary schools, however, are left in something of a predicament, as the teachers who remain at school cannot cope with the situation. The children do work that they have possibly already covered, and which in any case they could do at home.

Today I asked the Minister for Education a question concerning an announcement in the April edition of "Australian Library News" that the Commonwealth Government intends to introduce legislation allowing \$30,000,000 to be spent on secondary school libraries. I asked the Minister if he would make an urgent request to the Commonwealth Government for consideration to be given to primary school libraries. The answer is what I suppose one could expect from a wheat-farmer Education Minister. The Minister replied—

"At its recent meeting in Brisbane, the Australian Education Council, which consists of the Ministers for Education for the

six States, discussed with the Commonwealth Minister the possibility of introducing a scheme of financial aid for libraries in primary schools.

We acknowledge with gratitude the considerable financial assistance already given by the Commonwealth Government, and hope that at some time in the future the question of financial aid to primary school libraries may again be considered."

There is no time like the present. Although I appreciate the long overdue assistance to secondary schools, in the eyes of the people of Australia this must be seen as discrimination between two sections of education, namely, primary and secondary. It is very important, but the Minister hopes that at some time in the near future "consideration will be given to it". Now is the time to act. Now is the time to make representations for more assistance, because students cannot progress in secondary school if they do not receive the training and gain the experience that they should during their formative years in primary school. With good libraries in primary schools, I am sure that better results will be achieved in the field of primary education and, inevitably, also in the field of secondary education.

I asked a question of the Minister for Local Government and Electricity relative to water charges in the Mulgrave Shire. He answered it on 29 July, and I wish to place both my question and his answer on the record. My question was—

"What has transpired with respect to a petition of protest from Babinda and Miriwinni residents, who protested against the Mulgrave Shire Council because it amalgamated all water supply funds and imposed an increase of nearly 300 per cent. in water rates on Babinda residents . . .?"

The Minister replied—

"The petition has been referred to the Mulgrave Shire Council for its representations. I would inform the Honourable Member that the Local Government Act 1936-1971 provides that a local authority may establish a common undertaking fund in respect of two or more water supply undertakings. The exercise of this power is a matter within the sole discretion of the local authority concerned."

Although the Mulgrave Shire Council knows some of the facts, it is not admitting them, so I shall put them on record in "Hansard". At a meeting of the Mulgrave Shire Council on 19 April 1971, a motion was carried to amalgamate all water supply funds within the shire into one water supply fund. This is in accord with the Local Government Act, as I indicated previously and as the Minister stated. But let us look at Division 3 of the shire, which includes the residents of Babinda. One finds that serious inequities have occurred, and I ask honourable members to note particularly the dates that I shall mention.

In my question to the Minister, I mentioned also that the people of Babinda would be required to pay an increased water rate of \$21.45, instead of the present charge of \$7.50. The people of Miriwinni will now have to pay \$21.45, as against the previous charge of \$12. It will be seen that the residents of Miriwinni are better off than the residents of Babinda, but there is still that inequity.

The original loan obtained for the construction of the Babinda water supply scheme has been fully repaid. However, the concrete pipes and fittings used in the original construction failed and were replaced from a loan obtained by the council in 1947. That loan was for a period of 30 years at an interest rate of 3½ per cent., and the annual amount repayable by the council in interest and redemption of the loan amounted to \$2,380.70. A further loan of \$1,784.60 was obtained for the Babinda water supply scheme in 1958. The interest rate on that loan was 5½ per cent. for a period of 30 years, with annual interest and redemption of \$122.77, and the amount still unpaid as at 30 June 1970 was \$1,357.63. In addition, there is a northern water supply scheme in this shire.

When a shire rate is increased, it must be applied generally throughout the shire. I sympathise with these people. I have received correspondence from the secretary of the protest committee, Mr. Connell, who has informed me that there is great concern about this matter. As the Minister has stated, it is solely within the discretion of the local authority, but I think it should be aired in this Chamber so that shire councillors will examine their consciences in the matter of rates levied on these persons. They carried the motion on 19 April, so the only way that anything can be done is by their rescinding that motion.

At this stage the amount being paid per dwelling is higher under the Miriwinni scheme. Prior to this motion, residents there were paying \$12 per dwelling as against the charge in Babinda of \$7.50 per dwelling, but they will now all pay the same amount.

I have mentioned that this anomaly also applies to electricity charges. The position is iniquitous. Some persons in the North were lending up to \$2,000 to various regional boards for electricity connection, plus a large sum each year by way of guarantee. Through people airing their objections to this type of money raising by boards and other bodies the amount of the loans has been substantially reduced. The airing of this matter in Parliament is very important. I will not go into detail about the Miriwinni water scheme but merely mention that the outstanding amounts are much higher than those for the Babinda scheme.

Another important point that must be considered is that 60 widows in Babinda signed this petition. Those unfortunate

women will now be called on to pay this greatly increased water charge. How can that be justified? I do not know whether this local authority gives a half-rate concession to pensioners as the two councils in my electorate do. Will those widows be levied the full water charge?

The secretary of the protest committee has pointed out that at a public meeting of ratepayers in Babinda there was a unanimous decision to petition the water supply authorities in Babinda and Miriwinni and request the council to reconsider its decision.

I have here a photostat of pages and pages of signatures of Babinda residents. These people have stated that they object to what is proposed. I will not present the petition to Parliament but merely mention the matter during this debate. I know that my own shire councils and other shire councils are in serious difficulties because of the reduction in Government subsidies and the small amount allocated to local authorities by the Federal Tory Government.

This is another instance of indirect taxation. Heaven forbid that country people be taxed any more than they have been in the 14 years of Government by this Country-Liberal coalition.

(Time expired.)

Mr. PORTER (Toowong) (3.30 p.m.): I should like to associate myself with the usual courtesies when participating in an Address-in-Reply debate. I should also like to pay my own personal tribute to a very good man who, I think, has earned every Queensland's thanks. I refer to our Governor, Sir Alan Mansfield.

I want to use this Address-in-Reply debate to talk about a subject that I think all of us on this side of the House would have hoped could have been debated this morning. This subject is, of course, the extraordinary situation with which we have been faced over recent weeks.

At the outset, I want to make it quite clear that, as far as I can see it, the attempts to sabotage the football tour by the South African Rugby Union Springboks—sabotage attempts which were organised on a massive scale, apparently with unlimited funds and the use of international personalities—were total, dismal, pathetic—indeed, almost ludicrous—failures.

Despite the enormous efforts by some, including people in responsible positions at the university and at least one prominent Labor politician, who associated themselves with predominantly younger people like some kind of latter day "Lords of the Flies", the tour was not cancelled, no game was halted and no footballer was harassed to the point of exhaustion, as one very Christian reverend gentleman, early in the tour, suggested was one of the aims of the exercise.

Because the State Government here took positive and direct action, the enormous opposition, which, it was touted in the

South, would reach a point of climax in Queensland, dwindled to nothing more than a few academic clowns running around with black faces like refugees from the Black and White Minstrel Show. And whereas some prominent people, particularly in trade union affairs, went in roaring like lions in the early part of this business when they believed they might have public opinion on their side—incidentally, they later disappeared promptly for places outside these shores—they came out bleating like lambs. Indeed, the statements over the last few days by people who were responsible in very large degree for causing the trouble have been a sorry attempt to suggest, "It was not me who did it; I was only expressing a personal opinion; I was only acting for somebody else."

What has been the net effect of all the trouble that has been stirred up by these relatively few people? I would say that, in effect, it is simply this: that when the Springboks first came to Australia, or were on the verge of coming, perhaps 60 to 70 per cent. of Australians wanted the tour to go on—others did not or were perhaps uncertain—but by the time they reached Brisbane I would say that, without doubt, 90 per cent.-plus of the people wanted the tour to go on. They were fed up to the back teeth with the activities of a small group in trying to usurp their normal, peaceful rights.

Mr. Murray: I suppose Gerber's disillusionment would have been symptomatic of the whole affair.

Mr. PORTER: The role of Mr. Gerber of the university in this matter does not appeal to me at all, nor has it at any stage.

That this has occurred is, I think, amply indicated by Gallup Polls over the period, and also by the by-elections which fortuitously occurred in this State and gave us a chance to sample what people really thought. The net effect of it undoubtedly has been to polarise the attitude of people and to put the enormous bulk of the people on the side of Governments that take strong stands for constitutional authority and rational discipline. Of course, one of the amusing side-results of this has been that the Rugby Union people in Australia have made a handsome profit on the tour, and much more than they could have originally expected.

I want to talk now about the statutory machinery that is used for coping with such situations and to deal with some of the problems that are self-generated by the university community; but before I do so it is necessary to make some pertinent points. The first is that these protests never really had anything to do with the Springbok tour, nor with the policy of apartheid as it is practised by the South African Government, about which I would suggest most people in the community know practically nothing at all anyhow.

The tour was only a means of disguising the issue on this occasion. Believing the tour to be the issue is rather akin to receiving a time bomb through the post and regarding the wrapping paper, not the diabolical machine that is ticking away inside, as the significant item. The art of the conjurer is mis-direction. What he does is to divert attention to something irrelevant while he does the relevant thing that makes his sleight-of-hand appear successful. This was exactly the procedure followed by certain people in this issue. We saw the same technique—the use of an emotive, noble cause to leech onto something that can stir people up easily, and, under the guise of this and using it as a cover story, the continuation with the real issue.

The real issue behind this continuing cover story is, of course, "Who governs?" It is not solely a matter of "law and order". That is only one aspect of it. Undoubtedly the real issue—and it is one that has been continuing for more than a couple of years—is "Who shall govern?" Because this is the vital issue, I believe it was essential that the tour should have continued. And it is obviously essential that the cricket tour by the South African cricketers must also go on unhampered and uninterrupted, no matter what it may cost. Believe me, once the liberty of the many to enjoy their proper, peaceful pursuits under the law is abandoned because of the pressure of the frenzied few, we no longer have the type of democracy that we have fought for in two world wars and that has been so painfully and slowly won for us by our forebears over the centuries. No matter what it may cost, we must have tours by visiting sporting teams and cultural bodies, whether they come from South Africa, Russia, Tanganyika, Iceland, Timbuktu, or wherever else.

When it is so obvious to most what the real issue is—and surely it is obvious to most (the introduction today into this House of two new members shows quite plainly that it is obvious to most)—one must wonder how it is that so many well-meaning people can become caught up in such a morass of misunderstanding. For instance, the full-page advertisement by the University Staff Association, which cost those who subscribe to it approximately \$1,500, makes one wonder just how this could happen. Here are intelligent and undoubtedly sincere people so deeply moved by what they see as the proper issue that they are impelled to protest. Why, then, are so many misled? I think it is the inability to see the difference between protest and dissent on the one hand and violence on the other.

As a Liberal with a large "L"—and, I hope, at most times with a small "l", too—I totally uphold the right of anybody to protest, to dissent and to object. Indeed, at my party's recent annual convention we adopted from our policy committee a recommendation, which has gone into the party's

platform, saying, "The right to dissent with authority is one of the corner-stones of a democratic society."

Mr. Sherrington: When you dissented on the earlier Electoral Districts Bill, your friends in the Liberal Party called you and your mates a lot of mongrels.

Mr. PORTER: If the honourable member has the opportunity, he might make interjections that are even a little relevant; that one was not.

I am happy to pay tribute to the leader of my party, the Deputy Premier, who was chairman of the policy committee that made the recommendation I mentioned.

Where is the problem? We all believe in the right to object, to dissent, and to protest. What, then, goes wrong? It is that so many people who want to be liberal, with a small "l", lean over backwards to show how noble they are, and they fall into the trap of believing that the right to protest is synonymous with the right to perform and invoke violence in the streets. It is not, and can never be so. When we talk about dissent we have to use "protest", because that is the current word. I think that many well-intentioned people lean over backwards so far that they lose balance and fall over because, in wanting to protect this right of dissent, they fall into the error of believing that it also means the right to have performances in the street that can lead to violence.

It is not the same thing at all. The right to protest can never automatically connote the right to ram one's belief, no matter how passionately one believes in it, down a disbeliever's throat. My right to conform is just as sacred as another's right to protest. My right to be just plain uninterested if I want to be is as great as anybody's right to protest. If anybody believes, because he objects or protests, that he has a divine right to tread on everybody else's right, that is the type of tyranny based on the ends justifying the means on which every bondage known to man has been built over the years ever since man has been man.

To believe that the right to protest automatically connotes a right to violence or occupancy of the streets is to make a mockery of liberalism—and I use the word in its classical, small "l" context—and, by consent, it will erode that discipline which alone makes our society operable.

Many intellectual, intelligent and able people who mean well have fallen into this trap of confusing noble generosity and the right to dissent with ignoble appeasement. Appeasement has not yet paid off and it never will. Attempting to appease the mob on the basis that if we give them what they want now they will go away and not want any more will never work. This aspect of the problem has a great deal to do with the situation at the university at present.

I have said I believe that when this tour is completed we must go on with the cricket tour or anything else that comes along. I feel that certain people have had themselves "conned" into accepting certain propositions which are so illogical as to make me despair at times of so-called intelligent people. For instance, it has been said that, because the South African Government introduced politics into sport, we must do the same. I regard that as unmitigated nonsense. If South Africa introduces politics into sport, it is wrong to do so. Should we then go ahead and introduce politics into sport we are also wrong, and I have never yet known two wrongs to make a right. No matter what any outside Government does, we must do what we believe to be right, and, most certainly, the right thing is never to confuse sport with politics.

Another notion that has been used extensively is to propound the idea that if we accept a tour by an all-white sporting team from South Africa we automatically accept the policies of that country's Government. To me, that is a classic example of the unjustifiable assumption leading to an unwarrantable conclusion. It is total and absolute rubbish. It no more means that, because we have their football teams, we accept South African policies than it means we accept Russian policies because we accept a Russian Soccer team or that we accept Pakistani policies because we accept a Pakistani hockey team. It is as fatuous to say that as it is to say that because Red China accepted our ping-pong team, Mao Tse-tung thereby accepted S.E.A.T.O., A.N.Z.U.S. and Mr. McMahon. Quite frankly, I doubt whether he has accepted Mr. Whitlam, for that matter.

Another suggestion made frequently is that people who want to protest are entitled to go onto the streets and protest, and that if violence results it is not their fault because they have the best of intentions. That, I cannot accept. People who go onto the streets deliberately knowing that they are going to become part of a mob, that they are almost certain to have a confrontation with the police or with authority, by their mind are guilty by intent and by association. They may say that they do not intend trouble, but the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

Anybody who deliberately makes himself part of a mob is looking for trouble, because a mob is mindless and thoughtless. It can be easily manipulated by the few. It can very rapidly develop a blood lust. It can move in a direction as a mob, where the individual components of it would not move. So I simply cannot accept the pleas of innocence from those who become part of a mob and are then distressed by the inexorable results that flow from being part of a mob.

I do not think that those who witnessed the rather chilling spectacle at the Tower Mill Motel during the Springboks' stay—whether they saw it on television or were

actually present—will ever forget the way in which obscenities were used as a kind of lingua franca of the mob, the mindless chantings that went on, the almost primitive savagery, and the hard-eyed organisers, with walkie-talkies, who were making sure that the mob was worked up to an adequate culmination. In view of what seemed to be stemming from these situations, a rational person will not deny that firm action was needed, and this brings me to talk about the proclamation of the state of emergency.

I have no doubt from the inception of their tour, when it was first talked about, and when a Mr. Hawke—somebody by that name—wanted to use some kind of union muscle to call the tour off, what the real objective of the exercise was. I believe that, without doubt, the authority of an elected and constitutional Government must prevail and that no outside group could be permitted to prevail. Indeed, at the first meeting of my party's State executive, to which I was elected at the last State convention, I put forward a motion which got an immediate Press release and which at that time, nearly six weeks ago, gave an unqualified assurance to the Prime Minister of full support for anything he did to ensure that the tour went on, including the use of R.A.A.F. aircraft.

I wrote a letter to "The Courier-Mail" eight days before the state of emergency was proclaimed in which I set out what I thought were the real issues in this matter. I think I have done as much speaking on the subject on radio and television as anybody else has, and I have spoken at the university five times in the past few weeks. I would not say I have won the arguments, but I have made my position clear and have been ready at all times to expose myself to any audience, no matter how unfriendly, on this issue. So I think I know something of the feelings that have been generated in this matter. I have always supported the purposes of the proclamation.

I do believe, and I say now, that the proclamation of the state of emergency would have been better if it had been expressed in terms which gave more reassurance and more information to a greater number of people. Had it been made plain to people at the inception that there would be no suspension of normal civil liberties, that the normal civil rights were not being suspended, and that all that was required was the taking over of a particular venue in order to give the maximum protection to players, spectators and police, there would not have been the same cause for concern for a short period as was expressed in some quarters.

Everybody recognises that maximum protection was due to the people involved, and not least of all and certainly not last of all, to the police. The police have had a sorry job to do in all this. They have been insulted, reviled, derided and aggravated by people who most certainly should know

better. Their role is that of the meat in the sandwich. Anything that could be done to ensure that they could play their proper role without undue prospect of harm should have been done, and it was done in the proclamation of the state of emergency, which took over a particular ground offering the maximum prospects for security.

We should consider whether we ought to provide some other legislative machinery, some other statute, which would enable us to carry out limited tasks, for instance, taking over a venue for a short-term purpose, instead of using this state-of-emergency machinery. It is perhaps a little clumsy for a small job; it has an emotive effect, and it worries people. I believe that legislation to take over a limited requirement—a theatre or a sports venue, for example—might be very useful. If this is contemplated—I intend to urge it in other places later—such legislation could include a provision to refer the action to Parliament in a very short space of time. The State of Emergency Act of Great Britain does this. It is proper that Parliament should look at actions that Governments take when they have to move beyond the normal bounds of law-making provisions.

Mr. Hughes: You don't always need a big hammer to crack a little nut.

Mr. PORTER: That may be true, as the honourable member for Kurilpa says. Certainly I think that a reference to Parliament at a very early date is desirable.

I also think that legislation of this nature should make the punishment fit the crime. In other words, I think that fines for participation in various categories of street violence—I do not mean simply being there—should be of sufficient measure as to ease the community's burden in paying for the display of massive police strength. I also think that since we are moving towards a new dimension in public disquiet which is quite alien to the Australian tradition, where there is violence instead of argument and mob hysteria in place of reason, and when people are involved in a continuing series of disturbances, there is cause for considering whether those charged with involvement may not be fined on their first offence but with a requirement not to participate further on pain of a much heavier penalty for a second offence.

In other words, we need machinery which separates sheep from goats, because there are obviously some people in these disturbances who are leaders, manipulators and organisers, and there are the many who go along for kicks, or maybe because they quite sincerely believe in something. I think we have to be very careful that we differentiate between those of determined malevolent ill-will and those who may be only misled. I think this could be done.

Mr. Hughes: We don't want to prevent the right to dissent, though.

Mr. PORTER: I do not want to prevent the right to dissent at all. But, equally, I do not want anybody to believe that the right to dissent automatically means the right to have violence and confrontation in the streets. That, we do not want.

There are those who deliberately plan to confront authority in this way—hired overseas agitators, university groups, some union elements. We might ask ourselves whether we should permit them to conspire together freely in order to lay plans to flout the law, to put the average citizen at peril. Perhaps there may be some form of definition possible whereby people who are planning to do these things can be jointly and severally charged with conspiracy for these purposes. After all, there are already penalties for conspiracy to defraud in commercial circles. To me, it is quite feasible to charge people who are determined to create an illegal situation and an unlawful position with conspiracy to create that unlawful situation. If they want to dissent in a normal, rational way, let them dissent. But there are a thousand ways of dissenting other than by taking over the streets and the gutters.

I do not see any fears of personal liberty being lost here. We already have provision for a penalty for conspiracy to defraud in other circles. This matter could be quickly tested in the courts, and any person of good will would have nothing whatever to fear. The only person with anything to fear would be the one of ill will. There certainly would be no reduction of liberty. Indeed, real liberty would be enhanced, because without doubt law and liberty are inseparable. There is no liberty for anyone without the law. There is only unlimited licence for the ruthless once the rule of law is thrown aside. We all have to remember that real political liberty grows out of the law. Men are free only whilst they act under the rule of law. This is something that we must never forget in our society, and I think it may well be time for something to be considered in this State in lieu of the rather clumsy machinery for proclaiming states of emergency.

Now I wish to say something about the Queensland University. Mine is a university electorate. More and more the university community is having its effect on the electorate of Toowong. More and more people on university staffs are living in the electorate, and what the university does affects, in general terms, the community. I go to the university a lot, and I have many connections with the university at all levels—administrative, professorial, tutorial, and student. I say at the outset that I think we must avoid at all costs developing an unreasonable anti-university attitude, and it is very easy to do that at present—very easy indeed.

Mr. Hughes interjected.

Mr. PORTER: The honourable member for Kurilpa thinks we are tolerant. I hope we will remain tolerant, because intolerance is precisely what a few disrupters want.

Nevertheless, something clearly is sadly astray at the Queensland University. When the stage is reached at which a University goes on strike, surely we have reached the absolute, uttermost limits of absurdity. How does a university go on strike? Whom does it strike against? What does it strike for? In fact, what we have disguised under the fair name of a strike—apparently some people think that “strike” is a hallowed union word and, therefore, can be used with impunity—is a lockout, a lockout by certain academic interests against all those students who wish to proceed with their courses and do their studies in the normal way. There is no such “animal” as a strike for a university. I feel strongly about what is happening at the university, but I keep on telling myself and saying in this Chamber that I believe we must not play into the hands of a few by becoming too much the master and using the big stick at the university. What we all have to realise is that we are dealing not merely with radicals at the university—and I do not think they are properly radicals in the correct sense of the word—but with old-line anarchists. They are not interested in a reasonable solution to the problem at all. They are interested only in destroying what they regard as the system. It is totally wrong.

Anyone who has been out to the university and has had the experience of a glaring, wild-eyed tutor rushing up to him and stopping a few feet away, looking as if he is going to froth at the mouth and shout at the crowd—a lecturer at the university whose professor says his tutorial work is very good—stops and wonders to himself, “Am I mad? Is he mad? Is the whole world mad?” Something has gone astray. But these are a few people who are not interested in solutions to any problem at all. Without a doubt the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Zelman Cowen, was quite correct when he said earlier this week that there is a group within the university that aims at its destruction, and it is this group that we have to deal with.

Mr. Lickiss: It is almost like the 1968 French university situation again, isn't it?

Mr. PORTER: The honourable member is quite correct, but it goes back 100 years to the discredited anarchist doctrine of Proudhon. It was discredited a century ago; to bring it up to date now is idiotic.

Most people at the university, staff and students, are sensible and they want to work. Of course they have views on current issues, and if those views are anti-establishment, so what? It would be a sad day for our community if we had a university that was totally docile. We do not want that at all. The university would be failing in its role, I think, if it was not seen to be a place

for doubt, inquiry, investigation, scepticism and argument all the time—discussion ranging over the whole polemic field, but based, one would always hope, on some empirical background. But I do not think we can accept that calculated abuse is part of proper university procedures. I certainly do not think we can accept that disruption, insult, lockouts and calculated anarchy have any real place in a modern university.

When one asks how this has come about some say, “This is an inevitable part of world trends. It has happened in other places; it must happen here.” I reject that in toto. Our social circumstances are quite different from those in other parts of the world, and it does not automatically follow that the student unrest in other parts of the world is inevitable here. This is only being used to make us accept some level of unrest. I believe that probably a great deal of our problem is that the authority of the university was too liberal in the early days. I think that if we had not fallen then into the trap—the small “I” liberal trap—of wanting to be too noble, and had used authority properly in the early stages, we would not have at the university the situation that exists at the present time.

Without doubt there are many factors which are at the heart of the sad university problems at the present time. But right at the centre of the problem for me is the fact that a Vice-Chancellor must have opportunity to apply reasonable discipline. As I see it, an effective Vice-Chancellor must have control over his staff and students.

To this end he must have considerable powers of immediate authority which, for me, would include suspension, fines and dismissal of students and staff. This has been found necessary in the United States and other countries. The vesting of these substantial executive powers in Vice-Chancellors in the United States has taken them a long way towards overcoming the problems that they had two, three and four years ago.

I believe that the Vice-Chancellor must have power to suspend, to dismiss and to fine on the spot. He must be in a position where he can bring people into his office and say, “Your contract is terminated as of now. Goodbye.” If the present statutes are inadequate for this purpose, I say that they must be amended. To me it is patently absurd and highly dangerous to have a situation where some staff members act like kings of the kids, publicly insult the Vice-Chancellor, and deliberately act to bring the whole of the operations of the university to a standstill, and yet nothing can be done about them because a professor will say that their tutorial work is quite satisfactory. As I say, I believe that a Vice-Chancellor must have power, and having the power, of course, he must have the determination to use that power and consider the roles of staff and students in a larger than merely academic capacity.

I also believe that over the passage of years the role of the senate has tended to become a little too negative. I think much of what should be the proper role of the senate in the Queensland University appears to have been taken over by the professional board. To me this is not the right way that things should be done. I should like to see the senate once again become very much the governing body of the Queensland University.

Mr. Chinchin: Do you think a commission should consider the whole thing?

Mr. PORTER: The honourable member for Mt. Gravatt suggests a commission. I am not sure that that is necessary at the present time. I believe that some attention to some very basic matters would make a very large amount of difference.

In quite an extraordinary speech, the Leader of the Opposition today suggested that people on our side of politics were using the law and order issue in a way which made us very akin to the Nazi Party. This, of course, is childish, irresponsible balderdash. Anybody who sees this as just a law and order issue, and not a question of who shall govern—constitutional authority or the mob in the streets—is not fit to be a parliamentarian, and the electorate will very rapidly pass judgment on him. The issue is not law and order. That is only an aspect of it. The real issue is: who governs? The Government elected by the people each three years or the mob in the streets—the mob that can be manipulated, directed and controlled by tough, ruthless professionals who have the money, the expertise and the equipment, and are totally without conscience?

On this issue, I say that constitutional authority in the form of the elected Government of the day, whichever Government it may be, must win because anything else is chaos. If some are determined to force the issue to the point where there is violent confrontation, then, without doubt, whatever the cause, the Government of the day has to win. I would say that whatever money, whatever thousands of dollars it may have cost this Government to provide the Police Force which brought the disruption against the Springboks here to its sorry, whimpering, futile conclusion, it was cheap at the price. I feel very sorry for honourable members opposite, who know in their hearts that they are being dragged along at the chariot wheel of some elements of militant, left-wing union bureaucracy and who know only too well that they are being headed straight for the political desert. I pay tribute to those who had the courage to say something about it, because the A.L.P. is on the horns of a dilemma, and that dilemma is how it is to separate itself from the disastrous policies forced upon it by those outside Parliament and at the same time avoid being marked down for extinction by vengeful men who are seeking to divert public and union attention from the sorry

mess that they made by misjudging the temper and tenor of the Australian and Queensland electorates.

To end these remarks, I think two quotes are applicable. The first is Lord Acton's famous dictum, "All power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely." The fantastic way in which union power is being misused by some misguided people at the present time surely proves this up to the hilt. If ever power has corrupted, it is being demonstrated in that field at present.

The second quotation, that of the late Sir Winston Churchill, is his famous dictum, "Trust the people". This, of course, is what the A.L.P. and the union people simply will not do. They lose an election and what happens? It is not that they accept the decision of the people but that the people are wrong; they are racists; they are inherent fascists. Any political party which suggests this as a plea for its lack of success at the polls, to my mind, is headed for oblivion, and I suggest that honourable members opposite can never seriously regard themselves as a prospective alternative Government whilst they refuse to accept the two profound truths I have cited and whilst they refuse to accept the considered judgment of the electorate.

Mr. BOUSEN (Toowoomba West) (4.8 p.m.): In speaking to the Address in Reply, might I say, first, that I bring a message of loyalty from the electors of Toowoomba West, and from myself as their elected representative, to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I should also like to endorse the remarks made by my leader when he spoke so ably to the Address in Reply in the pre-luncheon period.

I wish to deal now with something said by the mover of the motion, namely, that the A.C.T.U. president, Mr. Hawke, is more or less responsible for all the ills in our society today. He then went on, of course, to condemn the 40-hour working week and other privileges that have been won for ordinary working-class people by the trade-union movement.

It is quite obvious that, like his leader the Premier, he is opposed to any shorter working week, to any increase in wages, annual leave or long-service leave, to price control, to quarterly basic wage adjustments, and so on. However, despite what those two honourable members may say and try to do, a shorter working week, increased annual leave and long-service leave, and other privileges must flow to the ordinary working people who produce the commodities for the employers. These privileges and changes are absolutely necessary to help absorb the unemployment that will result from mechanisation, dieselisation, containerisation, computerisation, and all the other forms of "isations" that will create greater productivity and reap higher profits for the employers.

As I have said, the mover of the motion condemned Mr. Hawke, and, in doing so, showed the jealousy that I believe exists among Government members. Mr. Hawke is an advocate for the ordinary working people. Undoubtedly the Government recognises him as a great academic and a man with tremendous ability, so it must try to destroy him in the eyes of the general public. I feel sure that if he was an advocate for the wool industry it would not be in its present precarious position. If he was an advocate for the Chamber of Manufactures or the Retailers' Association, I am sure he would be welcomed with open arms, and I would go so far as to suggest that he would be recognised as God's gift to society. However, because he represents the ordinary working people, Government members regard him as being subversive and not working in the best interests of his country. I give the lie direct to those Government members.

I would now like to comment on a reference by the seconder of the motion, the honourable member for Windsor, to the railway strike that occurred in 1948. He said that that strike was a failure and gained nothing. It is quite obvious that he did not know what he was talking about. The strike lasted for nine weeks, and as a result of their action railway workers won for themselves wage increases ranging from \$1.11, or 11s. 1d. as it was in those days, to approximately \$5, or £2/10/0 as it was then, per week. In addition they were granted week-end penalty rates of time and a half for Saturday and Sunday work, which they had not enjoyed prior to the strike. So it is no use saying that the strike was not a success. By their determination and solidarity the men won increased wages and penalty rates for themselves. Of course, those benefits can be attributed in part to the co-operation received by the men from the Government of the day, which was so unlike the present attitude of the Minister for Transport, the Premier, and their colleagues, who have repeatedly refused to discuss the problems that confront employees and trade-union officials and to negotiate with them.

Mr. Ahern: How long was that strike?

Mr. BOUSEN: It lasted nine weeks.

The then Minister for Transport, the then Premier and his Cabinet colleagues held a round-table conference with union officials and, after coming to an agreement, the union officials told their members to go back to work and that the Government of the day would not oppose their claim when it came before the Arbitration Court, as it was then known.

Mr. Chinchon: After a threat! We do not do that.

Mr. BOUSEN: The honourable member wants the best of two worlds. He wants a bit of everything.

Mr. Hughes: Why do you want to destroy the arbitration system?

Mr. BOUSEN: I did not say we wanted to destroy it. I believe it should be available for those who want to use it. Let us not forget that this Government—and this has happened on a number of occasions—refused to conciliate. The Act is called, "The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act". It is not an "Arbitration Act". In that context, conciliation must come first. If conciliation is denied to employees, they go to the court. If the court refuses the claim, the men have no alternative other than direct action, as happened on the occasion I referred to and on a number of occasions since. The Labor Government was quite prepared to talk to the union officials and do something for them.

Mr. Armstrong: What would you say if the boss took that action?

Mr. BOUSEN: He can do so if he wishes; he will soon get his reply. We will soon defeat that action.

The state of emergency was introduced by the Premier and his Cabinet colleagues on Wednesday, 14 July so that the Government could take over the Exhibition grounds and stage three games of Rugby Union with the South African touring team. The state of emergency was implemented although the Cabinet decision was not unanimous. I have before me a statement by the Minister for Works and Housing which appeared in "Sunday Truth" of 18 July, which reads—

"Police Minister Mr. Max Hodges made the surprise announcement that even after seeing the Sydney riot he did not consider, personally, a State of Emergency was warranted here.

'It was a Cabinet decision,' he explained, 'to secure the RNA grounds to give players, public and police maximum security.'

"Mr. Hodges said that the Brisbane police would be armed only with handcuffs and batons. The Public Order Squad, the Riot Squad and the Mounted Police might be used to help in crowd control. The Riot Squad could carry tear gas."

The state of emergency was implemented on a decision of Cabinet that was not unanimous. The action was taken by a panic-stricken Premier. If the matter was so urgent and important, surely Parliament should have been called together to debate the matter and arrive at a common-sense decision. I believe it was so important that Parliament should have been called together to debate it in the proper way.

The decision to implement the state of emergency was decried in all States and was said to be too drastic to meet the occasion. I will now read some of the comments from newspapers throughout the Commonwealth, which appeared in leaders or in articles submitted by prominent writers for the respective papers.

In the "Sunday Truth" of 18 July this appeared—

"SYDNEY

"DAILY MIRROR: Mr. Bjelke-Petersen has done it. He has done, in one ludicrous stroke, what no other State in Australia has been able to do. He has made the Springboks feel at home.

"His declaration of a state of emergency for the Springboks' tour in Queensland ensures that the tourists will play under police-state conditions. Just as they do in South Africa.

"Mr. Bjelke-Petersen has done and said some very curious things since he became Premier of Queensland. But nothing can match this dangerous absurdity. Many Australians feel that Queensland is not really a part of Australia at all. Mr. Bjelke-Petersen is helping to prove them right.

ADELAIDE

"THE NEWS: The panicky and ridiculous move the Queensland Government is about to make over the Springbok Rugby Tour is bound to have wide and serious repercussions.

"These powers are too sweeping and they set up a situation in which protests and demonstrations could intensify.

"The most perplexing thing is why Queensland should take this extreme step when other States already visited by the Springboks have coped adequately with demonstrations without taking such measures.

"Has the Queensland Government some special knowledge that anti-apartheid protests are going to be much worse in that State than they have been elsewhere? If it hasn't, it certainly seems to be acting in a most provocative way."

Mr. Chinchin: Have you ever been to Ballymore Park?

Mr. BOUSEN: Yes, I have been there, and I am sure the police would have been able to cope with any trouble there.

Mr. Chinchin: Have you ever been to Maryborough?

Mr. BOUSEN: Yes, I have been there too, and the Labor Party will win it back next time, so do not be too cock-sure about that.

Mr. Sherrington: I'll bet they don't put the Burrum Shire into Maryborough now.

Mr. BOUSEN: No, not now. The Labor Party will win, no matter what they do.

The reports in "Sunday Truth" continue—

"MELBOURNE

"THE AGE: The South African Rugby tour of Australia last night produced the final absurdity: the official declaration of a state of emergency in Queensland.

"The Queensland Premier, Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, says and does some remarkable things but none more so than this.

"It will occur to practically everyone else but possible not Mr. Bjelke-Petersen that he has paid an unwitting compliment to the idiot fringe which has been throwing smoke bombs, carrying weapons and provoking violence at previous games against the Springboks.

PERTH

"WEST AUSTRALIAN: It is deplorable that fear of organised violence has led the Queensland Government to declare a state of emergency for the South African Rugby team's visit to Brisbane.

"The Government's action evidently springs from an extreme view of police requirements to cope with reported preparations for armed rioting. This follows the disgraceful results in other States of the efforts of a militant minority to impose its view on law-abiding citizens, most of whom are opposed to apartheid."

The article written by Mac Lachlan for "Sunday Truth" reads—

"The Premier and his Queensland Cabinetees since last Tuesday night have looked and felt as if they had been caught under a collapsed Springbok ruck. All because of that State of Emergency.

"He copped trouble right, left and centre—and even overseas.

"Now it would be very easy to join the popular clamor, because I do feel that the whole affair was handled clumsily at Government level."

An article in "The Australian" of 14 July 1971 reads—

"DANGEROUS FOLLY IN QUEENSLAND

"First it was Mr. McMahon who stoked the flames of dissension over the tour of South African football players with his gratuitous offer to bring the Commonwealth political-military arm into action, if necessary, to underwrite their transportation.

"Now Mr. Bjelke-Petersen has taken provocation to the limit with his declaration of police-state conditions in Queensland for the duration of the Springboks' visit to that State plus an indeterminate period after they leave 'in case the police have any unfinished business'.

"That last phrase shows the sweeping character of Mr. Bjelke-Petersen's intentions and disposes of the pretence that he has declared a state of emergency merely to ensure that matches will be played on a particular ground."

Mr. Ahern: Those editorials would be different now, after the by-elections.

Mr. BOUSEN: I said a moment ago that Maryborough will be won back by the A.L.P. at the next election. The present

situation will be short-lived. When one sees the leading newspapers of the Commonwealth condemning the action taken by the Premier and his Ministers, one sees that it is nothing more or less than the action of a panic-stricken man and his colleagues.

Mr. Armstrong: There are none so blind as those who will not see.

Mr. BOUSEN: That may be so, but the point is that every prominent newspaper in the Commonwealth condemned the action of the Queensland Government on this occasion.

The Premier, in a dilemma following protests against the proclamation of the state of emergency, went walk-about around the country in an endeavour to regain some of the prestige that he lost over the declaration made a few days before. We found him first in Toowoomba, where he was paraded up and down the street by the Mayor, Alderman Nell Robinson, shaking hands and bowing and bending before the people. In fact, he was led around like a prize bull in the show ring. The only difference between him and a bull is that he did not have a ring in his nose.

Mr. Ahern: Don't you want him there?

Mr. BOUSEN: No, we do not want him there. The Toowoomba "Chronicle" of Wednesday, 21 July, included a photograph of the Premier bending down to pick up some keys for a lady. He might well have been saying, "Pardon me, Madam, can I pick up your keys for you?" Here in my hand is a photograph of the Premier shaking hands with pensioners who were sitting in the sun, and here is another one of him signing his name on a plaster cast on a man's broken arm. He did all this in an attempt to recover some of the prestige that he lost by making a proclamation instead of doing things, as they should be done, by legislation.

From all these actions one can only draw the inference that the Premier is pro-apartheid. He supports a team that is racist. I put it to the House that these are problems that have been brought about by the implementation of the state of emergency.

Mr. Ahern: We can assume that you are an Egerton man?

Mr. BOUSEN: The honourable member can assume what he likes. I am myself, and I will push my own barrow.

This brings me to the number of police that were brought to Brisbane for the moratorium march on 30 June.

Mr. Armstrong: Did you march in it?

Mr. BOUSEN: No, I did not.

Mr. Armstrong: Weren't you game?

Mr. BOUSEN: Yes. I happened to be in another place. The honourable member knows where I was.

Following this panic by the Premier, 900 police were brought to Brisbane for three games of football. I have nothing personally against the Police Force. I would say without any shadow of a doubt that 99 per cent. of policemen are decent, law-abiding citizens. I have quite a number of very good friends in the Police Force in various parts of the State, and I cast no reflection on any police officer. With all other Government servants, policemen have to obey regulations and the instructions of their superior officers. What has happened so far as the Police Force is concerned is not the doing of police officers; the Police Force administration and the Government have to carry the blame.

I say also that even the Queensland Police Union itself was very much opposed to action of the type taken. I quote from an article in the Toowoomba "Chronicle" of 8 July—

"Queensland Police Union President (Sergeant R. Edington) last night bitterly attacked a plan to deplete the strength of Brisbane suburban police stations for the next two weeks.

"He said the Commissioner (Mr. Whitrod) notified all suburban stations yesterday that one man in three would be taken from station strengths to train for expected demonstrations during the Springboks' Queensland tour."

Mr. Hughes: Do you agree with Tommy Burns that they should be known as "pigs"?

Mr. BOUSEN: No, I do not. I did not say that, and Tommy Burns did not say it, either.

A Government Member: Lourigan said it.

Mr. BOUSEN: I am not responsible for what Mr. Lourigan said. I am not my brother's keeper; I look after myself and myself alone. I do not want anyone else to look after me, either.

The article continued—

"Sergeant Edington said the proposed training would begin next Monday and last until the Springboks arrived on July 22nd.

"He said the withdrawal of these men was viewed seriously by the union.

"We are already understaffed and this will aggravate the position. Because of the state of chaos caused by the arrival of the Springboks the Government is prepared to take away almost 40 per cent. of the police personnel in Brisbane for a fortnight.

"We have handled demonstrations well in the past without special training. During the Mount Isa strike, a potentially explosive situation, a small contingent of police dealt with it adequately."

Mr. Ahern: The police moved a vote of confidence in the Premier, didn't they?

Mr. BOUSEN: They might have done that, too. However, that did create a staff shortage and aggravate the position, as the president of the Police Union stated.

Mr. Hughes interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Lickiss): Order! The honourable member for Kurilpa may interject only from his own place.

Mr. BOUSEN: I wish to refer now to a cartoon in "Sunday Truth" of 18 July. It depicts a trainful of police leaving Townsville station for Brisbane. Two thugs are standing there saying, "Well, there they go . . . now what do we knock off first—the Commercial Hotel or the National Bank?" It is obvious that the Government's action more or less invited tenders from all thugs and criminals round the State, when 900 police were concentrated in Brisbane undergoing a special training course so that they would be able to cope with any demonstrators who might appear during the tour of the Springbok Rugby Union team. That was so well advertised that we could well have seen crimes committed in any part of the State by those who were willing to take advantage of the situation. It left the way wide open for any person with criminal intent to make a raid on a shop, a bank or any business premises while those policemen were concentrated in Brisbane. It was well known that police would be away from their home stations and where they would be congregated.

Mr. Hughes: Who fostered and incited these demonstrations? It was the Labor Party.

Mr. Hinze: Aided and abetted by the honourable member for Toowoomba West.

Mr. BOUSEN: I think that is more in keeping with the attitude of the honourable member for South Coast. The honourable member for Toowoomba West is a law-abiding citizen, and the honourable member for South Coast knows that.

I hope we will never witness another spectacle such as those we have witnessed in recent weeks because of a Moratorium Day march and three games of football in this State and the Government's declaration of a state of emergency.

Mr. Hinze: Don't you think we should bring the Springbok cricketers here?

Mr. BOUSEN: The honourable member can make some further trouble by doing that, if he wishes.

This action, in itself, borders on martial law.

Mr. Hodges: What rot!

Mr. BOUSEN: Of course it does. I can well understand the Government's panic when it declared a state of emergency in Queensland. After all, since the present Government has been in office, Queensland has been known as a low-wage State and a

police State. Editorials in various newspapers throughout the Commonwealth said that Queensland had been reduced to a police State on this occasion.

I am sure that the people of Queensland are as anxious as I am to learn the total cost of the whole of the exercise during the period of this state of emergency. This great expenditure has been incurred at a time when the Queensland Government and the Commonwealth Government have called upon all Government departments, as well as private enterprise, to exercise strict control over spending in order to combat the present inflationary trend. Probably a couple of million dollars have been spent on this exercise in a period of a week. Who is fostering inflation?

I am always in favour of law and order, but I was not in favour of what the Premier said. He said, "At the university, law and order, or else." What does he mean by "or else"?

The honourable member for Toowong said that the Springboks' tour was a great success and that it netted many thousands of dollars. I suggest to the Premier and the Minister in charge of police that they ask the Rugby Union authorities to pay the cost of bringing police to Brisbane to protect the Springboks while the three matches were being played.

I now wish to raise a matter that I believe will receive the support of all honourable members. I refer to what have become known as fly-by-night spray-painters. These people have been very active throughout the State. In recent weeks they have been operating in Toowoomba. They have caused concern to a number of families and to some aged persons, particularly pensioners, from both a mental and a financial point of view. A large number of people with houses and other properties became victims of these fly-by-night painters.

Mr. Hinze interjected.

Mr. BOUSEN: The honourable member for South Coast can call them what he likes. They use spraying machines rather than the hand brushes generally used by master painters. It would appear that these people, who have recently been operating in Toowoomba and the surrounding district, have passed themselves off as qualified spray-painters. It would also appear that they came from the southern States, because their vehicles carried New South Wales, Victorian or South Australian number plates. It is the opinion of people in the painting trade that they are nothing more or less than "con" men. They are "stand-over merchants" who try to force people to accept their conditions in the painting of houses or other buildings, and as many as 45 complaints have been made to the Master Painters' Association in Toowoomba over the past few weeks. Every person concerned in the complaints has been "touched," or robbed, by these people doing this class of work. The president of the Master Painters' Association has made personal inspections

of some of the jobs done in Toowoomba, and I believe it is impossible to describe the poor workmanship that has been put into them.

As I said earlier, these people appear to concentrate on pensioners, aged couples and others who, through no fault of their own, require some form of protection. I am sure that all honourable members are aware that some people are easily gulled into purchasing something if they think they can get it a bit cheaper than normally.

These people use various tricks and devious means to get elderly people to have their houses painted. Many of the complaints refer to roof painting. I cite the case of one elderly couple who were told that the material would cost only \$14 a gallon and that the job would use only a couple of gallons. They expected a cost of \$28 for material, but when the job was completed—it took only 20 minutes—they were told that it took 10 gallons of paint and that they would have to pay \$140. To avoid an argument, the couple paid \$140 under protest.

Another case concerned a pensioner who was 74 years of age. He and his wife were shown a pamphlet describing a paint called Everseal. The pamphlet stated that the job was guaranteed for 20 years. The old couple agreed to have the job done at a price of \$600. They had a very nice garden and the fly-by-night painters were to cover all shrubs and plants before they started painting. However, they went ahead and while the job was in progress the old chap came out and had words with them because they were spraying paint over all old, flaking paint, dirt, cobwebs and everything else, which had not been cleaned down before the paint was applied. After some argument, the old chap told them that he would not pay and that he was on his way to the bank to see somebody in an effort to redeem the situation.

The worst feature of the matter was that only one colour was used. The old couple wanted the house painted a cream colour with white windows and green guttering. They got a dirty brown colour applied to the whole building, including windows and guttering, and even to the cement paths, flowers, shrubs and everything else. After some argument, the old chap said he would go to the bank and get the money. Fortunately, the bank manager was somewhat concerned about the large withdrawal and he asked to see the withdrawal order. As a result, after some discussion he took the old man to a solicitor and, as far as I know, the charge of \$1,000 has not been paid.

Another case was that of an old man who was told that a job would cost \$250. The painters used five gallons of paint and demanded another \$1,000 for the job.

This is the type of thing that is going on. Legislation must be introduced to prevent

these dishonest practices. The Toowoomba "Chronicle" had this matter brought to its notice. It published a number of articles under headlines such as "Fly-by-Night Painters" and "They Painted for Six Hours—The Bill was \$290". The last paragraph of the editorial in the issue of that newspaper of 15 July reads—

"Wouldn't it be satisfying to see a law based on morality rather than technically—a law which would ensure that Justice was always seen to be done?"

I shall give another instance of the sharp practices engaged in by these unscrupulous people. They approached the occupiers of a property outside Toowoomba, saying that they had just completed a job nearby and had some paint left in their spray. They asked the occupiers if they would agree to have their outsheds painted and buy the spray. The people agreed. The painters then said that they would spray the roofs of the sheds for half price so that they could use up the paint in their spray. They claimed that the paint would cost only \$20. The owners decided to have their place painted, and when it was completed they were presented with a bill for \$200. The painting job had taken only two hours. If, as was claimed, the job had taken half a gallon, the cost would have been only \$10. These unscrupulous people passed themselves off as members of the Master Painters' Association and said they were out of work and were only trying to earn an honest living. It is well known in Toowoomba that they had six or seven vehicles parked in the Newtown Caravan Park, and to each vehicle a caravan was attached. The vehicles were set up with spray-painting machines, which would be worth between \$1,500 and \$2,000, and each caravan would be worth as much as \$4,000 or \$5,000.

(Time expired.)

Dr. CRAWFORD (Wavell) (4.48 p.m.): It is incumbent upon all members of Parliament to examine in depth matters of vital concern to the public and to draw attention to the problems that arise and their solutions, if methods of solution can be ascertained.

J. M. Barrie, in his Rectoral Address to St. Andrew's University, discussed the subject of courage. He commenced by saying that age was no synonym for sapience and that when those who listened to him had reached the evening of their days they would see, he hoped with becoming cheerfulness, that we were all failures, even though we appear to shine forth in our published memoirs practically without flaw. "Begin then", said Barrie, "by doubting all in high places"; but then added tactfully, "except of course your professors."

The problems that the wise men over the years have discussed and attempted to elucidate remains with us in the present generation in an almost pristine freshness, as if they were not as old as man himself. Hippocrates warns us not to reject ancient truth because it is not accurate in all things,

but to receive it and to admire its discoveries when they are well and truly made. The wisdom in this statement is self-evident, and in the modern world we would perhaps be fortunate if we could revert to a previous era wherein at least most of the problems encountered would be dissected slowly and some answers produced without the overbearing tempo of modern life to add to and compound the difficulties. Again, because technological advances are moving ahead so rapidly, the world is in a unique situation with no rural or urban enclaves safe from dynamic, and even explosive, changing influences. It is probably a combination of such factors which have influenced, in a world of instant communication, so many citizens, young and old, to protest against injustice, oppression and lack of integrity.

The difficulty in this matter, as I see it, however, is to elucidate the truth in any given set of facts and to determine which protest is genuine and selfless and which is geared to self-interest and self-aggrandisement. Many so-called radicals show evidence of being imbued primarily with the latter type of motive. But, as far as the future of our country is concerned, there is more danger in the corrupting influence of power itself, which has already been referred to today in the term, "Absolute power corrupts absolutely".

In any Government situation there is a constant atmosphere which provides fertile ground for the use of political favour. We are all well aware of instances in modern times where a person, politically inclined or otherwise, can advance himself by offering jobs to a greater number of people than there are jobs available, to suit his own ends.

It is probably not possible to eliminate completely this pervasive atmosphere from the political, social or business scene, as power must be exercised in all systems of Government, from those which promote dictatorship, Fascism or Communism, to the most liberal or democratic regimes in our society. I believe all political parties in Australia are well aware of the problem and concern themselves regarding the matter of minor peccadilloes to outright graft by those involved in Government, and many statements have been made by responsible citizens expressing concern about these matters. On 20 June 1971 the "Sunday Australian" ran a story related by a Labor member of the House of Representatives in which it was pointed out that with the share boom in Western Australia, particularly in mineral development, wheeling and dealing had been carried out by all party-political people. To quote directly from the paper, it stated—

"The West Australian Labour Government was last night asked for a clear statement on ethical guidelines because of rumours about Labour members involvement in mining and land speculation. The Labour M.H.R. for Fremantle, Mr. Kim Beazley, raised the issue. He said the

clarification was needed, with Labour coming into power in a climate of intense speculation in land and minerals. 'There is a Labour belief, rightly or wrongly, that the Brand Government was totally corrupt, and there have been disturbing rumours about Labour members' involvement in mining and land speculation,' he said. 'One Federal parliamentary colleague, a director of mining companies, told me he had made \$2.5 million in an afternoon on the stock exchange.'"

There are examples of practices which would not necessarily reflect credit on individual members of Parliament or on members of the Public Service which have been seen from time to time throughout the Commonwealth. It is difficult not to be surprised by naivety of many individuals who do not appear to realise that, often without seeking favours, their position of authority automatically attracts gifts and gratuities which it will be necessary to repay at a later time. Even a free dinner or seemingly innocuous gift can be suspect. People in political circles must, like Caesar's wife, be beyond reproach. The tremendous political power wielded by the grace-and-favour merchants in America well illustrates these points and it does not take a special Senate Committee or a Senator McCarthy to note the spread of corrupt influence in that very great country.

Reports from the United States of America include the following:—

"\$55,000 bribe to U.S. judges claimed . . . in a stock fraud case in Massachusetts in 1962 by paying \$55,000 to two judges in Middlesex County south of Boston . . . arranged the deal through Judge Edward Desaulnier . . . carried out with money borrowed partly from organised crime and partly from banks in New York."

What an indictment of our modern civilisation!

"The Australian" of 31 July reported—

"The best (former) judge money can buy.

"Judge Mitchell Schweitzer, of the New York State Supreme Court, has asked to be relieved of his duties pending an investigation of the judiciary.

". . . Judge Schweitzer was named as having received bribes to hand down suspended sentences to convicted criminals."

The amount mentioned was \$22,500.

"The Australian" of 29 July contains a report from Washington of statements by a former Mafia gangster named Teresa. The report reads—

"In 28 years on the street I never heard of a crooked FBI guy, not one you could get to with bribe money."

'You mean by that you've heard of crooked State and local officials?' asked Senator Charles Percy. (Rep. Illinois).

'By the ton,' Teresa replied."

Teresa evidently believes that if the situation which pertains in the United States is to be corrected, corruption must be removed from the scene by all available means. In Asian countries the situation is blatantly worse. Any honourable member who has been to Saigon or Manila will realise the truth of that statement.

Mr. W. D. Hewitt: Their economies are wedded to corruption.

Dr. CRAWFORD: As the honourable member for Chatsworth says, their economies are indeed wedded to corruption, and I believe that the protraction of the war in South Vietnam is directly related to the fact that corruption of the worst possible type has been tolerated and condoned in the South Vietnam theatre.

Mr. O'Donnell: In some countries, you have to be a bandit to succeed.

Mr. Sherrington: They won't even have one-arm bandits in Queensland.

Dr. CRAWFORD: It is possible indeed that the only method of succeeding is to be a bandit and, in effect, politicians and their hangers-on in Manila do have armed bands of enforcers and protectors who are part of their own political scene.

In Australia we have seen political figures of significance investigated by taxation authorities and individuals accused in the Parliaments of the land with regard to share dealings. At the same time the stock exchanges themselves have been forced to examine their own set policies and arrange trust funds to protect their clients. Individual brokers, naturally, have unparalleled opportunity for corrupt practices if they wish to be unethical.

There are three main methods in purely stock exchange dealing in my view by which rewards can be given to prominent figures—political or otherwise—in respect of favours granted or expected. The first is new share issues. This process involves the company concerned contacting the broker for the issue and suggesting that certain people be offered an unusually large parcel of shares in that issue. The stock exchange has no say in this matter at all, and it is completely in the broker's discretion to whom his allotments go. Normal allotment to a good customer may be 300 to 1,000 shares, but, even in the present situation in this country, who is to adjudicate, in the absence of an ethics committee of appeal, on whether 2,000 or 5,000 shares allotted is a just parcel for an especially good customer, or a payment for favours? It is certainly disingenuous for the recipient to act as if he found the process distasteful. It is also impossible to police a law to prevent such action on behalf of a company, and impossible to judge whether the company directors are foolish or criminal.

The second method by which stock exchanges can carry out these manoeuvres is possession of inside knowledge of either new

equity issues by a company, or a confidential report that will send stock exchange prices soaring. It is a not unusual practice for "those in the know" to tell their friends that good news is about to be released, and tremendous profits can be made quite legitimately by prior knowledge of such matters. Again, who is to judge the public servant, politician or stock-broker's clerk who uses such information for the benefit of himself or his family? Land deals with local authorities, involved as they must be, give similar opportunities for the unscrupulous, especially if records of such deals are deliberately never kept. Grace-and-favour then becomes, in my view, an obscene expression in this context.

The floating of speculative issues is a third method by which the stock exchange can be involved. The gambling instincts of Australians really come to the fore when new no-liability companies are formed, especially when the companies are concerned with mining exploration. It is pertinent to remind the House that at one time Western Mining Corporation and Poseidon each consisted of little more than speculative surveys. Under our law at the moment, it is, however, quite legitimate for a company to be established by a person who has no intention whatever of doing more than securing a lease for exploration. An honest business acquaintance of mine was approached quite recently to lend his company's name to back a venture, and he was told without any equivocation that the gold was in the pockets of those who could be persuaded to invest. From a political and Public Service viewpoint, inside knowledge of, say, a vacant lease in proximity to a major mine could provide unparalleled opportunity in this field.

The thoughts that I have expressed were crystallised when it was announced that a Bill was to be introduced into the Papua-New Guinea House of Assembly to "assist in maintaining public confidence in the integrity of members of the House of Assembly, and for related purposes". The idea behind this is, in my view, excellent, as it proves that those concerned with the Assembly in the Territory are making a genuine effort to handle their affairs in a more scrupulous fashion than we, and Governments in other parts of the world, do.

This is particularly interesting when their move is compared with the demand from the Aboriginal population in Australia to handle their own affairs. I am encouraged by the New Guinea move to urge that our Aboriginal friends be given their regional and central councils and as much autonomy as possible, as many thinking citizens today are firmly convinced that it would be virtually impossible for such councils to be as unjust to their people as white Australians have been over the years.

Honourable members will recall that in the early days of the settlement of Australia the Tasmanian Aborigines were massacred in toto by our forebears, and it has been assumed since the first days of settlement

by Governor Phillip that native people have no land rights. I think it was Batman who tried to introduce a land agreement with the Aborigines in the early days, but the tentative documents that he drew up were quickly repudiated by the authorities of the day.

The New Guinea legislation provides for the establishment of a Committee for Parliamentary Integrity which shall consist of—

(a) a person who has been but is no longer—(i) a judge of the Supreme Court or the High Court, or of the Supreme Court of a State or Territory of the Commonwealth; (ii) the Administrator; or (iii) a Deputy Administrator, who shall be the chairman;

(b) two members of the House of Assembly; and

(c) four persons not being members of the House of Assembly.

Their term of office shall be for three years, and details of the chairman and the officials are delineated.

Parliamentary office-holders and party officials of all political parties are specifically excluded and grouped in the legislation with convicted persons, undischarged bankrupts, and those of unsound mind.

The Chief Justice has to accept major responsibility for the appointments, and he shall “have regard to the necessity for ensuring, as far as practicable, public confidence in the probity and impartiality of the committee and its members, and to the desirability of having a wide representation of all interests in the community, and in particular—

(a) business interests, both urban and rural;

(b) the Christian churches and missions;

(c) the trade union movement;

(d) the academic profession;

(e) the rural industry; and

(f) the Public Service.”

Not fewer than four members of the committee shall be natives.

Specific measures for removal of a member of the committee for improper conduct or if he “no longer has the confidence of the public” is set out in detail and involves the Chief Justice and at least four members of the committee.

It is interesting to note that the secretary of the committee shall be appointed by the administration by notice in the Gazette as an officer acceptable to the Chief Justice, and that he shall be not less than 30 years of age and shall be a graduate of a university approved by the Chief Justice for the purposes of the section. That is one of the first pieces of legislation in which I have seen a particular qualification written into

a Bill for the appointment of an official of government, and I think it is something which should be encouraged.

As to the functions of the committee, the rules shall apply to all present members of the Assembly and to ex-members until seven years have passed since their leaving the Assembly. Specifically, the committee shall investigate any report made to it, or any information that comes to its knowledge—

“(i) that a member or former member of the House of Assembly is using or has used his office for the benefit of himself or any other person in any manner;

(ii) of any irregularity or inaccuracy in any disclosure made under this ordinance by a member of the House of Assembly;

(iii) of any failure to make a disclosure as required by this ordinance;

(iv) of any offence against or failure to comply with any provision of Part III, IV, or V of this Ordinance;

(v) that a member or former member of the House of Assembly has, except as authorised by ordinance, directly or indirectly taken or agreed to take any fee or honorarium for services as a member”.

Following this, the committee may report to the Secretary for Law or the House of Assembly directly, and from their actions criminal proceedings may ensue. As well, the committee shall report its activities to the House at least every six months on the operation of the whole matter and may draw the attention of the House to any necessary amendments or improvements. Any member guilty of financial or business impropriety may be convicted under the Criminal Code and may be censured or expelled from the House.

Expulsion occurs after a secret ballot, and it must involve two-thirds of the necessary quorum for a sitting. No order can be made to stop the necessary reports being printed, but it must then remain confidential to the House. If this is not adhered to, the penalty is \$400 or six months.

If the House does not act as the law says it should, the relevant section provides—

“If the House of Assembly does not take action under Section 13 of this Ordinance within six months, or such further time as the Committee thinks reasonable, after the presentation of a report of the Committee to the House, the Committee shall make a public statement, in such manner as it thinks appropriate, of the facts of the matter and of the failure of the House to act.”

The committee can exercise widespread power of inquiry and can authorise its secretary or a police superintendent to act by inquiring and reporting on any matter. It also can summon witnesses, take evidence on oath or affirmation and require the production of documents, and if the document is not produced without reasonable excuse the burden of proof is on the person defaulting.

Interested members of the committee in a particular context are excluded from attending under circumstances where their interest is pertinent to the discussion, and all relevant information (including hearsay) can be admitted and considered if relevant. A person whose conduct is in question may have legal representation, and all proceedings and reports have absolute privilege. Witnesses have the same protection and absolute privilege.

Penalties are also provided for interference with any function of the committee. Any member of the House must disclose any financial interest he has before speaking on any matter in the House, and every member must make an annual disclosure to the committee of all his financial and business affairs.

The section dealing with annual disclosure provides—

“(1) Each member of the House of Assembly shall, within one month after the due date for disclosure, furnish to the Committee a full statement in the prescribed form and containing the prescribed particulars, setting out—

(a) All his business holdings and other sources of income; and

(b) His business transactions and income, during the period of twelve months before the due date for disclosure.

(2) The statement shall set out separately his business transactions with, and his income derived from, the Administration, and also any business transactions with or income derived from the Administration by any corporation—

(a) in which he has a substantial shareholding; or

(b) of which he is a director or officer.

(3) In the case of a Parliamentary office-holder, the statement shall also set out the same particulars with respect to his spouse.

(4) If so requested by the Committee, the member shall furnish further particulars in clarification or expansion of the particulars contained in the statement.

(5) The Speaker shall, within one month before the due date for disclosure, notify the member of the date on or before which a statement must be furnished under this section, but failure to do so does not relieve that member from his obligations under this section.

(6) The Committee may, for good cause, extend the period of one month referred to in subsection (1) of this section in any particular case upon application made within that period.”

Specific provision is also made for disclosure of elections income and expenses and for all parliamentary office-holders to report

to the committee, within one week of the date of such transaction, any share transaction in which he or his spouse is directly or indirectly involved, and any inaccurate or any incorrect disclosure must be immediately corrected.

Parliamentary office-holders must divest themselves of all directorships within a reasonable period, and specific penalties are detailed to cover defaults. Bribery and similar offences are specified in some detail. The penalty is seven years' imprisonment for convictions under this section.

This legislation, which was only in the introductory stage in the Territory, was received with a mixed reception in the Territory itself and also in the newspapers. It was called “premature” by one responsible newspaper in the Territory. Another said that it should include the Public Service as well. However, there is no doubt that our friends in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea are making a genuine and dignified attempt to prevent the development of a situation in their country, before and after independence is granted, which, as I have spelt out in detail today, occurs in a very large proportion of the so-called civilised world.

Mr. Davis: And we call them “backward”.

Dr. CRAWFORD: That is exactly the point. It may well be that the idealism expressed in this particular piece of legislation is impracticable at this time in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

Justice would certainly seem to be done if this legislation were implemented. It may, however, be a Utopian hope in an imperfect world to expect such legislation ever to be introduced in any particular Parliament in our country or any other country. However, the attempt is being made, and I applaud those who drew up this legislation for the effort made to try to prevent the corruption and lack of integrity which they can see around them.

In my belief, it is important that the golden thread of integrity, which just men down the ages have exhibited and which, in my view, is responsible for the best in our parliamentary democracy, should be continued by us and by those who follow us. I believe it is necessary for this thread of integrity to continue for the survival of the human race itself, and for this reason I have undertaken the task of dissecting this legislation to bring it before this House, and I recommend the spirit of it to this House and to all other Parliaments in our nation so that we can all conduct our affairs with dignity and with the feeling that we at least are trying to establish a society in which integrity is a valued and respected word.

Debate, on motion of Mr. O'Donnell, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5.19 p.m.